

25 January 2010

Dear Editor,

### **Drilling that never stops**

We refer to the article of Mr. Stuart Brookes (*Drilling that never stops, 16 January 2010*), asking for the reason to undertake works on a retaining wall at Pound Lane, Sheung Wan. We wish to provide relevant information for the reference of your readers.

Highways Department is carrying out upgrading works on a retaining wall (ref. no. 11SW-A/R35) (hereinafter denoted as “the Wall”) at Pound Lane near Catholic Mission School (CMS) to enhance its stability. The upgrading works comprise three phases. Phase 1 is to thicken a section of the Wall by adding a mass concrete backing. Phase 2 is to relocate existing water mains under the staircase behind the Wall by the Water Supplies Department (WSD), making way for thickening the remaining section the Wall under Phase 3.

We commenced the first construction phase in mid July 2009 during the school summer holiday period and had it completed in early September 2009, so as to minimize disruption. At present, relocation of the concerned water mains under the second phase of construction is under way for completion by mid this year. Our plan is to commence the last phase of construction in the coming school summer holiday in July, taking three months to complete.

We understand that the above-mentioned upgrading works will unavoidably cause disturbance to the public, in particular the residents nearby. We are always mindful of our obligation to keep the disturbance so caused down to a minimum. However, at this location, the phasing of works had taken into consideration the summer holidays of the school and the works of WSD nearby. We apologize for the disturbance so caused and will take means to enable residents less exposed to construction noise.

We would like to thank Mr Brookes for his interest in our upgrading works and to appeal for his understanding and forbearance towards the works which are essential to enhance public safety.

Should you or members of public have any further enquiries on this issue, please feel free to contact our Senior Engineer, Mr. K C WONG on 3188 3322 at any time.

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