

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 13 November 2020.

2. Planning Study on Setting up a Visitor Hub at Pak Tam Chung, Sai Kung – Recommended Schematic Plan

2.1 The Government announced in the 2019 Policy Address its plan to study the feasibility of developing Pak Tam Chung into a green tourism hub with a view to further promoting green tourism. To take forward the initiative, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) commissioned a consulting firm in March 2020 to conduct a planning study on setting up a visitor hub at Pak Tam Chung, Sai Kung (the Study). In the meeting, AFCD and representatives of the consulting firm briefed members on the progress of the Study, opinions and suggestions gathered from public engagement activities, and the recommended traffic improvement measures and schematic plan of the future visitor hub.

2.2 Concerning the recommended traffic improvement measures, members generally agreed with the proposal to relocate the existing barrier gate and supported digitising the process of permit application and parking space reservation. They considered that these changes would result in a smoother traffic flow in the area concerned. They also noted that AFCD was exploring with the Transport Department the opportunity of improving the accessibility to Pak Tam Chung and other green attractions in Sai Kung Country Park.

2.3 For the facilities, members recommended incorporating green concepts and principles into the design and construction of the facilities and making the P.H.A.B. Site both disabled-and-age-friendly. Regarding the two design options being proposed (i.e. refurbishment of the Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre and with new extension,

and redevelopment into one new building), members had no strong preference at the moment. On the management of the future visitor hub, members suggested AFCD to consider measures to encourage usage of facilities of the future visitor hub on weekdays, for example by schools. They also encouraged AFCD to take the opportunity to promote outdoor learning in country parks in collaboration with the Education Bureau.

2.4 AFCD noted members' comments and suggestions and indicated that they would be taken into consideration in the planning.

3. Country Park Accessible Trails

3.1 AFCD briefed members on the planning and promotion of accessible routes in country parks. Members noted that four country parks accessible routes were identified in the first batch. They were Shing Mun Country Park (Paper-bark Trees) Accessible Route, Tai Tam Country Park (Tai Tam Tuk Reservoir) Accessible Route, Aberdeen Country Park (Aberdeen Upper Reservoir) Accessible Route and Tai Lam Country Park (Tsing Tam Upper Irrigation Reservoir) Accessible Route. The trail conditions were improved and the facilities were enhanced to facilitate the access and experience of wheelchair users.

3.2 Members supported the promotion of the accessible routes. They provided suggestions on the route design and facilities and opinions on the appropriate name of these routes. Besides, some members advised that the design of the accessible routes and associated facilities could be more inclusive and serving a wider spectrum of interests, for example, by taking into account the needs of the elderly and their caregivers.

3.3 AFCD noted members' suggestions and indicated that the Department would communicate with relevant organisations in order to come up with a commonly acceptable term.

4. Any Other Business

(a) Progress on Enhancement of Public Toilets in Country Parks

4.1 AFCD updated members on the progress of the enhancement of public toilets in country parks. Members noted that the consultancy study on “Review of Toilet Facilities in Various Country Parks in Hong Kong, Package 1” had been completed and the Architectural Services Department would assist in proceeding with the detailed design and construction. Besides, the pilot scheme on composting sawdust toilet would be conducted in Tai Lam Country Park Picnic Site from early 2021 to mid-2022.

4.2 Members noted the report and recommended providing information about the pilot scheme on composting sawdust toilet to the public as appropriate. AFCD responded positively to the suggestion.

(b) Proposed Trail Restoration at Ng Tung Chai

4.3 AFCD briefed members on the proposed trail restoration at Ng Tung Chai, Tai Mo Shan Country Park. Members noted that the trail section between the Scatter Fall and the Main Fall was exceptionally steep and there were loose rocks of varying sizes and shapes on the path. To improve the trail condition and enhance the safety of hikers, that trail section would be closed for restoration. The restoration work which would last for three to four months was expected to commence before the end of 2020. Members were provided with details of the scope of works, potential impacts and mitigation measures.

4.4 Members supported the proposed trail restoration. They suggested that the project signboards should be erected near the start of the route to inform hikers of the temporary closure of the trail section. They also invited AFCD to pay attention to the crowd management in the trail section between the Main Fall and the Middle Fall during the temporary closure.

5. Advice Sought

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

Country and Marine Parks Authority
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