

(Translation)

Islands District Council
Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries and Environmental Hygiene Committee
Paper TAFEHC 30/2016

Question on conversion of the lawn near
Discovery Bay Recreation Club into golf cart parking lot

Ms. Amy YUNG notified this Council that she will raise the following enquiry at the Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries and Environmental Hygiene Committee meeting to be held on 30 May this year:

“ At present, only members are allowed to enter the Discovery Bay Recreation Club (DBRC) and use the recreational facilities therein. The Discovery Bay (DB) Developer, without permission, recently converted a lawn beside the swimming pool and the tennis court of DBRC into a golf cart parking lot with 140 parking spaces. On 16 May this year, it started dredging and removing the grass. As some DB residents launched signature campaigns online twice and collected over 1 000 signatures, the DB Developer reduced the number of parking spaces to 90.

That said, many DB residents object to convert the lawn into a golf cart parking lot. First, approval has not yet been obtained from the Lands Department for a change of land use. In response to my enquiry about the use of the lawn, the Planning Department (PlanD) replied on 25 March this year that the lawn was zoned “Other Specified Uses” while “Golf Cart Parking” or “Vehicle Parking Area” was not a permitted use. In other words, the DB Developer is required to submit an application for approval from the Town Planning Board for any changes of land use but the DB Developer paid no attention and continued with the works. Second, many children play on the lawn and if the application is approved, the pedestrians will be put at risk. The recreational space for children will also be reduced. Third, the golf carts in DB run on diesel and the large amount of exhaust gas emitted will affect members of DBRC who are carrying out recreational activities. Finally, Club Siena also accepts members but provides only 16 golf cart parking spaces, leading DB residents to question whether the 90 golf cart parking spaces to be provided by DB Developer in DBRC are excessive.

As such, I request the District Lands Office, Islands and the PlanD to arrange the representatives to attend the meeting and answer the following questions:

1. PlanD stated in reply that the relevant government authorities would take appropriate action if the Developer converted the lawn into a golf cart parking lot without authorization. What is the “appropriate action”?
2. How will the departments handle such cases of unauthorized conversion works by developers?
3. Is it appropriate to convert the lawn beside DBRC into a golf cart parking lot? ”

Islands District Council Secretariat

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