

## **Notes of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Eastern District Council**

The Eighteenth Meeting of the Eastern District Council (EDC) was held on 5 May 2011 and the major items discussed were summarized as follows:

### **I. Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene to meet Eastern District Council Members**

2. The views expressed by the Councillors were summarized as follows :

(a) A numbers of Councillors were concerned about the vacant condition and trading activities of the markets of Eastern District and they held the following opinions:

(i) A market by itself was a place for purchase of non-staple food, therefore the original purpose of introducing trading promotion activities into the market was good, but the activity could not achieve the desired effect and the experience of Sai Wan Ho market was an unsuccessful example. It was hoped that improvement could be made;

(ii) A hawker of San Ha Street Market occupied the passage for pedestrians for a long time, which had not only caused congestion but also made the pickpockets avail of the chance to steal, it was hoped that the police could take follow-up action. Since the district office of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) was situated in the market building, it was hoped that the department could take enforcement positively;

(iii) The inside of Kam Wa Street Market, Shaukeiwan was all emptiness and was mainly used for storage of goods. On the contrary the open compound outside the market had been occupied which caused all congestion and affected the flow of pedestrians. Although it was understandable that the work of the department was voluminous and complicated and maybe due to shortage of manpower, enforcement loophole or slipshod enforcement, resulting in the above situation. It was hoped that the department could strengthen its power to maintain the cleanliness of the market and improve the appearance of the city;

(iv) The vacant percentage of the market was high, for example, the Quarry

Bay Market had already installed barrier-free access and it was hoped that a revitalization plan be considered as soon as possible in order to let out the vacant shops successfully and to introduce other trades of service provision and small shops such as a store, a stationery shop or clothing alteration shop etc.;

- (v) There was a serious shortage of manpower for management of the market . The overseers of Sai Wan Ho Market had to supervise two to three markets. Apart from their own duties, they also had to supervise the work of the cleansing and security contractors and the operation of the market as well. The shortage of manpower was the main cause for the drop of the market management standard, which caused inconvenience to the citizens and the shop tenants who then turned to complain to a District Councillor. It was hoped that the department could take special heed of this and made improvement as soon as possible.
- (b) A number of Councillors were concerned about the issue of hawker control and held the following opinions :
  - (i) Proposed to set up more hawker areas in the public place no matter how big its scale was, as this would create employment opportunity for the poverty-stricken people;
  - (ii) Agreed to the setting up of hawker areas as it was difficult to find employment at the moment and it provided a chance of starting a business. Meanwhile, it was hoped that the food shopkeepers could exercise self discipline and maintain public morality and the department had to strengthen patrol as well in order to ensure that the streets and the rear lanes were clean and tidy;
  - (iii) Eastern District was lacking a long-term hawker control policy, so that the condition of illegal hawking had shown no improvement, such as selling fruits and vegetables etc in a public place. It was hoped that the department could strengthen the prosecuting power of the Hawker Control Team or raise the fines and penalty.
- (c) A number of Councillors were concerned about street obstruction by shops and considered that the problem of occupying the pavement was serious and

they held the following opinions :

- (i) The problem of illegally occupying the pavement by shopkeepers was serious and it was hoped that the department could take enforcement action persistently so as to keep the city clean and tidy and to carry out random enforcement outside regular periods so that the shopkeepers could not get prepared in advance, such that the department could achieve the desired enforcement effect.
- (ii) Goods were always placed on the pavement and roadside day and night in Lee Chung Street and were not subjected to supervision. Besides, the iron carts used to carry the goods had smoothened the bricks of the waymarked path for the blind. It was proposed that the problem could be solved.
- (iii) The problem of the ten-odd black spots of street obstruction in Eastern District had been followed up for years, yet it was still not solved. According to understanding, no prosecution could be taken for cases where no obstruction to pedestrians was caused or goods placed on the pavement could not be identified. It was suggested that the enforcement procedures be reviewed and amended on a large scale, such as permission to forfeit the goods;
- (iv) The Council had specially set up the Concern Working Group on Pavement Obstruction Problem in Eastern District to heavily deal with the black spots and the work was followed up by inter-departmental working groups. In the past year as a result of the joint efforts of the working group and the department, there was obvious improvement of the problem within the district. Experience of the Working Group concluded that persistent hard work and the increase of fines and penalty together with stepping up patrol was the most effective way to make the shopkeepers refrain from occupying the pavement;
- (v) The way of tackling the problem of “Roll-up banners” by the department was different from area to area. It was more stringent for Wan Chai and Causeway Bay and why Eastern District could not be handled in the same specification. It was hoped that the policy could be unified.

- (vi) The department did not keep enough supervision of those food shops operating in night time. The shops in the residential area occupied the pedestrian passage and placed chairs and tables on it and emitted noise and polluted the environment as well. At present only one Hawker Control Team was taking enforcement action there once in a while and the deterrent force was not enough. It was hoped that supervision could be strengthened so that residents would not be disturbed further.
  - (vii) Since it caused obstruction to the pedestrians and endangered the pedestrians as well, the department should make clear-cut standard and take enforcement fairly by heavily penalizing the illegal act so that everybody could be convicted.
- (d) A number of Councillors were concerned about the policy and arrangement for urns and held the following opinions :
- (i) Some residents of Chai Wan area put the urns in the paper offering shops for worship. It was hoped that the department could make investigation and take follow-up action.
  - (ii) There were used to be cemeteries and crematories in Chai Wan area and residents had been under stress for many years. If the policy was to evenly distribute the urn terrace amongst the 18 districts, then Chai Wan area should have less new urn terrace added. It was hoped that the department could reflect this to the Policy Bureau.
  - (iii) Was the urn terrace which was operated illegally put under supervision and what was the mode of supervision; and for those citizens who had bought illegal urn spaces, how would the department help them to claim compensation.
  - (iv) The EDC did not object to adding urn spaces in Chai Wan area but the problem of serious traffic congestion faced by the Spring and Autumn visit each year must be solved first.
- (e) A number of Councillors had the following opinions towards the effectiveness of the environmental hygiene of Eastern District and the performance of the staff of FEHD :

- (i) The effectiveness of the work of Eastern District in recent years especially under the leadership of the two Environmental Hygiene Superintendents, Eastern District and the hard efforts of the management level was known to everyone with eyes open. But the handling of the identity of the complaints by the front line Hawker Control Team had left some room for improvement;
- (ii) Praised the incumbent street cleansing staff for more satisfactory performance than those in the past;
- (f) A Councillor reflected that from November, 2010 he complained to the department that a food shop at 16, Shing On Street operated business in breach of the regulation by selling roasted meat in an open space, but the matter still did not get proper attention after having been followed up for a long time, because there could be only one case for prosecution. At present, another shop also did the same thing. He opined that if the legislation was outdated, the department should consider to amend the legislation.
- (g) A Councillor pointed out that at present the problem of water dripping by the air-conditioner normally would be handled by imposing fine, but the department expressed that the problem could not be handled during non-business hours, so he hoped that the department would consider to improve the arrangement.
- (h) A Councillor expressed that on the one hand the department responded positively to the request for strengthening enforcement and on the other hand it expressed that we needed to sympathize with the present difficulty in trading environment, it was quite contradictory. The department should devolve the power to the front-line enforcement personnel, who should take stringent action against the hawker who habitually committed the offence.
- (i) Councillors put forward a number of enquiries, including the alteration of toilet for other purpose by large scale food chain-store, had it already breached the condition of the license, how to handle the 3-coloured recycle bins, it was quite remote to use colour water to test the problem of water seepage in private buildings and its effectiveness was not good, was there more advanced technology to be introduced to solve the problem.

## **II. Commissioner of Police to meet Eastern District Council Members**

3. The views expressed by the Councillors were summarized as follows :

- (a) A numbers of Councillors were concerned about the overall security and order of the society and the event of procession against the Budget on 6<sup>th</sup> March and held the following opinions:
  - (i) During the large scale procession and demonstration, the police would usually put in huge police manpower to maintain the order outside the PRC organization and the Legislative Council Building and would also dispatch police officers to mix in the crowd;
  - (ii) Recently the order of the society was rather confused and the police should take enforcement according to law in order to maintain the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong;
  - (iii) The people who took part in the demonstration were all law-abiding but the number of police officers arranged for maintaining order was numerous thus abusing the police manpower and wasting the money of the taxpayers;
  - (iv) The procession and demonstration activity of Hong Kong was very peaceful but the police only had to provoke the younger generation. It was hoped that the police could sympathize with the youngsters that they felt hopeless towards the present social condition and thus gave them the opportunity to speak their mind and exercise their civic rights and there was no need to make a tense atmosphere;
  - (v) Although there were different opinions within the Council but the majority of the Councillors supported the police to take enforcement according to law and to handle the situation of disrupting public order as soon as possible;
  - (vi) How to improve the degree of harmony for the relationship between the police and the citizens; the citizens were not happy to the see the tense situation between the police and the people taking part in the procession, had the police any method for solving or mitigating the problem;

- (vii) What was the ratio of the number of policemen handling the procession and demonstration to the number of citizens taking part in the procession and demonstration; was there any index for the degree of disrupting public order and how to define it; had the police any arrangement for altering the hostility and distrust of the citizen towards the police; it was hoped that the reputation and image of the police could be lifted;
  - (viii) Under the Basic Law the people of Hong Kong have the freedom of speech and demonstration, but as to the recent escalation of violence in the demonstration activity, the occupation of the road and the thrust on the police, we did not support this. Hong Kong is a place of rule, we supported the police to handle the illegal act according to law and there should be no indulgence for the law-breakers.
- (b) A number of Councillors put forward the following opinions in combating and preventing crimes:
- (i) The promotion of area liaison work really helped the prevention of crime. It was hoped that the work of police community relation could be enhanced;
  - (ii) Praised the efforts and high efficiency of the Police Community Relation Team of Eastern District to maintain the stability of the law and order of Eastern District;
  - (iii) As it was planned to combat deception case, it was hoped that publicity could be enhanced especially for the telephone deception on the elderly, and at the same time strengthening community liaison and cooperation to attain the desired effect;
  - (iv) The crime rate of Eastern District dropped and this was contributed to the wholehearted work of the Police Community Relation Team to make the residents of Eastern District live peacefully and work happily. Their contribution and quality deserved commendation;
  - (v) Did the police agree that the cases of smoking dangerous drugs (DD) had increased and so had the cases involving drivers. And it was too

easy to buy DD, was this caused by negligent supervision. It was happy to learn that the police would strengthen the enforcement against drivers who smoked DD, but it was hoped that the cause of it could be investigated so as to curb the source.

- (c) A number of Councillors were concerned about the manpower, the work pressure and welfare matter of the police officers and held the following opinions :
  - (i) Many years ago when there was a change in the uniform of the policeman, it had consulted the District Council. The present uniform was lacking dignity and looked like security guard and moreover the policeman would no longer polish their shoes bright; the image projected in the past style was sharper;
  - (ii) It was learnt from the family member of the front-line police officers that their work pressure was great. Did the police have mental mediation service to help alleviate their stress;
  - (iii) Before the policemen left their quarters, was there any channel to help them arrange for their residence in the future, such as application for public housing.
- (d) A number of Councillors were concerned about juvenile problem. A Councillor considered that the police had no way to handle the problem of loitering in midnight, they just brought them back to the police station and waited for their parents to take them back. He asked if there was any better method for handling.
- (e) A Councillor asked if there was not enough manpower in the '999' hot-line, why he had to wait for as long as five minutes to report a case of traffic accident to the listener after the call had got through. He hoped that more manpower could be transferred to the hot-line.

**III. Update on the progress of the key initiatives in the “Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014)”**

(EDC Paper No. 22/11)

4. The views expressed by the Councillors were summarized as follows :
- (a) A numbers of Councillors pointed out that at present the quantity of daily food waste was bulky and hoped that the government could strengthen the promotion of food waste recycling. They held the following opinions:
    - (i) The problem of environmental protection was quite urgent so they supported the present policy framework and its progress and suggested that promotion of food waste recycling be started in the place where housing estates grouped together and to strengthen the cooperation with District Council members when the promotion was done at district levels;
    - (ii) Had no idea of how to start promoting food waste recycling. Was there a need to install facilities first or to make application for accessories first. At present there was not much related information and the application was complicated. It was hoped that a convenient and easy-to-handle method could be provided
  - (b) A number of Councillors held the following opinions and doubts on the construction of incinerators.
    - (i) Transformed the thermal energy produced into other energy such as electricity for local use and self-sufficient;
    - (ii) Was one incinerator enough; was it planned to build more in other locations;
    - (iii) What kind of gas it would generate and what undesirable effects it would have on human beings; what change of air components would take place before and after the construction, how long it would take to be diluted, how many miles would be the scope affected; had it been studied to use the technology of biochemistry as a substitute.
  - (c) A Councillor pointed out that the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) had not handled the waste collected by the 3-coloured recycle bins until recent year. He opined that the EPD only cared to provide trading environment for the recycler and neglected the nuisance caused to the district. The Council had discussed the introduction of licensing system,

he hoped that the EPD could respond to this.

- (d) A Councillor opined that the policy should take reduction of waste as the main object. He listed three types of waste that was reducible: inert construction material, all kinds of publicity leaflets and plastic bottled drinks greatly used in all kinds of meetings and functions. He considered that the government should take the lead to reduce waste.
- (e) A Councillor expressed that years ago he had put up a number of proposals in the Council, that was, to construct dry-wet waste channel in Chai Wan Estate to facilitate source recycle; the recycling of waste such as mud and concrete etc for the manufacture of brick; the manufacture of plastic bottles with the same material to facilitate recycle and the recycle of second-hand furniture.
- (f) Councillors put up a number of enquiries, including was there enough 3-coloured recycle bins in the public place or on the streets to recycle different wastes; could there be any consideration to recycle glass and to simplify the complicated and trivial formalities of application for environmental and natural conservation fund to tie in with the increasing awareness of environmental protection of the citizens.

#### **IV. Proposal to include a Community Hall in the development of the ex-North Point Estate Site**

(EDC Paper No. 23/11)

5. The views expressed by the Councillors were summarized as follows :

- (a) Councillors generally supported the proposal and hoped that the Community Hall (CH) could be built as soon as possible.
- (b) A number of Councillors held the following opinions to the number of seats in the proposed community hall :
  - (i) Suggested that the seats be increased to at least 600 or 700 and if there was not enough area, it could be increased on two floors;
  - (ii) Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre had only 471 seats, whether the proposed 450

seats was enough or not, different people will have different views;

(iii) Enquired if the width, length and depth of the hall could be increased so as to increase the seats.

(c) A number of Councillors held the following opinions to the lighting and sound equipment etc.in the proposed community hall :

(i) To design according to the latest standard of the performance venue so as to avoid wasting resources in case future improvement was needed;

(ii) The lighting and sound facilities should at least reach the standard of Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre;

(iii) To lift the level of the management of the CH and employ dedicated personnel to be responsible for managing higher standard of lighting and sound facilities and employ professionals to manage sound facilities.

(d) A number of Councillors held the following opinions to the number of conference rooms in the proposed community hall. A Councillor hoped that more conference rooms could be added. A Councillor suggested that the interview room be altered to conference room so as to provide a venue for holding meeting for the owners' corporations especially those of the private buildings or local bodies.

(e) Several Councillors considered that the construction of a multipurpose building could better meet the request of the community. A Councillor suggested that the building could include one floor for community hall and one floor for theatre to accommodate 1000 audience.

(f) A Councillor pointed out that if the depth and width of the stage was not sufficient and there were only one male make-up room and one female make-up room and the lighting and sound was designed as those specification in ordinary community hall, then they were not sufficient for the purpose of performance.

(g) A Councillor opined that the community hall and the theatre could co-exist on the site . A Councillor considered that they should continue to strive for

the building of a venue in Eastern District for the performance of Cantonese opera and there was also Councillor who agreed and hoped that the department could consider the plan of co-existence.

- (h) A Councillor objected to just building an ordinary community hall on the site, she considered that it should be lifted to multifarious theatre as a landmark of culture in order to lift the culture level of the district.
- (i) A Councillor expressed that the facilities of the community halls completed in recent years were even better, if the proposed community hall could be completed early and provide more performance opportunities, it could tie in with the cultural arts activities of Eastern District which developed flourishingly. She opined that the more seats the better, because it could accommodate more citizens to view the performance.
- (j) A Councillor considered that the facilities of the community hall should keep up with times and should not be designed according to the standard of the 70's again. He agreed that the community hall could not take the place of the theatre and it was not practical to forcibly demand to enhance the level but for the sake of promoting community cultural arts it must be equipped with corresponding facilities request. He opined that the number of seats was secondary, but the performance venue must be equipped with facilities for professional performance.
- (k) Councillors put forward a number of suggestions, including to follow up the design and work details by the working group under the Planning, Works and Housing Committee, so that the Council could give opinions. Apart from the District Council, professional bodies would also be consulted on their opinions of the requirement of the performance venue and in order to meet the requirement of the performance venue, the opinions of the professional bodies would be consulted, such as the Leisure and Cultural Services Department was equipped with the backstage of the stage and more than three make-up rooms.
- (l) Councillors put forwards a number of enquiries, including what was the depth and width of the stage; what was the area of the space or waiting area on both sides of the stage; how many male and female make-up rooms and amongst which what was the number of toilets; Hong Kong has little land and even less like the fine land of North Point Estate, therefore apart from

ordinary community halls, would consideration be given to other multipurpose such as building international conference centre so as to strengthen the attraction of Eastern District; would other facilities be built on the site, such as social welfare facilities.

- (m) Councillor LO Wing-kwan, MH made the following declaration:

[I request the Home Affairs Department to include a Community Hall in the proposed development of the ex-North Point Estate Site and that it should adopt as far as possible all the constructive proposals of the Councillors and establish venues with facilities meeting the requirement of the performance; and to come to the Eastern District Council again for consultation of opinions prior to commencement of the project.]

6. After discussion, the Eastern District Council supported the building of a community hall on the North Point Estate site and hoped that it could be completed early for the enjoyment of the citizens and to provide performance venue for the cultural arts bodies and the design of the community hall should as far as possible tie in with the performance needs and to lift lighting and sound facilities etc.

**V. Eastern District Office 2011/12 Work Plan**

(EDC Paper No. 24/11)

7. A Councillor enquired if the new measures in support of building management would be introduced by the EDO.
8. Members noted the Work Plan of this year.

**VI. Memorial of The Centenary of the 1911 Revolution in China cum Eastern District Dragon Boat Race**

(EDC Paper No. 25/11)

9. After discussion, it was adopted by the Councillors that the Eastern District Council and the Area Committee joined hand to enter the Eastern District Dragon Boat Race this year and that Councillor LUI Chi-man was responsible for coordination of the related matters.

**VII. Discussion of the appropriation of the Eastern District Council funds for 2011/2012**

(EDC Paper No. 26/11)

10. Councillors adopted the above appropriation proposal.

Eastern District Council Secretariat  
June 2011