

Harbourfront Commission

For discussion
on 8 May 2017

HC/02/2017

Progress Report from Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island

REPORTING PERIOD

This progress report covers the period from December 2016 to April 2017.

MEETING(S) HELD AND THE MAJOR OUTCOME, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The Task Force discussed the following issues/items at the two meetings –

Twenty Fifth Meeting – 12 January 2017

(a) Proposed Boardwalk underneath the Island Eastern Corridor

- The Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) reported the progress of Stage 2 Community Engagement (CE2) for the proposed boardwalk underneath the Island Eastern Corridor (IEC).
- Some Members opined that the boardwalk structure was wider than required and it would give rise to additional reclamations, rendering it more difficult for the project to satisfy the requirements of the Protection of the Harbour Ordinance. Majority of the structure should preferably be put underneath IEC. Members would also prefer sufficient facilities on the boardwalk for a wider variety of leisure activities and more connections with nearby residential estates and pedestrian network. CEDD was asked to report back to the Task Force on the views received during CE2 and address Members' comments.

(b) Proposed Temporary Use at the Three Berths Released from Western District Public Cargo Working Area in Kennedy Town

- Members were briefed that after conducting a comprehensive review on the overall operation of Public Cargo Working Areas (PCWAs) in the territory, three berths were released from the Western District PCWA by the Marine Department in August 2016. In response to the request of the Central and Western District Council, the Harbour Unit of the Development Bureau sought Members views on using the released berths to develop a community farm under a short-term tenancy for public enjoyment.
- Members supported the proposed short-term use. Some opined that the proposed leisure farm alone might not be commercially viable and other ancillary uses such as the provision of food and beverage services could be included to help sustain the operation; the local community especially those currently using the site should be engaged on the proposal; non-profit-making organisations could be invited to operate the community farm; and pedestrian connections from the hinterland to the site concerned should be further improved. The Harbour Unit was asked to take into account Members' comments when taking forward the proposal.

Twenty Sixth Meeting – 10 March 2017

(c) Proposed Boardwalk underneath the Island Eastern Corridor – Stage 2 Community Engagement

- CE2 was concluded on 28 January 2017 and CEDD briefed Members on the public views received during the period.
- Member recognised that the project would be important for allowing pedestrian connectivity along the waterfront in the Eastern District. Hence, they would very much like to see an early completion of the project. They noted that some technical constraints were yet to be resolved and different demands and aspirations from the community were heard and ought to be balanced.

- Members suggested that majority of the structure of the boardwalk could be put underneath IEC and different activities as well as land uses might be allowed through shared uses. The amount of level changes along the alignment should also be minimized.
- CEDD was asked to prepare an alternative scheme taking into account Members comments, as well as public views received in CE2 before reporting back to the Task Force in due course.

(d) Clockenflap Music & Arts Festival

- Magnetic Asia Ltd. organised the Clockenflap international music and arts festival at the Central Harbourfront Event Space (CHES) and some adjoining sites between 25 and 27 November 2016. The company shared their experiences of organising the event and suggested to provide permanent event space at the new Central harbourfront.
- Members in general supported that more events could be staged at the harbourfront areas to enhance vibrancy of the waterfront. As for the location for providing permanent event space, further considerations such as demand from the industry, site constraints, nuisance to the surrounding environment and transport support should be given when planning long-term development of the new Central harbourfront, or at other alternative sites such as West Kowloon Cultural District and Kai Tak Development. More temporary sites should be identified and suitable infrastructure could be provided before letting out the sites for organising events.

(e) Operation and Planning for the Central Harbourfront Event Space

- Members noted that after inviting an open tender, the new three-year tenancy of CHES was awarded to the incumbent tenant, Central Venue Management Limited, in November 2016. The tenant reported to the Task Force on their experiences in operating the site in the past three years and the planning for the new term.

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- Members encouraged the tenant to continue organising diversified events for public enjoyment in the upcoming three-year tenancy. Some suggested improving the infrastructure of the site to deal with occasional overflowing of water; erecting flexible perimeter fencing to enable easier access by the public; and spending more efforts to reduce waste produced by events and activities in the site.

(f) A Large Metal Object found during Works of Wan Chai Development Phase II

- CEDD updated Members on the progress of studying the nature of a large metal object found at the seabed near the old Wan Chai Ferry Pier. Members noted that CEDD was procuring consultancy services to conduct a marine archaeological investigation for formulating appropriate conservation options for the object. CEDD was asked to expedite the study process and report back to the Task Force when the result was available. Some opined that opportunity should be seized to display the object at the future waterfront promenade.

Secretariat

**Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island
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