

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Results of the Design Competition for the Reconstruction of the Public Toilet and Refreshment Kiosk at Aberdeen Country Park Physically Handicapped and Able-Bodied (P.H.A.B.) Barbecue Site

1. Purpose

1.1 This paper aims to report to members on the results of the design competition for the reconstruction of the public toilet and refreshment kiosk at Aberdeen Country Park P.H.A.B. Barbecue Site and to seek members' views on the implementation of the design idea of the winning entry.

2. Background

2.1 The provision of toilet facilities in country parks is considered an essential basic service to create an enjoyable nature experience for country park visitors. Currently, The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) provides flushing toilets at 57 locations in country parks and special areas, such as major recreation areas as well as the starting/end points of popular hiking trails. Nevertheless, some of these toilets do not have stable water supply and/or connection to the existing sewerage system, due to the lack of supporting infrastructure. In addition to these flushing toilets, AFCD is currently providing approximately 40 dry toilets and 121 portable toilets in locations without electricity, water supply, sewerage network and/or proper vehicular access.

2.2 In the 2021-22 Budget, the Government has set aside \$500 million for the AFCD to take forward the enhancements to the visitor facilities in country parks and special areas. With this resource allocation, AFCD has proceeded with the enhancement works on the toilet facilities in country parks in phases. Under the enhancement scheme, some flushing toilets with inadequate and aging facilities would be reconstructed, and new flushing toilets would be built in locations with high service demand, to replace existing dry toilets or portable toilets. Members were briefed about the implementation plan and the progress at the meeting of the Country and Marine Parks Board held on 7 June 2022. Reconstruction of the public toilet and refreshment kiosk at Aberdeen P.H.A.B. Barbecue Site is one of the projects under this scheme.

2.3 Aberdeen Country Park P.H.A.B. Barbecue Site is very popular with visitors. It is also the only country park recreation site on Hong Kong Island with barbecue/picnic area specially designed to allow people with disabilities to explore the countryside and enjoy nature. Situated next to the Aberdeen Tree Centre, the existing toilet and refreshment kiosk is a one-storey building surrounded by barbecue/picnic area, as well as trails such as fitness trail, wheelchair trail and nature trail. The number of visitors using the existing toilet is expected to be up to 2 200 per day during peak season.

2.4 The toilet underwent a major renovation to provide more support for people with disabilities over 20 years ago. Since then, there have been growing demands for enhancing the accessibility of public facilities to people with disabilities. The dimensions and fittings of the existing toilet needs to be upgraded to meet the current standard for accessible toilets. On the other hand, the original design of the built-in kiosk does not include barrier-free elements. In view of the above, AFCD has planned to reconstruct the toilet and refreshment kiosk to enhance public service, especially to provide better support to the people with disabilities and embrace social inclusion.

3. The Design Competition

3.1 With the aim of encouraging creativity and calling for people-oriented design ideas and concepts, the AFCD, in collaboration with the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD), organised a design competition for the reconstruction of the public toilet and refreshment kiosk.

3.2 The design competition was launched in December 2022 and 35 entries were received from local professionals. The jury panel of the design competition assessed the entries based on a number of assessment criteria, with an emphasis on people-oriented design that enriches the users' experience and inclusiveness for all abilities, as well as innovation, smart technologies, creativity and aesthetics. Three winning entries, including the first prize, second prize and third prize, as well as two commendation entries, were selected.

3.3 The jury panel considered that the first prize winning entry (**Appendix**) offers an inclusive design that echoes well with the theme of the competition. The building form is simple and special yet it blends in well with the surroundings. It also integrates the retained U-shaped trellis to make a harmonious whole. While providing much-needed shading, the ramp wrapping around the building blocks is appreciated for enabling wheelchair users, children, and people in general to enjoy the views around the

site at a higher level. The planning and circulation are compact and direct, which facilitates the elderly and the visually impaired, and visual connection is nonetheless provided for going to different places. Not only does the design include ample shaded areas for taking a rest in the hot weather, but it also ensures that there is enough natural light available even in those areas that are not directly exposed to sunlight.

3.4 A prize award ceremony was held at City Gallery, Central on 25 March 2023 to announce the results of the design competition. All awarded and submitted entries are being exhibited online at the competition website (<https://accompanyacpdesigncompetition.hk/exhibition/>).

4. Implementation

4.1 At present, the AFCD and ArchSD are reviewing the design ideas and concepts of the first prize winning entry with respect to the actual site conditions, technical feasibility, cost effectiveness, etc. Pre-construction investigation was completed in Q1 2023 to facilitate the formulation and development of a practical detailed design for construction. It is expected that the construction works of the toilet and refreshment kiosk will commence in Q2 2024 and be completed in Q4 2025.

4.2 Design ideas would be further studied and developed at the detailed design stage, and may include, for example, providing access to the recycling station for the users of the barbecue sites, optimising the location of the wash basin area to allow better access for the users of the barbecue sites to clean their utensils, and improving circulation around the toilet and the refreshment kiosk. The adoption of natural materials as far as practicable so that the building would blend in more with its natural surroundings would also be explored.

5. Advice Sought

5.1 Members are invited to note the results of the design competition and give advice on the implementation of the proposed reconstruction of the public toilet and refreshment kiosk.

**Country and Marine Parks Authority
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
June 2023**



年輪 · 連鄰 · Tree Ring

Surrounded by the wall of trees on its West, opening up to the cozy P.H.A.B. barbecue facilities on its North and East, and adjoining the Tree Centre of the Aberdeen Country Park at its South, the design explores to capture and appreciate this tranquil yet vibrant quality by creating a unique elevated experiential journey to link up the beautiful natural assets and nearby activities, for the enjoyment by people of all abilities.

