

**For information
on 15 June 2011**

**BOARD PAPER
AAB/13/2011-12**

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

**HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT
FOR THE HERITAGE SITE OF THE STONE HOUSES
AT NOS. 31-35 HAU WONG TEMPLE NEW VILLAGE**

PURPOSE

To present to Members the preliminary findings of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) on the Stone Houses at Nos. 31-35 Hau Wong Temple New Village.

HIA MECHANISM

2. The Stone Houses HIA was conducted in accordance with the HIA Mechanism introduced by Development Bureau (DEVB) vide Technical Circular (Works) No. 6/2009. Implemented from 1 January 2008, the HIA mechanism for capital works projects emphasises that every effort should be made to avoid or minimize adverse impact by the proposed works arising from Government's capital works projects on "heritage sites"¹. In the submission to the Public Works Subcommittee of the Legislative Council, the works agent is required to include a "Heritage Implications" paragraph to be cleared by the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO), stating clearly whether the project will affect any "heritage sites" and if affirmative, what mitigation measures will be taken and whether the public are in support of the proposed measures in the public engagement process.

¹ "Heritage sites" include:

- (i) all declared monuments;
- (ii) all proposed monuments;
- (iii) all sites and buildings graded by the Antiquities Advisory Board;
- (iv) all recorded sites of archaeological interest; and
- (v) Government historic sites identified by AMO.

THE PROJECT

3. The conservation and revitalisation of the Stone Houses at Nos. 31-35, Hau Wong Temple New Village, Junction Road, Kowloon City, Kowloon is one of the projects under Batch 2 of the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme (the Revitalisation Scheme) launched by DEVB. The Revitalisation Scheme invited non-profit-making organizations with charitable status under section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) to apply for the adaptive re-use of selected Government-owned historic buildings in the form of social enterprise. Batch 2 of the Revitalisation Scheme was launched on 28 August 2009, and the selection results were announced on 15 September 2010. Approval-in-principle has been granted by the Secretary for Development to Wing Kwong So-Care Co., Ltd. (Wing Kwong So-Care) to convert the Stone Houses into the “Stone Houses Family Garden”, which will include a themed café to provide jobs and training opportunities to the under-privileged, offer services such as experiential training courses and tours, and provide facilities such as an interpretation centre, a labyrinth and an open theatre.

4. Given the cultural significance of the Stone Houses (a Grade 3 historic building), AMO confirmed that an HIA was required for the revitalisation works. The Wing Kwong So-Care has subsequently commissioned their heritage consultant to conduct the assessment.

THE HIA

5. The purpose of the HIA for the Stone Houses under the Revitalisation Scheme is to prepare a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the heritage site, which aims to design mitigation measures in order to avoid adverse impact on the buildings in the course of conversion and to outline the future interpretation, maintenance and management strategies. They are based on AMO’s Conservation Guidelines given in the Resource Kit as well as the project proposal submitted by the Wing Kwong So-Care and subsequently accepted by DEVB under the Revitalisation Scheme. The first study report for the case was submitted to AMO for consideration and AMO subsequently commented on the report findings. The main points of the CMP of the project are set out at **Annex A** and AMO’s comments on the report are set out at

—— **Annex B.** A soft copy of the CMP is attached.

ADVICE SOUGHT

6. Members are invited to offer their comments and advice on the HIA at this early design stage.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
June 2011

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