

香港露宿救濟會
Street Sleepers Shelter Society Trustees Incorporated
Box No. 11226 GPO Central, H.K.

By post and fax 2523-9201

22 March 2016

Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP
Chairlady
Home Affairs Panel, Legislative Council
1 Legislative Council Road, Central, Hong Kong

Dear Hon LEE,

The Street Sleepers' Shelter Society is the only agency in HK offering shelter to the homeless completely *free* of charge. The Yau Ma Tei (YMT) Shelter at Shanghai Street is one of our three shelters and popular with street sleepers in Kowloon. We have been temporarily relocated, from the previous water depot site (now a declared monument) opposite the road in end 1990's, to operate on short term tenancy at the present joint-user building, accepting that the existing premises is not fully designed nor properly equipped for our purpose. Given its temporary status and undesirable living conditions, we have been expecting permanent reprovisioning to upgrade our services for a long time. In line with the government's planning intention for comprehensive redevelopment of the entire area into a community/cultural hub for Yau Tsim Mong, our timely reprovisioning has become all the more imminent and inevitable. In addition, this is also the wish of local community and some district leaders to have a facelift of their living environment.

Thanks to the help of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and after a long ensuing process of site search, a site at Hau Cheung Road in the new reclamation area was identified for joint-user building with our shelter to be accommodated on the upper floor. We worked closely with SWD in providing comments on design and layout. In response to the humanity/environmental concern raised by some LegCo members (shelter on 2/F

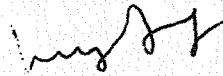


香港公益金會員機構
A MEMBER AGENCY OF THE COMMUNITY CHEST

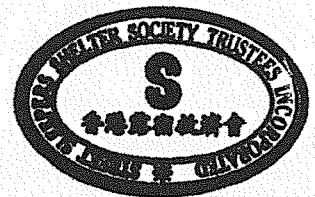
being too close to RCP on ground floor), the shelter has now been shifted up to the top floor (4/F) which is well above the RCP to minimize impacts. The layout has also been revised to improve the living conditions, including site orientation, internal arrangements, interface with co-users, environmental mitigations and green measures, design and landscaping. Considering the constraints and our endeavors to resolve issues, this is already the optimal option.

We have all along expressed full acceptance of the identified site at Hau Chung Road and agree with the joint-user arrangement proposed by government. With the green light of the LegCo, we hope to take forward the reprovisioning so as to better serve our clients. On the broader context, government can also proceed with the comprehensive redevelopment of the whole area to meet the community expectation, which is a win-win situation for all. If the matter cannot be resolved while another site may not be available in the foreseeable future, we will lose the chance of upgrading our services while the holdup of the over-due district redevelopment would create undesirable image from PR perspective that government can ill-afford. We would hence sincerely wish to take up this site offered by SWD which is a unique opportunity.

Yours sincerely,



(MY Tang)
Chairman



Street Sleepers Shelter Society Trustees Incorporated

c.c. Director of Social Welfare (Attn: Ms Fanny H S Fung)
All Executive Committee Members