

Part B

Question:

You saw an editorial in the newspaper suggesting that your local country park should be used to build more residential buildings and houses.

Write a letter to the editor of the newspaper, expressing your views.

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my thoughts on the recent editorial made by your newspaper, suggesting that my local country park should be cleared and used to build more residential buildings and houses. I completely disagree with the opinion stated in the editorial and would like to express my thoughts. My Position in this issue is conservative, and I am against this proposed 'Redevelopment plan'! We should fight to conserve what's left our nature.

Firstly, this suggestion, if implemented into a real plan, would destroy almost all the forests to make way for buildings. As many of you way already know, a lot of HongKong nature has already been cleared out to make way for tenements, residential complexes, office buildings and landmark skyscrapers.

Ceding more of this already scarce green forest to build residential buildings is reckless, and simply not ideal. Take the example of European "countryside", what is now rolling fields and farm used to be covered in massive, temperate rainforest. Imagine if all of that was cleared to build residential tower blocks!

Secondly, this suggested "redevelopment plan" would be astronomically expensive to build. If you look at a relief or terrain map of the country park, you'll see that the park lies in a very hilly area with bumpy terrain and massive hills that would make very hard to build anything on, let alone the residential complexes that could house the people. Also, levelling the hills is simply not a practical option. Doing so would require literal tons, even kilo tons of explosives and daily trips from hundreds of dump trucks to ferry away the dirt and shattered rock. Where would all of the dirt be shipped to? It's not like there's a bottomless pit where we could dump all of those construction, wasteland out trash into our beautiful beaches again. Not to mention the amount of destruction that would cause to birds and other wildlife alike, and that will need to deal with the constant rumble of explosives near their homes.

Thirdly, there are better alternatives that don't require levelling hills with Semtex or clearing out hectares and hectares of forest land. About 13% of Hong Kong's usable land is considered 'brown' which is the land that can neither be developed nor farmed on. Think of scrapyards as example, with enough spit and polish, these areas could be repurposed from useless land into building houses for those in a desperate need of public housing.

I am actually aware of the glaring housing crisis in Hong Kong. I simply believe we should not be building on country parks to house people. A lot of residents near the park like me are there to it, and we will not let it built on.

Yours sincerely

Chris Wong