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BETTING CENTRE OPPOSED

THE Royal Hongkong Jockey Club has faced a new snag in its bid to extend its business to Tsingyi Island.

About 200 families in the newly-completed Mayfair Garden have opposed the setting up of an off-course betting centre in their private housing estate.

They said the club's proposal would promote gambling and corrupt the minds of the younger generation.

They submitted a petition to the Tsingyi Public Enquiry Centre to air their discontent last Saturday.

The issue also triggered a heated debate at the Area Committee meeting on Monday. But no decision was reached.

But officials and elected district board members at the meeting agreed that the proposal would be more unfavourable to public housing estates than to those living in private buildings.

A spokesman for the Tsunwan District Office said a sur-

vey on the opinions of the local residents towards the proposal was launched early this year.

It was found that there was no strong opposition against the proposal, she said.

However, since residents of the Mayfair Garden had not moved in then, their opinions were not reflected in the survey.

She added that the residents' opposition would be taken into consideration when negotiating with the Jockey Club over the matter.

A spokesman for Sun Hung Kai Properties Limited, which owns Mayfair Garden, said the Jockey Club had offered to set up an off-course betting centre in the estate.

The deal was still being negotiated and no decision had been made.

The Royal Hongkong Jockey Club was not available for comment yesterday.