

To: pid@legco.gov.hk

From: Norman P Ho

Date: 05/22/2014 09:56PM

Subject: Objection to Reprovisioning of Harcourt Road Fresh Water Pumping Station

Dear Legislative Council Secretariat,

I am writing to express my objection to the reprovisioning of Harcourt Road Fresh Water Pumping Station to Hong Kong Park, which will result in the felling of 91 trees and the removal of an important historic, 150-year old wall. It is disappointing to see that yet another cherished green space in Hong Kong is being infringed upon (as another example, Victoria Park will already be reduced in size by approximately 20,000 square feet due to slip road for the new Central-Wan Chai bypass).

Hong Kong is one of the most densely populated cities in the world; I fully understand that maximizing available space is an important goal for the Legislative Council and the Hong Kong government in general. However, urban development must be balanced -- it is equally important to ensure that adequate green spaces are available and open to the Hong Kong public to enjoy. Hong Kong Park is one of Hong Kong's most notable and attractive sites where members of the public can enjoy and appreciate the greenery of the city and also take a pleasant escape and respite from the hectic nature of the density of Central. As someone who works in Central, I have taken walks through Hong Kong Park, the construction and provision of which I consider one of the great achievements of the Hong Kong government; indeed, I have seen many Hong Kong locals and visitors enjoying their time there (e.g., spending time with their families, enjoying meals, etc.). It is truly a shame that the tranquility and natural aesthetic beauty of Hong Kong Park will now be reduced due to the reprovisioning of the water pumping station.

Hong Kong Park -- as a rare space of green in the heart of a metropolitan area -- is akin to Raffles Place Park in Singapore, Da'an Park in Taipei, Hyde Park in London, and Central Park in New York City. To my knowledge, these cities take great efforts to preserve such parks and to ensure that they remain protected and not encroached upon. I hope the Legislative Council will also see the importance of Hong Kong Park and protect it.

I thus ask that the Legislative Council reconsider the reprovisioning of the water pumping station to Hong Kong Park. Surely there must be other places where the station can be reprovisioned that will not result in yet another disruption to Hong Kong's already scarce open, public green spaces.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Best regards,  
Norman Ho  
Hong Kong