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Letters

Debate essential on the future of West Kowloon

The article "Early planning consultation 'crucial'" (May 7), is a timely wake-up call for the government, coming right after the launch of the West Kowloon and Harbourfront Opinion Platform by the Hong Kong University public opinion programme.

The objective of this online platform (<http://hkupop.hku.hk>) is for people to express their views about how the West Kowloon reclamation site – originally designated by the government in the early 1990s to be an open parkland – ought to be developed.

Should it be a cultural district mixed with high-rise commercial/residential development, or just a cultural green park? And should Victoria Harbour, already suffering from over-reclamation, be protected?

These are crucial issues and there must be a robust debate about them.

Hong Kong Alternatives, the Society for Protection of the Harbour, and Designing Hong Kong Harbour District are joint sponsors of this public consultation.

We do this in the hope that the new development bureau – in accordance with Donald Tsang Yam-kuen's election manifesto pledge to abide by public opinion when making policy decisions – will take a fresh look at the West Kowloon site.

Peter Lee, Hong Kong Alternatives