

**Summary of the Minutes of
the 3rd Meeting of Sha Tin District Council (2008 Session)**

The 3rd meeting of Sha Tin District Council (2008 session) was held on 14 February 2008. The major issues discussed are summarised below:

Visit of Secretary for Home Affairs to Sha Tin District Council (STDC)

2. The Secretary for Home Affairs (SHA) said that apart from district administration work, this year Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) would focus on promoting cultural and sports affairs. If the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority Bill is passed by the Legislative Council this year, HAB will set up the West Kowloon Management Board as soon as possible to enhance the development of cultural arts in Hong Kong. Besides, by taking the opportunity of the Olympic Equestrian Events, HAB would develop Sha Tin into a Sports City. He hoped that STDC would cooperate with HAB in promoting the Olympic spirit and public participation in sports.

3. Some members pointed out that the recreational and cultural facilities were inadequate in Sha Tin, especially Ma On Shan, and urged the government to provide community halls and warm water swimming pools there. They worried that the Venue Partnership Scheme would escalate the problem and suggested the government to make use of vacant schools. Some members recommended the building of a new town hall and a local performing venue and requested the government not to alter the land use of the site at Area 103 in Ma On Shan, which was originally planned for building a recreational complex. A member requested the government to expedite the plan of building community and sports complex in Yuen Chau Kok Area 14B. Some members recommended the development of Shing Mun River into a scenic spot or water sports centre.

4. Some members raised concerns about illegal parking of bicycles in Sha Tin and urged HAB to solve the problem in view of the coming Olympic events. Some members pointed out the loopholes in the Building Management (Amendment) Ordinance and requested HAB and Home Affairs Department (HAD) to further review the Ordinance. They also said that the District Office and HAD did not provide much support for owners' corporation. A member suggested to extend the Ordinance to cover the election arrangement of owners' corporation. Another member

suggested inviting the vice-chairmen of all Committees to participate in the District Management Committee. Some members proposed that departments should cooperate more with District Offices on transport, planning and education matters. A member remarked that the funding allocated to Sha Tin was insufficient in covering the District Minor Works (DMW) proposed by DC members, and urged the relevant department to carry out improvement work for the road linking Fo Tan Station and Sui Wo Court.

5. To take the opportunity of the Olympic Games, some members suggested the government to encourage youngsters to participate in sports activities, to develop new tourist spot such as plane model where the first airport is situated in Sha Tin, to establish a medal museum for sharing the achievement of the athletes and to improve the road sign in MTR stations. A member suggested to submit applications to the United Nation for listing the unique geological feature in New Territories East and the hexagonal rock in Sai Kung as World Geological Park as World Natural Heritage.

6. SHA thanked members and Sha Tin residents for supporting the Olympic Equestrian Events despite the inconvenience caused. He replied that the government had to speed up the development of West Kowloon Cultural District. He said that the venue in Sha Tin Town Hall would be reserved for about 100 days for Cantonese opera, which was a traditional Chinese performance that worth preserving. Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) would also accord priority to local cultural performing groups and schools using the hall for graduation ceremony. He agreed that vacant school could be used for recreational purpose and suggested STDC to identify suitable campus for Education Bureau's consideration. He also asked STDC to consider using the DMW funding to improve the facilities of community halls. Regarding illegal bicycle parking, he said that District Officer, HAD and relevant departments were now discussing the use of executive measures in handling the problem. Besides, he said that the Building Management (Amendment) Ordinance was just implemented last year, departments would collect public opinion and raise amendments if necessary. As for the development of Shing Mun River into scenic spot, he suggested STDC to consider developing Shing Mun River by means of social enterprise. He remarked that HAB would review the funding arrangement for the next financial year according to the actual use of funding.

7. For the Olympic Games, Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs said that Olympic Live Site would be set up in Sha Tin during August and September to broadcast the Olympic competitions and other entertainment programmes on a giant

screen. She further said that the torch relay would be held in Sha Tin on 2 May 2008 which would promote Sha Tin to the world. She added that HAD would cooperate with the Jockey Club and Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong in promoting cultural heritage, including the establishment of Sports Museum for displaying the achievements of both elite and disabled athletes. She said that members' comments were welcomed for the Equestrian Events and promotion of Olympic spirit.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the 1st and 2nd Meeting held on 3 and 11 January 2008

8. The Council endorsed the minutes of the 1st and 2nd meeting.

Financial Account of STDC (as at 31 January 2008)

9. The Council endorsed the above report.

Proposed Ceiling for 2008/2009 STDC Estimates

10. The Secretariat recommended that the proposed ceiling for next year's estimates would be set in accordance with the past accounting arrangement. Members endorsed the proposed arrangement.

Revised STDC Standing Order

11. The Secretary said that amendments were made to the STDC Standing Order based on the model standing order of Home Affairs Department (HAD), the recommendations given by the last Finance and General Affairs Committee and the actual operational experience.

12. Most of the members concerned about the requirements on the number of working group members, the ratio of STDC members in the working group, the attendance and leave application arrangement of working group members. A member suggested allowing district personnel to the working group in order to promote outsiders' participation in the work of STDC. Some members expressed concerns about provision of STDC documents in bilingual versions and the arrangement of agenda items.

13. After taking into consideration of members' comments, Sha Tin District Officer proposed that:

- (a) the upper limit of working group members would be 20 and the quorum should be 5;
- (b) at least 2 DC members for working group with members of 10 or below; and
- (c) 1/4 should be DC members for working group with members of 11 to 20.

14. He replied that the secretariat would only provide document in bilingual version when necessary. He stated that a member would be disqualified from holding office if he or she had been absent for 4 consecutive months without obtaining the consent of the Council. The purpose of the provision was to request members to provide sufficient reason for the council to consider their leave applications. He said that agenda items were arranged based on the priority and importance of the issue. If the Council agreed, he suggested that funding application would be moved further up in the agenda for more efficient handling.

15. The Council endorsed the proposed amendment on the number of working group members and quorum put forward by Sha Tin District Officer.

Arrangement on the Appointment of STDC Co-opted Members

16. The Council endorsed the above paper.

Hospital Authority Regional Advisory Committee – Representative of STDC

17. The Chairman announced that Mr. WONG Chak-piu was elected as the representative of STDC in the Hospital Authority Regional Advisory Committee.

Culture, Sports & Community Development Committee

18. The council noted the report of the above Committee.

Funding Application

Sha Tin District Recreation and Sports Activity Programme of Leisure and Cultural Services Department for the First Quarter of 2008/09

2008/09 Sha Tin District Proposed Free Entertainment Programme of LCSD

Production of STDC Souvenir

19. The Council endorsed the above funding applications

2007 Sha Tin Crime Trend Overview

Report of the District Management Committee

20. The Council endorsed the above papers.

Next Meeting

21. The next meeting would be held at 2:30 p.m. on 20 March 2008.