

**Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of the
Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee (2024-2025) of
Central and Western District Council**

Date : 1 August 2024 (Thursday)
Time : 10:00 am
Venue : Central and Western District Council Conference Room
14/F, Harbour Building
38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong

Present:

Chairman

Mr LAW Kam-fai

Vice Chairman

Mr LEE Chi-hang, Sidney, MH

Members

Dr WONG Sin-man, Mandy
Mr NG Yin
Mr LUI Hung-pan
Mr QIU Song-qing, MH
Ms JIN Ling, MH
Mr SHIH Jan Noel
Mr WU Man-hin
Ms CHEUNG Ka-yan
Dr FUNG Kar-leung
Mr YEUNG Hoi-wing
Mr YEUNG Hok-ming, MH
Mr YIP Wing-shing, SBS, BBS, MH, JP
Mr IP Yik-nam, JP
Ms CHIU Wah-kuen, MH
Mr LAU Tin-ching

Co-opted Member

Mr CHIM Hon-ming, MH

Guests:

Item 3

Mr WONG Hoi-man	Social Welfare Department	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western, Southern & Islands) ²
-----------------	------------------------------	---

Item 4

Ms LO Man-nin, Patty	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	District Leisure Manager (Central and Western)
Ms HUNG Yik-man, Fiona	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Central & Western

Item 6

Mr WONG Ka-hei, Daniel	Central and Western District Office	Senior Executive Officer (District Management)
---------------------------	--	--

In Attendance:

Miss YU Mei-yu, Melinder	Central and Western District Office	Senior Liaison Officer (Building Management) ³
Ms SAM Fung-mei, Esther	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Senior Manager (Hong Kong West)
Ms CHAU Kwan- wai, Yvonne	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Manager (Hong Kong West) Marketing, Programme and District Activities
Ms CHAN Suk-ha	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Senior Librarian (Central and Western)

Secretary:

Mr YEUNG Lok- san, Rio	Central and Western District Office	Executive Officer (District Council) ⁵
---------------------------	--	---

Absence with Apologies:

Dr CHAN Kin-keung, Eugene, SBS, BBS, JP

Opening Remarks

1. The Chairman welcomed the attendees to the fourth meeting of the Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee (CICRC) (2024-2025) of the Central and Western District Council (C&WDC). The Chairman introduced Mr CHIM Hon-ming, who was a Co-opted Member of the CICRC until 31 December 2025, and Ms HUNG Yik-man, Fiona, who was a representative of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) attending CICRC meetings. In order to identify the attendees, staff of the Secretariat would inspect the staff card of the persons entering the conference room and request for their name cards, and members of the press who wished to conduct interviews there and the assistants of Members were also required to register their real name and mobile number for record purposes. He proposed that for better efficiency of discussion, each item should be discussed in a “4-minute-question-and-answer” format. He also asked the representatives to make their speech and reply as concise as possible. Besides, it was necessary for Members to note that they had to declare their interests as appropriate.

Item 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of CICRC (2024-2025)

(10:03 am)

2. The Chairman said that as Members did not raise any comments, he announced that the minutes of the meeting were confirmed.

Item 2: Chairman’s Report

(10:03 am -10:04 am)

3. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had received a Notification of Absence from Meetings submitted by Dr CHAN Kin-keung prior to the meeting, indicating that he was unable to attend this meeting due to the participation in a visit programme to three countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations at the invitation of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, and attaching the confirmation letter issued by the Chief Executive’s Office. As all Members had given their consent, the Chairman announced that the CICRC accepted Dr CHAN Kin-keung’s application for absence from the meeting.

Item 3: 2024-25 Annual Work Plan of the Central Western, Southern and Islands District Social Welfare Office of the Social Welfare Department (C&W CICRC Paper No. 22/2024)

(10:04 am -10:47 am)

4. The Chairman welcomed guests to the meeting and invited the government representative to introduce the paper.
5. The representative of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) introduced the paper.
6. A Member mentioned that the SWD would at present conduct surprise inspection to residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) without making appointment or giving prior notification to ensure that the real situation of RCHEs could be observed. This could prevent RCHEs from making preparation in advance so that the daily operation of RCHEs could be understood more realistically. He hoped that the SWD would invite District Council (DC) Members to jointly conduct surprise inspection in future since it would help monitor and improve the service quality of RCHEs. He also pointed out that after some subsidised RCHEs had successfully hired Mainland residents as employees, the wages of the employees were deducted upon expiry of the employment contracts. This was not only unfair to non-local employees but also detrimental to the interests of local employees. He called on the SWD to step up the monitoring to ensure that subsidised RCHEs would make full payment to employees properly according to the labour legislation of Hong Kong, thereby preventing any exploitation and protecting the lawful rights and interests of both local and non-local employees working in RCHEs.
7. A Member opined that although the SWD's work plan had covered many areas of work in the Central and Western District (C&W District), the problem of street sleepers was not mentioned. He pointed out that there was an increase in the number of street sleepers in the district recently, which had aroused wide concern among the media, residents in the local community and netizens. Residents were very concerned about how the SWD would provide support for street sleepers and wanted to learn more about the situation of the related work. He therefore suggested that the SWD should make a report on the problem to facilitate residents to have a better understanding of the support measures implemented by the SWD for street sleepers and their effectiveness. He stressed that C&W District was one of the districts in the territory having the highest median monthly household income. However, there was a trend that the number of street sleepers in the district was on the increase, which had caused confusion to the residents. So, it was necessary to explain the situation to the residents and share with them the measures that had been taken by the SWD.
8. A Member was concerned about the mental health of residents in the district. She pointed out that although some residents who came to her for assistance had not taken the initiative to seek help for tackling mental problems, she identified that they really needed support for mental health during the interaction. Nevertheless, some middle-class or affluent residents might be resistant to looking for mental health services voluntarily, who might be especially more demanding in

terms of privacy. She suggested that the SWD should provide additional outreach services in this aspect and arrange mental health professionals for accompanying DC Members to conduct home visits so that publicity and assessment of mental health could be carried out simultaneously. Secondly, she mentioned the problem of street sleepers. Although the SWD had made much effort to address the problem, she wanted to learn about whether further measures could still be taken to solve the problem of street sleepers more systematically under the existing legislation and system. She expected that the SWD could provide additional information and guidelines in this regard to work out the plan to be taken forward.

9. A Member was concerned about the SWD's measures regarding "early identification and intervention", especially the ways to provide support for persons with disabilities and their carers in C&W District. She pointed out that despite the availability of help-seeking platforms online, many carers would not seek assistance actively. Instead of waiting for residents to come and seek help voluntarily, she suggested that the SWD should provide and keep on updating a database to identify people in need of help. She wanted to know the current situation of the database on C&W District, that is, whether the targets had been achieved and how DC Members could assist in the work. She also enquired about the service of gerontechnology for the elderly. Having pointed out that many elderly would need help when using software and computers, she recommended that the SWD should strengthen the service provided by outreach teams. In this way, the elderly might be more confident in and capable of using technology and the substantial demand for this in the community could thus be met.

10. A Member pointed out that with the establishment of the new term of the DCs, the Government had encouraged Care Teams in various districts to collaborate with the DC Members concerned and all of them should perform their respective duties. To better cope with different social problems in a district, irrespective of whether it mainly comprised middle-class or grassroots residents, he suggested that the SWD should assign one or two dedicated officers to be responsible for the liaison and co-operation between the DC Members and Care Teams of the district. He considered that this could streamline the problem-solving procedure and facilitate prompt solutions of the public problems.

11. The Chairman was concerned about the area of young people as stated in the SWD's work plan, highlighting that the issue of hidden youths had not been adequately addressed. He said that many young people, who were drop-out students or jobless persons, might have stayed at home for a long time. However, as the work of social workers and outreach teams mainly targeted at young people in the streets, the situation of hidden youths therefore could not be followed up effectively, especially that of the youths who failed to study in universities or had discontinued schooling for whatever reasons. He wanted to know what specific measures in this area had been adopted by the SWD. Besides, regarding the promotion of gerontechnology products, he suggested that the SWD should consider co-operating with various non-profit-

making organisations in C&W District and making use of the resources of DC Members and Care Teams to better serve the elderly. Lastly, regarding the issue of Senior Citizen Card (SCC) and JoyYou Card, he pointed out that many elders thought SCC was being phased out gradually. So, he suggested that the SWD should consider merging the two cards for enhanced convenience to the elderly who could then bring fewer cards out and no longer needed to think about how to better integrate the functions of the two cards, especially after they had obtained the JoyYou Card.

12. The representative of the SWD gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (i) Through the “Service Quality Group (SQG) Scheme”, the SWD invited members of the local community, including members of the SWD’s district coordinating committees, DC Members, local leaders, healthcare personnel, service users and so on to become SQG members who would conduct unannounced visits to the RCHEs in the district with a view to observing the facilities and services of these RCHEs and raising comments on them. They would also request the RCHEs to submit improvement proposals as needed for enhanced service quality of RCHEs. The current term of members under the SQG Scheme was from September 2023 to August 2025. The SWD welcomed and would continue to invite DC Members to join the SQG Scheme as members.
- (ii) The Subventions Branch, Finance Branch and Licensing and Regulation Branch of the SWD would monitor the service quality and financial position of the subsidised RCHEs in accordance with the departmental codes and procedure. Their staff would conduct announced or unannounced inspections to the RCHEs to ensure that the service quality and financial arrangement of these RCHEs had met the standards required by the SWD.
[Post-meeting note: On the arrangement of staff employment, the RCHEs had to comply with the requirement of the labour legislation which was enforced by the Labour Department.]
- (iii) Street sleeping was a complicated social problem and the work area of various bureaux and departments. The SWD-subvented St. James’ Settlement Integrated Services Team for Street Sleepers (IST) and the SWD’s integrated family service centres would provide welfare support services for street sleepers in the district and strived for assisting them to live off the streets. The reasons for street sleeping might vary from one another among street sleepers. The IST and integrated family service centres would conduct day and late-night outreach visits to proactively reach out to street sleepers and understand why they became street sleepers. They would also render all feasible welfare support services according to the actual needs of street sleepers and their willingness to receive services. These services included

counselling, short-term accommodation, financial assistance and service referral, etc. As a result, they had successfully helped some street sleepers live off the streets. For those street sleepers who lacked the desire to quit street sleeping due to mental health or other problems, social workers would continue to visit and contact them for building up a mutual relationship and helping them enhance the desire to give up street sleeping. When these street sleepers encountered special circumstances such as health problems or bad weather, social workers would have timely intervention, which included sending street sleepers to hospitals for medical treatment, visiting them in hospitals, contacting healthcare personnel or their family members (if applicable), encouraging them to move into emergency hostels, short-term hostels or RCHEs, etc. Prior to each inter-departmental joint operation carried out monthly and coordinated by the C&WDO, the IST and integrated family service centres would arrange social workers in advance for visiting the street sleepers in the district, reminding them of the joint operation to be conducted and advising them to move into hostels and receive the related welfare services (such as making recommendation to the department concerned for allocation of public rental housing units for eligible street sleepers). These units would also discuss the follow-up plans for individual street sleepers with the departments concerned.

- (iv) Mental health service was a key area of work of the SWD in recent years. There were two SWD-subsented Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness (ICCMWs) in the district, namely, Lok Hong ICCMW of Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs) and Sunrise Centre of Fu Hong Society. The service teams comprised social workers, clinical psychologists, occupational therapists, psychiatric nurses, peer supporters and so on as members for provision of appropriate support services to residents in need of mental health service in the district. Even if a client refused to receive the service, the ICCMW concerned would still accept the case as referred by other parties, including family members of the client concerned, members of the local community and DC Members. With the consent of the family members of a client, the ICCMW would discuss with such members on appropriate methods of intervention, such as outreach visit jointly conducted by the referrer and/or the client's family member(s), such as sharing of the rehabilitation and recovery experience by the peer supporter with them, aiming to build up a rapport with the client before conducting an in-depth assessment of and providing appropriate service for such client. The SWD had put in efforts to promote mental health service and remove the stigma attached to the service. In fact, the services provided by ICCMWs were suitable for all residents who were interested in enhancing their mental health. The SWD also set up the Mobile Van for Publicity Service on Mental Wellness in five regions of the territory to strengthen the public awareness of mental wellness and develop positive help-seeking attitude and behaviour.

- (v) On services of carer support, the SWD had commissioned the TWGHs to operate the 24-hour Designated Hotline for Carer Support 182 183 since 2023, which was answered by professional social workers, providing carers with professional support such as consultation, counselling and matching of respite services. The SWD would at the same time enhance the respite service network and provide residential and day respite services for care-receiving individuals. The pressure of carers could thus be alleviated, thereby allowing carers to take a rest or deal with other business when necessary. Moreover, the SWD had launched the “District Services and Community Care Teams - Pilot Scheme on Supporting Elderly & Carers (the Pilot Scheme)” in Southern and Tsuen Wan Districts since March 2024. The Pilot Scheme aimed to identify households of singleton/doubleton elderly and carers of elderly persons/persons with disabilities in need through visits or contacts by Care Teams, and to refer the cases in need of assistance to social welfare service units for follow up. The SWD would review the effectiveness of the Pilot Scheme and consider whether the services would be extended to other districts.
- (vi) The SWD had always encouraged the elderly and persons with disabilities to make good use of gerontechnology, and had set up the Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care (I&T Fund) to help them improve their quality of life. The I&T Fund initially subsidised eligible elderly and rehabilitation service units to procure, rent and trial use technology products only. Subsequently, the coverage of subsidy was extended to include gerontechnology products suitable for domestic use. Eligible service units might purchase suitable technology products, such as tablet computers, which might be borrowed by the elderly and their carers for use at home. The service units would also provide technical support to the service users.
- (vii) The SWD was currently serving the territory through 11 District Social Welfare Offices, each headed by a District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) who was assisted by Assistant District Social Welfare Officer(s). Moreover, there was a Planning and Co-ordinating Team set up in each district, under which were professional Social Work Officers responsible for the liaison with the various stakeholders in the district, ensuring smooth implementation of all the welfare work at district level. The District Social Welfare Office concerned had previously held social welfare service briefing sessions for DC Members and Care Teams in the district respectively and provided simple referral forms for welfare services in the district to DC Members and Care Teams for use. During the briefing sessions, the information on the contact point of the SWD was provided and the contact details of the Central Western, Southern and Islands District Social Welfare Office of the SWD were also set out in

the referral forms. The SWD welcomed DC Members and Care Teams to liaise at any time with the contact point of the SWD for enquiries about matters related to referral of welfare service to ensure that all cases in need would be followed up properly.

[Post-meeting note: Contact point of the Central Western, Southern and Islands District Social Welfare Office (Central Western) of the SWD:

Miss WONG Wai-wah, Social Work Officer, Central Western, Southern and Islands District Planning and Coordinating Team

Office telephone: 2852 4884

Fax: 2517 3676

Email: swo2pctcws@swd.gov.hk]

- (viii) The Cyber Youth Support Teams (CYSTs) were subsidised by the SWD to proactively reach out to and liaise with at-risk and hidden youths through a variety of means and channels. The CYSTs would provide professional social work intervention with services, such as online counselling and group activities, to at-risk and hidden youths. For example, electronic sports or multiplayer video games would be used to pave way for intervention and for launching a dialogue with such youths, providing counselling to those in need and helping them re-integrate into the community. The CYSTs would also form partnership with other community stakeholders and organisations to foster cross-sectoral collaboration.
- (ix) The SCC Scheme, which was launched by the SWD, aimed to provide a generally recognised proof of age to elderly persons aged 65 and above so as to facilitate their access to concessions, discounts or priority services offered by government departments, public organisations and commercial establishments. The scheme helped promote a spirit of respect for the senior citizens. To mark the 30th anniversary of the SCC Scheme, the SWD organised a series of publicity activities this year to enhance public understanding of the uses and the related concessions of the SCC. Besides, the day care centres for the elderly would also assist the elderly in understanding the difference between SCC and JoyYou Card.

13. The Chairman ended the discussion on the item and thanked the guests for attending the meeting.

**Item 4: Request to install additional flagpoles in Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park for raising the national flag and the regional flag
(C&W CICRC Paper No. 23/2024)**

(10:47 am -11:11 am)

14. The Chairman welcomed guests to the meeting and invited Members for discussion.

15. The Vice Chairman pointed out that there was no specific commitment or action plan stated in the reply from the LCSD. He hoped that the LCSD would also consider how to implement the proposed installation and preferably provide a timetable in addition to exploring the feasibility of the proposal. It would be most desirable if the work could be completed in time before the National Day this year. However, even if not, he still hoped that the work could be implemented expeditiously since it would reflect the degree of importance attached to the raising of the national flag.

16. A Member supported the proposal of raising the national flag in Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park (the Park) and suggested that government departments should actively identify other suitable locations in the C&W District for raising the national flag and the regional flag. He stressed that the raising of the national flag was both a symbol of the country and a part of national education. As such, the ceremonial procedure had to be carried out in a more serious and regulated manner after the location and facilities for flag raising had been finalised. He pointed out that the national flag in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) should be raised at 8:00 am and lowered at 6:00 pm, hoping that strict enforcement of this practice could be ensured. He suggested that the related personnel should have received professional training so that the solemnity of raising and lowering the flags could also be ensured. Even under special circumstances such as in times of typhoon or heavy rain, the flags should still be raised and lowered on time and carried out in a standardised and regulated manner. It was necessary to avoid casual arrangement of people without receiving proper training to perform this duty. Respect for the national flag and the regional flag could truly be demonstrated by doing this way.

17. A Member supported the proposed installation of additional flagpoles in the Park for raising the national flag and the regional flag. He pointed out that in addition to being a place of historical significance, the Park was also an important venue for the public to take a rest and learn about history. Therefore, the raising of the national flag and the regional flag there would help promote national education and civic awareness. He stressed that the Park was a very suitable site for such purposes since it was spacious and well received among the public. However, he reminded the LCSD that assessment by experts should be obtained before constructing the flagpoles to prevent damage of the flagpoles or accident caused by the flagpoles due to strong wind. He proposed to choose a suitable location for installing the flagpoles and deploy staff for regular inspection after the flags had been raised, ensuring that timely adjustment could be made once problems were detected and preventing damage to be caused to the flags due to various factors such as wind speed.

18. A Member was in strong support of the proposed installation of additional flagpoles in the Park for carrying out the flag-raising ceremony, thinking that it was not only the obligation and responsibility of Hong Kong being a part of the country, but also a more significant meaning of raising the national flag. Nevertheless, she stressed that apart from installing the flagpoles, the LCSD should also consider stepping up publicity on the related information on the national flag because many members of the public might not have a complete understanding of the historical background and the norms of using the national flag. She suggested that additional information on the history of the national flag and the national and regional legislation concerning the national flag should be provided beside the flagpoles for educating the public, stressing that the post-installation maintenance of the flagpoles was important as well. In her opinion, as the flagpoles were important symbols of civic and national identity, it needed to make proper arrangement of training flag-raising personnel and formulate application procedure for use by organisations. As this year marked the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, she hoped that this proposal would provide an opportunity for more people, who were patriotic with affection for the country and Hong Kong, to express their identification with the country.

19. A Member thought that the proposed installation of flagpoles in the Park was consistent with the ideas of setting up a corridor of patriotism and a memorial area of patriotism at King George V Memorial Park, Hong Kong, which had jointly been proposed by Members before. As he stressed, the national flag was a symbol of the country and participation in the flag-raising ceremony was a significant manifestation of national identity. He hoped that the flag-raising ceremony could be held in the Park during festive activities or important days in future. Through the arrangement, patriotism education could be achieved and national awareness among members of the public especially young people and students consolidated. He hoped that if the Government accepted the proposal after consideration, it could expeditiously complete the installation and provide the support services. This would not only let the public witness the efficiency of the Government and the Council but also demonstrate that great importance was attached to patriotic education.

20. A Member agreed to install flagpoles in the Park. He suggested that government departments should provide mobile flagpoles at venues under their management to facilitate the raising of the national flag during school activities held there. Schools would not need to arrange to transport the flagpoles by themselves then and their burden could thus be reduced. He also suggested that government departments should take the lead of providing flagpoles in venues managed by them as an example, allowing schools to simply bring the national flag for the ceremony.

21. A Member pointed out that the Park might be the only large venue in C&W District where flagpoles of approved specifications could be installed. He strongly supported the proposed installation of flagpoles in the Park for raising the national flag and the regional flag, pointing out

that many people wanted to watch the flag-raising ceremony at a designated venue and fixed time every day. He also suggested that the LCSD should set a fixed time for the routine flag-raising ceremony, which would be carried out every day unless there were undesirable weather conditions or unforeseen circumstances. The arrangement would facilitate schools and organisations to tie in with the schedule and arrange for students and members of the public to watch the ceremony at the venue. He requested that the LCSD for a prompt reply about the installation of flagpoles and, if the proposal was accepted, the scheduled time of raising flags because watching the flag-raising ceremony would help enhance the sense of belonging to the country among the public.

22. A Member opined that although the ceremony of raising the national flag would be carried out when events in celebrating the National Day or the establishment of the HKSAR were held in C&W District, formal flagpole facilities were not available at many venues in the district. This indicated that there were inadequate venues in C&W District for holding the relevant activities of celebration. He believed that the Park was an ideal site for holding the ceremony. He also referred to an earlier proposal of displaying exhibition panels of patriotic education in the Park, which would be complementary to the proposed installation of flagpoles and could promote patriotic education effectively. He pointed out that as the Government had established the Working Group on Patriotic Education this April, it was an opportunity to promote patriotic education. He hoped that the LCSD would consider the installation of exhibition panels and flagpoles together and provide a concrete timetable for implementation.

23. A Member opined that many people would have long distance running or take a stroll to and fro along the harbourfront between the Golden Bauhinia Square (the Square) in Wan Chai and the Park. Seeing that formal flagpoles had already been installed at the Square for the raising of the national flag and the regional flag and for holding celebratory ceremonies, he hoped that formal flagpoles could also be installed in the Park for raising the national flag and the regional flag. He opined that if the flying of the national flag and the regional flag could be seen by people at the starting and ending points of their travelling route, it would be of special significance to both local people and visitors.

24. A Member supported the proposed installation of the flagpoles and hoped that the installation could be completed before the 75th National Day this year. He raised two questions in this regard: firstly, how the various organisations or schools in the district would be arranged for using the flagpoles after the installation; and secondly, how the flagpoles should be managed and what the application procedure for the use of the flagpoles would be.

25. The representatives of the LCSD gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (i) The LCSD had liaised with the works department concerned and would proactively identify a suitable location in the Park for installing fixed flagpoles for raising the

national flag and the regional flag, having regard to various factors such as geographical location, surrounding environment and safety.

- (ii) The LCSD venues in C&W District, which had already been installed with fixed flagpoles for flying the national flag and the regional flag, included Hong Kong Squash Centre at Hong Kong Park, Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park Swimming Pool, Shek Tong Tsui Municipal Services Building, and the external wall of Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park Sports Centre.
- (iii) The LCSD stated that security guards and the LCSD staff would conduct inspection in the Park every day. In the case of identified damage to the facilities, the venue staff would immediately refer the case to the works department concerned for follow up with a view to fixing the damaged facilities in an expeditious manner.
- (iv) The LCSD would process leisure venue hiring applications by organisations in accordance with the established procedures and would follow up on the detailed arrangements of the relevant activities as appropriate (if the activities would involve the display, use or raising of the national/regional flag, the organisations concerned were required to ensure that they would comply with all applicable laws and regulations).

26. The Vice Chairman replied that the best location for raising the national flag should be a place where the maximum number of people could stay together as spectators. He recommended installation of the flagpoles on the lawn of the Park for better results. He pointed out that although the wind would be stronger at the waterfront, the Park should be able to overcome the technical problems since flagpoles had also been installed at the Square. Regarding mobile flagpoles, a Member opined that if the LCSD could provide flagpoles at the sports grounds or make mobile flagpoles available for borrowing, schools would no longer need to bring their own to the venues. It would be more effective and convenient for schools and organisations in the territory to organise activities. He requested the LCSD to expeditiously provide a concrete timetable for the construction of the flagpoles in the Park after the meeting and give a written reply.

27. The Chairman said that it was the aspiration of all Members to have residents, schools and different organisations in C&W District involved together in the activities of raising national flag. If the flagpoles were to be installed outside the sports centre as suggested by the department, Members' original intent could not be fully satisfied because the proposed location might not be able to attract adequate members of the public as participants or spectators.

28. The representatives of the LCSD noted Members' views and would actively discuss with the works departments concerned on the installation of fixed flagpoles at suitable locations in the Park for raising the national flag and the regional flag.

29. The Chairman ended the discussion on the item and thanked the guests for attending the meeting.

Item 5: Request to print a map of the declared monuments in the Central and Western District and distribute it to the public and tourists

(C&W CICRC Paper No. 24/2024)

(11:11 am -11:27 am)

30. The Vice Chairman said that the Secretariat had previously invited the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) of the Development Bureau (DEVB) and the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) to the meeting. However, they replied that they would not attend the meeting.

31. A Member supported the proposal but pointed out that confusion might be caused to the public and visitors due to the overlapping of heritage routes provided by different departments, such as the AMO, Urban Renewal Authority and DEVB. She suggested that the departments concerned should have enhanced co-ordination to compile a standardised map of the routes for reference by the public and tourists.

32. A Member opined that the online information of the AMO and the related information of the HKTB should be consolidated as printouts for distribution with a view to enhancing the travelling experience of tourists. He mentioned that although the "Hong Kong Citywalk Guide" (the Guide) prepared by the HKTB had set out many popular tourist attractions, some of these tourist attractions such as Hollywood Road would become very crowded during popular tourist seasons, such as the Labour Day Golden Week starting from 1 May, and adversely affect the shop operators and residents in the vicinity. He suggested that the HKTB should consider developing more new tourist attractions, such as sites of special features characterising C&W District like Dried Seafood Street and Herbal Medicine Street. He also hoped that more travel information would be produced for tourists through the cooperation between the HKTB and the AMO.

33. On the design of the map of the declared monuments and the contents of presentation, a Member proposed to organise an activity themed "Searching the 31 Declared Monuments in the Central and Western District", comprising some simple "half-day tours" each of which would take residents to visit a few declared monuments within two to three hours and make arrangement for participants to have lunch together for enhanced community participation. He

stressed that clear indication of routes was very important. As he explained, he was often asked by tourists and residents about the direction of some places when he was working at street counters. It was so because some of the existing signs were not clear enough for indication. Besides, he recommended installation of electronic display panels at some places so that residents and tourists could check the detailed routes or information on the declared monuments from the panels. He also hoped that these functions could be implemented through software, thereby enhancing the experience of tourists and residents.

34. A Member raised two suggestions as follows. Firstly, he was in strong support of printing a map of the declared monuments or a tourist map. However, he did not suggest printing all the declared monuments in one map. Instead, the declared monuments should first be classified and printed in different series so that the public and tourists could choose preferred routes for visit from among routes of different themes. Secondly, he proposed to integrate the existing book “Heritage of the Central and Western District, Hong Kong” about C&W District with the proposed map. It was because many monuments and places of historical significance were covered by the book which could provide more opportunities for people of strong desire in knowledge to gain an in-depth understanding of C&W District. Lastly, he stressed that the map should be printed and distributed as soon as possible, and publicity be carried out especially at some hotspots promoted by key opinion leaders (KOLs) over the Internet, thereby diverting tourists to other places that were worth exploring and reducing the overcrowding situation at some attractions.

35. A Member mentioned that a working group had been set up by the DC in the past, which was responsible to update the contents of the “Heritage of the Central and Western District, Hong Kong” and upload the information onto the DC’s website. The working group had also printed some pamphlets for distribution at various places at that time, such as the Hong Kong International Airport, the then units of the Central and Western District Office (C&WDO) currently known as Home Affairs Enquiry Centres and the ward offices of DC Members. He stressed that this kind of printed matter was very useful because not all people would access the information on the Internet. The history and the cultural characteristics of C&W District could be more effectively publicised through distribution of pamphlets at district level, which would also be of great help to both tourists and residents.

36. A Member mentioned that during the activities under “Day x Night Vibes@18 Districts” in the past, he had proposed to enhance the publicity targeting Mainland tourists. He thanked the C&WDO for setting up a temporary account of the social media Xiaohongshu for the activities at that time. As he recalled, other DC Members had suggested setting up an official account on Xiaohongshu for promotional purposes and he agreed to this suggestion. He opined that promotion should not be limited to Xiaohongshu, and that the use of more platforms that were commonly used by or influential among tourists might also be considered.

37. A Member pointed out that the Guide published by the HKTB was rich in content and provided tourists with itineraries for in-depth exploration of C&W District. Nevertheless, he thought that there should be integration for the promotional activities organised by various departments. For example, the C&WDO had recently organised a show featuring dynamic visuals with art performance and guided tours at the Old Mental Hospital in High Street. These emerging tourist attractions should be promoted in collaboration with the HKTB and included in the Guide to create synergy. Secondly, he emphasised that promoting tourism would not only result in increased pedestrian flow but also fostered economic development. He recommended enhanced cooperation with various shop operators in the vicinity of the sites concerned, providing catering and shopping information in the Guide, and attracting tourists to visit the shops nearby such as bars and restaurants, thereby promoting the economic activities in C&W District further.

38. The Vice Chairman pointed out that C&W District was currently in lack of a systematic and well-organised map of the declared monuments and their introduction. Although the AMO and HKTB had their own theme pages to promote the related contents, the information had not been integrated into a comprehensive atlas yet. He therefore suggested that there should be a lead department to take up the task and address two major issues. Firstly, it was the source of funding, that is, which departments could earmark funding to support these efforts. Secondly, it was the specific design and implementation, including printing, design and distribution of the output. He suggested that the AMO or the HKTB should allocate resources to support the DC which would take the lead to carry out the work and be responsible for designing and promoting the map of the declared monuments in C&W District as well as uploading it onto the website of the AMO and the platform Discover Hong Kong, facilitating local people and tourists explore the historical sites in C&W District with this map. Lastly, as the representatives of the departments concerned failed to attend the meeting, he requested to pass on the audio recording of today's meeting to the departments concerned and invite them to give responses to Members' questions and suggestions in written replies after the meeting.

Item 6: Request to review the current condition of the Dr Sun Yat-Sen Historical Trail and carry out maintenance
(C&W CICRC Paper No. 25/2024)

(11:27 am -11:42 am)

39. The Vice Chairman welcomed guests to the meeting and invited Members for discussion.

40. A Member opined that Dr Sun Yat-sen Historical Trail (the Trail) was a good place for the public to learn about the history and the connection between Dr Sun Yat-sen and C&W District, being consistent with Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum (the Museum) which was completed in 2006. He was concerned about the temporary closure of the Museum at present, which was expected to re-open after the upgrading and renovation works next year. He wanted to confirm whether the Museum would be re-opened as scheduled and expected that the department concerned would carry out the publicity work well to attract visitors and the public. Besides, he suggested that the contents of the exhibits regarding various historic spots (spots) in the Trail should be upgraded, and that online resources, such as QR code and videos, should be used to facilitate the public and visitors to have a better understanding of the historical background.

41. A Member shared her experience of a visit to the Museum, which was organised on the eve of the temporary closure of the Museum for maintenance. She found that the Museum was very popular among young people and its popularity was beyond her expectation. She mentioned that “heritage tours” were well received among young people, but the plaques provided by the departments concerned at the spots along the Trail were rather simple and not conspicuously displayed. It was even difficult to read the contents on some of them due to dilapidation. She opined that as Hong Kong was a modern city, more efforts should be put in promoting the ideas of “tourism is everywhere in Hong Kong” and “in-depth travel”, discovering the history behind the Trail and publicising patriotic education. She suggested that the Government should take the lead in making improvements to the Trail with different stakeholders.

42. A Member pointed out that there was a total of 16 spots sparsely distributed along the Trail, such as the University of Hong Kong, the area at the rear of PMQ and Kom Tong Hall. He opined that the existing plaques only contained brief description in text and the Trail lacked the necessary coherence to effectively guide the public or tourists to learn along the route about the history of Dr Sun Yat-sen’s revolutionary activities in Hong Kong. In addition to reviewing the current condition of the Trail, he suggested that consideration should also be given to making the Trail a more attractive tourist attraction, which would allow the younger generation and tourists to better understand the importance of Hong Kong in the history of Dr Sun Yat-sen’s revolutionary activities.

43. A Member said that the DC had put a lot of effort in designing the Trail in the first place and maintenance had become necessary with the passage of time. He highlighted that the rusting of an iron plaque installed in Eastern Street was serious. As the plaque was situated outside a primary school, he urged for expeditious maintenance to safeguard the safety of passers-by, especially students. Apart from stressing that publicity work was very important for the Trail, he proposed to provide additional functions of QR code so that visitors could understand more about the exhibits and the related historical background by scanning the

respective QR codes. The educational and visiting experience of visitors could thus be enhanced.

44. The Vice Chairman recalled that at the time of implementing the Trail, the DC, government departments and the C&WDO had conducted a lot of studies and design work before the contents and the way of presentation of the 16 spots were finalised. As the technology of QR code was not available at that time, the additional functions could not be provided then. He also recalled that after the launching of the Trail, many guided tours had been conducted to facilitate the public to understand the history of China's 1911 Revolution. As recently found, one of the plaques on the Trail had been removed in March, but reinstallation was yet to be carried out. This caused him to reflect on whether a comprehensive review of the maintenance of all the spots was needed. He suggested that the C&WDO should examine the need for redesigning the spots and incorporating modern elements such as QR code in the design, and that a site visit should be arranged for Members to allow them to experience the historical significance of the Trail and raise comments on the improvements to the plaque design.

45. A representative of the C&WDO replied that the revitalisation project of the Trail commenced in 2017 and was completed in 2018. The 16 existing spots were all outdoor sites and the exhibits were made of wood or metal, which were inevitably subject to wear and tear affected by weather conditions. The C&WDO identified in March this year that the wooden plaque installed at No. 17, Stanley Street was seriously damaged. The artwork was removed having regard to public safety and the C&WDO was planning for in-situ reprovisioning of it. As regards the remaining 15 spots, regular inspection and maintenance would be carried out by the staff. Moreover, he reported that since the Museum was in temporary closure until the second quarter of next year for enhancing the design of the permanent exhibition gallery and the content of exhibits, the C&WDO would consult the Tourism Commission (TC) and the LCSD in due course about the renovation for the exhibits of the Trail and their contents.

46. The Vice Chairman enquired whether the C&WDO would seize the opportunity to review the design and contents, such as the inclusion of enhancements like QR code, since resources would be allocated for the refurbishment. He suggested that the C&WDO should jointly conduct site visits to various spots with Members after the meeting to make further improvements to update the information provided at the Trail.

47. Members expressed their full support for the proposal.

48. The representatives of the C&WDO replied that the C&WDO would jointly conduct a site visit with Members as well as staff of the LCSD and TC.

49. The Vice Chairman enquired whether the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) would be invited to jointly conduct the site visit because the ArchSD had funded the construction of the Trail in those years and might want to learn about the results.

50. The representatives of the C&WDO replied that the departments concerned would be invited for the site visit.

51. The Vice Chairman ended the discussion on the item and thanked the guests for attending the meeting.

Item 7: Arts and Cultural Activities in 2024-25 in the Central and Western District organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department
C&W CICRC Paper No. 26/2024

(11:42 am)

52. The Vice Chairman asked Members to note the paper.

Item 8: Any Other Business

(11:42 am)

53. The Vice Chairman said that no other business was raised.

Item 9: Date of the next meeting

(11:42 am)

54. The Vice Chairman said that the next meeting would be held on 3 October 2024. The paper submission deadline would be 16 September 2024.

55. The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 am.

The minutes were confirmed on 3 October 2024

Chairman: Mr LAW Kam-fai

Secretary: Mr YEUNG Lok-san, Rio

Central and Western District Council Secretariat
October 2024