

LegCo Panel on Health Services

Construction of a Public Mortuary in Kwai Chung

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the construction of a public mortuary in Area 26E, Kwai Chung.

Scope of the Project

2. The scope of the project comprises the construction of a two-storey building to provide –

- (a) four cold chambers and one deep freezer with a total storage capacity of 220 bodies;
- (b) four autopsy suites for cases such as routine coroner's cases and homicidal and suspicious deaths; and
- (c) ancillary areas comprising offices, laboratory, body identification viewing rooms, waiting area, interview room, autopsy viewing rooms and demonstration cum education room.

3. The proposed public mortuary is a double-storey building with up-to-standard provision and facilities which provide more privacy and spacious areas for the users. The outlook of the mortuary building will be non-protrusive and funds have been reserved for peripheral landscaping and soft landscaping treatment in this project to alleviate possible visual impacts on the surrounding areas. In this regard, extensive tree planting is proposed along and within the site boundary.

4. A site plan is attached at Annex.

Justification

5. There are three public mortuaries in the territory, namely Victoria Public Mortuary in Kennedy Town (Hong Kong Island), Kowloon Public Mortuary in Hung Hom (Kowloon), and Fu Shan Public Mortuary in Sha Tin (New Territories East). Their present capacity has already reached saturation. The first two mortuaries were set up in the 1970's and the last one in 1989. In 1998, additional chambers had to be installed as a stop gap measure to meet the growing demand for storage capacity, bringing the storage capacity of the three public mortuaries to 60, 72 and 168 respectively. However, their occupancy rate is well above 80% of the total capacity on average. After long holidays and during winter, the occupancy rate is often so high that it has exceeded their capacity.

6. Over the years, demand for body storage facilities has grown as the population increases. According to the statistics and projections of Census & Statistics Department and Planning Department, the population of Hong Kong has increased from 5.6 million in 1991 to 6.7 million in 2001 and is projected to increase further to 7.5 million by 2010 (i.e. a projected increase of 12% from 2001). With growth in population, there will be a corresponding increase in the number of deaths and hence the need for more cold chamber storage spaces for dead bodies. The construction of the fourth public mortuary is also needed in order to increase storage capacity to cater for emergency need in case of major incidents, such as plane crashes, natural disasters and fires.

7. Since the majority of the future population increase is projected to be in the New Territories (NT), particularly the residential development of the Tung Chung New Town and Tin Shiu Wai, and taking into account the existing distribution of mortuaries, the new mortuary should be set up in the NT West. At present, all the NT cases are brought to the Fu Shan Public Mortuary in Sha Tin, the capacity of which is already inadequate to handle the present workload. The proposed new Kwai Chung Mortuary will bring convenience to the population in New Territories West and Lantau.

8. As the mortuary will serve the training functions for law-enforcement officers, especially the Police, in criminal investigations, the demonstration cum education room inside the mortuary will be used for the collection and demonstration of teaching materials to officers under training.

9. The capital cost of the project is estimated to be \$140.2 million. The construction will take about three years to complete. We shall, in June/July, seek the approval of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council to embark on the project.

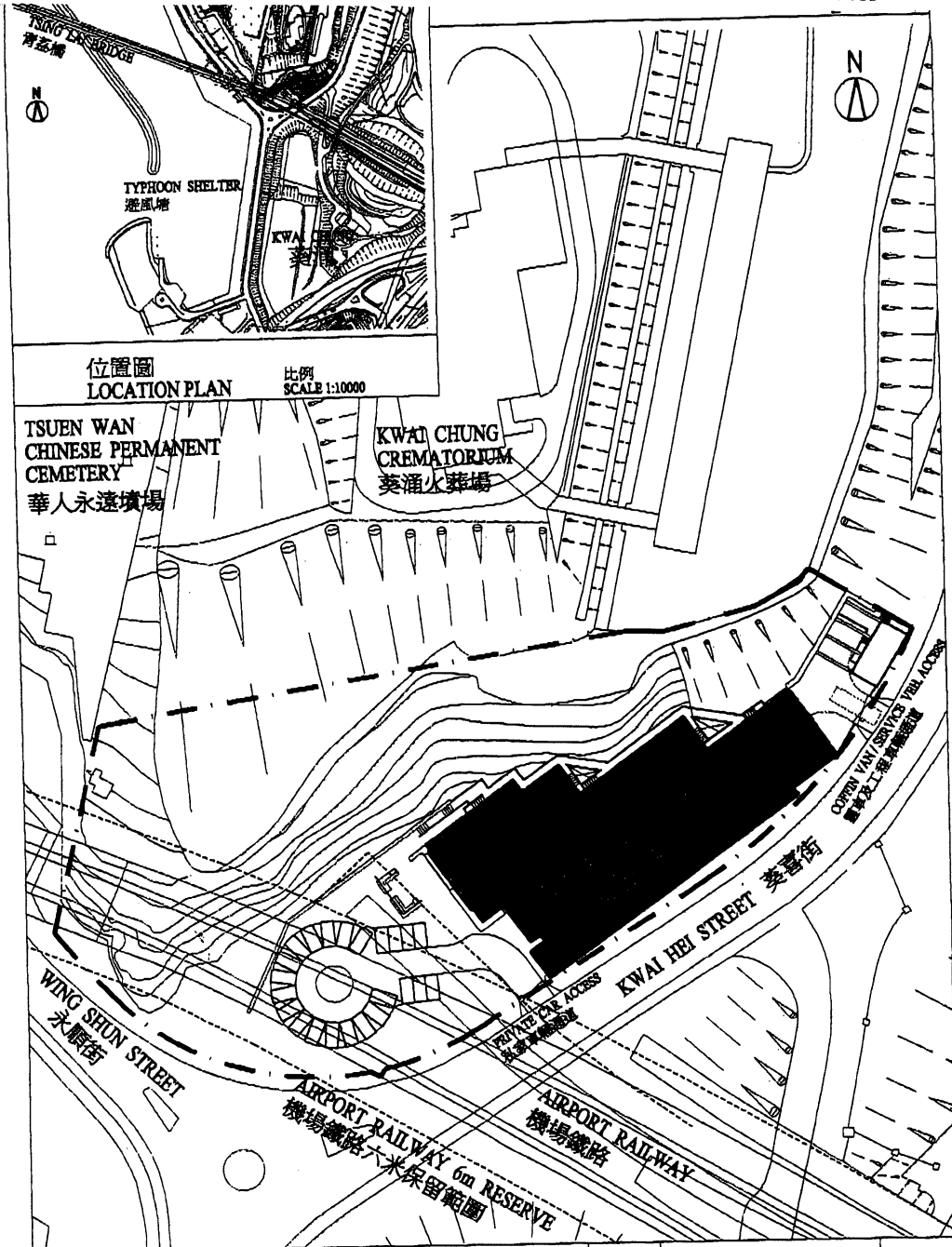
Public Consultation

10. We consulted the former Kwai Tsing Provisional District Board and the former Provisional Regional Council on 20 October 1998 and 11 January 1999 respectively. Members of the District Board and the Council had no objection to the project. The Town Planning Board has approved the planning application in January 2002. We consulted the Planning and Environmental Protection Committee of Kwai Tsing District Council by circulation from 26 March to 11 April 2002. Members of the Committee have no objection to the project.


Advice Sought

11. Members are invited to comment on the proposed project.

Health and Welfare Bureau
May 2002



位置圖
LOCATION PLAN
比例
SCALE 1:10000

Title: 12 NB 葵涌第26E公眾殮房 PUBLIC MORTUARY IN AREA 26E, KWAI CHUNG	drawn by 繪圖 K.W.CHAN	date 日期 15.1.02	drawing no. 編號 P-01	scale 比例 1:1000
	approved 覆核 W.LAM	date 日期 16.1.02	 ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT 建築署	
	office 辦事處 ARCHITECTURAL BRANCH 建築設計處			