

**9th Meeting of the
Community Involvement Committee on Greening (CICG)
held on 23 January 2019 at 2:30 pm
in Conference Room 2, West Wing, Central Government Offices**

Notes of Meeting

Present

Chairman

Miss Joey Lam Permanent Secretary (Works) (Ag.)
Deputy Secretary (Works) 1, DEVB

Non-official Members

Ms Amy CHAN
Dr Samuel CHENG
Ms Katie CHICK
Ir Alkin KWONG
Mrs Miranda LEUNG
Mr Matthew SIN
Ms Ann SO
Ms WONG Kit-lin

Official Members

Mr CHEUNG Kwok-wai	Senior Country Parks Officer (Technical Services), AFCD	(SCPO(TS)/AFCD)
Mr Terence LAM	Assistant Director (Technical), CEDD	(AD(T)/CEDD)
Dr Andy TAM	Chief Curriculum Development Officer (Moral, Civic and National Education)1, EDB	(CCDO/EDB)
Ms Harriet CHAN	Senior Executive Officer (Community Relations) 2, EPD	(SEO(CR)2/EPD)
Mr Benedict WONG	Chief Executive Officer (Admin) 3, HAD	(CEO(A)3/HAD)
Mrs Helen CHEUNG	Chief Manager/Management (Hong Kong Island and Islands), HD	(CM/M(HK&I)/HD)
Mr Simon LIU	Assistant Director (Leisure Services) 3, LCSD	(AD(LS)3/LCSD)

Secretary

Miss Janet WONG Head of Greening, Landscape and
Tree Management Section, DEVB (H/GLTMS)

Absent with Apologies

Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan
Mr Christopher LAW
Ms Dorothy TANG
Mr YIU Vor

In Attendance

Ms Christine AU	Senior Landscape Architect/Tree Management and Horticulture, HD	(SLA/TM&H/HD)
Mr David CHAIONG	Chief Leisure Manager (Passive Amenities), LCSD	(CLM(PA)/LCSD)
Ms Vina WONG	Head of Greening and Landscape Office, DEVB	(H/GLO)
Ms Florence KO	Head of Tree Management Office, DEVB	(H/TMO)
Ms Louisa NGAI	Assistant Secretary (Greening and Landscape) 1, DEVB	(AS(GL)1)
Ms Olivia CHEUNG	Assistant Secretary (Tree Management) 3, DEVB	(AS(TM)3)

Note-taker

Ms Salina LEE	Assistant Secretary (Greening and Landscape) 3, DEVB	(AS(GL)3)
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Opening remarks

1. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

Item 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting

2. The draft minutes of the 8th meeting held on 31 October 2017 were confirmed without amendment.

Item 2 : Matters arising from the last meeting

3. H/GLO updated Members on the progress of various action items arising from the last meeting, as follows —
 - (a) The “Street Tree Selection Guide” was released in

- December 2018 to provide guidelines on the selection of tree species suitable for Hong Kong's urban street environment;
- (b) The progress on the establishment of the qualification requirements to uplift the standard and quality of tree maintenance works was on schedule;
 - (c) The "Handbook on Tree Management" had been incorporated into the Code of Practice on Building Management and Maintenance under the Building Management Ordinance (Chapter 344), hammering home the message that proper tree management to minimise tree risks was an essential facet of property management;
 - (d) A number of seminars, talks and roving exhibitions had been carried out in 2018, which were detailed in CIG Paper No. 4/2019;
 - (e) Departments were reminded to make proper use of pesticides on vegetation maintenance; and
 - (f) The suggestion of providing more jogging trails in different districts had been relayed to the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD").

**Item 3 : Protocol for removing trees of particular interests
(CIG Paper No. 1/2019)**

- 4. AS(TM)3 briefed Members on the enhanced protocol for removing trees of particular interests. Before making decisions on the removal of such trees, the Government would take into account scientific and objective data and analysis, explore all practicable means to preserve the tree, maintain proper documentation of data collected and conservation proposals considered, and allow sufficient time to engage relevant stakeholders (having regard to the community's sentiments and emotional attachment) in consultation with the District Office to secure buy-in as far as practicable.
- 5. A Member remarked that the general public should be encouraged to report potential problematic trees, and that technologies (e.g. sirens for tilted trees) might help alert property owners to potential tree problems. The suggestion that a "Tree Care" programme should be organised to encourage owners' corporations and the public to pay attention to the trees in their neighbourhood to alleviate the workload of

the Government was made. The same Member said that training opportunities leading to recognised qualifications should be provided to attract more people to join the industry. The Chairman concurred and briefed Members on the ongoing efforts of the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section (“GLTMS”) to pilot new technologies, including tree tilt sensors and drones.

6. A Member supported the enhanced protocol as it made public engagement a requirement. The same Member asked the length of the public engagement process and whether departments would proceed with tree removal if the health of the tree showed improvement. Moreover, whether the enhanced protocol would be adopted only by departments maintaining Old and Valuable Trees and stonewall trees was also raised. The Chairman clarified that routine inspections could identify trees in declining health. The concerned tree management department would then work with the GLTMS to formulate a public engagement plan under the enhanced protocol. The protocol would be applicable to trees significant to the community, not only Old and Valuable Trees and stonewall trees. The length of public engagement depended very much on the merits of different cases. If the health of the tree in question subsequently improved, there was no need to remove it.
7. A Member considered that proactive communication was important even for trees with imminent need for removal. The protocol should identify key stakeholders to be covered in the engagement plan, especially under emergency situations. The Chairman agreed that practicable actions would be taken to engage the public through District Council and District Councillors, and advised that the public should call “1823” to report trees with potential danger. Noting the Member’s experience, the GLTMS would discuss with “1823” with a view to improving the response of “1823”.
8. A Member suggested the Government to strengthen public education on identification of problematic trees in private properties, and to arrange more training for parties managing private properties such as owners’ corporations, property management companies and security guards. The Chairman concurred.
9. A Member opined that the GLTMS should apply the enhanced

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protocol to “Champion Trees” and protected tree species as well. The Chairman said the categories of trees to be included in the enhanced protocol would be reviewed.

GLTMS

10. AD(LS)3/LCSD asked if the GLTMS had a list of experts for consultation on tree health. The Chairman explained that the GLTMS was considering a review panel of three to four local and overseas experts to provide independent views as and when necessary.

**Item 4 : Post-typhoon Mangkhut review
(CICG Paper No. 2/2019)**

11. AS(GL)1 briefed Members on the tree failure patterns during Typhoon Mangkhut. She said that Government departments would take the opportunity of post-typhoon replanting to apply better tree planting practices, which included improvement to the planting environment, proper selection of tree species, tree maintenance and timely mitigation.
12. A Member commented that debris clearance works in some areas were slow and there was room for improvement. On publicity, he suggested that the GLTMS should proactively announce the clearance arrangements to the public, analyse tree failure patterns including locations and species of the collapsed trees, and explore better use of the tree waste generated. The same Member also suggested that the Government should provide guidelines on planting trees on slopes to private property owners and property management companies, and consult experts on suitable timing to replant. AD(T)/CEDD advised that the Civil Engineering and Development Department (“CEDD”) had issued guidelines on tree planting on slopes. He would share the information after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: Guidelines on landscape treatment of slopes issued by CEDD were circulated to Members on 29 April 2019.)

13. A Member appreciated the Government’s effort in clearing the collapsed trees after the typhoon, and said trees with potential stability problems reflected by tilted tree trunks and loosened root balls after typhoon should be further inspected. Besides, the same Member suggested that the Government should

invite volunteers to clean up their local communities after typhoon, with appreciation letters as encouragement.

14. A Member also appreciated the Government's post-typhoon clearance effort, and suggested that we should remind private property owners to engage qualified professionals to inspect their trees before the next wet season, particularly those with potential structural damage after Typhoon Mangkhut. The Member asked the Government to engage the community to discuss replanting opportunities and arrangements, and suggested that the Government should remind the public that chainsaws should be operated by trained workers only.
15. A Member said that the trees which survived Typhoon Mangkhut required thorough inspection since the wounds and defects caused by the typhoon could not be detected immediately. Besides, the Member suggested that the Education Bureau ("EDB") should provide assistance to schools (e.g. offering contractors for clearance of collapsed trees after typhoon), and encouraged the Government to deal with tree waste holistically. SEO(CR)2/EPD said that the Environmental Protection Department ("EPD") had a treatment centre in Ngau Tam Mei. Given the large quantity of tree waste after Typhoon Mangkhut, the majority of tree waste ended up in the landfill. EPD would review the arrangement, and provide information on the treatment of collapsed trees after Typhoon Mangkhut after the meeting.
16. A Member suggested that the Government should provide financial assistance to schools on replanting. AD(LS)3/LCSD advised that under the "Greening School Subsidy Scheme" ("綠化校園資助計劃"), schools could apply for funding for planting and re-planting.
17. A Member shared her experience in mobilising volunteers to work for the community in post-Mangkhut clearance. The same Member suggested that district volunteer teams could be set up to support post-typhoon clearance of collapsed trees, which could reinforce the sense of belonging to the local districts.
18. The Chairman responded to Members' suggestions as follows —

EPD

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- (a) Government's strategy on post-typhoon clearance arrangement was to give priority to areas with high pedestrian or traffic flow, followed by areas frequented by the public and then remote areas;
- (b) replanting would commence in spring after reviewing specific site situations and considering suitable tree species. The replanting quantity might be different from the quantity of collapsed trees, as only locations suitable for sustainable tree growth would be replanted;
- (c) the typhoon might have caused hidden damage to trees which might take a longer time to unfold. The Government had already met with tree management departments and Contractors, reminding them to pay extra attention during tree inspections. The GLTMS would also remind property management companies before the next wet season;
- (d) on tree workers, the GLTMS had been reviewing measures to attract new practitioners, including developing the Qualifications Framework to recognise qualified training to enable the public to engage qualified tree workers and to ensure the safe use of machinery such as chainsaw by trained workers;
- (e) as regards the treatment of tree waste, only collapsed trees checked to be free from pests and diseases could be reused; and
- (f) the Government appreciated the efforts and help of volunteers from within the Government and private sectors such as contractors in clearing collapsed trees after the typhoon.

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Item 5 : Street Tree Selection Guide (CICG Paper No. 3/2019)

- 19. AS(GL)1 briefed Members on the Street Tree Selection Guide ("Guide") released in December 2018. The Guide featured 80 less commonly used tree species suitable for street planting in Hong Kong, for use by Government departments and reference by interested parties.
- 20. A Member considered the Guide a useful reference, and suggested planting of single tree species in individual small community areas, with the same flowering time or colour to enhance visual interests. The Chairman said that the GLTMS understood the public's preference for thematic planting, and would strike a balance between aesthetic appeal and

vegetation diversity for quality landscape and sustainable urban forestry management.

21. A Member appreciated the educational value of the Guide. He noted that the supply of some of the less common tree species (e.g. 水黃皮、浙江潤楠) could be driven by the demand from public works projects after publication of the Guide. The Chairman stated that the GLTMS had been working with the industry to ascertain supply.
22. A Member noted that the Guide had recommended some suitable species, and suggested including a not-recommended tree species list. The same Member encouraged planting theme trees with flowers by district for the purpose of attracting tourists, and suggested that small trees or palms should be planted along roadside. The Chairman stated that tree species not recommended such as trees with brittle wood structure and undesirable tree species were set out in guidelines promulgated by the GLTMS.

GLTMS

**Item 6 : Training and community engagement activities
(CICG Paper No. 4/2019)**

23. AS(TM)3 briefed Members on the training and community engagement activities organised by the GLTMS in 2018 and the coming activities planned in 2019, such as the Pre-wet Season Programme, school talks, workshops for property managers, training for uniform groups and visits to District Councils. AS(GL)3 briefed Members on GLTMS's participation in Hong Kong Flower Show 2019 to educate the public on tree care.
24. A Member said that social media should be used to engage young people, and also suggested engaging students and parents through a "student ambassadors" scheme.
25. A Member suggested that property management companies could be engaged through competition and recognition to promote awareness. The Member agreed that social media should be used to disseminate training video to reach out to more people.
26. A Member suggested to reach out to senior members of the public through District Offices, such as arranging talks on tree

care.

27. A Member suggested that tree care should be promoted through competition in schools, which would be appealing to youngsters. The same Member suggested that we should reach out to uniform groups, such as the Hong Kong Girl Guides, the Junior Police Call, the Hong Kong Flag-guards and the Boys' Brigade, Hong Kong.
28. A Member suggested that teaching kits on life-cycle of trees and tree care should be produced to educate young people. Three other members all supported the use of teaching kits for primary and secondary school students.
29. A Member said that training on tree care should be targeted at people aged 18 to 24, as this could encourage young people to join the industry.
30. CCDO/EDB said that EDB had been developing a "Life Event" Exemplar (「生活事件」教案) titled "Super Typhoon Mangkhut" to nurture students' positive values towards the natural environment.
31. The Chairman thanked Members for their suggestions. The valuable suggestions on training and community engagement activities would be taken into consideration when the GLTMS drew up the promotion plan.

Item 7 : Any Other Business

32. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.