

To: cb1@legco.gov.hk
From: Martin Williams
Date: 11/01/2013 09:39AM
Subject: Country Parks (Designation) (Consolidation) (Amendment) Order 2013 ("the Amendment Order")
(See attached file: *enclaves-sc021105-reply-e copy.pdf*)

Dear Sir:

I write as founder of Hong Kong Outdoors, a website with several hundred members, in support of inclusion of Country Parks (Designation) (Consolidation) (Amendment) Order 2013 ("the Amendment Order").

This welcome amendment should prove an important step towards resolving the serious problems arising from the creation of country park enclaves.

Protecting the integrity of country parks must involve also safeguarding areas such as the three enclaves covered by the amendment.

This need not mean a complete freeze on development of any kind; but should help to ensure the areas remain rural gems.

The enclaves, and country parks, are highly beneficial for Hong Kong people - partly for recreation, in turn benefitting the emotional and physical well-being of people in the stressful city.

Plus, the amendment is in line with Hong Kong's moves towards a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, particularly as lowland sites of value to wildlife are at a premium in Hong Kong.

With suitable low key development - to be determined later - the enclaves could also benefit local people.

However, leaving the enclaves outside the country park system will always leave them open to "attack" by rapacious developers, intent on achieving financial gain without regard to the environment or Hong Kong overall.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Martin Williams
Director, Hong Kong Outdoors www.hkoutdoors.com