



Sustainable Neighbourhood Development Programme (SNDP)  
PROGRESS REPORT (1)

# SNDP Workshop

14 March 2021

Kampung Permatang Nibong & Taman Bagan Lalang

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## Table of Contents

<b>I.</b>	<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>III.</b>	<b>The SNDP Workshop</b> .....	<b>4</b>
	a. Methodology .....	4
	b. Result .....	7
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Way Forward</b> .....	<b>9</b>
	a. Bridging the Right Stakeholders with Local Community .....	9
	b. Designing A Sustainable Neighborhood Framework.....	9
<b>V.</b>	<b>Conclusion</b> .....	<b>9</b>

## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a record of discussions during Sustainable Neighbourhood Development Programme (SNDP) workshop and outlines the way forward of SNDP project as a whole.

SNDP Project aims to design a sustainable neighbourhood framework that focuses on cultivating long-term behavioural change among the community. Through this framework, it hopes to encourage 'bottom up' intervention, led by an actively engaged community, with 'top down' resources and facilitation from local government and other stakeholders.

In collaboration with "Reducing Marine Litter by Addressing the Management of The Plastic Value Chain in South East Asia" – S.E.A. circular Project, the first SNDP workshop was held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at Kampung Permatang Nibong and Taman Bagan Lalang simultaneously with a total of 17 participants. The participants were the committee members who involved in establishing zero waste practices within these two places. These two areas are chosen as case studies based on their active participation in zero waste practices.

Prior to the workshop, a pre-workshop survey has been conducted onto the participants to have a better understanding on the problems arise in both selected communities. Based on the survey, three common problems in respective community are highlighted as follows:

- River Pollution
- Lack of Community Awareness
- Low Community Participation

During the workshop, participants were guided to identify the problems, the causes and the possible solutions based on problem-solving methods. The SNDP final report will incorporate workshop discussion results, serving as a guideline to design a sustainable neighbourhood framework that is replicable to other communities in Penang.

## II. INTRODUCTION

### About SNDP as a whole

Penang estimated population is 2.3 million people by 2030<sup>1</sup>. With this, sustainability has become an increasingly important element to be considered in urban planning. The rapid economic development and population growth in Penang has resulted in a tremendous increase in the quantities of solid waste from 1.1 metric ton (2017) to 1.5 metric ton (2019)<sup>2</sup> as shown in Table 1. Hence, waste management is one of the most challenging issues that need to be addressed in Penang.

Year	Population (million)	Total Waste Generation (metric ton)
2017	1.74	1,135,723
2018	1.76	1,253,058
2019	1.77	1,503,070

Table 1: The status of solid waste management in Penang state

In order to have an effective and sustainable city development, there must be a change of approach in tackling the waste issue. To achieve that, communities play an important role in it. Communities, being the core of a city, should be given the opportunity to participate and involve in the planning and development stage. By doing so, it can teach the communities how to resolve conflict and allows for different perspectives to be heard. Besides that, it also allows communities to minimize dependence on the state government and leads to a bottom-up approach.

SNDP was created with the aim to design a sustainable neighbourhood framework that focuses on cultivating long-term behavioural change among the community. Through this framework, it hopes to encourage 'bottom up' intervention, led by an actively engaged community, with 'top down' resources and facilitation from local government and other stakeholders. The strategies to achieve this aim are:

- ✓ To build the capacity of local community leaders in taking action in accordance with the problems, needs and potential of the community;
- ✓ To strengthen community participation in their community sustainable development process.

<sup>1</sup> Rancangan Struktur Negeri Pulau Pinang 2030, Plan Malaysia Pulau Pinang

<sup>2</sup> Department of Statistics Malaysia, Unit Pengurusan Sisa Pepejal (UPSP), MBPP, MBSP

### III. THE SNDP WORKSHOP

**Overview:** The workshop is designed to share a set of proposed execution plan to the participants. The 3-hours session included input sharing from PGC facilitators, group discussions on the issues highlighted by the participants and the potential solutions.

**Selected communities:** Kampung Permatang Nibong and Taman Bagan Lalang

**Location map:**



Figure 1: Geographical location of Taman Bagan Lalang & Kampung Permatang Nibong

#### a) Methodology

##### ➤ Preparation

A pre-workshop survey has been conducted via online form and phone call interview. The target audience is the local communities from the two selected areas. The duration of the survey is from 22 February to 22 May 2021.

The objective of the survey is to understand the impact of sustainable neighbourhood practices on the communities' awareness & behavioural change. The results from the survey will served as the guidelines for designing the sustainable neighbourhood framework that is replicable to other communities in Penang.

Two questions were extracted from the survey and brought up for discussion in the workshop among the participants, which are:

- In your perspectives, what are the concerns / issues you have towards the development in Taman Bagan Lalang/ Kampung Permatang Nibong?
- What improvements / changes would you like to see in your community in future?

➤ **Execution**

**Activity 1: Introduction to Sustainable Neighbourhood**

PGC facilitators provide the participants a brief introduction about the concept of sustainable neighbourhood. Following that, they were asked to draw out the concept of sustainable neighbourhood based on their understanding.

Then, the activity ended with the introduction of a problem-solving mechanism for better community planning. The mechanism is shown in **Table 2** below. However, only method 1 to 4 were carried out during the workshop.

Problem Solving Methodology adopted under SNDP Framework	
01	<p><b>Identify the Problem</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diagnosing the problem – the context, background and symptoms of the problem.</li> </ul>
02	<p><b>Determine the Root Cause(s) of the Problem</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore on the causes of the problem.</li> </ul>
03	<p><b>Develop Alternative Solutions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify as many potential solutions to the problem as possible.</li> </ul>
04	<p><b>Select A Solution</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate all solutions suggested and narrow to one that is most feasible and voted by all the community members.</li> </ul>
05	<p><b>Implement the Solution</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft out an initial project planning timeline and action plan to execute the selected solution.</li> </ul>
06	<p><b>Evaluate the Outcome</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor and collect data to ensure the outcome is attained</li> </ul>

Table 2: Problem solving methodology adopted under SNDP framework



Photo 1: The participants from Taman Bagan Lalang were drawing the ideal concept of sustainable neighbourhood based on their understanding.



Photo 2: Ms Siti Najihah explained about sustainable neighbourhood concept to the participants of Kampung Permatang Nibong.

### Activity 2: Identify & Determine the Root Causes of the Problem

The participants were asked to brainstorm and consider all possible causes of the selected problem, according to the 5W1H (Where, What, When, Why, Who, How) concept. Result from this activity, they identified: the causes of the problem (What & How), the reasons for causing the problem (Why), the one who responsible (Who), the common time when the problem happened (When) and the location where the problem aroused (Where).



Photo 3: The community leader from Taman Bagan Lalang were discussing about the causes of the three problems highlighted based on 5W1H concept.



Photo 4: One of the participants from Kampung Permatang Nibong was writing down the causes of the problem after the discussion among the team.

### Activity 3: Develop & Select Alternative Solution

After narrowing down to the root cause of the problem, the participants were guided to conduct a basic assessment on the strengths and obstacles of their community. This assessment helps to provide insight into the complexity of community culture, which is an essential element in developing feasible strategies that meet the needs and interests of the community.



Photo 5: The list of solutions written by the participants of Taman Bagan Lalang after selecting the problem to address.

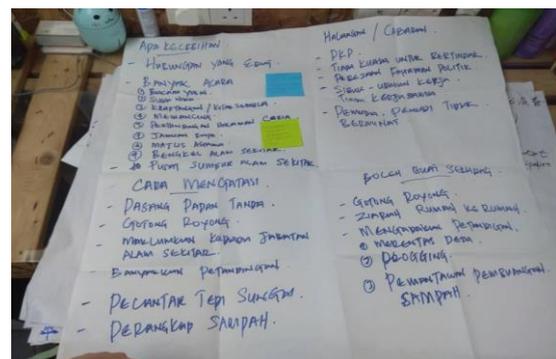


Photo 6: The participants of Kampung Permatang Nibong had listed out the ideas of solutions which can be carried out at the current stage.

## b) Result:

### ➤ Pre-Workshop Survey

There were 15 participants from Kampung Permatang Nibong and 13 participants from Taman Bagan Lalang participated in the survey. In this survey, three common problems were highlighted in their respective community, which are:

- River Pollution
- Lack of Community Awareness
- Low Community Participation

### ➤ Workshop Discussion

Among the three problems highlighted, the participants from Taman Bagan Lalang chose to focus on addressing community awareness problem. Based on their observation, the recycling bin was occasionally mixed up with other non-recyclable wastes. They suspected that the parties who are responsible for this problem are the local community from Taman Bagan Lalang and the neighbourhood nearby.

Whereas, Kampung Permatang Nibong participants chose to address river pollution problem. Based on their discussion, they observed the change of water colour, rubbish and smelled bad odour when the river is polluted. They suspected that the parties who are responsible for this pollution are rubber industry, agriculture & poultry, local business, morning market and community from nearby locations. However, both community shared the same thought that human attitude and the lack of awareness towards river protection are the main cause of the problem.

On top of that, the participants have also identified strengths and obstacles of their own community as shown in Table 3. This helped them to propose strategies that are within their capacity to tackle the highlighted problems.

	Strengths	Obstacles
<b>Kampung Permatang Nibong</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close relationship among the local community.</li> <li>• Many upskilling opportunities such as Environmental Workshop, Neighbourhood Beautification Competition, etc. are offered to the local community.</li> <li>• The availability of environmental resources centre.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The restriction of Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO).</li> <li>• Lack of authority to take action.</li> <li>• Political difference among the community.</li> <li>• Most of the committees are occupied with works.</li> <li>• Lack of participation among the local community in environmental-related programs.</li> <li>• Lack of interest and participation from the youths.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of education and awareness among the local community about the importance of environmental protection.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Taman Bagan Lalang</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong support and cooperation given by the core team.</li> <li>• Resourceful and experienced guidance and leadership.</li> <li>• Recognition and endorsement given by state legislative assemblymen (ADUN) and Seberang Perai City Council.</li> <li>• The availability of environmental resources centre.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The restriction of Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO).</li> <li>• Shortage of manpower in planning and organizing.</li> <li>• Difficult to recruit new committee members (successor) into the core team.</li> <li>• Lack of interest and participation from the community, especially youths in community events.</li> <li>• A knowledge gap between core team and local community towards environmental protection.</li> <li>• Lack of financial support.</li> </ul>

Table 3: Strengths and obstacles identified based on their own community by the participants of Kampung Permatang Nibong and Taman Bagan Lalang

➤ **Action Plan Proposed by The Participants**

The participants moved on to brainstorm and choose the most feasible solutions to address the selected problem, as shown in Table 4.

Kampung Permatang Nibong	Taman Bagan Lalang
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To organize river cleanup.</li> <li>• To conduct house-to-house education.</li> <li>• To take over and continue to organise their own neighbourhood beautification competition.</li> </ul> <p>(Notes: Previously this competition was organised by Seberang Perai City Council. Now the community leaders intended to take the lead and continue organising the competition).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To beautify the resource centre.</li> <li>• To organize Grow Market.</li> <li>• To install sport and recreation facilities in the resource centre.</li> </ul>

Table 4: Strengths and obstacles faced by Kampung Permatang Nibong and Taman Bagan Lalang communities

## IV. Way Forward

### a. Bridging the Relevant Stakeholders with Local Community

It is important to engage the right stakeholders to address the specific problems highlighted in each community and provide anticipated opportunities to further enhance the sustainable practices of the community.

In order to help both communities to roll out their action plans, PGC has prepared a few action plans for respective community as follows:

#### PGC proposals for:

- **Kampung Permatang Nibong**
  1. To facilitate the communication between the participants and relevant parties such as Seberang Perai City Council, Department of Irrigation and Drainage to install trash trap at the Sungai Hutan Nibung and carry out enforcement activities onto the parties that cause the river pollution problems.
  2. To provide guidance to the participants in organizing environmental education and awareness programmes on river protection for the local community.
- **Taman Bagan Lalang**
  1. To share the relevant educational materials and identify activities such as Community Market that would increase community participation.
  2. To organise a site visit to Taman Jajar Sungai Ara, where the local community of Sungai Ara have shown a successful example of a community-led initiative in conserving the river.

### b. Designing A Sustainable Neighbourhood Framework

The findings from the survey and workshop will be incorporated into the SNDP final report. By taking these two communities as the case studies, a sustainable neighbourhood framework will be designed to guide the local community on how to establish their own sustainable neighbourhood. The final report is expected to be published in September 2021. The sustainable neighbourhood framework shall be replicable to other communities in Penang.

## V. Conclusion:

Aligned with Penang2030 vision, the future SNDP framework premised on the basis that people can positively shape their future through connected efforts and sharing responsibility between individuals, communities, organisation, businesses and all levels of government.

A healthy community is a form of living democracy where people work together to address what matters to them. The creation of sustainable neighbourhoods together with local community will not only build their capacity to develop their own sustainable neighbourhood, but also empower them to take up the ownership to improve their living environment.