RNTPC Paper No. A/YL-SK/430A For Consideration by the Rural and New Town Planning Committee on 5.12.2025

<u>APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION</u> UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE

APPLICATION NO. A/YL-SK/430

Applicant : Ms. Li Ju represented by Extensive Novel Limited

Site : Lots 1054 S.B and 1056 S.B (Part) in D.D. 106, Shek Kong, Yuen Long,

New Territories

Site Area : About 3,221m²

Lease : Block Government Lease (demised for agricultural use)

Plan : Draft Shek Kong Outline Zoning Plan (OZP) No. S/YL-SK/10

(currently in force)

Approved Shek Kong OZP No. S/YL-SK/9

(at the time of submission)

Zoning : "Agriculture" ("AGR")

(no change on the current OZP)

<u>Application</u>: Proposed Temporary Public Vehicle Park (Excluding Container

Vehicle) and Associated Filling of Land for a Period of Three Years

1. The Proposal

- 1.1 The applicant seeks planning permission for proposed temporary public vehicle park (excluding container vehicle) and associated filling of land for a period of three years at the application site (the Site), which falls within area zoned "AGR" on the OZP (Plan A-1). According to the covering Notes of the OZP, temporary use or development of any land not exceeding a period of three years requires planning permission from the Town Planning Board (the Board). Filling of land in the "AGR" zone also requires planning permission from the Board. The Site is currently fenced-off, largely vacant, partly hard-paved and partly covered by shrubs and weeds (Plans A-2 to A-4).
- 1.2 The Site is accessible from Kam Sheung Road via local tracks (**Plans A-1** to **A-3**). According to the applicant, the proposed use involves 45 parking spaces for private car, 15 parking spaces for light goods vehicle and two single-storey structures with height of not more than 4m and a total floor area of about 60m² for shroff, ancillary office and storeroom (**Drawing A-1**). The applicant also applies for regularisation of filling of land for about 82m² (about 2.5% of the Site) and proposed filling of land for about 3,111m² (about 96.6% of the Site) with soil

and concrete of not more than 0.6m in depth (to a level of about 11.9mPD) (**Drawing A-2**). An existing tree at the Site will be retained in-situ and the concerned area will be left unfilled. No open storage, storage of unlicensed vehicles, car-washing, repairing or other workshop activities would be involved at the Site at all times. The operation hours will be 24 hours daily including Sundays and public holidays. Plans showing the site layout and land filling area submitted by the applicant are on **Drawings A-1** and **A-2** respectively.

- 1.3 In support of the application, the applicant has submitted the following documents:
 - (a) Application Form with attachments received on (Appendix I) 22.7.2025 and 24.7.2025
 - (b) Further Information (FI) received on 8.10.2025* (Appendix Ia)

 * accepted but not exempted from publication and recounting requirements
- 1.4 On 19.9.2025, the Rural and New Town Planning Committee (the Committee) of the Board agreed to defer making a decision on the application for two months as requested by the applicant.

2. <u>Justifications from the Applicant</u>

The justifications put forth by the applicant in support of the application are detailed in the Application Form and FI at **Appendices I** and **Ia**, and can be summarised as follows:

- (a) The proposed use is intended to serve the residents in the vicinity. It can help reduce roadside parking and improve pedestrian safety. The proposed use is not incompatible with the surrounding areas.
- (b) The applied and proposed filling of land will not involve the area where an existing tree situated within the Site. Adverse impacts are not anticipated. In support of the current application, the applicant has submitted a drainage proposal.

3. Compliance with the 'Owner's Consent/Notification' Requirements

The applicant is not a 'current land owner' but has complied with the requirement as set out in the Town Planning Board Guidelines on Satisfying the 'Owner's Consent/Notification' Requirements under Sections 12A and 16 of the Town Planning Ordinance (TPB PG-No. 31B) by posting site notice and sending notice to the Pat Heung Rural Committee. Detailed information would be deposited at the meeting for Members' inspection.

4. Background

The Site is currently not subject to any active planning enforcement action.

5. Previous Application

There is no previous application covering the Site.

6. <u>Similar Application</u>

There is a similar application No. A/YL-SK/349 for temporary public vehicle park with electric vehicle charging facility and filling of land within the same "AGR" zone in the vicinity of the Site in the past five years. The similar application was approved with conditions by the Committee in 2024 mainly on the considerations that the proposed use on a temporary basis could be tolerated; the proposed use was considered not incompatible with the surrounding areas; and the relevant government bureau/departments consulted generally had no adverse comment or their concerns and public comments could be addressed by approval conditions. Details of the similar application are summarised at **Appendix II** and its location is shown on **Plan A-1**.

7. The Site and Its Surrounding Areas (Plans A-1 to A-4)

- 7.1 The Site is:
 - (a) currently fenced-off, largely vacant, partly hard-paved, and partly covered by shrubs and weeds; and
 - (b) accessible from Kam Sheung Road via local tracks.
- 7.2 The surrounding areas are rural in character with an intermix of parking of vehicles, residential structures, a plant nursery and vacant land. The village settlement of Kam Tsin Wai is to further west of the Site (**Plan A-1**).

8. Planning Intention

- 8.1 The planning intention of the "AGR" zone is primarily to retain and safeguard good quality agricultural land/farm/fish ponds for agricultural purposes. It is also intended to retain fallow arable land with good potential for rehabilitation for cultivation and other agricultural purposes.
- 8.2 According to the Explanatory Statement of the OZP for the "AGR" zone, as filling of land may cause adverse drainage and environmental impacts on the adjacent areas, permission from the Board is required for such activities.

9. Comments from Relevant Government Departments

9.1 Apart from the government departments as set out in paragraphs 9.2 and 9.3 below, other departments consulted have no objection to or no adverse comment on the application. Their general comments on the application and advisory comments in the Recommended Advisory Clauses, if any, are provided at **Appendices III** and **IV** respectively.

9.2 The following government department supports the application:

Traffic

Comments of the Commissioner for Transport (C for T):

- (a) supports the application from traffic engineering perspective to address the local demand for parking spaces; and
- (b) advisory comments are at **Appendix IV**.
- 9.3 The following government department does not support the application:

Agriculture and Nature Conservation

Comments of the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (DAFC):

- (a) does not support the application from agricultural perspective as the Site possesses potential for agricultural rehabilitation;
- (b) the Site falls within the "AGR" zone and is abandoned. Agricultural infrastructures such as road access and water source are available. The Site can be used for agricultural activities such as open-field cultivation, greenhouses, plant nurseries, etc.; and
- (c) no comment on the application from nature conservation perspective.

10. Public Comments Received During Statutory Publication Periods

On 29.7.2025 and 17.10.2025, the application and FI were published for public inspection. During the statutory public inspection periods, three public comments were received, including two from Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden Corporation and one from an individual, all objecting to the application mainly on the grounds that there would be potential impacts on the Agricultural Priority Areas and the proposed use is not genuinely for vehicle park (**Appendix V**).

11. Planning Considerations and Assessments

- 11.1 The application is for proposed temporary public vehicle park (excluding container vehicle) and associated filling of land for a period of three years at the Site zoned "AGR" (Plan A-1). The proposed use is not in line with the planning intention of the "AGR" zone and DAFC does not support the application from agricultural perspective. Nonetheless, according to the applicant, the proposed use is intended to serve the residents in the vicinity and C for T supports the application as it could address the local demand for parking spaces. Taking into account the above and the planning assessments below, there is no objection to the proposed use with associated filling of land on a temporary basis of three years.
- Filling of land within the "AGR" zone requires planning permission from the Board as it may cause adverse drainage and environmental impacts on the

surrounding areas. In this regard, the Chief Engineer/Mainland North of Drainage Services Department, who also considers the submitted drainage proposal acceptable, and Director of Environmental Protection have no objection to the application from drainage and environmental planning perspectives respectively. As the Site is zoned "AGR", an approval condition requiring the reinstatement of the Site upon expiry of the planning permission so as to uphold the planning intention of the "AGR" zone and restore the greenery of the area is recommended should the Committee decide to approve the application.

- 11.3 The proposed use is considered not incompatible with the surrounding areas which are rural in character with an intermix of parking of vehicles, residential structures, a plant nursery and vacant land. The Chief Town Planner/Urban Design and Landscape of Planning Department (PlanD) has no adverse comment on the application from landscape planning perspective and considers that the proposed use is not entirely incompatible with surrounding landscape setting and significant adverse landscape impact is not anticipated.
- 11.4 Other relevant government departments consulted, including Director of Fire Services, have no objection to or no adverse comment on the application. To address the technical requirements of concerned departments, appropriate approval conditions are recommended in paragraph 12.2 below. It is also recommended to advise the applicant to follow the revised 'Code of Practice on Handling the Environmental Aspects of Temporary Uses and Open Storage Sites' to minimise any potential environmental nuisance caused by the proposed use.
- 11.5 There is an approved similar application for temporary public vehicle park within the same "AGR" zone in the vicinity of the Site in the past five years as mentioned in paragraph 6 above. Approving the current application is in line with the Committee's previous decision.
- 11.6 Regarding the public comments as mentioned in paragraph 10, the departmental comments and planning assessments above are relevant. Besides, any unauthorized development on the Site would be subject to planning enforcement action.

12. Planning Department's View

- 12.1 Based on the assessments made in paragraph 11 and having taken into account the public comments mentioned in paragraph 10 above, PlanD has <u>no objection</u> to the application.
- 12.2 Should the Committee decide to approve the application, it is suggested that the permission shall be valid on a temporary basis for a period of three years until 5.12.2028. The following conditions of approval and advisory clauses are also suggested for Members' reference:

Approval conditions

(a) the implementation of the accepted drainage proposal within **9** months from the date of planning approval to the satisfaction of the Director of Drainage Services or of the Town Planning Board by <u>5.9.2026</u>;

- (b) in relation to (a) above, the implemented drainage facilities on the site shall be maintained at all times during the planning approval period;
- (c) the submission of a fire service installations proposal within **6** months from the date of planning approval to the satisfaction of the Director of Fire Services or of the Town Planning Board by <u>5.6.2026</u>;
- (d) in relation to (c) above, the implementation of the fire service installations proposal within **9** months from the date of planning approval to the satisfaction of the Director of Fire Services or of the Town Planning Board by <u>5.9.2026</u>;
- (e) if the above planning condition (b) is not complied with during the planning approval period, the approval hereby given shall cease to have effect and shall be revoked immediately without further notice;
- (f) if any of the above planning condition (a), (c) or (d) is not complied with by the specified date, the approval hereby given shall cease to have effect and shall on the same date be revoked without further notice; and
- (g) upon expiry of the planning permission, the reinstatement of the site, including the removal of hard paving and fill materials and grassing of the site to the satisfaction of the Director of Planning or of the Town Planning Board.

Advisory clauses

The recommended advisory clauses are at **Appendix IV**.

12.3 Alternatively, should the Committee decide to reject the application, the following reason for rejection is suggested for Members' reference:

the proposed use with associated filling of land is not in line with the planning intention of the "AGR" zone which is primarily to retain and safeguard good quality agricultural land/farm/fish ponds for agricultural purposes, and to retain fallow arable land with good potential for rehabilitation for cultivation and other agricultural purposes. There is no strong planning justification in the submission for a departure from the planning intention, even on a temporary basis.

13. Decision Sought

- 13.1 The Committee is invited to consider the application and decide whether to grant or refuse to grant permission.
- 13.2 Should the Committee decide to approve the application, Members are invited to consider the approval condition(s) and advisory clause(s), if any, to be attached to the permission, and the period of which the permission should be valid on a temporary basis.
- Alternatively, should the Committee decide to reject the application, Members are invited to advise what reason(s) for rejection should be given to the applicant.

14. Attachments

Appendix I Application Form with attachments received on 22.7.2025

and 24.7.2025

Appendix Ia FI received on 8.10.2025

Appendix II Similar application

Appendix III Government departments' general comments

Appendix IV Recommended advisory clauses

Appendix V Public comments

Drawing A-1 Site layout plan

Drawing A-2 Land filling plan

Plan A-1 Location plan

Plan A-2 Site plan

Plan A-3 Aerial photo

Plan A-4 Site photos

PLANNING DEPARTMENT DECEMBER 2025