

**Meeting between Members of Legislative Council and
Members of Kwai Tsing District Council on 7 December 2006**

**The Administration's Response to Issues Relating to
the Operation of the Town Planning Board**

Rambler Crest in Tsing Yi was the subject of two planning permission applications submitted to the Town Planning Board (TPB) in 1999 and 2000 under the draft Tsing Yi Outline Zoning Plan. The applications were approved by TPB on 5 November 1999 and 3 March 2000 respectively.

2. The Town Planning Ordinance was subsequently amended. The Town Planning (Amendment) Ordinance 2004 ("Amendment Ordinance") was passed by the Legislative Council in July 2004 and came into operation in June 2005. Since the commencement of the Amendment Ordinance, the following measures and requirements have been put into practice to enhance the transparency of processing applications for planning permission and plan amendment –

- (a) before submitting an application, an applicant, if he is not the owner of the application site, needs to obtain the consent of or notify the owners of the site in respect of the application;
- (b) all applications are published for public inspection through advertisement in newspapers and notice posted on the site, and the public may submit comments to TPB within three weeks; and
- (c) all meetings of TPB and its committees (except for the deliberation part and in special circumstances as set out in the TPB Procedure and Practice) are open to the public.

3. In addition to the above arrangements, TPB has introduced administrative measures since commencement of the Amendment Ordinance to enhance the effectiveness and transparency of the public consultation process. It posts the notice of a planning application together with a gist of the application and a location plan at the TPB Secretariat, Planning Enquiry Counters of the Planning Department, the relevant local community centres, District Office, and Rural Committee office (where appropriate). The same is sent to all interested District

Council members as well as all Owners' Corporations and other committees of buildings within 100 feet (around 30 metres) from the boundary of the application site. The notice, gist of application, location plan and progress of processing the application by TPB are available at the TPB website. All TPB papers and minutes (except in special circumstances as set out in the TPB Procedure and Practice) are available for public inspection.

Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau
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