

Task Force on Kai Tak Harbourfront Development

For discussion
on 31 March 2011

TFKT/04/2011

Stage 2 Public Engagement on the Preservation of Lung Tsun Stone Bridge Remnants

PURPOSE

This paper aims to inform Members of the latest progress regarding Stage 2 Public Engagement on the preservation of Lung Tsun Stone Bridge (the Bridge) remnants.

BACKGROUND

2. The Bridge remnants were unearthed between 2008 and 2009 during the archaeological investigations for the Kai Tak Development arranged by the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD). Given the community's interest and concerns on the preservation of the Bridge, CEDD held a two-stage public engagement exercise to collect public views on how best the Bridge remnants can be preserved and presented, under the advice of the Commissioner for Heritage of the Development Bureau as well as in collaboration with the Antiquities and Monuments Office of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the Planning Department.

3. The Stage 1 Public Engagement was carried out in mid 2010, aiming to enhance public understanding of the issue and to seek public views on the overall principles and approaches for the preservation of the Bridge. In this regard, we consulted the Wong Tai Sin and Kowloon City District Councils in May 2010, the Antiquities Advisory Board on 17 May 2010, and the Town Planning Board on 4 June 2010, and conducted two community envisioning workshops cum site visits on 19 and 26 June 2010.

4. The mainstream views collected in the Stage 1 Public Engagement were as follows:

- (a) the Bridge remnants should be preserved "in-situ";

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- (b) all parts of the Bridge remnants should be preserved and displayed;
- (c) damaged or missing parts of the Bridge should not be restored if there is insufficient information so as to avoid any “mock antiquity”;
- (d) the preservation approach should target restoration of the historical ambience of the Bridge, but not deliberate imitation of the past setting. Architectural design of the adjacent buildings should complement the Bridge’s preservation plan;
- (e) connection of the Bridge remnants site with neighbouring heritage resources, in particular with the Kowloon Walled City Park, should be provided;
- (f) the adjacent developments and the underground shopping street should be integrated with the Bridge remnants site;
- (g) installation of armoured glass cover is not preferred as misting would affect viewing;
- (h) installation of real or simulated waterscape for restoring the Bridge’s past setting should be considered; and
- (i) exhibition and other interpretation facilities should be considered.

STAGE 2 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

5. Based on the mainstream views mentioned in paragraph 4 above, the Stage 2 Public Engagement aims at building a consensus with the public on the land requirement for preserving the Bridge remnants as well as on the connectivity with neighbouring heritage resources. Views on the approaches of exhibiting the Bridge remnants will also be collected to provide a basis for future design.

6. Given that the approved Outline Zoning Plan provides for a 10m-wide pedestrian street and the public aspiration for an appropriate

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interpretation/presentation environment for the Bridge remnants, we propose to construct a 25m-wide preservation corridor to provide a more suitable surrounding for public enjoyment and accommodate necessary display facilities.

7. The views collected in the Stage 1 Public Engagement are also adopted in meeting the public aspiration for a more direct connection between the proposed Bridge preservation corridor and Kowloon Walled City Park (KWCP). We are now considering the feasibility of two options both involving a pedestrian crossing across Prince Edward Road East (PERE) for further connection to the KWCP via Shek Ku Lung Road Playground and Carpenter Road Park.

Option 1 – Elevated Walkway Option

- to cross PERE via the curvilinear landscaped elevated walkway as delineated in the approved Kai Tak Outline Zoning Plan;

Option 2 – Subway Option

- to provide a pedestrian subway across PERE.

Both the Elevated Walkway Option and the Subway Option have their own merits. We need to achieve a consensus on adopting either of them as well as rationalizing the pedestrian crossing facilities along PERE.

8. A consensus building workshop was held on 22 January 2011, which was attended by about 100 participants. We invited Dr Joseph Ting to speak on the historical and social aspects of the Bridge, and Mr Christopher Law, a practicing architect, to speak on examples of heritage conservation approaches worldwide and the means of heritage interpretation with a view to raising public awareness on the subject.

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9. At the workshop, initial public views were collected. The proposed width of the preservation corridor (not less than 25m) and connection to the KWCP via a pedestrian subway across PERE were supported by the majority of the workshop participants. There were also discussions on the rationalization of the pedestrian crossing facilities along PERE and the corresponding curtailment of the proposed curvilinear landscaped elevated walkway. Views on the ambience of the preservation corridor, mode of appreciation, preservation and display approaches, and exhibition facilities were also collected at the workshop. These views would provide the basis for future formulation of design guidelines.

10. The Stage 2 Public Engagement also involves consultations with Wong Tai Sin and Kowloon City District Councils, the Antiquities Advisory Board, the Town Planning Board, and relevant professional institutes with a view to striking a proper balance between conservation and development in Kai Tak. Public views are collected via letter, telephone and email, and the summary will be uploaded to the website www.ktd.gov.hk.

ADVICE SOUGHT

11. Members are invited to note the progress above and comment on the arrangements for the Stage 2 Public Engagement.

**Civil Engineering and Development Department
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