

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 4 March 2021.

2. Promotion of Ancient Trails in Country Parks

2.1 The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) briefed members on the plan to promote ten selected ancient trails in country parks, namely Mau Ping Ancient Trail, Qianlong Ancient Trail, Tsz Sha Ancient Trail, Yuen Tsuen Ancient Trail, Wang Tsat Ancient Trail, Miu Sam Ancient Trail, Lai Kuk Ancient Trail, Ma Tang Ancient Trail, Lai Sam Ancient Trail and Kap Lung Ancient Trail. To promote these ancient trails, the “Enjoy Hiking” website would introduce their stories, the construction materials and methods, the linked villages and markets, the architectural features of the village houses, and so on. QR code panels would also be installed at appropriate location for visitors to obtain such information.

2.2 Members supported the promotion programme and suggested including suitable ancient trails on Hong Kong Island and Lantau Island into the programme. Members suggested that AFCD should consider designing special signage and waymarks for the ancient trails and consider ways to highlight the characteristics of the trails and attract people to learn more about their historical and cultural background. They also suggested using augmented reality technology to give visitors an interactive experience, where images showing how people used the ancient trails in the past could be superimposed onto the real-world environment. Members also suggested rehabilitating the abandoned village schools or village houses and converting them into exhibition venues or sitting-out facilities. Moreover, they advised that AFCD should consider measures to prevent over-concentration of visitors on the ten selected ancient trails and exerting pressure on the road transport. AFCD noted members’ comments and suggestions.

3. Management Measures for Kai Kung Leng, Lam Tsuen Country Park

3.1 AFCD briefed members on the series of recommended management measures for Kai Kung Leng within Lam Tsuen Country Park, which included measures to combat illegal motorcycling activities, prevent hill fire, restore the eroded sites, and meet the recreational need of the public.

3.2 Members generally agreed with the recommended management measures and they provided suggestions mainly with regard to the issues of illegal motorcycling activities and hill fires. To combat the illegal motorcycling activities in Kai Kung Leng, members considered that apart from continued joint enforcement operation by AFCD and the Hong Kong Police Force, heavier penalties would be needed. To deter such illegal activities, they also suggested publicising the cases of successful prosecution and the penalties. Regarding hill fires, members suggested that the relevant government departments should step up patrols at Kai Kung Leng during Ching Ming Festival and Chung Yeung Festival and strictly enforce the Forests and Countryside Ordinance (Cap. 96). Besides, they noted that AFCD established a fire break at the western ridge of Kai Kung Leng and suggested that AFCD could consider exploring other appropriate locations to prevent the spread of hill fire. AFCD noted members' suggestions.

4. Any Other Business

(a) Trail Restoration at Ng Tung Chai

4.1 AFCD informed members that the trail restoration works at Ng Tung Chai, Tai Mo Shan Country Park, which were mentioned in the last CPC meeting, had been completed. Photos recording the trail condition between the Scatter Fall and the Main Fall after the restoration works were shown to members. Members noted that the restoration works were completed ahead of schedule. Members also recommended placing bigger closure notices at prominent locations to alert hikers in future trail improvement projects.

5. Advice Sought

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

Country and Marine Parks Authority

April 2021