

(Formal reply in Chinese)

Secretariat
Central & Western District Council

**The 5th Meeting of the Central & Western District Council
(C&W/DC) – Matters Arising**

Thank you for your letter of 21.5.2004. Our response to the motion of the C&W/DC which passed at its meeting on 20.5.2004 are appended below –

Public Participation

- (i) The importance of public participation in this Project has all along been given strong emphasis. As stated in our previous written reply (C&W/DC Paper 54/2004), public views have been fully reflected in this heritage tourism development project since we have actively involved all stakeholders, including locals and District Councillors from the very beginning of the Project.
- In the drafting of tender documents and marking scheme of this Project, reference has already been made to public views, including those expressed by Members of the C&W/DC. For instance, in view of the concerns of the C&W/DC on the traffic and environmental issues, the traffic and environmental impact of the proposals will be included as one of the assessment criteria, and full assessment reports on the likely traffic and

environmental impact have to be submitted by relevant proponents for each proposal.

- The District Officer/Central & Western will be invited to take part in the Assessment Panel. He will be able to fully reflect local views during the assessment process. He will also be able to act as an effective bridge between the District Council and this Project.

Monitoring

(ii) As pointed out in our previous reply (C&W/DC Paper 54/2004), there are well-established mechanisms and channels for the Government to collect public views via the District Council and for the public and the District Council to monitor progress and development of the Project.

- To take forward the development proposal at the implementation stage, the successful tenderer will have to fulfill relevant statutory requirements such as the Town Planning Ordinance and the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance. Under the current system, the public and the District Council will be consulted as part of these statutory procedures.
- Relevant Government departments responsible for monitoring the Project in various aspects will report progress of the Project to the District Council from time to time, and solicit District Council's views where necessary.

Conclusion

To conclude, we believe there are and will continue to be active public participation and monitoring of this Project, particularly through the DC under the effective channel of existing mechanisms.

(Miss Patricia So)
for Commissioner for Tourism

c.c. DO/C&W