

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 27 May 2019.

2. Consultancy Study of the Proposed Robin's Nest Country Park – Stakeholder Consultation

2.1 The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) briefed members on the progress of the stakeholder engagement and consultation under the Consultancy Study of the Proposed Robin's Nest Country Park (RNCP) (hereafter referred to as "the Study"). The consultant of the Study attended the meeting to summarise the views gathered so far from the stakeholder engagement and consultation exercises since July 2018, and AFCD briefed members on the considerations on the major views raised by stakeholders and the proposed way forward.

2.2 Overall, members supported AFCD to move forward with their plan to designate about 500 hectares of Robin's Nest area as a country park to conserve nature and cultural heritage. They also agreed that it was not the right time to consider extending the boundary of the proposed RNCP extensively as suggested by the green groups in their joint statement, because it would take a lot of time to conduct another detailed study and consultations and further delay the designation of the proposed country park. To respond to the suggestions made by the green groups, some members advised AFCD to consider alternative ways of conserving areas in the vicinity of the Robin's Nest that had certain degree of ecological and cultural values but were not to be included in the proposed country park.

2.3 Moreover, members provided their views on the future management and operation of the proposed RNCP. Most members concurred that nature conservation should be the main objective of the proposed RNCP and only passive recreational

activities should be promoted to protect the natural habitats, while some members took the view that AFCD should strike a balance between nature conservation and countryside recreation and outdoor education. Besides, members considered it is important to improve the accessibility of the proposed RNCP to enable people to visit the place and appreciate the scenic landscape and historical relics. In this regard, the Chairman advised AFCD to take into account the ecological sensitivity of the site when planning for improvement of existing or building new hiking trails and access roads.

3. Proposed Revision of Fees under the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations, Cap. 208A

3.1 AFCD sought members' views on the proposed revision of fees prescribed in Schedule 1 to the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations, Cap. 208A.

3.2 Members understood that the fee adjustments were calculated by standard government procedures and based on the "full cost recovery" and "user pays" principles, and that no objection to the fee increase was received during the stakeholder consultation. Hence, they supported the proposed fee revisions but the timetable for the fee increase was not fixed.

4. Advice Sought

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

Country and Marine Parks Authority
July 2019