

Relevant Extract of Town Planning Board Guidelines for Application for Eating Place within "Village Type Development" Zone in Rural Areas under Section 16 of the Town Planning Ordinance (TPB PG-No.15A)

1. In June 2003, the Town Planning Board Guidelines for Application for Eating Place within "Village Type Development" Zone in Rural Areas under Section 16 of the Town Planning Ordinance (TPB PG-No.15A) were promulgated. Extracts of the scope and application of the guidelines are set out as follows:
 - (a) the general planning intention of the "Village Type Development" ("V") zone in the rural New Territories is to demarcate both existing recognised villages and areas of land considered suitable for village expansion. It is the planning intention to concentrate village and related development within the "V" zone for a more orderly development pattern, economic and efficient use of land and provision of infrastructure and services. A selective range of uses including commercial, community and recreational uses may be permitted within this zone on application to the Town Planning Board (the Board) on the basis that these uses would serve the needs of villagers and would not adversely affect the character of villages;
 - (b) in view of the above planning intention, eating place use (such as restaurant and alfresco dining facility) in the "V" zone should be compatible with the surrounding land-uses and would not create any nuisance or cause inconvenience to the local residents. The development should not have adverse impacts on traffic, drainage, sewage disposal and fire safety aspects. In addition, it should not reduce the land area available for village type development. For sites located adjacent to recreational uses or tourist attraction spots, favourable consideration may be given if the above considerations are not compromised; and
 - (c) Even if a proposal is considered acceptable in land-use planning terms and other planning criteria are met, under normal circumstances only a temporary approval for a maximum of three years should be considered so as to retain planning control on the development at the site and to cater for changing circumstances in future.
2. In accessing the applications, the main planning criteria are also summarized as follows:
 - (a) the eating place use should not create any environmental nuisance or cause inconvenience to the residents nearby. Such use should preferably be located at the fringe of a village area, e.g. area abutting the main road. For any eating place use that is situated amidst the

existing village houses, sympathetic consideration may only be given if there are no objections from local residents;

- (b) the eating place use should not have any adverse traffic impact on its surrounding areas nor should it affect any pedestrian circulation in the area;
- (c) sympathetic consideration may also be given to any application which would not have adverse impacts on drainage, sewage disposal facilities or fire safety aspects;
- (d) for any application on open ground as an extension to ground floor eating place in a NTEH or as a free-standing development, the eating place use should not adversely affect the land availability for village type development. Application sites with configurations/dimensions which are not suitable to be delineated separately for village type development or which are considered not suitable for village type development (e.g. within 20m of public roads constructed/maintained by the Highways Department or 15m of other local public roads), sympathetic consideration may be given by the Board on individual merits;
- (e) for a village located adjacent to recreational uses or tourist attraction spots, favourable consideration may be given to eating place use which will provide catering facilities to serve the visitors and tourists. In such circumstances, adequate car-parking spaces should be provided to serve the eating place use as required by the Transport Department. If it is impossible to provide car-parking spaces at the application site, the applicant should demonstrate that there are adequate car-parking facilities conveniently located in the vicinity to serve the eating place use; and
- (f) all other statutory or non-statutory requirements of relevant Government departments should be met.

Advisory Clauses

- (a) resolve any land issues relating to the development with the concerned owner(s) of the Site;
- (b) note DLO/YL's comments that the Site comprises an Old Scheduled Agricultural Lot held under the Block Government Lease which contains the restriction that no structures are allowed to be erected without the prior approval of the Government. The Site is accessible from Kam Tin Road – Yuen Long via Government Land (GL). His office provides no maintenance work for the GL involved and does not guarantee any right-of-way over the GL to the Site. The Site falls within Shek Kong Airfield Height Restriction Area (SKAHRA). The height of the proposed structure shall not exceed the relevant airfield height limit within SKAHRA. The lot owner(s) will need to apply to his office to permit the structures to be erected or regularize any irregularities on site, if any. Besides, given the proposed use is temporary in nature, only application for regularization or erection of temporary structure(s) will be considered. No construction of New Territories Exempted Building(s) will be considered or allowed. Applications for any of the above will be considered by LandsD acting in the capacity as landlord or lessor at its sole discretion and there is no guarantee that such application will be approved. If such application(s) is approved, it will be subject to such terms and conditions, including among others the payment of premium or fee, as may be imposed by LandsD;
- (c) note C for T's comments that the Site is connected to the public road network via a section of a local access road which is not managed by Transport Department (TD). The land status of the local access road should be checked with LandsD. Moreover, the management and maintenance responsibilities of the local access road should be clarified with the relevant lands and maintenance authorities accordingly;
- (d) note CHE/NTW, HyD's comments that HyD does not and will not maintain any access connecting the Site and Kam Tin Road. Adequate drainage measures should be provided to prevent surface water running from the Site to the nearby public roads and drains;
- (e) note DEP's comments that the applicant is advised to properly design and maintain adequate mechanical ventilation and necessary pollution control measures to avoid accumulation of aerial emissions and minimise potential noise and odour nuisances to the public and people living nearby. To minimize noise impact, oily fume and cooking odour emissions from the restaurant, the applicant should make reference to the EPD's Pamphlet "Control of Oily Fume and Cooking Odour from Restaurant and Food Business" available from EPD's website. The applicant is also advised to follow the relevant mitigation measures and requirements in the revised "Code of Practice on Handling the Environmental Aspects of Temporary Uses and

Open Storage Sites” to minimize any potential environmental nuisances. All wastewater collected from kitchen, including that from basins, sinks and floor drains, should be discharged via a grease trap in accordance with the requirements of EPD’s Practice Note for Professional Person (ProPECC) PN 5/93 “Drainage Plans subject to Comment by the Environmental Protection Department”. The applicant is also reminded that effluent discharges from the proposed use are subject to control under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (WPCO). A discharge licence under the WPCO shall be obtained before a new discharge is commenced;

- (f) note DAFC’s comments that there is a pond in the nearby “CA(1)” zone, and an abandoned meander to the northwest of the Site. The applicant shall avoid causing pollution to the pond and the meander. The applicant shall also avoid causing damages to trees on GL, e.g. in the “CA(1)” zone;
- (g) note D of FS’ comments that in consideration of the design/nature of the proposal, FSIs are anticipated to be required. Therefore, the applicant is advised to submit relevant layout plans incorporated with the proposed FSIs to his department for approval. The layout plans should be drawn to scale and depicted with dimensions and nature of occupancy. The location of where the proposed FSI to be installed should be clearly marked on the layout plans. The relevant information about the kitchen, if any, including the layout, fuel uses, etc. The applicant is reminded that if the proposed structure(s) is required to comply with the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123) or application for licence for the subject eating place is required, detailed fire service requirements will be formulated upon receipt of formal submission of general building plans or referral from relevant licensing authority respectively;
- (h) note CBS/NTW, BD’s comments that if the existing structures (not being a New Territories Exempted House) are erected on leased land without the approval of the BD, they are unauthorized building works (UBW) under the BO and should not be designated for any proposed use under the application. For UBW erected on leased land, enforcement action may be taken by the BD to effect their removal in accordance with BD’s enforcement policy against UBW as and when necessary. The granting of any planning approval should not be construed as an acceptance of any existing building works or UBW on the Site under the BO. Before any new building works (including containers/open sheds as temporary buildings and land filling) are to be carried out on the Site, prior approval and consent of the BD should be obtained, otherwise they are UBW. An Authorized Person should be appointed as the co-ordinator for the proposed building works in accordance with the BO. The Site shall be provided with means of obtaining access thereto from a street and emergency vehicular access in accordance with Regulations 5 and 41D of the Building (Planning) Regulations (B(P)R) respectively. If the proposed use under application is subject to issue of a license, the applicant is reminded that any existing structures on the Site intended to be used for such purposes are required to comply with the building safety and other relevant requirements as may be imposed by the licensing authority. If the Site does not abut on a specified street of not less than 4.5m wide, its permitted development intensity shall be determined under

Regulation 19(3) of the B(P)R at the building plan submission stage; and

- (i) note DFEH's comments that proper licence and/or permit issued by Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) is required if food business or related place of entertainment is involved: (i) the operation of any eating place should be under a food licence issued by FEHD. If the operator/tenant intends to operate any food business at the premises, relevant food licence/restricted food permit should be obtained from FEHD in accordance with the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132). The application for restaurant licence, if acceptable by FEHD, will be referred to relevant government departments, such as Buildings Department, Fire Services Department and Planning Department for comment. If there is no objection from the departments concerned, a letter of requirements will be issued to the applicant for compliance and the licence will be issued upon compliance of all the requirements; (ii) in accordance with Section 4 of the Food Business Regulation, Cap. 132, a food licence is not required for the operation of any canteen in any work place (other than a factory canteen) for the use exclusively of the persons employed in the work place. However, a restricted food permit(s) granted by FEHD is/are still required for the sale of any restricted foods as specified in Schedule 2 of the said regulation; and (iii) any person who desires to keep or use any place of public entertainment for example a theatre and cinema or a place, building, erection or structure, whether temporary or permanent, on one occasion or more, capable of accommodating the public presenting or carrying on public entertainment within Places of Public Entertainment (PPE) Ordinance (Cap. 172) and its subsidiary legislation, such as a concert, opera, ballet, stage performance or other musical, dramatic or theatrical entertainment, cinematograph or laser projection display or an amusement ride and mechanical device which is designed for amusement. A Place of Public Entertainment Licence (or Temporary Place of Public Entertainment Licence) should be obtained from FEHD whatever the general public is admitted with or without payment. If the proposal involves any commercial/trading activities, its state should not as to be a nuisance or injurious or dangerous to health and surrounding environment. The operation of the eating place must not cause any environmental nuisance to the surrounding. The refuse generated by the proposed eating place are regarded as trade refuse. The management or owner of the site is responsible for its removal and disposal at their expenses. The operation of any business should not cause any obstruction or environmental nuisance in the vicinity. If any FEHD's facility is affected by the development, FEHD's prior consent must be obtained. Reprovisioning of the affected facilities by the project proponent up to the satisfaction of FEHD may be required. Besides, the project proponent should provide sufficient amount of additional recurrent cost for management and maintenance of the reprovisioned facilities to FEHD.

