

**For Discussion
on 13 September 2005**

**BOARD PAPER
AAB/34/2005-06**

**MEMORANDUM FOR MEMBERS OF THE
ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD**

**CONVERSION OF THE OLD PING SHAN POLICE STATION, YUEN LONG
INTO A HERITAGE CENTRE**

PURPOSE

To seek Members' views on the project of converting the Old Ping Shan Police Station in Yuen Long (元朗舊屏山警署) into a heritage cum visitor centre.

BACKGROUND

2. The Old Ping Shan Police Station is a Grade III historic building situated on the hilltop near Ping Ha Road in Yuen Long. It was one of the 14 police stations constructed by the Police Force following the lease of the New Territories in 1898. The police station compound consists of two 2-storey main blocks and a single-storey annex block, which were built in 1899. A new annex block was added in the late 1970s at the lower part of the site. The station compound was used by various units of the Police Force such as sub-divisional station, training centre, Police Dog Unit and the traffic office of New Territories region. The Police vacated the site in 2001. As early as 1996, a proposal was put forward by the Tang Clan to convert the old station for displaying artifacts on local folk culture and history, as well as an information centre for the Ping Shan Heritage Trail. It was then agreed between the Government and the Tang Clan in 1997 that the new facility to be named as Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery cum Heritage Trail Visitors Centre (屏山鄧族文物館暨文物徑訪客中心) (the Centre). In 2002, the premises were formally allocated to the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) for planning of the Centre. A location map and photos of the station buildings are at **Appendices I and II** respectively for Members' information.

PROPOSED FACILITIES OF THE CENTRE

3. The station compound is at a strategic location connecting major attractions along the Ping Shan Heritage Trail (屏山文物徑) including the Tang Ancestral Hall (鄧氏宗祠), Yu Kiu Ancestral Hall (愈喬二公祠), Tsui Sing Lau Pagoda (聚星樓), Hung Shing Temple (洪聖宮), Yeung Hau Temple (楊侯古廟), Kun Ting Study Hall (觀廷書室), Ching Shu Hin (清暑軒) and other historic buildings. The conversion works has commenced in February 2005 for completion in early 2006. The total gross floor area of the Centre is approximately 820m². Facilities of the Centre will include

exhibition galleries, activity room, archaeological workshop, outdoor sitting out areas and management office. The annex block of 1970s will be converted into an archaeological repository. The layout plans of the Centre are at **Appendix III**.

4. The total exhibition area of the Centre is around 180m². The AMO has set aside funds for the fabrication of the exhibition. The proposed Tang Clan Gallery (105m²) will introduce the history, tradition and rituals of the Tang Clans in Ping Shan and New Territories since their migration to Hong Kong region as early as Song dynasty. The exhibition will display artifacts, old photographs and documents provided by local villagers. The AMO is now in close liaison with the working team set up by the Ping Shan Tang Clan to develop the storyline and coordinate other matters with regard to the design and production of the exhibition. Other exhibitions to be provided in the Centre will include an introduction on the historic buildings along the Ping Shan Heritage Trail and a display on the history of police stations in New Territories. The project will engage community involvement as far as possible while some local villagers have agreed to provide volunteer support to the future operation of the Centre such as collection of artifacts for display in the gallery and introduction of the exhibits on Tang Clan to visitors.

COMMISSIONING OF THE CENTRE

5. The conversion works are expected to complete in early 2006. Allowing 6 months for the fabrication and installation of the exhibitions, the Centre will be ready for opening to the public in October 2006. It has also been agreed with the Tang Clan that the two historic buildings within the Heritage Trail namely Kun Ting Study Hall and Ching Shu Hin will be reopened upon the inauguration of the Centre. In addition, it is planned that the major restoration of the Tang Ancestral Hall, a declared monument, and some improvement work of visitor facilities along the Heritage Trail such as signage, information plaques and landscaping work will be completed by that time. Effort will be made to publicize the opening of the Centre and the Heritage Trail.

ADVICE SOUGHT

6. Members are invited to give views and comments on the proposed project as described in paragraphs 2 to 5 above.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
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