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**GREEN LANTAU
ASSOCIATION**

Green Lantau Association Summer 2015 Newsletter

Administration and Membership

GLA Executive Committee meetings

The Summer Executive Committee Meeting will be combined with the Autumn Executive Committee Meeting and be held prior to the GLA Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled for early December. Members will be kept informed.

Case Reporting

Below are updates and reports on issues GLA has dealt with in summer 2015. These have been subdivided into geographical areas to facilitate reading. Member questions and comments on these items are welcome, as is the reporting of new items that may not yet have come to GLA attention. The intensification of development projects on Lantau requires greater attention and contribution on the part members of the community who care about the preservation of the Island's natural environment.

Tai O

CEDD GEO slope works at Pak Shan

Having agreed to follow up on GLA and EPD suggestions about tidying up their site, CEDD GEO slope investigation works at Pak Shan have continued uneventfully over the summer. GLA are observing progress and will pay particular attention to the way large number of ground investigation scaffolding items are removed from the hill upon completion of works.

WSD pipe replacement works

Following GLA intervention and EPD contacts with WSD on excavated materials waste and disposal methods as well as on the handling of asbestos pipes, WSD works at Leung Uk, Nam Chung and Fan Kwai Tong villages have been proceeding smoothly. Excavated materials to be removed are now concentrated near the site office and cleared regularly in accordance to trip-ticket system rules.

Abandoned river boats

Following GLA reports to EPD and MD, over the past months, a number of abandoned boats and materials left on the Tai O River banks have been cleared. GLA aims at keeping this river clear of deposited or dumped items as well as of unauthorized structures.

DSD sewage pipe ruptures

In mid-summer GLA reports were made to EPD and DSD with regard to two separate incidents of sewage pipe bursts at locations in Po Chue Tam. The first incident affected water quality at Po Chue Tam Inner Beach, while in the second incident sewage flowed onto Po Chue Tam Outer Beach. Public footpaths were also affected for several days. DSD responded promptly and the two sections of damaged sewage pipeline were repaired. In the long term there is a plan to replace the aging pipeline linking the Po Chue Tam Sewage Pumping Station to the Sewage Treatment Plant. Subject to funds availability, works may start later this year or early next year.

CEDD proposed works

Having attended a briefing in Tai O and a meeting in Sham Shui Po on currently proposed CEDD works in Tai O, GLA was able to withdraw our objection to the proposal. Questions have been raised about minor aspects of these works which will be addressed at a later stage, in particular on how to reduce worksite impacts on egret overnighting areas and on the configuration of coach parks along Lung Shing Street and the Tai O River Promenade.

Tai O River bank dumping

GLA has been cooperating with EPD and DLO on a plan to clear deposited and dumped construction items at two areas along Lung Shing Street, near the Tai O River. EPD warnings have been placed in the area and the materials are expected to be cleared shortly.

Tung Chung

Airport management

In ongoing dialogue with the HKAA on aspects of HKIA terminal management, we have suggested stricter controls on smoking in non-smoking areas as well as placing limitations on the proliferation of intrusive electronic advertising boards, especially along emergency evacuation corridors. GLA has also commented on the content HKAA 2012-13 and 2013-14 sustainability reports, suggesting improvements for the upcoming 2014-15 Report. In particular we ask for transparency in the provision of carbon emissions data through the provision of net emission figures alongside the HKAA preferred intensity emission numbers. GLA regard intensity emission calculation as deceitful as they can and do show decreases in emissions even in the face of actual net increases. A final question we are placing with HKAA is how they can reconcile their would-be “world’s greenest airport” status with the potential storage on the Airport Island of deforestation bio-fuels for use by some airlines, Cathay Pacific in particular.

Dumping near Yat Tung Estate

In response to GLA reports, EPD and DLO have looked into a case of repeated dumping of house renovation waste on Government Land near the Yat Tung Estate. Investigations are in progress.

Mui Wo

Felling of LCSD trees

LCSD admitted responsibility for the felling of three mature trees and the removal of one sapling from the square located between the Mui Wo Government Offices and the footbridge on the Silver River. LCSD explained that the clearance of the trees, which had not been in good condition, was necessary to create better pedestrian and cycle circulation in the area. GLA have accepted the explanation.

Banyan tree near Housing Authority site

GLA have been in contact with DLO, EPD and the Housing Authority (HA) on the protection of the large banyan tree that grows on the boundary between Ngan Kwong Wan Road and the HAD Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) site located near the Mui Wo Fire Station. What has so far been achieved is the clearance of refuse items placed within or adjacent to the tree enclosure, as well as the tidying up of a DSD Consultants Management Division site near the tree. As assurance has also been given that there is an intention to preserve the banyan. While GLA's preferred option would be full preservation in situ, HA's preference is for heavy trimming to enable transplantation on the other side of the HA site, near the pedestrian bridge over the River Silver. Exchanges on the matter are continuing.

Felling of large tree near Chung Hau Public Toilet

Following public complaints and a GLA enquiry, DSD Sewerage have indicated that the large tree near the Chung Hau public toilet had been felled by them because of its poor condition and also because it affected the alignment of sewerage pipeline. DSD reiterated that preserving as many trees as possible was their priority and provided information on how this was being done. GLA accepted DSD's explanations.

Felling of trees along footpath to Round Table Village

No progress has been made in investigations into the reasons and parties responsible for the felling of half-a-dozen mature acacia trees on wooded Government Land along the Round Table Village path.

CEDD Works – Large scale destruction of trees

In a three-hour meeting held at the CEDD Mui Wo Office and on site in late June, CEDD apologized for not consulting GLA on the sudden felling of some twenty Casuarina trees that had originally been intended for preservation. To compensate for the loss, CEDD agreed to halt all disputed tree felling and transplantations within their works area, to preserve the nine remaining casuarina trees to the north of the Lai Lai Care Home, to put on hold plans to remove the line of trees to the east of the Home, to abandon plans for the redevelopment of the self-contained garden to the south of the Home, to strengthen efforts to protect the single large tree growing to the east of the Home and to reconsider plans to remove trees along the Chung Hau EVA. GLA pointed out that the EVA trees are beneficial both because of the shade they provide and for helping to keep the pedestrian pavement free of illegally parked motor vehicles. Communication is ongoing.

South Lantau

Pui O San Wai path blockage

GLA has reported to HAD DO, DLO and EPD a dumping case in Pui O San Wai Village which resulted in the rubbishing of a section of one of Pui O's most scenic public footpaths. Various approaches are being explored, but efforts to try to resolve the issue may prove complicated due to the presence of extensive privately-leased land in the area.

Other topics

Keep Lantau Beautiful documentary

The "Keep Lantau Beautiful" video released a year ago by the Canada-based charity Paradigm Shift Project(PSP) has had several public screenings. We would encourage members and friends who have not already done so to view the video on the GLA website at www.greenlantau.org.

Hill fire prevention

For this year's Chung Yeung period, GLA hill fire prevention banners will appear at major Lantau cemeteries between mid-October and mid-November.

Take your litter home

Good results from an earlier GLA suggestion about the erection of “Take your litter home” signs along the Fu Sham Country Trail in Tai O, have encouraged us to recommend to HAD DO that similar signs be posted along all Islands District country trails, notably in Mui Wo, Peng Chau and Cheung Chau. HAD DO have agreed to carry out the project when funds become available.

Book Fair paper waste

Following media reports about large scale waste of paper upon completion of the last Hong Kong Book Fair organized by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC), GLA approached EPD and HKTDC with enquiries and suggestions on how to avoid a repeat of such embarrassing incidents in future. There is now some hope that through HKTDC and HKCEC efforts and EPD advice, next year’s Hong Kong Book Fair will feature better “Reduce, Reuse, Recover and Recycle” arrangements. For readers’ reference here is a link to one of the press reports that appeared at the time:

http://hk.on.cc/hk/bkn/cnt/news/20150723/bkn-20150723034449116-0723_00822_001.html?eventsection=hk_news&view=m&eventid=402881254710408b0147379d7b3251d6.

Central Piers sewage discharge

GLA has alerted EPD to serious discharge of sewage through the storm water drain located between Central Ferry Pier 1 and 2. This is the second time in the past fifteen years that GLA raise this same issue with EPD and we are enquiring on upstream sewage interception measures taken as well as on the level of maintenance of a nearby sewage pumping station.

Environmental reporting

Incidents of environmental damage can be reported by telephone to 1823 or by email to tellme@1823.gov.hk. The service can be used for both, enquiries and complaints, and the case will be recorded and transferred to the relevant government department for handling.

Contacts of organizations with which GLA cooperates

GLA has been cooperating with Islands District, Hong Kong and international environmental protection groups, a list of which is provided below.

Islands District

[Association for Tai O Environment and Development](#)

(ATOED)

[DB Green](#)

[Green Peng Chau Association](#) (GPCA)

[Living Islands Movement](#) (LIM)

[Living Lamma](#) (LL)

Wider Hong Kong

[Association for Geoconservation](#) (AGHK)

[Clear The Air](#) (CTA)

[Friends of the Earth \(HK\)](#) (FoE)

[Green Power](#) (GP)

[Green Sense](#) (GS)

[Hong Kong Birdwatching Society](#) (HKBWS)

[Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden](#) (KFBG)

[The Conservancy Association](#) (CA)

[World Wide Fund For Nature Hong Kong](#) (WWF)

Boulders Trackways: <https://sites.google.com/site/hongkongbouldertrackways>

Friends of Sai Kung: <http://www.friendsofsaikung.org/>

International

[Center for the Advancement of the Steady State Economy](#) (CASSE), USA

[Ecological Internet](#) (EI), USA

[Environmental Investigation Agency](#) (EIA), UK

[Optimum Population Trust](#) (OPT), UK

[Rettet den Regenwald](#) (Rainforest Rescue) (RRW), Germany

Names of government departments and public utilities

Below is a list of government departments and public utilities the acronyms of which appear in our newsletters. If you wish to contact any of these departments by email, please just click the relevant acronym.

| | |
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| <u>AFCD</u> | Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department |
| <u>ASD</u> | Architectural Services Department |
| <u>CLP</u> | China Light and Power Company Limited |
| <u>CEDD</u> | Civil Engineering and Development Department |
| <u>DLO/Is</u> | District Lands Office Islands of the Lands Department |
| <u>DO/Is</u> | District Office Islands of the Home Affairs Department |
| <u>DSD</u> | Drainage Services Department |
| <u>EPD</u> | Environmental Protection Department |
| <u>FEHD</u> | Food and Environmental Hygiene Department |
| <u>FSD</u> | Fire Services Department |
| <u>GFS</u> | Government Flying Service |
| <u>GEO</u> | Geotechnical Engineering Office of CEDD |
| <u>HAD</u> | Home Affairs Department |
| <u>HAB</u> | Home Affairs Bureau |
| <u>HyD</u> | Highways Department |
| <u>HKPF</u> | Hong Kong Police Force |
| <u>LCSD</u> | Leisure and Cultural Services Department |
| <u>LD</u> | Lands Department |
| <u>MD</u> | Marine Department |
| <u>OFTA</u> | Office of the Telecommunications Authority |
| <u>OMB</u> | Office of the Ombudsman |
| <u>PD</u> | Planning Department |
| <u>TPB</u> | Town Planning Board |
| <u>WSD</u> | Water Supplies Department |

Public transport to Lantau

By sea

[Tai O](#)

[Discovery Bay](#)

[Mui Wo](#)

[Trappist Monastery](#)

By road

[City Bus](#)

[Discovery Bay Transport](#)

[MTR](#)

[New Lantau Bus](#)

[Long Win Bus](#)

End of the Summer 2015 GLA Newsletter