

**Antiquities and Monuments Office's Comments on
the Heritage Impact Assessment for the Revitalisation
of the Old Tai Po Police Station at No. 11 Wan Tau Kok Lane, Tai Po**

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 Old Tai Po Police Station (OTPPS) at No. 11 Wan Tau Kok Lane, Tai Po and offered the following comments for Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden (KFBG)'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 OTPPS. The original architectural characteristics of the buildings will be restored and the setting within the OTPPS will be kept without major addition. As such, the proposal is agreeable.
- b) We note that the layout of the Main Building will be generally kept. Verandahs around the Main Building will be restored to reveal its original appearance. The later-added modern outbuildings in the internal courtyard will be removed and replaced by an open theme-garden. The arrangement is considered appropriate.
- c) We note that the settings of the cells and the armoury inside the Main Building will be preserved and converted to an area for interpreting the history of the OTPPS as a strategic security establishment of the colonial government in the New Territories. Such an arrangement which will enable visitors to appreciate the heritage values of the OTPPS is commendable.
- d) We note that the Staff Quarters and the Canteen Block will be maintained and converted into "Folk Art and Craft Workshops" and "Eat Well Canteen" to echo with the new theme of the project with minimum intervention to the existing building fabric.
- e) We note that new fire services water tanks will be located underground at the existing open lawn. This approach is commendable as it relaxes the pressure on the existing building for accommodating new building services and the openness of the lawn can be maintained.

- f) We also note that cartographic and photographic surveys will be conducted to ensure proper documentation of the existing features of the OTPPS.
- g) In addition to the mitigation measures devised in the HIA report, we would like to propose the following for further enhancement:
 - (i) The restoration of the roof shall respect the authenticity of the existing architectural style. The design of the roof restoration shall be submitted to AMO for comment.
 - (ii) The excavation works at the open lawn for accommodating the new building services should be carried out in due care to ensure that the structural integrity of the buildings nearby will not be affected. Protective / monitoring measures during the construction should be submitted to AMO for comment.
 - (iii) The installations and ductings for the building services facilities to be installed should be located at less prominent locations so as to avoid any adverse visual impact and unnecessary damage to the OTPPS. The building services design should be submitted to AMO for comment.
 - (iv) To ensure that the mitigation measures recommended in the HIA report are properly implemented, a heritage consultant should be appointed by KFBG to monitor the implementation and record any change and variation.
 - (v) The finalised HIA report should be accompanied with plans, sections, elevations and/or photo-montages, showing clearly the proposed alteration/ addition works to the OTPPS.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
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