Agreement No. CE 61/2007 North East New Territories New Development Areas Planning and Engineering Study - Investigation

Gist of Meeting with Green Groups

Date : 23 July 2012 (Mon)

Time: 10:30am

Venue: Room 1537, Conference Room, 15/F, North Point Government Offices, North Point

Long Valley:

- Welcomed the Long Valley Nature Park (LVNP) proposal as it would conserve and enhance the ecological value of the area.
- The "Agriculture" zoning for the farmland to the north and south of Long Valley might not be sufficient to reflect and protect its ecological value. These two extensive tracts of land could either be included as part of the LVNP or rezoned as "Conservation Area"/"Green Belt". No urban development should be allowed in these ecologically sensitive areas.
- The proposal to enhance the ecological value of the Long Valley would need to be further explained as the area already had very high ecological value, particularly the area covered by the Management Agreement under the New Nature Conservation Policy (NNCP).
- NDA development in part of the Ho Sheung Heung and Long Valley Priority Site might contravene the NNCP. Ask if the boundary of the Priority Site would be reviewed and whether reduction in site area be compensated.
- Is resuming land for wetland compensation in line with the NNCP? Would Government resume land in other Priority Sites for conservation?
- Sufficient buffer zone should be created around the LVNP to minimize disturbance to the wildlife in the area.
- Ask whether urban development and high-rise buildings in proximity to the LVNP would disturb the wildlife habitat and adversely affect the flight paths of birds.
- Under what ordinance would the land be resumed for LVNP and who would manage it?
- Government should devise a comprehensive and long-term management plan for the LVNP. The Green Groups should be engaged/consulted in the plan making process.

Others:

 The land under active cultivation in the Fanling North (FLN) NDA should be preserved as far as possible. Ecological farming should be promoted through flexible land use zoning and Government assistance. Urban farming should be encouraged in areas close to existing population clusters such as the FLN NDA.

- Tight controls should be imposed to prevent illegal land filling on farmland.
- The riverside promenade in FLN should be developed into a nature trail with extensive natural vegetation, rather than covered by artificial landscape treatments with hard pavings. Nature trail would be attractive to birds and have high education value.
- Special attention should be paid to protect the Ma Tso Lung Stream where globally endangered fauna had been found. Streams that were not yet channelized (e.g Siu Hang Sun Tsuen Stream) should remain undisturbed.
- Sufficient measures should be put in place to ensure the success of relocating the egretry from Man Kam To Road as there is no such precedent in Hong Kong.
- The Police training facilities in the western part of the FLN NDA were close to the environmentally sensitive areas. The environmental impacts of these facilities should be thoroughly examined and properly mitigated.
- Area to the northeast of the Ping Che/Ta Kwu Ling NDA and in proximity to the Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Connecting Road had high ecological value and should not be affected by urban development.
- Government should continue to engage Green Groups in the planning and implementation of the NDAs.

[Note: The above gist of views collated by the Consultants is for reference only and has not been confirmed by the participants.]