

Minutes of the Second Meeting of the
Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee
under Eastern District Council

Date : 19 March 2024 (Tuesday)

Time : 2:30 pm

Venue : Eastern District Council Conference Room

Present

Mr WONG Chi-chung	Mr LAM Wing-shing	Mr CHAN Hoi-wing, Joseph
Ms HO Sau-yin, Zareenah	Mr LAM Wing-cheung	Ms TSANG Cheuk-yi
Mr YUEN Kin-chung, Kenny (Chairman)	Ms LIN Cai-ying	Ms CHIK Kit-ling, Elaine
Ms LI Lee	Mr HUNG Chi-kit	Mr CHENG Chi-sing, MH (Vice-chairman)
Ms NG Ching-ching	Mr HUNG Lin-cham, MH, JP	Ms LAU Suk-yin
Ms LEE Ching-har	Mr HUNG Chiu-kwan	Ms LAU Dana Sing-she
Mr HO Ngai-kam, Stanley	Mr KWOK Ho-king, Calvin	Mr LAU Hing-yeung, MH
Mr LAM Sum-lim, MH	Mr KWOK Wing-kin	Mr LAI Nuen-san

Absent with Apologies

Mr TING Kong-ho, Eddie, MH

In Regular Attendance (Government Representatives)

Mr POON Cheuk-hong, Hong	Assistant District Officer (Eastern)2, Eastern District Office
Ms NG Yan-mei, Monie	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Eastern District Office
Mr CHAO Ka-man, Stanley	Senior Liaison Officer (1), Eastern District Office
Mr LAU Chi-kan, Kenneth	Senior Executive Officer (District Management), Eastern District Office
Miss WONG Hoi-kiu, Salina	Executive Officer (District Management)1, Eastern District Office
Ms CHU Sui-yin	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Eastern), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr YEUNG Ping-chung	Chief Health Inspector (Eastern)3 (Ag.), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr LOO Wing-tsun	Neighbourhood Police Co-ordinator, Police Community Relations Office, Eastern District, Hong Kong Police Force
Mr KWOK Kin-chung, Kemp	Principal Estate Officer/Hong Kong East/Land Control (Ag.), (District Lands Office, Hong Kong East), Lands Department
Mr WONG Kwan-chun, Paul	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional South)2, Environmental Protection Department
Mr KONG Wai-ho, Alex	District Engineer/North East, Highways Department
Ms LEE Wai-leung, Carol	Assistant Housing Manager/Yue Wan (2), Housing Department

In Attendance by Invitation (Government Representatives)

Mr HO Yu-tung	Chief Health Inspector (Regional Joint Office) Hong Kong, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr WANG Man-chung	Senior Health Inspector (Regional Joint Office) Hong Kong 1, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr LEE Po-keung	Professional Officer 1-1/Joint Office 1, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr LIU Hung-wai, Philip	Senior Field Officer (Avian Influenza), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Secretary

Ms LEUNG Mun-chee, Charlie	Executive Officer I (District Council)2, Eastern District Office
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Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed all Members and government representatives to the meeting.

Handling Applications for Absence

2. Mr Eddie TING submitted notification of absence from meeting before the meeting. The Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (FEHC) decided not to give consent to his application for absence.

Agenda Item 1. Confirmation of the Draft Minutes of the 1st Meeting of FEHC

3. The above draft minutes were confirmed without amendments.

Agenda Item 2. Concern over Street Obstruction and Environmental Hygiene Problems caused by Loading/Unloading Activities in City Garden Road (FEHC Paper No. 5/2024)

4. The Chairman briefed Members on Paper No. 5/2024.
5. The views and enquiries of Members about the agenda item were summarised as follows:
- (a) Members remarked on the severity of the present situation which not only affected the traffic and obstructed the pavement but also posed potential danger, and enquired about the legislation or ways for alleviation.
 - (b) Members opined that inter-departmental enforcement operations were more effective in tackling the issue but understood that joint operations could not be conducted frequently.
 - (c) Members enquired whether the Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) in the joint operations were related to hygiene or street obstruction.
 - (d) Members would like the departments to pay attention to the occupation of public places by logistics companies in Sai Wan Ho for packaging and the illegal parking in Quarry Bay as well.
6. The representatives of the FEHD, Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) and Eastern District Office (EDO) noted Members' views and suggestions, and responded to their enquiries and views as follows:

FEHD

- (a) The FEHD was concerned about the hygiene condition of the streets near City Garden and provided weekly street washing service there in

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addition to the daily routine street sweeping service.

- (b) Regarding the nuisance caused by foreign domestic helpers packing articles on the streets, the FEHD's main responsibilities under the purview of street management were to maintain environmental hygiene and street cleanliness, as well as to deal with street obstruction caused by illegal hawking activities. Members of the public tidying articles on the streets did not breach the cleanliness legislation but the FEHD would take appropriate action subject to the circumstances at the scene.
- (c) The FEHD had conducted joint operations with the departments concerned on 27 August 2023 and 10 March 2024, and deployed staff for site inspection on Sundays. A total of 73 FPNs were issued to individuals in breach of the cleanliness legislation over the past year. The FEHD would continue to monitor the hygiene conditions of the above location and conduct joint operations with the departments concerned again when necessary.
- (d) The FEHD was mainly responsible for executing the cleanliness legislation in dealing with the issue. If a member of the public placed any articles on the pavement that obstructed street cleansing of the FEHD, the FEHD staff would issue a statutory notice requiring the owner to remove the article within a specified time, failing which the FEHD would institute prosecution against the offender. The FEHD could not take any enforcement action if the owner had removed the article, as the FEHD's main responsibilities in the case was to maintain environmental hygiene and street cleanliness.

HKPF

- (e) The Eastern Police District was concerned about the illegal parking situation on City Garden Road and conducted enforcement actions at irregular intervals every month. A total of 578 FPNs had been issued at the above location over the past year, all of which were related to traffic offences. The HKPF would take resolute enforcement actions if illegal parking was found, and might tow away the vehicles if the illegal parking caused serious traffic congestion.
- (f) The HKPF had conducted three joint operations with the EDO and

Action

FEHD at the above location in 2023 to combat illegal parking and street obstruction by goods.

- (g) The HKPF would refer the obstruction of the carriageway marked with double yellow lines at City Garden to the Eastern District Traffic Team for handling.

EDO

- (h) The EDO would conduct joint operations with the HKPF and FEHD at the above location from time to time, and continue to closely monitor the situation and conduct joint operations as necessary or on days with high pedestrian and vehicular flow in the hope of eradicating the relevant problems.

- 7. The FEHC agreed to follow up on the agenda item upon further progress.

Agenda Item 3. Progress Report of Matters Arising from Previous FEHC Meetings under Eastern District Council (FEHC Paper No. 6/2024)

- (i) ***“Request to Improve the Noise Pollution Arising from the Arrivals of Trains at and their Departures from Heng Fa Chuen MTR Station Requesting the MTRC to Retrofit a Noise Shelter to the Section between Heng Fa Chuen Station and Chai Wan Station to Reduce Noise Pollution”***

Environmental
Protection
Department
(EPD)/Mass
Transit Railway
Corporation
Limited

- 8. The agenda items would be followed up on upon further progress.

- (ii) ***“Request the Government for a Complete Advancement of the Services and Responsibilities of the ‘Joint Offices’ so as to Enhance Support of***

***Citizens for Handling Water Seepage in Buildings
Requesting the Joint Office to Improve the Source-identification Success
Rate of Water Seepage
Requesting the Joint Offices for Investigation of Water Seepage
Complaints to Resume Services Immediately in Full Swing to Assist
Members of the Public in Dealing with Hygiene Problems Caused by
Water Seepage”***

9. The representative of the Joint Offices for Investigation of Water Seepage Complaints (JO) supplemented on the latest work progress.

10. The views and enquiries of Members about the agenda items were summarised as follows:

- (a) Members viewed that the long processing time of the water seepage cases might be attributed to the large number of cases or inadequate communication among departments. The requests for water seepage assistance received by Members basically took more than 90 days for completion of the investigation or testing even though the department replied that it could normally be completed within 90 days. Therefore, Members enquired whether the resources and manpower of the JO could be enhanced, and whether the technology would be enhanced to expedite the testing progress in case of manpower shortage.
- (b) Members remarked that some applicants of the water seepage cases had carried out repairs as per the JO's request but the problem persisted. Therefore, Members enquired whether the JO had the technique to identify the source and whether it would conduct a regular review of the case handling process.
- (c) Members enquired about the number of water seepage cases received and resolved by the JO in the Eastern District over the past three years.
- (d) Members enquired whether there were more effective ways to minimise the impact of water seepage on residents.
- (e) Members enquired whether the department would handle water seepage on roofs or external walls of buildings.

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11. The representative of the JO noted Members' views and suggestions, and responded to their enquiries and views as follows:

- (a) The JO identified the seepage source by means of systematic investigation mainly through the powers conferred by the law and the professional expertise of the relevant government departments, as well as the co-operation of the owners and occupants. The tests were divided into three stages. Stage I was to confirm the existence of water seepage and screen out cases that required no further investigation. The JO would carry out an initial investigation and arrange a series of tests in Stage II. If the seepage source could not be identified in Stage II, the JO would engage a consultant to conduct a professional investigation in Stage III.
- (b) Both conventional and new testing technologies were adopted in Stage III investigation. The conventional testing methods were usually ponding test for floor, spray test for wall and reversible pressure test for water supply pipes while the new testing technologies included infrared thermography and microwave tomography etc. The JO had applied the new testing technologies on a pilot basis since June 2018 with the Eastern District becoming a pilot district since March 2021. However, owing to certain limitations to the new testing technologies, the JO would carry out conventional tests in cases where the microwave tomography could not be effectively applied due to situations such as spalling of concrete from seepage ceilings, uneven surfaces or tiled finishes, blockages of pipes or other facilities, etc. Nevertheless, the JO would accord priority to Stage III professional investigation with the new technologies, with a view to helping the public to identify the seepage source.
- (c) There were over 5 000, 4 000 and 5 000 seepage complaints lodged in the Eastern District in 2021, 2022 and 2023 respectively, accounting for about half of the cases on Hong Kong Island. More than 3 000 complaint cases amongst those in 2023 were screened out with moisture content below 35% after measurement at the seepage locations.
- (d) Generally speaking, the JO staff would have to visit the unit in question and the complainant's unit several times for investigations and tests. The JO would issue a Nuisance Notice to the person concerned under

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the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance requiring proper repairs within a specified time where the seepage source was identified. The JO had issued more than 600 Nuisance Notices both in 2021 and 2022, and more than 1 000 Nuisance Notices in 2023 in the Eastern District. The premises under complaint had to carry out the necessary repair works upon receipt of the Nuisance Notice and then notified the JO. The JO would stop the investigation once the seepage had ceased as confirmed by the JO upon testing.

- (e) The Buildings Department and Water Supplies Department might take corresponding enforcement actions under the Buildings Ordinance or Waterworks Ordinance in the light of the dilapidated conditions of the buildings involving drainage pipes or water supply pipes found during the investigation.
- (f) Seepage originated from penetration of rainwater through the roofs or external walls of a building generally would not cause any public health implications. Nevertheless, the JO would advise the Owners' Corporation of the building to arrange for inspection of the conditions of roofs or external walls and carry out the necessary repair works.
- (g) There were only 20-odd staff in the Eastern District JO conducting the investigations in Stages I and II and their workload was heavy.

JO 12. The agenda items would continue to be followed up on upon further progress.

(iii) ***“Request to Make Good Preparation before the Implementation of Municipal Solid Waste Charging”***

EPD 13. The agenda item would be followed up on upon further progress.

(iv) ***“Relocation of Oil Street Refuse Collection Point and Demolition of Public Toilet”***

14. The views and enquiries of Members about the agenda item were summarised as follows:

- (a) Members remarked that the height of the proposed RCP was constrained by the height restriction beneath the flyover and that the Electric Road

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Market RCP was located nearby, hence enquiring whether the department would consider combining the two refuse collection points (RCPs). Members also said that the City Garden RCP was near the proposed location, hence enquiring whether it could be open for public use.

15. The representative of the FEHD noted Members' views and suggestions, and responded to their enquiries and views as follows:

- (a) Regarding the suggestion for the relocation of the Oil Street RCP and the demolition of the public toilet, the FEHD had invited the contractor of the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) to conduct a feasibility study. A standard RCP could not be constructed due to the site constraints at the proposed location, including the height restriction beneath the flyover and the presence of an underground drainage reserve. Therefore, the FEHD had discussed with the ArchSD again in late February the current year to study the feasibility of constructing a RCP smaller than the standard provision and other ancillary facilities to make full use of the site for the construction of the RCP. The FEHD would also conduct the remaining feasibility study with the ArchSD's contractor on the new requests, which was expected to be completed within the current year.
- (b) The design of the Electric Road Market RCP was for collecting the waste generated from market operation, which was different from the existing Oil Street RCP in terms of the service scope and target users. The FEHD would study the feasibility of combining the two RCPs if the final site of the new RCP was very close to the Electric Road Market RCP. In addition, the City Garden RCP was a RCP for the private housing estate and would not be open for public use. The FEHD would make further planning upon the availability of the findings of the second feasibility study on the relocation of the Oil Street RCP as the provision of community facilities had to be considered in a holistic manner.

FEHD/Leisure and
Cultural Services
Department
(LCSD)

16. The agenda item would continue to be followed up on upon further progress.

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- (v) ***“Intrusion of Wild Pigs into Residential Communities
Request for Follow-Up on Wild Pig Issue in Braemar Hill”***

FEHD/
Agriculture,
Fisheries and
Conservation
Department
(AFCD)

17. The agenda items would be followed up on upon further progress.

- (vi) ***“Requesting the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for
Expeditious Adoption of Humane and Technological Approach for
Controlling Feral Pigeons
Requesting Government Departments to Follow Up on Feral Pigeon
Nuisance in Braemar Hill”***

18. Members thanked the FEHD for its effort. The views and enquiries of Members about the agenda items were summarised as follows:

- (a) Members enquired of the department about the mitigation measures for the feral pigeon nuisance problem before the provision of the findings of the academic report by the City University of Hong Kong (CityU), the consultant of the Trial Programme of Using Contraceptive Drug on Feral Pigeons (the Trial Programme).
- (b) Members enquired whether private places such as residential balconies were covered under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance and about the ways for members of the public who witnessed the feeding of feral pigeons in private places should make report.
- (c) Members viewed that FEHD’s issuance of FPNs had a deterrent effect on the feeding of feral pigeons, and the situation of feral pigeons in the vicinity of the former Tong Shui Road Footbridge had improved.

19. The representatives of the AFCD and FEHD noted Members’ views and suggestions, and responded to their enquiries and views as follows:

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AFCD

- (a) The two-year Trial Programme had completed. The CityU, the consultant of the Trial Programme, was still conducting the final statistical analysis and evaluation of the data collected. The AFCD would take into account various factors, including the analyses and recommendations of the Trial Programme, in formulating the way forward, and would announce the findings as soon as possible.
- (b) The AFCD had been carrying out publicity and education. The Wild Animals Protection (Amendment) Bill 2023 (the Amendment Bill) had been introduced into the Legislative Council for scrutiny on 29 November 2023, and was expected to come into effect on 1 August 2024 if it was passed. The AFCD would then launch a series of targeted publicity programmes to educate the public not to feed feral pigeons. In addition, the Amendment Bill proposed to expand the scope of the current feeding ban on wild animals to cover feral pigeons and all public and private places/premises in Hong Kong.
- (c) Upon the implementation of the Amendment Bill, different departments would follow up on the enforcement in different places/premises and the public might notify the relevant departments by calling 1823.

FEHD

- (d) The FEHD was concerned about the environmental hygiene problems caused by illegal feeding and would issue FPNs under the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance to offenders for a fine of \$3,000. The FEHD had issued a total of 380 FPNs from January to February 2024. Seven FPNs were issued to offenders for fouling public places by feeding wild animals or wild birds, of which five FPNs were issued in the vicinity of the former Tong Shui Road Footbridge. In addition, the FEHD would step up street cleansing by disinfecting public places where wild birds congregated with diluted bleach as appropriate to maintain environmental hygiene. The FEHD would continue to monitor the fouling of streets by feeding of wild animals or wild birds in the district and take corresponding enforcement actions.

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- (e) The FEHD welcomed Members for case referral. Information on feeding times, offenders and their characteristics, etc. could facilitate the FEHD's enforcement actions. The FEHD had collected various intelligence and information on the feeding of feral pigeons at the former Tong Shui Road Footbridge, which indicated that the feeding time was irregular. The FEHD had issued FPNs in the early morning, at noon and in the evening to those who fouled public places by feeding wild birds. It was believed that the problem of feral pigeons in the vicinity of the former Tong Shui Road Footbridge had improved recently.

AFCD/FEHD

20. The agenda items would continue to be followed up on upon further progress.

(vii) *“Enhancing Measures to Cope with Dog Fouling on Pavements in Braemar Hill”*

FEHD

21. The agenda item would be followed up on upon further progress.

Agenda Item 4. Any Other Business

Invitation for Nomination of Community Green Ambassadors

22. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had received a letter from the LCSD inviting the Eastern District Council (EDC) to nominate two Members to serve as Community Green Ambassadors (CGAs) on behalf of the EDC to assist in the promotion of community greening and tree care, etc., with the term of office expired on 31 December 2025. With the consent of the Chairmen of the EDC and FEHC, Mr Kacee TING and Mr WONG Chi-chung were nominated to serve as CGAs on behalf of the EDC. The Chairman asked the Secretary to submit the above nomination to the LCSD.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat submitted the nomination for CGAs to the LCSD on 19 March 2024 for consideration.)

Agenda Item 5. Date of Next Meeting

23. The third FEHC meeting would be held at 2:30 pm on 21 May 2024 (Tuesday).

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24. The meeting ended at 3:35 pm.

Eastern District Council Secretariat
April 2024