

TPB PG-NO. 15A (*applicable to OZPs which have been amended/updated to incorporate the revised MSN*)

**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**

(Important Note :-

The Guidelines are intended for general reference only.

Any enquiry on this pamphlet should be directed to the Planning Information and Technical Administration Unit of the Planning Department, 17/F, North Point Government Offices, 333 Java Road, Hong Kong - Tel. No. 2231 5000.

The Guidelines are subject to revision without prior notice.)

1. Scope and Application of the Guidelines

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 These Guidelines set out the planning criteria for assessing planning applications for eating place use in the "V" zone in the rural areas.

2. Definition of New Territories Exempted House (NTEH)

"NTEH" is defined in the Covering Notes in rural outline zoning plans.

3. Requirement for Planning Permission

Eating place use on the ground floor of a NTEH within the "V" zone does not require planning permission. However, such use on other floors of a NTEH, on open ground as an extension to a ground floor eating place in a NTEH, or as a free-standing development within the "V" zone requires planning permission from the Board.

4. Main Planning Criteria

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 Sympathetic consideration may also be given to any application which would not have adverse impacts on drainage, sewage disposal facilities or fire safety aspects.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 All other statutory or non-statutory requirements of relevant Government departments should be met.

Advisory Clauses

- (a) to resolve any land issue relating to the development with the concerned owner(s) of the Site;
- (b) prior planning permission should have been obtained before commencing the applied use at the Site;
- (c) to note the comments of District Lands Officer/Yuen Long, Lands Department (DLO/YL, LandsD) that the Site comprises an Old Schedule 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 Tsui Sing Road via government land (GL) and private land. 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 lot owner(s) will need to apply to his office to permit the structures to be erected or regularise any irregularities on site, if any. Besides, given the proposed use is temporary in nature, only application for regularisation 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 the LandsD;
- (d) to note the comments of the Chief Building Surveyor/New Territories West, Buildings Department (CBS/NTW, BD) that as there is no record of approval by the Building Authority for the existing structures at the Site, he is not in a position to offer comments on their suitability for the use proposed in the application. If the existing structures (not being a New Territories Exempted House) are erected on leased land without the approval of the Buildings Department (BD), they are unauthorized building works (UBW) under the Buildings Ordinance (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 (AP) 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, please be 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;
- (e) to note the comments of the Chief Highway Engineer/New Territories West, Highways Department (CHE/NTW, HyD) that only a section of Tsui Sing Road of about 120m abutting Ping Ha Road is maintained by HyD. HyD shall not be responsible for the maintenance of any access connecting the Site and Tsui Sing Road. Adequate drainage measures should be provided for the Site to prevent water flowing from the Site to nearby public roads/drains;

- (f) to note the comments of the Chief Engineer/Mainland North, Drainage Services Department (CE/MN, DSD) that the applicant is reminded to provide his own drainage facilities to collect the runoff generated from the Site or passing through the Site, and discharge the runoff collected to a proper discharge point. The development should not obstruct overland flow or cause any adverse drainage impact to the adjacent areas and existing drainage facilities;
- (g) to note the comments of the Director of Environmental Protection (DEP) 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 minimize potential noise and odour nuisances to the public and people living nearby. To minimise noise impact, oily fume and cooking odour emissions from the restaurant, the applicant should make reference to EPD's Pamphlet "Control of Oily Fume and Cooking Odour from Restaurant and Food Business" available from his 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 minimise 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 9/93 "Drainage Plans subject to Comment by the Environmental Protection Department". He would also like to remind that effluent discharges from the proposed use are subject to control under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (WPCO). A discharge license under the WPCO shall be obtained before a new discharge is connected;
- (h) to note the comments of the Director of Fire Services (D of FS) that in consideration of the design/nature of the proposal, fire service installations (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 FSIs to be installed should be clearly marked on the layout plans. The applicant is reminded that if the proposed structure(s) is required to comply with the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123), detailed fire service requirements will be formulated upon receipt of formal submission of general building plans;
- (i) to note the comments of the Antiquities and Monuments Office, Development Bureau (AMO, DEVB) that the applicant should ensure that any proposed works, including the proposed drainage facilities, should not encroach into GLA-TYL 1634 and should not cause any adverse impacts to the structures and flow of surface runoff therein; and
- (j) to note the comments of the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (DFEH) that such work and operation shall not cause any environmental nuisance, pest infestation and obstruction to the surrounding. For any waste generated from the activity/operation, the applicant should arrange disposal properly at her own expenses. Proper licence/permit issued by his Department is required if there is any food business/catering service/activities regulated by the DFEH under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) and other relevant legislation for the public. The operation of any eating place should be under a food licence issued by the FEHD. If the operator intends to operate a restaurant business in the territory, a restaurant licence should be obtained from FEHD in accordance with the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132). For the operation of other types of food business, relevant food licences should also be obtained from FEHD in accordance with Cap.

132. Under the Food Business Regulation, Cap. 132X, a Food Factory Licence should be obtained from his department for food business which involves the preparation of food for sale for human consumption off the premises before commencement of such business. The application for food business licences under Cap.132, if acceptable by FEHD, will be referred to relevant government departments 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.