

Islands District Council

Paper IDC 29/2009

The Findings and Recommendations of
Improvement Works for Mui Wo Facelift - Feasibility Study

Objective

This paper serves to present the findings and recommendations of the project including the preliminary design and the implementation programmes of the proposed improvement works in Mui Wo to the members of Islands District Council, and seek members' advice and support on the project.

Background

2. In late 2004, the Government proposed a Concept Plan for Lantau ("Concept Plan"), which aimed to provide a balanced, integrated approach to development and conservation and a coherent planning framework for Lantau as a whole. Taking into account the public comments and suggestions received, Planning Department drew up the Land Use Concept Plans for Facelift of Mui Wo in mid of 2006 and organized a Local Forum in November 2006 with continuous consultation up to January 2007.

3. In view of the public support for local improvement works at Mui Wo, the Government included the improvement works for Facelift of Mui Wo in the Revised Concept Plan for Lantau released in May 2007.

4. A feasibility study on "Improvement Works for Mui Wo Facelift" (IWMWF) was awarded by the Civil Engineering and Development to Meinhardt Infrastructure and Environment Ltd. in June 2007 to assess the details of the proposals.

Public Forums

5. The First and Second Public Forums were held for the feasibility study on IWMWF on 8 September 2007 and 31 May 2008 respectively. With public views collected from the First Public Forum,

we carried out analysis and further study. The enhanced proposals were presented in the Second Public Forum to invite public views to establish general consensus. Please refer to Figure 1 for the Process for Formulation of Enhanced Proposals.

6. In the second public forum, the public generally supported the improvement items which had been identified for early implementation. These improvement items include: -

- i) Improvement of the North Waterfront Promenade - A new 5-metre wide passage along waterfront will be constructed to provide a pedestrian walkway and the existing path will be converted to a cycle track. The provision of a segregated pedestrian walkway and cycle track will improve the existing circulation and safety of pedestrians and cycles between the old town and ferry pier.
- ii) Provision of convenient and comfortable amenity areas in Mui Wo Town and the vicinity of the existing attractions (including the entrance of Silvermine Cave and near Silvermine Waterfall) - e.g., carrying out the enhancement works, building / improving rain shelters and providing 20 cycle parking spaces subject to the local needs.
- iii) Improvement of Visitor Information and Signage - Clear, concise and consistent signages will replace different types of the existing signages.
- iv) Realignment of Mui Wo Ferry Pier Road and improvement to Car Park - The existing car park will be extended to the north, enlarged and improved with landscape treatments to consolidate car parking around ferry pier area. The realigned road will improve access of heavy vehicles to areas in the southern part of Mui Wo. All the existing trees will be retained except one, which needed to be transplanted.

7. The public also supported in principle the other improvement items and provided valuable suggestions/views, mainly on details of the design. They can be taken into account in the detailed design stage to enhance the design. The public also requested for public engagement during the detailed design stage of these items. The items include: -

- i) New Cooked Food Market and Covered Cycle Parking Area - The Cooked Food Market will be rebuilt to improve the dining facilities and provide an ideal dining place for customers. A Covered Cycle Parking Area under the Cooked Food Market will replace the current cycle parking areas next to the ferry pier.
- ii) Improvement of the South Waterfront Promenade – The existing cargo loading / unloading area and car park will be redeveloped to South Waterfront Promenade with an avenue lined with trees on both sides, shrubs, seating areas, children’s playground and look-out points (existing kaito pier to be retained).
- iii) Enhancement of the Entrance Plaza - A new plaza outside the ferry terminal will provide a safe environment for pedestrian congregation and movement. Covered walkways will provide safe access to the relocated bus terminus and the new Cooked Food Market.
- iv) Improvement of the Civic Square - A new characterised avenue will link the waterfront promenade to the main Civic Square and the Old Town. The scheme utilises existing trees and spaces. New trees and paving will create new attraction points for residents and visitors, e.g. a large, open performance square (outside the market) and shaded seating areas.
- v) Provision of Cycle Track and Heritage Trail - The cycle network around the Mui Wo villages will be improved to provide safe and easy access to visitor attractions and the villages. Signages and information boards will be provided to ensure visitors getting the best of what Mui Wo offers.

Preliminary Design Details

8. By considering views from the public and relevant government departments, the consultants have completed the preliminary design of the proposed IWMWF including the layouts and landscape designs. In addition, the Consultants also conducted impact assessments on the traffic, drainage, sewerage, water supply and utilities, sustainability and archaeological, land requirement, environmental protection, public safety and geotechnical issues and recommended the respective precautions and mitigation measures.

Please refer to Figure 2 for the Layout Plan of IWMWF and Figure 3 for the Layout and Landscape Design Plan.

Implementation Programme

9. We plan to engage consultants to carry out the detailed design in mid-2009. The proposed improvement works will be implemented in 3 phases. The first phase includes those items which were generally supported by the public and do not require land resumption nor gazetting under Roads (Works, Use and Compensation) Ordinance or Foreshore and Sea-bed (Reclamations) Ordinance: i) Amenity Areas and Cycle Parking Areas in Mui Wo Town and Villages; and ii) Visitor Information and Signage. The second phase includes those items which were generally supported by the public and do not require land resumption, but require to follow the gazettal procedures of Roads (Works, Use and Compensation) Ordinance or Foreshore and Sea-bed (Reclamations) Ordinance: i) North Waterfront Promenade; and ii) Realignment of Mui Wo Ferry Pier Road and Modification of Car Park. The remaining items will be included in the last phase: i) Reprovisioned Cooked Food Market and Covered Cycle Parking Area; ii) Entrance Plaza; iii) South Waterfront Promenade; iv) Civic Square; v) Cycle Track and Heritage Trail; and vi) Reprovisioned Cargo Loading and Unloading Area. We anticipate to commence the construction works of the first phase in early 2010 and complete all the works in 2014.

Consultation

10. Members are invited to give comments and support on the project.

Hong Kong Island and Islands Development Office,
Civil Engineering and Development Department
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