

Some agree and some don't

LONGTIME residents and business operators in the Tiong Nam settlement have differing views on City Hall's plans to redevelop the area.

The majority of them agree that more and more foreigners are coming into the area and it was slowly losing its identity.

Noodle trader Law Kean Chai, 53, who has been living in Tiong Nam for the past 40 years said the simple minded residents may welcome the redevelopment plan. But those doing business may not be so open to the idea.

"Most of the residents here run their own businesses and there would also be some elderly folks who may not welcome the idea of having modern units and would like terrace homes instead."

Law adds that some people would be open to the idea if the Chinese identity is preserved.

He said about 40 per cent of the residents comprise of foreigners who mostly live in flats.



SOO: Suggests a small zone for industrial activities

"But we are willing to listen and we are open to any form of dialogue with City Hall," he said.

Mechanic Soo Poh Lim, 54, said it would be good if there was a small zone for industrial activities such as his in any redevelopment plan.

Another resident, who only wanted to be identified as being 47, said some residents were not open to those who lived there but many from the surrounding areas as well.

However, for Lim Soo Chin, 50, redevelopment was not a viable idea.

"Redevelopment would mean that we will have to be relocated to another area during that period, and for people like me who earn a living here it's not only my house being taken away but also my rice bowl," she said.

"I've also just renovated my home six months ago costing RM100,000. Are the authorities willing to compensate me for what I've spent?" she asked.

Another resident who only wanted to be known as Chew said, the redevelopment plan would be something new as there has not been much development in the area except for the installation of a water pump at the Gombak river that has stopped flooding in the area.