

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

Date : 19 November 2024 (Tuesday)
Time : 2:30 pm
Venue : Eastern District Council Conference Room

Present

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

In Regular Attendance (Government Representatives)

Mr FU Yiu-nam, Daniel	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
Ms CHAN Kit-man	Chief Health Inspector (Eastern)3, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr LOO Wing-tsun	Neighbourhood Police Co-ordinator, Eastern District Police Community Relation Office, Hong Kong Police Force
Ms LIN So-kuen, Debbie	Principal Estate Officer/Hong Kong East/Land Control (District Lands Office, Hong Kong East), Lands Department
Mr WONG Kwan-chun, Paul	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional South)2,

	Environmental Protection Department
Mr CHOI Kai-bong, Martin	District Engineer /North Point, Highways Department
Ms LEE Wai-leung, Carol	Assistant Housing Manager/Yue Wan (2), Housing 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.

Agenda Item 1. Confirmation of the Draft Minutes of the 5th Meeting of Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (FEHC)

2. The above draft minutes were confirmed without amendments.

Agenda Item 2. Concern over Serious Rodent Infestation at King's Road, North Point in Eastern District and Suggesting the Government Enhance Anti-rodent Measures
(FEHC Paper No. 17/2024)

3. A Member briefed the meeting on Paper No. 17/2024.
4. Members thanked the departments for their efforts in rodent control. The views and enquiries of Members about the agenda item were summarised as follows:
 - (a) Members hoped that the departments would track down the source of rodent infestation to solve the serious rodent problem at King's Road.
 - (b) Members indicated that they had received complaints from residents of North Point about the serious rodent infestation. They thanked the departments for conducting inspections and providing recommendations to the owners' corporations (OCs) of buildings on rodent control measures. However, the effects of the measures were short-lived. They suggested the departments inspect hygiene and rodent blackspots

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regularly, and provide the OCs with improvement measures and rodenticides if the condition was unsatisfactory.

- (c) Members suggested that the departments introduce WhatsApp as a communication mode to allow the public to report rodent infestation spots to the departments.
- (d) Members hoped that the departments would explain how they used thermal imaging cameras with artificial intelligence technology for conducting the Rodent Activity Survey to solve rodent infestation, and whether they would use the technology in the Eastern District.
- (e) Members were concerned that even if the hygiene condition in public places had improved, the rodent infestation in private places would still be a problem. They hoped that the departments would try to tackle the problem.
- (f) Members enquired about the details of the Rodent Absence Rate (RAR).
- (g) Members enquired whether the departments would use contraceptive drug to slow down rodent breeding.
- (h) Members hoped that the departments would install rodent proofing devices under the gully gratings along the carriageway of Chun Yeung Street to prevent rodents from getting in and out of the gullies, and asked which department would be responsible for the installation.
- (i) Members hoped that the departments would step up education on prevention of rodent infestation, such as distributing posters to OCs for displaying, and conducting shop inspections.

5. The representatives of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and the Highways Department (HyD) noted Members' views and suggestions, and responded to their views and enquiries as follows:

FEHD

- (a) The FEHD would provide street cleaning and pest control services in public places regularly, while the management, cleaning and

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maintenance of common parts in private premises should be taken care of by the relevant owners. The relevant OCs and property management companies (PMCs) should discharge their management duties and take rodent prevention measures for the buildings, e.g. installing rat guards, and arranging for anti-rodent work.

- (b) If the FEHD detected any nuisance, such as accumulation of refuse, during an inspection on a rodent blackspot including private premises, the FEHD would conduct an investigation, and issue a Nuisance Notice based on the actual situation to demand the persons concerned to make improvements.
- (c) The FEHD held seminars for OCs and PMCs regularly to provide them with anti-rodent information and education.
- (d) If Members noticed any rodent infestation in any private buildings, they could contact the FEHD and request for investigations. The FEHD would provide the relevant OC or PMC with advice on anti-rodent measures.
- (e) The FEHD would enhance anti-rodent work during the year-end clean-up campaign early next year.
- (f) Since 2000, the FEHD had been conducting the Rodent Infestation Survey (RIS) regularly by setting baits in designated survey locations to monitor rodent infestation. The ratio of the baits gnawed by rodents to the number of baits collected from the survey location generated the Rodent Infestation Rate (RIR). The RIR was regularly published for the public's reference. The FEHD also planned for anti-rodent work based on the survey results. After reviewing the methodology and the availability of new tools, from 2024 onwards, thermal imaging cameras in association with artificial intelligence technology had been fully adopted to measure rodent activities by replacing the traditional census baiting method. In comparison to the survey method that relied on census baiting method, the new method took a more proactive approach to record the rodent activities with more comprehensive coverage, higher sensitivity and lower risk of being interfered by environmental factors, allowing a more accurate reflection of rodent activities. In consideration of the rodent habits, under the new survey method, the

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rodent activities would be recorded by means of thermal images captured at every two-minute interval from 7:00 pm to 7:00 am for three consecutive nights. During the past period, over 100 000 images had been captured in the Eastern District. The survey in 2024 covered public areas of which the pest control services were being provided by the FEHD. With reference to the distribution of rodent complaints and data regularly collected on rodent control and disinfection, the FEHD had formed a sampling frame of public places prone to rodent infestation risk.

- (g) The FEHD would calculate the RAR for each district, which was the portion of time slots in which rodents were not detected during the whole period of surveillance. In the first half of 2024, the RAR of the Eastern District was 96%. The FEHD would regularly publish the RAR of each district. With reference to the survey results, the FEHD would collaborate with relevant departments to plan for anti-rodent work.

HyD

- (h) The HyD would provide a response on the installation of rodent proofing devices under the gully gratings at Chun Yeung Street after the meeting.

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

- (Post-meeting note: (i) The Secretariat had forwarded the list of rodent blackspots provided by Members to the FEHD for follow-up on 27 November 2024.
- (ii) The Secretariat had forwarded the supplementary information provided by the HyD to the FEHC on 2 January 2025.)

Agenda Item 3. Concern over Environmental Hygiene Problem under Fuk Yuen Street Footbridge in Fortress Hill **(FEHC Paper No. 18/2024)**

7. A Member briefed the meeting on Paper No. 18/2024.

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

- (a) Given the large number of shops and high pedestrian flow around the Fuk Yuen Street Footbridge, Members recognised the need for the community to care for the underprivileged, but they did not wish to neglect public interest and affect public environmental hygiene and cityscape.
- (b) Members asked the departments about the reasons for the persisting situation of street sleeping at the said location.
- (c) Members asked the departments whether they had any particular measures to help street sleepers in need to move into public housing.
- (d) Members suggested revitalising subways and spaces underneath footbridges with low pedestrian flow, e.g. setting up galleries and conference rooms, so that the public space would no longer be suitable for street sleeping.
- (e) Members hoped that the departments would carry out cleaning services at the said location regularly, and make collaborative efforts to solve the environmental hygiene problems caused by street sleepers.
- (f) Members enquired whether there were any regulations under the existing legislation against street sleepers who piled up miscellaneous articles and refuse underneath footbridges if the departments found that they were not homeless. Members also suggested the departments that Internet Protocol Cameras should be installed underneath the Fuk Yuen Street Footbridge to keep track of illegal refuse dumping for better deterrent effect.

9. The representatives of the FEHD, Eastern District Office (EDO) and HyD noted Members' views and suggestions, and responded to their views and enquiries as follows:

FEHD

- (a) The FEHD provided regular street cleaning services at Fuk Yuen Street

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at a frequency no less than once a week. Moreover, the FEHD proactively took part in the joint operations co-ordinated by the EDO involving relevant government departments to arrange for the removal of the miscellaneous articles voluntarily discarded by street sleepers, and to carry out cleaning services in the area.

- (b) When detecting any articles which were unattended and caused obstruction to scavenging operations during routine inspections, the FEHD staff would issue a statutory notice requiring the owner to remove the articles concerned within a specified period of time.

EDO

- (c) The EDO would continue to liaise with the departments concerned to study the feasibility of increasing the number and frequency of joint operations. In addition, the EDO would discuss with the departments concerned on how to make those public spaces with low pedestrian flow less prone to accumulation of miscellaneous articles and street sleeping, and would maintain liaison with the Social Welfare Department to help street sleepers solve their problems and then live off the streets.

HyD

- (d) The HyD was responsible for the maintenance of public roads and associated facilities, and arrangement of appropriate maintenance works in a timely manner through regular inspections. If maintenance works were required, the contractor would communicate with the stakeholders near the site before carrying out any maintenance works.

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

Agenda Item 4. Progress Report of Matters Arising from Previous FEHC Meetings under Eastern District Council (FEHC Paper No. 19/2024)

- (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***

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Heng Fa Chuen Station and Chai Wan Station to Reduce Noise Pollution”

Environmental
Protection
Department
(EPD)/MTR
Corporation
Limited

11. The agenda item would continue to 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”***

Joint Offices for
Investigation of
Water Seepage
Complaints

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

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

FEHD/
Leisure and
Cultural
Services
Department

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

- (iv) ***“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”***

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Agriculture,
Fisheries and
Conservation
Department/
FEHD

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

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

FEHD

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

(vi) ***“Concern over Street Obstruction and Environmental Hygiene Problems caused by Loading/Unloading Activities in City Garden Road”***

FEHD/Hong
Kong Police
Force/EDO

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

(vii) ***“Suggestion for Provision of Food Waste Recycling Facilities at Refuse Collection Points Managed by Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in Eastern District”***

17. The representative of the EPD supplemented on the latest work progress.

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

- (a) Members hoped that the EPD would step up publicity on recycling facilities, e.g. information about recycling spots.
- (b) Members asked about the usage of food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs) and the time schedule for cleaning workers to clean the FWSRBs.
- (c) Members indicated that some members of the public reflected that residents on the lower floors of the building were affected by the odour emitted when the lids of the FWSRBs were opened.
- (d) Members asked whether the EPD would consider subsidising residents

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to purchase the FWSRBs for their own flats.

- (e) Members asked about the amount of food waste collected in the Eastern District as a percentage of all food waste in Hong Kong and its ranking.

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

- (a) On average, the EPD collected 11.9 tonnes of food waste in the Eastern District every day.
- (b) When an FWSRB was full, the system would notify the PMC/cleaning team, and the unit concerned would arrange for the cleaners to replace the inner bin.
- (c) The EPD would step up publicity on recycling facilities, e.g. information about recycling spots.
- (d) The FWSRBs were equipped with deodorising devices to minimise odour generated by food waste.
- (e) Supplementary information on the amount of food waste collected in the Eastern District as a percentage of all food waste in Hong Kong, its ranking, and the feasibility of subsidising the installation of domestic FWSRBs would be provided by the EPD after the meeting.

FEHD/EPD

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

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat had forwarded the supplementary information from the EPD to the FEHC on 17 December 2024.)

(viii) “Concern over Low Occupancy Rate and Business Environment of Quarry Bay Market”

FEHD

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

(ix) “Disposal of Domestic Waste on Shau Kei Wan Road”

FEHD

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

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Agenda Item 5. Any Other Business

23. There was no other discussion item for the FEHC.

Agenda Item 6. Date of Next Meeting

24. The seventh FEHC meeting would be held at 2:30 pm on 21 January 2025 (Tuesday).

25. The meeting ended at 4:10 pm.

Eastern District Council Secretariat
January 2025