INTRODUCTION

1

Slow moving traffic at Municipal office area.
1.1 The Town
1.2 Why the Plan?
1.3 Profile of the town
1.4 History
1.5 Bio Diversity
1.6 Earlier planning efforts
1.7 Plan for and by the people
INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Town

Perinthalmanna is a prominent and fast-developing settlement in the district. The town is equidistant, at approximately 70 Km, from Palakkad, Thrissur and Kozhikkode cities. The Kozhikkode-Palakkad Road (NH 966) and the Perumbilavu-Nilambur Road (SH 39623) meet at the Main Junction of Perinthalmanna. This geographic positioning and connectivity with all important settlements in the region has been catalytic to the growth of this town. This strong connectivity has attracted higher level facilities to the town. But this also means a heavy volume of through-traffic that adds to the chaos in the town.

1.2 Why the Plan..?

The town caters to a large hinterland as a service center, offering even tertiary level services. For example, the health care sector is flourishing in the town with a couple of super-speciality hospitals. Further investments are expected both in existing units and green field projects in the sector.

A number of large scale institutions have come up in the periphery of the town in all directions. In the south, the off-center campus of Aligarh Muslim University has come up in Elamkulam Panchayath. The MEA Engineering College is in the north of the town in Vettathur Panchayath. In the east, EMS Hospital, which is likely to be medical college soon, is established in Thazhekode Panchayath. The MES Medical College is in Angadippuram, and Puzhakkattiri Panchayaths, on the west side of the town. All these institutions have come up just outside the town and depends on the town for urban amenities.

The town has witnessed a haphazard growth in the past few decades in the absence of proper development control regulations (the Kerala Municipal Building Rule, 1999, which is general in nature and applicable to all ULBs in the state is the only control on the physical development of the town). Perinthalmanna, originally with a serene environment and water quality due to its vast paddy fields and greenery is turning fast into an environmental nightmare. Besides, the physical growth of the town has been mainly in the commercial sector. Addition to the critical infrastructure like roads and other urban civic amenities had been dismal.
The town has to be cautious in reducing the adverse impacts of the economic activities on the environment in order to ensure a reasonable level of quality of life to its inhabitants.

The water bodies in the town have become cesspools due to unbridled letting out of the solid and liquid waste into them.

Thus, the town faces the need for further augmentation of the physical activities for strengthening the back bone of the local economy while restoring its environmental quality. The town also has to be cautious to reduce the adverse impacts of the economic activities on the environment in order to ensure a reasonable quality of life to its inhabitants.

Further the interests of the weak and the poor, like access to social infrastructure, better quality of life and means of livelihood, are to be protected for the development to be truly inclusive. All these indicate the necessity of a well-deliberated development plan for the town, considering its development potentials and resources.

As per the 73rd & 74th constitutional amendments and the subsequent state legislations, it is the responsibility of the LSG to prepare a master plan for its development with focus on scientific spatial planning.

In this context, the Perinthalmanna municipality has resolved to prepare a master plan for Perinthalmanna town vide resolution no: 26, on agenda E2/17353/10 on 24-01-2011 and requested the state government to prepare the plan. In response to this the Chief Town Planner, Town & Country Planning Department, Government of Kerala has directed the Town Planner, Malappuram to initiate preliminary activities for preparing the development plan vide letter no: E2-1633/2011 dated 27-07-2011. The Government of Kerala, vide G.O. No: 1376/2012/LSGD dated 17-05-2012 accorded administrative and financial sanction for the preparation of development plan for Perinthalmanna town to Town & Country Planning Department, Government of Kerala.
1.3 Profile of the town

Perinthalmanna is one of the seven municipal towns in Malappuram district of Kerala. This was the capital of the ancient Valluvanad kingdom and has a rich history of “Malabar Revolution”. Etymologically, Perinthalmanna derives its name from the Malayalam word ‘Perumthallumannu’ which means the land of big, rigorous fights and the original word was replaced by “Perinthalmanna” over time.

1.3.1 Location

Perinthalmanna is located near the southern boundary of Malappuram District, along National Highway 966. The town is well connected by roads to the other important towns in the district like Malappuram, Manjeri, Nilambur, Kottakkal, Pattambi and Shornur and the neighbouring LSGs Angadippuram, Vettathur, Thazhekkode, Alipparamba, Elamkulam and Pulamanthole. Malappuram town, the headquarters of the Malappuram district is at 20 km to the west of the town, along National Highway 966. Manjeri is at a distance of 25 km to the north of the town. Other important places in the district such as Kottakkal-the center of Ayurveda, Nilambur-the tourist spot of the district, Tirur-the trading center, and Ponnani-the Port town, are at 27 km, 40 km, 42 km and 50 km respectively from the town.

The town is also well connected by road to places like Kozhikode, Thrissur, Palakkad, Coimbatore, Ooty etc and by rail to all important places in the country. Pattambi, Mannarkad and Ottappalm in Palakkad district are at distances of 23 km, 30 km and 35 km respectively from the town. An interesting feature of the town is that it is at an equal distance of 70 km from the major cities of neighbouring districts such as Kozhikode, Palakkad and Thrissur.

Nearest railway station is Angadippuram on Shornur-Nilambur railway line, just 2 km away from the town Centre, and Shornur railway junction is 45 km South of Perinthalmanna. Calicut international airport is at a distance of 43 km from the town.
1.3.2 Area and Population

Perinthalmanna municipality accounts for 0.97% of total geographical area of the district and accommodates 1.21% of the total population. As per 2011 census, the population of the municipality was 49,723 with an area of 34.41 sq. km, spread over 34 electoral wards, showing a density of 1445 persons per sq. km, which is low when compared to other towns in the state. The female population is a little more than the males, with the males constituting 47.3% of the population and females 52.7%, indicating higher sex ratio. Perinthalmanna has an average literacy rate of 95.28%, higher than the national average of 59.5% with the male and female literacy of 93.95% and 93.91% respectively. In Perinthalmanna, 12.92% of the population is under 6 years of age. About 10% of the people belong to SC/ST category.

Perinthalamanna is at an equal distance of 70 km from the major cities of neighbouring districts such as Kozhikode, Palakkad and Thrissur.

1.3.3 Climate

The Perinthalmanna Municipality experiences similar climatic conditions as those prevalent elsewhere in the state, viz. dry season from December to February, hot season from March to May and the south west and north east monsoon from June to November. Nearly 75% of the annual rains are received during the south west monsoon. The climate is generally hot and humid, the range of temperature varies between 20°C to 35°C. The average rainfall experienced in Perinthalmanna municipality is about 2810 mm, which is lower than that of the State and the District.
1.3.4 Physiography

Similar to the other parts of the state, Malappuram district also consist of the three physiographical divisions, low land, mid land and high land. The low land stretches along the sea coast, the mid land is in the central area and the high land region is towards the eastern and north eastern parts. Perinthalmanna belongs to the mid land region. The municipal area can be divided into 7 parts as per physiography such as raised land, small slope, medium slope, steep slope, level surface, valley and flood prone areas.

The town has higher elevation on both north and south boundaries. A valley formed in between these two higher elevation fans out from east to west forming an alluvial plain, vast tracts of paddy fields. The physical development has taken place mostly on the dry lands on the periphery of the paddy fields in the beginning. Gradually the built environment has encroached upon the paddy fields resulting in drastic reduction in their extent.
1.4 History

1.4.1 Perinthalamanna in Valluvanadu

In the olden days, Valluvanad was an independent princely state comprising of parts of present Ottappalam, Pattambi, and Perinthalamanna Taluks. In AD 1320, the ruler of Valluvanad was a witness during the offering of the title deed by King Veeraraghava. After the death of Cheraman Perumal (AD 1320-1342), Kerala was divided among the rulers of Thiruvithamcoore, Kochi, Kolothunaadu, Kurumbanadu and Valluvanad states.

The post of the ruler of Valluvanad was known as ‘Valluvakkonathiri’. As it was the land ruled by the Valluvakkonathiri, it came to be known as Valluvanad. Valluvakkonathiri was also known by the names like Vellaattiri, Vallabhan, Rayiran Chathan, Chathan Kotha and Arangotte Udayavar. The eldest member of Ayirazhi-Kadannamanna-Aripra Kovilakam became the Valluvakkonathiri. At first, the capital of Valluvanad was Kuruvanad, and later, Angadipuram became the capital. Perinthalamanna was considered to be the main center of Valluvanad. Both Perinthalamanna province and Angadippuram province were together known as Angadippuram.

The tradition associated with this ancient town is that in the olden days, sporting events, including martial activities, were organized under the leadership of Kakoot Nairs, the commander-in-chief of the Valluvakkonathiris. These sporting events were organized before Angadipuram Thirumandhamkunnu Temple festival, which was celebrated after the harvesting of crops in the month of Makara, which corresponds to the months of January/February of the Gregorian calendar. Another main event of the festival was the Aattakalam or the staging of Kathakali.
Later during the Mysore invasion, Valluvanad was confined in area, and the Vellattiri sought asylum in Travancore. On the cessation of Malabar to the British by Tippu Sultan, Vellattiri entered into an agreement with the British, and became a pensioner. There was a military cantonment during Tippu’s and British periods in Perinthalmanna.

1.4.2 Perinthalmanna During British Period
From 1835 until late 19th century, violent disturbances surfaced from time to time in different parts of the Malabar region, particularly in Eranad and Valluvanad, and the adjoining areas, which included Perinthalmanna. These disturbances and uprisings were agrarian unrest in nature. Malabar came under the direct administrative control of the British raj, and was made a part of the Madras Presidency.

Malappuram was the venue for many of the Mappila revolts, also known as the Mappila rebellion, between 1792 and 1921. These incidents also affected Valluvanad. There were large-scale violence and riots in different parts of Valluvanad, followed by exodus of people from the affected areas. The looting of the government treasury by the rioters rocked Valluvanad. Rumors surrounding this looting instigated violence in Eranad and many other parts of Valluvanad, but the residents of Perinthalmanna had, to a certain extent, refrained themselves from indulging in violence. The main reason for this was the social and cultural amity that existed in Perinthalmanna. Perinthalmanna is the location where the East India Company established their first high school, first court, first Taluk office, and more after the Malabar treaty. Perinthalmanna vocational higher secondary school is one of the oldest schools in Malabar region; it was started during 1865 as a Right school.

1.4.3 History of Governance
Perinthalmanna was at first under Malappuram Taluk board, and then under the Valluvanad Taluk board. This place became a Panchayath in 1933. The first Panchayath president was P. Achuthan Menon.

Malappuram district was formed in 1969 comprising Ernad and Tirur Taluks of former Kozhikode district and Perinthalmanna and Ponnani Taluks of erstwhile Palakkad district.
The town became a municipality on 10 February 1990. This place was under an advisory board till 1991 and thereafter under a special officer, till the new council took charge on 1995 October 26, and Smt. K.T. Premalatha was the first Municipal Chairperson.

Perinthalmanna municipality is part of the Perinthalmanna electoral constituency (legislative assembly) and Malappuram Parliament constituency.

1.4.4 Socio Cultural History

The district has a rich heritage and was a famous centre for Vedic learning and Islamic philosophy. It contains several examples of Indo-European architecture. Along with historic monuments and diverse natural attractions, Malappuram is also famous for its cultural and ritual arts. The temples and mosques of this district are well known for their spectacular festivals.

Valluvanad played an important role in the Indian national movement. Shri. M.P. Govindhamenon, Shri. M. P. Narayan Menon, Kallingal Kammu Sahib, Vellanjola Kunjajammo, Nechchiyil Moideenkutty Sahib, Chengara Madhavaththarakan, Thavar Tharakan, C.P. Madhava Tharakan, Dr. M.S. Nair, Adv. Mohammed Shafi etc were the renowned persons who participated in the freedom struggle.

There are many renowned personalities from Perinthalmanna who have played an important role in the social and political domain of Kerala like Shri. E.M.S. Namboothiripadu who was an Indian Communist leader, Socialist-Marxist theorist, revolutionary author, historian, social commentator and the first Chief Minister of Kerala state. His native village Elamkulam is very near to the municipality and Perinthalmanna was his arena during the initial stages. Poonthanam the famous devotee of Lord Krishna (Guruvayoorappan) lived in Keezhattoor, close to Perinthalmanna. He is remembered for his masterpiece, ‘Jnanappana’ which means ‘the song of wisdom’. House of Poonthanam known as Poonthanam illam is a famous heritage center in the state. Perinthalmanna was the work place of Cherukad, famous revolutionary writer in Malayalam, & Shri. E.P. Gopalan, who participated in the independence struggle. He was a Socialist and a famous leader of Indian National Congress.
Angadippuram which is around three Kms from Perinthalmanna town is a temple town, and houses seven temples.

Pathaikara is a scenic Valluvanadan village within the municipality. There are so many temples and mosques situated here. Pathaikkara Mana is one of the well-known Namboothiri illams in Kerala. Pathaikara Sree Mahavishnu Temple is a very famous Vishnu temple in Valluvanad.

Angadippuram which is around 3 kms from Perinthalmanna town is a temple town and houses around 7 temples. The Thirumandhamkunnu Bhagavathy Temple was built by the erstwhile rulers of Valluvanad. The goddess Bhagavathi is the family deity of the Valluvakkonathiris. This temple is a flourishing pilgrim center. There is yet another important pilgrim centre in the village, the Tali temple, which is also near the highway.

1.5 Bio Diversity

Malappuram District is flanked by the Nilgiris on the East and the Arabian Sea on the West, and is rich with evergreen forests, pristine valleys, meandering rivers and breathtaking beaches. The district has four great rivers flowing through, namely, the Chaliyar, the Kadalundi, the Tirur puzha and the Bharathappuzha. The region also has a network of inland waterways. The midland region including Perinthalmanna is fertile with thick coconut groves while the hilly tract has dense forests and extensive Teak plantations apart from the innumerable streams and rivers.
1.6 Earlier planning efforts

Even though Perinthalmanna became a municipality in 1990, the town as of now has no statutory development plan. However, many efforts to scientifically organise the developments were taken up since its formation. The Town & Country Planning Department prepared Draft Detailed Town planning schemes for the core area of the town as soon as Perinthalmanna became a municipality. In the year 2000, a master plan was prepared for the town by the Town & Country Planning Department on request of the municipality. This plan was prepared through a participatory approach and the draft was prepared based on stake holder discussions and feedbacks obtained during a development seminar conducted in January 2000. Another effort was the traffic & transport study conducted for the town in the year 2002 by the Town &Country Planning Department. However, the legal processing of these plans could not be completed.

1.7 Plan for and by the People

One of the major paradigm shifts brought about by the 73rd & 74th constitutional amendments and the subsequent state legislations is the participation of common people in the planning process. The methodology for the preparation of this development plan was also formulated ensuring people’s participation at all levels of plan preparation. The Spatial Integration Committee formed at the municipal level and chaired by the Chairperson of the municipality spearheads the plan making process. The Municipal Secretary was the convenor and the Municipal Engineer the joint convenor of this committee. One representative from each of the working groups (the subject wise working group, constituted for the formulation of annual plans of the municipality), Town planner and a resource person (a non official who has enough knowledge and experience to advice the committee on matters related to spatial planning) were the members of the committee. Sri. V. Abdul Razak, Retd. Town Planner was opted as the resource person in the SIC for Perinthalmanna Town.
The voice of children should not be left unheard while preparing a development plan since they are an important group of beneficiaries of the plan. So, their dreams about their own city, where they are going to live as adults, are important. To get an insight of the kids’ vision of their own town in the future, their involvement in the thinking process was deepened by conducting competitions for them with the theme, “Future of Perinthalmanna”.

While a pencil drawing competition was conducted for the Upper Primary school students, High school students participated in an essay writing competition and higher secondary/college students prepared study reports for the competition.

“My city, in my dreams” first prize winning drawing in pencil drawing competition.

Arun. P of Tharakan Higher Secondary School, first prize winner of Pencil drawing competition receives cash prize and certificate

“With Public opinion towards it, nothing has failed, and with public opinion against it nothing has succeeded...!!”
-Jawaharlal Nehru
The collected data and their analysis was presented in a one day workshop conducted at Municipal town hall on 20-12-2012 for evaluating the collected data. The workshop was attended by the councillors, SIC members, working group members, department officers and representatives of various stakeholder organizations.

Detailed Focus Group Discussions were conducted with the stakeholders, regarding the problems, their solutions and the development potential of the town. Various views, suggestions and requirements proposed by the direct end-users were discussed in detail and were noted so as to be addressed in the Master Plan. The following stakeholder groups forming a cross section of the society were consulted with.

- Federation of Registered Civil Engineers (Force)
- Licensed Engineers and Supervisors Federation (Lensefed)
- Hospital Management Association
- Oisca International
- Bus Operators Union, Motor/ Taxi Workers Union
- Vyapari Vyavasayai Ekopana Samithi, Vyapari Vyavasayi Samithi, Kerala Small Scale Industries Association
- Heads of Various Educational Institutions
- Various Service Organizations
- Police Officers, Perinthalmanna
- School, Higher Secondary and College Students.

The draft master plan was presented in a seminar to create more awareness among the common public.