

島嶼活力行動

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LIVING ISLANDS  
MOVEMENT

SUSTAINABLE ISLAND DEVELOPMENT

## District Council Elections

### Candidates Election Questionnaire

Dear District Council Officer Candidate

The Living Islands Movement is sending this Questionnaire to the four candidates standing for election at the 2015 District Council Elections.

The purpose of the questionnaire is to understand the position of the candidates regarding the key issues of concern to the LIM membership, as they affect South Lantau (Mui Wo to Tai O). The issues are listed below and are in the form of questions for candidates to express their position on each issue. The issues are not ranked in any order of priority or importance.

Responses to the questionnaire shall be summarised and published to the LIM members for them to make informed decisions about voting on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

We trust that you will answer the questions candidly and with integrity.

Please send your responses by email to [info@livingislands.org.hk](mailto:info@livingislands.org.hk) to arrive no later than 5pm on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November.

## The Issues

### 1. Pui O Wetlands

- a. Preserving Lantau's wetlands is a concern. The issue is about preventing destruction of the wetlands caused by the dumping of waste. Please explain how you would resolve the issues of dumping construction waste on wetlands? Roads leading to wetlands should be considered special roads. Police check stations should be implemented at all such roads. Trucks carrying construction wastes or garbage should not be allowed into sensitive areas).

### 2. Transport on South Lantau

- a. The Transport Department propose extending the issuing of Closed Road permits to private cars and buses. There has been little or no thought given to the infrastructure needs or to road safety. How will you address the concerns? Lantau is a place with many unspoiled natural locations. We must do our utmost to protect them. I oppose the idea of extending the issuing of closed road permits to private cars and buses.
- b. Parking in Mui Wo continues to be a problem. Do you have a solution to reduce the parking problem? Heavy tolls should be imposed for any (non Mui Wo) cars wanting to enter Mui Wo. We must not be over-zealous in solving problems for the car owners, as the cars are themselves the real problems!
- c. Public transport on South Lantau is often inadequate, particularly at weekends. What will you do to address the needs for improved public transport (bus, ferries and taxis)? We should encourage the use of bicycles on the island so as not to spoil the natural environment of Lantau, including more locations for renting bicycles for a day.

### 3. Engagement with South Lantau Residents.

- a. Residents often feel uninformed on important environmental and social issues affecting them, and are suspicious of the lack of clear action taking place on issues affecting them. Will you commit to holding public discussion meetings on a regular basis

(at least twice each year) to explain issues to the public and to listen to their concerns in an open forum? **Yes**

#### 4. East Lantau Metropolis Proposals.

- a. There is much talk about structural developments affecting the east side of South Lantau (Mui Wo connections to North Lantau, reclamation of Silvermine Bay etc). Please explain your position regarding the ELM. **Such developments are acceptable as long as the environment is given the top priority. Discovery Bay is a good example of a low density urban development with a clear boundary so that the environment around it remains unspoiled. I will strongly recommend the authorities to follow a similar strategy as used in Discovery Bay, except that I do not agree with letting one developer to dominate.**
- b. LANDAC is an organisation that seems to have a strong opinion about the development of South Lantau (and North Lantau). LANDAC meetings are documented but not attributable to individuals. This makes the organisation appear suspicious. Do you support the principle of LANDAC operating in a more open and transparent way, including attributing comments to individual LANDAC members? **I totally agree.**

#### 5. Incinerator on Shek Kwu Chau

- a. If the Government proceeds with the planned incinerator, will you support or oppose any further expansion of the facility on Shek Kwu Chau? **I will vehemently oppose such plans.**

#### 6. Broadband Internet on South Lantau

- a. Residents are very unhappy with the slow speed and relatively poor support services of broadband on South Lantau. What will you do to address this issue? **I will work with the service providers to find ways to improve, while the environmental impact is given the top consideration.**

#### 7. Prison Closures / Sea Ranch

- a. There is discussion about the possible closure of prisons to further facilitate the development of South Lantau for tourism and for leisure. What is your position on this? **This sounds worrisome. A**

very beautiful place attracts a lot of tourists. When a lot of tourists come to the same place, environmental damages will occur and the place stops being 'very beautiful'. Before the government comes up with effective policies to control/limit the number of tourists coming to Lantau and limit their damage to the environment, I will be opposed to additional measures to attract more tourists to the island.

- b. Sea Ranch has long been an underused resource. Do you have an opinion on development of this unique location? I don't have an opinion on this.

## 8. South Lantau Development

- a. Please describe your 20 year vision for South Lantau. How will the development affect the living environment of residents? I believe Lantau is a unique natural environment which is one of the very few left more or less unspoiled in Hong Kong. I believe that urban development should be limited to areas that are already developed, and where the residents are open to more developments. So in 20 years, I hope to see the rural South Lantau to be more or less unchanged, and I hope more controls can be in place to limit the daily number of urban visitors who want to enter the rural/green zones of Lantau. This is not just a dream. Such controls are in place in many countries for the protection of the natural environment. If we do not do that, the attractions of South Lantau will be destroyed by the very people the region itself attracts.

## The Issues

This summarises your position on each of the issues

### 1. Pui O Wetlands

- a. Do you support the concept of the long term preservation of the Pui O wetlands? Yes or No \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Transport on South Lantau

- b. Do you support the TD proposal to allow the number of closed road permits to be increased? Yes or No \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Do you have a workable solution for the Mui Wo parking problem? Yes or No \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Do you support the idea of improved public transport for South Lantau? Yes or No \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Engagement with South Lantau Residents.

- a. Will you commit to holding public discussion meetings on a regular basis? Yes or No \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. East Lantau Metropolis Proposals.

- a. Do you support the ELM proposals? Yes or No \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Do you support the principle of LANDAC operating in a more open and transparent way? Yes or No \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. Incinerator on Shek Kwu Chau

- a. Will you support any further expansion of the facility on Shek Kwu Chau? Yes or No \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Broadband Internet on South Lantau

- a. Do you agree that action must be taken to improve the broadband service to South Lantau? Yes or No \_\_\_\_\_

### 7. Prison Closures / Sea Ranch

- a. Should prisons be closed to allow development for tourism on South Lantau? Yes or No \_\_\_\_\_

b. Should Sea Ranch be developed? Yes or No \_\_\_\_\_

**8. South Lantau Development**

a. Is South Lantau worth preserving in a condition similar to today?

Yes or No \_\_\_\_\_

Please add any further clarification or points you would like to make about the above issues: \_\_\_\_\_

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