

**Minutes of the Second Meeting of the
Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (FEHC) (2024-2025) of
the Seventh Term of Central and Western District Council**

Date : 28 March 2024 (Thursday)

Time : 10:00 am

Venue : Conference Room, 14/F, Harbour Building
38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong

Present:

Chairman:

Mr YEUNG Hok-ming, MH

Vice Chairman:

Mr LUI Hung-pan

Members:

Dr WONG Sin-man, Mandy

Mr NG Yin

Mr LEE Chi-hang, Sidney, MH

Mr QIU Song-qing, MH

Ms JIN Ling, MH

Mr SHIH Jan Noel

Mr WU Man-hin

Dr ZHANG Zong

Ms CHEUNG Ka-yan

Mr YOUNG Chit-on, Jeremy

Mr YEUNG Hoi-wing

Mr YIP Wing-shing, SBS, BBS, MH, JP

Mr IP Yik-nam, JP

Ms CHIU Wah-kuen, MH

Mr LAU Tin-ching

Mr LAW Kam-fai

Guests:

Item 3

Mr TSE Yip-kei, Alvin	Environmental Protection Department	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional South)1
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Item 4

Ms HUI Man-wai, Fion	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Chief Health Inspector (Central/Western)3
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Item 5

Mr LEUNG Man-wui, Travis	Environmental Protection Department	Senior Environment Protection Officer (Waste Transfer & Development)11
Dr CHIU Lok-hin, Sam	Environmental Protection Department	Environment Protection Officer (Waste Transfer & Development)11

Item 6

Dr LEUNG Lai-kwan, Queenie	Department of Health	Medical & Health Officer (Emergency Preparedness and District Relations)2
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Item 7

Ms HUI Man-wai, Fion	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Chief Health Inspector (Central/Western)3
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In Attendance:

Ms CHEUNG Kwok-ying, Sherry	Central and Western District Office	Senior Executive Officer (District Council)
Ms LAU Mei-ling, Tenny	Central and Western District Office	Senior Liaison Officer (Building Management)1
Mr TSE Yip-kei, Alvin	Environmental Protection Department	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional South)1
Mr LAM Chung-nam	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Chief Health Inspector (Central/Western)2
Ms HUI Man-wai, Fion	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Chief Health Inspector (Central/Western)3

Secretary

Miss CHEUNG Wai-ting, Kelsey	Central and Western District Office	Executive Officer (District Council)4
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Opening Remarks

(10:01 am)

1. The Chairman welcomed Members and government representatives to the second meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (FEHC) (2024-2025).

Item 1: Confirmation of the minutes of the 1st FEHC meeting held on 1 February 2024

(10:02 am)

2. As Members did not have any comments, the Chairman announced that the minutes of the meeting were confirmed.

Item 2: Chairman's report

(10:02 am - 10:05 am)

3. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had earlier circulated the following papers among Members for their information:

Paper No.	Paper Title	Date of Circulation
6/2024	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Progress report on district minor works projects in the Central and Western District	20 February 2024
10/2024	Highways Department A stone wall tree between Bonham Road and Hospital Road, Pok Fu Lam (Registration No.: HYD CW / 1 in the Register of Old and Valuable Trees) Latest mitigation measures of tree risk	26 February 2024
12/2024	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Strategies and Work to Improve the Environmental Hygiene of Hong Kong	18 March 2024

4. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had received a letter from the Department of Health (DH) before the meeting, inviting representatives of Members to attend the “Briefing on the 2024-25 ‘I’m So Smart’ Community Health Promotion Programme (the Programme)”. The basic themes of the Programme were to promote “healthy diet” and an “active lifestyle with regular physical activity”, aiming to enhance community collaboration for jointly promoting health of all people and encouraging various organisations to make good use of resources in the district for holding health promotion activities which would help build a health-enhancing conducive environment. The Chairman recommended the Vice Chairman Mr LUI Hung-pan to attend the above meeting on behalf of the FEHC and Members had no other comments.

Item 3: Proposed Addition of a New Recycling Store (GREEN@COMMUNITY) in the Mid-levels

(C&W FEHC Paper No. 7/2024)

(10:05 am - 10:48 am)

5. The Chairman invited Members to raise views and questions on the item, and the highlights made by Members were as follows:

- (i) Members pointed out that only basic recycling systems were provided in most of the housing estates in the Mid-Levels and the types of recyclables therein were far less than that in the recycling points of “GREEN@COMMUNITY”. Besides, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) had removed most of the roadside recycling bins (commonly known as three-colour bins) in recent years, making it more difficult for residents in the Mid-Levels to participate in environmental recycling. Members suggested that to tie in with the policy of municipal solid waste charging (MSW charging), the operating hours of the “recycling spots” should be increased in the short term, especially in the evening of weekdays and on weekends, to facilitate the Mid-Levels residents to carry out recycling activities and, at the same time, three-colour bins should be placed in the Mid-levels. In the long run, recycling stations of “GREEN@COMMUNITY” should be set up at suitable locations in the Mid-Levels, believing that there would be a substantial increase in the quantity of recyclables.
- (ii) A Member pointed out that his ward office was situated at Caine Road where no reverse vending machines or recycling bins were provided at fixed locations. Instead, there was only one session of service provided at the recycling spot once a week. Besides, the reverse vending machines for plastic bottles at Central Market were always full, making recycling a very inconvenient task. Operators of shops near the ward office had reflected to the Member that they could only choose to directly dispose of some recyclables due to the limited space of their shops which could not keep the quantity of recyclables for one week. Members opined that the EPD should provide additional reverse vending machines for plastic bottles in the area of Caine Road and other types of smart reverse vending machines and requested for extending the operating hours of the recycling spots.
- (iii) Members had conducted a study on the three “recycling stores” in the district and found that the “recycling stores” were always full of recyclables. Since the quantity of recyclables collected in “GREEN@KENNEDY TOWN” was obviously more than that in the other two recycling stores in the district, the public demand for recycling was strong in the area. Members also stated that, as reflected by some organisations, they had attempted to apply to the EPD for setting up a “recycling store” in the Mid-levels. However, the EPD had rejected the application of such organisations on grounds of the current

existence of other “GREEN@COMMUNITY” facilities in the vicinity. Members enquired about the criteria adopted by the EPD for setting up of “GREEN@COMMUNITY” and why a permanent recycling point could not be provided in the Mid-levels despite the high demand for recycling in the area.

- (iv) The public had reflected to Members that recycling of food waste was very difficult because food waste could not be stored and there were insufficient recycling facilities for food waste in the Central & Western (C&W) District, thereby causing many people to be at a loss to do properly. Members recommended provision of additional recycling facilities for food waste in the community recycling network and various residential areas by the EPD with a view to encouraging people in the district to participate in recycling of food waste.
- (v) Members said that as there were many single-block buildings in C&W District, the number of households thereof might not meet the requirement of applying for the Recycling Fund. Besides, there might not be enough space for placing in-vessel composters in the lobby of these buildings. Members expected that the EPD could make adjustment to the eligibility criteria for the installation of smart in-vessel composters in the light of the situation in C&W District and consider installing smart in-vessel composters in the streets in residential areas to facilitate residents of single-block buildings for recycling activities. In addition, some Members recommended to provide smart food waste reverse vending machines at least in all refuse collection points (RCPs) and the three “recycling stores” in C&W District for use by people in the district.
- (vi) Members enquired why there was still no food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs) provided in Sai Wan Estate. Although FWSRBs were provided in Kwun Lung Lau, the public reflected that the bins were often out of order and people were concerned about the hygiene problems that might arise because summer was near.
- (vii) Members thought that EPD should make special arrangements to provide free door-to-door collection service for the elderly or mobility-handicapped persons. As there were more ramps in C&W District, it was impractical to expect the elderly to bring their recyclables to the recycling points through the ramps every week. They expected that the EPD would pay more attention to the geographical environment and population distribution in C&W District when making arrangement for recycling points.
- (viii) Members enquired what the criteria were for the EPD to consider providing a “recycling station”. The question was raised because all the three recycling points in C&W District were “recycling stores” at present. As regards the

larger “recycling stations”, they would not only provide recycling service but also environmental education and recycling support. If “recycling stations” could be provided in C&W District, they could provide more environmental education activities for residents of the district.

- (ix) As Members considered that waste disposal would increase in volume prior to the implementation of MSW charging, they enquired whether the EPD would provide additional recycling facilities temporarily to cope with the public demand.
- (x) Members had received requests from the public for additional provision of recycling spots in areas around Lyttelton Road and Babington Path, hoping that the EPD would consider the suggestion.

6. The representative of the EPD responded to Members’ questions and suggestions as follows:

- (i) To provide better service of the community recycling network, the EPD would review from time to time the operation of various facilities of “GREEN@COMMUNITY”, the specific demand for recycling facilities of individual communities, the quantity of recyclables collected and effectiveness of various facilities of “GREEN@COMMUNITY”, as well as active discussion with the operating organisations to explore measures such as providing additional recycling spots and extending service hours of facilities.
- (ii) As revealed in the proactive survey on the management and effectiveness of waste separation bins, which was conducted by the Office of The Ombudsman in 2022, recycling bins installed in urban areas could not contain a large quantity of recyclables in general and would easily be mistaken as rubbish bins into which pedestrians would put debris and containers with some food and drink left, resulting in contamination of some recyclables therein. With the gradual development of “GREEN@COMMUNITY” and the enhancement of its services as well as the implementation of various waste reduction and recycling programmes, the role of roadside recycling bins in urban areas for recycling support in the community recycling had progressively diminished. To enhance the overall recycling efficiency and quality, the EPD had started to gradually remove the roadside recycling bins in urban areas from June 2022 and, encourage the public to make good use of the upgraded recycling facilities in housing estates/residential buildings and the community through on-site publicity and promotional activities as well as posting of notices.
- (iii) The EPD supported the installation of FWSRBs in private residential buildings for collecting food waste through the Recycling Fund and the

Environment and Conservation Fund. Private residential buildings might also participate in the “Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection” to collect food waste by means of the conventional food waste recycling bins. As at March 2024, the Environmental Campaign Committee had received applications for the service of food waste reverse vending machines from three housing estates in C&W District. If there were other housing estates which wanted to apply for the related service, they could contact the EPD directly. The EPD noted Member’ proposed addition of food waste reverse vending machines in the district and would forward the proposal to the Waste Reduction and Resources Circulation Office for consideration.

- (iv) More than 390 housing estates/residential buildings in C&W District had participated in the “Programme on Source Separation of Domestic Waste (SSDW)” so far, covering about 50 percent of the population in the district. Most of the remaining population were residing in areas where the facilities of “GREEN@COMMUNITY” would provide service, covering about 45 percent of the population in the district. On the whole, the SSDW and the “GREEN@COMMUNITY” altogether provided service for more than 95 percent of the population in C&W District. The EPD wanted to continue to increase the coverage of service for facilitating more people to participate in recycling.
- (v) The EPD set up the “Green Outreach” to provide outreaching services in the community. Through on-site guidance and hands-on demonstrations, it regularly educated the public about the importance of waste reduction at source, encouraged and facilitated the public to practice source separation of waste and clean recycling, promoted the GREEN@COMMUNITY services, as well as disseminated the latest information on waste reduction, recycling and legal requirement. The “Green Outreach” would also promote the participation of housing estates in the SSDW and encourage more people to live a green life.
- (vi) Smart food waste recycling bins were being provided in all public housing estates in the territory by the EPD in a progressive manner. Arrangement had been made for providing smart recycling bins in Sai Wan Estate in May 2024.

Item 4: Request for Improvement in the Environmental Quality and Management of Public Toilets in the Central and Western District

(C&W FEHC Paper No. 8/2024)

(10:48 am - 11:11 am)

7. The Chairman invited Members to raise views and questions on the item, and the highlights made by Members were as follows:

- (i) During two visits to the public toilet at Smithfield Municipal Services Building, Members found that a notice was posted outside the door of the toilet, stating that toilet paper was not available in the toilet then. After checking with the manager, they learnt that the venue encountered difficulty in procurement of toilet paper, and other government venues were also facing the same situation. Members therefore enquired of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) about how the problem of lacking toilet paper would be solved.
- (ii) Members pointed out that the odour problem of the public toilet in Sheung Wan Civic Centre (SWCC) remained unchanged even after carrying out repeated refurbishment works, and that the public toilet in Aberdeen Street was still not reopen after a long period of maintenance. Members enquired of the FEHD about the progress in tackling the problem of the public toilets concerned.
- (iii) Members pointed out that Peak Tower Public Toilet was one of the most heavily used public toilets in C&W District. Although the universal toilets (unisex) provided after the refurbishment works had helped reduce the queuing time for users of the female toilets, these toilets were still heavily-used facilities because the site was a scenic place for visitors. They suggested that more universal toilets should be provided to improve the waiting situation.
- (iv) Members pointed out that some public toilets were under-utilised, such as MacDonnell Road Public Toilet and Robinson Road Public Toilet. Members enquired whether the FEHD had formulated any indicators for reviewing the cost-effectiveness of maintaining the public toilets concerned, or whether it had considered shutting down some under-utilised public toilets and re-allocating the budget to public toilets of higher usage rate.
- (v) Members pointed out that some of the public toilets situated inside parks in the district were managed by the LCSD. According to the results of a competition of the best public toilets announced by the Hong Kong Toilet Association, two of the toilets in most urgent need of improvement were situated in C&W District, namely, the public toilet in Catchick Street, Sai Wan and the public toilet at Centre Street Market, Sai Ying Pun. Besides, Members had also received complaints about the public toilet at Forbes Street, hoping that the LCSD could provide supplementary information on the item in writing after the meeting, and that the FEHD could make improvement to the public toilets in markets.
- (vi) Members opined that the Government should formulate a set of uniform standards for public toilets managed by various departments. Poor quality

of public toilet facilities and services would not only give rise to problems of public health and environmental hygiene but also adversely affect tourists' perception of the city. Members pointed out that the departments concerned should establish a grading system for public toilets and regularly announce the grading results to the public. Members recommended display of two-dimensional barcodes outside the door of public toilets to facilitate the public for access to the current usage of respective public toilets and raise their views on the services provided in such public toilets, resulting in an enhanced awareness of keeping the public toilets clean.

- (vii) Members pointed out that, as reflected in the feedback received from shop operators in the district, the information provided on public toilets was insufficient, causing visitors in need to come to use the toilets in the shops frequently. They suggested that clear guidelines should be provided and the location of public toilets should be indicated on the online maps.

8. The representative of the FEHD responded to Members' questions and suggestions as follows:

- (i) In C&W District, there were 34 public toilets under the management of the FEHD, all of which were managed by outsourced contractors. As prescribed in the contracts awarded, the contractors were responsible for simple maintenance of the toilets concerned and provision of toilet paper. If the FEHD staff detected that the contractor of the public toilet at Smithfield failed to provide the consumable items (such as toilet paper) in the public toilet as required by the contract, the FEHD would impose appropriate penalties according to the contract.
- (ii) In view of the specificity of the geographical location and building structure of the SWCC where Wing Lok Street Public Toilet was situated, odour problem would easily be caused in the public toilet in humid weather. The FEHD had therefore installed additional ventilation systems and gas blowers to minimise the impact of weather. Moreover, some structural problems were detected by the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) during a routine inspection conducted at a public toilet in Aberdeen Street, that is, Mee Lun Street Public Toilet, such public toilet was temporarily closed for maintenance by the ArchSD.
- (iii) The FEHD had discussed with the management of The Peak Tower on provision of additional signs indicating the routes to the public toilets inside the shopping mall at The Peak Tower with a view to diverting the users of Peak Tower Public Toilet and helping mitigate the queuing problem.
- (iv) There was only one water closet cubicle provided in the male toilet of Robinson Road Public Toilet in the past and the, resulting in a lower usage

rate when compared with that of other public toilets. The refurbishment works of the public toilet was in progress at present. After refurbishment, an additional water closet cubicle would be provided in the female toilet and a bowl type urinal would also be added to the male toilet, thereby improving the ratio of the number of public toilets between the two genders and increasing the usage rate of the public toilet. The FEHD had also conducted a study on the public toilet concerned and found that most of the users were professional drivers. So, if the public toilet was to be closed, it would cause inconvenience to the users. Similar situation also occurred at MacDonnell Road Public Toilet.

- (v) At present, the FEHD had given grading of the smart public toilet system in some public toilets and the public could directly give grading to the public toilets concerned. The FEHD noted Members' views on the management of public toilets and would continue to improve the situation of public toilets.
- (vi) The name and address of all public toilets in the territory were set out on the website of the FEHD to facilitate the access by the public and tourists.

[Post-meeting note: The Secretariat had distributed the LCSD's written reply to all Members by email on 23 April 2024.]

Item 5: Request for Mitigation of the Odour Problem at Island West Refuse Transfer Station (C&W FEHC Paper No. 9/2024)

(11:11 am - 11:22 am)

9. The Chairman said that the remaining items on the agenda would be chaired by the Vice Chairman.

10. The Vice Chairman invited Members to raise views and questions on the item, and the highlights made by Members were as follows:

- (i) Members pointed out that the WSD planned to relocate the salt water pumping station to the sitting-out area to the east of the Island West Refuse Transfer Station (IWRTS) and construct a landscaped deck on the top of the pumping station for public use. It was expected that many people would have passive recreation and enjoyment of the sunset at the landscaped deck. Members therefore hoped that the EPD would continue to pay attention to the odour problem, lest it should adversely affect the users of the facilities nearby.
- (ii) Members enquired how the EPD would conduct odour patrol and whether the EPD would use more scientific methods, such as detection by machine, for odour assessment since the sensitivity to smells would vary from person to person and smelling was a relatively subjective sense.

- (iii) Members pointed out that most of the complaints about odour nuisance they received were lodged by the public during the more humid and hot weather in summer. So, they enquired whether the days with slight identifiable odour recorded by the EPD were concentrated in summer.
- (iv) Members suggested that the EPD should provide a hotline for use by OCs in buildings to immediately liaise with the EPD upon detection of odour nuisance, facilitating the EPD to conduct testing and take follow-up action at once to reduce the odour problem.

11. The representative of the EPD responded to Members' questions and suggestions as follows:

- (i) The EPD attached great importance to the odour problem at the IWRTS and had therefore worked out various measures of odour control. All the waste treatment processes of the IWRTS were carried out at the tipping hall and the compact hall in the cavern at present. Ventilation system was installed in both halls for keeping negative-pressure ventilation inside the halls, thereby preventing odorous air leaking out from the cavern. Under the ventilation system, the air in the halls would be pumped to and filtered by the air-scrubbing system prior to emission. Moreover, all the refuse collection vehicles (RCVs) used the IWRTS had to be washed with clean water before leaving the station. The access inside and the roads in the vicinity of the station would be washed four times a day to keep the environment clean. The EPD had also provided additional mobile deodorisers inside the stations to reduce the potential nuisance that might be caused to the environment.
- (ii) The EPD had commissioned consultants to review the operational performance of the IWRTS. Since the IWRTS had been in operation for more than 25 years, the EPD would incorporate refurbishment and upgrading works into the new contract for renewal, aiming to enhance the IWRTS's performance of operational efficiency and environmental protection. To achieve strengthened odour control, the EPD would gradually complete the seven measures set out in the paper in the next two years, including replacement of all the ventilation systems in the station for enhanced efficiency of the ventilation and odour removal systems.
- (iii) As generally arranged by the EPD, its resident staff would carry out odour inspection in the station, and inspection officers of an independent third party might also be arranged for conducting inspection there. Inspection officers were required to pass a series of screening tests, meet the requirements and pass the examinations of the EU's standard procedures before they were eligible for carrying out odour patrol.

- (iv) According to the odour patrol route arranged by the EPD, the odour patrol would be carried out at the boundary of the IWRTS along Victoria Road and Sai Ning Street, covering the odour-sensitive areas nearby. No problems had been detected in about 95 percent of the patrols conducted. Slight identifiable odour (that is, Level 1 of odour intensity) was detected in each patrol, and the contractor of the IWRTS would immediately follow it up and make improvement through enhanced cleaning of the facilities in the station. As most of the days with slight identifiable odour recorded were in summer, the EPD would also make arrangement for enhanced cleaning in summer.

Item 6: Request for Prompt Formulation of Development Blueprint and Timetable for the Public Dental Services in the Central and Western District
(C&W FEHC Paper No. 11/2024)

(11:22 am -11:37 am)

12. The Vice Chairman invited Members to raise views and questions on the item, and the highlights made by Members were as follows:

- (i) Members said that, as mentioned in the paper, there were two dental clinics set up by voluntary agencies (VAs) in C&W District to provide services to the public. Members enquired whether the charges of these clinics were similar to that of dental services provided by the DH. They also enquired whether the Government had set up a dedicated department for regulation if the charges were decided by the organisations on their own.
- (ii) Members said that there was currently an acute shortage of dentists in Hong Kong that only about 0.37 dentist was available to serve 1 000 persons. Since the DH had also mentioned the shortage of dental officers in the paper submitted as response, they enquired whether the Government would consider increasing the number of places for training personnel of dentistry and providing new ways for the admission of qualified non-locally trained dentists to practise in Hong Kong so as to cope with the demand for dental care services.
- (iii) Although the government dental clinics currently offering general public sessions had implemented a “preliminary registration” arrangement to avoid patients queueing overnight as far as possible. However, people still needed to line up for registration until midnight and return to the dental clinics concerned at the original disc-distributing time in the morning on the same day to obtain a disc and register formally. Members suggested that the DH should consider facilitating the public to use public dental service by means of online booking.
- (iv) Members pointed out that although dental clinics of the DH mainly provided

dental benefits to eligible persons, the DH had at present implemented the Pilot Scheme on Dental Services (Dental Scaling) for Civil Service Eligible Persons (the Pilot Scheme) which would make arrangement for Civil Service Eligible Persons (CSEPs) to receive dental service at private dental clinics, thereby alleviating the pressure of dental clinics of the DH. Therefore, Members enquired whether the DH would consider providing additional general public sessions for public use.

- (v) Members enquired whether the Government would consider introducing an “elderly health care voucher scheme for dental treatment” for eligible elderly persons, which would subsidise elderly persons in need to use private dental services.

13. The representative of the DH responded to Members’ questions and suggestions as follows:

- (i) The fees of the dental clinics operated by VAs for providing dental services were not regulated by the Government. So, people had to ask the VAs concerned about the charges by themselves.
- (ii) The Working Group on Oral Health and Dental Care (the Working Group) opined that the current pattern of service delivery through General Public Sessions was not so effective in providing targeted dental service to the underprivileged groups in need. Having taken into consideration the manpower shortage of dental officers in the DH, the Working Group considered it more appropriate to provide service through expansion of the service capacity in non-governmental organisations (NGOs). As announced in the Chief Executive’s 2023 Policy Address, the Government would collaborate with NGOs to increase the emergency dental services targeting at the underprivileged groups with financial difficulties in 2025, and to expand service capacity, service points and service scope. The Health Bureau was working on the details of the programme and would announce them in a timely manner.
- (iii) The DH had conducted a study on the feasibility of implementing telephone booking but found that elderly persons might find it more difficult to successfully obtain a disc number under such arrangement. Moreover, if the arrangement of advance booking was adopted, people in need of emergency dental services might not be able to receive treatment that day. In this connection, the DH at present continued to make arrangement for “preliminary registration” for people in need as early as possible on the day of delivering service, that is, at 12 midnight that same day. The DH noted Members’ views and would continue to explore ways to improve the service arrangement of general public sessions.

- (iv) The Pilot Scheme mainly aimed to alleviate the pressure of queuing up for dental service by CSEPs. The Government only provided a limited level of dental services to the public, which were confined to the delivery of emergency treatment to them. For this reason, it might not be able to benefit people who had been queuing up for dental treatment through general public sessions.

Item 7: Request for Tackling Hygiene Black Spots in the Central and Western District
(C&W FEHC Paper No. 13/2024)

(11:37 am - 11:49 am)

14. The Vice Chairman invited Members to raise views and questions on the item, and the highlights made by Members were as follows:

- (i) Members pointed out that the environmental hygiene black spots in C&W District were concentrated in private rear lanes. As they were private places, government departments would not actively conduct clearance operations there and accumulation of debris might lead to serious problems of environmental hygiene. Members suggested that reference should be made to the practice of the Buildings Department (BD) in dealing with dangerous buildings. In some cases, if concerned owners failed to repair or remove the dangerous buildings concerned according to the requirement, the BD would instruct contractors engaged by the Government for repair or removal, and would recover the cost of such works from the persons concerned afterwards. Similarly, the approach of “clean-up first, recover the costs later” might also be used in tackling the problem of accumulated debris in private rear lanes, and the cost of tackling environmental hygiene problems would then be recovered from concerned owners.
- (ii) Members pointed out that feeding of feral pigeons occurred at private rear lanes and had seriously affected the environmental hygiene in the vicinity. They suggested that the departments concerned should jointly combat such behaviour which would adversely affect environmental hygiene.
- (iii) Members pointed out that the problem of bagged refuse illegally deposited in C&W District was serious, worrying that the situation would be aggravated after the implementation of the MSW charging scheme. They enquired whether the departments concerned had arranged regular inspections to various environmental hygiene black spots concerning illegal disposal of bagged refuse.
- (iv) Members mentioned that some buildings or restaurants would always place their refuse at the roadside at night pending collection by RCVs. In addition to causing nuisance to the public, such practice would lead to environmental

hygiene problems as well. Thinking that the problem lay with the inadequacy of RCPs, Members suggested that the FEHD should consider allocating additional RCPs in urban area to facilitate the disposal of refuse by the public.

15. The representative of the FEHD responded to Members' questions and suggestions as follows:

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- (i) The FEHD had always been in collaboration with other departments concerned to examine the conditions of environmental hygiene at private rear lanes. For serious cases, the FEHD might issue notices to the owners concerned for prolonged accumulation of refuse in private place, which was in breach of the Public Cleansing and Prevention of Nuisances Regulation, and required them to remove the refuse within a specified period. The FEHD noted Members proposal regarding the approach of "clean-up first, recover the costs later", which would be forwarded to the Environment and Ecology Bureau for consideration.
- (ii) The FEHD was of grave concern over the problem of illegal disposal of bagged refuse. It had established plain-clothes enforcement teams to conduct blitz operations at different periods of a day and institute prosecution against offenders for illegal disposal of refuse in public place. It had also written to the OCs and property management agencies concerned, reminding them not to dispose of bagged refuse in public place for maintaining environmental hygiene.
- (iii) The FEHD noted Members' proposed addition of RCPs.

Item 7: Any other business

(11:49 am)

16. The Vice Chairman said that there were no other business.

Item 8: Date of the next meeting

(11:49 am)

17. The next meeting would be held on 30 May 2024. The paper submission deadline would be 14 May 2024.

18. The meeting ended at 11:49 am on 28 March 2024.

The minutes were confirmed on 30 May 2024

Chairman: Mr YEUNG Hok-ming, MH

Secretary: Miss CHEUNG Wai-ting, Kelsey

Central and Western District Council Secretariat
May 2024