



長春社 Since 1968

The Conservancy Association

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22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019

Town Planning Board  
15/F North Point Government Offices  
333 Java Road, North Point  
Hong Kong

By e-mail: [tpbpd@pland.gov.hk](mailto:tpbpd@pland.gov.hk)

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Comments on the Section 16 Applications No. A/YL-MP/276**

The Conservancy Association (CA) OBJECTS to the captioned application.

Although the application site is within Village Type Development zone (V zone), it is situated in the vicinity of Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which has a planning intention to “conserve and protect the features of special scientific interest such as rare or particular species of fauna and flora and their habitats, corals, woodlands, marshes or areas of geological, ecological or botanical/biological interest”. The Egretty at Mai Po Village has been listed as SSSI since 1979 due to its ecological importance and representativeness. As stated in the Summer 2018 Report of *Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site Waterbird Monitoring Programme 2017-18 – Egretty Counts in Hong Kong with particular reference to the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site* by HKBWS<sup>1</sup>, Mai Po Village was the largest nesting colony in Hong Kong, comprising 20.5% of the total number of nests in Hong Kong. Egretty at Mai Po Village is also a vital part for maintaining the health of the Deep Bay wetland ecosystem.

During breeding period, the egrets would be very sensitive to human disturbance. When seriously disturbed, the birds may even abandon their nests. It is of grave concern that the proposed public vehicle park for private cars, light goods vehicles and coaches will significantly increase the number of people and vehicles to enter the area,

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<sup>1</sup> Anon, 2018. Summer 2018 Report: Egretty Counts in Hong Kong with particular reference to the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site. Report by The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government.



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and thereby increase the level of human disturbances to the nearby SSSI. According to Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), *"The listing of SSSI is primarily an administrative device to alert government departments about the scientific importance of such sites, and that due consideration should be given to conservation when developments at or close to these sites are proposed"*. In view of the sensitivity and ecological importance of the neighboring SSSI, CA opines that TPB and AFCD should object this planning application.

It was noted that a previous application for proposed public car park (A/YL-MP/66) covering the application site was approved in 2000. However, the scale of the public vehicle park in A/YL-MP/276 (Site area: 5443 m<sup>2</sup>) is six times larger than A/YL-MP/66 (Site area: 868 m<sup>2</sup>). That means the potential impacts on ecology from the current application would be magnified as well. TPB should consider carefully in the decision-making process.

Yours faithfully,  
Charlotte Chan  
Campaign Officer  
The Conservancy Association