



賽馬會齡活城市  
Jockey Club Age-friendly City

# Jockey Club Age-Friendly City Project



## Action Plan WONG TAI SIN



Lion Rock



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同心·同步·同進 RIDING HIGH TOGETHER

計劃夥伴 Project partner:



香港大學秀圃老年研究中心  
Sau Po Centre on Ageing  
The University of Hong Kong



香港大學  
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

# **Jockey Club Age-friendly City Project**

## **Wong Tai Sin District**

### **Proposed Priority Areas for Further Improvement and 3-Year Action Plan**

**2017 – 2020**

Submitted by  
**Sau Po Centre on Ageing  
The University of Hong Kong**

Initiated and funded by  
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# **1. Introduction**

## **1.1 District and Project Background**

With 17.2% of its total district population being aged 65 years or above, the Wong Tai Sin District ranks first (with Kwun Tong District) among 18 districts in Hong Kong. In collaboration with the District Council, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the commercial sector, Wong Tai Sin district has made concerted efforts in promoting the concept of age-friendly city and in improving its community environment in response to the changing needs of elderly residents.

For example, the Wong Tai Sin District Council formed a “Working Group of Barrier-Free Facilities in Wong Tai Sin” (WGBFF) since May 2012 to study and propose areas that need retrofitting for barrier-free access, with priority to Choi Wan, Tsui Chuk & Pang Ching. The district is also a part of the Hong Kong territory-wide project 「起動全城香港長者友善社區」 “Age-Friendly Hong Kong” led by The Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS). In spring 2014, The Link Community Sports Academy (the Academy) partnered with The Hong Kong Rouliqiu Association to offer rouliqiu classes for the first time in 13 venues including Wong Tai Sin Plaza. Government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the Wong Tai Sin District (such as the Social Welfare Department, Wong Tai Sin District Coordinating Committee on Promotion of Volunteer Services, Hong Kong Jockey Club, DECCs, NECs and various NGOs in the district) have initiated, co-organized, and implemented numerous age-friendly activities from 2015 to 2017 to enhance social and community engagement for the elderly.

Overall, it is evident that various community stakeholders such as NGOs and the District Council in the Wong Tai Sin District are actively pursuing projects and initiatives aimed at promoting the concept of age-friendliness and improving community environment. These experiences form a solid foundation upon which future age-friendly endeavors can be built.

The Jockey Club Age-friendly City Project aims to move Hong Kong towards becoming an age-friendly city. Based on findings of a baseline assessment in phase 1 of the project, this document outlines the overall strategy and the proposed priority areas for further improvement for the Wong Tai Sin District to make the district more age-friendly.

## **1.2 Baseline Assessment**

A baseline assessment was completed for the Wong Tai Sin District in July 2017. Its objective was to understand the needs of the district in preparing itself to become more age-friendly. The baseline assessment consisted of a quantitative (questionnaire survey) study and a qualitative (focus group) study. All participants were recruited from ten sub-district communities within the district: (1) Choi Wan; (2) Hammer Hill; (3) Tsz Wan Shan; (4) Diamond Hill; (5) Choi Hung; (6) San Po Kong; (7) Tung Tau; (8) Upper and Lower Wong Tai Sin Estate; (9) Chuk Yuen; and (10) Wang Tau Hom.

According to the questionnaire survey, participants perceived the district to be age-friendly in general, particularly in terms of social participation, but least in terms of community support & health services. The sense of community is strong particularly in terms of sense of membership. The older the resident, the stronger the sense of community and perceived age-friendliness. The ten sub-district communities differed in their profile of perceived age-friendliness and overall sense of community.

Participants of the focus groups drew attention to (1) physical environment issues: road safety and potential risk of the open public space, accessibility to footbridges and MTR station, and the challenges in and need for renovation and maintenance of residential buildings; (2) social and cultural environmental issues: reducing in intergenerational interaction, job opportunity; and cultural segregation; and (3) communication and services issues: the availability of A&E and dental services, long waiting time for healthcare services, and dearth of banking services.

Results from this baseline assessment suggested existing groundwork with a reasonably good sense of community and perceived age-friendliness in the district.

## **2. Overall Strategy**

Future actions for making the district more age-friendly should build on the existing infrastructure and network, including the district's good general sense of community and perceived age-friendliness. They should leverage on the sense of membership and emotional connectedness in the district, strengthen the sense of influence and need fulfilment, and include older adults in the implementation of the Action Plan to be compiled by the DC in consideration of the proposed priority areas for further improvement.

### **3. Proposed Priority Areas for Further Improvement**

Based on the findings from the baseline assessment, we propose and organize priority areas for further improvement around 3 themes, including ‘Physical Environment’, ‘Social and Cultural Environment’, and ‘Communication, Community and Health Services’, covering all 8 domains of World Health Organization’s age-friendly city framework. The theme of “Physical Environment” include areas related to both hardware and software improvements, whereas the other two themes include areas mainly related to software improvements.

### **3.1 Theme 1 – Physical Environment**

#### **Outdoor Spaces and Buildings**

1. Installing lifts across the district (e.g. at footbridges, shopping malls, one more exit of MTR station, and Sheng Kung Hui Wong Tai Sin District Elderly Centre etc.);
2. Maintain of existing lifts can be improved by reducing repairing time of malfunctioning ones. Several locations where lifts have frequently malfunctioned include the footbridges across Choi Hung Road, Tseuk Luk Street, and the one toward Tai Shing Wet market;
3. Increasing the availability of wet market. Wet markets provide the type of food products that are more affordable and preferable to elderly residents;
4. Modeling after Morse Park to install sufficient covers and exercise facilities in other parks for the elderly

#### **Transportation**

1. Improving the awareness of mini bus drivers to reduce the speed, and to ensure that passengers are seated before taking off;
2. Improving road safety such as installing more pedestrian traffic lights instead of zebra crossings in Wong Tai Sin, especially on Tai Shing Street in front of the wet market;
3. Increasing the crossing time for pedestrian, especially the crossing outside of WTS MTR station exit C2 on Ching Tak Street;

#### **Housing**

1. Increasing support for renovating and maintaining tenement houses, old units, and non-PRH estates, especially for water leakage issues;
2. Reducing ledges in the front doors of the estate by installing small ramps, in order to provide barrier-free passageway to elderly and wheelchair users.

## **3.2 Theme 2 – Social and Cultural Environment**

### **Social Participation**

1. Increasing outreach services to socially isolated older people in the district;

### **Respect and Social Inclusion**

1. Promoting actions of respect, particularly courtesy behaviours (e.g. giving priority seats to people in need) on public transportations;
2. Increasing efforts to promote and enhance inter-cultural and intergenerational interaction and relation.
3. Promoting mutual care amongst neighbours to improve overall inclusion and respect.

### **Civic Participation and Employment**

1. Creating flexible and meaningful job opportunities to older people.

### **3.3 Theme 3 – Communication, Community and Health Services**

#### **Communication and Information**

1. Improving the reach and exchange of information outside of elderly centres especially for elderly living alone;
2. Exploring the use of digital devices for improving communication among older people in the district;

#### **Community Support and Health Services**

1. Extending the Accident and Emergency (A&E) services to at least one existing hospital in WTS;
2. Enhancing the telephone medical appointment system, or providing sufficient assistance for medical appointment booking;
3. Improving the availability of dental services in the district, and reducing the price of private dental service;
4. Reducing waiting time of health services;
5. Improving the banking services in various communities in Wong Tai Sin district, especially Choi Hung Estates and in the MTR station.