

Secretary, Town Planning Board
15/F, North Point Government Offices
333 Java Road, North Point, Hong Kong
(E-mail: tpbpd@pland.gov.hk)



By email only

27 May 2016

香港觀鳥會
THE
HONG
KONG
BIRD
WATCHING
SOCIETY

Since 1957 成立

Dear Sir/Madam,

Objection to the planning application for Proposed Temporary Public Vehicle Park for Private Cars and Light Goods Vehicles for a Period of 3 Years at Tong Yan San Tsuen, Yuen Long (A/YL-TYST/793)

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (HKBWS) would like to raise an objection to the planning application for A/YL-TYST/793 under Section 16.

There is an egret approximately 50 metres away from the application site. A total of 34 nests were recorded at the egret in 2015, and the ardeids found included Chinese Pond Heron (*Ardeola bacchus*), Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) and Eastern Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus coromandus*)¹. We are concerned the construction and operation of the proposed temporary public carpark would increase the disturbance to the egret and its surroundings, particularly during the breeding season of the herons and egrets.

We noticed that the application site is within the site of a previously approved application for a temporary hydroponic farm (A/YL-TYST/736). However, the nature of a hydroponic farm and that of a public carpark is very different. We are concerned the increase in traffic flow, the increase in human activities, and the night-time lighting of the proposed temporary carpark would cause disturbance to the egret, thus deteriorating the egret's habitat quality and reducing the breeding success of the birds. In the worst case scenario, the egrets may eventually abandoned the site.

The HKBWS respectfully requests the Town Planning Board to take our comments into consideration and **reject** the current application.

Thank you for your kind attention and consideration.

¹ Anon, 2015. Summer 2015 Report: Egret Counts in Hong Kong with particular reference to the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site. Report by The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government.



Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Woo Ming Chuan', written in a cursive style.

Woo Ming Chuan
Conservation Officer
Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

cc.
Conservancy Association
Designing Hong Kong
Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden
WWF – Hong Kong