

NOTE FOR PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

Supplementary information on 368RO – Kowloon Bay Recreation Ground

INTRODUCTION

In considering the paper referenced PWSC(2002-03)3 on project **368RO** “Kowloon Bay Recreation Ground” at the Public Works Subcommittee meeting on 3 April 2002, Members requested additional information on –

- (a) whether there are further plans to provide additional open space in Kwun Tong District; and
- (b) the usage rates and demand for natural grass soccer pitches and artificial turf soccer pitches.

THE ADMINISTRATION’S RESPONSE

Plans for additional open space

2. Apart from the proposed Kowloon Bay Recreation Ground project, there are three other open space projects in Kwun Tong District in the pipeline. They are “Jordan Valley Playground – phase 2 (stage 2)” (two hectares in size), “Provision of a multi-purpose grass pitch on Sai Tso Wan former landfill” (three hectares in size) and “Provision of an Ecological Park and other recreational facilities on Jordan Valley former landfill” (seven hectares in size). The first two

/projects

projects have already been upgraded to Category A and the last one is tentatively scheduled to be upgraded in the second quarter of 2003. The Administration will continue to review the need for implementing other open space projects in the district.

3. Apart from open space projects now under planning by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), new open space sites have been designated for recreational use in the vicinity of Anderson Road, Cha Kwo Ling, Choi Wan Road and Jordan Valley. These open space sites will eventually be allocated to LCSD for development. If found to be justified for developing into recreational facilities under the Public Works Programme, they will further enhance the supply of open space by about eight hectares in Kwun Tong District.

4. LCSD will continue to monitor the utilisation of existing facilities in Kwun Tong District for assessing the need for additional new facilities.

Demand on natural grass and artificial turf soccer pitches

5. At present, there are 54 11-a-side natural grass soccer pitches and 14 11-a-side artificial turf soccer pitches managed by LCSD. The average number of sessions (90 minutes each) available for use by the public is 60 per month for a natural grass soccer pitch and 270 per month for an artificial turf soccer pitch. In order to maintain natural grass pitches to an acceptable condition, a quota of 60 sessions is set for booking for each month. The quota of each pitch may however be adjusted subject to the turf condition and local demand. In addition, natural grass pitches will have to be closed for about two months every year for major maintenance and sowing of winter rye grass. In 2001-02, the average usage rates for natural grass soccer pitches and artificial turf soccer pitches are around 100% and 75% respectively.

6. For soccer pitches in the urban area, bookings are entertained on a first-come-first-served basis; hence, statistics on the rate of successful bookings are not available. In the New Territories, a ballot system is used on a monthly basis to allocate the booking sessions available. A rough estimate indicates that the successful rates for natural grass and artificial turf pitches in the New Territories range from 1% to 25% for the former and 5% to 32% for the latter, depending on the location and popularity of individual venue. Starting from July 2002, LCSD will standardise the booking procedures for both the urban area and the New Territories through computer on a first-come-first-served basis.

7. LCSD will continue to plan for the provision of soccer pitches having regard to the popularity of such facilities in the territory.

Home Affairs Bureau
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