

島嶼活力行動

可持續 島嶼 發展



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 22nd November.

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

Please send your responses by email to info@livingislands.org.hk to arrive no later than 5pm on Wednesday 11th 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?

(Reply: The wetlands at Pui O are currently zoned as a "Coastal Protection Area". I would suggest that the Planning Department and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) convert the wetlands into "Sites of Special Scientific Interest" to prevent any development that might destroy their natural nature.

Given that permits are required for vehicles to access South Lantau, the Police are recommended to take joint actions with the Lands Department, Planning Department, the Environmental Protection Department and the AFCD, by inspecting suspicious vehicles and people in order to deter dumping of construction waste on wetlands.

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?

(Reply: I suggest the Transport Department conduct Traffic Impact, Social Impact and Environmental Impact Assessments. At the same time, the Islands District Council and the Islands District Office should organize public forums in various areas of Lantau to address the different needs of Lantau residents, groups and other stakeholders.)

- b. Parking in Mui Wo continues to be a problem. Do you have a solution to reduce the parking problem?

(Reply: There should be provision of adequate public transport services. The Government should encourage residents to use public transport rather than their own private vehicles.)

- 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)?

(Reply: In addition to my views mentioned in Item 2(b), I suggest the Transport Department (TD) and the Fortune Ferry enhance the "Tuen Mun - Tung Chung - Sha Lo Wan - Tai O" ferry service and thus alleviate the demands for New Lantao buses and Lantau taxis. TD might study the feasibility of establishing a ferry or kaito route, connecting Tai O and Tsing Lung Tai, Sham Tseng or Tsuen Wan via Tung Chung.

During an Islands District Council meeting, I proposed to the Transport and Housing Bureau to extend the subsidy measures for the 6 major ferry routes to all ferry and kaito routes. I also support the oil price stabilization scheme, so that ferry operators are encouraged to enhance the services.)

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?

(Reply: I conducted public discussion meetings on important issues affecting Discovery Bay residents. One of them was on the EDP's proposal to build the mega incinerator and to improve waste management.)

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.

(Reply: I objected openly in the Islands District Council to such a proposal as it will destroy the natural environment of the islands, marine life, and will not be cost effective.)

- 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?

(Reply: I support this principle. The LANDAC Secretariat should also release the meeting agenda and papers to the public. The public should also be allowed to attend the meetings as observers.)

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?

(Reply: I objected to the project from the very beginning. I also joined the residents from the islands in a march to LegCo to demand that the Government stop the feasibility study. EDP should give priorities to reduction, reuse and recycling.)

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?

(Reply: During an Islands District Council meeting, I supported a motion which requested that the Office of the Communications Authority to review the Telecommunications Ordinance, and incorporate feasible clauses into the renewed or new telecommunication licenses, to prevent price discrimination and any possible unfair treatments to residents on the islands.)

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?

(Reply: The authority should commission an independent Social Impact Assessment, and engage in dialogues with the affected residents to collect their views and concerns.)

- b. Sea Ranch has long been an underused resource. Do you have an opinion on development of this unique location?

(Reply: The reason for this underuse is a lack of proper transportation. The Transport Department should consider tendering out such a service.)

8. South Lantau Development

- a. Please describe your 20 year vision for South Lantau. How will the development affect the living environment of residents?

(Reply: South Lantau should remain the garden of Hong Kong providing a natural environment for HK residents to enjoy during weekends and holidays. At the same time it should be a car free, pollution free and low density residential area. The country parks, coastal protection areas, marine park and sites of special scientific Interests should be preserved. Eco tours should be encouraged and developed for the benefit of HK and overseas visitors.)

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

2. Transport on South Lantau

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

3. Engagement with South Lantau Residents.

- a. Will you commit to holding public discussion meetings on a regular basis? Yes

4. East Lantau Metropolis Proposals.

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

5. Incinerator on Shek Kwu Chau

- a. Will you support any further expansion of the facility on Shek Kwu Chau? 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

7. Prison Closures / Sea Ranch

- a. Should prisons be closed to allow development for tourism on South Lantau? No comment
- b. Should Sea Ranch be developed? No

8. South Lantau Development

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

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