

Approved Tin Shui Wai Outline Zoning Plan amended

The Town Planning Board today (April 12) announced amendments to the approved Tin Shui Wai Outline Zoning Plan (OZP).

The amendments mainly involve (i) rezoning a site in Tin Shui Wai Area 14 from "Other Specified Uses" annotated "Bus Depot", "Government, Institution or Community" ("G/IC") and area shown as 'Road' to "Residential (Group A)2"; (ii) rezoning two sites in Tin Shui Wai Areas 115 and 112 from "Comprehensive Development Area" ("CDA") to "Residential (Group B)3" and "Residential (Group B)4" respectively; (iii) rezoning a site at the junction of Tin Yip Road and Tin Kwai Road from "Other Specified Uses" annotated "Telephone Exchange" to "G/IC"; and (iv) rezoning two strips of land in Tin Shui Wai Areas 112 and 115 from "CDA" to area shown as 'Road' to reflect the as-built conditions.

The Notes and Explanatory Statement of the OZP are amended to take into account the above amendments. Opportunity is also taken to update the general information of various land use zones and the planning scheme area, where appropriate.

The draft Tin Shui Wai OZP No. S/TSW/17, incorporating the amendments, is available for public inspection during office hours at (i) the Secretariat of the Town Planning Board, (ii) the Planning Enquiry Counters, (iii) the Tuen Mun and Yuen Long West District Planning Office, (iv) the Yuen Long District Office and (v) the Ping Shan Rural Committee.

Any person may make written representations in respect of the amendments to the Secretary of the Town Planning Board on or before June 12. Any person who intends to make a representation is advised to read the Town Planning Board Guidelines No. 29C on "Submission and Processing of Representations and Further Representations" (TPB PG-No. 29C).

Submission of a representation should comply with the requirements set out in TPB PG-No. 29C. In particular, the representer should take note of the following:

- * If the representer fails to provide his or her full name and the first four alphanumeric characters of his or her Hong Kong identity card or passport number as required under TPB PG-No. 29C, the representation submitted shall be treated as not having been made; and
- * The Secretariat of the Town Planning Board reserves the right to require the representer to provide identity proof for verification.

The Guidelines and the submission form are available at the above locations (i) and (ii) and the Town Planning Board's website (www.tpb.gov.hk).

Copies of the draft Tin Shui Wai OZP are available for sale at the Map Publications Centres in North Point and Yau Ma Tei. The electronic version of the OZP can be viewed on the Town Planning Board's website (www.tpb.gov.hk).

Approved Discovery Bay Outline Zoning Plan amended

The Town Planning Board today (April 12) announced amendments to the approved Discovery Bay Outline Zoning Plan (OZP).

The amendments mainly involve (i) rezoning a site to the north of Discovery Valley Road from "Other Specified Uses" ("OU") annotated "Staff Quarters (5)" to "Residential (Group C) 12" ("R(C)12") for residential development; and (ii) incorporation of two sea areas in Nim Shue Wan into the planning scheme area, zoning the sea areas and rezoning the adjoining site near Nim Shue Wan from various zones to "R(C)13", "R(C)14", "R(C)15", "OU" annotated "Residential Development with Service Area Below", "OU" annotated "Sports and Recreation Club (4)" stipulating as Area B and "OU" annotated "Helicopter Landing Pad" for residential development with servicing facilities, sports and recreational facilities, and a helipad.

The Notes and Explanatory Statement of the OZP are amended to take into account the above amendments. Opportunity is also taken to update the general information of various land use zones and the planning scheme area, where appropriate.

The draft Discovery Bay OZP No. S/I-DB/5, incorporating the amendments, is available for public inspection during office hours at (i) the Secretariat of the Town Planning Board, (ii) the Planning Enquiry Counters, (iii) the Sai Kung and Islands District Planning Office and (iv) the Islands District Offices.

Any person may make written representations in respect of the amendments to the Secretary of the Town Planning Board on or before June 12. Any person who intends to make a representation is advised to read the Town Planning Board Guidelines No. 29C on "Submission and Processing of Representations and Further Representations" (TPB PG-No. 29C).

Submission of a representation should comply with the requirements set out in TPB PG-No. 29C. In particular, the representer should take note of the following:

* If the representer fails to provide his or her full name and the first four alphanumeric characters of his or her Hong Kong identity card or passport number as required under TPB PG-No. 29C, the representation submitted shall be treated as not having been made; and

* The Secretariat of the Town Planning Board reserves the right to require the representer to provide identity proof for verification.

The Guidelines and the submission form are available at the above locations (i) and (ii) and the Town Planning Board's website (www.tpb.gov.hk).

Copies of the draft Discovery Bay OZP are available for sale at the Map Publications Centres in North Point and Yau Ma Tei. The electronic version of the OZP can be viewed at the Town Planning Board's website (www.tpb.gov.hk).

Grading of beach water quality released

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (April 12) released the latest grading of water quality for 39 gazetted beaches (see Note 1) and one non-gazetted beach (see Note 2).

Thirty-two beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1), seven as Fair (Grade 2) and one as Very Poor (Grade 4).

Grade 1 beaches are:

Big Wave Bay Beach*	Lo So Shing Beach
Cafeteria New Beach	Lower Cheung Sha Beach
Cafeteria Old Beach	Middle Bay Beach
Cheung Chau Tung Wan Beach*	Pui O Beach*
Chung Hom Kok Beach	Repulse Bay Beach*
Clear Water Bay First Beach	Shek O Beach*
Clear Water Bay Second Beach*	Silver Mine Bay Beach*
Deep Water Bay Beach*	South Bay Beach*
Discovery Bay Tai Pak Beach	St. Stephen's Beach
Golden Beach*	Stanley Main Beach*
Hap Mun Bay Beach*	Tai Po Lung Mei Beach*
Hung Shing Yeh Beach*	Ting Kau Beach*
Kadoorie Beach*	Tong Fuk Beach
Kiu Tsui Beach	Trio Beach
Kwun Yam Beach	Turtle Cove Beach
Lido Beach*	Upper Cheung Sha Beach

Grade 2 beaches are:

Approach Beach
Butterfly Beach*
Casam Beach*
Castle Peak Beach

Hoi Mei Wan Beach
Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach*
Silverstrand Beach*

Grade 4 beach are:

Anglers' Beach*

Compared with the grading released last week, Ting Kau Beach has been upgraded from Grade 2 to Grade 1. Butterfly Beach and Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach have been changed from Grade 1 to Grade 2, and Anglers' Beach from Grade 3 to Grade 4.

"We observed water quality deterioration at Anglers' Beach, which was largely due to the unstable weather early this week, and the lack of sunshine in the following days also impeded the beach water quality recovery. We will continue to closely monitor the beach water quality," an EPD spokesman said.

Under the present grading system, beaches are classified into four grades, namely Good (Grade 1), Fair (Grade 2), Poor (Grade 3) and Very Poor (Grade 4), according to the level of E. coli in the water. Grades are calculated on the basis of the geometric mean of the E. coli counts on the five most recent sampling occasions.

While the ratings represent the general water quality at the beaches, the EPD spokesman reminded members of the public that water quality could be temporarily affected during and after periods of heavy rain. Bathers should avoid swimming at beaches for up to three days after a tropical cyclone or heavy rainfall.

A summary of beach grades is published weekly before the weekend. The latest beach grades based on the most current data may be obtained from the EPD's website on Beach Water Quality (www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666. Members of the public can also obtain the latest daily water quality forecast information for all beaches that are open for swimming through the Beach Water Quality Forecast mobile application (available for download from: www.epd.gov.hk/en/BWQApp) or the dedicated beach water quality forecast page (www.epd.gov.hk/en/BWQForecast) on the EPD's beach thematic website.

Note 1: Lifesaving services are provided by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department at 22 gazetted beaches, marked with an asterisk (*) above, from April 1. Due to the damage caused to the footpaths leading to Chung Hom Kok Beach by landslides, the beach is temporarily closed until further notice. For details, please refer to the Leisure and Cultural Services Department's Special Announcement (www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/beach/index.html).

Note 2: This refers to the non-gazetted beach in Discovery Bay which has no lifesaving service.

Inspection of aquatic products imported from Japan

In response to the Japanese Government's plan to discharge nuclear-contaminated water at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Station, the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene issued a Food Safety Order which prohibits all aquatic products, sea salt and seaweeds originating from the 10 metropolis/prefectures, namely Tokyo, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Miyagi, Chiba, Gunma, Tochigi, Niigata, Nagano and Saitama, from being imported into and supplied in Hong Kong.

For other Japanese aquatic products, sea salt and seaweeds that are not prohibited from being imported into Hong Kong, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will conduct comprehensive radiological tests to verify that the radiation levels of these products do not exceed the guideline levels before they are allowed to be supplied in the market.

As the discharge of nuclear-contaminated water is unprecedented and will continue for 30 years or more, the Government will closely monitor and step up the testing arrangements. Should anomalies be detected, the Government does not preclude further tightening the scope of the import ban.

From noon on April 11 to noon today (April 12), the CFS conducted tests on the radiological levels of 188 food samples imported from Japan, which were of the "aquatic and related products, seaweeds and sea salt" category. No sample was found to have exceeded the safety limit. Details can be found on the CFS's thematic website titled "Control Measures on Foods Imported from Japan" (www.cfs.gov.hk/english/programme/programme_rafs/programme_rafs_fc_01_30_Nuclear_Event_and_Food_Safety.html).

In parallel, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has also tested 52 samples of local catch for radiological levels. All the samples passed the tests. Details can be found on the AFCD's website (www.afcd.gov.hk/english/fisheries/Radiological_testing/Radiological_Test.html).

The Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) has also enhanced the environmental monitoring of the local waters. No anomaly has been detected so far. For details, please refer to the HKO's website (www.hko.gov.hk/en/radiation/monitoring/seawater.html).

From August 24 to noon today, the CFS and the AFCD have conducted tests on the radiological levels of 42 148 samples of food imported from Japan (including 27 798 samples of aquatic and related products, seaweeds and sea salt) and 11 482 samples of local catch respectively. All the samples passed the tests.

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Friday, April 12, 2024 is 105.9 (up 0.1 against yesterday's index).