

Summary of the Minutes of the 21st Meeting of the Tsuen Wan District Council

The 21st Meeting of the Tsuen Wan District Council (TWDC) was held on 29 March 2011. The major issues discussed were summarised as follows:

Visit of Director of Planning to TWDC

2. The Director of Planning (DP) briefed the meeting on the Planning Department's major work and planning of Tsuen Wan. Members raised their concerns and recommendations on squatters, "walled buildings", columbarium, air pollution, urban redevelopment, relaxation of land use in the vicinity of Gin Drinkers Bay, protection of Tai Mo Shan ridgeline, exhibition venue for motor vehicles at the Discovery Park carpark and footbridge network connecting the Clague Garden Estate. The DP duly responded to Members' concerns. As for land use of the Tsuen Wan Slaughterhouse, the DP remarked that pursuant to Section 12A of the Town Planning Ordinance, any person may apply to the Town Planning Board for consideration of any proposal in relation to amendment of existing land use.

Progress Report on Major Public Works Projects in Tsuen Wan District as at 28.2.2011

3. The Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) reported progress on its major works projects in Tsuen Wan. Members expressed their views on projects of the Cycle Track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun, Tso Kung Tam Ecological Park and proposed reclamation of land. The CEDD responded that the cycle track project, to be implemented by phases, was currently under initial design stage. As for the Tso Kung Tam Ecological Park project, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) reported that LCSD and Architectural Services Department were exploring the feasibility of the third loading/unloading point and considering slope maintenance issues.

District Action Plan on Improvement of Environmental Hygiene in Hong Kong

4. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) reported its strategies and efforts in sustaining environmental hygiene in Hong Kong for 2011/12. Members commented on various issues relating to water seepage of buildings, illegal shopfront extension, amenity improvement, etc. and made a number of recommendations. The FEHD duly responded to Members concerns and reiterated that reinforced measures such as special inspection and prosecution had been employed to tackle street obstruction at Sam Pei Square.

Strongly Object to the Government's Plan to Allocate More Berth for the Polluting Waste Paper Recycling Industry at the Discharge Area at Gin Drinkers Bay in Tsuen Wan to Protect

the Living Environment for Residents in the Vicinity of the Riviera Gardens from Worsening

5. Members expressed their concerns over the adverse impact of relocating polluting waste paper recyclers to Gin Drinkers Bay and reflected worries of the recycling trade. Members also urged the Government to conduct a comprehensive assessment before implementing the captioned plan. The Marine Department (MD) explained that the Government proposed to increase 4 berths which allowed the handling of dirty cargoes (including sand, cement and waste paper, etc.) at Rambler Channel Public Cargo Working Area (PCWA) in view of the expiry of the existing Berth Licence Arrangements and decommissioning of Kwun Tong and Cha Kwo Ling PCWAs in late July. The MD further remarked that the tendering exercise would be open for all existing eligible operators and Tuen Mun, Rambler Channel and Chai Wan PCWAs were options for waste paper recyclers. The FEHD stated that the increase in berths handling dirty cargoes would have minimal impact on the Tsuen Wan Slaughterhouse. The Environment Protection Department (EPD) responded that operation of the Rambler Channel PCWA would be regulated under the environmental laws, the EPD recorded no excessive noise at the Rambler Channel PCWA during its 10 noise-level assessments last year, and pollution cases (if any) would be referred to the MD for follow-up. The Chairman concluded that Members' concerns would be reflected to relevant government departments in writing.

Issue about Prolonged Occupation of Goods Vehicle Parking Spaces at Hau Tei Square for Business Operation

6. The Transport Department (TD), District Lands Office (Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing) (DLO), EPD, FEHD and the Police reported their efforts in tackling the captioned issue and explained the legal basis within the ambit of respective departments. Members put forth a number of recommendations on the issue and urged the Government to focus on identifying effective solution to illegal occupation of parking spaces for business operation in the long run. The Chairman concluded that relevant government departments had duly responded to Members' concerns and he would raise the problem at the DC Chairmen Meeting. The TD stated that it would study the feasibility of replanning the parking spaces and report to the Traffic and Transport Committee for detailed deliberation.

Request the Government to Address and Take Effective Measures Against Occupation of Public Area for Operation of Recycling Shops

7. A Member requested relevant government departments to provide information on the measures taken, prosecution figures, amount of fine and relevant legislation applied in their actions against recyclers at No. 85 Yeung Uk Road. The DLO, FEHD, EPD and the Police duly explained to the meeting the legal basis of their measures against occupation of public area for operation of recycling shops. Several Members expressed their opinions on the issue and suggested to apply

Section 4A of the Summary Offences Ordinance to resolve the problem, replan the area as restricted zone, and proactively step up departmental and interdepartmental operations. The District Officer (Tsuen Wan) hoped that departmental representatives would reflect the situation to their respective headquarters, whereas the DC Chairman promised to raise the issue at DC Chairmen Meeting to bring to the attention of the senior management.

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat

May 2011