

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

1. Purpose

1.1 This paper aims to inform members of issues discussed at the Country Parks Committee (CPC) meeting held on 14 October 2016. Major issues discussed at the meeting are summarised below.

2. Proposed Robin's Nest Country Park

2.1 The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) briefed members on their assessment of the suitability of designating Robin's Nest as a country park and the next stage of preparation work for the country park designation.

2.2 Members noted the high conservation, landscape and recreation values of the site and showed support to the proposed Robin's Nest Country Park (RNCP). Some members commented that attention should be given to the preservation of natural environment and historical relics in the course of country park planning, while others suggested revitalising the historical relics and constructing innovative country park facilities to attract more visitors. Some members were concerned about public accessibility to the proposed RNCP. AFCD responded that they would explore more access routes for visitors during the detailed planning stage.

2.3 Members were informed that stakeholders' consultation on the proposed RNCP would be carried out in 2017 and followed by statutory procedures. The whole process of country park designation was expected to complete in 2019.

3. Proposed Consultancy Study on Enhancement of the Recreation and Education Potential of Country Parks and Special Areas

3.1 AFCD briefed members on the proposed consultancy study, and presented a case study on the recreation facilities provided in national parks in the United Kingdom.

3.2 At the meeting, members were informed that the consultancy study will focus on exploring opportunities in enhancing the recreation potential of country parks and special areas in three board aspects, namely overnight facilities, adventurous activities

and leisure, and where appropriate strengthening the education functions. AFCD would collect public views and consult stakeholders at different stages of the study. In general, members welcomed AFCD's initiative in conducting the consultancy study. Nevertheless, the enhancement proposals should not compromise the conservation objective of country parks and special areas. Members also encouraged AFCD to make reference to other overseas examples in the study.

4. Any Other Business

(a) A Pilot Floating Photovoltaic System at the Plover Cove Reservoir

4.1 The Water Supplies Department (WSD) briefed members on their proposed Pilot Floating Photovoltaic (PV) System at the Plover Cove Reservoir within Plover Cove Country Park.

4.2 The Chairperson and members expressed concerns about the potential visual impact of setting up the PV panels in the Country Park. WSD responded that the PV panels would only lead to minimal visual impact because they would be placed in the concealed corner at the southern part of the reservoir and only covered 0.009% of the reservoir surface.

4.3 WSD also informed members that they would hire consultants to conduct a study on the outcomes of the pilot PV systems set up in the Plover Cove Reservoir and the Shek Pik Reservoir in mid-2017. The consultants would also gather views from the public and stakeholders on the pilot systems, and study the feasibility of setting up PV systems in a larger scale and in different reservoirs.

(b) Preparation for Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Country Parks

4.4 AFCD informed members 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 to celebrate such special occasion. A working group would be formed to provide advice on the planning of the activities. Members expressed their support and interest in attending the events.

5. Advice Sought

5.1 Members are invited to note the contents of this paper.

Country and Marine Parks Authority
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