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藍 勳 高 球 會  
**Ever Blue Golfers Society**

Ting Sun Plaza, 1/F., 33, Sheung Heung Road, Tokwawan, Kowloon, Hong Kong  
Email: [everblue.gs@gmail.com](mailto:everblue.gs@gmail.com)

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Clerk to Panel on Development  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central,  
Hong Kong.

**Opinion on Land Supply**

Dear sir,

I write, as the Chairman of the Ever Blue Golfers Society (herebelow refers as "our golfers society"), to submit the opinion on land supply, in particular, about your proposal of "Alternative uses of sites under private recreational leases" and "Relocation or consolidation of land-extensive recreational facilities".

Our golfers society inaugurated in 2014, consists of 110 members, mostly retired police officers and their associates living in Hong Kong, with only three of them are members of the Hong Kong Golf Club. The aim of our golfers society is to promote golf as sports and enhance friendship via golf. All our members feel very aggrieved about your above two proposals, particularly about taking the Hong Kong Golf Club (Fanling) for housing development.

Firstly, it has the championship courses where international golf competitions are held. The Hong Kong Golf Open, a golf tournament which is co-sanctioned by the Asian Tour and the European Tour. Founded in 1959, it has been part of the European Tour's schedule since 2001. Since taking its place on the European Tour the event has always been held at the Hong Kong Golf Club (Fanling). Hong Kong Government describes Hong Kong a world city, the loss of this golf course will certainly diminish its status.



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Secondly, the types of sports for aged people are very limited, golf, fortunately is one suitable for all ages and different physiques. With only one public golf course in Hong Kong located in outlying island, the demands of Hong Kong golfers can hardly be met. Amongst the four private golf clubs open for public play, the green fee of the Hong Kong Golf Club is the lowest, and the easiest for public individual or group booking.

Due to the convenience of venue and the cost consideration, we have not organized any golf games in other golf clubs in Hong Kong at all, not even the Kau Sai Chau Jockey Club Golf Course, since the inception of our golfers society in 2014. In the last four years, through the help of the Hong Kong Golf Club members, we had organized about 10 social golf events and two competition games for our members at the Hong Kong Golf Club (Fanling) every year, amounting to about 2000 rounds of golf for the last four years.

Thirdly, there are a lot of "old" trees which are under preservation and graves in the Hong Kong Golf Club. It will be impossible to replace this very old course with the many old trees lining the fairways making it so unique and scenic.

Fourthly, the site will become relatively small after the reconstruction of the access road and infrastructure. While it may be easy to uprooted a golf club with such prestiges and traditions now under the pretext of housing improvements, think, how hard it will be to rebuild a same one.

We are great supporters to the government policy in promoting sports, which is good not only for the public's physical and mental health, but in the long term aim in reducing health care expenses. Your two proposals of "Alternative uses of sites under private recreational leases" and "Relocation or consolidation of land-extensive recreational facilities", whether you are targeting golf or any other sports, will certainly beat this government policy.



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Indeed, as shown in your survey, you have a lot of other options, why deprive sports users? Would you consider building on the Hong Kong Football Stadium? No, we don't think so, despite it is not used for 50% a year. Would you consider retrieving and relocating Shatin Jockey Club? No, we don't think so. So, why deprive the golf population?

Our golfers society hopes that you will consider supplying large scale of land and /or maximize land use, which can be achieved by the options you propose in the survey, and also the following :-

- a. Reclamation outside Victoria Harbour for a substantial size sufficient to be a satellite town for residence and jobs;
- b. Development of periphery of country parks, not just tow pilot sites, but a substantial size, sufficient to be a satellite town for residence and jobs once and for all.
- c. Revise the land use zone, e.g. changing industrial zones to commercial and residential zones, e.g. San Po Kong, Ngau Tau Kok and Kwun Tong;
- d. Remove or open up the land use ratio or the height limitation, e.g. Kowloon City, Sham Shui Po, Shek Kip Mei and Tokwawan;
- e. Revise the low density residential zones or village type development zones;
- f. Mandatory redevelopment of buildings built over 70 years which is either of poor maintenance or less than 10 storeys.

We also hope that the Task Force would advise the government to maximize land use and consolidate in her plan of building government buildings.



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Sincerely yours,



LEE Man Yick Stephen

Chairman

Ever Blue Golfers Society