

**8<sup>th</sup> meeting of Community Involvement Committee on Greening  
(CICG)**

**held on Tuesday, 31 October 2017 at 2:30 pm  
in Room 1821, 18/F, West Wing, CGO, Tamar**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Present**

Chairperson

Miss Joey LAM                      Deputy Secretary (Works) 1  
Development Bureau

Secretary

Ms Deborah KUH                      Head of Greening, Landscape and  
(H/GLTMS)                              Tree Management Section, Development Bureau

Non-official Members

Ms Amy CHAN May-ho

Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP

Mr Alkin KWONG Ching-wai, JP

Mr Christopher LAW Kin Chung, JP

Mrs Miranda LEUNG CHAN Che-ming

Mr Matthew SIN Kar-wah

Ms SO Lai-chun, MH, JP

Ms WONG Kit-lin

Mr YIU Vor

## Official Members

Mr Franco NG	Senior Country Parks Officer (SE) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Mr Terence LAM	Assistant Director (Technical) Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr Pak-keong KWAN	Chief Curriculum Development Officer (Moral, Civic and National Education) Education Bureau
Ms Claire WONG	Assistant Secretary (Community Relations)2 Environmental Protection Department
Ms Magdalen TSE	Assistant Director (Admin) Home Affairs Department
Mr Martin TSOI	Assistant Director (Estate Management)1 Housing Department
Ms Rebecca LOU	Assistant Director (Leisure Services)3 Leisure and Cultural Services Department

## **Absent with apologies**

## Non-official Members

Dr Samuel CHENG Kin-tak

Ms CHICK Hiu-lai

Ms Alice LAM Chui-lin, MH

Ms Dorothy TANG Shun-wai

## **In Attendance**

Miss Esther WAN	SEO(Gen) Home Affairs Department
Ms Christine AU	SLA/Tree Management and Horticulture Housing Department
Ms Wendy OR	Chief Leisure Manager (Green Campaign) Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr Patrick LAU	Former President of the Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects (for Agenda Item No. 5)
Ms Janet WONG (PAS(W)SD)	Principal Assistant Secretary (Works) (Special Duty) Development Bureau
Ms Vina WONG (H/GLO)	Head of Greening and Landscape Office (H/GLO) Development Bureau
<u>Note-taker</u>	
Ms Salina LEE	Assistant Secretary (Greening and Landscape) 3 Development Bureau

## **Action**

### **Agenda Item 1: Opening Remarks**

1. The Chairperson welcomed Members to the 8th meeting of the Community Involvement Committee on Greening (CICG).
2. This was the first meeting for the tenure of 2017-19. The Chairperson introduced Members who joined the Committee for the first time, and returning Members who were re-appointed.

## **Agenda Item 2: Confirmation of last minutes of meeting**

3. Minutes of the 7th meeting were confirmed without amendment.

## **Agenda Item 3: Matters arising from last meeting**

4. The Chairperson noted that the list of matters arising from last meeting was circulated before the meeting. The Chairperson pointed out that the Government was continuously pursuing sustainable development and widening scope to achieve quality landscape to improve the liveability in HK. She thanked Members' advice and support in these initiatives.

## **Agenda Item 4: Urban Landscape (CICG Paper No. 1/2017)**

5. Ms Vina WONG of the Development Bureau (DEVB) introduced the paper with the aid of PowerPoint slides and highlighted the following key issues:

- (a) Progressing from the previous efforts in Greening Master Plans (GMPs), we looked forward to raising the quality of our landscape environment with emphasis on sustainable design and diversified planting;
- (b) The aspiration now and into the future was to foster and establish a more holistic approach towards our urban landscape, based on:
  - Resilient and adaptive landscapes;
  - Enriched vegetation diversity in our city;
  - Robust urban forestry principles; and
  - Enhanced blue and green eco-services networks.
- (c) Project examples from different engineering departments were used to illustrate the above four approaches.

6. Regarding life-cycle planning of trees, a member asked if there was a holistic approach to replace trees with declining health. Ms Vina WONG stated that life-cycle planning required thorough planning to determine a programme to carry out replacement planting for trees with declining health, without sacrificing public enjoyment, e.g. consideration of canopy coverage to provide shade. Ms Deborah KUH of the DEVB highlighted the benefits of a holistic view focusing on the entire landscape master plan and urban forestry strategy. A tree sits within a landscape, and landscape architecture balances how people may interact with hard and soft landscape elements such as paving, seating, lighting, furniture, landform, trees and vegetation. To achieve our collective aspiration for a sense of place, it was necessary to maintain such a holistic view, instead of focusing on a single element such as only a tree.

7. A member agreed with Government's approach which emphasised quality over quantity, and highlighted the following key learnings from past experience:

- (a) Quality of Tree Planting – Tree species selection should preferably be structurally safe species, and species susceptible to fungal infestation should be avoided, unless close monitoring and maintenance could be provided;
- (b) Quality of Design – We should promote quality landscape design with due consideration of both hard and soft elements to increase public satisfaction and appreciation, and avoid vandalism simultaneously. Good design could elevate the image of Hong Kong as a metropolitan city;
- (c) Quality of Tree Maintenance – We should upkeep the standard and quality of tree maintenance works to avoid poor pruning works including but not limited to topping, which cause detrimental effect to tree health;
- (d) Promotion of Proper Tree Care – the Government should continuously promote the importance of proper tree care and maintenance in both the public and private sectors, especially before and after typhoon, aiming at reducing incidence of tree failure.

8. The Chairperson thanked the member's advice, which resonated with Government's policy directions. She said that

GLTMS was conducting a Consultancy Study on Street Ecology Strategy for Hong Kong, which covered species selection. The findings would be available in 2018. To promote proper tree care and training, we sought to uplift the capabilities of industry practitioners including arborists by establishing qualifications requirements to upkeep the competency standards with an aim to foster tree safety. Moreover, as tree maintenance was part and parcel of property management, we promulgated the Handbook on Tree Management in 2016 to promote proper tree care in private properties.

9. A member asked how to ensure compliance with the policy advocated by DEVB. The Chairperson explained that departments had the professional expertise, including Landscape Architects, who would incorporate the directions set out by DEVB in their works and programmes.

10. Mr Terence LAM of CEDD shared experience of aligning with DEVB's policy on promoting vegetation diversity and sound urban forestry principles. He said that all landscape works of CEDD including Greening Master Plans (GMPs), soil erosion control planting on natural hillsides and greening works associated with the Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme (LPMitP) followed the principles of vegetation diversity and urban forestry, including use of native species promoted by DEVB. He took the LPMitP as an example to illustrate CEDD's commitment in enhancing landscape and ecological environment in works projects. A risk based priority ranking system is adopted to select the most deserving man-made slopes and natural hillside catchments for studies and implementation of landslide prevention and mitigation works. As part of the annual commitment of upgrading 150 man-made Government slopes and implementation of landslide mitigation works for 30 natural hillside catchments under LPMitP, landscape treatments would also be introduced with a view to creating a visually acceptable and ecological sustainable environment. About 300 000 plants had been planted each year and over 90% of them were native species. He also advised the meeting that the GMPs for urban areas and the northwest New Territories had been completed, and GMPs for the southwest New Territories had been developed.

11. Ms Vina WONG of the DEVB supplemented that DEVB coordinated policy matters and encouraged departments to incorporate into their works for long-term benefits. With the expertise of departments, the policy directions were adopted and merged into various work stages, from project planning, implementation to maintenance, to reflect application of policy with consistency.

12. Regarding governance, a member enquired how to refine policy, with constraints encountered by departments. The Chairperson responded that through experience sharing, seminars or training sessions, we exchanged lessons-learnt evaluated the pros and cons of different design ideas, and considered the constraints for future policy application, with a view to consolidating best practices. Ms Vina WONG supplemented that for large scale projects, DEVB would usually be involved from onset of projects to instil relevant policy directions in departmental works.

13. A member appreciated the effort of GMP at a district scale. Towards the future, he looked to holistic and city-scale landscape planning, from our Country Parks' core and fringes, to surrounding Green Belts and Conservation Areas, to sub-urban areas with villages, to urban areas and the open spaces within. He understood that many departments were involved in a holistic landscape plan. As such, he requested the Government to enhance cooperation and coordination amongst departments. The Chairperson agreed and said that this was the responsibility of GLTMS.

14. A member supported the idea of urban forestry and a holistic approach on urban landscape through comprehensive planning of our city. The member said that in Singapore the Government was determined to create green space in the city, such as vertical greening, green roofs, and large open space in the city, e.g. Gardens by the Bay. The Chairperson thanked the member's sharing, and said that Hong Kong also had lots of interesting examples, such as the new Children's Hospital in Kai Tak with green roof and other landscape facilities, which was a good example of quality landscape design in public works. Besides, our new land leases required of minimum greenery coverage ranging from 20% to 30%.

15. A member suggested increasing the level of public involvement to raise the sense of ownership of the surrounding environment. Public communication such as forum or workshop at district level could tap their ideas on landscape design and choice of plant species. The Chairperson agreed with the idea. She said that we would step up publicity in rolling out major landscape projects. She foreshadowed that in the near future two projects adopting new concepts of vegetation diversity would be completed, namely the Rain Garden at Wylie Road, and a landscape roundabout at Tung Chung. Publicity and educational activities would be arranged to engage the public.

16. Quoting an example in Taiwan on public engagement in fireflies protection, which increased the community's sense of responsibility to protect the environment, A member highlighted the positive impact of public involvement, in particular in reducing vandalism. The member suggested community engagement activities for tree and replacement planting programmes, e.g. Highway Department's efforts of removing *Acacia*, to educate the public on vegetation diversity. The member had also provided the following written comments by email prior to the meeting —

- (a) in promoting use of native plant species, the goal was to enrich biodiversity of Hong Kong;
- (b) in promoting “Right Tree Right Place”, comprehensive guidelines for different types of public works on species selection including management considerations should be developed;
- (c) in educating the public on vegetation diversity, interesting information should be made accessible to the public, e.g. by designing signage for trees with QR codes linking to further information, or mobile App on “HK City Plants”.



**Agenda Item 5: Place-based Landscape**  
**(CICG Paper No. 2/2017)**

17. Ms Vina WONG of the DEVB introduced the paper with the aid of PowerPoint slides and highlighted the following key issues:

- (a) Landscape is more than planting vegetation. Good planning and design of outdoor spaces would help foster a sense of belonging;
- (b) Streets were an important part of the urban landscape. We should make our street environment interesting, comfortable and walkable.

18. A presentation was made with the aid of PowerPoint slides to introduce the role of Landscape Architecture in the planning, design and management of outdoor space to achieve sustainable landscape development and urban forestry goals, enhance liveability in urban area, and overcome the challenges of urbanisation.

19. The Chairperson thanked the sharing, and invited Members' views.

20. A member said that we should increase the level of community involvement by organising more planting events, e.g. competitions, selection of thematic plant species to represent different districts, etc. so as to seek community support of Government's efforts and enhance social harmony. The member said that the property management sector would welcome competitions. The member emphasised that safety should be of paramount importance in designing vegetation for constrained sites to address competing uses among pedestrians, trees and carriageway. Moreover, plants of seasonal attraction could be considered to attract tourists such as Sakura in Japan. The member also pointed out that green roof should be promoted for its benefits in terms of increasing landscape area and heat reduction.

21. On promotion and education, a member said that talks or seminars should continue to be organised for the community, including industry practitioners, community organisations and

property management companies. The Symposium on Brown Root Rot Disease Management and Seminar on Pre-set Season Precautionary Measures organised in 2017 were welcomed by the public with high attendance rate.

22. A member agreed with the direction towards sustainable urban landscape design carrying environmental benefits, e.g. temperature reduction. In tree maintenance, use of excessive chemicals should be avoided. The Chairperson agreed and stated that DEVB would remind departments. GLTMS

23. A member welcomed increasing landscape areas such as roadside and parks but stressed the importance of mosquito control. To promote healthy lifestyle, she also recommended providing more jogging trails in different districts with appropriate paving materials. The Chairperson would to relay the suggestion to the Leisure and Culture Services Department. GLTMS

24. A member, with the aid of PowerPoint slides, introduced the concepts of “Place-making” and co-creating with the community in maximising the value of landscape design and contribution to liveability. It was pointed out that social and cultural factors, history of a community, and public involvement were the keys to reflect public need. Community participation helped to build a sense of identity and local pride, making reference to three projects in revitalising Wan Chai, including the Blue House, Luen Fat Street, St. Francis Street and Star Street improvement works.

25. The Chairperson thanked the member for the sharing, and invited Members’ views.

26. A member thanked for presentations, and agreed that addressing the community’s need was of vital importance, and suggested that the Government and District Council should organise forum or workshops for the public to seek their support. The member emphasised the importance of public engagement, which was an effective tool in fostering. Even though not all public views could be implemented due to various constraints, the public would appreciate Government’s effort to listen, consider and explain the rationales behind the ultimate decision.

**Agenda Item 6: Report on Public Education and Community Involvement Activities in 2016 and 2017 (CICG Paper No. 3/2017) [for information]**

27. Ms Vina WONG of the DEVB advised amendment was received from a department and the amended figure would be sent to all bureaux/departments for information and record.

28. Members had no comment on the Information Paper.

29. The Chairperson thanked the various Government departments for their efforts in organising public education and community involvement activities, and encouraged continual efforts in the future.

**Agenda Item 7: Any other business**

30. There being no other business, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:55pm.

**Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section  
Development Bureau  
December 2017**