

**Antiquities and Monuments Office's Comments on
the Heritage Impact Assessment for the Revitalisation
of the Stone Houses at Nos. 31-35 Hau Wong Temple New Village**

The Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) has reviewed the findings set out in the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) report for the revitalisation works at the Stone Houses at Nos. 31-35 Hau Wong Temple New Village and offered the following comments for Wing Kwong So-Care Company Limited's consideration:

- a) We note that the principles of minimum intervention and reversibility have been adopted in the proposal so as to maintain the authenticity of the Stone Houses. The external masonry walls of the Stone Houses as well as the Chinese styled pitched roof will be retained and restored.
- b) The new buildings with a compatible design and at an acceptable distance and scale to the Stone Houses are proposed at the open area. This will provide a multi-purpose room and accommodate the necessary building services. The proposal is agreeable.
- c) A new walkway with a lift will be constructed at the rear of the Stone Houses to provide barrier free access. It is an independent structure and hence minimising the disturbance to the Stone Houses. The design is considered appropriate.
- d) We note that under the proposal, the original internal elements of Unit No.32 will be retained as part of the "Interpretation Area" in which the timber structures in the interior and the kitchen facilities at the rear annex will be retained, restored and strengthened for display purpose. This will enable visitors to appreciate the living conditions of the former residents in the village, which is commendable.
- e) We note the recommendation in the HIA report that cartographic and photographic surveys will be conducted to ensure proper documentation of the existing features of the site. This is supported.
- f) In addition to the mitigation measures devised in the HIA report, we would like to propose the following for further enhancement:

- (i) The design of the new walkway at the rear annex should be compatible with the appearance of the Stone Houses. Moreover, the structural integrity of the Stone Houses should not be adversely affected. The new walkway design should be submitted to AMO for comment.
- (ii) The landscape design of the open area should respect the setting of the Stone Houses and their surrounding. The detailed landscaping design should be submitted to AMO for comment.
- (iii) The ductings for the building services facilities to be installed for the new use should be located in less prominent locations (e.g., at the rear elevation) so as to avoid any adverse visual impact and unnecessary damage to the Stone Houses. The building services design should be submitted to AMO for comment.
- (iv) The finalised HIA report should be accompanied with plans, sections, elevations and/or photo-montages, showing clearly the proposed alteration/ addition works to the Stone Houses.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
June 2011

Ref.: LCS AM 52/1/17/1