

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 16 May 2018.

2. Inter-reservoirs Transfer Scheme (IRTS) - Water Tunnel between Kowloon Byewash Reservoir and Lower Shing Mun Reservoir

2.1 The Drainage Services Department (DSD) and their consultant updated members on the latest proposal of the IRTS. Members noted that the IRTS had been put forward to CPC for discussion previously in 2008 and was supported by the then committee members. Under the IRTS, a water tunnel would be constructed between Kowloon Byewash Reservoir (KBR) and Lower Shing Mun Reservoir (LSMR) in Kam Shan Country Park (KSCP) to transfer overflow from the Kowloon Group of Reservoirs to Sha Tin Water Treatment Works for water treatment. It would help reduce flood risks in the West Kowloon region and conserve precious water resources. Members were also briefed on the scope of the project, the impacts of the construction works on KSCP, as well as the corresponding mitigation measures and compensation.

2.2 During the discussion, DSD and their consultant addressed members' concerns about the proposed compensatory tree planting as well as the findings of the latest ecological survey. In general, members hoped that DSD could make an extra effort in tree planting and improving the environment of the recreational site in the vicinity as enhancement measures for the temporary closure of a part of picnic area during the construction stage of the project. They provided suggestions on how to achieve a successful compensatory tree planting and requested DSD to ensure the water quality of the reservoirs and catchment areas would not be deteriorated by the construction works. Moreover, members recommended the government departments concerned to promote the benefits of IRTS and seize the opportunity to educate the public to conserve water resources.

3. Consultancy Study of the Proposed Robin's Nest Country Park – Progress of the Study

3.1 The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and their consultants briefed members on the progress of the consultancy study of the proposed Robin's Nest Country Park (RNCP), the key findings of the baseline review, the considerations for the management and operation plan, as well as the upcoming consultation exercises.

3.2 During the discussion, AFCD and their consultants explained to members the environmental and ecological profile of the proposed RNCP and the functions of the park as an ecological corridor between the protected areas in Shenzhen and Hong Kong. Members advised AFCD on the ecological and historical resources of the proposed RNCP and expressed their concerns about the conservation of such resources. In particular, they reminded AFCD to pay due attention to the conservation of the upland grassland as it was an important habitat for the rare Chinese Grassbird. AFCD assured members that the Department would endeavour to monitor the different types of habitats within the proposed country park and carry out management and enhancement work with caution.

4. Any Other Business

4.1 As proposed by a member, the following two issues were discussed at the meeting:-

Installation of Water Dispensers in Country Parks

4.2 With regard to the member's suggestion of installing water dispensers in country parks, AFCD informed members that the Department would install about 20 additional water dispensers in phases by the end of 2019. Members welcomed AFCD's action which would encourage hikers to bring their own water bottles and thereby reducing plastic waste generated from bottled water. They suggested AFCD to make the information of the locations of the water dispensers available to hikers. Members also exchanged views with AFCD on the plastic waste reduction for the events held in country parks.

Camping Activities in Country Parks

4.3 Concerning the popularity of camping activities in country parks during long public holidays, AFCD used Ham Tin Wan Campsite as an example to elucidate the measures they had taken to deal with the situation. In response to the large flock of campers in Ham Tin Wan Campsite during the past Labour Day Holiday, AFCD had deployed staff to patrol the campsite, step up cleansing services, and strengthen the advisory efforts on-site on environmental awareness and personal safety. Members noted that this kind of arrangement would be in place during other long public holidays, and that AFCD had also collaborated with the Tourism Commission in promulgating the code of conduct for green tourism to overseas visitors.

5. Advice Sought

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

Country and Marine Parks Authority
July 2018