

24 May 2010

Dear Editor,

Taking the wrong path

We refer to the article of a Sha Tin Resident (*Taking the wrong path, 17 May 2010*), asking for the need of paving block works at the footway of Tai Chung Kiu Road near Garden Vista and the anti-skid surface at the cycle track and footpath of the Banyan Bridge. We wish to provide relevant information for the reference of your readers.

The concrete footpath at Tai Chung Kiu Road near Garden Vista is reaching the end of its serviceable life. We are replacing it at the request of local parties. Paving blocks are used because they can be reused, hence more environmentally friendly and economical than concrete footpath.

As for the Banyan bridge, it was built with an utility trough underneath the footpath and cycle track. To facilitate repairs to utilities, the trough cover is made of removable concrete beams. Irregularities on the beams result in a bumpy surface and hence a levelling layer is placed on top of the beams to ensure safety and comfort to pedestrians and cyclists. Previously, the leveling layer took form of a bituminous paving, but its performance was not satisfactory and required frequent re-laying. In recent years, we have applied a mortar layer with anti-skid surface. This leveling layer is more durable and allows local repairs to be done without closing a large area, hence less inconvenience to the public. To differentiate the footpath and cycle track, we have colored them respectively grey and red. Our recent inspection revealed minor localized defects at the cycle track. We have arranged to repair them in June coming.

We trust that the above would provide your readers a better picture on the need for the concerned works.

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