

## **COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD**

### **Summary Report of the Country Parks Committee**

#### **1. Purpose**

1.1 This paper aims to inform Members of the major issues discussed at the Country Parks Committee (CPC) meeting held on 26 October 2021.

#### **2. Report on the Design Competition for a Viewing Platform Overlooking Po Pin Chau and Associated Hiking Facilities near East Dam within Sai Kung East Country Park**

2.1 In order to enrich visitor's experience and promote the sustainability of hiking activities to the headland overlooking Po Pin Chau in Sai Kung East Country Park, it was proposed to construct a well-defined trail, a new viewing platform on the headland overlooking Po Pin Chau ("Viewing Platform") and associated hiking facilities along the trail. A design competition for the Viewing Platform and associated hiking facilities was launched by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) in June 2021 to collect innovative and appropriate design ideas and concepts. In the meeting, the AFCD and ArchSD briefed Members on the design of the champion entry and the jury's citation.

2.2 For the Viewing Platform, Members generally agreed that the champion entry met the assessment criteria that it was a subtle design integrating and harmonizing with natural environment. They also understood that constructing the Viewing Platform could provide a safe location for visitors to enjoy the scenery and avoid further loss of vegetation from frequent trampling. They suggested that the AFCD and ArchSD review the champion design including the use of sustainable natural materials and safety considerations when developing a practical detailed design for construction. In addition, Members advised the AFCD to constantly monitor the maintenance work required to the Viewing Platform in future as the new facility might attract a large volume of visitors.

2.3 Regarding the proposed new trail, Members believed that the trail would

attract hikers and advised the AFCD to take appropriate measures such as crowd control. Members also recommended erecting signages suitably to alert hikers the potential dangers in using improper paths in the vicinity. The AFCD noted the suggestions.

### **3. Reopening of the Renovated Ngong Ping Nature Centre**

3.1 To enrich visitor experience, the Tourism Commission (TC) collaborated with the AFCD to renovate Ngong Ping Nature Centre (“Centre”) and enhance visitor information on green attractions. The renovated Centre, aiming to promote eco-tourism and educate the public about preserving the rich natural and cultural assets in Lantau, was scheduled for reopening in November 2021. AFCD briefed Members of the Centre’s open and welcoming design as well as interactive exhibits to promote the culture and history, biodiversity and scenic spots of Lantau. The Centre also organised regular free guided tours in Ngong Ping area. To facilitate visitation and diversify visitor’s experience, the Centre provided value-added services including the lending of maps and hiking poles service, paid themed guided tour as well as tent and cooking stove rental service.

3.2 Members recommended the AFCD to introduce virtual souvenirs to the Centre to further enrich visitor experience. They suggested that the souvenirs could incorporate both the Hong Kong character and educational elements. Regarding the guided tours, Members suggested the AFCD to explore with the Centre operator to strengthen ecological education in the paid guided tours. The AFCD noted Members’ suggestions.

### **4. Removal of 132-kV Overhead Line and Pylons for Parker Line at Tai Tam Country Park**

4.1 The Hong Kong Electric Company Limited (HKE)’s existing 132-kV overhead line system had been in service for over 40 years. To improve system reliability and to avoid the need to maintain the overhead line systems that were no longer being used, HKE planned to phase out three 132-kV overhead lines in various locations. The first phase involved the removal of a 4.7km 132-kV overhead lines and 24 pylons on the Parker Line partly located in Tai Tam Country Park and the Tai Tam Reservoir Catchment Area Site of Special Scientific Interest. Details of the removal works within

Country Park, findings of the ecological baseline surveys and environmental impact assessment and other environmental concerns were presented in the meeting. Precautionary measures were also explained. The HKE concluded that the removal and dismantle works to be of small scale and the environmental impacts potentially arouse from them would be minor. The removal would improve visual impact in the long run.

4.2 Members stressed the importance of worker supervision during the removal and proper handling of refuses in order to avoid unintended impact on the environment. Concerning tree felling/pruning, Members advised that the extent of tree pruning and tree removal should be minimised as far as possible. Some Members suggested HKE to convert some of the existing pylon sites into the AFCD's visitor facilities upon completion of removal and erect signage at suitable locations for conservation and education purposes. The HKE noted Members' suggestions but considered dismantling the power lines and the pylons were of utmost importance as they involved safety and maintenance implications. The HKE would discuss with Lands Department and the AFCD the possible way forward on the suggestions and the reinstatement works at appropriate juncture. The AFCD would continue to oversee the implementation of the projects.

## **5. Presentation**

5.1 This paper is prepared for members' information.

Country and Marine Parks Authority  
February 2022