

Report on the progress of the Nan Lian Garden project And the mode of its future management and operation

Purpose

This paper seeks to report to Members on the progress of the Nan Lian Garden project and the mode of its future management and operation.

Progress of the Nan Lian Garden project

2. Hammer Hill Park was constructed in two phases. The first phase, which was completed and open for use in May 2000, occupies an area of about 1.47 hectares and consists of four parts, namely the Eastern Lotus Pond Garden, the Western Lotus Pond Garden, the Lotus Pond Garden and the Landscaped Deck. It is located on the northern part of Fung Tak Road, adjacent to the Chi Lin Nunnery's wooden Buddhist temple structures in Tang Dynasty style. The second phase development of the Park (i.e. the Nan Lian Garden) occupying an area of about 3.5 hectares was commenced in mid-2003 and the Nan Lian Garden will be open to the public from late 2006. Please refer to the location plan (*Annex I*) for details.

3. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) consulted the Leisure and Cultural Services Committee (the Committee) under the Wong Tai Sin District Council (WTSDC) on 15 January and 24 September 2002 about the project design of the Nan Lian Garden. Support from the Committee was obtained for modelling the Garden on the Tang Dynasty architecture to complement the adjacent Eastern Lotus Pond Garden, the Western Lotus Pond Garden, the Lotus Pond Garden and the ancient style wooden structures of the Chi Lin Nunnery. The development will become a unique architectural complex in Tang Dynasty style and a garden with Chinese cultural characteristics.

4. In view of the fact that the Chi Lin Nunnery has profound knowledge and rich experience in classical Chinese Architecture and landscape design, in particular the Tang Dynasty architecture, the LCSD entrusted the Nunnery with the design, construction and supervision of the Garden project in 2003. The infrastructural works for the whole Nan

Lian Garden, at a cost of \$177M, were funded by the Government. As regards the works for building the artistic garden and pond structures in Tang Dynasty style, such as the single-block timbered structures (including a pavilion (閣), a waterside pavilion (榭), a veranda (軒) and a house (館)), pavilions in different shapes and styles (a grass pavilion (草亭), a pavilion on winding paths and rippling water (洄漣亭), a square pavilion (方亭) and an intelligence pavilion (智慧亭)), bridges (a pavilion bridge (亭橋), a Zi bridge (子橋) and a Wu bridge (午橋)), a Tang official gate (烏頭門), a timbered screen wall (木構影壁), a classical ornamental stone terrace (蓮臺) and trees (topiary and natural old trees), they were funded by the Chi Lin Nunnery as a form of donation to the community in respect of culture and arts.

5. The construction of the Nan Lian Garden was basically completed in the middle of this year. The LCSD and the Chi Lin Nunnery will follow up some project details which are to be completed or improved, the internal decoration and venue opening arrangement, etc. It is estimated that the Garden will be open for public use by the end of this year.

Mode of Future Management and Operation of the Nan Lian Garden

6. As a government park to be managed under the Pleasure Grounds Regulation, the Nan Lian Garden (except designated fee-charging facilities) will be open for public use free of charge like other parks. As the Garden is modelled on the Tang Dynasty architectural style with distinctive timbered structures, rockery and abundant old trees, its unique ancient landscape and architectural design can only be preserved if it is managed and maintained by professionals with good knowledge of Chinese culture and relevant experience. The daily management and maintenance methods of the Nan Lian Garden should therefore differ from those of other parks. The Chi Lin Nunnery has been committed to promoting and spreading Chinese culture especially in respect of Chinese landscape and is well equipped with profound knowledge and vast experience in construction and maintenance of Tang Dynasty style landscape and architecture. Hence, the Nunnery is very suitable to undertake the management of the Garden. Moreover, the Nunnery has not only borne part of the construction cost of the Garden but has also been entrusted by the Government with the design and construction of the Garden. For these reasons, the LCSD will invite the Chi Lin Nunnery to be the Government's trustee responsible for the management and operation of the Nan Lian Garden for a period of five years at a nominal

management fee. The management work includes maintenance and repair of horticultural amenities as well as daily cleansing, security and operation of the facilities such as a souvenir shop, a vegetarian food restaurant, a tea house, a multi-purpose room and a car park in the Garden. An entrustment agreement will be signed between the LCSD and the Chi Lin Nunnery.

The Advisory Board of the Nan Lian Garden

7. We expect that the Nan Lian Garden will develop into a platform for the promotion of unique Chinese traditions and enable the whole population of Hong Kong to have an understanding of the Tang Dynasty culture. To ensure the effective operation of the Garden, the Administration will establish an advisory board to advise on the management and operation of the Garden. Members of the advisory board include representatives from government departments and the Chi Lin Nunnery, as well as personalities in the cultural discipline and professionals. They will be appointed by the Secretary for Home Affairs. We would also like to invite the WTSDC to appoint a representative to sit on the advisory board so as to reflect the views of local residents.

Presentation

8. This paper will be presented to the WTSDC at its 17th meeting to be held on 27 June 2006. It seeks to report to Members on the Administration's decision to invite the Chi Lin Nunnery to undertake the management of the Nan Lian Garden. Moreover, we will also invite the WTSDC to appoint a representative to sit on the advisory board so as to reflect the views of local residents.

Wong Tai Sin District Leisure Services Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
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Location Plan of Hammer Hill Park and
the Nan Lian Garden

