# Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Seventh Term of the Central and Western District Council <u>Hong Kong Special Administrative Region</u>

| Date:  | 14 March 2024 (Thursday)   |
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| Time:  | 9:30 am  |
| Venue: | Central and Western District Council Conference Room<br>14/F, Harbour Building<br>38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong |

#### **Present:**

<u>Chairman</u> Mr LEUNG Chee-kay, David, JP

District Officer (Central and Western)

#### Members

Dr WONG Sin-man, Mandy Mr NG Yin Mr LUI Hung-pan 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 Dr CHAN Kin-keung, Eugene, SBS, BBS, JP Dr FUNG Kar-leung Mr YOUNG Chit-on, Jeremy 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 Mr LAW Kam-fai

| <u>Item 2</u>                |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Ms LEE Suk-han               | Chief Leisure Manager (Hong Kong West),                |
|                              | Leisure and Cultural Services Department               |
| Ms LO Man-nin, Patty         | District Leisure Manager (Central and Western),        |
|                              | Leisure and Cultural Services Department               |
| Mr MOK Chi-kin, Jiv          | Senior Executive Officer (District Management),        |
|                              | Central and Western District Office                    |
| <u>Item 3</u>                |  |
| Mr LEUNG Lincoln             | District Commander (Western District),                 |
|                              | Hong Kong Police Force                                 |
| Mr WAN Fu-kwan               | Police Community Relations Officer (Western District), |
|                              | Hong Kong Police Force                                 |
| Mr WU Wai-hung, Samuel       | Division Commander (Hong Kong West) (Acting),          |
|                              | Fire Services Department                               |
| Mr TANG Chi-yung             | Senior Station Officer, Kennedy Town Fire Station,     |
|                              | Fire Services Department                               |
| Ms LAM Bun-ngee              | District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western/      |
|                              | Southern/Islands), Social Welfare Department           |
| Mr MOK Chi-kin, Jiv          | Senior Executive Officer (District Management),        |
|                              | Central and Western District Office                    |
| Miss CHOI Wing-yee, Cornelia | Senior Liaison Officer (Community Liaison),            |
|                              | Central and Western District Office                    |
| <u>Item 4</u>                |  |
| Mr WONG Wing-kit, Franz      | Senior Architect 43, Housing Department                |
| Ms AU Pui-yu, Roberta        | Planning Officer 7, Housing Department                 |
| Mr POK Kin-man               | Housing Manager / Redevelopment 2, Housing Department  |
| Ms YUN Sin-wah               | Senior Manager (Community Development),                |
|                              | Urban Renewal Authority                                |
| In attendance:               |  |
| Mr WONG Wai-shun             | District Commander (Central District),                 |
|                              | Hong Kong Police Force                                 |
| Mr WONG Wai-nam              | Police Community Relations Officer (Central District), |
|                              | Hong Kong Police Force                                 |
| Mr LEUNG Lincoln             | District Commander (Western District),                 |
|                              | Hong Kong Police Force                                 |
| Mr WAN Fu-kwan               | Police Community Relations Officer (Western District), |
|                              | Hong Kong Police Force                                 |
| Mr WONG Chun-kin, Tommy      | Chief Engineer / South 3,                              |
|                              | Civil Engineering and Development Department           |

| Mr LAM Chung-nam        | Chief Health Inspector (Central/Western) 2       |
|-------------------------|--|
|                         | Food and Environmental Hygiene Department        |
| Ms HUI Man-wai          | Chief Health Inspector (Central/Western) 3,      |
|                         | Food and Environmental Hygiene Department        |
| Ms LEE Suk-han          | Chief Leisure Manager (Hong Kong West),          |
|                         | Leisure and Cultural Services Department         |
| Ms LO Man-nin, Patty    | District Leisure Manager (Central and Western),  |
|                         | Leisure and Cultural Services Department         |
| Ms YEUNG Min-jing, Anna | Chief Transport Officer / Hong Kong,             |
|                         | Transport Department                             |
| Miss TSE Wing-ka, Angel | Assistant District Officer (Central and Western) |
|                         |  |
| <b>a</b> .              |  |

# Secretary:

| Ms CHEUNG Kwok-ying, Sherry | Senior Executive Officer (District Council), |
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|                             | Central and Western District Office          |

## Item 1: Confirmation of the minutes of the first meeting of the Central and Western District Council (C&WDC) held on 4 January 2024

(9:30 am to 9:31 am)

<u>The Chairman</u> said that the Secretariat had emailed the draft minutes of the first meeting of the C&WDC to Members. As Members did not have any comments on the draft minutes, <u>the Chairman</u> announced that the minutes were confirmed.

#### **Discussion items**

# Item 2: Request for provision of civic education publicity boards or related facilities in parks/sitting-out areas in the Central and Western District to foster among the public a sense of belonging to our country

(C&WDC Paper No. 10/2024)

(9:31 am to 9:46 am)

2. <u>The Chairman</u> welcomed <u>Ms LEE Suk-han</u>, Chief Leisure Manager (Hong Kong West), Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), <u>Ms LO Man-nin, Patty</u>, District Leisure Manager (Central and Western), LCSD and <u>Mr MOK Chi-kin, Jiv</u>, Senior Executive Officer (District Management), Central and Western District Office (C&WDO) to the meeting. The paper was submitted by all Members with nothing to add. <u>The Chairman</u> welcomed Members' questions and discussions on the paper.

3. <u>Mr LAU Tin-ching</u> said that Paper No. 10/2024 was submitted because the 2022 Policy Address had set out objectives to strengthen new generation's sense of national identity and national pride, and to raise their awareness to safeguard the national security of our country together. Given the rich historical and cultural background of the Central and Western District (C&W District), he thought that it was necessary to add historical elements in parks in the District through which members of the public could learn national history. He was aware of the fact that there was relatively little information in the District regarding the development of the new China in the past few decades. He thought that national education elements might be added, including the country's significant events since its founding and the achievements in science and technology, economics, environmental protection and aerospace. He also suggested presenting relevant information with exhibition panels or in other formats in different venues.

4. <u>Ms LO Man-nin, Patty</u> responded that there were recreational and sports facilities and other amenities in the LCSD parks for leisure and recreation by the public, and to promote a healthy lifestyle and sports in the community. The LCSD was happy to explore the feasibility of setting up civic education information boards in parks, but must take into account the design of venues, the use of spaces, and the effect brought to current visitors and regular uses. She said that the LCSD had been supporting national affairs and facilitating activities such as National Day celebrations. Information boards had been set up in Statue Square and Pak Tsz Lane Park to display various promotional messages from the government, which strengthened public awareness to the country, cultivated an affection for home and country, and promoted civic awareness. She said that the Department welcomed voluntary associations, youth groups and district organisations to rent the LCSD venues for holding different events, such as carnivals and special exhibitions, so as to promote civic education and foster a greater sense of patriotism in a diverse fashion.

5. <u>Mr YEUNG Hok-ming</u> agreed that events should not interfere with the current users of the venue, and should align with the theme of the venue. He also said that there were many world-class and inspiring sportsmen in the country. He thus suggested adding relevant elements in the LCSD sports grounds so that members of the public might learn about the country's achievement in sports.

6. <u>Mr IP Yik-nam</u> thought that it would be excellent to add elements that might foster people's sense of patriotism and national belonging at recreational venues. He said that relevant topics were discussed at the meeting of the C&W District Youth Community Building Committee, during which Members had made some positive suggestions about the possible venues and the information to be displayed. He highlighted that the display should inform the public of the nation's recent achievements in aerospace technology, railway network and 5G communications, promoting their awareness to national progress and development. He said that, compared with a hard sell approach, conveying such information would be more effective, by osmosis, in strengthening the national pride and the sense of national identity of the public in the long run.

7. <u>Mr YEUNG Hoi-wing</u> said that while he understood the LCSD's concerns, Members were simply suggesting setting up information boards on the periphery of or on the walls of buildings in the LCSD parks, but not changing the current design and uses of the parks. He added that, for example, the LCSD might set up information boards at Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park about how Dr Sun Yat Sen's revolutionary campaign and the 1911 Revolution contributed to the founding of the new China, accompanied by an introduction to modern China's development. When visiting the LCSD parks with their parents, adolescents might build up a stronger sense of patriotism upon reading these information boards. He emphasised that he did not intend to change the current state of the parks, and hoped that the Department could set up thematic display boards at locations where public use would not be obstructed.

8. <u>Ms JIN Ling</u> agreed that parks were not only a leisure ground, but also a classroom

for civic education. Given that this year was the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the new China, and a key year of the 14th Five-Year Plan, it was very suitable to set up relevant display boards. She thought that Members should discuss with the Department to ensure that the display boards were richly informative, entertaining and interactive. They should also be neutral to avoid controversy. She also thought that the crux of patriotism lay in participation and dedication. She hoped that families would be attracted to join related activities and design display boards to develop a strong sense of participation among members of the public. The events should also embody the characters of the C&W District amid the for-all patriotic education, thus fostering deeper interaction with the public.

9. <u>Ms LO</u> said that the LCSD had taken note of and was open to Members' suggestions, and would be happy to discuss their feasibility.

10. <u>The Chairman</u> thought that it was worth fostering a greater sense of patriotism through civic education, so the C&WDO would also support it. He asked <u>Mr MOK</u> to brief on the assistance to be provided by the C&WDO on the matter.

11. <u>Mr MOK</u> said that the C&WDO would be happy to implement Members' suggestions and offer venue support. For instance, there were spaces suitable for setting up display boards at community halls and complexes under the C&WDO, and on the 2nd Floor of Harbour Building. Apart from indoor venues, the 280-metre Cadogan Street Promenade to be completed soon would also be a suitable venue. At the meeting of the Youth Development and Civic Education Committee, members had raised several themes including aerospace technology. There would be sufficient space for relevant facilities to be set up at the Promenade in an effort to promote national education among members of the public. He also agreed to <u>Ms JIN Ling</u>'s suggestion on organising more public engagement events. The C&WDO very much welcomed Members to organise such events at the Promenade upon application in the future.

12. <u>The Chairman</u> suggested that relevant departments should consider mobilising facilities in the District to assist. He took the opportunity to thank <u>Mr WONG Wai-shun</u>, District Commander (Central District), Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) for frequently allowing the C&WDO to display decorations in celebration of National Day and the HKSAR Establishment Day on the external wall of Central Police District Headquarters. As Members did not have any further comments, <u>the Chairman</u> declared closure of the discussion item.

Item 3: Relief support after the fire at Smithfield Terrace (C&WDC Paper No. 11/2024) (9:46 am to 10:35 am) 13. <u>The Chairman</u> welcomed <u>Mr LEUNG Lincoln</u>, District Commander (Western District), HKPF, <u>Mr WAN Fu-kwan</u>, Police Community Relations Officer (Western District), HKPF, <u>Mr WU Wai-hung, Samuel</u>, Division Commander (Hong Kong West) (Acting), Fire Services Department (FSD), <u>Mr TANG Chi-yung</u>, Senior Station Officer, Kennedy Town Fire Station, FSD, <u>Ms LAM Bun-ngee</u>, District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western/Southern/Islands), Social Welfare Department (SWD), <u>Mr MOK Chi-kin, Jiv</u>, Senior Executive Officer (District Management), C&WDO, and <u>Miss CHOI Wing-yee, Cornelia</u>, Senior Liaison Officer (Community Liaison), C&WDO to the meeting. The paper was submitted by <u>Mr YEUNG Hoi-wing</u>, <u>Mr LAU Tin-ching</u>, and <u>Dr WONG Sin-man, Mandy</u> with nothing to add. <u>The Chairman</u> invited departments' representatives to brief on the paper.

14. <u>Mr TANG</u> said that the fire occurred around 7:34 pm on 28 January 2024. Firemen were on the scene in four minutes. A man was found in the bedroom of the incident unit, who was certified obviously dead after the ambulancemen arrived. The FSD deployed a total of 12 fire appliances, two ambulances, 51 fire service personnel, one jet, and one breathing apparatus team to fight the blaze. The fire was put out around 8 pm on the same day. Firemen subsequently found a basin with burnt charcoal inside the unit. Initially, it was believed that there were suspicious circumstances surrounding the fire of the unit. The case was referred to the Police for follow-up actions.

15. <u>Mr YEUNG Hoi-wing</u> said that he was on the scene with <u>Mr LAU Tin-ching</u> and <u>Dr WONG Sin-man, Mandy</u> after the fire broke out to offer help to the residents in the evening. He hoped that this round of discussion would facilitate the provision of more effective support to residents should any unfortunate incident occur in the future. He said that he was on the scene in the first instance to communicate with representatives of different government departments, for example, the C&WDO, HKPF, the FSD, and members of Care Teams to learn the latest development of the incident. He reassured the affected residents with Care Teams members, and relayed latest news from the police to residents in the District with his connections in the community so that they might prepare in advance. Besides, the C&WDO opened the Community Hall on High Street for residents in need of shelter. He also assisted in the follow-up work of the fire together with other C&WDC Members and Care Team members. Since the deceased was an elderly singleton, whose relatives were mostly seniors, assistance was sought from Members and Care Teams in cleaning up the unit.

16. <u>Mr LAU Tin-ching</u> said that he had been updating residents in the District during the night on the latest development of the fire with his social media accounts, such as WeChat, Facebook and Instagram. Since the site of the incident was quite large and the handling time was rather long, the affected residents could only return home one to two hours after the fire was put out. On his social media platforms, he thus suggested that residents waited at nearby

restaurants until the site of the incident reopened. He thought that Members and Care Teams might refer to the approach above when dealing with other incidents.

17. <u>Dr WONG Sin-man, Mandy</u> said that she had been on the scene with <u>Mr LAU Tinching</u> until 1 am. She stayed connected with the residents on WhatsApp, the instant messaging software. Given the urgency to disseminate information about the site of the fire, she considered instant messaging softwares more suitable for this purpose. She hoped that she could discuss with the C&WDO on how to make good use of instant messaging softwares to disseminate information.

18. <u>Dr FUNG Kar-leung</u> agreed that a platform should be set up for government departments to immediately release, for instance, information of a fire, the evacuation time, the reopening time of the site of the fire, as well as other fire prevention information. Besides, he was concerned that fire escape routes in buildings in the District were piled up with miscellaneous items. Although there was no obstruction of such in this incident, he pointed out that many miscellaneous items were piled up inside the incident unit, which might hamper evacuation. He hoped that the FSD would handle these complaints strictly. Apart from the above, although the C&WDO had opened the Community Hall on High Street to residents in need of shelter during this fire, he worried that the capacity of the Community Hall would not be sufficient in case of a larger-scale fire. He thus suggested liaising with management companies or developers for providing residents with a temporary shelter in hotel rooms or residential flats during the fire.

19. Mr WU Wai-hung, Samuel responded that the FSD provided relief support after the fire, including checking the proper functioning of fire service installation and promoting residents' and management companies' awareness to fire safety. On the day after the fire and 2 March, the FSD inspected Smithfield Terrace and found the fire service installation and equipment functioning properly. When escorting residents from the floor of the incident to the ground floor, firemen did not observe any obstruction. The FSD also disseminated fire prevention information to residents and the management company of Smithfield Terrace on 4 March. For instance, keep all means of escape free from obstruction at all times, and report a fire to the police promptly. The FSD had also been organising large-scale fire drills with management companies to promote residents' awareness to the key information about fire escape. Regarding social media, he invited Members to relay fire prevention information from the FSD to the public with their social media accounts. The FSD would continue to conduct spot checks at different locations to ensure that all means of fire escape were free from obstruction. It was one of the FSD's performance pledges to conduct investigation within 24 hours into complaints concerning obstructed means of escape.

20. <u>Mr MOK</u> responded that, when incidents occurred, the community hall at Sai Ying

Pun Community Complex, 2 High Street would be opened to the affected residents in need of shelter. In case of larger-scale incidents, the C&WDO would consider opening the two activity rooms in the Kennedy Town Community Complex as it saw fit.

21. <u>The Chairman</u> said that, in case of large-scale incidents that involved hundreds of households, the two community complexes under the C&WDO might not provide sufficient space for sheltering purpose. In light of this possibility, the C&WDO would consider asking for other District Offices' assistance, or deploying sports centres in the District as shelters.

22. <u>Dr CHAN Kin-keung, Eugene</u> said that it was comforting for him as a resident of the C&W District to learn that some Members were immediately on the scene of the fire. He put forward a mechanism, with the C&WDO as the liaison centre, to timely disseminate information about the incident to Members and Care Teams so that they might further relay the messages through their connections in the community, ensuring effective communication between the government and the public.

23. <u>The Chairman</u> responded that the C&WDO was very happy to shoulder such responsibility. In fact, the C&WDO had stayed closely connected with Members, Care Teams and different government departments.

24. <u>Mr MOK</u> added that the C&WDO had set up a messaging group with different government departments for swift communication in case of incidents.

25. <u>Mr YIP Wing-shing</u> thanked HKPF, the FSD, the C&WDO, the SWD and Care Teams for their effort in the incident. He was concerned over the lack of crisis awareness among the incorporated owners or management companies of single-block buildings in the District. Since the chairpersons of incorporated owners and the personnel of management companies had a better understanding of the interior of the buildings, he suggested that the C&WDO should step up education for relevant personnel to assist government departments with tackling incidents.

26. <u>The Chairman</u> responded that the C&WDO would organise different building management workshops every year, and would consider steping up the training on crisis management. Meanwhile, the C&WDO would communicate with the FSD to organise fire prevention workshops for relevant personnel.

27. <u>Ms JIN Ling</u> emphasised the importance of preventive measures to be implemented before an incident, while Members previously spoke on the item mainly focused on postincident relief. She referred to a tragic incident occurred earlier in the Southern District, in which an elderly singleton died in a fire caused by cooking at home. In light of this, she suggested organising more talks specifically for elderly singletons and mobility impaired persons on dealing with emergencies, such as fire, tripping, and burglary, and on listing emergency contacts for them. Besides, Members and Care Teams should conduct home visits regularly to actively approach households with safety hazards so as to prevent tragic incidents from happening. For example, the Smithfield Terrace fire might be prevented if the miscellaneous items piled up in the incident unit were discovered and removed earlier.

28. <u>The Chairman</u> agreed that Care Teams might assist in stepping promotion up and in preventing home accidents.

29. <u>Mr WU Wai-hung, Samuel</u> responded that the FSD had been promoting the "Three Basic Skills on Emergency Prepareness," including "Extinguish and Prevent Fire," "Self-help and Help Others," and "Escape and Evacuate," to prepare the public for emergencies since 2018. As for promotion, the FSD had been conducting the "Hot Strike Campaign" to teach fire prevention knowledge to residents on the spot within 24 hours after a large-scale fire, and to release the information on social media. Regarding the fire in the Southern District as mentioned by <u>Ms JIN Ling</u>, the FSD had also conducted the "Hot Strike Campaign" together with Members of the Southern District and the respective Care Teams. In case of large-scale incidents, the FSD would also actively collaborate with different parties in the C&W District in order to disseminate information to the public.

30. <u>Mr YEUNG Hoi-wing</u> was concerned over the provision of relief support after the fire, and pointed out that, apart from government-funded relief, non-governmental organisations had also offered emergency relief for needy residents to apply. In addition to financial support, he emphasised the importance of emotional support. Referring to the Kwun Lung Lau fire in 2016, he said that some residents developed emotional problems after witnessing the calamity. Therefore, he suggested providing post-incident psychological counselling service to the residents affected.

31. <u>Ms LAM</u> responded that the SWD would arrange for Integrated Family Service Centres operated by the SWD or subsidised non-governmental organisations to provide welfare service to residents and families in need. In the Smithfield Terrace fire, the area of incident fell within the service scope of Grace and Joy Integrated Family Service Centre, The Hong Kong Catholic Marriage Advisory Council, which thus offered emotional support and other appropriate welfare service to the households affected. This included referring them to SKH Holy Carpenter Church for the "PARACLETE - Care and Comfort Angels" Project, in which the bereaved were accompanied and assisted in arranging the deceased's funeral and burial. Besides, the Integrated Family Service Centre also disseminated promotional flyers at Smithfield Terrace to encourage the affected residents to contact the Centre for psychological counselling, financial relief and other service. 32. <u>Miss CHOI</u> responded that the C&WDO, upon the police's notification, immediately contacted relevant Members and Care Teams and opened a temporary shelter for residents in need. Since the sealed blocks of Smithfield Terrance were reopened one after another later that night, no residents sought refuge at the temporary shelter. The C&WDO subsequently contacted the bereaved to offer condolences and provide support, such as arranging for them to apply for the General Chinese Charities Fund under the Home Affairs Department. The relief was remitted to the bereaved in Feburary. Care Teams also assisted in contacting the cleansing contractor to clean up the incident unit at a lower price. Meanwhile, the SWD-subsidised Integrated Family Service Centre assisted in liaising with suitable organisations on the after-death arrangements, which had all been completed.

33. <u>Mr LAU Tin-ching</u> thanked the government departments, especially the frontline officers of the Western Division of HKPF, for their prompt actions. Residents of Smithfield Terrace had different special requests during the fire. For example, the elderly hoped to return home for medicines, while some residents worried that their pets would inhale smoke during the fire. Frontline police officers had actively followed up on residents' requests. He hoped that departments would communicate more closely to respond to residents' needs.

34. <u>Mr LEUNG</u> responded that the police investigation revealed that the deceased was burning charcoal at home for heat at the time of the incident, causing the fire. Right after the fire broke out, the police imposed traffic control on the roads in the vicinity. To communicate information, the police promptly provided the C&WDO with the latest development of the incident via hotline, and stayed closely connected with the Emergency Transport Co-ordination Centre. During this fire, roads were closed for a shorter duration than before with a smooth progress. <u>Mr LEUNG</u> thanked <u>Mr YEUNG Hoi-wing</u>, <u>Mr LAU Tin-ching</u>, and <u>Dr WONG Sin-man, Mandy</u> for promptly arriving at the scene, contacting government departments, sending Care Teams to the scene to comfort residents, and assisting in the dissemination of latest information about the fire. The effort of Members and Care Teams had enabled the police and the FSD to concentrate on their duties and handle the incident more efficiently.

35. <u>Dr WONG Sin-man, Mandy</u> worried that some elderly residents, without social media accounts, could not access fire prevention information. The Smithfield Terrace fire and the Lai Tak Tsuen fire respectively involved burning charcoal at home for heat and igniting micellaneous items accidentally while smoking at home. She suggested disseminating fire prevention information offline to the elderly in the district, for example, with printed infographics and through home visits with Care Teams. Besides, she was concerned over the emotional impact brought to the residents by the fire. She learnt that there were at least one Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness (ICCMW) under the SWD in each service district. She suggested carrying out more preparatory work to inform residents of the access

to emotional support service before any such incident broke out.

36. <u>The Chairman</u> believed that Care Teams might explore how to help promote emotional support service.

37. <u>Ms LAM</u> replied that ICCMWs might offer help to persons with emotional problems induced by incidents. The SWD was happy to collaborate with other governmental organisations in addressing those needs.

38. <u>Mr IP Yik-nam</u> thanked Members and government departments for their collaborative effort in tackling the incident. He suggested setting up an official channel designated for releasing information about emergencies, or setting up an emergency hotline for the elderly who were not familiar with social media to obtain latest information. Furthermore, disasters or incidents in the district would impact the mental wellbeing of casualties, their families and the residents nearby. In case of such unfortunate events, he believed that it would be more effective for government departments and Care Teams to conduct joint operations to take care of the residents in need in the district, to provide them with professional support service, and to disseminate educational information officially.

39. <u>The Chairman</u> thought that the C&WDO might discuss with Care Teams on how to collaborate with each other to provide support. Besides, he agreed that professional support service could not be replaced with Care Teams' support. Hence, it was necessary for government departments, including the SWD, to collaborate with one another to provide the public with enhanced support service.

40. <u>Mr YEUNG Hoi-wing</u> thanked frontline police officers for their hard work during the fire, who relayed the latest development of the incident to Members. Besides, he thanked the C&WDO for opening the Community Hall at High Street as a shelter. Although it was quite far from the incident site, the police had promptly arranged coaches to take residents to the Community Hall. He also suggested, if the situation permitted, opening Kennedy Town Community Complex, which was nearer to the incident site, as a shelter. To promote fire prevention, he said that Care Teams were happy to collaborate with the FSD. On a previous occasion, they collaborated with the police to promote the Road Crossing Code.

41. <u>The Chairman</u> hoped that Members would share their experiences in handling emergencies with Care Teams. As Members did not have any further comment, <u>the Chairman</u> declared closure of this discussion item.

# Item 4: Arrangements for major infrastructure and redevelopment in the Central and Western District in the coming years

(C&WDC Paper No. 12/2024)

(10:36 am to 11:17 am)

42. <u>The Chairman</u> welcomed <u>Mr WONG Wing-kit, Franz</u>, Senior Architect 43, Housing Department (HD), <u>Ms AU Pui-yu, Roberta</u>, Planning Officer 7, HD, <u>Mr POK Kin-man</u>, Housing Manager/Redevelopment 2, HD, and <u>Ms YUN Sin-wah</u>, Senior Manager (Community Development), Urban Renewal Authority (URA) to the meeting. The paper was submitted by all Members with nothing to add. <u>The Chairman</u> invited <u>Ms YUN</u> to give a brief reply.

43. <u>Ms YUN</u> said that the URA would have a forum with the C&WDC on 22 March to set out in detail the urban renewal works conducted by the URA in the C&W District. This meeting mainly covered four ongoing redevelopment projects in the District, namely Queen's Road West/Kwai Heung Street Development Project (C&W-007), Sung Hing Lane/Kwai Heung Street Development Project (C&W-005), Queen's Road West/In Ku Lane Development Scheme (C&W-006), and Peel Street/Graham Street Development Scheme (H18).

44. <u>Ms YUN</u> said that, according to section 26 of the Urban Renewal Authority Ordinance, C&W-007 commenced on 2 December 2022 and was authorised to proceed by the Secretary for Development (SDEV) on 5 September 2023, with target completion by 2031 to 2032. The project would (i) provide about 180 residential units with about 150 square metres of non-domestic gross floor area for government, institution or community (GIC) facilities; (ii) open up the Sung Hing Lane Children's Playground towards Queen's Road West to enhance its connectivity and accessibility; and (iii) together with the adjacent C&W-005, provide a new public open space of about 1 000 square metres in total. Acquisition of the concerned properties was put on hold pending two ongoing appeals.

45. <u>Ms YUN</u> then said that C&W-005 was granted to the developer for redevelopment in September 2022. This project, together with the adjacent open space of C&W-007, would create an open space of about 1 000 square metres in total to provide more recreational facilities for the community.

46. The third project was C&W-006, which was granted to the developer for redevelopment in May 2023, with target completion by 2029. Apart from redevelopment works, the project included revitalising Li Sing Street Playground.

47. The last project was H18, which comprised Site A, Site B and Site C. Construction of Site A was expected to be completed by 2025. The project would provide a public open space and facilities including a multi-purpose activity hall. Construction of Site C was in

progress and expected to be completed by 2025.

48. <u>Mr YIP Wing-shing</u> was concerned over the completion date, usage and management of the multi-purpose activity hall in H18. <u>Mr YEUNG Hok-ming</u> pointed out that the District lacked large open space. He hoped that the URA would allocate more sites for non-governmental organisations and Care Teams to provide more comprehensive service. <u>The Chairman</u> responded that the C&WDO strongly supported Care Teams. Time slots had already been reserved in the community halls in the District for Care Teams' use. <u>Mr LEE Chi-hang, Sidney</u> said that the practical needs of the District should be considered when managing the activity hall. For example, providing meeting venues for incorporated owners and parking spaces. In particular, he suggested the provision of underground parking spaces.

49. <u>Ms JIN Ling</u> said that, as a member of the Working Group on Concern over Development of a Historic Town District and Heritage Conservation under the C&WDC, she hoped to discuss more with the URA on revitalisation and conservation. <u>Dr ZHANG Zong</u> pointed out that the redevelopment projects should include a longer-term plan, mapping them to the overall development of Hong Kong while making better use of the distinctive characteristics of the C&W District. He said that such a long-term redevelopment plan should be made as soon as possible so as to enhance public participation, as well as the involvement of practitioners in providing professional opinions.

50. <u>Dr FUNG Kar-leung</u> highlighted the inadequacy of sports facilities and meeting venues for incorporated owners in the C&W District. With little understanding of the multipurpose activity hall, he hoped that the URA would provide Members with more information so that Members might collect residents' views and understand their needs effectively. <u>The</u> <u>Chairman</u> responded that the C&WDO would be happy to provide incorporated owners with activity rooms and halls for meetings.

51. <u>Mr QIU Song-qing</u> said that there were many old buildings, subdivided units, walkups, and three-nil buildings in the District, but currently the lead time of a redevelopment project was quite long, spanning 6 to 10 years. He hoped that the URA would allocate more resources to expedite the progress. He also suggested that the URA should set a 15- to 20-year target in redeveloping the C&W District.

52. <u>Ms YUN</u> responded that the site area of H18C was 2 685 square metres, whereas that of the activity hall was 1 260 square metres. The URA would provide Members with more information about the community facilities in the forum on 22 March. She also took note of Members' comments, which would be addressed in detail by relevant colleagues on the same occasion. She said that the URA understood that <u>the Chairman</u> and Members had requested that the progress of redevelopment be expedited, and had hoped for more

comprehensive planning of the C&W District.

53. <u>Mr SHIH Jan Noel</u> said that some shops had to be closed for several days to a week in light of H18 works. He suggested that contractors should set out a detailed timetable with works time and location so that the affected shops might know in advance and adjust opening hours accordingly. Besides, he would like to follow up on the ground subsidence incident at Graham Street on 6 May 2023. He hoped that the URA would provide the affected shops with the latest update and offer them follow-up relief, such as compensation proposals.

54. <u>Ms YUN</u> said that the URA would endeavour to minimise the impact of works to the stakeholders in the vicinity. The URA would from time to time join representatives of the contractors to communicate with the affected stakeholders on the spot, and promptly communicate with Members to provide latest information. She thanked C&WDC and members of the Legislative Council again for their assistance in handling the ground subsidence incident. She added that although the incident site was not covered in any of its redevelopment project, the URA had immediately followed up on it and offered assistance. After the incident, the URA also organised a bazaar event to boost businesses at Graham Street, which received acclaims from the shop tenants.

55. <u>Dr WONG Sin-man, Mandy</u> said that residents in the Western District had inquired whether it was possible for the old buildings they were living to be acquired for redevelopment, and how they should prepare for it. She suggested that the URA should provide a 5- to 10-year blueprint for redeveloping the C&W District so that residents might familiarise themselves with the relevant plan and prepare accordingly. Secondly, she pointed out that urban redevelopment progress was rather slow, and inquired whether the URA would adopt Modular Integrated Construction (MiC). If so, she inquired about relevant logistical, spatial and architectural arrangements. Thirdly, she pointed out that there were some retail premises below the domestic flats in C&W-006 and C&W-007. She inquired whether there was any similar arrangement in C&W-005, and envisioned a well-balanced proportion between retail space and open space. Fourthly, given that some areas had been allocated for vehicles to load and unload goods in the residential area of C&W-006, she hoped that the same planning practice might be considered when redeveloping other buildings in the C&W District.

56. <u>Ms YUN</u> said that the URA would draft a corporate plan setting out the proposed programme of projects for the next five years, and a business plan setting out the projects to be implemented in the next financial year. However, she hoped Members would understand that the URA would not publicise the details of a redevelopment project before its gazettal for practical operation and confidentiality.

57. <u>Mr LAW Kam-fai</u> inquired whether all URA redevelopment projects were managed

by the URA or outsourced contractors.

58. <u>Mr LUI Hung-pan</u> said that there were quite many old buildings yet to be acquired for redevelopment in the C&W District, such as those in the vicinity of Kui In Fong or Mui Fong Street. He suggested that the URA or relevant departments should allocate more resources to support the maintenance of these old buildings. He also pointed out that most of the redevelopment projects in the C&W District were rather independent of each other, so he suggested that the URA should develop a holistic planning strategy.

59. <u>Ms YUN</u> said that inquiries of <u>Mr LAW Kam-fai</u> and <u>Mr LUI Hung-pan</u> would be addressed in the forum on 22 March. She added that the URA planned redevelopment projects with a "planning-led" model and an "Integrated Approach" so as to develop an overall development plan more holistically.

60. <u>Mr YEUNG Hoi-wing</u> said that there were four pre-war walk-ups in H18, including the Grade 1 historic building at 120 Wellington Street, also known as Wing Woo Grocery Shop. He inquired whether the URA would strive for the three other pre-war walk-ups to be graded, and how the walk-ups would be conserved.

61. <u>Ms YUN</u> responded that the conservation proposal of Wing Woo Grocery Shop at 120 Wellington Street was approved by the Buildings Department in principle. 26A to 26C Graham Street had been accorded with the status of Grade 3 historic building by the Antiquities and Monuments Office. The respective conservation proposal was pending approval.

62. <u>Mr NG Yin</u> was concerned over the revitalisation projects in the C&W District. He thought it was necessary to consolidate a comprehensive redevelopment plan for the District.

63. <u>Ms YUN</u> said that Members' views would be referred to relevant departments of the URA. More details would be given on the forum on 22 March.

64. <u>The Chairman</u> asked if representatives of the HD had anything to add.

65. <u>Representatives of the HD</u> said that they had nothing to add other than the written reply given to the C&WDC before the meeting.

66. Members had nothing to ask the HD. <u>The Chairman</u> declared closure of this discussion item.

# Item 5: Report on the caring campaign by the ward office of C&WDC member Ms JIN Ling

#### (C&WDC Paper No. 13/2024)

(11:18 am to 11:43 am)

67. The paper was submitted by <u>Ms JIN Ling</u>. <u>The Chairman</u> invited <u>Ms JIN Ling</u> to brief on the paper.

68. <u>Ms JIN Ling</u> reported on Paper No. 13/2024 on the caring campaign. She also said that she had followed up on the public views and suggestions received during the home visits, by (i) writing to government departments to grasp the detailed situation and relaying relevant policies and responses to the public; (ii) conducting site inspections with representatives of owners and departments for reaching a consensus on and a resolution to the matter; and (iii) bridging management companies and government departments for smooth communication. She pointed out that residents of all strata were her service target despite their diverse requests and needs. She envisioned gathering the strengths of residents in the Peak and encouraged them to build the community together.

69. <u>Dr FUNG Kar-leung</u> said that residents in the Mid-levels had reported issues about traffic planning, environmental and ecological conservation, as well as wild animals in the area. He pointed out that the issue of wild pigs remained unresolved despite the joint effort of <u>Mr</u> <u>YOUNG Chit-on, Jeremy</u> and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. He hoped that he could discuss more with Members on the means, information and views in relation to improving the community, and relay the same to relevant departments.

70. <u>Mr YOUNG Chit-on, Jeremy</u> said that, given that Members had set up their ward offices one by one, and that the "Meet the Public Scheme" had been held every week, he believed that the C&WDC might serve the public more effectively.

71. <u>The Chairman</u> said that he encouraged Members to meet the public, and welcomed the idea of inviting members of the public to their ward offices.

72. <u>Dr CHAN Kin-keung, Eugene</u> said that, apart from residents, there were many private offices and shop tenants in the C&W District. His ward office was situated in a commercial building so as to meet and serve different groups of residents.

73. <u>Ms CHIU Wah-kuen</u> said that there were relatively more aged residents in the District, who would need Members to pay home visits. She highlighted that elderly singletons were facing various problems, including medical care issues, the piling up of miscellaneous items at home, and, for those living in walk-ups, their reduced ability to walk downstairs and

go out. She thought that Members should offer support and assistance.

74. <u>Mr SHIH Jan Noel</u> said that there were relatively more old buildings in the C&W District. Some hardship cases found it difficult to live in transitional housing, to leave and to return to their walk-up units, and to access child care service. He also said that Members could better understand the concerns of the community and the residents after paying home visits. He hoped that Members might exchange views with one another on bringing a better environment for residents in the District.

75. <u>Dr FUNG Kar-leung</u> added that, concerning the refuse collection point at the Peak, a GREEN@COMMUNITY recycling store should be set up on MacDonnell Road. He also suggested writing to the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) to request setting up waste separation facilities there.

76. <u>The Chairman</u> said that he would refer Members' views to the EPD, and thanked Members for their effort. He agreed that Members should take care of all residents, and it was very important to explain government policies and obtain residents' views during home visits and meetings with residents. <u>The Chairman</u> then declared closure of this discussion item.

[Post-meeting note: The EPD replied on the suggestions above on 2 May 2024.]

# Item 6: Minutes reports of committees and working groups under the C&WDC (C&WDC Paper No. 14/2024)

(11:43 am)

77. <u>The Chairman</u> asked Members to take note of the paper. As Members did not have any question, <u>the Chairman</u> declared closure of this discussion item.

#### Item 7: Any other business

(11:43 am)

78. <u>The Chairman</u> said that the C&WDO would like to consult the C&WDC on the lighting installation project at the Facade of the Old Mental Hospital, the photo-taking landmark on High Street. <u>The Chairman</u> suggested referring the item to the Working Group on Concern over Development of a Historic Town District and Heritage Conservation for discussion.

79. <u>The Chairman</u> also said that the C&WDO would like to consult the C&WDC on the construction of Cadogan Street Promenade, and suggested referring the item to the Working

Group on Concern over Development of the Central and Western District Harbourfront for discussion.

80. Members did not raise any other item.

### Item 8: Date of the next meeting

(11:45 am)

81. <u>The Chairman</u> said that the next meeting would be held on 9 May 2024. The paper submission deadline for government departments and Members would be 23 April 2024.

| The minutes were | confirmed on 9 May 2024      |
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|                  |                              |
| Chairman:        | Mr LEUNG Chee-kay, David, JP |
|                  |                              |
| Secretary:       | Ms CHEUNG Kwok-ying, Sherry  |
|                  |                              |

Central and Western District Council Secretariat May 2024