

**Minutes of the Sixth Meeting of the  
Seventh Term Central and Western District Council  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**

**Date:** 7 November 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 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 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

**Absent:**

Mr YEUNG Hok-ming, MH

**Item 2**

Mr SHEK King-fai, Felix	Senior Structural Engineer / Hong Kong 3, Buildings Department
Mr TSE Yip-kei, Alvin	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional South) 1, Environmental Protection Department

**Item 3**

Mr LAM Ming-yip	Division Commander (Hong Kong Central), Fire Services Department
Mr HO Ka-lok	Station Commander, Sheung Wan Fire Station, Fire Services Department
Ms YUE Wai-chu, Jessie	Senior Building Surveyor / Fire Safety 3, Buildings Department

**Item 4**

Mr LAU Tak-yin, Philip	Senior District Engineer / Hong Kong Northwest, Highways Department
Ms SZETO Wang-long	Assistant District Engineer / Central, Highways Department
Mr CHAN Kin-fung, Keith	Senior Engineer / Walkability 4, Transport Department
Ms CHAN Fung-ping, Inness	Engineer 9 / Walkability, Transport Department

**Item 5**

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

**In attendance:**

Mr WONG Wai-shun	District Commander (Central District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr LEUNG Lincoln	District Commander (Western District), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms HUNG Yat-la	Police Community Relations Officer (Central 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 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 LIU Yuen-ting, Katherine	Assistant District Officer (Central and Western), Central and Western District Office

### **Secretary**

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

### **Chairman's report**

(10:00 am to 10:01 am)

The Chairman said that the Secretariat had been notified by Mr YEUNG Hok-ming that he could not attend today's meeting of the Central and Western District Council (C&WDC) because he had to attend the study visit organised by the People's Political Consultative Conference in Qingyuan, Guangdong. Based on order 64 of the C&WDC Standing Orders, the Chairman suggested that consent be given by the meeting to Mr YEUNG Hok-ming's application for absence from the meeting. As Members did not have any comments, the Chairman announced that consent was given to his application.

### **Item 1: Confirmation of the minutes of the fifth meeting of the C&WDC held on 5 September 2024**

(10:02 am)

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

## Discussion items

### **Item 2: Concern over the impact of percussive piling in sites in the Central and Western District, and the possibility of enhancing relevant regulations to alleviate public nuisance (C&WDC Paper No. 54/2024)**

(10:02 am to 10:55 am)

3. The Chairman welcomed Mr SHEK King-fai, Felix, Senior Structural Engineer / Hong Kong 3, Buildings Department (BD) and Mr TSE Yip-kei, Alvin, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional South) 1, Environmental Protection Department (EPD) to the meeting. The paper was submitted by Ms JIN Ling, Mr YIP Wing-shing and Mr IP Yik-nam. As Members had nothing to add, the Chairman welcomed questions and discussions on the paper.

4. Ms JIN Ling said that some residents recently complained to her and sought her assistance about percussive piling at the two sites near PMQ, Central. Severely disturbed by the noise, residents were also worried that the works might cause cracks and unidentifiable water seepages in their flats. She suggested exploring ways to optimise the execution of works and raised a number of measures to mitigate nuisance. For instance, adjusting the permitted hours of operation on Saturdays, and setting up a complaints hotline, a consultation channel, and a follow-up mechanism to handle relevant complaints, so as to put residents at ease. She pointed out that before the commencement of works, contractors would provide a public relation (PR) plan and notify residents nearby of the specifics and expected time for completion of the works. She would like to know if the government had any guideline or mechanism to explain delays to residents, with a view to promoting their confidence and understanding. Besides, she suggested that contractors should consider adopting quieter piling methods, such as rotary piling, instead of the traditional percussive one. She said that she had checked with relevant departments on the conditions for adopting new piling methods. As these methods normally required the use of larger equipment, including concrete tankers, its application in the C&W District might face constraints. In light of the increasing awareness of sustainable development, she would like the government to study and assess from this perspective the feasibility of adopting quieter piling methods, so as to mitigate the impact of works on residents.

5. Mr SHEK King-fai, Felix said that the BD, empowered by the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123) (BO), was responsible for controlling buildings and relevant works on private land to ensure building safety, including foundation works. Before the commencement of any foundation works, owners had to appoint an authorised person (AP) for coordination, and a registered structural engineer (RSE) for submitting relevant foundation plan and preventive measures to the BD, such as designating monitoring points, proposing a vibration limit and setting out contingency measures. Assessing the plan and these measures, the BD would

consider the design of the building in the plan, as well as the method and preventive measures of the works. Before the commencement of works, the AP and the RSE had to furnish the BD with the supervision plans and the original record of the monitoring points, so that the BD could assess its impact on surrounding buildings after the works were completed. Furthermore, the contractor would provide a PR plan to notify residents nearby of upcoming piling works, along with the contact information of the AP, the RSE, the registered contractor and relevant workers. Upon receiving complaints, the BD would arrange site inspection and investigation. Residents might also notify the BD via 1823 hotline, or contact relevant personnel with the contact information on the PR plan. As for adopting quieter piling methods, he responded that the RSE and the registered geotechnical engineer (RGE) would exercise their professional judgment in selecting a suitable method based on the geological condition of the site, as well as the design specifications.

6. Mr TSE Yip-kei, Alvin added that, apart from the BD's approval, contractors carrying out percussive piling in Hong Kong had to obtain the Construction Noise Permit (CNP) from the EPD as well. The EPD would then assess and determine the permitted hours of operation. Normally, piling was permitted in urban areas three hours per day from Monday to Saturday, whereas no relevant operation was permitted at any time on Sundays and public holidays. Regarding residents' concerns over the noise created by piling at the Elgin Street and Staunton Street sites, the EPD was communicating with the contractors. The contractors were required to consider residents' suggestions and make suitable arrangements to avoid piling on Saturdays. As for quieter piling methods, such as using large diameter bored piles, he responded that the piling method would normally be determined by registered professionals based on the geological condition of the site and the design specifications of the building. The EPD had recently amended the law to prohibit contractors from using noisier piling equipment in urban and densely populated areas, such as diesel hammers. If contractors adopted quieter, non-percussive piling methods, no CNP was required for operation from 7 am to 7 pm on weekdays. The amendments aimed at encouraging contractors to switch to quieter piling methods and mitigate noise nuisance. He said that contractors had to display the CNP at the site entrance listing the permitted piling schedule. Residents might also check the information on the EPD's website for details of the approved works.

7. Mr SHIH Jan Noel said that quite a number of residents complained to him about piling works, especially concerning building cracks and noise nuisance. To collect views from residents and businesses, he conducted joint signature and street counter campaigns in the District. Although the EPD had restricted piling to between noon and 1 pm, and between 4 pm and 6 pm, it would still affect the business of nearby restaurants during lunch hours, as well as people who worked from home during the afternoon office hours. He raised four questions in total. First, he enquired about the effectiveness of construction noise barriers, and the other measures that the departments required contractors to comply or follow up with. Secondly, he

was concerned whether the BD would follow up with those buildings with cracks. Thirdly, he enquired about the exact time for completion of the piling works conducted at the two sites. Fourthly, he learnt that the Silent Press-in Method, a quieter piling method, would also be used for some works in commercial buildings. He would like to ascertain if the departments would consider cost and circumstantial factors when assessing permit applications and provide contractors with more specific guidelines or regulations.

8. Mr TSE Yip-kei, Alvin also responded in relation to the permitted hours of operation at the Elgin Street and Staunton Street sites. When assessing permit applications, the EPD would consider various factors, including the type and number of piling rigs to be deployed, the distance between the site and nearby residential buildings and schools as well as the school hours. During the course of works, contractors also had to implement effective mitigation measures, such as installing construction noise barriers and piling only within the permitted hours. He said that the contractors had tried to install additional noise screening structures at the piling locations, but in vain due to safety concerns. The EPD was communicating with the contractors, expressing the hope for no piling on Saturdays in an effort to mitigate nuisance. Based on the information given by the contractors and the current progress, it was estimated that works at the two sites could be completed by November 2024 at the earliest. Whether to adopt quieter piling methods would depend on site conditions and the professional judgment of the RSE. Normally, contractors would consider all feasible options.

9. Mr SHEK King-fai, Felix said that the BD sent personnel to the two sites on 1 November and communicated with the RSEs. At the Elgin Street site, around 90% of the piling works had been completed. The contractor had also disseminated leaflets to notify residents of the actual piling schedule. At the Staunton Street site, around 80% of the works had been completed. The remainder was expected to be completed by November at the earliest, with all relevant works to be concluded by the end of this year. As for building cracks, the BD had set in place a mechanism for residents to report relevant cases anytime via the 1823 hotline, which would then be followed up by the BD upon receipt of referrals. He said that the Site Monitoring Section of the BD was closely following up on crack reports concerning the Staunton Street site, and would work with the Existing Buildings Division in handling cases when necessary. Members of the public might seek assistance from loss adjusters or other professionals. Besides, contractors had to take photographs before and during piling to monitor its impact on surrounding buildings. Where necessary, members of the public might also obtain the contact information of relevant personnel from the PR plan for further communication.

10. Dr WONG Sin-man, Mandy raised two questions. First, she expressed concern over the noise of piling, especially its impact on residents during the hours of operation from 7 am to 7 pm. Some residents of the Western District reflected that the noise of piling in the

morning had affected their sleep and they thus had to negotiate with the contractor by themselves. She suggested that contractors should adjust operation hours more flexibly in planning future works. For example, the start time might be postponed to 9 am to mitigate nuisance. Secondly, she shed light on the impact of vibrations resulted from piling, especially on old buildings. While some residents were worried that vibrations would damage the buildings they were residing in, she suggested notifying in advance the management companies or incorporated owners of buildings nearby, and explaining to residents, especially those at Mid-Levels, the impact of vibrations on buildings and their safety, thus preparing them for the works.

11. Mr TSE Yip-kei, Alvin said that, when assessing CNP applications, the EPD would consider the impact of percussive piling on the periphery, especially on residential buildings and schools. Besides, the EPD would avoid permitting piling works to be conducted during the morning hours, so as to minimise nuisance.

12. Mr SHEK King-fai, Felix said that RSEs were required to submit foundation plans, including information about vibration limit before commencing any piling works, so that the BD could assess potential vibrations. Moreover, the BD would also arrange staff to monitor the work progress. As for the two ongoing works in the C&W District, the BD staff had conducted not less than 10 site inspections, measured the vibration levels, and ensured that the vibration levels were within the specified limit.

13. Mr YIP Wing-shing said that although the government had put in place a comprehensive mechanism to monitor piling schedules, Members understood the sentiment of the residents affected. Residents complained that vibrations resulted from the works had caused their air-conditioners to stop working, and even power outage. He thought the departments should step up communication with various parties. While on-site noise screening facilities should be enhanced, contractors should also be encouraged to meet with Members before the commencement of works so that the latter could play a bridging role in helping resolve disputes between residents and contractors.

14. Mr SHEK King-fai, Felix agreed that it was important to step up communication. He added that members of the public were welcomed to contact contractors directly with the information on the PR plan. He believed that contractors were very happy to communicate with the public.

15. Mr TSE Yip-kei, Alvin also agreed to step up communication so that residents nearby might know the piling schedule and impact, and said that the EPD would make every effort to cooperate.

16. Mr YEUNG Hoi-wing thought that communication should be stepped up to let

residents know the progress and impact of piling works. In the meantime, he was worried that prolonged vibrations resulted from piling might crack and even damage nearby buildings. He urged contractors to step up monitoring and communication, minimising potential risks. He stressed that it was possible for minor vibrations to cumulate and cause structural damage to buildings. He suggested that the departments should proactively look into the scope of impact, explore remedial measures, and handle cases more flexibly.

17. Mr SHEK King-fai, Felix said that the public were welcomed to contact contractors with the information provided on the PR plan and express views on the vibrations. He believed that contractors were very happy to be in touch with the public. Members of the public might also seek the BD's assistance via the 1823 hotline.

18. Mr TSE Yip-kei, Alvin said that he had nothing to add.

19. Dr CHAN Kin-keung, Eugene enquired about the follow-up procedures after the BD and the EPD received public complaints, and relevant existing measures. Advocating for the effective communication between the government and the people, he suggested that contractors should actively provide information, or disseminate flyers, so that the public might further understand the works and Members might then explain relevant measures to residents effectively. He believed that contractors could provide more information for the sake of better communication.

20. Mr TSE Yip-kei, Alvin said that in the past two years, the EPD had received 55 complaints about piling noise from sites in the C&W District, most of which concerned the Staunton Street and Elgin Street sites. While keeping a watch on the situation, the EPD carried out monitoring actions, such as stepping up site inspections to ensure compliance with permit requirements. The EPD had communicated with the contractors several times and encouraged them to adopt other feasible measures to mitigate noise nuisance. Besides, the EPD would follow up with Members on the suggestion of disseminating a flyer to promote public understanding of the statutory requirements and existing measures, in an effort to promote transparency and effective communication.

21. Mr SHEK King-fai, Felix said that in the past two years, there were around 39 reports about percussive piling at sites in the C&W District, which involved complaints about the two sites. Members and the public were welcomed to express views on the information to be included on the flyer. The BD would incorporate the views in producing the flyer, and consider disseminating the flyer and relevant information to individuals and organisations in the District that were in need, ensuring effective communication and smooth coordination.



22. Dr FUNG Kar-leung said that, for example, the noise from live bands in bars at Mid-Levels would affect the residents upstairs. He then suggested that a wider area should be assessed when measuring site noise. He urged relevant departments and contractors to examine the impact of works on the periphery and on residents in a more careful manner, so as to mitigate the negative impacts, including noise nuisance and street obstruction.

23. Concerning noise control of bars and business establishments, Mr TSE Yip-kei, Alvin said that the EPD had to conduct site inspection to ascertain if the establishment had failed to comply with relevant regulations. Besides, a CNP application had to be made to the EPD first in order for a site to be permitted to conduct percussive piling, or to conduct general construction works on public holidays or during the evening hours. Relevant works must only be conducted within the permitted hours specified in the CNP. As for other environmental issues arising from the works, the EPD would continue to communicate with contractors, in an effort to implement effective mitigation measures to alleviate its impact on residents as much as possible.

24. Mr SHEK King-fai, Felix and representatives from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department responded to the Chairman that they had nothing to add.

25. Mr IP Yik-nam stressed the need to strike a balance between urban development and its impact on residents. Before the commencement of works, sites close to residential areas should assess risks, and should communicate and coordinate with stakeholders. He also suggested using new technology to monitor noise levels and vibrations, as well as to enhance the mechanism of communication.

26. Mr SHEK King-fai, Felix said that, when assessing architectural drawings, the BD would pay special attention to the impact of vibrations resulted from the works on noise sensitive receivers such as hospitals, monuments and historic buildings. In the meantime, the BD would also take into account the actual condition of the site and the surrounding buildings.

27. Mr TSE Yip-kei, Alvin said that, when assessing CNP applications involving percussive piling, the EPD would be mindful of nearby buildings that were more sensitive to noise, such as residential buildings, schools and hospitals, and avoid permitting piling works to be carried out during the morning hours.

28. Mr NG Yin said that residents unanimously reflected that noise nuisance was serious in the C&W District. Learning that vibrations resulted from piling might crack nearby buildings, he suggested that the departments should actively follow up on the situation. He also expressed concern over the impact of permitting works to be carried out at multiple sites concurrently, ranging from noise, fine dust, to the potential impact of the resonant effect on land

and building structure. He would like the EPD to consider various factors when assessing CNP applications, in an effort to mitigate its impact.

29. Mr SHEK King-fai, Felix said that the public was welcomed to contact contractors directly with the information provided on the PR plan, expressing views on vibrations resulted from piling. Contractors would take photographs before, during and after carrying out the works. If necessary, members of the public might also consult loss adjusters, professionals or lawyers for advice on claiming damages. While having no power under the BO to dictate the sequence of works, the BD would nonetheless take into account the number of piles to be built and the distance between the site and nearby buildings when assessing proposed works, in an effort to mitigate its impact.

30. Mr TSE Yip-kei, Alvin said that the Elgin Street site and the Staunton Street site were relatively close to one another. When approving the CNPs of the two sites, the EPD had endeavoured to synchronise their piling schedules, in order to minimise the time residents were affected by the noise. In general, percussive piling works in urban areas would not be permitted to last more than three hours a day.

31. As Members did not have any further comment, the Chairman declared closure of this discussion item and thanked representatives from various departments for attending the meeting.

### **Item 3: Concern over fire safety in the Central and Western District**

**(C&WDC Paper No. 52/2024)**

(10:55 am to 11:38 am)

32. The Chairman welcomed Mr LAM Ming-yip, Division Commander (Hong Kong Central), Fire Services Department (FSD), Mr HO Ka-lok, Station Commander, Sheung Wan Fire Station, FSD and Ms YUE Wai-chu, Jessie, Senior Building Surveyor / Fire Safety 3, BD to the meeting. The paper was submitted by Mr YEUNG Hok-ming, Mr IP Yik-nam, Mr YEUNG Hoi-wing, Mr SHIH Jan Noel, Ms CHEUNG Ka-yan and Mr LAU Tin-ching. As Members had nothing to add, the Chairman welcomed questions and discussions on the paper.

33. Mr LAU Tin-ching was satisfied with the number of inspections conducted by the FSD on buildings in the C&W District over the past two years or so. While agreeing that these inspections had been effective in ensuring residents' safety, he also pointed out that fire often broke out in the District in the past. For example, the fire in the subdivided flats on Second Street. He learnt that it was quite difficult for people residing in some buildings and old buildings, especially "three-nil" buildings, to escape from fire. Knowing that the FSD had

been distributing the “three treasures for fire protection” (fire extinguishers, fire blankets and stand-alone fire detectors) to residents of the District over the past three years, he reflected that quite some people residing in walk-ups would like to receive the equipment as well. In terms of the volume and means of distribution, he would like to know more about the FSD’s distribution programme. Besides, he looked forward to the relaunch of the Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme by the Urban Renewal Authority (URA), with a view to helping a considerable number of old buildings in the District commence relevant works as soon as possible.

[Post-meeting note: The Secretariat emailed the URA’s supplementary reply to Members on 10 December 2024.]

34. Mr LAM Ming-yip thanked Mr LAU Tin-ching for recognising the FSD’s work. He pointed out the FSD had been distributing the “three treasures for fire protection” to residents of the C&W District by various means since September 2021. Starting from early 2024, the FSD had been giving out at least 30 sets of the “three treasures” each month. Besides, he learnt that some district organisations and groups had also purchased at their own expenses different types of stand-alone fire detectors for distribution to “three-nil” buildings or buildings with inferior fire equipment so that more residents might take action and escape promptly in case of fire.

35. Mr QIU Song-qing pointed out that the facilities in many “three-nil” buildings, including staircases and smoke stop doors, failed to meet fire safety requirements. As the residents of these buildings were mostly elderly, he considered it necessary to step up inspection and fire prevention education for them. He also suggested strengthening cooperation among Care Teams, the District Fire Safety Committee (DFSC) and the FSD on publicity, in an effort to promote public awareness of fire safety.

36. Mr LAM Ming-yip responded that the FSD had established initiatives for promoting residents’ awareness of fire prevention. For example, taking photographs and footage of the building concerned on the day following the fire, and producing a fire prevention video clip on the believed cause of fire. The video clip would then be distributed by means of a QR code to other members of the neighbourhood. He said that, while it was not easy to have a good grasp of the living condition of the elderly in some buildings, the FSD would plan to conduct more frequent inspections in some old, or “three-nil” buildings. Besides, the FSD would like to seek assistance from Care Teams and the DFSC in grasping the living condition of the elderly in the District, so that relevant initiatives including talks and drills might be organised in a timely manner. He remarked that it was one of the FSD’s key directions to educate the next generation to pay more attention to enhancing the fire safety awareness of elderly singletons.

37. Dr WONG Sin-man, Mandy would like the FSD to provide statistics on home visits, inspections and distribution of fire prevention equipment. She then suggested cooperating with Members and relevant teams in carrying out more of these initiatives in the community so as to understand and meet residents' needs more comprehensively. Furthermore, she expressed concern over the dilapidation of fire prevention facilities in buildings in the District, and suggested deploying emergency fire prevention equipment to meet urgent needs. She also reflected that residents were worried about the safety of fire service water tanks on the roof. She would like the FSD to provide relevant assistance and regulate the retrofitting of fire prevention facilities subject to the overall safety of buildings.

38. Mr LAM Ming-yip responded that the FSD's latest home visit programme was launched on a trial basis in Shun Lee Estate, Kowloon. If successful, the programme would be implemented in other communities. Besides, the FSD would work with district organisations to pay home visits and distribute the "three treasures for fire protection" during weekends. He pointed out that the FSD had organised a total of 71 fire drills and talks for buildings in the C&W District from November 2023 to the end of June 2024. He also said that the required capacity of fire service water tanks in buildings had already been reduced from 9 000 litres to 1 500 litres. In the meantime, the FSD would provide eligible buildings with a fire hydrant system operating on direct water supply from government mains. Furthermore, information about quality Registered Fire Service Installation Contractors was also available on the FSD's website to facilitate the public in choosing reliable contractors.

39. Mr IP Yik-nam suggested regularising the Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme. He pointed out that there were many high-rise buildings that had been overwhelmed by a large number of fire safety compliance orders in the C&W District. Despite the high demand for improving fire prevention facilities in the District, launching the scheme irregularly would have impact on the time for owners to handle the compliance orders and the stability of the works business, as well as the cost and quality of works. Besides, he recognised the FSD's efforts in providing residents with fire prevention equipment and education. He suggested stepping up cooperation with district organisations, especially making good use of Care Teams in distributing low-cost yet effective equipment, such as smoke detectors. He stressed that injuries and fatalities in an incident were usually caused by the smoke rather than the fire, so stronger preventive measures should be in place. Lastly, he suggested paying home visits regularly to share with residents how to tackle emergencies and use escape equipment, with a view to promoting residents' self-help ability and minimising the risk of injuries and fatalities.

40. The Chairman said that he would relay Mr IP Yik-nam's views to the URA, and strongly supported Care Teams and the FSD to step up cooperation.

[Post-meeting note: The Secretariat sent the supplementary reply from the URA to Members on

10 December 2024.]

41. Mr LAM Ming-yip said that the FSD was very happy to work with Care Teams, and had previously distributed stand-alone fire detectors through activities of Care Teams, which was effective. Care Teams had a better grasp of the demography and age distribution of the District, and might also provide on-site assistance and comfort to residents in emergencies. The FSD was always ready to assist in organising activities promoting fire safety, such as talks and fire drills. In the meantime, the FSD recognised the importance of following up on emergencies. In particular, the FSD and Care Teams might step up cooperation in tackling large-scale incidents.

42. Mr LEE Chi-hang pointed out that as the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572) (FS(B)O) started requiring buildings to retrofit fire prevention facilities in 2008, many residents of walk-ups had sought his assistance. With only six or 12 households residing, some buildings were still required to retrofit fire prevention facilities and water tank on the roof. As estimated by professionals such as architects, relevant works would cost as high as \$200,000 to \$300,000. It was difficult and worrying for residents to do so. It was also extremely difficult for them to comply with the statutory requirements or to bear the cost. They had nothing to do but delay the works, or simply hope that their buildings could be demolished. He would like the FSD to pay attention to these special cases and exercise its discretion to consider lowering the statutory requirements, so long as safety was ensured.

43. Mr LAM Ming-yip said that the FS(B)O had been in effect for 15 to 16 years and the FSD had been keeping an eye on residents' progress and difficulties of complying with the statutory requirements. For instance, works retrofitting a water tank on the roof might be subject to ownership issues. The FSD would exercise its discretion in handling these cases on a case-by-case basis. Requirements initially set out in the FS(B)O might be adjusted over time, permitting buildings to enhance fire safety according to lower standards. The latest, lowered standards would have the same legal effect as those in the FS(B)O. In other words, this measure would put residents at ease as Fire Safety Directions previously issued might now be complied with according to the latest, lowered standards. For old buildings with a small number of occupants or with owners vacated or no longer in Hong Kong, the FSD via the Security Bureau was exploring to amend the FS(B)O in the Legislative Council (LegCo), in an effort to provide more leeway in complying with the statutory requirements. For example, permitting the FSD to carry out works for residents first and charge them for the works afterwards. While acknowledging the difficulty and pressure for the public to arrange improvement works by themselves, Mr LAM Ming-yip stressed that the underlying objective of the FS(B)O was to provide buildings with better protection and provide for the retrofitting of necessary fire safety equipment so that residents would be able to respond to fire promptly. In fact, many serious fires started with small fires. But if basic fire prevention facilities were

lacking, fire could not be put out despite residents being capable of doing so.

44. Ms JIN Ling said that it was evident from the replies that various departments had placed great importance on fire safety publicity and education. The C&W District had been home to relatively more expatriates residing in walk-ups or older buildings. Thus, she would like to know if the FSD or the BD had any publicity and education initiatives for the expatriates. Besides, she hoped that Members or Care Teams could join the FSD's regular fire safety home visits in the future and have a better grasp of fire safety knowledge. As a result, Members would be able to help the elderly prevent fire and eliminate risks. When running street counters, paying home visits and promoting campaigns, Members would also be equipped with relevant knowledge and be able to share fire safety information with the community.

45. Regarding publicity and promotion for expatriates, Mr LAM Ming-yip said that the FSD would provide fire prevention talks in multiple languages. Besides, fire safety pamphlets in multiple languages were available on the FSD's website, encompassing measures to be taken in case of fire, safety guidelines for fire prevention at home and in different types of premises, alongside other relevant information. The website was available in both Chinese and English, and some information was available in ethnic minority languages as well. Through various district organisations, the FSD had organised several fire prevention talks and training sessions for expatriates like foreign domestic helpers or ethnic minorities. Mr LAM Ming-yip said that station commanders would continue to liaise with the people in charge of Care Teams of the sub-districts concerned, in an effort to step up cooperation in promoting fire prevention awareness.

46. The Chairman added that the Home Affairs Department had set up Ethnic Minority Care Teams as well. Where necessary, their assistance might be sought.

47. Ms CHEUNG Ka-yan said that many buildings she had been in touch with would like to comply with the Fire Safety Directions received. Unfortunately, they had to overcome various difficulties in the process. Relevant improvement works could thus not be carried out as scheduled. She would like to know if the FSD would approach these buildings to see if they needed assistance. Besides, considering that some incorporated owners did not know where to retrofit the water tank, she suggested that the FSD should provide more guidelines informing them of various possible methods. She also said that some buildings, to which fire appliances had no direct access, were required to retrofit a water tank of 4 500 litres. Given the difficulty in retrofitting such a tank, no reasonable solution could be worked out. She would like the FSD to provide them with new methods. Last but not least, she would like to know if there was any way to request the "three treasures for fire protection" from the FSD directly.

48. Mr LAM Ming-yip responded that the FSD understood that many residents would like to comply with the Fire Safety Directions, but were unable to do so due to various reasons. The FSD had also received referrals from some Members requesting an extension of the time for compliance. These requests had been further referred to the Building Improvement Divisions of the FSD. Mr LAM Ming-yip pointed out that each Fire Safety Direction issued would be individually assigned to an officer. Should there be difficulties, residents might contact the officer-in-charge by using the information provided in the annex to the Fire Safety Direction. Moreover, residents might choose to enquire face-to-face at the Building Improvement Support Centre in Tai Kok Tsui. Experienced firemen and senior firemen were there to explain the Fire Safety Directions and provide possible ways of compliance. For buildings that were required to retrofit a water tank of 4 500 litres due to the impossibility of direct access by fire appliances, the FSD might arrange specific assessment. For buildings failing to meet the standards and with specific risks, the FSD would work out emergency plans to tackle potential fires, including deploying more fire appliances and pumps to the scene to ensure sufficient water supply at the early stage of the incident, so that fire could be put out effectively. Regarding the distribution of the “three treasures for fire protection,” Mr LAM Ming-yip suggested that Ms CHEUNG Ka-yan might contact the FSD to ascertain if a specific building in need was eligible for receiving the “three treasures.” If so, the FSD was happy to assist. If that building fell outside the ambit of the programme, Care Teams or district organisations might still organise similar distribution campaigns in which the FSD could take part. Lastly, the FSD noticed that the public tended to feel more comforted when fire appliances and firemen wearing uniforms were present at distribution campaigns. Hence, the FSD would be very happy to join these campaigns, with a view to promoting fire prevention awareness and safety.

49. Dr CHAN Kin-keung, Eugene pointed out that Care Teams was one of the important highlights for enhancing district governance in the current term of government. He would like to know how Care Teams might help and maximise their impact in case of fire.

50. Mr LAM Ming-yip said that a fire could not be compared with one another given its specific circumstances. But he believed that Care Teams were always welcomed to assist on-site so long as fire-fighting and emergency rescue work would not be affected. In a previous fire, Mr QIU Song-qing and two Care Team members promptly arrived at the scene, putting residents at ease. Mr LAM Ming-yip added that Care Teams might, upon arriving at the scene, contact police officers there or go to the assembly point directly to assist the residents.

51. The Chairman added that he hoped, in case of fire or other disasters, Members and Care Teams could arrive at the scene as soon as possible and provide assistance, such as comforting residents, disseminating information and distributing resources, without hindering the rescue work.

52. As Members did not have any further comment, the Chairman declared closure of this discussion item and thanked representatives from government departments for attending the meeting.

**Item 4: Request for reconsidering the construction of hillside escalator systems at suitable locations in the Central and Western District to facilitate the access of residents and the elderly amid the ageing of the district's population, and to attract more visitors to landmarks and monuments in the vicinity of Mid-levels West, Sai Ying Pun and Sai Wan with a view to boosting the district's tourism and economy**

**(C&WDC Paper No. 55/2024)**

(11:38 am to 12:19 pm)

53. Mr Chairman welcomed Mr LAU Tak-yin, Philip, Senior District Engineer / Hong Kong Northwest, Highways Department (HyD), Ms SZETO Wang-long, Assistant District Engineer / Central, HyD, Mr CHAN Kin-fung, Keith, Senior Engineer / Walkability 4, Transport Department (TD) and Ms CHAN Fung-ping, Inness, Engineer 9 / Walkability, TD to the meeting. The paper was submitted by all Members. As Members had nothing to add, the Chairman welcomed questions and discussions on the paper.

54. Mr YIP Wing-shing said that the capacity of escalators operating in the C&W District were gradually unable to keep up with the ageing population and the need to develop in-depth travel. Given that this District was developed on a hillside, many elderly people had difficulties in travelling across the steep roads in the District. This had also deterred tourists from having in-depth travel at Mid-Levels, thus reducing their spending in the district. He would like the government to reconsider the C&WDC's proposal to increase the number of escalators in the District and work out a clearer plan on relevant access points.

55. Mr CHAN Kin-fung, Keith responded that he understood that it was rather difficult for the elderly to walk uphill in the District. The TD had been considering implementing the proposal through the Hillside Escalator Links and Elevator Systems (HEL). Out of all proposals received, the TD had shortlisted 11 HEL proposals with evident benefits according to the current assessment mechanism, after initial screening, detailed assessment and prioritisation. He said that the government would continue to look into how public resources could be utilised more effectively and how effective the money was spent for the works. In the light of the latest development in terms of, for example, its policies and financial position, the government would continue to assess the priority and urgency of projects to make suitable progress. Members might submit HEL proposals to the TD. Depending on factors such as the progress of selected projects and the allocation of available resources, the government would



then follow up on Members' proposals in due course according to the assessment mechanism.

56. Mr YOUNG Chit-on, Jeremy expressed his staunch support for raising this discussion item. Considering the ageing local population, he thought that there was a need to encourage the public to go out for activities since the cost for the elderly to do so had been reduced by government policies. Constructing footbridges and escalators would facilitate residents to travel uphill and downhill, stimulating the flow of people in the District. In the meantime, it would reduce the reliance on public transport, alleviating traffic congestion. He thought that it was the time for the government to put forward bold plans.

57. Mr CHAN Kin-fung, Keith responded that the government welcomed HEL proposals from Members. Depending on factors such as the progress of previously selected projects and the allocation of available resources, the TD would in due course follow up on and assess proposals and other suggestions that had not been selected, including the new ones, according to the assessment mechanism. Besides, the TD would further communicate with Members to explore simple or short-term measures to facilitate public access.

58. Mr LEE Chi-hang, Sidney pointed out that there had been no progress on stage 2 of the Construction of Centre Street escalator link after its stage 1 was approved by the LegCo in 2009. He would like to know if the government was planning for stage 2, extending the escalator to roads including Third Street, Queen's Road West, Bonham Road and Robinson Road, among others. He said that there had been quite some complaints about the daily operation and cleanliness of the three existing HELs in the District. He would like the TD and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) to pay more attention to these issues, in an effort to minimise the inconvenience brought to public use.

59. Mr CHAN Kin-fung, Keith responded that, for the time being, the TD had no record of stage 2 of the Construction of Centre Street escalator link. He said that there were several HEL projects waiting to be processed. Depending on factors such as the progress of these projects and the allocation of available resources, the TD would follow up on and assess proposals and other suggestions that had not been selected in due course according to the assessment mechanism. He added that, while the EMSD staff cleaned the escalators regularly, he would relay Mr LEE Chi-hang, Sidney's view to the department.

60. Mr YEUNG Hoi-wing pointed out that, alongside the three existing HELs in the District, the fourth HEL project connecting Pokfield Road and Pok Fu Lam Road was commenced in 2012 and prioritised in 2022. Nevertheless, the project was currently still at the design phase. He would like the TD to provide a timetable for the progress of this project, in an effort to complete the HEL early.

61. Mr CHAN Kin-fung, Keith responded that the Pokfield Road HEL project was still in the stage of preliminary study. The government would continue to assess how public resources could be utilised more effectively and how effective the money was spent for the works. In the light of the latest development in terms of, for example, its policies and financial position, the government would continue to gauge the priority and urgency of projects to make suitable progress.

62. Ms JIN Ling thought that the construction of HEL was a large-scale project. Its budget and relevant matters should not be handled lightly. But she also hoped that the government would pay more attention to the demands for HEL in the District. She would like to know the mechanism for assessing HEL proposals, especially the basic criteria for screening and scoring. She enquired if the TD would take into account other assessment criteria including the proportion of elderly population in the District and the accessibility of tourist attractions.

63. Mr CHAN Kin-fung, Keith said that, according to the revised assessment mechanism, a HEL proposal had to pass initial screening first, screening out those obviously infeasible or unjustified for implementation (e.g. where similar facility had been provided or committed within 300 metres of the proposed HEL or there was inadequate land for construction). Proposals passing the initial screening would then be scored from the aspects of “Social Benefits” and “Cost-effectiveness” independently. In terms of “Social Benefits,” the main considerations were number of beneficiaries and target (e.g. expected daily pedestrian flow of the proposed HEL, and the proportion of 65 year-old or above population), implementation readiness as well as convenience (e.g. whether the proposed HEL would connect with existing major public transport facilities or those that were to be implemented). In terms of “Cost-effectiveness,” the TD would evaluate the estimated project cost per user (i.e. the estimated project cost divided by the estimated number of users). Last, the TD would prioritise HEL proposals according to the scores in these two aspects.

64. Dr FUNG Kar-leung thought that the HELs were becoming more and more important to residents of the C&W District, especially the elderly. He would like the departments to conduct an in-depth study and gauge the number of 65 year-old or above who used escalators every day through questionnaire survey or expert investigation. He hoped that more tourists would use the HELs to visit various tourist attractions in the Mid-Levels and Mid-Levels West. Besides, he said that many Members including himself would like to promote green construction. By making reference to Singapore’s practice, for example, more green potted plants might be placed and solar photovoltaic (PV) facilities might be installed near or on the cover of the HELs, in an effort to save energy and expand green area. In the light of the ageing population, he pointed out that the government should consider installing assistive provisions for wheelchair users and extra handrails along the HELs, with a view to enhancing

user's safety.

65. Mr LAU Tak-yin, Philip said that the TD had advised on the traffic and transport issues in the District. The HyD would continue to work closely with the TD. After the TD confirmed the location of the proposed HEL, both departments would work together to implement the proposal, during which the HyD would advise from the perspective of works. He pointed out that a HEL footbridge must be at least 5 metres wide, in which the pedestrian walkway must be 1.5 metres wide, so as to facilitate the use by both wheelchair users and pedestrians. The bridge body must be about 750 millimetres thick on each side, with a one-metre space reserved on each side for maintenance works, including repairing the cover, clearing outfalls and repairing spalled concrete. Nevertheless, there were only a few locations in the District that were suitable for constructing a 5-metre-wide HEL footbridge and were not too close to residential areas. Besides, constructing a HEL would involve foundation works. If mini-piles were used, additional support was necessary to minimise vibrations or prevent collapse of adjacent buildings. While large-scale machines might mitigate vibrations, it was difficult to transport these machines, or other large-scale prefabricated structure, on the narrow roads in the District. Filled with pipes and drains of the Drainage Services Department and the Water Supplies Department, the ground at Mid-Levels might not be suitable for constructing foundations. Moreover, it might take more than five years to relocate the pipework. Therefore, the HyD would, in drawing up the HEL project plan, take time to assess the feasibility of a project, by weighting up various options and their pitfalls. The assessment result would be submitted to the TD, which would then collect views from various parties for discussion.

66. Mr CHAN Kin-fung, Keith added that the TD would appoint a consultant to compile pedestrian flow statistics for assessing HEL proposals. It was difficult to ascertain if a pedestrian was a visitor, or a resident aged 65 or above. Therefore, the proportion of 65 year-old or above population recorded in census in the beneficial catchment as suggested in the HEL proposal would be used as the basis for estimating the number of elderly people to be benefitted by the proposed HEL upon completion.

67. Mr LAU Tin-ching said that constructing a new HEL would not only bring convenience to residents of the Western District, but it would also help divert tourists to other nearby destinations. He pointed out that, upon easing of travel restrictions, there had been a surge in the number of tourists visiting the Western District. Many of these tourists gathered at Forbes Street and New Praya, Kennedy Town, affecting nearby residents. Therefore, he hoped for more destinations in the Western District to attract and divert tourists, and to prevent overcrowding at one location. He said that the HEL at Sands Street was still not connected to Ching Lin Terrace, so he would like the departments to explore carrying out relevant works there and at the nearby tourist attractions, with a view to promoting the accessibility of those

attractions, facilitating the access of tourists and residents, and diverting the flow of tourists.

68. Mr CHAN Kin-fung, Keith responded that, when drawing up the preliminary alignment of an HEL, the TD had to take into account various factors including technical feasibility. He said that the alignment should primarily serve residents and bring convenience to their travel. The TD would draw up a preliminary alignment for the selected projects according to the pre-determined assessment mechanism, and would consult DC's views accordingly. The TD was happy to discuss with Members the preliminary alignment and its connectivity with nearby attractions.

69. Mr SHIH Jan Noel said that he had suggested the TD provide a new green minibus route between Sheung Wan and Mid-Levels. The proposed route could not be launched eventually for the lack of tenders from minibus operators. At the moment, the public still had to travel between the two locations on foot. Based on the department's reply, the public might access Bonham Road via Sai Ying Pun MTR station or the Central to Mid-Levels Escalator and Walkway System. Nonetheless, it was difficult to construct another HEL in the District in the short run, considering relevant challenges, budget and topographical constraints. He suggested that signage in the District could indicate other routes accessing Mid-Levels within 300 metres for residents and tourists. He also suggested communicating with the developers of common map software to suggest more convenient routes on the map. He mentioned that, for example, although visiting Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum or Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences via Sai Ying Pun MTR Station and the Central to Mid-Levels Escalator and Walkway System was not the nearest route, it was more convenient. He believed that stepping up publicity in this regard would help boost local economy.

70. As for signage, Mr CHAN Kin-fung, Keith responded that the TD had already set up signage at the Central to Mid-Levels Escalator and Walkway System to direct pedestrians to landmarks or tourist attractions nearby. Staff of relevant regional offices would follow up with Mr SHIH Jan Noel on the suggestion. Besides, the TD had set up wayfinding signage in suitable locations in the Central District, for example, near MTR station exits. With a map indicating the locations of escalators and nearby tourist attractions, the wayfinding signage helped pedestrians and tourists better plan their journey.

71. Mr LAW Kam-fai thanked the HyD representatives for their explanation on the feasibility of constructing a HEL. He enquired about the locations in the C&W District which the HyD considered eligible for this purpose. He learnt that organisations in the District would study and propose the construction of a HEL at different locations every year. It would help avoid wastage of resources if the HyD might first shortlist feasible locations so that Members might then consult residents to ascertain the actual need. He reiterated that Members would like to push forward the construction of a HEL, with a view to alleviating traffic problems at

Mid-Levels and Mid-Levels West.

72. Mr LAU Tak-yin, Philip said that, to put it simply, it would be more feasible to construct a HEL on a road of 10 metres wide. However, it would be more difficult and time-consuming to carry out works on roads with underground facilities, such as drains, high voltage cables and the backbone cables of telecommunication companies. Since these unseen factors would impede the project, he suggested Members should first outline a catchment, and reduce its scope gradually for detailed assessment. Besides, he responded that the HyD had in the past few years installed PV panels on the cover of some footbridges on a trial basis. But he thought that it was not quite possible to do so in the C&W District. Even if panels were to be installed, since ample sunlight was required, only locations such as The Landmark in Central would be considered. Given the narrow roads in the District, it was expected that direct sunlight could only reach the panels from 11 am to 2 pm. Therefore, it was not quite cost-effective to install PV panels in the District to generate electricity for just two to three hours a day, having regard to its power generation capacity and maintenance cost.

73. As Members did not have any further comment, the Chairman declared closure of this discussion item and thanked representatives from the departments for attending the meeting.

**Item 5: Developing coastal economy at the Western Wholesale Food Market Section of the Central and Western District Promenade**

**(C&WDC Paper No. 53/2024)**

(12:20 pm to 12:36 pm)

74. The Chairman welcomed Ms LEE Suk-han, Chief Leisure Manager (Hong Kong West), Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and Ms LO Man-nin, Patty, District Leisure Manager (C&W), LCSD to the meeting. The Chairman added that the Development Bureau (DEVB) and the Marine Department, despite sending no representatives to the meeting, had provided written replies. He asked Members to take note of these replies. The paper was submitted by Mr YEUNG Hok-ming, Mr YEUNG Hoi-wing, Mr IP Yik-nam, Mr LAU Tin-ching, Mr SHIH Jan Noel and Ms CHEUNG Ka-yan. As Members had nothing to add, the Chairman welcomed questions and discussions on the paper.

75. Mr IP Yik-nam said that the four vacant piers next to the Western Wholesale Food Market Section of the C&W District Promenade could be converted and revitalised for residents to organise various activities, such as film screening and street performance. Neither used for other purposes nor occupied by vessels, the waters between the four piers had diverse usage. To enhance safety, he thought that structure similar to breakwaters might be constructed in the area to calm the sea surface so that water sports, such as paddle-driven boats and rowing, might

be carried out. A floating stage might also be set up for performance. Coupled with decorative lighting, the area might then be developed into a new landmark that would attract residents and tourists, thus stimulating economic activities at the vicinity. He would like the departments to seriously consider how to make good use of the area to boost economy in the long run.

76. Ms LO Man-nin, Patty said that the Western Wholesale Food Market Section of the C&W District Promenade was currently managed by the LCSD. The section had various facilities including elderly fitness corner, children's playground, multi-functional activity space, lawn, angling area, light refreshment kiosks and toilets. The LCSD took note of Mr IP Yik-nam's views. On the other hand, the LCSD understood that the open waters opposite the Promenade were the major waterway for vessels to enter and leave Victoria Harbour, including ocean-going vessels, river trade vessels, local tug and tows of dumb steel lighters, launches, ferries and high speed passenger ferries. In particular, the passage of high speed vessels would push waves towards the seawall, posing a danger to people having water sports at the waterfront. Considering public safety, it was not suitable to carry out recreational and leisure activities in waters with rapid current and heavy traffic.

77. Mr LUI Hung-pan said that the C&W District Promenade was well-received by residents and thought that relevant departments should make good use of it for diverse development. He also pointed out that the open space at Eastern Street North, Sai Ying Pun was under construction and a new park would be completed in the future. The departments should make better use of the adjacent Western Wholesale Food Market Section of the Promenade to attract tourists to take photographs there. Concurring with representatives from the LCSD, he added that he had witnessed a hovercraft striking against the waterfront nearby. Besides, the sea surface in the area tended to be rough during gusty weather. He would like the departments to study how to make good use of the harbourfront while ensuring public safety.

78. Ms LO Man-nin, Patty responded that the LCSD took note of Mr LUI Hung-pan's views. She clarified that marine matters fell outside the LCSD's purview. The situation had to be examined by relevant departments.

79. Mr YEUNG Hoi-wing pointed out that the revitalisation of the four vacant piers was a project under the C&W District Signature Project Scheme. With a wide range of facilities, it was well-received by both children and adults. He suggested stepping up maintenance work to minimise the time required for repairing damaged facilities. He added that when the piers were being revitalised, many stakeholders had been consulted. As a result, they were generally satisfied with the facilities there. Mr YEUNG Hoi-wing suggested that the LCSD should start consulting Members on revamping existing facilities, and reflected that many non-governmental organisations had expressed interest in taking part in revamping old parks. He

suggested that the LCSD should make reference to the example of Wan Chai and incorporate water-friendly elements in the Western Wholesale Food Market Section. For example, providing water-friendly facilities in those relatively calm waters between the piers.

80. Ms LO Man-nin, Patty responded that the LCSD took note of Mr YEUNG Hoi-wing's views. She pointed out that the department had included the Western Wholesale Food Market Section into the Transformation of Public Play Spaces. In the past few months, the department had engaged a professional consultant and arranged trial sessions for the public to experience the venue, in an effort to collect public views and to create a more innovative, fascinating and challenging activity space for the public. The consultant was now consolidating public views and had come up with a preliminary design, hoping to further consult the C&WDC and its committees next year.

81. Mr WU Man-hin said that Members and residents had been quite concerned about harbourfront development. He observed that a lot of relevant work conducted since the current term of the DC had been quite effective. Besides, the DEVB's proposal to amend the Protection of the Harbour Ordinance would in fact inject flexibility into harbourfront development. He suggested converting some harbourfront areas into new sports venues, allowing residents to experience the harbourfront and promoting a water-friendly culture. The first phase was to enhance harbourfront accessibility, which had been completed in a satisfactory manner. The second phase was to enhance the socioeconomic benefits of the harbourfront so that the public could enjoy a more vibrant and innovative harbourfront. Making reference to Jinshan District, Shanghai and Tokyo Waterfront City, he suggested deploying a small piece of land to add value to the harbourfront. Further, he suggested providing mobile art spaces for artists to design and showcase pop-up installations there, designating spaces for youth street dance or music performances, and setting up a small interactive museum sharing stories about the District's history and figures for the public to take photographs. He would like the government to consider more options to add value to the C&W District harbourfront.

82. The Chairman said that the subject matter was relatively broad and suggested relaying the views to relevant departments, such as the DEVB. He also enquired if representatives from the LCSD had anything to add.

[Post-meeting note: The DEVB and the Harbourfront Commission (HC) replied on 4 December 2024 that they took note of Members' views.]

83. Ms LO Man-nin, Patty said that she had nothing to add.

84. Dr WONG Sin-man, Mandy would like the LCSD to consider the continuity of the

design of the whole C&W District Promenade. She hoped it would reflect district characteristics. While there was a need to ensure public safety, the department could still consider providing seasonal water-friendly facilities and organising special activities regularly. She would like the department to keep an open mind and further consider these two suggestions.

85. The Chairman suggested relaying the views to the DEVB and the HC for consideration. He also enquired if representatives from the LCSD had any reply.

[Post-meeting note: The DEVB and the HC replied on 4 December 2024 that they took note of Members' views.]

86. Ms LO Man-nin, Patty said that she had no further reply.

87. As Members did not have any further comment, the Chairman declared closure of this discussion item and thanked representatives from the departments for attending the meeting.

#### **Item 6: Schedule of meetings for the C&WDC and its committees in 2025**

**(C&WDC Paper No. 56/2024)**

(12:37 pm)

88. The Chairman asked Members to note the information paper. As Members did not have any question, the Chairman declared closure of this discussion item.

#### **Item 7: “Meet-the-Public Scheme”**

**(C&WDC Paper No. 59/2024)**

(12:37 pm)

89. The Chairman asked Members to note the information paper. As Members did not have any question, the Chairman declared closure of this discussion item.

#### **Item 8: Reports on meetings of the committees and working groups under the C&WDC**

**(C&WDC Paper No. 57/2024)**

(12:37 pm)

90. The Chairman asked Members to note the information paper. As Members did not have any question, the Chairman declared closure of this discussion item.



**Item 9: Any other business**

(12:37 pm)

91. Members did not raise any other item.

**Item 10: Date of the next meeting**

(12:38 pm)

92. The Chairman said that the next meeting would be held on 16 January 2025. The paper submission deadline for government departments and Members would be 31 December 2024.

The minutes were \_\_\_\_\_ confirmed on 16 January 2025

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_ Mr LEUNG Chee-kay, David, JP

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_ Ms CHEUNG Kwok-ying, Sherry

C&WDC Secretariat

January 2025