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Lantau, 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014

**Green Lantau Association  
Spring and Summer 2014 GLA  
Newsletter**

**Administration**

***Winter Executive Committee Meeting***

The GLA Winter Executive Committee Meeting was held in Mui Wo from 10.30 to 12.00 on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2014. At the meeting it was decided that a sum of \$10,000 would be transferred to the Integrated Waste Management Action Group (IWMAG) as a GLA contribution to their study on alternative waste disposal arrangements that would obviate the building of a large-scale municipal waste incinerator on reclaimed land adjacent to the Island of Shek Kwu Chau. The transfer is subject to the GLA Extraordinary General Meeting planned for 30<sup>th</sup> March approving relevant changes in the GLA constitution. It was also decided that the GLA Committee would look into the feasibility of producing a short film aimed at drawing public attention to the need to preserve Lantau nature.

***Extraordinary General Meeting***

An Extraordinary General Meeting was held at the Mui Wo Sports Centre from 10.30 to 11.00 on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2014 to approve three changes in the GLA constitution: 1) A change of official and postal addresses. 2) The introduction of a clause enabling GLA to contribute funds of up to \$10,000 in support of projects by other green groups that are in line with GLA work and

aspirations and, 3) The deletion of life membership from the GLA constitution so as to facilitate administration. During the meeting thanks were expressed to Fabian Pedrazzini who retired from the GLA Executive Committee after twenty five years in the post. Christian Masset was elected as a new committee member. The current GLA committee members are Bob Bunker ([rbunker@netvigator.com](mailto:rbunker@netvigator.com)), Sally Bunker ([Sally@leafy.hk](mailto:Sally@leafy.hk)) and Christian Masset ([asap100@netvigator.com](mailto:asap100@netvigator.com)).

## **Case Reporting**

Below are reports on issues GLA has dealt with in spring and summer 2014. 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***

GLA is monitoring the winding down of this project to try to ensure that unwanted materials are not left behind or inappropriately disposed of.

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

At GLA request LSCD and HyD have replanted three Tai O Riverside Promenade trees that had previously been removed ostensibly for traffic safety reasons. GLA investigations found the reasons adduced for the removal of the trees to have been unfounded and misleading.

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

Following two GLA reports to EPD about rusty water from tank washing operations being discharged from the Lung Tin Estate, supervision has been tightened and no further discharges have been observed.

#### ***Lung An Monastery plastic foam boxes***

A report was made to EPD on a large number of plastic foam boxes having been dumped into a stream that is a tributary to the Tai O River. EPD took no action and most of the boxes have since been washed downstream.

### ***Tai O riverside pontoon***

A timber pontoon supported by plastic barrels was traced as the source of the loose plastic barrels that had been washed up on Po Chue Tam Outer Beach, more than one kilometre downstream. A GLA report to EPD and DLO resulted in the pontoon being dismantled and removed from the Tai O River.

### ***Nam Chung Village open burning***

GLA reported to EPD the occurrence of open burning of refuse that also included plastic items on a beach in Nam Chung Village near the FEHD public toilet. Action appears not to have been taken on this yet and incidents of open burning continue.

### ***Nam Chung Village storage of leaking oil drums***

A GLA report to EPD on the storage of large numbers of leaking edible oil drums near a village house in Nam Chung Village resulted in the drums being removed and the oily surroundings being cleaned up.

## **Tung Chung**

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

There has been no further GLA input into the Tung Chung further development plans, as government has indicated it would proceed with the works regardless of concerns expressed about likely damage to the river system and Tung Chung Bay water circulation.

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

GLA has submitted an objection against the third runway proposal by the HKIA and has criticized the project EIA as being inadequate and substandard. GLA has also described the project as being damaging locally and globally and as being one that would further encourage carbon emissions while ignoring peak oil and global warming. Some GLA members have also sent in private objections to EPD, notably on the severe impact the project would have on dolphin grounds and on an essential corridor that links dolphin communities to the east and the west of the airport island, an issue the HKIA EIA has deliberately played down.

### ***Airport management***

To allay GLA concern about uncontrolled smoking in non smoking areas of the airport, HKIA has deployed staff to specifically address this issue. Containment improvements at smoking areas have also been carried out. As an attempt to further improve the airport terminal's (Optimum Thermal Transfer Value (OTTV), GLA suggested installing soft plastic flaps along sliding doorframes so as to reduce warm air intake through gaps in the door frames. HKIA accepted and implemented the suggestion.

### **Mui Wo**

#### ***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. However the Town Planning Board (TPB) has since upheld the government housing plans primarily on the ground that there is shortage of housing in Hong Kong.

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

We have not heard of developments related to proposed additional public lights in the hills of Wong Kung Tin to provide illumination for one single intermittently inhabited dwelling. It seems that local opposition to this additional phase of the lighting project may have given proposers and planners and opportunity to review their lighting priorities.

#### ***Wo Tin Slope Works***

In September last year, following expressions of concern from local residents, GLA drew the attention of DO to the depositing of slope work related materials at two locations in Wo Tin Village. As the problem remained unresolved by June this year, GLA reported the matter to EPD who advised the work proponent, the LD Slope Section, to tidy up and designate their materials on site for public information. A GLA inspection of this site is due shortly.

## **South Lantau**

### ***Municipal Waste Management***

There has been no further communication with EPD on the waste incineration plant proposed for Shek Kwu Chau, as EPD appears determined to proceed with the project in spite of public objections.

### ***Pui O Lo Wai storage structure***

LIM having drawn GLA attention on a large storage structure that was built on Lo Wai agricultural land last year, we enquired about the status of this structure with DLO and learned that this is considered to be unauthorized development that is subject to enforcement action.

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

TPB has approved a PD proposal to nearly double the plot ratio at a site in Cheung Sha in spite of GLA and other objections. TPB did not address the GLA observation that unendingly intensifying construction to provide yet more flats for yet more people is inherently unsustainable, and that Government should instead look at the feasibility of introducing population and immigration policies that have regard to Hong Kong's carrying capacity.

### ***Shui Hau storage and dumping***

GLA has again drawn EPD attention to storage and dumping activities on land located between the Shui Hau Village Office and the Shui Hau River. This issue has been in existence for the past twenty years and is of difficult resolution as most of the area is private land and only a small portion is Government Land. EPD is to inspect regularly to try to ensure compliance.

## **Peng Chau**

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

CLP is still committed to proceed with the repeatedly delayed Tai Lei Chau Beach restoration by planning the further removal of concrete cable landing mats that it placed there several years ago. If all permits are obtained on time, reinstatement work is expected to take place early next year.

## **Other topics**

### ***PSP Film***

In Spring GLA and some GLA members contributed to the planning and cost of the Paradigm Shift Project (PSP) film “Keep Lantau Beautiful”. The film is an effort to bring closer to the public the beauty of Lantau Island so that the development threats it faces and the need for stronger nature conservation measures is better understood. The film can be viewed in the new GLA website at [www.greenlantau.org](http://www.greenlantau.org).

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

In spite of the prevailing rain there were a number of fires on and around Ching Ming Day, notably a fire at Pak Shan in Tai O that could only be put out after the skilful and committed intervention of the Government Flying Services. As usual GLA displayed hill fire prevention banners and stickers at hillside cemeteries in Tai O, Tung Chung, Mui Wo and South Lantau.

### ***Lantau cattle***

Effective measures have come to be in place for the protection of Lantau cattle and buffalo communities through efforts by various organizations including GLA. There is also a greater degree of public acceptance of cattle herds living near human settlements.

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

There has been no further GLA input on this and the government public consultation exercise is in progress.

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

When the new Air Quality and Health Index replaced the Air Pollution Index at the end of December 2013, GLA pointed out to EPD that the new website was not as informative or as user friendly as the old one and suggested amendments to improve access to information. EPD acceded to the requests, except for the release of information on actual air pollution levels during periods of serious air pollution. While in the past it was possible for members of the public to know exactly how bad air pollution was at any particular time

of the day, the information now provided by EPD only shows 10+ for any degree of serious pollution, no matter whether it might be 15, 20, 30 or 50. EPD argues that releasing actual serious pollution data may alarm or confuse the public while not contributing to pollution management from a health protection point of view. GLA believes that the Hong Kong public has the right to know the quality of the air we breathe. Advice from the OMB was sought and we learnt that what is placed or not placed in the EPD website is considered to be subject to EPD professional judgement. We remain disappointed that the new AQHI system is less transparent than the old API.

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

Following GLA reports to MD, one of NWFF large vessels was withdrawn from service for maintenance twice in spring this year. When it re-entered service its emissions were well within limits, suggesting that essential engine parts such as the turbo chargers, may have been replaced altogether rather than just cleaned as previously.

### ***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 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)

[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**

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.

[AFCD](#)      Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

[ASD](#)        Architectural Services Department

[CLP](#)        China Light and Power Company Limited

[CEDD](#)      Civil Engineering and Development Department

[DLO/Is](#)     District Lands Office Islands of the Lands Department

<a href="#"><u>DO/Is</u></a>	District Office Islands of the Home Affairs Department
<a href="#"><u>DSD</u></a>	Drainage Services Department
<a href="#"><u>EPD</u></a>	Environmental Protection Department
<a href="#"><u>FEHD</u></a>	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
<a href="#"><u>FSD</u></a>	Fire Services Department
<a href="#"><u>GFS</u></a>	Government Flying Service
<a href="#"><u>GEO</u></a>	Geotechnical Engineering Office of CEDD
<a href="#"><u>HAD</u></a>	Home Affairs Department
<a href="#"><u>HAB</u></a>	Home Affairs Bureau
<a href="#"><u>HyD</u></a>	Highways Department
<a href="#"><u>HKPF</u></a>	Hong Kong Police Force
<a href="#"><u>LCSD</u></a>	Leisure and Cultural Services Department
<a href="#"><u>LD</u></a>	Lands Department
<a href="#"><u>MD</u></a>	Marine Department
<a href="#"><u>OFTA</u></a>	Office of the Telecommunications Authority
<a href="#"><u>OMB</u></a>	Office of the Ombudsman
<a href="#"><u>PD</u></a>	Planning Department
<a href="#"><u>TPB</u></a>	Town Planning Board
<a href="#"><u>WSD</u></a>	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 Spring and Summer 2014 GLA Newsletter***