

PI/LEGCO

2007/05/28 PM 04:22

To %Panel - PLW
cc &LGA[1]7
Subject Fw: Lantau Concept Plan

Dear Honourable Members,

I refer an email from a member of the public for your reference.

Best regards,
Brenda YEUNG
PIO2

----- Forwarded by PI/LEGCO on 2007/05/28 PM 04:21 -----



"Chris Bailey"

2007/05/28 PM 01:52

To <pi@legco.gov.hk>
cc
Subject Lantau Concept Plan

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To: LegCo Panel on Planning, Lands and Works: Mr Lau Wong Fat, Chairman and Prof Patrick Lau Sau Shing, Deputy Chairman

As a member of Green Lantau Association/Living Islands Movement, I have been copied on their recent 'conservation plan' letter dated 22 May. I would like to support this letter and conservation in general for Lantau Island - see below; I would also appreciate if this email could be copied to all members of the Panel on Planning, Lands and Works.

There is considerable interest among many South Lantau residents to 'make the most of what we have' on Lantau, particularly since the Concept Plan was published. Members of GLA feel it is imperative that the Lantau North (Extension) Country Park, promised since 1999, be implemented as soon as possible. Without this Park, Lantau Island seems to be 'up for grabs' by developers of terminals, housing, container ports, etc. The good news is that the Government is prepared to spend considerable amounts of money on a 'face-lift' of Mui Wo but little attention seems to have been given to our existing historical assets which, generally speaking, are in a sad state of disrepair. I am particularly concerned about protection and conservation of the three watchtowers surrounding my own village, Luk Tei Tong: ie Butterfly Hill watchtower, Yuen's watchtower and Luk Tei Tong watchtower. I have been in email contact with AMO for some months on this subject (latterly with Flora KONG (Assistant Curator II, Antiquities and Monuments Office, LCSD). AMO are helpful but I am still concerned that these buildings' potential is being overlooked and they could crumble and fall at any time. I reproduce an extract of my recent AMO email to Flora:

quote: Your offer is much appreciated to keep in mind the "Projects of Improvement Works for Mui Wo Facelift and continue to provide our conservation advice to the implementation agent, the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD)". Many people in Luk Tei Tong are proud of these historical structures which surround the village and would like to see these restored and conserved so that locals and visitors alike can appreciate them and people are once again able to gain access and so increase heritage awareness and enhance the tourism potential of this area. What can we Mui Wo residents do to help work towards this? unquote

International journalists and environmentalists' recent press comments include John Simpson's observation (SCMP magazine 20 May 2007) that HK will "throw itself away" as it loses its old architecture, "losing the specific nature of the place as you pull down the old". He applauds efforts to protect HK from "the forces that want to clone the city into another Shenzhen or Shanghai". From the SCMP "Talkback" section on 23 May, a local resident, Mr David Newberry, commenting on environmental protection, states "When will the Government realise that the protection of the environment is vital for the health and wellbeing of future generations and that these concerns should carry equal, if not greater, weight than short-term financial expediency? An environmentally protected area should be exactly that a€" protected..... The government needs to come up with a comprehensive way forward that is both economically and environmentally sound now and for the future".

I would be grateful if our concerns for the protection of Lantau, with all its unique assets, could be taken into consideration.

(Ms) Chris BAILEY

Lantau resident