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The Conservancy Association

會址：香港九龍吳松街 191-197 號突破中心 9 樓

Add.: 9/F., Breakthrough Centre, Woosung Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong

電話 Tel.: (852)2728 6781 傳真 Fax.: (852) 2728 5538

30th November 2010

The Secretary
Town Planning Board

E-mail: tpbpd@pland.gov.hk

Dear Sir/Madam

Comments on So Lo Pun Development Permission Area Plan (DPA) (No: DPA/NE-SLP/1)

The Conservancy Association (CA) is writing to submit our comments on So Lo Pun DPA (No: DPA/NE-SLP/1). Introducing planning control through DPA is necessary to provide planning guidance and impose planning enforcement against various forms of devastation in this area.

CA agrees that the general planning intention of this area should complement Plover Cove Country Park which possesses both high ecological and landscape value. Areas of high conservation value should be protected from encroachment by development and unauthorized work. The seagrass, *Zosterus japonica*, serves high ecological importance as it has only been found at six locations in Hong Kong¹. Designating the seagrass together with the adjacent mangrove community as Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) would offer further protection to the habitats. Another important area should be the stream which is identified by Agricultural, Fisheries and Conservation Department as one of the Ecologically Important Streams in Hong Kong. While it should be zoned as SSSI, designating buffer area for the stream with Conservation Area (“CA”) zone would be necessary to ensure ecological value of the stream.

Feng-shui woodland and secondary forest could also be spotted in So Lo Pun. It should be

¹ Wong, C., Lau, M., Ades, G., Chan, B., & Ng, S.C. (2003). A Pilot Biodiversity Study of the eastern Frontier Closed Area and North East New Territories, June-December 2003

protected by zoning with conservation as its main planning intention, such as “CA”.

It should be reminded that tree removal and excavation work were detected in the subject site in attempt to create so-called “orchard” to revive the village which indeed adversely impact on the landscape character of the Area. To prevent further misuse of the term “agricultural use”, CA suggests to put “agricultural use” under column 2 so that any agricultural activities in this area should be prior to Town Planning Board approval.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ng Hei Man', written in a cursive style.

Ng Hei Man
Campaign Officer