

Letters

The public doesn't want developers in West Kowloon hub

Whether or not the chief secretary meets legislators, it would be a disgrace if they come to a compromise allowing the government to sell any fraction of the West Kowloon Cultural District site to developers for profit-making ("Defy us on hub and you'll pay: lawmakers", February 11).

It is clearly against the wishes of the Hong Kong people to allow gains by the few who have the money and the power. As shown in the findings of a public opinion survey, conducted by Professor Robert Chung Ting-yiu of the University of Hong Kong, over 80 per cent of the public want the site to be developed into a cultural green park, and only 11 per cent want property developers involved.

It is now obvious to the public that the government originally attempted to justify selling the West Kowloon site to selected developers for a 30-year period by imposing the prerequisite of building a giant canopy in a single tender. This was an unaffordable burden for most companies. That was actually a disguised housing-development project, in order to win Legislative Council approval for funding. It is impossible to justify building this monumental structure in terms of cost, and environmental sustainability, and because it is a public-health hazard.

There is an extreme shortage of parkland in the urban centre of Hong Kong. Selling any part of the West Kowloon site is like selling the hens that lay eggs for funding art and cultural development. It would be wrong and irresponsible of any Legco members to agree to sell any sections of this land in the name of subsidising cultural and art development.

The entire site belongs to the public. This is the last piece of harbourfront land, and it should be made, in its entirety, into a green park, with shops, restaurants and cultural facilities, for the enjoyment of the public. The funding needed for development is not immense and can come from the sale of other sites as well as private donations.

K. N. WAI for Hong Kong Alternatives