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By Post

TPB/G/PUB/29

15 March 2004

Mr. Roger Emmerton
11A Man Yuen Garden
52 Kennedy Road
Wan Chai
Hong Kong

Dear Mr. Emmerton,

Information on Town Planning Board Homepage

I refer to your letter dated 13.1.2004 which was referred to me by the District Planning Officer/Hong Kong (DPO/HK) for a response to your suggestion of including site address and gist of submission of planning applications under the “Submission Progress” on the Town Planning Board (the Board)’s homepage.

The Secretariat of the Board has thoroughly considered your suggestion. However, there is no provision for the Board’s to publish planning applications for public comments under the existing Town Planning Ordinance. It would therefore not be appropriate for the Board to release the specific information of planning applications at its homepage, particularly before consideration by the Board. The information in “Submission Progress” on the Board’s homepage mainly serves to inform the relevant applicants of the progress of processing their applications. As mentioned in DPO/HK’s letter dated 21.1.2004 to you, an administrative practice has been adopted by the concerned Government departments to collect the views of those who may be affected by planning applications via the relevant District Offices for submission to the Board.

You may wish to note that various proposals to enhance public involvement in the statutory planning process, including the publication of planning applications by the Board for public comments, have been included in the Town Planning (Amendment) Bill 2003 gazetted in May 2003. Pending the enactment of the Bill, the Board will review its homepage in the light of the improved public consultation procedures.

Thank you for your valuable suggestion.

Yours sincerely,

(C K YIP)
for Secretary, Town Planning Board

c.c. Legislative Council Secretariat
District Officer (Wan Chai)
District Planning Officer/Hong Kong

BA/CKY/HL