

Green Lantau Association  
Tai O Post Office Box 6  
Tai O, Lantau Island  
E-Mail:  
[peifaan@netvigator.com](mailto:peifaan@netvigator.com)

Lantau, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014

**Green Lantau Association  
Autumn 2013 and Winter 2014  
GLA Newsletter**

**Administration**

***Autumn Executive Committee Meeting***

The GLA Autumn Executive Committee Meeting was held in Mui Wo from 10.30 to 12.00 on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

***Annual General Meeting***

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Mui Wo Sports Centre from 10.30 to 12.00 on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2013. The AGM reviewed the association's work in 2013 and approved the approach to GLA work in 2014. One member raised the possibility of GLA helping to finance efforts made by the Living Islands Movement (LIM) to draw up plans for alternative and less damaging forms of municipal waste disposal. It was noted however that the GLA constitution only allows GLA funds to be used for GLA activities. It was decided to further consider the issue at the Winter Committee Meeting to be held in early 2014.

Another member suggested GLA and LIM could ask the ferry company for space at the Mui Wo and Central ferry piers to display attractive pictures of Lantau's natural scenery. This suggestion too would be discussed at the Winter Committee Meeting.

A decision was made to move the official GLA address from Cheung Sha to Mui Wo while the mailing address will remain in Tai O as currently. The 2012-2013 financial report was presented and approved by the AGM.

A motion of thanks was passed for Clive Noffke who is retiring from the committee after more than ten years of assiduous work for the protection of the natural environment of Lantau and the rest of Hong Kong. The AGM re-elected Bob Bunker ([rbunker@netvigator.com](mailto:rbunker@netvigator.com)) and Fabian Pedrazzini ([peifaan@netvigator.com](mailto:peifaan@netvigator.com)) as committee members and expressed an intention to choose Christian Masset, ([asap100@netvigator.com](mailto:asap100@netvigator.com)) formerly chairman of the green group Clear The Air (CTA) as new committee member. It was noted that Christian being a new GLA member, a period of at least three months would need to elapse before he could be elected into the executive committee. It was therefore agreed that to respect constitutional requirements, Voting Member Sally Bunker ([sally@leafy.hk](mailto:sally@leafy.hk)) would initially be elected into the committee and that an Extraordinary Annual General Meeting (EAGM) would be held in Spring 2014 to enable the election of Christian into the GLA committee. The EAGM may also consider the possibility of amending constitutional requirements to enable GLA to use some of its funds in support of causes taken forward by other green groups that are in line with GLA environmental protection principles and aspirations.

To facilitate compliance with LCSD regulations and to help avoid waste generation, no refreshments were served at this GLA AGM.

### ***Winter Executive Committee Meeting***

The GLA 2013-14 Winter Committee Meeting took place in Mui Wo from 10.30 to 12.00 on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2014. Items discussed at the meeting form the content of this newsletter.

### ***Extraordinary Annual General Meeting (EAGM)***

At the Winter Executive Committee Meeting held in Mui Wo on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2014, it was decided that an Extraordinary General Meeting be held on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2014 primarily for the purpose of electing Christian Masset into the GLA Committee and to consider constitutional amendments that would enable some GLA funds to be used in support of activities carried

out by other green groups that are compatible with GLA aims and aspirations. The opportunity shall also be used to discuss recent issues and other environmental protection items that are of concern to individual members.

### ***Hill Fire Prevention***

As in previous years GLA has applied to DLO and AFCD for permission to display approximately 30 hill fire prevention banners at about 20 hillside cemeteries on Lantau Island for a total period of two months in 2014 to cover the tomb visitinng festivals of Ching Ming in spring and Chung Yeung in autumn. To facilitate processing of our application, we have for the first time enclosed government map links to all individual banner locations. GLA volunteers helping with banner display will be notified as soon as government permission for the 2014 hill fire prevention activities is obtained.

### **Case Reporting**

Below are reports on issues GLA has dealt with in autumn and winter. These have been subdivided into geographical areas to facilitate reading. Member questions and comments on these items are welcome.

### **Tai O**

#### ***CEDD Yat Chung River Wall project***

This project is now in its final phase, proceeding well and proving useful in terms of reducing flooding. Minor environmental issues have arisen, such as the recent dumping of materials outside the CEDD site along the Tai O River, which was reported to EPD and DLO and was recently rectified. A more recent issue is the mooring on the banks of the Tai O River of two iron barges used during the CEDD project as well as the dumping of a large disused plastic water tank on the river bank. This will be followed up.

#### ***Tai O River Promenade trees***

GLA has communicated with EPD, DLO and LCSD on issues related to unauthorized storage of materials along the Tai O River Promenade as well as the inexplicable removal by LCSD of six trees and tree pits along the promenade. LCSD agreed to restore three tree pits and replant missing trees

elsewhere along the promenade by November last year. Some of the tree pits have recently been re-opened and replanted. GLA will follow this up until full restoration of trees along the promenade is achieved.

### ***Lung Tin Estate waste water discharge***

Following an incident last year in which large amounts of dirty water from the washing of fresh water and flush water tanks at Phase 2 of the Housing Authority's Lung Ting Estate was discharged into the Tai O River, EPD has been supervising discharge operations to ensure that contaminated water is directed to the foul sewer instead of the surface drainage system. An incident occurred however on 26.2.2014 during which a blocked foul water pipe caused contaminated water to surge into the estate and onto nearby streets. The incident was coincidentally spotted at the very same time by a GLA member and by a patrolling EPD team. Prompt EPD action prevented the spill from reaching the river. EPD has since sent a warning letter to the Estate Management and requested the Housing Department to directly supervise the work of the management company. It is expected that these measures will help prevent similar incidents from occurring in future.

### **Tung Chung**

#### ***Tung Chung Remaining Development Study***

Having expressed disagreement with government development intentions for Tung Chung, in the face of government determination to disregard opposition and proceed with housing development plans at all costs, GLA has been unable to do further work on the matter. This documentary produced by Fieldwork in conjunction with Dr. Martin Williams sums up the concerns well: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3MnVXxu-bmq>.

#### ***Proposed third runway at HKIA***

This is another case of GLA having expressed opposition to a plan that is strongly supported by government in disregard of expected environmental and conservation impacts. We have now exhausted all objection options.

#### ***Airport management***

As part of the ongoing effort to reduce waste and pollution from ground operations at the HKIA, GLA visited the airport three times in autumn and winter, looking in particular at four areas of concern: lighting, air-conditioning, automatic door maintenance and smoking control. There has been noticeable improvement in the first three areas covered, to the point where we are currently unable to offer further suggestions for additional improvements. Unfortunately however, there has been regression in smoking control measures, especially at the bus terminus, where large numbers of refuse bins with ashtray on top have been deployed in an apparent calculated move to undermine the no-smoking status of the bus terminus. This makes the HKIA bus terminus the only bus terminus in Hong Kong where smoking appears to be being encouraged. Having considered GLA concerns, HKIA has recently enacted multiple rectification measures, the effect of which will be kept under observation.

## **Mui Wo**

### ***Mui Wo Vehicular Pier***

Dumping of various items near the Mui Wo vehicular pier entrance was reported to EPD for removal action and the area has since been cleared. We continue to keep an eye on this location and encourage members to do the same.

### ***Mui Wo Building***

Following a GLA report to EPD abandoned construction materials that had been stored outside Mui Wo Building has been cleared.

### ***Public housing plans***

GLA has noted the somewhat high-handed manner in which the Housing Department has been approaching plans for the extension of the Ngan Wan Public Housing Estate and expressed the view that any new housing blocks should be compatible with the density and height of the existing estate.

### ***Wong Kung Tin lights***

GLA is being consulted by DO on the additional provision of public lights in Wong Kung Tin, Mui Wo. We have in turn consulted LIM and Mui Wo

residents who had complained about the visual impact of the first set of light installed along the hill footpath linking Wo Tin to Wong Kung Tin in 2013. Several comments from concerned residents as well as LIM and GLA reached DO in early February and were forwarded to HyD for their attention and response.

## **South Lantau**

### ***Municipal Waste Incinerator***

GLA has suggested to EPD that the provision at Hong Kong landfills of gasification plants similar to the one currently reaching completion in the Tees Valley in the United Kingdom be considered. Compared to EPD supported incineration, gasification processes are far cleaner and would potentially enable landfill mining, the process of retrieving old items dumped at landfill for gasification, thereby gradually reducing the size of landfills, instead of expanding them as EPD is proposing to do. EPD however insist that incineration is the only option for Hong Kong and that Shek Kwu Chau is the preferred location for the construction of a large moving-grate-type incinerator. Though the alternative incinerator site in Tuen Mun would cause far fewer environmental impacts, EPD appear to prefer Shek Kwu Chau primarily on the ground that the Islands District has more room for further air pollution than the Tuen Mun District.

### ***Pui O Lo Wai dumping***

GLA has been following up on the issue of infilling of private and government agricultural land located between the two WSD water pumping stations in Lo Wai Village, Pui O. However, having checked land maps, it is now clear that only a small portion of Government Land has been affected, which makes pursuing this case difficult.

### ***Change of plot ratio***

GLA has objected to a PD proposal that would nearly double the plot ratio of a private development site on South Lantau, on the ground that this would create a precedent for all other sites. As part of the same submission GLA has also pointed out that unendingly intensifying construction to provide yet more flats for yet more people is inherently unsustainable. We have advised

that Government should instead look at the feasibility of introducing population and immigration policies that take Hong Kong's carrying capacity into account.

### ***Pui O Garage***

GLA has again attracted EPD attention to disused oily vehicle spare parts accumulated on a stream bank near a garage located between Pui O and Nam Shan, as some of those items were spotted on the stream bed. The stream is a tributary of the Pui O East River, which converges with the Pui O West River at Ham Tin before flowing into the sea near Pui O Beach. EPD responded promptly. The affected section of stream-bed and stream bank was completely cleared of discarded objects within days.

### **Peng Chau**

#### ***CLP Cable Landing Mats at Tai Lei Chau***

In conjunction with GPCA, GLA has indicated to CLP that the relatively lengthier and more expensive concrete mat removal works at Tai Lei Chau beach remain the preferred option from visual point of view. At the four-monthly CLP – GLA meeting that took place at the Pui Wo Power Substation on 24.2.2014 it was agreed that CLP would proceed with the lengthier and more expensive reinstatement option, which was considered by GPCA and GLA to be more beneficial in reducing visual impacts on the beach.

### **New Territories**

#### ***Ku Tong, Sheung Shui CLP trenches***

In January GLA requested CLP to clear excavated debris and lubrication oil that their trench contractor had dumped on the side of a rural road in the Ku Tong area and also to look into the safety of a forward-leaning overhead-line wooden pole at the same location. CLP completed the remedial works before the Lunar New Year holidays and sent relevant pictures to GLA. CLP also assured GLA that their front-line supervisors will again be made aware of the need to cover the environmental side of site conditions during inspections.

## **Other topics**

### ***Lantau cattle***

GLA Voting Member Clive Noffke ([cnoffke@netvigator.com](mailto:cnoffke@netvigator.com)) will continue to be the GLA contact person on matters of cattle and buffalo protection. Sally Bunker will assist especially in attending meetings on cattle with other stakeholders.

### ***API versus AQHI***

GLA has noted that the new Air Quality and Health Index (AQHI) is less transparent than the former Air Pollution Index (API) when it comes to the provision of air quality information during severe air pollution events. We also pointed out that some of the links in the new EPD AQHI website were less user-friendly than the old ones, and this aspect has since been rectified. The remaining question is whether EPD will agree to restore full public disclosure of air quality data during times of serious air pollution.

### ***Convention on Biological Diversity***

GLA is currently unable to contribute further to the implementation of CBD provisions in Hong Kong. We are observing development of the engagement process initiated by government.

### ***NWFF vessels pollution***

In ongoing GLA efforts to reduce black smoke emissions from New World First Ferry (NWFF) vessels, GLA has recently recommended that MD withdraw from service the triple deck turbo ship Xin Chau, one of the largest vessels in the NWFF fleet, which was photographed emitting black smoke when leaving Central Ferry Pier 5 in January and February this year. MD have replied promptly and are looking into the matter.

### ***Environmental reporting***

Members are reminded that incidents of environmental damage can be reported by telephone to the Government Easy Link Line 1823 or by email to [tellme@1823.gov.hk](mailto: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. This arrangement is being expanded to

an increasing number of government departments and in some cases even complaints sent to departments directly are handled by the 1823 integrated service.

### **Contacts of organizations with which GLA cooperates**

GLA has been cooperating with Islands District, Hong Kong and international environmental protection groups which we would encourage our members to contact and support. A list of these groups and their website links 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)

[Transition South Lantau](#) (TSL)

#### ***Wider Hong Kong***

[Association for Geoconservation](#) (AGHK)

[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

[Climate Change Campaign](#) (CCC), UK

[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**

For the convenience of our readers, here 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.

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

[TPB](#) Town Planning Board  
[WSD](#) 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 Lantao Bus](#)

[Long Win Bus](#)

***End of the Autumn-Winter 2013-14 GLA Newsletter***