

Country and Marine Parks Board (CMPB)
Confirmed Minutes of the 62nd Meeting

Date : 6 December 2016 (Tuesday)

File Ref.: AF CPA 01/1/0

Time : 2:30 p.m.

Venue : Room 701, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)
Headquarters

ATTENDANCE

Chairman

Mr TANG King-shing, GBS, PDSM

Members

Mr CHAN Ka-kui, BBS, JP

Professor CHIU Lai-har, Rebecca, JP

Mr CHOW Kwok-keung

Ms Suzanne M GENDRON

Dr HAU Chi-hang

Ms KIU Kin-yan, Judy

Mr LAM Chung-lun, Billy, GBS, JP

Dr LAU Tai-wai, David

Mr LEE Chung-ming, Eric

Professor LEUNG Mei-yee, Kenneth

Ms MA Miu-wah, Katherine

Dr MAN Chi-sum, JP

Mr MO Ka-hung, Joseph

Ms SO Ka-man

Dr LEUNG Siu-fai, JP	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Dr SO Ping-man	Deputy Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Ms Doris CHOW	Assistant Director (Estate Management), Lands Department
Mr LAI Chi-tung	Assistant Director of Marine (Port Control), Marine Department
Mr Wilson CHAN	Assistant Director of Planning / New Territories, Planning Department

Secretary

Miss Phyllis CHAN	Assistant Secretary (Boards)1, AFCD
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IN ATTENDANCE

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Mr Patrick LAI	Assistant Director (Country and Marine Parks)
Mr Alan CHAN	Senior Marine Parks Officer
Mr Franco NG	Senior Country Parks Officer (South-east)
Ms Y N NGAR	Senior Country Parks Officer (North-west)
Mr Alfred WONG	Senior Country Parks Officer/Ranger Services (Acting)
Ms Pauline TONG	Country Parks Officer (Special Duties)

Environmental Protection Department (EPD)

Ms Vivian CHAN	Senior Administrative Officer (Nature Conservation)
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Home Affairs Department (HAD)

Mr Alan YUNG	Senior Executive Officer (2)1
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Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)

Ms CHAN Pui-ching, Winnie Senior Leisure Manager (Camps)

Water Supplies Department (WSD)

Mr LIN Tang-tai Senior Engineer/Planning Policy

For Agenda Item III onlyPlanning Department (PlanD)

Ms Amy CHEUNG Assistant Director of Planning / Territorial

Miss Eva TAM Town Planner/Strategic Planning 5

ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES

Mr Jan CHAN

Ms CHAN Po-kam, Beatrice

Honourable HO Chun-yin, Steven, BBS

Ms KWAN Sau-wan

Dr NG Cho-nam, SBS, JP

Ms WONG Pik-yan, Nicole

Mr AU Wai-kwong, Elvis, JP Assistant Director (Nature Conservation & Infrastructure Planning), EPD

Miss Charmaine WONG, JP Assistant Director (2), HAD

Ms Rebecca LOU Assistant Director (Leisure Services)³, LCSD

Mr CHAU Sai-wai Assistant Director of Water Supplies/Development, WSD

OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

122/16 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular Mr Wilson CHAN, Assistant Director of Planning / New Territories, PlanD, and Miss Phyllis CHAN, Assistant Secretary (Boards)1, AFCD, who were attending the meeting for the first time.

123/16 The Chairman informed members that, as an established practice and to facilitate the taking of minutes, sound recording would be made during the meeting. The audio records would be destroyed after the minutes were confirmed.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Confirmation of Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 26 August 2016

124/16 The minutes of the last meeting held on 26 August 2016 were confirmed without amendments.

II. Matters Arising

(a) Draft Replacement Maps of Plover Cove Country Park and Lantau South Country Park (Para. 75/16 to 76/16)

125/16 Ms Pauline TONG of AFCD reported that a Gazette Notice was published on 30 September 2016 to notify the public that the draft replacement maps of Plover Cove Country Park and Lantau South Country Park and the related explanatory statements were available for public inspection. In accordance with the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208), any person aggrieved by any of the draft maps may, within the inspection period of 60 days, raise objections. During the 60-day period, which ended on 28 November 2016, the Country and Marine Parks Authority (the Authority) received one written objection to the draft replacement map of Plover Cove Country Park. The Authority was preparing a written representation concerning the objection, and the Board Secretary, after receiving it, would arrange the objection hearing and inform members of the details.

(b) Preliminary Boundaries and Management Plans of the Proposed Southwest Lantau

and Soko Islands Marine Parks (Para. 77/16 to 82/16)

126/16 Mr Alan CHAN of AFCD reported that the Executive Council was consulted on the proposed Southwest Lantau Marine Park (SWLMP) and Soko Islands Marine Park (SIMP) in August 2016. The Chief Executive in Council had directed the Authority to prepare the draft maps for the two proposed marine parks. Besides, AFCD and EPD had consulted the Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries and Environmental Hygiene Committee of the Islands District Council (TAFEHC, Islands DC) on 26 September 2016, regarding the draft boundary of the proposed marine park for the Integrated Waste Management Facilities (IWMF) Phase 1. At the meeting, some members (particularly those from the South Lantao Rural Committee) reiterated their objection to the draft boundary of the proposed SIMP and asked for addressing their comments on the proposed SIMP and on the adjacent proposed marine park for the IWMF Phase 1. In view of the strong sentiment of the Islands DC and relevant rural committees, AFCD would further study the draft boundary of the proposed SIMP and continue to liaise with relevant stakeholders to secure their support to the proposed marine parks. AFCD also planned to consult the TAFEHC, Islands DC later on the proposed amendments to the draft boundaries of the proposed SIMP and the proposed marine park for the Integrated Waste Management Facilities (IWMF) Phase 1.

(c) Country Parks Public Education Programme: Take your Litter Home (Phase II)
(Para. 99/16 to 105/16)

127/16 Mr Alfred WONG of AFCD reported that the activities planned for Phase II of the Country Parks Public Education Programme “Take Your Litter Home” were launched in September 2016. In October, 71 litter containers and recycle bins along all family walks and nature trails were removed. In addition, 185 litter containers and recycle bins along country trails, long distance hiking trails and other trails in country parks and special areas were removed in November. The plan to reduce the number of litter containers and recycle bins along trails by 50% in 2016 had been completed. He summarised that the removal of litter containers and recycle bins was smooth and AFCD would continue to closely monitor the hygiene conditions at the trails concerned and collect relevant statistics for evaluating the effectiveness of the Programme.

128/16 In addition, he reported on the publicity and education activities that had taken place, which included issue of press releases, and broadcasting of TV and radio

Announcements in the Public Interest. AFCD had also taken members' advice to display banners at the five Phase I trial sites to announce the encouraging results of the Programme and acknowledge hikers' contributions. He said that AFCD would maintain their efforts in keeping country parks clean, and step up publicity, patrol and enforcement as necessary.

129/16 Since the amount of litter produced in organised events in country parks could be massive, a member advised AFCD to ensure the waste generated in the course of such events were properly dealt with and to work on relevant publicity programmes targeted at event organisers and participants. Mr Alfred WONG replied that a permit granted by the Authority was required for organising events in country parks or special areas. Such applications should include a management plan for the overall reduction, collection and disposal of waste. Also, country park staff would monitor the cleanliness of the sites, and remind event organisers to collect and remove the waste generated upon completion of the events.

130/16 Further to the above discussion, a member advised AFCD to tighten up the requirements of waste management plan, for example putting a restriction on the use of plastic bottles in competitions/ events held in country parks. He said that it would be more environmentally friendly if competition/ event organisers would stop providing drinks in disposable plastic bottles and provide water refilling services instead to encourage participants to bring their own bottles. These would not only help reducing waste at source but also lessen the manpower requirements for cleaning up the sites afterward. The Chairman shared the member's view on encouraging waste reduction. In response, Mr Franco NG of AFCD said that the department was aware of the plastic bottles issue in competitions/ events held in country parks, and had already asked the event organisers to reduce the use of plastic bottles in recent years. It was observed that with the department's efforts and increasing public awareness on environmental protection, a growing number of organisers had provided water refilling services rather than providing drinks in disposable plastic bottles. AFCD would continue to spread the message of reducing the use of plastic bottles among competition/ event organisers and participants.

(Ms Pauline TONG left the meeting at this juncture.)

**III. Hong Kong 2030+: Towards a Planning Vision and Strategy Transcending 2030
(Working Paper: WP/CMPB/12/2016)**

131/16 The Chairman informed members that PlanD planned to consult CMPB as part of their public engagement exercise on Hong Kong 2030+. Then, he reminded members to declare if there were any potential conflicts of interest in the matters to be discussed under this agenda item. Professor CHIU Lai-har, Rebecca, JP declared that she was a member of the Expert Advisory Panel of Hong Kong 2030+. The Chairman then invited and welcomed the representatives of PlanD.

132/16 Ms Amy CHEUNG of PlanD delivered a PowerPoint presentation on Working Paper WP/CMPB/12/2016. Ms CHEUNG provided members with information about the background of the study and introduced the three building blocks for achieving the vision and planning goal of Hong Kong 2030+. She also introduced the proposed conceptual spatial framework and its supporting transport network under Hong Kong 2030+.

133/16 Regarding the concepts of age-friendly planning and design, a member shared some examples from overseas cities where the slope of sidewalks, signal timing of traffic lights, design of pedestrian handrails, etc. were taken into consideration with a view to improving accessibility for the elderly. While he was glad to see an extensive coverage of environmental and ecological protection in Hong Kong 2030+, he was of the view that the study which represented the vision and policy for development beyond 2030 was not forward-looking and innovative enough. For example he deemed that the proposal of having merely one Nature Park was inadequate. To improve the living environment of Hong Kong people, he believed it was important to lessen the impacts of climate change on the urban area. In this regard, he asked how the proposed parks in urban area would help in attaining urban biodiversity and increasing waterbody in facing the challenges of climate change and urban heat island effects. He also requested for more details on the setting up of the proposed Agricultural Park and the proposed Nature Park in Long Valley. In response, Ms CHEUNG indicated that the study had introduced initiatives that could facilitate age-friendly planning, for example reviewing elderly facilities provision, addressing the housing needs of elderly, and adopting a universal design in public housing and even in private housing units to cater for the needs of the elderly. The study helped to bring out the concepts for public discussion, and if there was general agreement to the proposed initiatives during the public engagement exercises, those initiatives would be further explored in other studies. Ms CHEUNG pointed out that the directions for environmental protection had changed from solely avoidance of development in sensitive areas in the past to proactive enhancement of environmental capacity and environmental improvement, for example promoting urban ecology, in Hong Kong 2030+. The Food and Health Bureau (FHB) was studying the initiative of setting up the Agricultural Park, and there would also be another study to identify Agriculture Priority Areas (APA) that had higher value for agricultural

activities and required better protection. Instead of a passive approach, it was proposed to incentivise land owners' and farmers' engagement in agricultural activities in those areas with a view to protecting the areas for long-term agricultural purposes. In response to the member's opinion on the number of Nature Park proposed, Ms CHEUNG said that the current environmental protection framework indeed reflected largely existing proposals, however, any views from the public on further initiatives were welcomed and would be taken into consideration.

134/16 Another member enquired about the details of urban forestry and urban farming mentioned in Hong Kong 2030+. Ms Amy CHEUNG replied that since the existing greening work in urban areas were rather homogeneous and scattered, the proposed urban forestry strategy aimed at having more massive and clustered tree planting in the urban area to improve the coherence with adjacent ecological environment and enhance urban biodiversity. If there was public agreement to such strategic direction, the locations and scale of planting would be further explored. As for urban farming, Ms CHEUNG said that it would not only be complementary to the greening work in the urban areas but also provide opportunities for leisure and recreational activities for families and the community in general. There were many possible ways to develop urban farming, for example vertical farming, community farms as well as hydroponics in industrial buildings. Opportunities should be taken to review the existing provision for urban farming and explore the potential to further develop it in Hong Kong. In response to the member's follow-up question, she said that the possible scale of urban forestry required further investigation.

135/16 A member said that the public housing policies in Singapore were very family-friendly that some of the public housing flats were big enough to allow multi-generation families to live under one roof, providing a supportive environment for parental and child care. He advised that the long term housing strategy in Hong Kong should include more humanised and family-friendly planning and design in order to bring along ethical and social harmony. In addition, he was of the opinion that facing the land supply shortage, the government might consider collaborating with the authorities of the Greater Pearl River Delta (GPRD) on policies relating to migration and job distribution. Furthermore, he commented that there would be less abandoned agricultural land if there were increases in water sources and enhancement of road infrastructure in rural areas. Ms Amy CHEUNG responded that both family-friendly built environment and inter-generational support were advocated in Hong Kong 2030+, and she agreed that the family-friendly measures from other countries, including Singapore, were good examples that could be learnt from. Besides, she said that Hong Kong was maintaining close social and economic connections with the GPRD, and such connections were envisaged to be

closer over time. They would actively keep in view the development and relationship of Hong Kong with the surrounding areas and explore the opportunities for cooperation. As regards abandoned agricultural land, Ms CHEUNG said that PlanD would work with FHB in studying the provision of farming incentives and rehabilitation of abandoned farmland with good agricultural potential.

136/16 Regarding the proposed development of East Lantau Metropolis (ELM) through reclamation, a member would like to know the approximate sizes of reclamation in the waters near Kau Yi Chau (KYC) and the Hei Ling Chau (HLC) Typhoon Shelter respectively, and if protection of natural shoreline was taken into consideration in selecting the reclamation sites. Also, he asked if there was any green and blue space in the proposed reclamation. Ms Amy CHEUNG responded that there was not yet any detailed study on the exact scale of reclamation for the proposed ELM and the rough estimation was about 1,000 hectares. Given the ecological significance of KYC, it was expected that the reclamation would not be too close to it and that a reasonable buffer would be left in between the reclamation and KYC. Since HLC Typhoon Shelter had a relatively low usage rate, there would be potential to increase land supply by carrying out reclamation there. She added that green and blue space planning was applicable to all the proposed development areas, including ELM.

137/16 In response to a member's concern that the proposed reclamation for ELM and fairways would reduce the habitat of finless porpoises (FP) at Lantau Island and have an impact on stranding, Ms Amy CHEUNG indicated that the strategic environmental assessment under the Study on Enhancing Land Supply Strategy - Reclamation Outside Victoria Harbour and Rock Cavern Development conducted by the Civil Engineering and Development Department showed that the central waters, where the proposed ELM was located, were relatively less sensitive than the western and eastern waters from the ecological perspective. Since the proposal was still at a preliminary conceptual stage, a more comprehensive environmental impact assessment (EIA) would be required to evaluate the possible impacts on FP and other marine organisms.

138/16 A member expected the government to have long-term policy initiatives in support of agricultural land rehabilitation in the New Territories, as well as development strategies that would balance conservation and development in rural areas. He stressed that instead of excessive development, a "conservation-cum-development" approach should be adopted in rural areas. In this regard, the provision of supporting infrastructure in rural settlements, including roads, water and electricity supplies, was necessary with a view to encouraging

people to return to rural villages and engage in agricultural activities. Ms Amy CHEUNG replied that one of the overall planning approaches for future developments in the New Territories was to foster rural-urban-nature integration. Moreover, as she had mentioned before, there would be a study on APA for more efficient planning and use of agricultural land. The provision of rural infrastructure as to support farming activities could also be examined.

139/16 A member commented that while there were tangible ideas for land and infrastructure developments, there was no concrete plan for nature conservation in Hong Kong 2030+. He advised the government to set some targets and objectives for nature conservation, for example increasing the number of marine parks and marine reserves to cover 10 percent of Hong Kong waters. Besides, noticing that the proposed ELM might already meet the estimated long-term outstanding land requirement of around 1,200 hectares, the member enquired if the government had any plan to convert country park areas to other land uses in the coming few decades. Ms Amy CHEUNG responded that there were continuous government's efforts in nature conservation, such as expansion of country and marine park areas as well as designation of fisheries protection areas in Hong Kong waters. Moreover, she agreed that if the proposed developments in the conceptual spatial framework could be carried forward, there should be no need to utilise country parks for meeting the outstanding land requirement.

140/16 Further to the above discussion, a member thought that it would be a dilemma because if the ELM proposal could not be carried forward, there would be around 1,200 hectares of land in shortage. Moreover, he asked the purpose of emphasising areas with steep slope of above 30° in the study, and the possibility of developing those areas with slope under 30° at the fringe of built-up areas. Ms Amy CHEUNG responded that areas with slope of above 30° were too steep to develop, and the purpose of emphasising that in the study was to explain that steep slopes were one of the major challenges for land development in Hong Kong. Although it might not be technically impossible to develop areas with steep slopes, the cost of doing so would be very high. Apart from areas with steep slopes, lands with high ecological, landscape or historical value were also not considered for development. In response to the member's follow-up question about back-up plans in case the proposed ELM could not be carried forward, Ms CHEUNG said that the proposed development in New Territories North (NTN), which included brownfields and abandoned agricultural land, would be another option, among others.

141/16 A member learnt that the government was conducting studies on brownfield sites in Hong Kong, and he asked if the proposals in Hong Kong 2030+ would take the study results

into account, and if the development of brownfield sites could replace reclamation and utilisation of country park areas in meeting the long-term outstanding land requirement. Ms Amy CHEUNG pointed out that development of brownfield sites had already been a priority under the multi-pronged approach for land supply adopted by the government, for example the proposed development of brownfield sites in Hung Shui Kiu (HSK), Yuen Long South (YLS) and NTN could release more than 500 hectares of developable land. Since development of brownfield sites was mostly constrained by the lack of infrastructural facilities, it was necessary to conduct comprehensive and integrated planning with corresponding infrastructure upgrading. She supplemented that apart from the current studies in HSK and YLS, a comprehensive study on brownfield sites in the New Territories would also commence in the next few months. Since many brownfield sites were scattered across the territory, the feasibility of developing those sites in a large scale required further examination.

142/16 A member asked about the impacts of climate change coupled with the proposed reclamation in East Lantau on sea level. Ms Amy CHEUNG said that one of the aims of Hong Kong 2030+ was to raise public awareness of the impacts of climate change, and that government efforts in coping with the threat of sea level rise included reviewing the capability of existing seawalls. She said that more actions from the government were required to better prepare the city to cope with the challenges of climate change.

143/16 The Chairman hoped that with the vision of Hong Kong 2030+ on enhancing the green and blue assets, there would be corresponding resources and manpower allocation to help the Authority to carry out various management measures and improve ancillary facilities of country and marine parks. Ms Amy CHEUNG said that it was proposed to set up a high-level steering structure within the government for coordinating and monitoring relevant initiatives among bureaux and departments.

144/16 As members made no further enquiry, the Chairman thanked the representatives from PlanD for attending the meeting.

145/16 After the departure of representatives from PlanD, a member said that the vision on green and blue assets mentioned in Hong Kong 2030+ had high relevance to CMPB. Despite high-density urban living environment, Hong Kong had a high green space per capita of over 100m². Therefore, she promoted the importance of improving access to country and marine parks and their connection with open spaces nearby in promoting the usage of these valuable

green and blue assets. Two members shared the same view of the above member. One of them opined that improving country park and green space accessibility would be more meaningful than creating more open spaces scattered in the urban area, such as parks and pocket gardens. Also, he disagreed to the high density residential development in the proximity of green belt zones and thought that the density of development should be decreased at locations in the proximity to rural area.

IV. Summary Report of Country Parks Committee (CPC)
(Working Paper: WP/CMPB/13/2016)

146/16 Professor CHIU Lai-ha, Rebecca, JP, Chairperson of the CPC, briefed members on Working Paper WP/CMPB/13/2016, which served to provide members with a summary of the issues discussed at the CPC meeting held on 14 October 2016. Members noted the Report.

V. Summary Report of Marine Parks Committee (MPC)
(Working Paper: WP/CMPB/14/2016)

147/16 Professor LEUNG Mei-ye, Kenneth, Chairman of the MPC, briefed members on Working Paper WP/CMPB/14/2016, which provided members with a summary of the issues discussed at the MPC meeting held on 15 November 2016. Members noted the Report.

VI. Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report
(Working Paper WP/CMPB/15/2016)

148/16 Mr Patrick LAI of AFCD briefed members on Working Paper WP/CMPB/15/2016 on Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report for the period from 1 July 2016 to 31 October 2016. He said that having taken members' suggestion in the last meeting, figures of the same period in the previous year were provided in the report for comparison.

149/16 A member noticed an increase in the amount of litter collected in marine parks and reserve compared with the figures in the previous year. She expressed concern about the upsurge of litter collected in Hoi Ha Wan, Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau, and asked for solutions to the persistent marine litter problem. Mr Alan CHAN explained that since the

Working Group on Clean Shoreline led by EPD had obtained additional resources in mid-2016, the frequency of litter collection in marine parks had been increased, for example litter collection in Hoi Ha Wan and Yan Chau Tong Marine Parks had increased by one more day per week. Dr LEUNG Siu-fai, JP of AFCD supplemented that most of the litter was carried by the ocean current from the sea to marine parks and reserve. To improve the situation, AFCD had stepped up the frequency of litter collection on sea surface and at shorelines around marine parks and it accounted for the increased amount of litter collected. The member enquired further if AFCD knew the sources of litter found and had taken measures to tackle the problem at source. Mr Patrick LAI responded that certain amount of litter collected might come from Mainland China. AFCD and EPD had discussed the issue with relevant agencies from Guangdong under the Hong Kong-Guangdong Marine Environmental Management Special Panel and would continue to follow up the matter as appropriate.

(Ms SO Ka-man attended the meeting at this juncture.)

150/16 Another member noticed a reduction of country park visitors in the reporting period compared with the figure last year and considered it necessary to promote the usage and appreciation of country parks. Mr Patrick LAI responded that AFCD had kept monitoring the number of visitors to country parks. The number of visitors in the past few years was steady and ranged from 12 to 13 million annually. Higher number of visitors was usually recorded during special events and activities, such as the popular Red Leaves Festival. Also, number of visitors might vary due to weather condition in different years. To further attract more people visiting country parks, apart from organising special events and activities, AFCD would conduct a consultancy study on enhancement of the recreation and education potential of country parks and special areas. He added that it would be the 40th anniversary of establishment of country parks in 2017 and AFCD would organise a series of events and activities throughout the year for public participation. It was hoped that, through these activities, the public could learn more about country parks and their functions on nature conservation, recreation and education. In addition, Dr LEUNG Siu-fai, JP appealed for members' support to the consultancy study on enhancement of the recreation and education potential of country parks which would commence in early 2017. He said that the study aimed at increasing the attractiveness of country parks, particularly among teenagers and tourists. It would look into the opportunities for introducing new recreational and educational facilities and activities, and formulate strategy and recommend proposals. AFCD would collect public views and consult stakeholders at different stages of the study, and welcomed members' comments and suggestions. A member expressed support to AFCD's initiative and suggested

interviewing country park visitors for collecting views on existing facilities. Also, he recommended introducing caravan parks in country parks.

151/16 Being aware that a man collapsed and died while hiking in Sharp Peak in late November 2016, a member enquired about the emergency equipment and services provided by AFCD in country parks. In addition, he enquired if there was a requirement on first aider for organising large-scale competitions and activities there. In response, Mr Patrick LAI explained AFCD's efforts in several aspects. In terms of safety promotion, the department had issued hiking safety guidelines, and erected warning signs in high-risk areas and spots where major accidents had happened before. Besides, a permit was required for organising activities in country parks for fund-raising or sporting competition. In vetting the permit applications, AFCD would not only examine the scale and routing of the activities, but also the logistics support of the events including first aid arrangement. In general, activities in routes not managed and maintained by AFCD would not be approved for safety reasons. As regards emergency services in country parks, he advised that AFCD would continue to count on the rescue services of the Fire Services Department, Civil Aid Service and Auxiliary Medical Service. In response to the member's enquiry about mobile phone network coverage in country parks, Mr LAI indicated that the Office of the Communications Authority had conducted surveys on mobile phone coverage in country parks, and relevant information had been made available at their website.

152/16 To attract more people to visit country parks, a member suggested providing information at airport and hotel concierge on the transportation to country parks and developing eco-tour in cooperation with non-governmental organisations. Mr Patrick LAI replied that AFCD would explore the feasibility of the member's suggestions. He agreed that accessibility was an important factor in attracting visitors, therefore AFCD would continue to explore the opportunities to improve the accessibility of country parks. The Chairman, in view of traffic congestion in Sai Kung on weekends, commented that measures should be taken to better manage visitor flow and avoid aggravating the traffic load while improving accessibility to country parks.

(Professor CHIU Lai-har, Rebecca, JP and Ms MA Miu-wah, Katherine left the meeting at this juncture.)

153/16 A member opined that the concrete paved footpath and railings on part of the trail from Sharp Island to Half Moon Bay did not harmonise with the natural environment. Mr Patrick LAI explained that the section of the trail concerned was outside country parks and was constructed by the Home Affairs Department (HAD). That section of trail was managed by HAD while the remaining part of trail in country parks was managed by the Authority. AFCD and HAD were aware of the public concern on concretization of hiking trails and would exchange views on the design and materials used. In general, natural materials would be used for paving hiking trails in country parks as far as practicable and concrete would only be used in certain situations such as for erosion control or convenience of villagers.

VII. Any Other Business

(a) Annual Field Visit 2016

154/16 Ms Y N NGAR of AFCD briefed members on the itinerary for the Annual Field Visit which was scheduled for 22 December 2016 (Thursday) and the transport arrangement.

[Post-meeting note: The Annual Field Visit was conducted as scheduled.]

155/16 Members did not raise any other business for discussion.

VIII. Date of Next Meeting

156/16 The Chairman informed members that the secretary would let members know the date of next meeting in due course.

157/16 The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.