

**Islands District Council**  
**Paper IDC 103/2002**

**Information Paper on Public Facilities at Ngong Ping**

**Purpose**

This paper presents an overview of proposed enhancements to public facilities at Ngong Ping, which are being planned to complement to the development of the Tung Chung Cable Car System (the Cable Car System).

**Background**

2. In February 2001, the Tourism Commission consulted the Islands District Council (IDC) on the “Preliminary Preferred Alignment” for the Tung Chung Cable Car Project (the Project). The IDC generally expressed support for the Project.

3. Having considered proposals for the Project submitted by a number of private sector entities, the Government entered into a provisional agreement with the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) in July 2002. The project is now targeted for completion in August 2005.

**Plan for Public Facilities at Ngong Ping**

4. The development of the Cable Car System is one of the initiatives to increase the range of major tourism attractions in Hong Kong to promote tourism development. These tourism attractions need to be world-class facilities to enable Hong Kong to maintain its position as the premier city destination for visitors in the region.

5. The provisional agreement with MTRCL will see the development of one of the world’s largest cable car systems set in a spectacular location. In keeping with the Project, the Government needs to ensure public facilities at Ngong Ping are equally of world class standard.

6. The Planning Department consulted the IDC on the draft Ngong Ping Outline Zoning Plan (OZP). The views of the District Council were taken into consideration in amending the draft, which was subsequently published in the Gazette in July 2002 for public inspection (draft Ngong Ping OZP No. S/I-NP/1). The overall planning intention embodied in the draft Ngong Ping OZP is the preservation of the religious and natural character of Ngong Ping while preserving and enhancing its potential as a key tourist destination. Existing Buddhist architecture, including the Di Tan, will be preserved.

7. Various Government departments are taking forward plans for enhancement of the public facilities at Ngong Ping. These are in line with the draft Ngong Ping OZP, and comprises the following key features –

- (a) a new public transport interchange, with car and coach parks and incorporating an additional public toilet and a reprovisioned police post;
- (b) a sewage treatment plant and sewerage works;
- (c) a water supply system;
- (d) a landscaped piazza at the ‘Open Space’ incorporating a pedestrianized area;
- (e) the upgrading of the existing van track to the north of the proposed piazza to allow for access up to the boundary of Po Lin Monastery by vehicles, including franchised buses, coaches and vehicles for goods delivery;
- (f) realignment of the road leading from Ngong Ping Road to the existing columbarium to accommodate the Cable Car Terminal;
- (g) a stormwater drainage system to supplement the existing drainage system, which is inadequate; and
- (h) a new refuse collection point to replace the existing one.

## **Timetable**

8. With the target for commissioning the Cable Car system in August 2005, it is necessary to take forward the plans for enhancement of public facilities at Ngong Ping described at paragraph 7 above in parallel so that they will be in place by the time the Cable Car System comes into operation. (A note on these plans is at the Annex.) In order to meet this tight programme, relevant departments have started to plan work for these projects taking the concept as embodied in the draft Ngong Ping OZP as the working assumption, and refine these, as necessary, subject to the outcome of the Town Planning Board's hearing of objections to the draft. Relevant departments will consult the District Council or its relevant sub-committees, as necessary, in order to bring forward the developments as soon as practicable.

## **Conclusion**

9. Members are invited to note the contents of this paper.

Economic Development and Labour Bureau  
Tourism Commission  
17 October 2002

## **Enhancement of Public Facilities at Ngong Ping**

### **(A) Item/Projects for which there had been earlier consultation with the IDC**

#### **(a) Draft Ngong Ping Outline Zoning Plan (OZP)**

The Planning Department consulted the Council on the draft Ngong Ping OZP on 30.5.2002. Members' views were conveyed to the Town Planning Board for consideration and appropriate revisions to the plan have been made. The draft Ngong Ping OZP No. S/I-NP/1 was subsequently exhibited for public inspection in July for two months. A number of objections were received. These were mainly related to the land use proposals in the core area of Ngong Ping. Planning Department will arrange to submit these objections to the Town Planning Board for consideration under the provision of the Town Planning Ordinance (Cap. 131).

#### **(b) Public Transport Interchange (PTI)**

To cater for the need of vehicular traffic at Ngong Ping and to facilitate the development of a vehicle-free pedestrianised zone with a landscaped piazza, a new PTI with car and coach parks will be constructed west of the comprehensive development area. Transport Department presented the new PTI project to the Traffic & Transport Committee (T&TC) of the Council on 2.9.2002 and will report further to the T & TC at its meeting in early November 2002 having regard to comments of T & TC.

#### **(c) Sewage Treatment Plant (STP)**

A site to the west of the area is designated for a STP to serve Ngong Ping. The construction of the STP and laying of connecting sewers to serve the cable car terminal, existing main public toilets at Ngong Ping and Po Lin Monastery will

be implemented in the project “Ngong Ping Sewage Treatment Plant and Sewerage”. DSD and EPD briefed the Council on the key components of the project at its meetings on 8.4.2002 and 29.7.2002. Design of the sewage treatment plant is in progress.

(d) Water Supply System (WSS)

WSD will provide water supply to the proposed developments at Ngong Ping by constructing a new WSS under PWP item no. 323WF – Provision of Water Supply to Ngong Ping. WSD presented details of the project to the Council at its meeting on 12.8.2002. Members supported the implementation of the new water supply system.

**(B) Projects, the details of which are being developed**

(a) Access road

Taking into account concerns expressed by villagers at Ngong Ping and Po Lin Monastery on the access to the area with the creation of a vehicle-free zone, we are considering the feasibility of upgrading the existing van track to the north of the proposed piazza to a road to allow vehicular access and bus service up to the Po Lin Monastery. Arrangements will be made during the road upgrading works so as not to disturb existing van track users.

(b) Landscaped piazza

A Buddhist themed landscaped piazza with a Chinese garden is proposed for the area zoned “Open Space” in the draft Ngong Ping OZP. It will improve the public space, pedestrian circulation and the connection between places of interest in the core area. It will also provide a gathering ground for visitors during festivities. An expanded and vehicle-free zone for pedestrians in front of the Tian Tan Buddha Statue and the Po Lin Monastery will be provided. The landscaped piazza will improve the overall design of the

area whilst keeping its existing character and function intact. Relevant departments are developing the preliminary design for the area and undertaking preliminary feasibility assessment. We will maintain a close dialogue with Po Lin Monastery and the local community at Ngong Ping in developing the detailed design of the landscaped piazza.

(c) Public toilet and refuse collection point

To meet the needs of an increase in visitors to Ngong Ping, a new public toilet will be provided within the new PTI. A new refuse collection point will also be provided at the G/IC site abutting the upgraded access road.

Territory Development Department  
October 2002