

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

Date : 21 January 2025 (Tuesday)
Time : 2:30 pm
Venue : Eastern District Council Conference Room

Present

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

Absent with Apologies

Ms LIN Cai-ying (absent with consent)
Mr LAM Tsz-hung (Co-opted Member) (absent without consent)
Mr CHAN Kwan (Co-opted Member) (absent without consent)

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

In Attendance by Invitation (Government Representatives)

Mr WONG Hoi-wing, Keith	Engineer/Eastern 2, Drainage Services Department
Mr YEUNG Fai-fai, Felix	Fauna Conservation Officer (Operation)3, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Ms PAU Lai-yan, Loretta	Senior Geotechnical Engineer/Island 1, Civil Engineering and Development Department
Miss MAK Ying-chi	Geotechnical Engineer/Island 12, Civil Engineering and Development Department
Dr WONG Yick-him, Simon	Veterinary Officer (Avian Influenza Surveillance), 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 Application for Absence

2. Ms LIN Cai-ying, Mr LAM Tsz-hung and Mr CHAN Kwan submitted notifications of absence from meeting before the meeting. The Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (FEHC) decided to give consent to Ms LIN Cai-ying's application for absence for attending an important meeting arranged by Mainland authorities, but not to the applications for absence by Mr LAM Tsz-hung and Mr CHAN Kwan for undertaking official duties not related to their capacity as District Council (DC) members and the functions of the DC.

Agenda 1. Confirmation of the Draft Minutes of the 6th Meeting of Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee

3. The above draft minutes were confirmed without amendments.

Agenda 2. Concern over Illegal Cultivation on Government Land in Eastern District
(FEHC Paper No. 1/2025)

4. A Member briefed the meeting on Paper No. 1/2025.
5. The views and enquiries of Members about the agenda item were summarised as follows:
- (a) Members hoped that the department would consider using technology, such as drones or infrared detectors, to detect illegal cultivation and farming on government land.
 - (b) Members viewed that illegal cultivation would reduce the stability of slopes, thereby increasing the risk of landslides and posing danger to residential premises in the vicinity of the slopes.
 - (c) Members expected that the department would step up enforcement to increase deterrent effect.
 - (d) Members suggested the department enhance publicity and education.
 - (e) Members enquired whether the department had conducted regular inspections of government land to review the situation of illegal cultivation.
 - (f) Members enquired about the locations of illegal cultivation black spots.
 - (g) Members urged the department to expeditiously deal with the issue of illegal cultivation in Heng Fa Chuen.
6. The representative of the District Lands Office, Hong Kong East (DLO/HKE) noted Members' views and suggestions, and responded to their views and enquiries as follows:

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- (a) While the DLO/HKE understood the public's expectation for proper management of public properties by the Government, it was difficult for the DLO/HKE to collect evidence to meet the prosecution threshold given its limited manpower resources. The DLO/HKE would utilise its powers under the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (the Ordinance) (Cap. 28) and optimise its manpower to step up enforcement and prosecution efforts. At the same time, the Ordinance required the DLO/HKE to give the occupier a statutory notice to cease occupation of government land before a specified deadline, and only if the occupier failed to cease occupation upon expiry of the deadline would the Government take further action, including clearing the illegally occupied land and considering instituting prosecutions. In addition, the lack of successful evidence collection or sufficient evidence to identify the occupier for prosecution was one of the reasons for the low number of prosecutions in some cases. There was a dedicated section under the Lands Department (LandsD) responsible for prosecutions.
- (b) The DLO/HKE did not install any infrared surveillance system in public places at present. Generally speaking, the DLO/HKE would deploy staff to carry out on-site inspections upon receipt of any complaints or enquiries. However, if the staff could not access the relevant government land, the DLO/HKE would consider using drones to inspect the site concerned.
- (c) The DLO/HKE had not received any complaints about illegal cultivation and no illegal cultivation black spots had been identified in the past two years. In 2023-2024, the DLO/HKE had received a total of 12 complaints or enquiries about illegal cultivation.
- (d) The DLO/HKE had distributed publicity and educational leaflets on the prohibition of illegal slope cultivation and unlawful occupation of government land to the housing estates and residents in the vicinity of the site in question through the Eastern District Office (EDO), and launched publicity through television to remind the public that unlawful occupation of government land was an offence.
- (e) As regards the case of illegal cultivation of government land at the slope off Heng Fa Chuen, the DLO/HKE was taking land enforcement action

in accordance with the Ordinance.

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

Agenda 3. Environmental Hygiene Issues on the Slope in the Vicinity of the Former Nga Choy Hang Village in Braemar Hill
(FEHC Paper No. 2/2025)

8. A Member briefed the meeting on Paper No. 2/2025.

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

- (a) A large number of glass bottles were found in the vicinity of the former Nga Choy Hang Village in Braemar Hill. After investigation, it was found that the press had reported that the villagers would use common household items, such as empty bottles, to build the walls due to a shortage of materials in the village in the 1950s and 1960s. It was believed that the glass bottles had been left behind during the demolition of the village, instead of being discarded by the public recently. Therefore, Members hoped that the DLO/HKE would clear up the glass bottles and glass fragments as soon as possible to prevent members of the public or dogs from getting hurt inadvertently.
- (b) Wild pigs would damage the erosion control mats on the vegetated slopes when digging in the soil there to look for food. Despite regular maintenance by the Highways Department (HyD), the erosion control mats would soon be damaged by wild pigs again. It was therefore hoped that the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) would formulate follow-up actions accordingly in view of the occurrence of wild pigs in the area.
- (c) The channel was blocked which caused flooding after heavy rainfall.
- (d) The lack of tree planting on the slopes there had led to serious soil erosion and Members urged the departments to take action as soon as possible.

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- (e) Members enquired whether the departments had observed the situation in the vicinity of the former Nga Choy Hang Village and whether there were contingency measures and arrangements.

10. The representatives of the DLO/HKE, Drainage Services Department (DSD), HyD, Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD), AFCD and Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) noted Members' views and suggestions, and responded to their views and enquiries as follows:

DLO/HKE

- (a) According to the DLO/HKE's records, the clearance of Nga Choy Hang Village was one of the Non-Development Clearance (NDC) Programmes of the Housing Department (HD) in Hong Kong East in 1993-1994. After the clearance of Nga Choy Hang Village by the HD's Clearance Team, the DLO/HKE had completed the clearance of the remaining temporary structures on the site in 1995 and notified the then Territory Development Department (TDD) and the Civil Engineering Department (CED) to follow up on the matters of tree planting and slope repairs. In addition, the Eastern District Management Committee had discussed the environmental hygiene issues after the clearance of Nga Choy Hang Village in November 1994. According to the records, the then Urban Services Department had undertaken regular inspections and cleaning up of the cleared land. Based on the division of responsibilities among departments, the repairs related to the NDC structures were not undertaken by the LandsD.

DSD

- (b) The DSD had cleared the dead leaves in the channels under its management and removed the signboards which had fallen into the channels, and would inspect the condition of the channels during rainy days.

HyD

- (c) The HyD found that the erosion control mats of two slopes

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(11SE- A/F153 and 11SE-A/F17) had been damaged by wild pigs earlier and had arranged contractors to carry out repairs. If the vegetated slopes were found to be damaged by wild pigs again, the HyD would immediately arrange contractors to carry out repairs.

- (d) The HyD would also regularly inspect and clear roads and the drainage systems of roadside slopes under its maintenance purview. Before and during the rainy season (March to October), the HyD would step up inspections of slopes with flooding black spots, as well as increasing the frequency of spot checking and clearing of locations that were susceptible to blockage by litter or debris from surface runoff (blockage-prone locations) to ensure that the drainage systems were free from obstruction. When the Hong Kong Observatory issued an Amber or Red rainstorm warning signal, the HyD would deploy inspection teams to inspect major roads and the roads and slope drainage systems of locations prone to blockage. If obstructions such as litter or leaves were found, the inspection teams would clear them immediately to ensure smooth drainage discharge.

CEDD

- (e) Upon completion of the clearance of the structures at Nga Choy Hang Village by the LandsD in 1995, the CEDD staff had carried out site inspections in September 1996 and October 1997 respectively to confirm that the slopes in the relevant areas had been covered by vegetation and that no slope repair works were required. In case the CEDD received any safety enquiries on the slopes in question, it would deploy staff to carry out on-site inspections and, where necessary, advise the departments or private owners responsible for slope maintenance to follow up to ensure the safety of the slopes. If a slope was found to be in immediate danger, the CEDD would request the maintenance departments or private owners concerned to carry out emergency repairs.

AFCD

- (f) The AFCD acknowledged that the erosion control mats would be quickly damaged by wild pigs if they frequented the slopes of Nga Choy Hang Village. The AFCD had installed two infrared cameras at the above

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site to monitor the presence of wild pigs and illegal feeding in order to assist in capturing wild pigs and taking enforcement actions. The AFCD would step up its efforts in capturing wild pigs and taking enforcement actions in the coming two to three weeks, in the hope of controlling the number of wild pigs and prosecuting those who illegally feed wild animals.

FEHD

(g) In general, the FEHD did not have any authority or responsibility over the clearance projects of other departments. As the information referred to by the DLO/HKE dated back to the Urban Council days and 30 years ago, the FEHD did not have the relevant documents for immediate reference.

(h) The FEHD had been monitoring the cleanliness of the public places in the vicinity of the site. There was no road for public access to the former Nga Choy Hang Village and the FEHD did not provide regular cleansing service there.

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

Agenda 4. Progress Report of Matters Arising from Previous FEHC Meetings under Eastern District Council **(FEHC Paper No. 3/2025)**

(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”***

12. The FEHC agreed to cease following up on the agenda items.

(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”***

13. The FEHC agreed to cease following up on the agenda items.

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

14. The FEHC noted the progress report from the FEHD and agreed to cease following up on the agenda item.

***(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”***

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

- (a) Members enquired about the reasons for the significant fluctuations in the number of feral pigeons during the two-year programme.
- (b) Members enquired whether the department had any other plans to prevent the number of feral pigeons from increasing, and would like the department to report to the FEHC should there be any new plans.

16. The representative of the AFCD noted Members’ views and suggestions, and responded to their views and enquiries as follows:

- (a) Significant fluctuations in the number of feral pigeons over the two-year programme were due to various factors, such as feral pigeon aggregation, weather or human feeding.

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- (b) The AFCD had been educating the public, publicising and enforcing the law against illegal feeding of wild animals or feral pigeons, and would step up prosecution against illegal feeders of wild animals, thereby slowing down the breeding rate of feral pigeons.

AFCD/FEHD

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

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

18. The FEHC agreed to cease following up on the agenda item.

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

FEHD/Hong
Kong Police
Force/EDO

19. 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”***

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

- (a) Members enquired about the commencement date of operation of the three additional food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs), their recovery rate and whether there would be overflowing frequently.
- (b) Members viewed that the locations of the FWSRBs were not clearly labelled and the public might not be able to know their locations. It was suggested that the department should prepare posters and instant messaging software messages for DC members to disseminate to the residents of the sub-districts.

21. The representative of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) responded that relevant information would be provided after the meeting and publicity efforts would be stepped up.

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FEHD/EPD

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

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat had passed the supplementary information provided by the EPD to the FEHC for information on 12 February 2025)

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

FEHD

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

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

FEHD

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

(x) “Concern over Serious Rodent Infestation at King’s Road, North Point in Eastern District and Suggesting the Government Enhance Anti-rodent Measures”

FEHD

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

(xi) “Concern over Environmental Hygiene Problem under Fuk Yuen Street Footbridge in Fortress Hill”

FEHD/EDO/
Social Welfare
Department

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

Agenda Item 5. Any Other Business

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

Agenda Item 6. Date of Next Meeting

28. The eighth FEHC meeting would be held immediately after the District Facilities and Works Committee on 11 March 2025 (Tuesday).

Action

29. The meeting ended at 4:15 pm.

Eastern District Council Secretariat
March 2025