

**Summary of the Minutes of  
the 8th Meeting of Sha Tin District Council (2008 Session)**

The 8th meeting of Sha Tin District Council (STDC) (2008 session) was held on 20 November 2008. The major issues discussed are summarised below:

**Visit of Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene**

2. Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (DFEH) briefly introduced the main tasks of Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) in 2008/09, including the submission of Food Safety Bill to the Legislative Council, increase of food sampling with result being announced daily, close liaison with food sector, mainland and overseas food safety authorities and amendment of ordinance regarding food recall and import of food, as well as policy adjustment on market and hawker. Pilot scheme was also carried out in Wan Chai and Yau Tsim Mong to prosecute the use of pull up stands. Regarding the work of FEHD in Sha Tin, he remarked that actions would be taken against black spots of illegal extension of business area as well as rodent and mosquito infestations. He added that FEHD had increased the funding for street cleansing and one street washing gang and two high pressure water jet cleaner teams were added to Sha Tin District. He also invited members to observe the street cleansing work on 17 and 23 April.

3. Some members pointed out the water dripping and water seepage problem in Sha Tin. They complained that the Joint Office was not effective in handling the problem and suggested speeding up the handling procedure. Members also stated that street obstruction caused by shops and restaurants was serious in Tai Wai area. Besides, illegal parking of bicycles and articles placed along the streets also aggravated the problem. In view of the economic depression, a few members requested the department to reduce the market rent. Some stated the air ventilation and hygiene problem of markets. Proposals were made on Tai Wai Market, including the construction of air-conditioned market at the development above Tai Wai Station and the provision of subsidy to the Owners Corporation of Tai Wai Market to carry out repair works at night. Another member suggested the department to be more flexible in issuing hawker licence in order to recover the licence when necessary.

4. Regarding food safety, a member asked about the communication mechanism between FEHD and mainland authorities and the establishment of origin registration and labeling system. Some members further asked about a bigger size of mosquito found in Sha Tin, the extension of prosecution action against pull up stands to the

whole territory, the construction waste disposed at Tai Shui Hang refuse depot, the rebuilt of Sha Tin Market and the involvement of several departments in tree cutting.

5. DFEH replied that vehicle inspection and quarantine work would be conducted at Man Kam To. 40% of vegetables would be inspected and meat like chicken and pork would all be inspected. He said that close communication was maintained with mainland authorities. The State General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine and the registered farms would be responsible for monitoring the food origin. Moreover, facilities at Man Kam To would be upgraded to enhance inspection ability. He added that amendments would be made to include egg in the legislation. For water seepage problem, he said that insufficient staff was a problem for the Joint Office and arrangement would be made to fill up vacancies as soon as possible. He added that the department was now exploring other possible options to improve the testing method and instruction had been issued to require staff to investigate water dripping according to the complaint time. Besides, management office of private housing was encouraged to conduct preliminary investigation and refer complicated cases to FEHD to follow up.

6. DEFH emphasized that FEHD and other departments had carried out enforcement actions against illegible extension of business area in public place. He added that the department was not empowered by the existing legislation to handle extension of business area within private area. Abandoned bicycles would also be towed away according to the Waste Disposal Ordinance. He said that market rent had been frozen for ten years and deficits had been recorded each year. Therefore, FEHD had to strike a balance when considering the proposals on Tai Wai Market and rent reduction. Since the cost of installing air conditioning system was high, the department would consider providing fans to solve the ventilation problem in markets. Regarding the question on the insufficient supply of brooms, he admitted that one of the contractors was unable to provide brooms on time and the department had changed the contractor. For the enquiry on mosquito, he said that Sha Tin District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent would follow up the issue. He further replied that the department was identifying an appropriate place for moving Tai Shui Hang Village refuse depot. He said that FEHD and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department maintained close communication in handling plants and one stop service might not be feasible for all government services.

#### **Confirmation of the Minutes of the 7th Meeting held on 25 September 2008**

7. The Council endorsed the revised minutes of the 7th meeting.

### **Employment of Contract Staff of STDC Secretariat**

8. The Council endorsed the funding application for the employment of contract staff of STDC Secretariat.

### **Revised Estimates of STDC (as at 11 November 2008)**

### **Financial Account of STDC (as at 11 November 2008)**

9. The Council noted the above papers.

### **Reports of District Facilities Management Committee, Culture, Sports & Community Development Committee, Development and Housing Committee, Education and Welfare Committee, Health and Environment Committee and Traffic and Transport Committee**

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10. The Council noted the above reports.

### **Finance & General Affairs Committee**

11. The Council endorsed the draft of 2008 Sha Tin District Council Annual Report.

### **Funding Application for “2008/2009 Sha Tin Festive Lighting Activity–Television Production”**

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12. The Council endorsed the above funding application and the amount was \$450,000.

### **Motion put forward by Mr. KAN Chung-nin – “In-situ Rehousing for the residents of Lek Yuen Estate”**

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13. Mr. KAN suggested that Lek Yuen Estate could be redeveloped by phases through allocating one block of the new housing estate for in-situ rehousing. A member also requested the government to allocate all the flats of the new estate for rehousing. Another member worried about the noise pollution and impact on environment during the redevelopment.

14. Representative of Housing Department replied that the department would conduct structural investigation for Lek Yuen Estate at the latter half of 2009 and a

report would be issued in 2010, while the new estate would be completed by the end of 2012.

15. The Council endorsed the motion of Mr. KAN Chung-nin with a unanimous vote of 34 in favour:

“STDC strongly requests the Housing Authority to allocate more than 500 flats from a total of 1 570 flats of the new public housing estate at the site of Sha Tin Fire Service Department and Police Quarters for insitu rehousing of one block of Lek Yuen Estate residents with the redevelopment of Lek Yuen Estate to be carried out by phases, including the construction of a few high rise buildings together with recreational and community facilities.”

### **Report of the District Management Committee**

16. In view of members’ concern on illegal bicycle parking within the district, Sha Tin District Officer said that the government would try to identify appropriate places for increasing bicycle parking spaces. He added that Sha Tin District Office, FEHD and the police had carried out joint operation once two week to clear the abandoned bicycles at different black spots.

17. Some members asked about the demolition of parking spaces at Exit A of Tai Wai Station, increase in frequency of joint clearance operation, canceling the display of notice to shorten the procedure, outsourcing the management of bicycles and providing more parking spaces around Sunshine City in Ma On Shan.

18. Sha Tin District Officer agreed that the demolition of bicycle parking spaces at Exit A of Tai Wai Station could help improve the environmental hygiene condition. He said that the Transport Department (TD) was considering the increase of parking spaces at Exit B and would follow up the issue with Sha Tin District Office. He further said that consideration would be made to increase the frequency of joint operation, however it would involve a lot of resources. He emphasized that relevant departments were discussing the best option to handle the management of bicycle parking spaces and would continue with the existing method at the moment. Regarding the proposal on outsourcing bicycle management, he encouraged local organization to set up social enterprise through the “Enhancing Self-Reliance through District Partnership Programme” established by Home Affairs Department and asked members to help promoting the programme.

### **“Pok Oi Cycling for Millions” Fund Raising Activity**

19. The Council accepted the invitation of Pok Oi Hospital and STDC would be the supporting unit of the activity.

### **Next Meeting**

20. The next meeting would be held at 2:30 p.m. on 22 January 2009.