

**Minutes of the Eighth Meeting of
Building Management, Environmental Hygiene & Works Committee (2020-2021)
Central and Western District Council**

Date : 22 April 2021 (Thursday)
Time : 2:32 pm
Venue : Conference Room
14/F, Harbour Building
38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong

Present:

Chairlady

Ms NG Hoi-yan, Bonnie*

Vice-chairman

Mr WONG Weng-chi*

Members

Ms CHENG Lai-king*

Mr KAM Nai-wai, MH*

Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin (2:38 pm – end of the meeting)

Mr NG Siu-hong (Beginning of the meeting – 4:30 pm)

Ms WONG Kin-ching, Cherry*

Mr YIP Kam-lung, Sam*

Mr PANG Ka-ho*

Miss YAM Ka-yi, Camille (Beginning of the meeting – 7:06 pm)

Mr YOUNG Chit-on, Jeremy (2:37 pm – 5:52 pm)

Absent due to illness

Mr YEUNG Sui-yin, Victor

Absent

Mr HUI Chi-fung

Mr HO Chi-wang

Mr LEUNG Fong-wai, Fergus

Remarks: * Members who attended the whole meeting

() Time of attendance of Members

Guests

Item 5(i)

Mr FUNG Wai-nok	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Chief Health Inspector (Central/Western)2
Mr CHONG Hon-ming	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Chief Health Inspector (Central/Western)3
Dr CHIU Yuen-wang, Alex	Environmental Protection Department	Senior Environmental Protection Officer(Waste Reduction & Recycling)13
Dr CHU Ka-him	Environmental Protection Department	Assistant Environmental Protection Officer(Waste Reduction & Recycling)132

Item 5(ii)

Mr KO Hin-lun, Ken	Buildings Department	Building Surveyor/ Slope Safety 2
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Item 5(iii)

Mr KOO Ka-ming	Buildings Department	Building Surveyor/Site Monitoring 7
Mr TSE Yip-kei, Alvin	Environmental Protection Department	Senior Environmental Protection Officer(Regional S)1

Item 5(iv)

Mr FUNG Wai-nok	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Chief Health Inspector (Central/Western)2
Mr CHONG Hon-ming	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Chief Health Inspector (Central/Western)3
Mr CHEUNG Kwan-kit	Architectural Services Department	Property Services Manager/Peak & Mid Levels
Mr LEE Kai-ho	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Deputy District Leisure Manager (Central & Western)2
Mr MAK Siu-ming, Bryan	Lands Department	Senior Estate Surveyor/West (District Lands Office, Hong Kong West and South)

Item 5(v)

Mr SUNG Ching-ho, Paul	Architectural Services Department	Property Services Manager/SD312
Mr WONG Lok-sang	Highways Department	District Engineer/West
Mr LEE Kai-ho	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Deputy District Leisure Manager (Central & Western)2

Item 5(vi)

Dr CHIU Yuen-wang, Alex	Environmental Protection Department	Senior Environmental Protection Officer(Waste Reduction & Recycling)13
Dr CHU Ka-him	Environmental Protection Department	Assistant Environmental Protection Officer(Waste Reduction & Recycling)132

Item 5(vii)

Dr CHIU Siu-wai	Guest	
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Item 6

Dr LEUNG Wai-yiu, Anthony	Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Veterinary Officer (Avian Influenza Surveillance)
Ms YEUNG Yu-shan, Alice	Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Senior Field Officer (Avian Influenza)

Item 7

Miss CHENG Yuk-kam, Brenda	Central And Western District Office	Senior Liaison Officer (Building Management)1
Ms LAU Yuen-ling, Doris	Central And Western District Office	Officer i/c(Building Management)1
Mr FUNG Wai-nok	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Chief Health Inspector (Central/Western)2
Mr CHONG Hon-ming	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Chief Health Inspector (Central/Western)3
Mr TSANG Kim-chung	Buildings Department	Senior Building Surveyor/A4
Ms CHOI Sandy	Buildings Department	Building Surveyor/A4-3
Mr CHOI Chi-wah	Buildings Department	Structural Engineer(SE/DT-B2)
Mr WONG Tak-shing, Tommy	Drainage Services Department	Senior Engineer/West
Ms HO Chung-yan, Joey	Drainage Services Department	Engineer/West 3
Ms Sarah YUN	Urban Renewal Authority	Senior Manager, Community Development
Mr Matthew CHAN	Urban Renewal Authority	Manager, Building Rehabilitation

Item 8

Mr FUNG Wai-nok	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Chief Health Inspector (Central/Western)2
Mr CHONG Hon-ming	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Chief Health Inspector

Miss LUK Wai-ting, Becky	Hygiene Department Architectural Services Department	(Central/Western)3 Property Services Manager/PM11
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Item 9

Mr FUNG Wai-nok	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Chief Health Inspector (Central/Western)2
Mr CHONG Hon-ming	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Chief Health Inspector (Central/Western)3

Item 10

Mr FUNG Wai-nok	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Chief Health Inspector (Central/Western)2
Mr CHONG Hon-ming	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Chief Health Inspector (Central/Western)3

In Attendance

Mr LEUNG Chee-kay, David, JP	Central and Western District Office (Beginning of the meeting – 5:53 pm)	District Officer (Central and Western)
Miss NG Wing-hei, Agnes	Central and Western District Office	Assistant District Officer (Central and Western)
Mr WONG Yan-kwong	Central and Western District Office	Senior Executive Officer (District Council)
Ms YANG Ka-yee	Development Bureau	Assistant Secretary (Tree Management)2
Mr FUNG Wai-nok	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Chief Health Inspector (Central/Western)2
Mr CHONG Hon-ming	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Chief Health Inspector (Central/Western)3
Mr LEE Kai-ho	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Deputy District Leisure Manager (Central & Western)2
Mr TSE Yip-kei, Alvin	Environmental Protection Department	Senior Environmental Protection Officer(Regional S)1
Mr MAK Siu-ming, Bryan	Lands Department	Senior Estate Surveyor/West (District Lands Office, Hong Kong West and South)
Mr WONG Lok-sang	Highways Department	District Engineer/Western
Mr POON Yui-chau, William	Buildings Department	Senior Building Surveyor/A3
Mr WONG Chi-leung	Civil Engineering and Development Department	Senior Engineer / 7 (South)
Mr LOK Yin-ming	Water Supplies Department	Engineer/Hong Kong (Distribution 2)
Miss CHAN Po-lam	Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Wetland & Fauna Conservation Offr (Special Duties 1)

Secretary

Miss CHAN Yuen-ying, Crystal	Central and Western District Office	Executive Officer (District Council) 3
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Opening remarks

The Chairlady welcomed Members and representatives of government departments to the eighth meeting of the Building Management, Environmental Hygiene and Works Committee (BEHWC) (2020-2021).

2. The Chairlady suggested that questions and answers for each item should be made in 4 minutes with a view to conducting discussion more efficiently. Representatives of government departments were also requested to be concise in remarking and making replies.

3. The Chairlady indicated that the Secretariat had received the sick leave application submitted by Mr YEUNG Sui-yin before the meeting, who would be absent from the meeting. If Members had no comment, the application would be accepted.

4. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked what the consequence was if the sick leave application was not accepted. He said Members would not check the kind of disease the Member contracted or ask for the medical certificate. He asked why it was so strange that it had to be adopted by Members.

5. The District Officer indicated that Members would not be disqualified unless he failed to attend full Council meetings for four months in a row, which did not include meetings of committees.

6. Since Members present had no other comment, the Chairlady announced that the sick leave application of Mr YEUNG Sui-yin was accepted.

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

(2:32 pm to 2:43 pm)

7. Since the discussion item of the paper of “Strong request for excising the Cadogan Street Temporary Garden from the decontamination area” submitted by Ms WONG Kin-ching on 8 April was similar to “Standing item – Monitoring of the ground decontamination works at the site of ex-Kennedy Town incineration plant/abattoir and adjoining area”, the Chairlady agreed to accept the paper and suggested that their discussions should be combined. In addition, since the discussion item of the paper of “Withdrawal of recycling bins without considering the usage or conducting any consultation/Request for the Environmental Protection Department to reinstate the recycling bins at locations including Hill Road, Water Street and Shek Tong Tsui Municipal Services

Building” submitted by Mr YIP Kam-lung, Mr WONG Weng-chi, Mr HO Chi-wang, Miss YAM Ka-yi, Mr PANG Ka-ho, Mr LEUNG Fong-wai, Mr HUI Chi-fung, Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin, Ms CHENG Lai-king and Mr YEUNG Sui-yin was similar to “Standing item – Community recycling work in the Central and Western District”, the Chairlady suggested that their discussions should be combined.

8. Mr KAM Nai-wai agreed with the agenda. He asked if no representative of the government, i.e. representative of the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD), would attend the meeting for “Standing item – Monitoring of the ground decontamination works at the site of ex-Kennedy Town incineration plant/abattoir and adjoining area” and he would like to have a better understanding of the situation. He said the representative of the CEDD had already been absent in the previous meeting of the Committee, and he had “complained many times” earlier about the absence of government representatives for standing items. He asked the Secretariat whether it had invited the representative of the department to attend the meeting, and whether the department explained the reason of the absence. He said there were representatives of government departments who attended the meeting for other standing items, including the representatives of the Buildings Department (BD) for the item of “Monitoring of redevelopment sites in the Central and Western District”; the representatives of the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) for the item of “Improvement works for Lyttelton Road Refuse Collection Point”; the representatives of the Highways Department (HyD) and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) for the item of “Strong request for alleviating the flooding problem at Lower Lung Wah Street in Kennedy Town”; and the responsible staff of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) for the item of “Community recycling work in the Central and Western District”. He asked why the CEDD was “so reluctant” and unwilling to attend the meeting. He asked whether the CEDD had any explanation.

9. The Secretary indicated that the CEDD had been invited to attend the meeting before it was held, and it was also stated in the paper of the CEDD that the C&WDC would be consulted in due course after a concrete proposal was formulated.

10. Mr KAM Nai-wai opined that such a “rubbish” department which “would come and go as it liked” was unacceptable. He said he had an experience recently about the practice of the CEDD in which a staff member of the department questioned his representativeness of being the Sheung Wan District Councillor. He opined that this kind of department was “ridiculous”. He said “it would be pointless now to berate them”. He said he had already proposed an impromptu motion and emailed it to the Secretariat to strongly condemn the CEDD for not attending the meeting of the Committee to assist in the discussion and completely disregarding the views of the C&WDC. He also requested that the impromptu motion should be handled in the “Adoption of the agenda”

section to perform the duties as a councillor. In addition, he requested that, after the adoption of the impromptu motion, a letter should be sent to the Director of the CEDD in the name of the Chairlady to point out that a professor attended the discussion of the decontamination works as guest, but no representative of the department attended. He opined that it was the kind of “undesirable deed” carried out by the present government.

11. The following impromptu motion proposed by Mr KAM Nai-wai and seconded by Ms NG Hoi-yan was adopted upon discussion and voting:

“The Building Management, Environmental Hygiene & Works Committee (BEHWC) of the Central and Western District Council (C&WDC) strongly condemns the Civil Engineering and Development Department for not attending the meeting of the BEHWC to assist in the discussion of “Standing item – Monitoring of the ground decontamination works at the site of ex-Kennedy Town incineration plant/abattoir and adjoining area” and completely disregarding the views of the C&WDC and the residents.”

(10 affirmative votes by: Ms NG Hoi-yan; Mr WONG Weng-chi; Ms CHENG Lai-king; Mr KAM Nai-wai; Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin; Mr NG Siu-hong; Ms WONG Kin-ching; Mr YIP Kam-lung; Mr PANG Ka-ho; Miss YAM Ka-yi)

(0 dissenting vote)

(0 abstention vote)

12. Ms CHENG Lai-king hoped to discuss the funding arrangement of “Festive events and celebrations” in “Any other business”, with a plan to produce Mother’s Day cards on a budget of about \$10,000. She expected that the Secretariat could start the work as soon as possible after it was discussed in “Any other business”.

13. The Chairlady accepted the request of Ms CHENG Lai-king and agreed to include the discussion of the Mother’s Day cards in “Any other business”. Members had no other comment on the agenda. The Chairlady declared that the agenda was adopted.

Item 2: Confirmation of the minutes of the 7th BEHWC meeting held on 4 February 2021

(2:43 pm to 2:45 pm)

14. The Chairlady indicated that the Secretariat had received some proposed amendments to

the minutes from Ms WONG Kin-ching, Ms CHENG Lai-king and Mr YIP Kam-lung. The amendments proposed by Ms WONG Kin-ching and Ms CHENG Lai-king had been tabled for Members' reference, and the amendment proposed by Mr YIP Kam-lung would be shown on the projector screen.

15. Mr YIP Kam-lung apologised for failing to submit the proposed amendment on time. He indicated that the main reason for making the amendment was that some of the details were missing in the original record. He said, apart from mentioning the political rewards, that part of speech also mentioned that the locations of the street booth of the community recycling centre and the recycling bin of the EPD were overlapped. The issue concerned would also be discussed later.

16. Members had no other comment on the minutes of the 7th BEHWC meeting. The Chairlady declared that the minutes were confirmed.

**Item 3: Action checklist on matters arising from the 7th meeting of BEHWC
(C&W BEHWC Paper No. 40/2021)**

(2:45 pm to 2:55 pm)

17. The Chairlady invited Members to note the contents of the paper.

18. Regarding the "Follow-up on the nuisance from the bar next to Pak Tsz Lane Park" stated in the action checklist on matters arising from the last meeting, Mr Kam Nai-wai said it was not a "written question" and the title should be changed, because it was his follow-up issue regarding the nuisance from the bar next to Pak Tsz Lane Park. He emphasised that it was not a "written question". In addition, he said he had just read the reply of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), which mentioned that no irregularities were detected during the inspection of the FEHD. He said the representatives of the FEHD were present while the representatives of the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) were not. As such, he asked the representatives of the FEHD present why no irregularities were detected. He said the tools and rubbish of the bar were placed outside the door, and the FEHD carried out only three inspections in March and four in February, i.e. less than once a week in average. He asked whether it was necessary for the FEHD to carry out inspections together with the HKPF. He continued that the FEHD only carried out two inspections on 22 and 31 March respectively, and one joint inspection with the HKPF on 5 March. He opined that the inspections of the department were insufficient. He asked if inspections could be stepped up. In addition, he said he would not walk past Pak Tsz Lane Park every day, but he still saw customers of the bar drinking alcohol in the park. He asked the LCSD whether the

security guards were on duty around the clock or from 9 am to 5 pm. He said if the security guards were on duty from 9 am to 5 pm, then the LCSD should change their on-duty time. He opined that they might not need to be on duty around the clock, but they should be on duty until 10 or 11 pm at least. He continued to ask why the security guards failed to discover people drinking alcohol in the park. Furthermore, although the representatives of the HKPF were absent from the meeting, he asked the Secretariat to make an enquiry in writing to the HKPF about why only one contravention of the conditions of the liquor license was discovered among multiple inspections, in which the doors and windows of the bar failed to keep closed. He asked whether it would be checked by the HKPF in every inspection, and asked if there were two inspection teams in the HKPF, of which one would carry out inspections under Cap. 599G and would not check the compliance of the conditions of the liquor license, or the compliance of Cap. 599G and the conditions of the liquor license would both be checked at the same time. He hoped to know more about the arrangement of the HKPF. Lastly, he asked why the prosecution number of the HKPF was so low, because it was easy to know that the drinks which customers were consuming outside the bar were bought from the bar. He also said they would find that there were only two restaurants near the park, including one which was opened recently, if they had visited there before. Basically, customers would buy alcohol from the two restaurants. He asked why the liquor license holders could not be prosecuted more frequently for breach of license conditions, and why the customers were allowed to drink alcohol outside the bars. He opined that it was a breach of license conditions and hoped the HKPF could follow up.

19. The Chairlady confirmed with Mr Kam Nai-wai whether he meant why the customers were allowed to consume drinks supplied by the premises outside the premises.

20. Mr CHONG Hon-ming, Chief Health Inspector (Central/Western) 3 of the FEHD, said the FEHD would mainly check whether there was any breach of Cap. 599 during inspections, and would follow up the issue of rubbish and articles being placed at public place.

21. Mr LEE Kai-ho, Deputy District Leisure Manager (Central & Western) 2 of the LCSD, said that, apart from the security guards who would patrol Pak Tsz Lane Park on a regular basis, one additional security guard was arranged to be on-duty on site since 12 February, from 5 pm to 12 am, on every Friday to Sunday and public holidays. He said the venues of the LCSD were regulated by the "Pleasure Grounds Regulation". Members of the public could eat and drink in the venues, without causing any obstruction to other venue users. Verbal warnings would be given if any breach was discovered. If such warnings were ignored, the staff of the LCSD would consider taking appropriate enforcement actions depending on the actual situations.

22. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked if the matter concerning Pak Tsz Lane Park would be kept in the

action checklist and whether it could be followed up in the next meeting.

23. The Chairlady indicated that it could.

24. Regarding the applications of selling liquor submitted by restaurants near Pak Tsz Lane, Ms CHENG Lai-king said objections had already been made in the liquor license hearings, because the current selling of alcoholic drinks caused nuisances along Pak Tsz Lane Park, Peel Street and Hollywood Road. She asked the FEHD if the inspections were conducted during the business hours of the restaurants or they would not be conducted until problems arose. In addition, she said she always encouraged residents to call the police to handle the issue. It was found that police cars of the HKPF would park at Hollywood Road from time to time, but it might not be able to solve the problem of the residents every time.

25. Mr CHONG Hon-ming of the FEHD said inspections of food premises would be conducted before 10:00 pm.

Item 4: Chairman's report

(2:55 pm to 2:56 pm)

26. The Chairlady indicated that the Secretariat had circulated the following information papers to Members to study earlier on:

No. of Paper	Title of Paper	Circulation Date
22/2021	Anti-mosquito Campaign 2021 (Phase I) in Central & Western District	19 February 2021
23/2021	Achievements of the Central/Western District 2021 Year-end Clean-up	23 March 2021
25/2021	Anti-mosquito Campaign 2021 (Phase II) in Central & Western District	15 April 2021
26/2021	Facelifting Works for Macau Ferry Bus Terminus Public Toilet	15 April 2021

Item 5(i): Standing item – Handling of refuse dumped beside litter containers on pavements (C&W BEHWC Paper No. 35/2021)

(2:56 pm to 3:16 pm)

27. Mr CHONG Hon-ming, Chief Health Inspector (Central/Western) 3 of the FEHD, presented the paper. He said the FEHD issued a total of 728 fixed penalty tickets to offenders who illegally dumped refuse in the district from January to March. The FEHD issued a total of five Default Notices to contractors for contraventions or breach of contract in the same period. Ten complaints about refuse dumped beside litter containers and recycling boxes in the district were received in total. In order to deal with street obstruction problem posed by shops in the district, the FEHD had taken follow-up actions at locations such as Des Voeux Road West and Queen's Road West in Sai Ying Pun, Queen's Road West in Shek Tong Tsui, Belcher's Street in Sai Wan and Queen's Road Central in Sheung Wan.

28. Since no representative of the HKPF was present at the meeting, Mr YIP Kam-lung hoped the Secretariat could make an enquiry to the HKPF about the issue he raised. He said, in the information provided by the HKPF regarding the location near Shek Tong Tsui Market, Queen's Road West, it was mentioned that "344 Notices of Particulars of Alleged Fixed Penalty Traffic Contravention (Pol. 525), 27 Notices of Particulars of Alleged Fixed Penalty Traffic Offence (Pol. 570) and 1 Street Obstruction Warning were issued in total". He asked if the 344 Notices of Particulars of Alleged Fixed Penalty Traffic Contravention included "beef jerkies" (penalty tickets), because the main purpose of this discussion item was to hope that the HKPF could solve the street obstruction problem. He said it was already mentioned in the last meeting that a vegetable stall and a pork stall at Whitty Street would always put articles and baskets on the road, causing traffic obstruction. He had suggested the residents seeking help from the HKPF. However, it was a shame that the HKPF did not send any representative to attend the meeting to answer the relevant questions. In addition, he asked why the "Information on inspections and enforcement actions regarding the blackspots of street obstruction by shops in the Central and Western District (January to March 2021)" provided by the FEHD stated that there was a total of 12 joint operations near Shek Tong Tsui Market, Queen's Road West, but the list provided by the HKPF only stated 11 joint operations. He also asked the FEHD how many warnings were issued in the joint operations.

29. Mr FUNG Wai-nok, Chief Health Inspector (Central/Western) 2 of the FEHD, indicated that the correct number of joint operations was 12. He said they would stay longer at certain locations during joint operations at present. If any breach of rules was found, a fixed penalty ticket, instead of a warning, might be issued to the shop directly. He said the situation at the shop front and pavement at Whitty Street had been greatly improved, and more joint operations would be conducted with the HKPF to improve the situation.

30. Mr YIP Kam-lung asked if the pork stall at Whitty Street had any license to sell pork at

present, and whether the FEHD initiated any prosecution against the pork stall.

31. Mr FUNG Wai-nok of the FEHD said he did not have the relevant information at the moment and had to reply after the meeting.

32. Regarding the information provided by the HKPF as mentioned by Mr YIP Kam-lung just now, Mr KAM Nai-wai hoped to convey clearly to the HKPF that Members were not asking for the numbers of fixed penalty tickets for traffic contravention but were asking for the data of street obstruction by shops. He said the shops might have breached the rules when loading/unloading goods, but it was not the main point. He did not want people to have the wrong impression that the HKFP had carried out a lot of work. He said the HKPF only had to provide the information on traffic contravention related to street obstruction by shops. Illegal parking was not the only information requested by the Committee. In addition, he said complaints were received from local residents recently that the shop keeper at No. 378 Queen's Road Central cried his wares, such as "Please come to take a look" or "Things are good and cheap", causing nuisances to the residents at Fook Sing Court. He hoped that the EPD and FEHD could pay attention to the above situation during inspections. He also hoped to inform the HKPF because they did not have any representative attending the meeting and stated on the paper that no complaint was received. He asked the FEHD, HKFP and EPD to be vigilant of the relevant shops. He said all shop keepers who cried their wares would cause nuisances to the residents living upstairs. He hoped the departments could persuade the shop keepers to avoid crying their wares to solicit business.

33. Regarding the information about the section of Centre Street between Des Voeux Road West and Queen's Road West provided by the HKPF, Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin opined that only "one penalty ticket for street obstruction by goods issued" was related to street obstruction by shops, and the other enforcement actions were not related to street obstruction by shops. She hoped that the HKPF could provide only the information related to the discussion item. Other traffic issues could be reported and discussed in the Traffic and Transport Committee (TTC). She said, in "Joint operations and achievements" on the paper submitted by the HKPF, some stated that penalty tickets were issued and some did not. She asked about the work of the departments in the joint operations. She continued that, in a joint operation on 22 February 2021, the departments issued a warning. She asked the departments about the circumstances in which warnings would be issued, and whether it meant that no contravention was discovered if not even a warning was issued in a joint operation.

34. Mr FUNG Wai-nok of the FEHD said the numbers in brackets were provided by the HKPF and the FEHD did not have any relevant information.

35. Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin said "FEHD" was stated in brackets on the paper. She asked if

it meant that it was related to the FEHD, including the penalty tickets on 8 January 2021.

36. Mr FUNG Wai-nok of the FEHD said the FEHD had a joint operation with the HKPF on 8 January 2021, but the figures on the paper were provided by the HKPF.

37. Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin asked about the difference between the dates with warnings issued and the dates with no warning issued.

38. Mr FUNG Wai-nok of the FEHD said the FEHD would carry out designated patrol at Centre Street at present. In general, no street obstruction by shops was observed when their officers were present. However, if any street obstruction by shop keepers was observed, a warning would be issued, and a penalty ticket would be issued if the warning was ignored.

39. Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin asked if no warning meant that no contravention was discovered.

40. Mr FUNG Wai-nok of the FEHD said it was the case, and added that the FEHD would patrol that location twice a day at present and stay for a longer period of time.

41. Ms WONG Kin-ching indicated that there were mainly two types of street obstruction complaints received in Kennedy Town, which were related to garages and SF Express respectively. She said the complaints received about garages were mainly related to parking of garages' cars on the road. She believed that it was not related to the FEHD. She hoped the Secretariat could make an enquiry to the HKPF for her about the circumstances in which the HKPF would take enforcement actions and whether it would issue penalty tickets to the garages for "illegal parking" or "street obstruction". In addition, she said seven or eight vehicles of SF Express would be parked at Cadogan Street every day. Some had drivers inside and some did not. Sometimes they would also occupy the pavement. She asked if the FEHD had tried to take any enforcement action and whether it had conducted any joint operation with the HKPF to take enforcement actions.

42. Mr CHONG Hon-ming of the FEHD said they had conducted joint operations with the C&WDO and HKPF, and a joint operation had also been conducted a month before the meeting. However, he did not have the detailed information at present. The FEHD would continue to follow up the case and would conduct joint operations with relevant departments.

43. Ms WONG Kin-ching asked if the FEHD had taken actions before regarding the SF Express issue but was unable to provide the relevant prosecution figures.

44. Mr CHONG Hon-ming of the FEHD said it was right.

45. Ms WONG Kin-ching asked the department to provide the relevant information after the meeting. She said SF Express might not occupy the pavement every day, but many of their vehicles would park on the road every day. They would not leave until the police issued penalty tickets, and they would occupy Cadogan Street in the other time. She asked whether enforcement actions could only be taken by the HKPF under such circumstance, and the FEHD had no authority to handle.

46. Mr CHONG Hon-ming of the FEHD said he agreed.

47. The Vice-chairman said the number of complaints about Centre Street at present was lower than before. It was mentioned in the paper submitted by the HKPF that “a total of four reports concerning street obstruction by shops or traffic obstruction were received” between January and March. He asked if the FEHD also received the same number of complaints, and whether the complaints were referred to the HKPF and FEHD for follow-up through “1823”.

48. Mr FUNG Wai-nok of the FEHD said it was the number of complaints received by the HKPF.

49. The Vice-chairman asked the FEHD about the number of complaints received concerning Centre Street, and whether the number of complaints had been reduced in the past year.

50. Mr FUNG Wai-nok of the FEHD said he did not have the actual number of complaints at present. The number of complaints probably maintained the same level as that of last year, but was improved compared to that at the end of last year. The FEHD kept a close contact with the HKPF at present to explore the possibility of taking further action to improve the situation.

51. The Vice-chairman noted that the FEHD had a special plain-clothes patrol squad to take enforcement actions against people for feeding wild pigeons and littering. He asked if the special patrol squad would also tackle the problem of street obstruction by shops, or it had to be handled by officers in uniform.

52. Mr FUNG Wai-nok of the FEHD said the department would dispatch officers in plain-clothes and uniform to take enforcement actions on streets.

53. Mr CHONG Hon-ming of the FEHD added that the squad mentioned by the Vice-chairman was mainly responsible for taking enforcement actions against people for littering, and they would wear plain clothes during operation. That task force would not tackle the problem of street

obstruction by shops.

54. The Vice-chairman said a resident was prosecuted for littering by plain-clothes officers at Centre Street earlier. That resident said the problems of street obstruction by shops and refuse accumulation at shop front were more serious, but the patrol squad of the FEHD would not tackle the problems about the shops. He asked if the FEHD could arrange plain-clothes officers to assist in enforcement actions against street obstruction by shops. If the problem of street obstruction was less serious when officers in uniform were present, then plain-clothes officers could be arranged to conduct raids, so that the shops could maintain self-discipline even without the presence of the officers in uniform.

55. Mr CHONG Hon-ming of the FEHD said the task force would continue to tackle the problem of littering, and the relevant colleagues would follow up the issue of shop front extension.

**Item 5(ii): Standing item – Leaking drains at Sands Street
(C&W BEHWC Paper No. 27/2021)**

(3:16 pm to 3:21 pm)

56. Mr KO Hin-lun, Building Surveyor/Slope Safety 2 of the Buildings Department (BD), reported that the first two phases of repair works for some drains and manholes at the rear lane of Nos. 3-43 Sands Street were completed. The remaining Phase 3 involved the replacement of underground drains and drain re-diversion works. Since the works involved excavations near slopes and retaining walls, geotechnical study and design prior to commencement of works were required and had to be conducted in phases. The replacement works of the underground drains in Phase 1 (i.e. at the rear lane of Nos. 5-7 Sands Street) commenced at the end of October last year and was basically completed at the end of December. The geotechnical study and design work for the remaining replacement works were almost completed, and Phase 2 was expected to commence at the end of May 2021.

57. The Chairlady indicated that, regarding the views of the owners' corporation of No. 33 Sands Street on the sharing of the cost of the emergency works of the underground drains at the rear lane mentioned in the last meeting, controversies of the owners' corporation concerning the reply of the BD remained. They opined that the allocation approach adopted by the BD was very unfair to the owners of the building. She asked if the department could revise the allocation approach at present.

58. Mr KO Hin-lun of the BD indicated that the BD had noted the views of the owner's

corporation and the suggested cost allocation plan, but the way that the BD handled and recovered costs related to emergency works was based on the “user-pays” principle. Since the emergency works only involved installation of a temporary drain at the retaining wall at Rock Hill Street where the outflow of foul water occurred and covering of the related part with canvas, no repair works of underground drains were involved. As such, the BD apportioned the cost of the emergency works equally to the eight buildings which used that temporary drain under the established principle. Regarding the cost of repair works of underground drains to be conducted by the BD in future for individual building owners, the BD had explained the allocation method of the relevant cost to the owners’ corporation in the reply letter sent earlier. He also said the owners of the other seven buildings had already paid the relevant fees.

59. The Chairlady said the owners’ corporation opined that it was unfair not because their building had fewer units, but because the building only occupied one single lot, while there were other buildings which occupied two lots. They opined that the section of the drain which those buildings used was also longer. She hoped the BD could review the case and she would follow up with the department after the meeting.

60. Ms CHENG Lai-king said the payments of seven buildings had already been settled and only the payments of one building remained outstanding. She hoped the BD could keep contact with the owners of that building to avoid any “encumbrance being imposed” without the knowledge of some of the owners, because not every owner would know the work of the owners’ corporation. She hoped the BD could inform all the owners before “imposing the encumbrance”.

61. Mr KO Hin-lun of the BD indicated that a letter would be sent to inform the owners’ corporation before issuing the certificate regarding the outstanding amount and registering it at the Land Registry (commonly known as “imposing an encumbrance”).

Item 5(iii): Standing item – Monitoring of redevelopment sites in the Central and Western District

(C&W BEHWC Paper No. 36/2021)

(3:21 pm to 3:40 pm)

62. Since the BD only carried out one inspection at the site at No. 10 Hillier Street, Mr KAM Nai-wai asked if the BD had noticed that there was always an outflow of foul water from the site to the pavement. He said if the BD failed to notice such a problem, then they should report and explain the reason in the next Committee’s meeting. He reiterated that there was always an outflow of foul water from that site to the pavement. Regarding the site at Nos. 94, 96 and 98

Bonham Strand and the site at Nos. 117-119 Jervois Street, separated by a rear lane, he said many construction materials were always placed at the rear lane between the two sites. He asked if the BD had conducted any inspection at that location. He continued to ask why the BD only carried out one inspection at the site at Nos. 94, 96 and 98 Bonham Strand on 11 February, and did not carry out any inspection in March. In addition, regarding the site at No. 15 Western Street, he said the hoardings of the site had already been removed, but the construction of the building at the site had not yet completed. He asked why there was not any protective measure to fence off the site to prevent pedestrians from entering the site area. Lastly, he requested that the site at Nos. 92 - 103A Connaught Road West and the site at Nos. 91, 99 and 101 Des Voeux Road West should be added into the site list. He said high-rise buildings were planned to be built on the sites, which would cause impacts to the Wilmer Building nearby.

63. Regarding the site at No. 10 Hillier Street, Mr KOO Ka-ming, Building Surveyor/Site Monitoring 7 of the BD, replied that the staff of the BD did not discover any outflow of foul water during the inspection on 12 March, but they would pay more attention to whether the problem mentioned by Members occurred during future inspections and would follow up depending on the situations. In addition, during the inspection of the sites at Bonham Strand and Jervois Street in mid-February, the BD discovered that there were objects obstructing the rear lane between the two sites. After investigation, the BD found that the construction materials belonged to a contractor of HK Electric, and that contractor had already removed the materials after the works at the rear lane were completed. He said no further application of work permit for the site at Bonham Strand was received at present, and the rear lane between the sites had been inspected during multiple inspections of the site at Jervois Street in March. Regarding the site at No. 15 Western Street, he said the hoardings of the site had already been removed, and the application for the occupation permit was made and the construction was completed in April. He indicated that the site near Wilmer Building would be added in the next report, and the construction at the site and the data of monitoring points would also be monitored to make sure that they would not exceed the limit under the plan and permitted by law, in order to reduce the impact on the surroundings by the construction.

64. Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin said she and Ms CHENG Lai-king had received complaints about the site at Nos. 1-9 Eastern Street before, and had made enquiries to the HKPF and Transport Department (TD) about the applications of the site for temporary traffic arrangement. It was found that an application for temporary traffic arrangement was made for only one day during the construction period of the site. No application was made for the rest of the time, but the site occupied part of Eastern Street with obstacles such as fences and traffic cones. She said Eastern Street was one of the main roads connected to Mid-levels, which was why the occupation of Eastern Street by the site had quite an impact on traffic and posed hazards to pedestrians. She hoped to ask the HKPF through the Secretariat about whether any prosecution had been initiated during the

inspections, the number of prosecutions and how they would handle the issue about the site at Nos. 1-9 Eastern Street as mentioned above. In addition, she also wanted to know whether the TD had any communication with the site contractor before, the details of the communications (if any) and whether the site would apply for temporary traffic arrangement during construction in future. She asked the Secretariat to put the question in record, and asked the TD to reply in the next meeting whether the site applied for temporary traffic arrangement.

65. Ms CHENG Lai-king provided additional information about the site at Nos. 1-9 Eastern Street. She indicated that a letter was sent to the BD, TD and the commander of the Western Police Station on 9 April to reflect the frequent traffic obstructions caused by the site, especially during evening rush hours. She said she always received complaints from residents about the issue, and asked if the site was permitted to conduct the works like that. She also indicated that the traffic queue had even tailed back to the exit of Western Harbour Crossing near Sai Ying Pun. She opined that the problem was very serious. She asked if the HKPF and the TD also had to attend the meeting to discuss the item, apart from the BD. It would be better to invite the HKPF to attend because many construction sites would have an impact on the traffic of adjacent roads. She said there were two summonses between 16 January and 15 March 2021 as shown in “Number of applications of summons (Central Police District and Western Division)” in the paper, but the details of the summonses were not provided. She said the site occupied half of the carriageway without applying any temporary traffic arrangement. She asked if the site had the right to do so and hoped the HKPF to attend to explain.

66. Mr KOO Ka-ming of the BD said their staff conducted an inspection on 12 April after receiving the letter from Ms CHENG Lai-king. After the non-compliance was identified, they requested the person-in-charge of the site immediately to remove the articles which obstructed the road, and a letter was also sent later to the relevant authorised person to request for an enhancement of site management and to remind him that an application of temporary traffic arrangement was required if public carriageways had to be occupied. The situation would also be closely monitored.

67. The Chairlady said the figures provided by the HKPF at present were still the figures of the whole Hong Kong Island, which overstated its work carried out in the Central and Western District. She said a total of 3 000 inspections were carried out in 2021 as mentioned by the HKPF in the paper. However, after calculations, she found that only 20%, i.e. about 600 inspections, were related to the Central and Western District. She remarked that Members had to make their own calculations every time to find out the number of cases in the Central and Western District handled by the HKPF. She asked the Secretariat to follow up the figures provided by the HKPF. She opined that it was not the first time to request the HKPF not to provide the figures of the whole

Hong Kong Island. She hoped the HKPF could stop forcing Members to discuss issues which were not related to the Central and Western District, and opined that the HKPF was able to provide the figures of the Central and Western District. In addition, she said a number of complaints had already been made about the issue related to the canvas of the site at No. 127 Caine Road. She said the loosed canvas of the site would flap on the adjacent building during windy weather, and she was worried that the whole canvas would fall on Caine Road. She asked if the person-in-charge of the site would conduct regular inspections to monitor the condition of the canvas at the site. Furthermore, she asked, if the site had to transport materials, whether the application of temporary traffic arrangement was also required even it could be completed within a short period of time.

68. Mr KOO Ka-ming of the BD said the site at No. 127 Caine Road was an idling demolition site, without any application of work permit or registered contractor. As such, the BD would remind the owners of the building and the scaffold erector to rectify the canvas problem. In addition, he said if the transportation of materials was conducted within the site, then the BD would ask the contractor to comply with the guidelines of crane operation and the relevant codes of practice of the Labour Department to safeguard the pedestrians and road users. If it was conducted outside the site, then it was not regulated by the Buildings Ordinance, and the temporary traffic arrangement would be in charge by the HKPF and the TD.

69. The Chairlady showed a photo taken at the site at No. 182 Queen's Road Central. She said crane lorries were used by the site to lift large-scale construction materials, without applying for any temporary traffic arrangement. She said vehicles travelling downhill direction along Wellington Street and those travelling uphill along Queen's Road Central would go past that location, and the traffic was very busy, but the site occupied part of the road. She continued that pedestrians who walked along Queen's Road Central would have to walk under the jib of the crane lorries. She indicated that the above situation had already continued for a couple of days. Moreover, the site always conducted works during rush hours in the day time, especially during lunch hours, which posed danger to pedestrians and drivers. As such, she requested that the site at No. 182 Queen's Road Central should be added into the list of sites, and regular inspections should be arranged. Also, she requested that the site at Nos. 150-152 Queen's Road West should be added as well, because the site was adjacent to a bus stop and she opined that the site should apply for temporary traffic arrangement when transporting materials. She asked the Secretariat to put it on record and asked the HKPF and the TD to reply whether the above two sites had applied for any temporary traffic arrangement.

70. Since the HKPF mentioned in the remarks of the number of inspections of the HKPF that "the HKPF does not keep the figures of the relevant district" and only the figure of the whole Hong

Kong Island was provided in the paper, Ms CHENG Lai-king pointed out that the District Officer had been reminding Members not to mention issues irrelevant to the Central and Western District. She hoped the District Officer could remind the HKPF to provide the data of the Central and Western District in future. She opined that if the Chairlady was able to calculate the data of the Central and Western District, then the HKPF should be capable of providing the data of the Central and Western District. She hoped that solid data could be provided to the residents of the Central and Western District and uploaded to the website of the District Council.

71. The District Officer indicated that he could relay the comments of Members to the HKPF.

72. The Chairlady concluded that the site at Nos. 92-103A Connaught Road West and Nos. 91, 99 and 101 Des Voeux Road West, the site at No. 182 Queen's Road Central and the site at Nos. 150-152 Queen's Road Central had to be added into the surveillance list of sites.

Item 5(v): Standing item – Improvement works for Lyttelton Road Refuse Collection Point (C&W BEHWC Paper No. 39/2021)

(3:40 pm to 3:49 pm)

73. Mr CHONG Hon-ming, Chief Health Inspector (Central/Western) 3 of the FEHD, reported the progress, saying that the FEHD had submitted the funding application of the minor works to the ArchSD and was waiting for the result.

74. Miss YAM Ka-yi asked the ArchSD when the application result was available and when the works would commence, after the FEHD submitted the funding application.

75. Mr CHEUNG Kwan-kit, Property Services Manager/Peak & Mid Levels of the ArchSD, replied that the department received the funding application of Capital Works Reserve Fund of the ArchSD from the FEHD on 15 April, and the application was in progress. If the application documents submitted were accurate and correct, it was estimated that they would be submitted to the committee of the fund in mid-May for consideration. He could make an enquiry to the committee after the meeting about the time required for approving the application.

76. Miss YAM Ka-yi hoped that the ArchSD could inform Members through the Secretariat about the updated progress.

77. Mr CHEUNG Kwan-kit of the ArchSD indicated that the department was willing to communicate with Members and provide updates of the progress.

78. Ms CHENG Lai-king wished to know the schedule of the works, and asked if a funding application had to be made to the Legislative Council or the ArchSD had a sufficient budget for the expenses of the work.

79. Mr CHEUNG Kwan-kit of the ArchSD said the works required approximately \$9.7 million, which could be conducted with the funding from the Capital Works Reserve Fund of the department. As such, after the documents submitted by the FEHD were confirmed to be accurate and correct, they would be submitted to the committee of the fund for consideration.

80. Mr KAM Nai-wai suggested that Miss YAM Ka-yi should prepare an impromptu motion to request the government to approve this funding application of minor works as soon as possible, so that the ArchSD could obtain the funding as soon as possible. In addition, since the ArchSD just mentioned that the documents could be submitted to the fund committee in May if they were accurate and correct, he asked how much time the committee needed to approve the funding under normal circumstances, and asked if the meetings of the committee were held every half year or every month or how frequent a meeting would be held. He said an application to the Legislative Council was probably not required for a funding of \$9 million-odd, because it was a small amount. As such, he would like to know how long a funding application would be approved by the committee generally after an application was received. Furthermore, he asked what the next step of the department was if the funding application was approved after three months. He asked if there would be any tendering process, how much time was required for the tendering process, and how much time was required for the works by estimation after the tendering was completed. He asked if three or six months were required for the tendering process, or no tender was required as the works would be contracted to the existing contractor. He asked the ArchSD to explain the procedures and the estimated work schedule.

81. Mr CHEUNG Kwan-kit of the ArchSD said the documents to be submitted to the committee of the fund were for pre-approval. After they were approved by the committee, the project would be listed in a consideration list of the Capital Works Reserve Fund. Documents with more details would be required to be submitted for approval by then. Based on the past experience, he estimated that the whole approval procedure would take at least half year. Regarding the work schedule, he said the whole project, including designing, tendering and construction, would take 18 to 24 months by estimation.

82. The following impromptu motion proposed by Miss YAM Ka-yi and seconded by Mr KAM Nai-wai was adopted upon discussion and voting:

“This Committee requests the Architectural Services Department and other relevant departments to expedite the processing of the funding application for the works at Lyttelton Road Refuse Collection Point with a view to improving the environmental hygiene and the working environment of workers as soon as possible.”

(9 affirmative votes by: Ms NG Hoi-yan; Ms CHENG Lai-king; Mr KAM Nai-wai; Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin; Mr NG Siu-hong; Ms WONG Kin-ching; Mr PANG Ka-ho; Miss YAM Ka-yi; Mr YOUNG Chit-on)

(0 dissenting vote)

(0 abstention vote)

**Item 5(v): Standing item – Strong request for alleviating the flooding problem at Lower Lung Wah Street in Kennedy Town
(C&W BEHWC Paper No. 28/2021)**

(3:49 pm to 3:51 pm)

83. Mr LEE Kai-ho, Deputy District Leisure Manager (Central & Western) 2 of the LCSD, presented the paper. He said, after the LCSD conducted site inspections with the ArchSD and HyD in December 2020 and clarified the maintenance responsibility of the slope 11SW-A/C1234(2), the ArchSD conducted maintenance works for the part under its maintenance at the end of January 2021, including clearing debris, rubbish and leaves on the slope. The LCSD requested the Lands Department (LandsD) to update the information in the system concerning the boundaries of the slope in mid-February. Regarding venue management, the LCSD would continue to carry out the cleaning work at Kennedy Town Recreation Ground on a regular basis, including clearing rubbish and leaves in drains, to ensure proper drainage function. Venue inspection would also be enhanced before the rainy season. If drainage were found accumulated with water or obstructed, the works department would be arranged to follow up as soon as possible to avoid flooding in the venues.

**Item 5(vi): Standing item – Community recycling work in the Central and Western District
(C&W BEHWC Paper No. 38/2021)**

Withdrawal of recycling bins without considering the usage or conducting any consultation Request for the Environmental Protection Department to reinstate the recycling bins at locations including Hill Road, Water Street and Shek Tong Tsui Municipal Services Building

(3:51 pm to 5:52 pm)

84. Dr CHIU Yuen-wang, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Waste Reduction & Recycling) 13 of the EPD, briefly introduced the work of the EPD on recycling and waste reduction. He said the amount of municipal solid wastes disposed of at landfills in Hong Kong was approximately 11 000 tonnes per day. In order to reduce the production of domestic wastes and to turn reusable or recyclable wastes into resources, the EPD stepped up efforts to encourage the public to practice source separation of waste and clean recycling through various measures, including the promotion of the “source separation of wastes programme”, setting up of the “Green Outreach Team”, expanding the community recycling network, improving recycling bins at pedestrian space and launching of a 2-year promotion campaign on waste reduction and recycling. The EPD launched the “source separation of wastes programme” in 2005 to encourage property management companies, owners’ corporations and cleansing contractors to promote source separation of wastes and clean recycling to residents, and recycling facilities such as free waste separation bins would be provided to residential, industrial and commercial buildings in need through the Environmental Campaign Committee. He said over 2 300 estates and 1 000 industrial and commercial buildings in Hong Kong already enrolled in the programme as at March 2021, which covered places where 80% of the Hong Kong population lived and worked, and in the Central and Western District, there were over 320 estates and 100 industrial and commercial buildings enrolled in the programme. The EPD also launched recycling schemes for some of the recyclables, including waste paper collection and recycling services and reverse vending machine pilot scheme, so as to promote the relevant recycling work and the sustainable development of the local recycling industry. In order to enhance the support of community recycling, the EPD set up an outreach team for waste reduction and recycling known as “Green Outreach Team” in 2008 to provide pilot services in the Eastern District, Kwun Tong and Shatin in the first phase, and expanded progressively to all districts in Hong Kong in 2020. The Central and Western District was covered at present. The Green Outreach Team would visit different single-block residential buildings and estates. In the Central and Western District, the Green Outreach Team had conducted preliminary inspections for over 1 800 single-block buildings and 180 housing estates since 2020, and contacted the management companies or owners’ corporations of over 60 housing estates to collect the views of various stakeholders on waste recycling arrangements, to promote waste reduction measures and to provide on-site assistance and practical advice on waste separation. Through on-site guidance, hands-on demonstrations and education and publicity activities, the Green Outreach Team would educate the public the importance of waste reduction at source and clean recycling. Meanwhile, the EPD had been expanding the community recycling network. For example, the number of recycling stations under the project of “Green@Community” significantly increased from 8 in 2020 to over 140, serving all districts in Hong Kong. Under the arrangement of the EPD, the Recycling

Stations, Recycling Stores and Recycling Spots formed a new community recycling network to collect common recyclables, including items of relatively low commercial value such as waste plastics, glass bottles, small electrical appliances and electronic products. Since the installation of recycling facilities inside the buildings were affected by factors such as building management and space, the EPD had, since 2011, subsidised non-profit-making organisations through the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) to set up community recycling centres. Since 2020, the EPD had been operating the next generation Recycling Stores through regularised funding support. There were 22 next generation Recycling Stores in the territory, providing a more comprehensive and convenient recycling option for the public. The Recycling Stores adopted a simple and clean design, bringing a new recycling experience to the public. Recycling Spots were also provided to bring convenience to the public and form a closer neighbourhood relation. The community recycling network collected at least eight kinds of recyclables, including waste plastics, glass bottles, rechargeable batteries, fluorescent lamps and tubes, small electrical appliances, waste papers, metals and regulated electrical equipment. The age groups participating in recycling were also expanded to attract more citizens with less recycling experience to take the first step to develop a clean recycling habit. The Recycling Stores were put into service progressively in November 2020, and a total of over 50 000 people were served in the first quarter of operation. As at the end of December 2020, the Recycling Stores and Recycling Spots in the territory collected a total of 750 tonnes of recyclables, which increased nearly 80% comparing to that of the previous generation community recycling centres. The Sheung Wan Recycling Store and Sai Ying Pun Recycling Store in the Central and Western District were operated by Fong Chung Resources Management Company Limited and 121C Society For Recycling respectively at present. They were put into service in November 2020 and the operation hours were 9 am to 7 pm daily (excluding Christmas and Lunar New Year holidays). Night-time collection service was provided, and door-to-door collection services were also provided to single-block buildings and housing estates in need. As at the end of December 2020, a total of 29 tonnes of recyclables were collected through the Sai Ying Pun Recycling Store and its four Recycling Spots and door-to-door collection service, and a total of 49 tonnes of recyclables were collected through the Sheung Wan Recycling Store and its four Recycling Spots and door-to-door collection service, which were mainly waste plastics and papers. The contractors would also publish the number of visitors and quantity of recyclables collected on their social media websites regularly. After reviewing the situation of the Central and Western District, the operation and efficiency of the present Recycling Stores and the demand of recycling facilities in the district, the EPD decided to add a third Recycling Store in the district and tenders would be invited in mid-April. It was estimated that the service would be available at end of year to provide a more convenient recycling support to local residents. In addition, the EPD had progressively set up over 100 Recycling Spots in all districts in Hong Kong since the 4th quarter of 2020, so as to facilitate the public and people living in 3-nil residential buildings or single-block buildings where waste separation facilities were limited to practice clean recycling.

The projects of “Green@Sai Ying Pun” and “Green@Sheung Wan” had four Recycling Spots respectively, which had already been put into service. They were located in Sai Ying Pun and Sai Wan districts and Kennedy Town and Central districts respectively, providing collection service of recyclables at regular location and weekly time schedule. The Green Outreach Team would coordinate with the contractors about the recycling work, and would promote the programme on source separation of wastes to various housing estates and single-block buildings to introduce the resource recovery service of the Recycling Stores, with an aim to improve the community recycling network. Under the “GREEN\$ Electronic Participation Incentive Scheme”, citizens could receive GREEN\$ points with recyclables and redeem small gifts. Over 50 000 people had registered under the scheme since its launch. The EPD took over the management of the waste separation bins provided at public space such as roadside from the FEHD in October 2020. Under the new arrangement, recycling bins and litter containers were managed by the EPD and FEHD respectively. The EPD provided a total of over 100 recycling bins in the Central and Western District, and also provided collection service for 29 schools for their recycling bins. In order to increase the collection capacity for recyclables and reduce the chance of misplacement of litter into recycling bins by the public, the EPD had increased the capacity of recycling bins and changed the litter compartment originally connected with the recycling bins to collect recyclables. The recycling bins had been affixed with new labels with QR code to facilitate the public to report matters such as overfilled and damaged recycling bins, so as to improve the follow-up efficiency of the contractors. The EPD would continue to review the placement and distribution of recycling bins, and to make proper adjustments depending on the actual operation and needs to improve the recycling effectiveness. Furthermore, information related to waste reduction programmes such as waste generation, reduction, recycling and management in Hong Kong was available for the public at the “Waste Reduction Website” of the EPD. The public could also search the locations of over 7 000 recyclables collection points of various types through “Waste Less” mobile application.

85. Ms CHENG Lai-king thanked the representative of the EPD for his explanation. She referred to her experience of disposing home photocopier and washing machine, and opined that the service provided by ALBA IWS was very good. She asked if ALBA IWS was a recycler funded by the government, and whether home electrical appliances would be collected under the project of “Green@Community”. She also mentioned that people could get an instant rebate of \$0.1 after feeding in plastic bottles in the reverse vending machine in the Central Market. In addition, she asked if the GREEN\$ card would collect personal information of citizens and she was worried that the contractor would handle and use the personal information improperly. She suggested that GREEN\$ card could follow the example of bonus cards of bakeries that no personal information had to be recorded. She also said, as a District Councillor, she would handle information of citizens with extreme care.

86. Dr CHIU Yuen-wang of the EPD said members of the public could recycle eight types of recyclables such as small electrical appliances and plastic bottles at any Recycling Store or Recycling Spot. He indicated that GREEN\$ card would not collect any personal information, which was why GREEN\$ points would not be re-provided if a person lost his GREEN\$ card. He said members of the public could get a GREEN\$ card with a QR code after recycling not less than 2kg of recyclables for the first time. By showing the QR code, the public could earn GREEN\$ points, but the card had to be shown for redemption of gift items. No GREEN\$ point would be awarded if the recycling was made through night-time self-service recycling facilities.

87. Mr KAM Nai-wai indicated that the recycling work conducted by the EPD had always been disappointing, including the “Green@Community” project. He said, as a Sheung Wan District Councillor for over 20 years, he did not know what “Green@Community” did and asked “what green achievements it made”. He also said, according to recent news reports, the environmental protection work in the Central and Western District recently was actually a political reward to offer work under the “Green@Community” project to the pro-government people who had lost in the election, and their performance in the past failed to meet the target. He asked the EPD to explain whether the allocation of work was based on performance and whether those which “failed to meet the target” could get the contract. He asked if the contracts were issued to the royalist or pro-government organisations based on this standard or other standards. In addition, he asked about the contract amounts, periods, recyclables which met the targets and recycling quantity of the projects of “Green@Sheung Wan” and “Green@Sai Ying Pun”. He also cited the reply of the representative of the EPD which mentioned that the recycling quantity was encouraging and the design of the Recycling Stations was eye-catching, and said “the magnificent design was pointless if it could not do the job”. He asked the EPD to provide the list of buildings for door-to-door collection service, and requested that the relevant data should be submitted to the Committee for it to monitor and find out whether the aim of “squandering money” of the government was to offer political rewards, “hand out candies” or actually promote recycling work. In addition, regarding the reverse vending machine scheme, he asked “which genius came up with such a plan” to collect plastic bottles by rebating \$0.1. He remarked that the EPD was supposed to be aware of the practices of different countries. He opined that Germany was the most outstanding in this regard, because the deposit charged for buying plastic bottle water was quite high and thus their citizens would actively recycle plastic bottles. For example, a plastic bottle of water was sold for “dozens of cents” of Euros and the deposit was “20-odd cents” of Euros. He asked why the EPD did not follow the examples of other countries to allow the public to conduct recycling more actively, but formulating such a \$0.1 plastic bottle recycling scheme. He said he “could not believe that the EPD could think of such a thing”. He hoped the EPD could stop promoting “anything which achieved nothing after a bunch of work”. He asked what could be achieved with \$0.1. He hoped the staff of the EPD could “use their brains to think” instead of just

sitting in the office. He opined that the politically-accountable directors of bureaux “were all useless”. He said Mr WONG Kam-sing, Secretary for the Environment, had never attended meetings of the District Council to communicate with Members. He asked “what the point was for doing such useless stuff” and opined that “it was a waste of everybody’s time”.

88. Dr CHIU Yuen-wang of the EPD said the department engaged eligible non-profit-making organisations through open tenders with regularised funding support to operate Recycling Stations under “Green@Community”. The contract operation period was two years. The estimated awarded contract sums of “Green@Sheung Wan” and “Green@Sai Ying Pun” were HK\$12,761,548 and HK\$12,032,000 respectively. He said the EPD would assess the technical proposals and financial offers of tenders in accordance with the established procedures, and would select the successful tenderer according to the tender acceptance rules stipulated in the tender documents. When assessing the technical proposals, past experience in the related work of the organisations would be considered, but its political background would not be considered. Requirements such as recycling quantity and opening hours would be stated in the contract. The EPD would also closely monitor the work of the contractors, and the contractors were required to submit reports on a regular basis. He said the open tender for the third “Green@Community” in the Central and Western District was in progress, and all eligible non-profit making organisations were welcomed to participate in the tender. In addition, he indicated that, to pave way for future implementation of the producer responsibility scheme on plastic beverage containers, the EPD rolled out a one-year Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) Pilot Scheme in phases in the first quarter of 2021 to test out the on-site application of RVMs in Hong Kong. With reference to the level of rebate of other RVM projects in Hong Kong and the actual situation of the local recycling market, the EPD would set \$0.1 per each plastic bottle on a pilot basis. Furthermore, the government was conducting a public consultation on the producer responsibility scheme on plastic beverage containers and comments from all sectors were welcomed.

89. Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin asked Dr CHIU Yuen-wang if he was in charge of the ECF.

90. Dr CHIU Yuen-wang of the EPD said he was in charge of the outreach team, and the ECF was in charge by another section.

91. Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin asked the Secretariat to invite the staff who were in charge of the ECF to attend the next meeting, because Dr CHIU Yuen-wang might not be able to answer the questions about awarding contracts. She cited reports on the day before the meeting which stated that the recycling quantity of some organisations which applied for the ECF for the operation of community recycling centres failed to meet the target. One of them was a service provider in the Central and Western District, of which the compliance rate from 2016 - 2018 was only 48%. She

queried the EPD whether the performance of the relevant organisation in the projects in the past was not considered and only the tender documents and work experience were considered. She said she did not understand why the EPD awarded contracts to organisations which had failed to meet the target. Considering that an open tender for the third “Green@Community” in the Central and Western District by the EPD was in progress, she was worried that the EPD would once again award contracts to organisations which had failed to meet the target. In addition, she asked if the present contractors were the only tenderers for the contracts of “Green@Sheung Wan” and “Green@Sai Ying Pun” or there were other organisations which participated in the tendering process.

92. Dr CHIU Yuen-wang of the EPD said he did not have the number of tenders received for the contracts of “Green@Sheung Wan” and “Green@Sai Ying Pun” at present, but a total of over 40 tenders were received for the 22 Recycling Stores in Hong Kong. The EPD would assess the technical proposals and financial offers of tenders in accordance with the established procedures, and would select the successful tenderer according to the tender acceptance rules stipulated in the tender documents. Based on the tendering procedure, the EPD already published the information of successful bidders, but the information of other tenders and tender assessments would not be published.

93. Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin said it showed that the competition was not fierce. She asked the Secretariat to invite the staff who were in charge of the ECF to attend the next meeting to answer whether there were any other organisations which submitted the tenders for the Recycling Stores in the Central and Western District. In addition, regarding the removal of the waste separation bin outside Exit C of Sai Ying Pun MTR Station at Bonham Road by the EPD without notifying the public and Members, she asked the EPD about the criteria of the removal of recycling bins.

94. Dr CHIU Yuen-wang of the EPD indicated that the main considerations of the removal of recycling bins were recycling quantity and quality of recyclables. After reviewing the quality of recyclables at different locations, the EPD found that litters were always misplaced by the public in recycling bins at certain places (e.g. wet market, restaurants and public transport interchange), which affected the efficiency of recycling and also polluted some of the clean recyclables. Some cases were more serious in which food, rubbish and non-recyclable wastes were disposed of in the recycling bins, which polluted the recyclables in the bins, thus affecting the recycling effectiveness and causing hygiene problems. As such, the EPD decided to remove some of the recycling bins of which the quality of recyclables was poor. He said the coverage of recycling bins in Hong Kong was very high nowadays. Citizens were able to find other recycling bins in the vicinity. He said the public could also use the Recycling Stores and Recycling Spots for recycling, as the quality of recyclables could be ensured and more types of recyclables could be recycled.

95. Regarding the explanation of the EPD that the removal of the recycling bins was due to variable quality of recyclables, Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin opined that the EPD should consult the residents and explain the reasons before removing the recycling bins. She also indicated that the problem could be solved at root by removing the recycling bins. She said she had suggested before that notices should be posted near the location of the removed recycling bins to notify the residents about the locations of other recycling bins nearby. However, the staff of the EPD suggested that they could scan the QR code on the recycling bins. She said, after the recycling bins were removed, the residents were unable to scan the QR code on the bins. She suggested that the EPD should communicate with and explain to the residents and all stakeholders before removing any recycling bin in future.

96. Mr YIP Kam-lung said the C&WDC and C&WDO had already installed 10 plastic bottle recycling machines in the district in 2019. He asked if the C&WDO kept the relevant information and whether the EPD had made reference to the approach of the C&WDO.

97. The District Officer said the relevant information could be provided after the meeting.

98. Mr YIP Kam-lung indicated that the plastic bottle recycling machines were mentioned in the C&WDC Paper No. 17/2020 “Progress report on the Central and Western District-led Actions Scheme and work foci”. He said the Central and Western District was the first to install plastic bottle recycling machines, but it was strange that the EPD did not make any reference to the views of the C&WDC and C&WDO. In addition, he said there were many mistakes in the website of the EPD about the locations of recycling bins. For example, the Chinese of Bonham Strand, Connaught Road and Gough Hill Path were written as “文「鹹」東街”, “「幹」德道” and “歌賦山「裡」” respectively, and simplified Chinese words appeared in traditional Chinese webpages. He asked the EPD if the Traditional - Simplified Chinese conversion function of MS Word was used, and whether the original version was in simplified Chinese. He asked about the name of the company which made the webpage and whether the company was a company in Hong Kong or China.

99. Dr CHIU Yuen-wang of the EPD said the webpage was an internal webpage of the department, which would be in English and Traditional Chinese generally. He would follow up the issue by informing the relevant colleagues about the problems of the webpage.

100. Mr YIP Kam-lung opined that the work of the EPD was “sloppy”. He continued that the webpage was the one introduced by the representative of the EPD earlier, which could be browsed by everybody, thus probably it was not an internal webpage.

101. Dr CHIU Yuen-wang of the EPD clarified that it was a webpage produced and managed by the EPD internally.

102. Mr YIP Kam-lung asked about the place of birth of the producer of the webpage.

103. Dr CHIU Yuen-wang of the EPD said the updating of the webpage by the EPD would normally be conducted in traditional Chinese and English, and the software itself would convert it to the simplified Chinese version. He would try to find out the cause of the problem later.

104. Mr YIP Kam-lung was dissatisfied with the webpage issue, and said the problem was identified because the paper submitted by the EPD did not show the locations but only provided the webpage address. In addition, regarding the polluted recyclables mentioned by the EPD, he opined that it was due to insufficient education by the EPD. However, the EPD removed the recycling bins without giving any explanation. He opined that it was a punishment to the residents because they were unable to participate in recycling. He showed a photo of a recycling bin at the junction of Yip Cheung Building and Kwan Yick Building Phase 1 taken at 7:57 pm on 19 April. He remarked that the recycling bin was overfilled, and there were even tissues left on the glass recycling bin. He opined that it was a result of a lack of proper public education by the EPD which merely relied on the public to report the situations with QR codes. He said raising public awareness in recycling could not be achieved with only a few street booths and without any education. In addition, he showed another photo taken at the same location at 6:33 pm on 12 March, which showed that the recycling bin was also overfilled. He said some residents had the habit of putting clean recyclables into the recycling bin in the morning, but the EPD removed the recycling bin due to the reason that litters were misplaced into the recycling bin. He opined that it was a punishment to the residents who practiced clean recycling. Furthermore, he showed a photo of a recycling bin at the junction of Hill Road and Queen's Road West taken at 10:28 pm on 15 October 2020. He said the recycling bin would be overfilled every day before it was removed. He emphasised that it was a punishment to the public. He opined that the EPD failed to educate the public and did not inform and consult the public and Members before removing the recycling bins. After the request of reinstating the recycling bins was made, the EPD replied that the current practice had worked well as members of the public could use Recycling Spots for recycling. He asked the representative of the EPD whether he knew the opening hours of the Recycling Spot at Hill Road and Queen's Road West.

105. Dr CHIU Yuen-wang of the EPD said the opening hours of the Recycling Spot at the pavement outside Yip Cheung Building, Hill Road, Shek Tong Tsui (near Queen's Road West) was 10 am to 1 pm on Thursdays.

106. Mr YIP Kam-lung said 10 am to 1 pm on Thursdays were office hours. He asked how could members of the public use the service at the Recycling Spot if they had to go to work.

107. Dr CHIU Yuen-wang of the EPD said the department had been expanding the recycling network progressively to serve people with various rest hours. For example, members of the public could consider keeping recyclables and using the service at Recycling Spots on weekends to earn points, using night-time collection service or using recycling bins. He said the EPD received six reports of overfilled recycling bins in the Central and Western District in the first quarter of 2021, which was significantly lower than that of the fourth quarter of 2020, i.e. 27 reports.

108. Mr YIP Kam-lung asked the representative of the EPD whether he knew the reason of the decrease in the number of reports of overfilled recycling bins. He indicated that, according to the residents, it was because the staff of the FEHD cleared the rubbish on the recycling bins together with the recyclables. He opined that the EPD was incompetent and “they should not bite off more than they could chew”. He also indicated that “the rubbish like 121C” should not be invited to do the work, because “they were good-for-nothing and totally incompetent”. He said he had observed the situation of the Recycling Spot at the pavement outside Yip Cheung Building, Hill Road, Shek Tong Tsui (near Queen’s Road West), and found that nobody used the service at that spot for two hours. He said the reason of recycling for many residents was to protect the environment, not to earn bonus points. However, the EPD chose to remove the recycling bins, so that the recycling quantity of the contractor could meet the target. He opined that it was a punishment to the public. He also indicated that it was difficult to keep various types of recyclables at home due to insufficient living space in Hong Kong. The EPD, however, removed the recycling bins without any notification or consultation, which was unreasonable. He said, even though the District Council agreed that recycling bins should be managed by the EPD to standardize the environmental protection work, it was disappointing that the EPD failed to consult the District Council.

109. Dr CHIU Yuen-wang of the EPD said the department would review the quality and quantity of recyclables of the recycling bins in the district on a regular basis, but it was difficult to consult the District Council for every decision. Regarding the views of Members, a review on the situation in the district would be conducted later. In respect of education, he reiterated that the EPD launched the “Reduce & Recycle 2.0” publicity campaign in 2020, and the staff at the Recycling Spots would educate the public about the knowledge of recycling. Meanwhile, the EPD was exploring new methods, including affixing slogan stickers such as “I am not a rubbish bin” on the recycling bins. He said it was not until recently that the EPD took over the management of the recycling bins, thus more time was required for adjustments. He hoped Members could

understand.

110. Ms WONG Kin-ching indicated that the discussion was a waste of Members' time. The Committee had also discussed the issues about recycling bins and "Green@Community" in earlier meetings. She said the 28-month operation of "Green@Sai Ying Pun" alone already involved over \$11 million. Before any goal was achieved, the EPD was planning for the third "Green@Community" project, which might involve a total expense of over \$10 million or even over \$100 million. She opined that if recycling quantity was the only criteria of the EPD when awarding contracts and the contractors were not required to undertake education efforts, then there were mistakes and deficiencies in the scheme. She opined that the goals of waste reduction at source and reducing the refuse quantity of landfills could not be achieved without education. As such, it would be a waste of resources without proper education. Meanwhile, she opined that the aim of the education work was not only to let the public understand that recycling bins were not rubbish bins. She said the reasons that some members of the public would throw rubbish into recycling bins, which would pollute the recyclables in the bins, probably because they did not understand, did not treasure it or did not attach importance to recycling. It showed that the education of the government was ineffective and the management of recycling bins was improper. She indicated that 3-coloured recycling bins had been used by the EPD for over 20 years, but the effectiveness was still insignificant. She opined that public education had to be stepped up on the importance of recycling, waste reduction at source and reducing the amount of refuse sent to landfills. In addition, she did not agree using gifts as an incentive to encourage the public to practice recycling. If the incentive was too small, then people would not have the intention to participate. However, if the incentive was too large, then people would probably buy more unnecessary products, such as bottled drinks, for recycling. As such, it was not an effective measure to encourage waste reduction at source. She opined that the direction of the approach of the EPD was wrong, which was why it was ineffective and failed to reach the goal. Taxpayers' money was wasted and people would still throw rubbish into the recycling bins in future. She hoped the EPD could review the measure.

111. Miss YAM Ka-yi indicated that the EPD had taken forward projects on environmental protection with a lot of public money and resources in the recent two years, but there were many problems. In addition, she hoped that the EPD could stop wasting Members' time. She said she had already requested in the previous meeting that the staff who were in charge of different projects should attend the meeting, including the staff and representatives of the community recycling centres. She asked the Secretary if the relevant persons were invited to attend.

112. The Secretary indicated that Members' views had been relayed to the EPD.

113. Miss YAM Ka-yi asked the representative of the EPD if the staff and representatives who were in charge of the community recycling centres had been invited to attend the meeting, or they were unable to attend due to any specific reason.

114. Dr CHIU Yuen-wang of the EPD indicated that the Waste Reduction and Recycling Section (2) was mainly responsible for the community recycling network and facilities and services such as Recycling Stations, Recycling Stores and Recycling Spots. As a member of the Outreach Team, he was mainly responsible for explaining the recycling work of the department to the public. As such, he attended the meeting of the Committee on behalf of the EPD to explain the work to Members.

115. Miss YAM Ka-yi asked the representative of the EPD to record Members' questions and to try his best to answer them. She said she had submitted papers for the discussions of recycling in November 2020, February 2021 and this meeting, but some of the problems still existed. She said, after the recycling bins were removed, the EPD explained to Members that they were removed because the recyclables were polluted. She asked if all recycling bins in Hong Kong had to be removed based on such logic. She said if the EPD agreed that education was important, then they should consult the public before removing the bins and post a notice to inform the public about the reason after they were removed. However, the EPD did not carry out the education work in this regard. She opined that the removal of the recycling bins contradicted with the EPD's aim of expanding the recycling network. She hoped that the EPD could submit a report to explain that a recycling bin would be removed when how many recyclables were polluted. She also suggested that the residents and the District Council should be consulted before any recycling bin was removed in future. In addition, she indicated that the community recycling centres were operated with public money, which was not a voluntary work. She said the winning bids of the 28-month contracts of "Green@Sai Ying Pun" and "Green@Sheung Wan" were \$12 million and \$12.7 million respectively. By referring mainly to the situation of "Green@Sai Ying Pun", she said the scope of contract of "Green@Sai Ying Pun" included Mid-levels East, Castle Road, Peak, University, Kwun Lung, Belcher, Tung Wah, Centre Street and Water Street areas, but only four Recycling Spots were provided. She asked how four Recycling Spots could serve nine different areas. She also mentioned that, since the recycling bins provided for night-time collection service could not collect oversized recyclables, some of the recyclables had to be put beside the bins, which obstructed the pavement. She asked if the EPD had monitored the situation. Furthermore, she indicated that she had asked about the whereabouts of the recyclables of "Green@Community" many times, and the residents had also asked the same question on the social website of the contractor, but no answer was given. She also mentioned the problem about the promotional materials of "Green@Community". She said, before it was mentioned in the Committee in November 2020, the promotional materials of the contractor did not have the logo of the EPD.

She also said “Green@Tin Hau”, “Green@Tin Wan” and “Green@Sai Ying Pun” were using the same promotional materials. She asked why the same promotional materials were used when they were under different contracts, and asked how the EPD would handle substandard promotional materials. In addition, she asked about the target recycling quantities of the two community recycling centres, and whether the contractors met the contract requirements, such as providing street booths, organising educational activities on environmental protection, and complied with the requirements on service hours and number of days. She asked if the EPD knew that the contractors had organised any educational activity in the past, because she suspected that the contractors had never organised any educational activity. She also noticed the social platform of the contractors and found that their pages merely shared the posts of other pages, such as “Big Waster”. She asked where the \$12 million of the contractors was spent. In addition, she asked about the methods of handling food waste at present. In the end, she asked about the contract scope and amount of the third community recycling centre of the Central and Western District. Since the service of the existing two community recycling centres already covered the whole Central and Western District, she queried whether the EPD had the intention to provide more funding to the contractors, and said the existing community recycling centres still had many problems which remained unresolved.

116. Dr CHIU Yuen-wang of the EPD said two contractors were responsible for the service contracts of non-Mid levels and Mid-levels respectively. When setting service locations, the EPD would mainly consider factors such as population distribution of the district and number of buildings which participated in the programme of source separation of waste. In addition, he said the EPD did not request the contractors to provide a Recycling Spot at each district, because it was aware that many buildings in the Mid-levels were scattered on the same road, and the contractors provided door-to-door collection service for large buildings and housing estates which provided waste separation. The EPD would take a multi-pronged approach in recycling. He said he could present a video clip to briefly explain the whereabouts of the recyclables collected.

117. The Chairlady indicated that the meeting was overrun for 25 minutes, and several Members indicated their wish to speak. She asked the representative of the EPD if he could provide the video clip for Members to watch later, and asked the EPD to provide supplementary information for unanswered questions in writing after the meeting.

118. Dr CHIU Yuen-wang of the EPD added that the contractors of Recycling Stores engaged by the EPD on a contract basis had to collect 6 tonnes or more of recyclables every month. Additional gratuity would be provided if the above recycling amount was exceeded, so as to encourage the contractors to collect more recyclables. However, the total gratuity would not exceed the contract amount. He said the recycling amount of the contractors at present was 160% higher than that at the beginning, and was also several times higher than the target recycling amount

stated in the contract.

119. The Chairlady confirmed with the representative of the EPD whether the recycling amounts of “Green@Sheung Wan” and “Green@Sai Ying Pun” had reached the target and were two times more than the estimated target, whether the additional gratuity provided for exceeding the designated recycling amount would not exceed the total contract amount, and whether the contractor could receive the additional \$12 million, i.e. a total of \$24 million.

120. Dr CHIU Yuen-wang of the EPD said the contract stated the gratuity for meeting the target recycling amount and the additional gratuity obtainable for exceeding the basic target recycling amount. He said the total amount stated in the contract was the upper limit of the gratuity obtainable by the contractor, i.e. \$12 million.

121. Mr YOUNG Chit-on opined that, no matter it was the “Green@Community” project undertaken by the contractors or the recycling bins managed by the government, awards should be dispensed according to contributions. He opined that the recyclables in the recycling bins would easily be polluted in the past, which was not desirable. However, the removal of the recycling bins by the EPD without consulting Members was unacceptable, because Members could not explain the reason to the public immediately. He said if Members knew about the recycling amounts and work of “Green@Community” beforehand, then they could explain the reason of the removal of the recycling bins to the residents. He shared his experience of a visit to the Recycling Store of “Green@Tin Wan” with students and teachers of a school earlier. He opined that the Recycling Store was clean and had sufficient space for the teachers to teach the students about the environmental protection knowledge such as how waste separation worked. The students could also take the opportunity to experience and learn. He also shared the joy of the students who gave the gifts to school staff after redeeming the gifts. He opined that the “GREEN\$ Electronic Participation Incentive Scheme” should be retained, and more people would be attracted to practice recycling with a more comprehensive and flexible scheme. An application programme could provide an easy access for the public of the information of the locations and operation hours of collection outlets. He hoped the EPD could continue to expand the recycling network and work to promote environmental protection by letting the fittest survive.

122. Dr CHIU Yuen-wang of the EPD said the present Recycling Stores were welcomed by the public. He hoped that concerted community effort could be achieved in future. As such, the EPD was actively expanding the recycling service and promoting the environmental protection knowledge to the public with the help of announcements in the public interest, including clean recycling and waste reduction at source.

123. Mr YOUNG Chit-on suggested that the EPD could add a Recycling Vehicle for a better communication of information.

124. The Vice-chairman hoped that the EPD could submit the target tonnage required to be achieved by the contractors in writing to the Committee, and explain how the EPD calculated the target tonnage for “Green@Community”, so that Members could know whether the tonnage determined was reasonable. Regarding the removal of the recycling bins, he said the recycling bins at 343 Des Voeux Road West (near Kwan Yick Building Phase II) and the junction of Water Street and Queen’s Road West were moved to Sai On Lane. However, there were several thousands of residential units around Sai On Lane and the recycling bins were always overfilled. He did not understand why the EPD had such an arrangement. He indicated that the Committee had requested the EPD to reinstate the recycling bins earlier, but the EPD failed to promise to reinstate the recycling bins according to Members’ views. He said he was very disappointed. He opined that the removal of the recycling bins discouraged the public from recycling, and thus he requested the EPD again to reinstate the recycling bins.

125. Dr CHIU Yuen-wang of the EPD said he understood that the relocation of recycling bins would increase the loading of other recycling bins nearby. The EPD would pay attention to the usage of the recycling bins from time to time, and the contractors would also arrange patrol teams to monitor the situation. He said collection service of recyclables would be provided once a week to once a day at present according to the actual situation. Additional collection service would also be provided based on a case-by-case basis (including overfill reports submitted by members of the public through QR codes) and the recycling bins would be cleared at least once a day. If overfill reports were received from the public, additional cleaning would be arranged. He indicated that the EPD would adjust the arrangements of recycling bins and other recycling services from time to time.

126. Regarding the third Recycling Store planned to be provided by the EPD, Ms CHENG Lai-king asked the EPD about the coverage and number of people served of each Recycling Store, and the estimated service location and place of the third Recycling Store. She said Caine Road straddled four constituencies, i.e. Mid-levels East, Castle Road, University and Peak, but there was only one Recycling Spot at the pavement of Caine Road (near the underneath of Shelley Street Footbridge), Central, which provided three hours of service in the morning of Mondays. She opined that it was difficult for the residents at the Peak to use that Recycling Spot. She wished to obtain the work schedule of Mid-levels and hotline of “Green@Sai Ying Pun”, so as to have a better understanding of the work of the contractor. In addition, she asked the EPD whether people should call “1823” when they found that the recycling bins were overfilled, or there was a hotline to contact the contractors, such as a hotline of Baguio for overfill of glass bottle recycling bins. In

addition, she hoped that door-to-door collection services of fluorescent tubes, lamps and rechargeable batteries could be provided, in order to avoid exposure of the public and cleaning workers to hazardous components contained. She also hoped that the EPD could report the relevant data to the Committee in the future.

127. Dr CHIU Yuen-wang of the EPD said members of the public could call the service hotline of recycling bins at “6623 6343” or scan the QR code on the recycling bins to report to the EPD about the condition of the bins. He said, apart from the Recycling Stores and Recycling Spots, the contractors would also provide door-to-door collection service, depending on the situations and recycling amounts of individual housing estates. He indicated that the aim of the programme on source separation of waste was to help housing estates to collect more different types of recyclables (including fluorescent tubes, lamps and rechargeable batteries). The “Green Outreach Team” of the EPD would visit individual housing estates to look into the situation and give advice, and would also provide recycling bins depending on the needs of the housing estates. He said the programme required the cooperation of the housing estates and management companies. He hoped that Members could help to encourage the housing estates to participate in more recycling work, and the EPD was also willing to provide on-site support. Regarding the third Recycling Store, he indicated that the service provided by the Recycling Store would not be confined to its location. For example, the contractor would provide door-to-door collection service for places on Caine Road and Mid-levels. The EPD hoped to serve more people with the provision of the new Recycling Store.

128. Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin indicated that it was strange that there was an additional gratuity in the contract of Recycling Stores. She said the projects in the previous applications of the ECF did not have any additional gratuity. She asked if there was any additional gratuity for the multi-million-dollar community waste reduction projects in the previous applications of 121C Society For Recycling and Fong Chung Resources Management Company Limited.

129. Dr CHIU Yuen-wang of the EPD said community waste reduction projects were subsidised by the Environment and Conservation Fund. Depending on the proposals in the applications of the organisations, each application would be different. Regarding the Recycling Stores, the EPD would engage eligible non-profit-making organisations through open tenders with regularised funding support to set up and operate Recycling Stores. Operators had to provide the required services during the contract period and meet performance targets, including the monthly quantity of collected recyclables as required by the contract.

130. Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin asked about the contract period of the third Recycling Store in the Central and Western District, and whether it would overlap with those of “Green@Sheung Wan”

and “Green@Sai Ying Pun”.

131. Dr CHIU Yuen-wang of the EPD said the contract of the third Recycling Store was an independent contract, which was not related to the contracts awarded before.

132. Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin followed up by asking about the contract period of the third Recycling Store.

133. Dr CHIU Yuen-wang of the EPD said the tendering exercise for the third Recycling Store was conducting at present, and the contract would be awarded later. As such, the contract period would not start and end with the present contracts concurrently.

134. Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin said there were already two contractors in the Central and Western District which undertook the recycling work of the district. She opined that, after the addition of the third Recycling Store, the workload of the existing two contractors would decrease correspondingly. She asked if the EPD would reduce the contractual gratuity of the contractors.

135. Dr CHIU Yuen-wang of the EPD clarified that the workload of the existing contractors would not decrease because the basic target recycling quantity that the contractors had to achieve was stated in the contracts. After the addition of the new Recycling Store, the existing contractors had to double their efforts to maintain the current level of recycling quantity with competition.

136. Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin indicated that the EPD would still approve the funding even the existing contractors failed to meet the target. She did not understand why there would be competitions among the contractors. Regarding the remark about competition mentioned by the EPD, she asked if it meant that the recycling work in the Central and Western District would be better with more contractors. She opined that it was not reasonable.

137. Mr YIP Kam-lung indicated that the representative of the EPD did not respond directly whether the removed recycling bins would be reinstated. He said the motion requesting the reinstatement of the recycling bins would be handled later. He asked the EPD to stop saying in reply that it could not be decided until after various factors were considered. He said Mr YOUNG Chit-on also said in his speech earlier that the EPD should notify Members before removing the recycling bins, which was a rare agreement between the pro-government camp and the pro-democracy camp. He hoped that the EPD could face up to Members' request squarely and notify Members before moving or removing any recycling bin. He hoped that the EPD could stop removing recycling bins for the sake of helping the contractors to increase their recycling amounts. Also, he remarked that the two contractors should not conduct education work only on social media,

and he mentioned the social media data of the contractors:

Recycling Store	Contractor	Number of “Likes” of page	Number of followers of page	Number of posts in March	Lowest number of “Likes” of posts	Highest number of “Likes” of posts
Green@Sheung Wan	Fong Chung Resources Management Company Limited	600	720	11	1	32
Green@Sai Ying Pun	121C Society For Recycling	1 013	1 124	10	3	34

138. Mr YIP Kam-lung continued that the numbers of “likes” and followers of his personal social media page were higher than those of the above two contractors. He asked why the work of the contractors was so “rubbish”. He opined that even the pictures designed by the intern of his office were better than those designed by the contractors, and he himself could also make a better design even with “Microsoft Paint”. He said the two “rubbish” organisations conducted this kind of “rubbish” work with over ten million dollars of public money given by the EPD. He opined that the contractors were not engaging in the recycling business but they were “rubbish” themselves, which should be sent to landfills. He asked the representative of the EPD about his view of how the two contractors should carry out the education work, and said these “rubbish” were paid by taxpayers’ money. He said the work of the EPD was ridiculous, because it claimed that the recycling bins were removed due to polluted recyclables on one hand and it allowed the contractors which failed to meet the target to undertake the recycling work on the other hand, considering that the target quantity was only six tonnes per month. In addition, about \$70 per kg was paid to the contractors for the recyclables. He queried whether the recyclables were worth such a high price. He was disappointed with the work of the EPD and also did not understand. For example, there was no timetable for the implementation of waste charging, and the recycling work was inadequate and substandard, and the District Council was not respected. Regarding the report submitted by the EPD as requested by the Committee earlier, he said the EPD had made a brief response with only two paragraphs and attached the websites of the contractors. According to the websites of the contractors, there were only 5 000 and 3 400 visits respectively after a month or so of operation. He opined that it was inefficient. He asked the EPD to provide a detailed written reply when submitting reports and replying Members’ questions in future, instead of attaching a link only. He

opined that matters discussed in the Council should be made in the form of papers.

139. Miss YAM Ka-yi indicated that many questions had already been raised in the previous meetings, but the EPD had not yet replied, including the contract terms of operating the Recycling Stores. She hoped the EPD could send the relevant staff to attend the next meeting to answer Members' questions and reply the questions raised by Members in the past six months. She said the contractors of the Recycling Stores were not voluntarily workers but were paid by public money. She said the representative of the EPD mentioned that the third Recycling Store mainly served single-block and "3-nil" buildings, but the EPD also mentioned in the written reply that the two existing Recycling Stores mainly served the residents living in single-block and "3-nil" buildings without waste separation facilities to facilitate the residents to participate in recycling. She asked why the third Recycling Store was needed suddenly. She indicated that if the existing Recycling Stores failed to serve the residents in Mid-levels, then it was because of the existing contractor's failure to execute the contract and its poor performance. She opined that the EPD should not carry out the work which was supposed to be done by the existing contractors with additional resources, which was unreasonable. She asked about the service coverage and contract amount of the third Recycling Store. She said the contractors obtained the funding of about \$12 million for "Green@Sai Ying Pun", but there was still over \$200,000 every month for unknown purpose by estimation. The contractors also did not perform their responsibility to carry out public education. She asked why the EDP still planned to set up the third Recycling Store. She opined that the EPD should improve the recycling and education work of the two existing Recycling Stores first. In the end, she asked if the "Green Outreach Team" was responsible for handling food waste. She said it was everyone's concern in Hong Kong.

140. Dr CHIU Yuen-wang of the EPD said the rent of a Recycling Store for contractors would be subsidised on a reimbursement basis. Operators of Recycling Stores would upload the quarterly operation data on its social media page on a regular basis for Members and public's reference. In addition, he indicated that the first phase of the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection had been launched in July 2018, focusing on collection of food waste generated from commercial and industrial sectors. The second phase would be rolled out in 2021, under which domestic food waste would be collected progressively, but it would only be conducted in private housing estates with experience in source separation of food waste at the beginning, with a hope to have continuous support from the commercial and industrial sectors. He said the EPD had carried out the tendering exercise for the food waste collection service contract, and the service was expected to be available in mid-2021.

141. Miss YAM Ka-yi requested the EPD again to respond to the questions raised by Members earlier. She said the EPD could respond to Members' questions and motions adopted by making

reference to the minutes of the meetings since November 2020.

142. The following two impromptu motions proposed by Mr YIP Kam-lung and seconded by Mr WONG Weng-chi and Mr HO Chi-wang were adopted upon discussion and voting:

“1. The Building Management, Environmental Hygiene & Works Committee (BEHWC) of the Central and Western District Council (C&WDC) requests the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) to immediately reinstate the waste separation bins (recycling bins) at the junction of Hill Road and Queen’s Road West, outside Shek Tong Tsui Municipal Services Building, outside the bus stop at Kwan Yick Building Phase II, at the junction of Water Street and Queen’s Road West as well as outside Exit C of Sai Ying Pun MTR Station on Bonham Road.”

(10 affirmative votes by: Ms NG Hoi-yan; Mr WONG Weng-chi; Ms CHENG Lai-king; Mr KAM Nai-wai; Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin; Mr NG Siu-hong; Ms WONG Kin-ching; Mr YIP Kam-lung; Mr PANG Ka-ho; Miss YAM Ka-yi)

(0 dissenting vote)

(1 abstention vote by: Mr YOUNG Chit-on)

“2. BEHWC of C&WDC requests the EPD to fully consult the local community, make reference to the recovery rate of the recycling bins in the vicinity and consult the C&WDC and the District Councillors of the constituency concerned before changing the location of waste separation bins in the future.”

(11 affirmative votes by: Ms NG Hoi-yan; Mr WONG Weng-chi; Ms CHENG Lai-king; Mr KAM Nai-wai; Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin; Mr NG Siu-hong; Ms WONG Kin-ching; Mr YIP Kam-lung; Mr PANG Ka-ho; Miss YAM Ka-yi; Mr YOUNG Chit-on)

(0 dissenting vote)

(0 abstention vote)

143. The Chairlady asked the EPD to pay attention to the advice on Paper No. 32/2021, submit the recycling quantities and performance of the recycling bins, glass bottle recycling bins and

recycling projects such as “Green@Sai Ying Pun” and “Green@Sheung Wan”, and report to the Committee on a regular basis.

144. Mr YIP Kam-lung suggested that the EPD should report the recycling quantities and number of Recycling Spots, and opined that the EPD also had to report the funding projects applied by other non-governmental organisations to the Committee.

145. The Chairlady indicated that she would follow up with Mr YIP Kam-lung after the meeting about the information which the EPD was required to submit in the next meeting.

146. The Chairlady indicated that that the Vice-chairman took over the chairmanship from now on.

Item 5(vii): Standing item – Monitoring of the ground decontamination works at the site of ex-Kennedy Town incineration plant/abattoir and adjoining area (C&W BEHWC Paper No. 37/2021)
Strong request for excising the Cadogan Street Temporary Garden from the decontamination area (C&W BEHWC Paper No. 34/2021)

(5:52 pm to 6:31 pm)

147. Dr CHIU Siu-wai, guest, introduced the background of the Cadogan Street Temporary Garden (Temporary Garden). She said, according to a university study commissioned by the government back then, the wind direction in Kennedy Town and Mount Davis was from the sea to the land, and the emissions from the Kennedy Town incineration plant were blew towards the land. As such, the then consultancy study recommended that the Temporary Garden and Cadogan Street should be retained as a ventilation corridor and to alleviate the heat island effect in the district. She indicated that the Temporary Garden adopted a simple design, with a turf paved in the middle, surrounding by trees. She said trees could act as a filter barrier for nearby pollutants, dusts and soils, smog, etc. She said the government published the Phase II EIA report in 2015 and suggested that the site located at the waterfront in Kennedy Town and Mount Davis should be used for residential development. As such, the decontamination standards provided in the report were determined by taking the site as a residential site. However, after the local residents and groups made the demand, it was confirmed that the site of the Temporary Garden would be used for park use on a permanent basis. According to the “Risk-Based Remediation Goals for Contaminated Land Management” adopted by the EPD, the requirements of pollutant amount for park and industrial sites were supposed to be less stringent than that for residential sites. In addition, after comparing the soil contamination data of the 90’s and 2013 mentioned in the EIA, she found that

the soil depths where the pollutants existed and types of pollutants had changed. In terms of the decontamination standards of industrial sites, among the three sampling locations, only one required decontamination and there was a clear downward trend in the pollutant amount at that location. Since the site had already been rezoned to park use at present and the above data was provided in the 2015 EIA, she opined that the government had to update the data of soil pollutants to determine the level of soil decontamination. She explained that the change of pollutants was due to the half-life of the pollutants. When a pollutant reached its half-life, its concentration would be reduced by half. The most common pollutant at the location where decontamination was required in Kennedy Town and Mount Davis was Benzo[a]pyrene, and its half-life was about 1.5 years. She said the Temporary Garden was opened on 5 October 1998, which had been in service for over 20 years. She estimated that the concentration of the pollutants had already decreased to a safe standard. In addition, the rain water in Hong Kong was acidic. Acid rain water was a dissolution aid for heavy metals and could wash the heavy metals out of their original soil layers. It was estimated that 5-80% heavy metals could be washed out. Furthermore, she and Ms WONG Kin-ching had conveyed the view to the EPD that only the surface soil had to be handled according to the decontamination indicators for park sites of the EPD, because deep excavation was not required for park sites and normally nobody would stay there for over ten hours. Later, the CEDD agreed that whether the decontamination was required or not would depend on the pollutants within 3m soil depth in the park. As such, based on the data of the 90's, among the 10 sampling locations, only 4 required decontaminations. She showed some aerial photos taken in March to explain the pollutants in different locations. She said she had communicated with the department about the conservation of the trees in the park. The CEDD replied that no decontamination was required for locations below the dripline of tree canopy, but opined that decontamination was still required for other locations. She said she had taken soil samples for testing in the Temporary Garden with the consent of the LCSD this year. The heavy metals under measurement showed no exceedance, and also showed a significant decline and decrease comparing to that of 20 years ago, which had already reached the safe level. She said the levels of arsenic (As) and lead (Pb) contained in the Temporary Garden were even lower than that of other locations in Hong Kong, and the level of Benzo[a]pyrene contained was also similar to that of organic farms. She opined that the Temporary Garden was absolutely safe to use. In addition, she mentioned the comments and improvement measures proposed to the LCSD regarding the management of the Temporary Garden, including the suggestion of compensatory tree planting by the LCSD. She concluded that there was not enough public space facility in Kennedy Town and Mount Davis at present. Retaining the Temporary Garden could help improving the air quality in the district, and the Temporary Garden was safe to use.

148. Ms WONG Kin-ching made a conclusion about the report of Dr CHIU Siu-wai, saying that the Temporary Garden, as a park, did not require any decontamination, because the latest data

showed that the amount of pollutants had decreased to a safe level over time and in accordance with the environment. She said although the soil sampling in March could not reach the depth of 3m owing to mechanical limitations, the findings still showed that the pollutants had decreased, contrary to what the CEDD said that the pollutants would only increase and not decrease over time. She also pointed out that the CEDD was using the outdated data which was 20 years ago. She reiterated that the area of the Temporary Garden did not require any decontamination. She asked Dr CHIU Siu-wai to provide supplemental information.

149. Dr CHIU Siu-wai added that the organic pollutants within the depths of 1.5m to 6m in the Temporary Garden had already experienced two half-life periods in 20 years, and the amount of pollutants had decreased to a very safe level. She said an excavation of the surface soil to a depth of 0.5m would be enough, and deep excavation was probably not necessary, because the standard depth of surface soil for parks in Hong Kong adopted by scientists over the 20 years was 0.5m.

150. Mr KAM Nai-wai thanked Dr CHIU Siu-wai for providing the detailed information. He asked the Secretariat to note that this standing document was not listed as a “standing item” on the website of the District Council, and requested that the title should be revised. In addition, he said he had already strongly criticised the CEDD earlier in the meeting for not sending representatives to attend the meeting. He opined that Members had made a large effort and there were expert studies, but it was a shame that they could not communicate with the CEDD in the meeting. As such, he strongly condemned the CEDD. He said although the CEDD had submitted the BEHWC Paper No. 37/2021, its content was merely a “copy and paste” of the content in the past or with the addition of one or two new paragraphs, and no communication opportunity was provided. He said the document in the briefing of Dr CHIU Siu-wai had already been uploaded to the website of the District Council. He requested that the CEDD should reply in writing to the details, scopes and conclusions of the above research, and the CEDD should also send representatives to attend the next meeting. He suggested that the Secretariat should write to the Director of the CEDD and the Secretary for Development, because the CEDD was under the Development Bureau. He said the department merely submitted the documents, which was unacceptable to the Council. He opined that exchange of views and discussions were required as the more it was debated, the clearer it would become, and right and wrong could be distinguished. He indicated that the CEDD did not have to respond now, but it had to be put on record. In addition, he indicated that the nature of the Temporary Garden was not temporary any more. It was established with funding support at the times of the Urban Council and now it became a permanent open space for the residents. He opined that, instead of sitting in office and working according to regulations like a bureaucrat, the department should make reference to the relevant research and consider the views and demands of the public and Members. He hoped that it could be put on record and the above comment could be relayed to the CEDD.

151. The Vice-chairman asked the Secretary to write to the CEDD to request it to respond to the documents and send representatives to attend the next meeting.

152. Ms CHENG Lai-king thanked Dr CHIU Siu-wai for providing evidence from a scientific point of view, such as the fact that acid rain was a dissolution aid for heavy metals. She supported the suggestion of Mr KAM Nai-wai and hoped that the above comments could be relayed to the CEDD. She said the data which the government used was over 20 years ago, and the work had still not yet commenced after discussions in previous District Council terms. She opined that since the pollutants were buried underground for over 20 to 30 years, no pollutant was discovered in the surface soil and the decontamination work would affect the residents, thus she suggested that a status quo should be maintained in order to provide an open space for the local residents. She also indicated that the site should not be rezoned to residential use in future. She remarked that the tress in the Temporary Garden had been providing wind and rain shelters for the residents and dissolving harmful substances to improve the environment over the years. She asked the LCSD to note the above discussion, and hoped that the Temporary Garden could become a permanent garden in future and more plants could be planted.

153. Mr LEE Kai-ho, Deputy District Leisure Manager (Central & Western) 2 of the LCSD, said the LCSD would plant compensatory trees in the Temporary Garden later, and had already communicated with the CEDD regarding the tree compensation proposal.

154. Mr YIP Kam-lung indicated that he had already been following up the Temporary Garden issue together with Dr CHIU Siu-wai and Ms WONG Kin-ching before being a District Councillor, and had communicated with the CEDD multiple times after being a District Councillor. He said the CEDD had been refusing to admit that the pollutants had disappeared. He thanked Dr CHIU Siu-wai for her assistance in completing the detailed research. Although the sampling could only be conducted at the depth of 50cm of the surface soil, instead of 3m which was proposed by the CEDD, he opined that the standard of 3m proposed by the CEDD was illogical because the roots of trees would not go to the depth of 3m in general.

155. Dr CHIU Siu-wai added that there were *Ficus macrocarpa* in the Temporary Garden. The root of this type of trees could grow to very deep. As such, after they had multiple discussions with the CEDD, the department proposed the plan in which no decontamination was required for locations under the dripline of tree canopy. She opined that probably the CEDD considered that the root of trees could help with decontamination, but she said, apart from trees, things like grass and rain water could also help with decontamination.

156. Mr YIP Kam-lung thanked Dr CHIU Siu-wai for her supplementary information. If no decontamination was required for the locations under the dripline of tree canopy, with the implementation of the tree compensatory plan of the LCSD, he believed that most of the places in the Temporary Garden did not require any decontamination. He hoped the CEDD could conduct a real research without affecting the use of the Temporary Garden and publish the content of the research, instead of using the old data which was 20 years ago and the data of 2015 in a perfunctory manner. He was also worried that the CEDD would damage the whole harbourfront area and Temporary Garden site, which would be a waste of public money. In addition, he said, apart from the Temporary Garden, the ex-incinerator site was also an open space, which could be used as a port and did not require any decontamination. He hoped that it could be put on record and asked the government departments to stop wasting money and resources to conduct the decontamination works for the sake of community's well-being.

157. The following impromptu motion proposed by Ms WONG Kin-ching and seconded by Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin was adopted upon discussion and voting:

“The Central and Western District Council requests the Civil Engineering and Development Department to cancel the proposed decontamination works for Cadogan Street Temporary Garden (CSTG) given that the data on soil contaminants at CSTG in 2021 has dropped to a level that meets the safety standard for park use.”

(10 affirmative votes by: Ms NG Hoi-yan; Mr WONG Weng-chi; Ms CHENG Lai-king; Mr KAM Nai-wai; Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin; Mr NG Siu-hong; Ms WONG Kin-ching; Mr YIP Kam-lung; Mr PANG Ka-ho; Miss YAM Ka-yi)

(0 dissenting vote)

(0 abstention vote)

**Item 6: The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department's pilot scheme on the feeding of contraceptives to feral pigeons
(C&W BEHWC Paper No. 24/2021)**

(6:31 pm to 7:05 pm)

158. Mr LEUNG Wai-yiu, Veterinary Officer (Avian Influenza Surveillance) of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), briefly introduced the pilot scheme on the feeding of contraceptives to feral pigeons (Scheme). He said the Scheme mainly aimed to

reduce nuisance caused by feral pigeons by feeding them with the contraceptive drug. He explained the habits and characteristics of feral pigeons, saying that feral pigeons would easily be attracted by intentional feeding activities and gather in urban districts. They would usually inhabit at overhanging canopies, air-conditioners or vent pipes of buildings as a substitute of natural cliffs, causing various levels of nuisances to the public. He said intentional feeding activities would affect animals and cause environmental hygiene problems. As such, the AFCD was advancing the education of the public concerning the adverse impacts of feeding feral pigeons and the message of “stop feeding feral pigeons”, through different promotional channels in aspects such as disease control, ecology and animal welfare. The department also made reference to examples of other countries and regions so as to introduce different methods to reduce the nuisance caused by feral pigeons. The AFCD had been studying the practicability of the usage of contraceptive drugs on feral pigeons. After making reference to the experience of different countries and listening to views of different stakeholders, the AFCD had decided to try to feed feral pigeons with a contraceptive drug by coating the drug in natural maize kernels. The active ingredient in the contraceptive drug was Nicarbazin. He said Nicarbazin would decompose in the natural environment and the impact on the environment was insignificant. According to World Health Organization studies, only substantial consumption of the contraceptive product might pose potential hazards to human health. Therefore, proper use of the drug was safe. In addition, clinical trials had shown that no obvious side effects were observed in birds (including feral pigeons) after consumption of the contraceptive product. The fertility of birds would recover after the oral contraceptive drug was withdrawn. The AFCD planned to implement the pilot programme at three spots, i.e. Exit A of Kennedy Town MTR Station in the Central and Western District, Ma Hang Chung Road Rest Garden in Ma Tau Wai, Kowloon City, and Exit A of Hang Hau MTR Station in the Sai Kung District for a period of two years starting from June 2021. He said the programme aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of feeding feral pigeons with the contraceptive drug in Hong Kong at the beginning, to see whether it could reduce the nuisance caused by the congregation of feral pigeons. The AFCD would send staff to feed feral pigeons daily at a specific time and spot with contraceptive drug-coated feed. Staff of the contractor would wear an identifiable uniform and post signs at the feeding spots to prevent members of the public from misunderstanding and following suit. The AFCD would also monitor the conditions of feral pigeons after feeding with contraceptives on a regular basis, so as to assess the effectiveness of the programme. After collecting various information and data, the AFCD would publish the data and report to the District Council in due course. If the programme was successful, the AFCD would consider and evaluate whether the programme could be conducted at other congregating spots of feral pigeons in phases.

159. Mr PANG Ka-ho was concerned that non-target birds might ingest the crops coated with contraceptives, which would affect their fertility and might affect the environment, ecological

balance and food chain. He asked the AFCD about its view on the above issue.

160. Mr LEUNG Wai-yiu of the AFCD indicated that it was also the concern of the AFCD, but the department had decided to launch the pilot scheme after consolidating the data and views of different stakeholders. Preventive measures would be implemented, including the usage of maize kernel with a larger size for the contraceptive feed and the adoption of a feeding approach at regular time and place by taking the eating habit of feral pigeons into account to prevent non-target birds from ingesting the drug-coated feed. In addition, the AFCD would arrange staff to monitor the whole drug administration process and would take relevant measures immediately if non-target birds or animals were found to have ingested the drug-coated feed. Any left-over feed would be cleared after the process was completed. He said there would be no contraceptive effect as long as the non-target birds did not consume the contraceptive drug-coated feed continuously, or the contraceptive effect would disappear after the consumption of the drug-coated feed stopped. The AFCD would observe the effectiveness of the preventive measures and assess whether the non-target birds would be affected, so as to decide if the method should continue to be used in future.

161. Mr PANG Ka-ho opined that the chance that the accidental consumption by the small-size sparrows in the Central and Western District was not high, but he was worried that some protected or endangered birds, such as *Cacatua sulphurea*, might accidentally consume the feed and lose their reproducing ability, leading to their extinction, which would be a sad thing to see. Regarding the reply of the AFCD that observations could be made after it was launched, he suggested that the AFCD should consider whether more risk assessments had to be done and more data had to be made reference to before launching the programme. He agreed with the designation of observers by the AFCD, and asked whether the AFCD would designate staff to feed the feral pigeons at regular times and about the feeding time required every time.

162. Regarding the accidental consumption of non-target birds, Mr LEUNG Wai-yiu of the AFCD said the department had engaged a contractor earlier to observe the birds, including feral pigeons and other birds, at the congregation spots in the Central and Western District. No special type of parrots was identified during the process, but there was quite a number of *Spilopelia chinensis*, so more attention would be paid and relevant measures would be taken during feeding. He also cited the experience and report about Spain that the measure was quite effective in the country and the risk of accidental consumption of non-target birds was relatively low. In addition, he said the AFCD would feed feral pigeons at regular places and time.

163. Mr PANG Ka-ho opined that the approach of the AFCD by sending staff to feed feral pigeons was acceptable, but he suggested that the relevant staff should wear a uniform and provide the related promotional materials and notices, so that members of the public could know that it was

the AFCD which was feeding feral pigeons with contraceptives, in order to prevent the public to “follow suit” to feed feral pigeons. Regarding the feed, he asked about the cost of feeding contraceptives every day, including manpower estimation and expense of contraceptives. He opined that the cost was probably not cheap. In addition, he knew that there were some machines which could spray feed regularly. He asked if the AFCD was aware of such equipment and considered the pros and cons of manual and mechanic feeding.

164. Ms WONG Kin-ching asked about the impact on rats for accidental consumption of the contraceptive and whether they would only affect birds.

165. Mr LEUNG Wai-yiu of the AFCD indicated that the contraceptive for pigeons only had impacts on birds, and it would only be fatal if it was consumed in large amount according to the studies.

166. Ms WONG Kin-ching asked about the life and breeding cycle of birds such as pigeons, and hoped to know how long the programme had to be implemented before its effectiveness was known.

167. Mr LEUNG Wai-yiu of the AFCD indicated that it took about two months for feral pigeons to be able to fly from incubation, and the life cycle of feral pigeons in an outdoor environment in general was about five to six years, depending on factors like habitats and food supply. The lifespan of pigeons kept by human could reach over 10 years. According to the manufacturer’s information and overseas literatures, the number of feral pigeons could reduce by 20% after proper usage of the contraceptive for a year. As such, the AFCD decided to test the programme for two years and check the overall effectiveness upon completion. The AFCD would continue to conduct education and promotion work to reduce feeding by the public and cooperate with the enforcement actions of the FEHD, with a view to alleviate the problem of feral pigeons by consolidating various methods.

168. Ms WONG Kin-ching opined that a 20% decrease of the number of feral pigeons in a year was not that much.

169. Mr LEUNG Wai-yiu of the AFCD indicated that it was a preliminary estimation, and the exact amount of decrease could not be confirmed until the actual figures were available. He also said if the feeding by the public continued without any control in the number of feral pigeons, then their numbers might continue to increase.

170. Ms WONG Kin-ching asked if there would be specified persons responsible for feeding

feral pigeons with contraceptives in the two years of the programme.

171. Mr LEUNG Wai-yiu of the AFCD said the department would send staff to feed feral pigeons on a daily basis. Since it was the first time that the pilot programme was launched in Hong Kong and there would be many uncertainties, thus the AFCD hoped to observe the situation through manual feeding. The use of machines or other facilities for feeding would increase the uncertainties, and the machines might be mistaken by the public as rubbish bins.

172. Ms CHENG Lai-king asked about the reproductive cycle of pigeons. In addition, she mentioned the hygiene problem caused by congregation of feral pigeons in the urban areas, and she had received many complaints about it. She asked if the AFCD had any method to lure feral pigeons to places suitable for feeding, such as larger parks or country side. Furthermore, she asked if the contraceptive for pigeons had to be consumed for 28 days consecutively like the contraceptive for human, and asked if the AFCD could identify each pigeon, such as whether they would have any identification ring to confirm that they consumed enough contraceptives to achieve the contraceptive effect.

173. Mr LEUNG Wai-yiu of the AFCD indicated that feral pigeons would become mature and have reproductive ability one to two months after they left the nests. Their reproductive period would also be affected by the environment, including factors such as food and habitat. He said the AFCD would continue to educate and urge the public not to feed feral pigeons. He remarked that the department had considered luring feral pigeons to other places, but it would be difficult to lure them to other places if members of the public kept feeding them. As such, the AFCD could only feed feral pigeons with contraceptives at places which were familiar to them, so as to alleviate the problem of congregation of feral pigeons with other complimentary measures.

174. Mr KAM Nai-wai supported tackling the problem of pigeons with all kinds of humane approaches. He agreed that, as mentioned by other Members earlier, when implementing the pilot programme, larger notices could be posted so that people nearby could know the arrangement under the programme, which he thought was important. He hoped the AFCD would not act like the FEHD which had made a tiny notice in A4 size that was hard for the public to see. He opined that the public had to be informed about the work of the AFCD, because he was concerned that members of the public would “follow suit”, which would affect the effectiveness of the programme. In addition, he asked if the AFCD had assessed and studied the number of pigeons in urban area, such as the number of pigeons which caused nuisances to the public in urban area.

175. Mr LEUNG Wai-yiu of the AFCD indicated that the AFCD would post larger notices to inform the public about the relevant work. The staff of the contractor would also wear uniform

for identification purpose when feeding feral pigeons, so as to prevent members of the public from following suit. In addition, he said the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society was commissioned by the AFCD from 2019 to 2020 to calculate the number of pigeons in some congregation spots of feral pigeons, which mainly focused on the highest number of feral pigeons in the congregation spots. He could provide the relevant data of the Central and Western District to Members for reference after the meeting.

176. Regarding the pilot test to be conducted in Kennedy Town by the AFCD, Mr KAM Nai-wai asked if the AFCD had calculated the relevant number of feral pigeons.

177. Mr LEUNG Wai-yiu of the AFCD indicated that there were about 300 feral pigeons in Kennedy Town.

178. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked if the target of the AFCD was a 20% decrease after the programme was implemented for two years, or there were other targets for assessing the effectiveness.

179. Mr LEUNG Wai-yiu of the AFCD indicated that, after making reference to overseas data and recommendations of the manufacturer, it was hoped that a proper usage could reduce the number for 20% to 30% every year.

180. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked if it was a reduction of 10% to 30% of the 300 pigeons.

181. Mr LEUNG Wai-yiu of the AFCD indicated that the aim of the programme was to reduce the number of feral pigeons and also reduce the nuisances to the public caused by them. He said, when feeding pigeons with contraceptives, the AFCD would educate the public not to feed feral pigeons, with coordinated programmes of education and publicity, so as to alleviate the problem of congregation of feral pigeons.

182. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked about the ultimate target of the programme, and how the problem of feral pigeons could actually be solved if the AFCD only implemented the pilot programme in Kennedy Town instead of the whole territory.

183. Mr LEUNG Wai-yiu of the AFCD indicated that it was a pilot programme at present and more data had to be obtained before a long-term and consolidated solution could be achieved. The focus of the AFCD at present was to tackle the problem of three congregation spots of feral pigeons.

184. Mr KAM Nai-wai hoped the AFCD could post notices at the scene when implementing the programme to notify the public, and cooperate with Members of the relevant constituencies to avoid any misunderstanding of the residents. He hoped to follow it up after the meeting.

185. Mr PANG Ka-ho asked if the AFCD could provide the relevant budgets of the programme, because the kind of drug concerned would probably be quite expensive.

186. Mr LEUNG Wai-yiu of the AFCD said the tendering exercise of the purchase of the drug for the pilot programme was in progress. After making reference to overseas data, the AFCD estimated that the expense would be about less than \$1 million.

187. Mr PANG Ka-ho was concerned that, even though no other type of birds was discovered during feeding, other birds would still have the chance to ingest the left-over feed. He asked how the AFCD would handle the left-over feed and whether the programme would cause any ecological problems.

188. Mr LEUNG Wai-yiu of the AFCD said the left-over feed would be cleared after the process was completed.

189. Regarding the fact that the effectiveness of the programme of the AFCD was measured by the number of feral pigeons, Mr PANG Ka-ho opined that feral pigeons would fly around instead of staying only at the location at Exit A of Kennedy Town MTR Station. He was concerned that the findings of the study would be affected if the relevant measures were not implemented in other locations, because it would be difficult to tell whether the decline in the number of feral pigeons was due to consumption of contraceptives or other factors. He also opined that it would be difficult to set up control groups for comparison. He asked how the AFCD would evaluate the data.

190. Mr LEUNG Wai-yiu of the AFCD said the department would engage a professional consultancy to assist in information and data analyses with a scientific approach to compare the numbers of feral pigeons before and after the programme. He referred to the preliminary counting data of 2019 to 2020, which showed that feral pigeons would usually gather at one congregation spot, with rare cross-district movements. The details would be followed up and analysed by the consultancy.

191. Mr PANG Ka-ho thanked the AFCD for trying to solve the feral-pigeon problem with a responsible attitude, and asked if the AFCD had worked with other departments on legislative amendments to criminalize the act of feeding feral pigeons.

192. Mr LEUNG Wai-yiu of the AFCD said Members' views were noted and would be relayed to the responsible colleagues. Regarding the Avian Influenza Surveillance Section under his charge, he said the control of avian influenza had been effective, thus legislative amendments in this regard was not necessary. For environmental hygiene problems caused by feeding, enforcement actions would be taken by other departments.

193. Mr PANG Ka-ho opined that if the government department was capable of and had the perseverance to feed feral pigeons with contraceptives every day, then it should strengthen prosecutions of persons feeding wild birds, because the main reason of the congregation of feral pigeons was feeding by the public. He said he was able to recognize some of the people who would always feed wild birds, and had reminded them many times not to feed them. He hoped the FEHD and other relevant departments could study the strategies for strengthening the work in combating feeding.

194. The Vice-chairman asked why the programme had to be tested for two years instead of one year. He opined that the difference should be shown shortly because it only took two months for the pigeons to start their reproductive cycle.

195. Mr LEUNG Wai-yiu of the AFCD said although feral pigeons were able to give birth one to two months after they left the nests, the department had to observe the pigeons during the period from the consumption of contraceptives to being eliminated in the natural selection process, so as to confirm whether the pigeons had given birth and whether their numbers were reducing to ascertain the effectiveness of the programme. The AFCD had also considered whether the trial period could be reduced. However, since it was the first time that the contraceptive scheme was adopted in Hong Kong and there were uncertainties, including the impact of public feeding activities, the AFCD decided to test the programme for a longer period to observe the effectiveness and progress. The AFCD would report the progress to the District Council during the two-year trial period from time to time, including the provision of an interim report. If the programme was very effective, the AFCD would consider further expand the programme or explore other possibilities.

196. The Vice-chairman hoped the AFCD could submit an interim report to the Committee, and attend the Committee's meetings within 9 to 12 months after the commencement of the programme to report the progress of the programme and the reduction of the number of feral pigeons in the objective of the programme. He also asked the AFCD to provide the statistical data as requested by Members earlier after the meeting.

**Item 7: Follow up on the blocked sewers at Algar Court and request for expeditiously commencing the repair works
(C&W BEHWC Paper No. 29/2021)**

(7:05 pm to 7:29 pm)

197. Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin indicated that Algar Court was a shortcut which connected First Street and Queen's Road West. The District Works & Facilities Management Committee (DWFMC) had approved the funding for the installation of railings at Algar Court earlier. She said Algar Court was a private rear lane, of which the ownership vested in the tenement buildings on both sides along First Street and Queen's Road West. The sewer blockage occurred since 2017, probably related to misconnection and misuse of pipes in the past. She remarked that the rear lane had been full of foul water and sewage earlier and she thanked the department for the prompt cleaning work. She would like to discuss with the department about a feasible follow-up solution. She said she knew that the department had already issued repair orders to the relevant buildings. However, some of the buildings did not have any owners' corporation, and it would be difficult for them to reach a consensus with other buildings even they had. She asked if the department could provide assistance. She asked the department to report the latest progress and asked if the BD, DSD or C&WDO could take the coordination role.

198. Miss CHENG Yuk-kam, Senior Liaison Officer (Building Management)¹ of the C&WDO, said half of the buildings on both sides along Algar Court had owners' corporations, and the other half were 3-nil buildings or buildings with a single owner. She indicated that the C&WDO would issue letters to the 3-nil buildings on a regular basis to encourage them to set up owners' corporations for better management of the buildings and private lanes. She continued that the C&WDO had sent a letter to the 3-nil buildings again in end of March to encourage the owners to set up owners' corporations, and had sent a letter to the owners of the buildings at the private lane in mid-April to urge them to improve the hygiene of the rear lane. The C&WDO also asked the relevant owners to contact the office to discuss the improvement measures. In addition, she said the C&WDO could strengthen the cleaning work at Algar Court, but follow-ups by all relevant departments might be required in the long run.

199. Mr TSANG Kim-chung, Senior Building Surveyor/A4 of the BD, said the underground drains at Algar Court involved 67 flats in 10 buildings nearby. Based on the "user-pays" principle, the BD issued a total of 15 drainage repair orders to the relevant buildings. Owing to the complexity of the project, the BD was exploring feasible proposals with all relevant departments, and would consult MTR Corporation Limited for its comments on the remedial proposal of part of the underground area of Algar Court which belonged to the company.

200. The Chairlady asked the BD if Nos. 300-302 and 314-316 Queen's Road West were managed by the government at present.

201. Mr TSANG Kim-chung of the BD indicated that, according to the record, the lots at Nos. 300-302 and 314-316 Queen's Road West at which the rear lane concerned was located were government lots.

202. Regarding the reply of the BD in which it mentioned "Furthermore, BD's consultant and contractor may be appointed to undertake the required works on behalf of the owners and recover the cost of such works, plus a supervision charge and a surcharge" and "Some owners had then notified us that they encountered difficulties in coordinating with other owners to carry out repair works", the Chairlady asked if the BD would assist in completing the works first and recover the cost of the works from the owners after the completion, like the works of the leaking drains at Sands Street. She said the sewer problem at Algar Court remained unresolved over the years. Foul odours were often emitted, and some of the sewer locations were managed by the government. She asked why the BD did not assist in completing the works. She opined that it was a very good timing to start the works as it could be supported by the subsidy scheme of the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) to provide subsidies for owners with financial difficulties. She asked if the URA could give priority to the applications of relevant owners if the BD was willing to assist in conducting the works.

203. Mr TSANG Kim-chung of the BD said the department was clarifying the details and technical issues of the works with all relevant departments due to the complexity of the works. Once an actual proposal was available, the BD would explain to and communicate with the owners to decide whether the works would be carried out by the government or individual owners.

204. Ms Sarah YUN, Senior Manager, Community Development of the URA, said the applications for the "Building Drainage System Repair Subsidy Scheme" would be opened in May 2021.

205. Mr Matthew CHAN, Manager, Building Rehabilitation of the URA, added that, during the first phase of the subsidy scheme, i.e. May to August, priority would be given to applications submitted by buildings which had outstanding statutory orders on common drains.

206. Mr KAM Nai-wai opined that this case was same as the works of the leaking drains at Sands Street. He hoped that the government departments could stop being so bureaucratic. He opined that everybody knew that the works were complicated, which involved many stakeholders, including MTR Corporation Limited, and some of the buildings had owners' corporations and some

did not. He said it was totally impossible to gather all owners to handle the problem, which would be an impossible mission. He opined that the only way was to coordinate the works by the departments and recover the costs of the works from the owners after completion. It would be even better if the URA could subsidize the plan. He believed that, under the cooperation of both sides, the environmental hygiene problem at Algar Court could be completely solved. He hoped all relevant departments could cooperate. He opined that the current work of the C&WDO would be to no avail, because “it would already be done if the owners of the buildings were willing to do it”. He hoped Mr TSANG Kim-chung, as a “Senior” Building Surveyor of the BD, could stop asking “junior” staff to handle the case. He hoped that the works could be coordinated in the way adopted in the works of Sands Street as soon as possible, and asked when the works could commence.

207. Mr TSANG Kim-chung of the BD indicated that active preparations for the repair plan were in progress, and the department was communicating and discussing the details with all relevant departments.

208. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked how much time was needed before it was ready. He said the residents of nearby buildings had been “trembling with fear when hearing or seeing the foul water” since 2017. He asked if the BD could expedite the progress and asked when it could be handled.

209. Mr TSANG Kim-chung of the BD indicated that active preparations were in progress.

210. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked what “active” meant and asked the BD to provide a timetable instead of giving a reply about “active preparations”.

211. Mr TSANG Kim-chung of the BD replied that, due to the complexity of the works and a large amount of technical details involved, the department had to discuss with relevant departments before formulating a repair proposal.

212. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked if the BD could provide a written reply to report the progress before the next meeting.

213. Mr TSANG Kim-chung of the BD indicated that it could.

214. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked if the target of the BD was that the works would be coordinated by the government and the costs of the works would be recovered from the owners.

215. Mr TSANG Kim-chung of the BD indicated that, once the relevant repair plan was

available, the C&WDO would be asked to assist in communicating with and explaining to the relevant owners.

216. Mr KAM Nai-wai said he understood, and asked if the scheme of the URA could subsidize the above-mentioned owners.

217. Mr Matthew CHAN of the URA indicated that it could. He said the age of buildings, repair orders received and rateable value of the buildings in the above-mentioned lots met the basic criteria of application under the scheme.

218. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked the BD to maintain cooperation with the URA when the works commenced, so as to assist the eligible owners to apply for the subsidy scheme. He said probably there was \$1 billion under the scheme available for application for the owners, and he hoped that the works could commence as soon as possible. He asked the BD to provide a written reply to report the progress before the next meeting.

219. The Vice-chairman asked if the C&WDO could cooperate in BD's plan.

220. Miss CHENG Yuk-kam of the C&WDO indicated that the office would cooperate in the work of other departments.

221. Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin said many subsidy schemes of the URA had to be applied in the capacity of an owners' corporation, but some of the buildings in the above-mentioned lots did not have any owners' corporation. She asked if the above-mentioned subsidy scheme could be applied in the capacity of an individual owner.

222. Mr Matthew CHAN of the URA said the applications of the above-mentioned subsidy scheme were not to be made by individual units, and only applications on a building basis or from all ownership shares would be accepted.

223. Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin said if all ownership shares could be gathered, then the problem would be less tricky than it had turned out to be. She indicated that she would cooperate with the C&WDO to try to help the buildings to set up owners' corporations. She said she mainly communicated with the staff of the BD regarding the case, and she appreciated the active follow-ups of the case by the staff of the BD. She asked the DSD about its role in this case and what it could help to handle.

224. Mr WONG Tak-shing, Senior Engineer/West of the DSD, replied that, since the sewerage

system at Algar Court was a private drainage system, thus the owners were responsible for the maintenance and repair. However, owing to the concerns of public hygiene, after complaints were received, the DSD would arrange inspections and conduct temporary cleaning. The DSD had already stepped up the inspections at that location since February 2021, and cleaning would be arranged when necessary. The DSD would also cooperate actively in the work of the BD and provide assistance where appropriate.

225. Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin asked how the DSD would cooperate in the works to be conducted by the BD in future.

226. Mr WONG Tak-shing of the DSD said the department was mainly responsible for the public drainage system. Nevertheless, the DSD would continue to assist the BD in conducting investigations and maintain communications, and provide comments in formulating the repair proposal.

227. Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin asked if the DSD could provide the relevant plans, including the drainage connection and works proposal, for discussion in the next meeting.

228. Mr TSANG Kim-chung of the BD indicated that, after the drainage repair proposal was confirmed, it would be provided to Members for reference together with the alignment plan.

229. Ms CHENG Lai-king said the discussion of the works of the leaking drains at Sands Street started in the previous term of the District Council, and the BD did not interfere to handle until it was dragged on for two to three years. As such, she did not hope that the sewerage works at Algar Court would drag on for so long as well. She hoped the BD and C&WDO could coordinate and handle the case. She suggested that the departments could assist the owners to conduct the works first, and recover the costs of the works from them later. The owners could also apply to the URA for subsidies. She said, during the 2019 coronavirus epidemic, many buildings were included in testing as their sewage samples were tested positive. As such, she hoped the departments could speed up the processing of the case of the sewer at Algar Court during times of uncertainties.

230. The following impromptu motion proposed by Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin and seconded by Mr WONG Weng-chi was adopted upon discussion and voting:

“This Committee requests relevant departments such as the Central and Western District Office and the Buildings Department to coordinate the repair works in a short time, with a view to solving the problem of leakage from sewers at Algar Court.”

(8 affirmative votes by: Ms NG Hoi-yan; Mr WONG Weng-chi; Ms CHENG Lai-king; Mr KAM Nai-wai; Ms CHEUNG Kai-yin; Ms WONG Kin-ching; Mr YIP Kam-lung; Mr PANG Ka-ho)

(0 dissenting vote)

(0 abstention vote)

231. The Vice-chairman indicated that the Chairlady took over the chairmanship from now on.

**Item 8: Strong request for installing a barrier-free lift at Lok Ku Road Public Toilet
(C&W BEHWC Paper No. 30/2021)**

(7:29 pm to 7:39 pm)

232. Mr KAM Nai-wai presented a photo which showed the outside of Lok Ku Road Public Toilet. He indicated that he did not understand why Lok Ku Road Public Toilet was designed like that back then. He said Lok Ku Road Public Toilet had a toilet for the disabled, but it was inaccessible to people with disabilities. Although that location was a ramp, there were stairs located above and below the toilet. There were stairs everywhere but a toilet for the disabled was provided at that location. As such, he did not understand why the FEHD would design a toilet for the disabled which was inaccessible to people with disabilities back then. He said many public toilets in the Central and Western District were under renovation nowadays. He wished to take this opportunity to install a lift to connect the toilet for the disabled. He continued that, if the attendees were familiar with the layout of Sheung Wan, then they would know that there was a footbridge which was constructed recently near the public toilet under the “Universal Accessibility Programme”. He hoped that residents could have access to Lok Ku Road through the lift in future. He opined that this proposal could kill two birds with one stone because it could solve the problem of the toilet for the disabled and it could also provide an additional link to Lok Ku Road via Queen’s Road Central and Possession Street. He hoped the government could install a lift at that location. In addition, he thanked the FEHD and ArchSD for their efforts because they had conducted three site inspections with him. Even though there were some limitations at that location, the departments had indicated in a recent site inspection that the installation of a lift might be possible. He said “wooden carts” and wheelchairs were able to enter the refuse collection point, so there should be enough space for the installation of the lift. He hoped the department could complete the task. He said the aim of the motion proposed in the paper was to help the FEHD and ArchSD to finish the project as soon as possible. He asked the FEHD and ArchSD to report the updated information.

233. Mr CHONG Hon-ming, Chief Health Inspector (Central/Western) 3 of the FEHD, said the department was studying the proposal put forth during the recent site inspection with the ArchSD. As such, no updated information could be reported.

234. Miss LUK Wai-ting, Property Services Manager/PM 11 of the ArchSD, said they would study based on the proposal put forth by Member during the inspection, and hoped that a specific proposal could be available as soon as possible for discussion with Members.

235. Regarding the costs of the works of the public toilet stated in the reply of the department, Mr KAM Nai-wai asked if the \$8.4 million budget of the renovation of Lok Ku Road Public Toilet included the cost of the installation of lift. He asked, if the cost of the installation of lift was not included, then how much the whole budget was. In addition, he asked whether further departmental approvals were required if there was a cost overrun, or it would be settled by reserved additional funds. In addition, he asked, if a lift could be installed, then whether the works could commence in April 2022 and completed in February 2023 according to the original scheme.

236. Miss LUK Wai-ting of the ArchSD replied that the \$8.4 million budget did not include the costs of the installation of lift. The ArchSD would study the feasibility of the installation of lift, and would prepare estimations once a feasible proposal was available.

237. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked why the Secretariat had to hold up a placard which read “lack of quorum”, and asked what had happened and what new rule it was. He said the notification to the Chairlady only had to be made by the Secretary. He asked why a “yellow card” had to be presented, and asked if “they lost their minds”. He queried what kind of rule of the Secretariat it was and whether they had any respect to the Council. He reiterated that the notification to the Chairlady about the lack of quorum only had to be made by the Secretary, and the Chairlady would decide how to handle it. He asked why they had to hold up a placard and it was whose instruction, and asked “who they thought Members were”.

238. Mr WONG Yan-kwong, Senior Executive Officer (District Council) of the C&WDO, said the staff of the Secretariat wanted to notify the Chairlady through the Secretary when they found that there was a lack of quorum.

239. Mr KAM Nai-wai said the staff of the Secretariat could walk to the Secretary to notify her. He asked why they had to hold up the placard.

240. Mr WONG Yan-kwong of the C&WDO said the staff of the Secretariat did so merely

because they wanted to notify the Secretary.

241. Mr KAM Nai-wai indicated that it was about politeness and basic respect. He said it was about the operation of the District Council. He remarked that he had participated in different council meetings, including the meetings of the three-tier councils, but none of them had a secretariat which would hold up a placard to notify a lack of quorum. He asked if they knew the rules. He hoped Mr WONG Yan-kwong could make a thorough review and consult Members before taking any action. He opined that what had happened was unacceptable. He reiterated that the Secretary of the Committee only had to notify the Chairlady, and the Chairlady would handle and notify Members. For example, some Members might have just gone to toilet. He opined that it was not necessary to hold up any placard.

242. Mr WONG Yan-kwong of the C&WDO indicated that the request of Mr KAM Nai-wai was noted.

243. Mr KAM Nai-wai said it was not his request but it was about mutual respect. He hoped Mr WONG Yan-kwong could understand.

244. Mr WONG Yan-kwong of the C&WDO indicated that he understood. He apologised for not knowing beforehand that it was an act of disrespect in Mr KAM Nai-wai's view. He reiterated that they merely wanted to notify the Secretary by holding up the placard.

245. Mr KAM Nai-wai said they could walk to the Secretary to notify her. He asked if the venue of this meeting was spacious. He hoped Members could also pay attention to the situation. He asked the ArchSD to continue to respond to the previous question.

246. Miss LUK Wai-ting of the ArchSD continued that, after the feasibility study of the installation of the lift was completed, approval of the FEHD of the proposal was required.

247. Mr CHONG Hon-ming of the FEHD added that the proposal had to be further discussed by the working group of the department. He would continue to follow up the issue.

248. The following impromptu motion proposed by Ms NG Hoi-yan and seconded by Mr KAM Nai-wai and Ms CHENG Lai-king was adopted upon discussion and voting:

“The Building Management, Environmental Hygiene & Works Committee of the Central and Western District Council strongly requests the Government to install a barrier-free lift at Lok Ku Road Public Toilet, thereby allowing direct access from Lok Ku Road to the

public toilet and Lower Lascar Row.”

(8 affirmative votes by: Ms NG Hoi-yan; Mr WONG Weng-chi; Ms CHENG Lai-king; Mr KAM Nai-wai; Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin; Ms WONG Kin-ching; Mr YIP Kam-lung; Mr PANG Ka-ho)

(0 dissenting vote)

(0 abstention vote)

249. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked the departments to inform the Committee when any updated news was available.

250. The Chairlady asked the Secretary to note the request, and asked the departments to inform the Committee when any updated news was available.

**Item 9: Request for expediting the replacement of the kitchen exhaust system of Queen Street Cooked Food Market and offering compensation to the vendors whose business has to be suspended due to the works
(C&W BEHWC Paper No. 31/2021)**

(7:39 pm to 7:47 pm)

251. The Chairlady asked the FEHD about the current situation of the replacement of the kitchen exhaust system, because communications and cooperation with the vendors were required. In addition, regarding the estimation of the EMSD that the UV system had to be replaced once every 1.5 years to 2 years, she asked if the business of the vendors would also be suspended during replacement in future.

252. Mr FUNG Wai-nok, Chief Health Inspector (Central/Western) 2 of the FEHD, said the FEHD was still applying the funding for the works at the present stage, and it was expected that the works would be completed in two to two and a half months. The FEHD would try to complete the works within two months and the business of the vendors had to be suspended during the period. The details of the works would be discussed with the vendors after the funding application was successful.

253. Regarding the exemption or reduction of the rent and air-condition fees of affected vendors which would be provided once the works were implemented as mentioned in the papers of the department, the Chairlady asked the FEHD if it was an “exemption” or a “reduction” of the fees of

the vendors under the current plan, and asked how the arrangement would be determined.

254. Mr FUNG Wai-nok of the FEHD said the arrangement would be determined depending on the status of the works, including the time of the works and their extent of impact on the vendors. He said since no specific works proposal was available at the moment, thus it would be difficult to assess the approving status after the vendors submitted the applications.

255. The Chairlady asked if it was up to the vendors themselves to decide whether they should apply for an exemption or reduction of rents and air-condition fees.

256. Mr FUNG Wai-nok of the FEHD said the vendors could apply for an exemption or reduction, and approvals of the FEDH would be given on a case-by-case basis.

257. Since it would take about two to two and a half months to complete the works, Ms CHENG Lai-king suggested that, if the vendors were forced to suspend their business during the period, the FEHD should consider a rent exemption and provision of compensations for the vendors. In addition, she asked about the works of the UV system, and whether the kitchen exhaust system and UV system were related to the air cleaner installation in restaurants in view of the 2019 coronavirus epidemic.

258. Mr FUNG Wai-nok of the FEHD said the extent of impact on the vendors had to be considered when approving the exemption applications. There were cases in the past in which the rent of a certain period of time was exempted. However, the details of the relevant arrangement could not be provided at this stage. He said the main purpose of the UV system was to break down fat molecules to reduce the aggregation of grease in vaults, which facilitated the extraction of grease smoke and daily cleaning. Based on preliminary planning, it was estimated that the lamp had to be replaced once every 1.5 years to 2 years, and no substantial works would be required by then.

259. The following impromptu motion proposed by Mr KAM Nai-wai and seconded by Ms NG Hoi-yan and Ms CHENG Lai-king was adopted upon discussion and voting:

“The Building Management, Environmental Hygiene & Works Committee (BEHWC) of the Central and Western District Council strongly requests the Government to expeditiously install a kitchen exhaust system equipped with ultraviolet technologies at Queen Street Cooked Food Market (CFM), with a view to improving the ventilation in the kitchen and enhancing the overall ventilation condition of the CFM. The BEHWC also requests the Government to offer compensation to the stallholders affected by the installation works, thereby minimising the impact of the suspension of business on them

and their families.”

(8 affirmative votes by: Ms NG Hoi-yan; Mr WONG Weng-chi; Ms CHENG Lai-king; Mr KAM Nai-wai; Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin; Ms WONG Kin-ching; Mr YIP Kam-lung; Mr PANG Ka-ho)

(0 dissenting vote)

(0 abstention vote)

**Item 10: Request for the department to strengthen the monitoring of the sanitary condition of public toilets
(C&W BEHWC Paper No. 33/2021)**

(7:47 pm to 7:52 pm)

260. Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin asked the FEHD if the terms and conditions of the contract of public toilets were same as those of the street refuse cleansing contract, according to which the contractors would be penalised if it failed to meet the criteria.

261. Mr CHONG Hon-ming, Chief Health Inspector (Central/Western) 3 of the FEHD, indicated that the performance criteria for the contractors was stated in the contract of the FEHD. If the FEHD found that the performance of the contractors failed to comply with the criteria, then a default notice would be issued to the contractor.

262. Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin asked if the FEHD had issued any default notice to the contractors regarding the sanitary condition and management of the public toilets in the Central and Western District.

263. Mr CHONG Hon-ming of the FEHD indicated that the FEHD had never issued any default notice to the contractors regarding the sanitary condition of the public toilets.

264. Considering that the FEHD would usually take frequency as a performance indicator for the contractors, Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin asked if the FEHD would take samples for testing, such as taking bacteria samples like those reported in the media, to assess the performance of the contractors.

265. Mr CHONG Hon-ming of the FEHD said visual inspection was mainly used in assessing

the performance of the contractors at present. For example, they would check to see if the floor was clean and whether there was any stain. Taking samples for testing was not an assessment approach at present.

266. Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin said the FEHD had never issued any default notice to the contractors under the assessment approach based on frequency and visual inspection. As such, she queried whether the assessment approach of the FEHD was effective. She continued that, even the contractors were able to meet the requirements of the FEHD, the bacteria and *escherichia coli* in the public toilets still failed the standards. She hoped the FEHD could add more indicators mentioned above into the contract in future, in order to prevent the public from losing confidence in using the public toilets and improper use of public money.

267. The following impromptu motion proposed by Mr WONG Weng-chi and seconded by Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin was adopted upon discussion and voting:

“This Committee requests the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to strengthen the monitoring of the outsourced contractors’ service quality at public toilets to ensure the sanitary condition of public toilets is satisfactory and the public can use them without worries.”

(8 affirmative votes by: Ms NG Hoi-yan; Mr WONG Weng-chi; Ms CHENG Lai-king; Mr KAM Nai-wai; Miss CHEUNG Kai-yin; Ms WONG Kin-ching; Mr YIP Kam-lung; Mr PANG Ka-ho)

(0 dissenting vote)

(0 abstention vote)

Item 11: Funding application - Anti-mosquito Campaign 2021 (C&W BEHWC Paper No. 41/2021)

(7:52 pm to 7:55 pm)

268. The Chairlady said the paper was submitted by the BEHWC to apply for a grant of \$30,000 under District Council funds for organising activities. It was planned to giving anti-mosquito packs to the public in five locations in the district in July to disseminate information on mosquito control, and the Committee would also consider giving the anti-mosquito packs to the public through Members’ offices depending on the epidemic and the order to prohibit group gatherings.

269. Members present approved the funding application unanimously upon voting.

Item 12: Follow up on the nuisance from the bar next to Pak Tsz Lane Park
(C&W BEHWC Written Question No. 3/2021)

(7:55 pm)

270. The Chairlady said “Follow up on the nuisance from the bar next to Pak Tsz Lane Park” would be handled in the follow-up items in the next meeting.

Item 13: Any other business

(7:55 pm to 8:05 pm)

271. Ms CHENG Lai-king indicated that, after discussions in the Finance Committee, the Working Group on Central & Western District Council Affairs (Working Group) had a funding of \$500,000 for “festive celebrations”. After two funding applications were approved by the Finance Committee, there was still funding available. As such, she suggested that a funding of \$10,000 could be allotted for the production of Mother’s Day cards, printed with the words “With the compliments of the C&WDC”. Due to time constraint, meetings of the Working Group could not be convened. She hoped Members could provide comments in this meeting.

272. Mr YIP Kam-lung agreed with the suggestion, and suggested that an electronic version of the cards could also be provided apart from the physical ones.

273. Ms CHENG Lai-king opined that it was a good suggestion, and asked the Secretariat if this arrangement could be made. In addition, she asked the Secretariat to draft the funding application form as soon as possible, which would be circulated to Members to consider whether or not to approve the funding after it was signed.

274. Miss YANG Ching-sin, Executive Officer I (District Council) of the C&WDO, said the comments of Members were noted, and would ask the contractor to provide an electronic version. She indicated that the Secretariat would handle it as soon as possible because Mother’s Day was coming soon. However, if the cards could not be produced in time due to tendering or design problems, they would discuss with Ms CHENG Lai-king.

275. Mr YIP Kam-lung asked if Father’s Day cards could also be produced at the same time.

276. The Chairlady said the suggestion of the production of Mother's Day cards made by Ms CHENG Lai-king in this meeting was because of time constraint. She opined that the production of Father's Day cards could be discussed in the Working Group meetings.

277. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked if the cards would be made of eco-paper.

278. The Chairlady asked the Secretariat if it could be stated on the tender document.

279. Miss YANG Ching-sin of the C&WDO indicated that it could.

280. Ms CHENG Lai-king indicated that if Members did not have any other comment, then she would ask the Secretariat to draft the funding application and commence the work as soon as possible, so as to finish the production of the cards within two weeks.

281. Mr PANG Ka-ho said there was another funding application of the Working Group concerning the "Design and production of promotion banners for the 'Meet-the-Public Scheme' of the C&WDC" on the table, which applied for a funding of \$1,500 for the production of banners. He asked if there would be any formal discussion later, because he had strong reservations about the "Meet-the-Public Scheme". He asked about the effectiveness of the scheme, including the number of cases received and the number of banners hanged at present.

282. The Secretary indicated that the promotional banners of the "Meet-the-Public Scheme" were hanged in four locations in the district at present. The Secretariat said the funding applied for last year was planned for hanging the four banners for four years. However, since some of the promotional banners hanged were damaged at present, thus it was suggested that four brand new promotional banners would be made. She continued that, based on the suggestion of Ms CHENG Lai-king, four brand new promotional banners would be hanged in other locations in the district, and the existing ones which were in good condition would continue to be hanged. In addition, she said no case was received under the "Meet-the-Public Scheme" in last year. The number of cases in the past one or two years was in single digit. Probably it was because members of the public had more ways to contact District Councillors directly in recent years, and did not have to be referred by the Secretariat.

283. Mr PANG Ka-ho opined that the "Meet-the-Public Scheme" had to be reviewed before approving the funding, and asked if it was enough to hang the banners in only four locations in the district. He said he could barely see the banners about the scheme in the western district. In addition, he said the current design of the banners was not that attractive. Members of the public might not be able to know the aim of the scheme from the banners, so they might not enrol to join

after seeing the banners. He said nowadays the public could contact Members via telephone or WhatsApp (instant messaging application), or meet Members in person by visiting their offices. He said the funds applied was \$1,500, which was not substantial, but the position of the scheme had to be clarified first. He hoped it could be discussed in more details.

284. Ms CHENG Lai-king said the original plan was to replace the damaged banners, but she opined that their current design was too “old-fashioned”, which was why she suggested that the Secretariat should re-design the banners in a more attractive way. She said the current fund application of \$1,500 included the costs of design, production and hanging. She said if Members had any comment on the “Meet-the-Public Scheme” or any new activity suggestions, they could raise and discuss it in the Working Group. As far as she knew, the “Meet-the-Public Scheme” had been in existence since the establishment of the District Council. She opined that the promotion of the above activity could continue. She opined that new banners could be produced and details of the scheme could also be reviewed at the same time. She also suggested that the new banners and Members’ information could be put on the website of the District Council to promote the scheme in parallel.

285. Mr KAM Nai-wai said it would need more time for discussion if the “Meet-the-Public Scheme” had to be reviewed. He suggested that Members who were interested in the discussion could draft a paper for detailed discussions in the full Council or Working Group to decide whether the scheme was still needed. He suggested that new banners should be made because the current ones were already damaged, so as to prevent the scheme from suspension. He opined that the scheme could be changed or cancelled in future, but discussions were required before that. In addition, he mentioned that a guest was invited to attend this meeting to explain the decontamination works. He said there was no provision in relation to guest invitation in the Central and Western District Council Standing Orders (Standing Orders). He suggested that it could be discussed in the Ad-hoc Working Group on Review of Standing Orders of Central and Western District Council (Standing Orders Working Group). However, he hoped Members could have a consensus before it was discussed in the Standing Orders Working Group. He indicated that the Standing Orders only mentioned that residents could apply to speak for two minutes in meetings, and it was the only kind of speech which could be made. Regarding invitations of “experts” or “guests” as agreed by the Committee or by individual Members, he suggested that Members could discuss it after the meeting to reach a consensus, and determine how it should be handled when it was not stated in the Standing Orders, such as which guests could be invited, whether the invitation should be made by the Committee or individual Members, and the speech time limit. He opined that there had to be some form of regulations. For example, somebody had just held up a placard to notify a lack of quorum suddenly. He said such thing should not happen all of a sudden. He hoped Members could “follow the rules” in the Council and proceed

according to the procedures. He wished to mention the issue and asked the chairmen of all the committees to pay attention to the relevant issue, so as to determine the handling approach in future. However, he opined that it did not have to be handled in this meeting and he only hoped to remind Members of the above issue.

Item 14: Date of the next meeting

(8:06 pm)

286. The ninth BEHWC meeting would be held on 24 June 2021. The paper submission deadline for government departments would be 2 June 2021, while that for Members would be 8 June 2021.

287. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm on 22 April 2021.

The minutes were confirmed on 24 June 2021

Chairlady: Ms NG Hoi-yan, Bonnie

Secretary: Miss CHAN Yuen-ying, Crystal

Central and Western District Council Secretariat
June 2021