

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 18 November 2022.

2. Events of Country Parks to Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR)

2.1 The AFCD reported on the progress of the two celebration programmes for the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, namely the Hong Kong Country Parks Photo cum Video Competition and the Hong Kong Hiking Challenge. The competition ended on 31 July 2022, receiving 1,424 entries. The winning pieces were on a series of roving exhibitions from November 2022 to February 2023, and a prize presentation ceremony would be held in December 2022. The Hong Kong Hiking Challenge commenced on 23 September 2022 and would end on 31 December 2022 (The event period had been extended till end of January 2023 due to overwhelming responses). As of mid-November, over 9,000 participants had registered for the challenge and over 27,000 times of check-ins were recorded.

3. Improvement of Lion Rock Tunnel (LRT)

3.1 The Highways Department (HyD) proposed to rehabilitate and improve the existing LRT and the connecting roads partly located in Lion Rock Country Park (LRCP). In the meeting, the HyD and its consultant presented the results of the Environmental Impact Assessment and briefed members on the layout plan, implementation schedule and other details of the Project.

3.2 Members agreed on the essentiality of improving the LRT. Some members enquired if the works period could be shortened to minimise disturbances to country park visitors and road users. The HyD representatives explained the works schedule

and the complication of the project scope. Some members suggested the HyD consider taking the opportunity of the Project to enhance the accessibility to the country park entrance and improving other country park facilities at the Hung Mui Kuk Barbecue Site. The HyD agreed to study the feasibility with relevant parties.

4. Revitalisation of Lin Ma Hang (LMH) Lead Mine Cave within the proposed Robin's Nest Country Park (RNCP)

4.1 As part of the preparation work for the planning of proposed RNCP, the AFCD planned to revitalise the abandoned LMH Lead Mine Site as an outdoor open museum to showcase the mining history, bat ecology and wartime relics to the general public. In the meeting, the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) and consultants briefed members on the revitalisation project, including the investigation findings, detailed project design, scope of works and project programme.

4.2 Members were concerned about crowd management as the cave had limited carrying capacity. The AFCD explained the visitor counting survey being performed at the proposed RNCP for collecting visitor data and planning further crowd management measures. Regarding establishing an open museum, members suggested adding interactive elements and displaying old mining tools to make the presentation appealing and engaging. A member suggested that the site should collaborate with LMH Village for story-telling of LMH as a whole. The AFCD noted the suggestions and would explore further collaborations with LMH Village, such as adding interactive elements at the Hakka cultural centre being developed by the Village.

4.3 Members made a few enquiries about visitor safety. They considered the shafts and adits would pose significant risks to visitor. The AFCD agreed that locations with potential risks should be fenced off and signage would be put up at appropriate locations to remind visitors to stay on proper trails.

5. Presentation

5.1 This paper is prepared for Members' information.