



Watten Neighbourhood Committee

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2 June 2022

Dear Watten Estate Residents

UPDATES ON WATTEN DRAINAGE UPGRADING

We have been engaging residents over the last 6 months on PUB's drainage upgrading plans for the Watten estate, to be carried out in tandem with the Estate Upgrading Programme (EUP).

2 Our engagement efforts include:

- a) Two letters dated 3 Nov 2021 and 10 Jan 2022 alerting residents to the impact on trees arising from the plan;
- b) Two Townhalls held on 19 Nov 2021 and 01 Mar 2022 to hear views from residents; and
- c) Asking PUB to suspend their tender for drainage works until residents have had a chance to comment.

3 Some of our residents continue to be concerned about the prospect of mature trees being felled and replaced as part of drainage upgrading. My team and I share this concern. Therefore, we have asked PUB to consider alternative methods of repairing the drains without complete rebuilding in order to keep most trees. PUB has reconsidered our request and priorities. **PUB revisited the sites and subsequently agreed to allow most of the damaged drains to be repaired in a less intrusive manner. This means that it is possible for most of the drains to be repaired and kept open; and for more existing trees to be preserved.** This is good news for our residents who wish to see as few trees affected by drainage upgrading as possible.

4 At the same time, we would need to work closely with PUB to determine which streets would belong to the following categories:

- a) Streets that would have their trees preserved and drains kept open after repair, with *no* expansion of pavement; or
- b) Streets whose drains would be rebuilt and closed to create expanded pavements. Trees would be affected but replanting would take place after construction.

5 Please bear with us as the process described in para 4 would take time. Should you have any queries/feedback regarding the street you live on, please email me at hbtsimann@gmail.com and Watten Neighbourhood Committee Chairman, Mr Allen Cheong at allencjm@yahoo.com.sg. Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,



Ms Sim Ann
Adviser
Bukit Timah Grassroots
Organisations



Mr Allen Cheong
Chairman
Watten Neighbourhood Committee