

**Country and Marine Parks Board**  
**Summary Report of the Country Parks Committee**

**1. Purpose**

1.1 To inform members on issues discussed at the Country Parks Committee (CPC) meeting held on 8 December 2011. Major issues discussed at the meeting are summarised below.

**2. Briefing on the Management and Protection of Hong Kong Country Parks**

2.1 Members were briefed on the background of country parks, the process in assessing the suitability of a site for designation as country park, and the work of AFCD's different Divisions in the management and protection of country parks.

2.2 A member enquired about AFCD's ideas of country park management. Members were informed that conservation and provision of recreational facilities were the two main tenets of country park management and were given due consideration in assessing the suitability of a site for designation as country park.

2.3 A member enquired about AFCD's measures to combat illegal exploitation of *Aquilaria sinensis* in Hong Kong. Members were informed that AFCD and Hong Kong Police had conducted joint enforcement operations against the offenders. AFCD patrolling staff had been alerted to any sounds possibly due to tree-cutting. AFCD is planning to produce and plant more Incense trees to compensate the loss due to illegal exploitation.

2.4 A member enquired about AFCD's measures to handle the problem of illegal entry of vehicles and heavy machinery in country parks. Members were informed that AFCD would collect sufficient evidence and take prosecution against illegal entry of vehicles and heavy machinery. AFCD had stepped up the patrolling of country parks and would take swift enforcement action against unauthorized entry of heavy machinery or vehicles.

### **3. Summary of Development Proposals within Country Parks from 1 April 2011 to 30 September 2011**

3.1 The summary of development proposals within country parks from 1 April to 30 September 2011 was presented at the meeting. Out of the 89 proposals received during the period, there was no objection to 54 proposals while 32 were still under consideration and 3 were withdrawn. The majority of cases was related to utility services works such as electricity, telephone and water supply, path improvement, and slope repair.

3.2 Members enquired about AFCD's measures to minimize the impacts of development proposals on country parks. Members were informed that AFCD would assess the needs and justifications, the impacts, and the design of the proposals. The designs of the proposals would be required to match the country park setting, to use recommended colour patterns and to minimize the use of railings. AFCD had already issued to other departments, e.g. HAD, guidelines on path improvement works and installation of railings within country parks.

### **4. Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report on Country Parks**

4.1 The Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report on Country Parks for the period from 1 July to 31 October 2011 was presented at the meeting.

4.2 A member commended AFCD for taking the initiative to provide sewage treatment facilities for the toilet in Chung Pui, Pat Sin Leng Country Park. Members were informed that AFCD would consider her suggestion that the design of sewage treatment facilities should have incorporated recycling of treated sewage effluent.

### **5. Presentation**

5.1 This paper is prepared for members' information.