

**For information
on 1 February 2000**

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**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE TO FOLLOW UP
ON THE OUTSTANDING CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS OF
THE TWO PROVISIONAL MUNICIPAL COUNCILS FOR
INCLUSION INTO THE GOVERNMENT'S
PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME**

368RO – Kowloon Bay Recreation Ground

INTRODUCTION

This paper updates Members on the latest position of **368RO – Kowloon Bay Recreation Ground**, which is one of the twelve capital works projects of the former Provisional Municipal Councils for which the Administration has set aside funding and undertaken to fast-track their direct injection into the Public Works Programme as Category A items.

PLANNING PROGRESS

2. This project will provide a recreation ground comprising two natural grass soccer pitches, two tennis courts, a cycling area, a tai-chi area and a children's play area. The scope of facilities and the layout design were approved by the then Provisional Urban Council (PUC) in October 1999. A copy of the PUC Paper is at Annex I. Prior to approval of the project, the PUC had consulted the Kwun Tong Provisional District Board in early 1998. Members supported the project. Lands Department approved land allocation for the project in July 1999. As part of the project site is occupied by the Kai Lok Temporary Housing Area, Housing Department has undertaken to clear the area by September 2000. The project is scheduled for construction in December 2000 for completion in mid 2002.

/PROJECT

PROJECT SITE

3. The project site, measuring about 4.3 hectares, is zoned “District Open Space” on the relevant Outline Zoning Plan. The site is “L” in shape with a section of Kai Lai Road falling within its boundary. A location plan is at Annex II.

4. To make way for the development of the project, it is necessary to close permanently the affected section of Kai Lai Road. In this connection, the District Officer (Kwun Tong) has sought the view of local residents at the Kwun Tong West Area Committee, who raised objection to the proposal. Residents of Richland Garden at a separate meeting with the District Officer on 30 December 1999 also raised strong objection. As public objection is anticipated, the Secretary for Transport requests that the District Council should be consulted before proceeding with gazetting of the road closure. Under Section 8 of the Road (Works, Use and Compensation) Ordinance, Cap. 370, Secretary for Transport is required to publish the proposed road closure in the Gazette. The Director of Lands has advised that it would take 18 to 24 months to implement the road closure if public objection is anticipated. He has therefore withheld the land allocation pending completion of the District Council consultation.

WAY FORWARD

5. In view of the latest development, we propose to consult the Traffic & Transport Committee of the Kwun Tong District Council at its next earliest meeting to be held on 16 March 2000. Alternatively, we are also exploring the possibility of revising the project design to avoid the affected road section. However, the revision will necessitate segregation of the project site, and we need to assess very carefully the implications on operation and management, and how users will be affected. In addition, we need to consider effective road crossing arrangements to link up the segregated portions of the recreation ground.

6. We would proceed to upgrade the project into the Public Works Programme when the road closure issue is resolved and the project is ready for construction in all aspects.

28 January 2000