

APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION
UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE

APPLICATION NO. A/YL-TYST/1191

- Applicant** : Mr. TSOI Tak Lee represented by Goldrich Planners & Surveyors Ltd.
- Site** : Lot 779 in D.D. 119, Yuen Long, New Territories
- Site Area** : 940 m² (about)
- Lease** : Block Government Lease (demised for agricultural use)
- Plan** : Approved Tong Yan San Tsuen Outline Zoning Plan (OZP) No. S/YL-TYST/14
- Zoning** : “Undetermined” (“U”)
- Application** : Proposed Temporary Warehouse for Storage of Construction Materials and Metalware with Ancillary Office for a Period of 3 Years

1. The Proposal

- 1.1 The applicant seeks planning permission for proposed temporary warehouse for storage of construction materials and metalware with ancillary office for a period of three years at the application site (the Site) (**Plan A-1**). According to the covering Notes of the OZP, all uses or developments within the “U” zone except those specified in the Notes require planning permission from the Town Planning Board (the Board). The Site is currently vacant and paved (**Plans A-2 to A-4**).
- 1.2 According to the applicant, no workshop activities will be carried out at the Site. No medium or heavy goods vehicles, including container tractors/trailers, will be allowed to access the Site. Plans showing the vehicular access leading to the Site, site layout and drainage proposal submitted by the applicant are at **Drawings A-1 to A-3** respectively.
- 1.3 The major development parameters of the application are summarised as follows:

Site Area	About 940 m ²
Total Floor Area (Non-domestic)	About 450 m ²
No. and Height of Structures	2 for warehouses and ancillary office (9m, 1 storey)
No. of Parking Spaces	2

	(for private cars) (5m x 2.5 m each) 2 (for light goods vehicles) (7m x 3.5m each)
No. of Loading/Unloading Space	Nil
Operation Hours	9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., with no operation on Sundays and Public Holidays

1.4 In support of the application, the applicant has submitted the following documents:

- (a) Application Form with attachments received on 17.11.2022 (Appendix I)
- (b) Further Information (FI) received on 30.12.2022* (Appendix Ia)
- (c) FI received on 4.1.2023* (Appendix Ib)
* *accepted and exempted from publication requirements*

2. **Justifications from the Applicant**

The justifications put forth by the applicant in support of the application are detailed in the appendix to the Application Form (Appendix I). They can be summarised as follows:

- (a) the proposed use is in line with the Town Planning Board Guidelines No. 13F for “Application for Open Storage and Port Back-up Uses” (TPB PG-No.13F);
- (b) a number of similar applications have been approved by the Board in the vicinity of the Site. The proposal is compatible with the surrounding environment. Besides, the proposed use can ease the shortage of warehouses in Yuen Long and provide job opportunities; and
- (c) there will be minimal traffic, environmental and drainage impacts arising from the proposed use.

3. **Compliance with the “Owner’s Consent/Notification” Requirements**

The applicant is not a “current land owner” but has complied with the requirements 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. 31A) by posting site notice and sending the notice to the Shap Pat Heung Rural Committee by registered post. Detailed information would be deposited at the meeting for Members’ inspection.

4. **Background**

The Site is currently not subject to planning enforcement action.

5. **Previous Application**

There is no previous planning application concerning the Site.

6. Similar Applications

- 6.1 A total of 94 similar planning applications for various temporary warehouse uses with/without other uses within/straddling the subject “U” zone had been considered by the Rural and New Town Planning Committee (the Committee) since 2017. Details of the applications are summarised in **Appendix II** and the locations of the sites are shown on **Plan A-1**.
- 6.2 Out of the 94 similar applications, 90 were approved mainly on similar considerations that the developments were not incompatible with the surrounding open storage/warehouse uses and the concerns of relevant departments could be addressed by imposing approval conditions. However, the planning permissions for 28 of them were subsequently revoked due to non-compliance with approval conditions.
- 6.3 The remaining four applications were rejected by the Committee between 2018 and 2021 on grounds that approval of the application with repeated non-compliances would set an undesirable precedent for other similar planning permissions for temporary uses, thus nullifying the statutory planning control system.

7. Planning Intention

- 7.1 The planning intention of the “U” zone is to cater for the continuing demand for open storage which cannot be accommodated in conventional godown premises. Any proposed developments within the zone should demonstrate that they will not have significant traffic, drainage and environmental impacts on the area.
- 7.2 According to the Explanatory Statement of the OZP, under the “Planning and Engineering Study for Housing Sites in Yuen Long South (YLS) – Investigation”, this area falls within the remaining stages of the YLS Development and the existing operations would be gradually phased out in stages.

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

- 8.1 The Site is:
 - (a) accessible from Kung Um Road to its southeast via a local track (**Plans A-2 and A-3**); and
 - (b) currently vacant and paved (**Plans A-2 to A-4**).
- 8.2 The surrounding areas have the following characteristics (**Plans A-2 and A-3**):
 - (a) comprise predominantly warehouses and open storage/storage yards with scattered residential structures, a marble workshop, graves, agricultural land, unused land and vacant land/structures;
 - (b) there are residential structures in the vicinity of the Site with the nearest one located to its immediate north; and

- (c) except for three warehouses with valid planning permissions (No. A/YL-TYST/1097, 1100 and 1183), the remaining warehouses, open storage/storage yards and marble workshop in the vicinity are suspected unauthorized developments subject to planning enforcement action.

9. Comments from Relevant Government Departments

All government 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 are provided in **Appendices III and IV** respectively.

10. Public Comment Received During the Statutory Publication Period

On 25.11.2022, the application was published for public inspection. During the first three weeks of the statutory public inspection period, one public comment was received from an individual objecting to the application on the ground that the proposed use will generate adverse traffic, environmental and fire safety impacts on the surrounding area (**Appendix V**).

11. Planning Considerations and Assessments

- 11.1 The application is for proposed temporary warehouse for storage of construction materials and metalware with ancillary office for a period of three years at the Site zoned “U” on the OZP. The proposed use is generally not in conflict with the planning intention of the “U” zone which is to cater for the continuing demand for open storage which cannot be accommodated in conventional godown premises. The area is designated as “U” zoning mainly due to concerns of the capacity of Kung Um Road. In this regard, Commissioner for Transport (C for T) has no adverse comment on the application. Under the Revised Recommended Outline Development Plan of YLS, the Site falls partly within an area zoned “Residential – Zone 2 (Subsidised Sale Flats with Commercial)” under Stage 3 of YLS Development. The Chief Engineer/Cross-Boundary Infrastructure and Development, Planning Department and Project Manager (West), Civil Engineering and Development Department have no objection to the application. Approval of the application on a temporary basis of three years would not jeopardise the long-term development of the area.
- 11.2 The surrounding area comprises predominantly warehouses and open storage/storage yards with some of them covered by valid planning permissions (**Plan A-2**). While there are residential structures in the vicinity, the proposed use is generally not incompatible with the surrounding area.
- 11.3 Concerned government departments, including C for T, Director of Environmental Protection, Director of Fire Services and Chief Engineer/Mainland North, Drainage Services Department have no objection to/no adverse comment on the application. Adverse traffic, environmental, fire safety and drainage impacts on the surrounding areas are not envisaged. There has been no environmental complaint concerning the Site received in the past three years. Furthermore, relevant approval conditions are recommended in paragraph 12.2 below to address the technical

requirements of concerned government departments. Should the planning application be approved, the applicant will also be advised to follow the latest “Code of Practice on Handling the Environmental Aspects of Temporary Uses and Open Storage Sites”.

- 11.4 There is no previous application for warehouse use at the Site. Given that 90 similar applications within/straddling the subject “U” zone have been approved since 2017, approval of the current application is generally in line with the Committee’s previous decisions.
- 11.5 There is one public comment objecting to the application received during the statutory public inspection period as summarised in paragraph 10 above. The planning considerations and assessments in paragraphs 11.1 to 11.4 above are relevant.

12. Planning Department’s Views

- 12.1 Based on the assessments made in paragraph 11 above and having taken into account the public comment mentioned in paragraph 10 above, the Planning Department considers that the proposed temporary warehouse for storage of construction materials and metalware with ancillary site office could be tolerated for a period of three years.
- 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 13.1.2026. The following conditions of approval and advisory clauses are also suggested for Members’ reference:

Approval conditions

- (a) the submission of a revised drainage proposal within **6** months from the date of planning approval to the satisfaction of the Director of Drainage Services or of the Town Planning Board by 13.7.2023;
- (b) in relation to (a) above, the implementation of the revised 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 13.10.2023;
- (c) in relation to (b) above, the implemented drainage facilities shall be maintained at all times during the planning approval period;
- (d) 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 13.7.2023;
- (e) in relation to (d) 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 13.10.2023;

- (f) if the above planning condition (c) 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; and
- (g) if any of the above planning condition (a), (b), (d) or (e) 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.

Advisory clauses

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

12.3 There is no strong reason to recommend rejection of the application.

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.
- 13.3 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 appendix and plans received on 17.11.2022
Appendix Ia	FI received on 30.12.2022
Appendix Ib	FI received on 4.1.2023
Appendix II	Similar Applications
Appendix III	Government Departments' General Comments
Appendix IV	Recommended Advisory Clauses
Appendix V	Public Comment
Drawing A-1	Location Plan
Drawing A-2	Layout Plan
Drawing A-3	Drainage Proposal
Plan A-1	Location Plan with Similar Applications
Plan A-2	Site Plan
Plan A-3	Aerial Photo
Plan A-4	Site Photos

**PLANNING DEPARTMENT
JANUARY 2023**