

(Translation)

Islands District Council
Minutes of Meeting of
Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries and Environmental Hygiene Committee

Date : 27 May 2019 (Monday)
Time : 2:00 p.m.
Venue : Islands District Council Conference Room,
14/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong.

Present

Ms LEE Kwai-chun (Chairman)
Ms FU Hiu-lam, Sammi (Vice-Chairman)
Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, SBS
Mr YU Hon-kwan, Randy, JP
Mr YUNG Chi-ming, BBS
Mr CHAN Lin-wai
Mr WONG Hon-kuen, Ken
Mr WONG Man-hon
Mr HO Chun-fai
Mr HO Siu-kei
Ms WONG Chau-ping
Ms YU Lai-fan
Ms YUNG Wing-sheung, Amy
Mr KWONG Koon-wan
Mr CHOW Ho-ding, Holden
Mr KWOK Ping, Eric
Ms TSANG Sau-ho, Josephine
Mr KWONG Kwok-kam, BH, JP
Mr NG man-kit
Mr ON Man-sang

In Attendance

Ms CHOY Ka-mun, Kimmy	Acting Senior Engineer/Consultants Management 3, Drainage Services Department
Mr CHU Ho-man	Engineer/Consultants Management 15, Drainage Services Department
Mr LAM Cheuk-fung	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Sewerage Infrastructure) ¹ , Environmental Protection Department
Mr YUEN Tak-shing, Rupert	Environmental Protection Officer (Sewerage Infrastructure) ¹² , Environmental Protection Department

Mr Glen SHUM
Dr TAM Tze-wai

Dr YOUNG Lau-ching, Maria

Senior Engineer, AECOM Asia Company Ltd.
Country Parks Ranger Services Officer (HK),
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Country Parks Officer (Lantau),
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

In Attendance

Ms YEUNG Cin-man, Winnie
Mr LI Ming-yau
Ms LAI Wing-sau, Winsy

Mr KWOK Chi-hang

Ms LEE Yuk-yin

Mr HO Siu-tong

Ms SIN Kai-wai, Marie
Mr LI Kim-man

Mr WONG Chi-piu, Alan

Mr IP Ka-lok, Kelvin

Mr TANG Wing Kai, Ricky

Mr Benny CHAN
Ms Sonja CHAN

Assistant District Officer (Islands)2, Islands District Office
Senior Inspector of Works, Islands District Office
District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands),
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Administrative Assistant/Lands
(District Lands Office, Islands), Lands Department
Assistant Police Community Relations Officer
(Marine Port District), Hong Kong Police Force
(Sergeant) Police Community Relations Officer
(Lantau District), Hong Kong Police Force
Senior Transport Officer/Islands 2, Transport Department
Senior Environment Protection Officer (Regional South)5,
Environmental Protection Department
Engineer/Hong Kong (Distribution 6),
Water Supplies Department
Conservation Officer/1 (Lantau),
Civil Engineering and Development Department
Fisheries Officer (Enforcement)1,
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Representative, New Lantau Bus Co. (1973) Ltd.
Representative, New World First Ferry Services Limited

Secretary

Ms TANG Yuen-shan, Serena

Executive Officer (District Council)2, Islands District Office

Absent with Apology

Mr WONG King-chuen
Mr AU Sheung-man, Benjamin
Ms HUI Yuk-ting, Rachel

Ms Sarah CHOW

Assistant District Officer (Islands)1, Islands District Office
Agricultural Officer (Agricultural Extension),
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Representative, Hong Kong Tourism Board

Welcoming remarks

The Chairman welcomed representatives of government departments and organisations as well as Members to the meeting and introduced the following departmental representatives in attendance to the meeting:

- (a) Mr TANG Wing Kai, Ricky, Fisheries Officer (Enforcement) 1 of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) who succeeded Ms LUN Chui Yuen, Janice;
- (b) Sergeant Mr HO Siu-tong, Police Community Relations Officer (Lantau District) of Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) who attended the meeting in place of Mr YAU Siu-sang;
- (c) Ms LEE Yuk-yin, Assistant Police Community Relations Officer (Marine Port District) of HKPF; and
- (d) Mr IP Ka-lok, Kelvin, Conservation Officer/1 (Lantau) of the Civil Engineering and Development Department who attended the meeting in place of Miss TONG Yee-fun, Pauline.

2. The Chairman welcomed Mr HO Siu-kei, Mr Ho Chun-fai, Ms WONG Chau-ping, Mr KWONG Kwok-kam, Mr ON Man-sang and Mr NG man-kit to serve on the committee. Members noted that Mr WONG King-chuen, Mr AU Sheung-man, Benjamin, Ms HUI Yuk-ting, Rachel and Hong Kong Tourism Board representative Ms Sarah CHOW were unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments.

I. Confirmation of minutes of the meeting held on 25.3.2019

3. The captioned minutes were confirmed unanimously.

II. PWP Item No. 4355DS - Outlying Islands Sewerage Stage 2 - Lamma Village Sewerage Phase 2 Package 2 (Paper TAFEHC 22/2019)

4. The Chairman welcomed Ms CHOY Ka-mun, Kimmy, Acting Senior Engineer/Consultants Management 3 and Mr CHU Ho-man, Engineer/Consultants Management 15 of Drainage Services Department (DSD), Mr LAM Cheuk-fung, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Sewerage Infrastructure)¹ and Mr YUEN Tak-shing, Rupert, Environmental Protection Officer (Sewerage Infrastructure)¹² of Environmental Protection Department (EPD) as well as Mr Glen SHUM, Senior Engineer of AECOM Asia Company Ltd. to the meeting to present the paper.

5. Ms Kimmy CHOY presented the paper with the aid of PowerPoint presentation.

6. Mr CHAN Lin-wai extended gratitude to DSD, EPD and the consultant company for meeting with village representatives and Members in the middle of the

current month for discussion of the project. He hoped that the departments and consultant company would consider the comments raised at that meeting and report to the village representatives the latest development and work progress. He also hoped that the project would be endorsed and implemented as soon as possible.

7. Ms YU Lai-fan said that the performance of the existing septic tanks in the village was unsatisfactory resulting in sewage spillage. She considered that the septic tanks could not meet the day-to-day needs and hoped that DSD would commence the project as soon as possible and closely monitored the progress.

8. Mr Holden CHOW expressed concern that the sewage treatment works constructed under Phase 1 might not be able to support Phase 2 works and asked whether an assessment was made.

9. Ms Kimmy CHOY gave a consolidated response as follows:

(a) DSD would follow up on the comments from the village representatives and Members regarding the works under Phase 2 Package 1 for improvement, and would also maintain close liaison with village representatives during construction to enable the latter to understand the details of the project.

(b) The resident site staff of the project would closely monitor the contractor's performance to safeguard the quality and progress of work. The project was now at the detailed design stage. As statutory procedures such as gazettal, resumption of private land, application to the Town Planning Board for change in land use as well as funding approval from Legislative Council were required, DSD would proceed with the procedures accordingly to facilitate early commencement of the works.

(c) The design capacity of the sewage treatment works constructed under Phase 1 had taken into consideration the volume of sewage generated as a result of the projected population growth in the areas covered by Phase 2.

10. The Chairman asked DSD to take note of Members' views and commence work promptly.

11. Members gave support to the works project.

III. Food and Environmental Hygiene Department District Action Plan (Paper TAFEHC 23/2019)

12. The Chairman welcomed Ms LAI Wing-sau, Winsy, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands) of Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to the meeting to present the paper.

13. Ms Winsy LAI presented the paper with the aid of PowerPoint presentation.

14. Mr Holden CHOW expressed his views as follows:
- (a) He thanked FEHD for arranging staff to inspect the condition of rodent infestation in Fu Tung Estate, Tung Chung. He understood that Fu Tung Estate was under the purview of the Housing Department and FEHD while the public places were under the purview of FEHD. At private places, in particular the private lots in markets or malls, FEHD could only provide the owners with guidance on rodent control. He proposed that the department should continue to guide and monitor the owners to tackle hygiene problems and to enhance their awareness of rodent control.
 - (b) Regarding fouling of street by dog faeces, according to his observation, the problem was particularly serious on Ying Hei Road and the vicinity. He enquired whether the department would provide dog excreta collection bins or step up enforcement at the locations concerned.
15. Ms Amy YUNG expressed her views as follows
- (a) Staff of the Pest Control Section under FEHD had paid a few visits to Discovery Bay in the past two months and the residents and Owner's Committee of Amalfi, Discovery Bay had repeatedly brought up the hygiene problems of the housing estate. The representative of FEHD said that the department would appeal to management companies of private places to pay attention to hygiene, and although the residents had repeatedly reflected the problem to the management office, no improvement had been made. To her understanding, rodents were spotted on flowerbeds of carriageways and footpaths in broad daylight in the past two weeks. Staff of FEHD and the Pest Control Section (contractor of the department) visited Discovery Bay and spotted rodent holes and rodent droppings under the used clothes collection bin adjacent to the management office, with food waste behind the management office and refuse collected but not yet cleared. These showed that the management company did not face up to the views of the residents and Owners' Committee. Cleaning work and refuse collection were not done at night so the hygiene condition was not improved.
 - (b) Although it was only three years since the resident intake of Amalfi, there were serious hygiene problems. She enquired how the department could ensure that rodent control work was conscientiously conducted by the management companies or cleaning companies of private places in line with the actions of the department
16. Ms Winsy LAI made a consolidated response as follows
- (a) With regard to the question of Mr Holden CHOW, the department would continue to strengthen communication with the management office to improve the hygiene condition of private place in markets and malls. The department had stepped up cleaning work on Ying Tung

Road and Ying Hong Street, provided dog excreta collection bins, displayed banners and notices to remind the public not to commit the offence of allowing their dogs fouling the street with dog faeces. FEHD made successful prosecution against the offenders and would continue to monitor the situation.

- (b) With regard to the question of Ms Amy YUNG, the department would visit the location concerned again after the meeting. It would also discuss and study targeted rodent prevention and control actions with the relevant management offices and personnel

17. Mr KWONG Koon-wan expressed his views as follows

- (a) To his understanding, FEHD's mosquito and rodent control work had achieved prominent results in the past one to two months. Many dead rodents were found at places where rodent baits were placed. He thanked frontline staff of the department generally for collecting the dead bodies of rodents within an hour.
- (b) It was stated in the paper that 779 public toilets were under the department's management and seven new ones were constructed last year. He enquired whether any of the seven new public toilets were in Islands District. The proposed public toilet construction works on Sai Tai Road had been postponed for years. He queried why it was considered no need to construct a public toilet there and urged the department to apply to the Headquarters for construction of public toilets in Islands District and bear the respective recurrent cost in future.
- (c) As for Cheung Chau Market, it was stated in the paper that service trades would be gradually introduced to the market. A few stalls on the ground floor of Cheung Chau Market had been vacant for a period of time. He proposed the stalls be converted for operating service trades and urged the department to follow up on the issue expeditiously to avoid waste of resources.
- (d) Regarding improvement to ventilation facilities and floor tiles of markets stated in the paper, he had proposed to the department in writing the implementation of similar large-scale measures in Cheung Chau Market and follow-up of his proposal for provision of an elevator in the vegetable washing room. He learnt that the feasibility study had been completed and enquired of the department when funding could be obtained. As only an elevator could be used in the market at present with the other under prolonged service suspension, people's desire for shopping on the second floor was dampened. Once the elevator broke down, goods would have to be moved up the stairs to the second floor, which caused inconvenience to the stall operators. He urged the department to formulate a long-term solution, that is, provision of an additional elevator as early as possible
- (e) As for street management, the hygiene problems of Praya Street, Cheung Chau were mentioned in the paper. To his understanding,

frontline staff swept the floor and cleared up refuse frequently, yet the location had high pedestrian flow and refuse accumulated thereat for the reason that refuse was just dumped next to the refuse collection bins when they were full. He enquired whether the department would implement measures such as arranging staff to collect refuse when refuse bins were overloaded.

- (f) As for public toilet improvement works, to his understanding, privacy issues were not fully considered in the Chung Hing Back Street Public Toilet improvement works earlier but remedial measures were expeditiously introduced by FEHD and ArchSD. As for Pak She Street Public Toilet, the adjoining podium looked over the male toilet. He reminded the department to take into account user privacy when conducting renovation works for other public toilets.
- (g) Streets in Cheung Chau were also fouled by dog faeces and he urged the department to take prosecution action in the vicinity of Chung Hing Street, Tai Tsoi Yuen Road and Lung Tsai Tsuen. He learnt that some residents disposed of domestic waste at the above locations, which seriously increased the workload of street cleaners and hoped that the department could take follow-up actions.

18. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) In early May, a massive number of midges appeared in Mun Tung Estate, Yat Tung Estate and North Lantau Hospital (NLTH). Some residents sought medical consultation at NLTH due to swollen limbs and faces caused by midge bites. He enquired why a massive number of midges suddenly appeared within a week.
- (b) Regarding mosquito control, as Mun Tung Estate and Yat Tung Estate were surrounded by private farms and lands, he opined that even if the mosquito control work in Mun Tung Estate and Yat Tung Estate was effective, stagnant water in low-lying locations and puddles, if not properly handled, would be conducive to large-scale mosquito breeding and adversely affect the 2 estates eventually. He proposed that the department should request the owners of the private farms in Tung Chung to work in line with the anti-mosquito measures and conduct regular mosquito control on Yu Tung Road and Chung Yan Road. With a wide channel behind Yat Tung Estate in the direction of Wong Lung Hang drainage pipes and Tung Chung River close to NLTH, he proposed extending the coverage of mosquito control work to the above areas to enhance its effectiveness.
- (c) Regarding rodent control, to his understanding, rodents usually climbed up buildings through drainage pipes. As some upper-floor residents reflected to him that rodents got into their flats, he proposed that the department should install rat guards and offer professional advice to HD for installation of rat guards in Mun Tung Estate and Yat Tung Estate.

- (d) He was against the use of rodent baits which were poisonous. The dead bodies of rodents killed by baits would decay and stink and viruses would be spread by air. Other animals eating the dead bodies of rodents would be poisoned and viruses were transmitted. He proposed that the department should explain to outsourced workers the way of placing rodent baits and recommended the “ecological balance” approach. He opined that the department could make use of cats as the predators on rodents to tackle rodent infestation. Noting that sweet potatoes were used as rodent baits in Yat Tung Estate, he proposed that the department should select rodent baits carefully to ensure their effectiveness.
- (e) He urged the department to follow up on the dog fouling problem on Yu Tung Road and the walkways and footbridges behind Yat Tung Estate, and institute prosecutions to deter offenders.

19. Ms Josephine TSANG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) She thanked the department for visiting food premises in Peng Chau to provide tips to the management on prevention and control of rodents.
- (b) Dog fouling problem was serious in Peng Chau. She proposed that the department should conduct blitz inspections in peak hours of dog walking and issue summons against offenders. Banners should also be put up at popular dog walking spots to remind the public that anyone allowing dogs to foul public places would risk prosecution to achieve deterrent effect.
- (c) In addition, while there were two temporary toilets near Tung Wan Barbecue Area, Peng Chau, only two portable toilets were provided along the family walk from Tung Wan to Pak Wan, Peng Chau despite the large number of visitors thereat. According to her observation, although the contractor cleaned the portable toilets regularly, the hygiene condition was inevitably poor in summer. A slow walk from Pak Wan to Tung Wan took around 35 minutes. The two temporary toilets near Tung Wan Barbecue Area were always too filthy to be used. The temporary toilets were even blown away during the recent passage of the typhoon. She enquired whether the department would consider provision of a public toilet in Tung Wan Barbecue Area.
- (d) Some hikers reflected to her that the hiking trail from Nim Shue Wan to Mui Wo had high pedestrian flow, and it took around two hours to complete the entire journey at slow walking speed but no public toilets were provided along the way. Therefore, she proposed provision of a public toilet at the said road section.

20. Ms Winsy LAI made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) In response to the question of Mr KWONG Koon-wan, the department would continue with rodent control and prevention work. Construction of toilets involved public funds or allocation of other

public resources so the responsible department could continue to discuss relevant matters with FEHD.

- (b) Regarding matters related to the installation of lift in Cheung Chau Market, FEHD and relevant departments would apply for funding upon completion of preparatory work.
- (c) As for street cleaning work, with respect to the locations mentioned by Mr KWONG Koon-wan, the department would consider making corresponding arrangement and deployment of resources. In respect of the problems of street hygiene, littering and dog fouling, the department would continue to arrange staff to conduct irregular patrols of the area concerned and prosecute littering offenders. In addition, it would consider displaying banners at appropriate locations, which would be discussed with Members in due course and stepping up publicity and education.
- (d) Regarding Mr Eric KWOK's question about midges appearing in the vicinity of Mun Tung Estate and NLTH, the department would further follow up on the issue with relevant departments.
- (e) As for mosquito control work in private farms in Mun Tung Estate and Yat Tung Estate, the department would contact relevant land users or owners and offer technical advice on mosquito control to improve environmental hygiene.
- (f) To her understanding, the proposal of placing rat guards in public housing estates was already put into practice in some public housing estates. In the light of different environment and auxiliary facilities of each housing estate, the department would visit Yat Tung Estate with staff of HD after the meeting and assist in placing rat guards therein. The public was encouraged to eradicate rodent infestation at the source, such as eliminating food sources and hiding places of rodents and blocking their passage, while persons-in-charge of food premises were reminded to handle food remnants and waste properly. The department would put equal emphasis on judicious application of rat baits and continuous improvement of environment hygiene.
- (g) The department would follow up on the hygiene condition of the toilets in Tung Wan, Peng Chau after the meeting. It noted the proposal of provision of a toilet. However, as public funds and a variety of factors were involved, she would discuss with Ms Josephine TSANG in due course when an opportunity came.

21. Ms YU Lai-fan said that some residents of Lamma Island reflected to her the dog fouling problem. She opined that distribution of publicity publications such as leaflets and posters to residents was ineffective and proposed stepping up prosecution action. She could provide dog fouling black spots to the department after the meeting.

22. Mr Eric KWOK reiterated that the department should seriously consider the “ecological balance” approach as proposed.

23. Mr WONG Man-hon said that dog fouling problem was also a very serious problem in Mui Wo. He opined that the publicity leaflets were too small in size and urged the department to step up patrol and blitz prosecution to enhance their effectiveness.

24. Ms Winsy LAI said that the department noted the dog fouling locations mentioned by Ms YU Lai-fan and Mr WONG Man-hon and would contact and follow up with the Members in due course.

25. The Chairman commended staff of the outsourced contractor for endeavouring to perform their duties effectively and address the problems raised by Members promptly.

(Post-meeting note: FEHD had informed relevant Members that banners were put up at dog fouling black spots to remind the public not to commit the offence of allowing their dogs fouling the street with dog faeces. It would also step up patrol and enforcement action to keep the environment clean.)

(Mr Randy YU joined the meeting at around 2:30 p.m. and Mr Holden CHOW left the meeting at around 3 p.m.)

IV. Question on Public Toilet Refurbishment Programme (Paper TAFEHC 24/2019)

26. The Chairman welcomed Ms Winsy LAI, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands) of FEHD to the meeting to present the paper. The written reply of FEHD had been distributed to Members for perusal prior to the meeting.

27. Mr KWONG Koon-wan presented the paper.

28. Ms Winsy LAI explained the written reply of FEHD in detail.

29. Mr KWONG Koon-wan said that major refurbishment was conducted at the public toilet at San Hing Back Street earlier on, but its usage rate was higher than that at Peak Road West and the taps and plumbing facilities were seriously damaged. He was perplexed that the San Hing Back Street toilet was not included in the toilet refurbishment project. He urged the department to monitor closely the maintenance and improvement works conducted in June this year and adjust the scale or scope of future maintenance service.

30. The Chairman said that the doors of the male and female toilets at San Hing Back Street stood side by side, and users were afraid of walking into the wrong one. Some women opined that the close proximity might pose potential risks. She suggested the department take the above into account when refurbishment work was carried out.

31. Mr YUNG Chi-ming said that toilets were closed and fixtures removed before maintenance work was carried out in Cheung Chau, but time passed and the work did not begin. Residents said the public toilet had closed for months but work did not commence, causing much inconvenience. He suggested that the department shut the toilets only when work began to avoid causing inconvenience to the public.

32. The Chairman expressed her views as follows:

- (a) The hygiene of the G/F refuse collection point and the second floor public toilet at San Hing Back Street was unsatisfactory. She said the previous temporary refuse collection point also affected the surrounding environment but a device was installed at the window of the refuse collection point spraying water or air freshener. She suggested the department install such device.
- (b) To her understanding, the road section across the refuse collection point was not managed by the department. The road surface was uneven and dirt settled thereon. She hoped that the cleaning workers would clear away the refuse to keep the surrounding clean.

(Post-meeting note: FEHD had arranged for ArchSD to complete the minor maintenance work at San Hing Back Street public toilet and the refuse collection point below it this June. It also informed the relevant departments of the damages to the pavement across the refuse collection point at San Hing Back Street for follow-up. The department would continue to monitor the usage of the toilet and take follow-up actions where appropriate.)

V. Question on abuse of Discovery Bay residents' coach service during peak travel seasons and holidays
(Paper TAFEHC 25/2019)

33. The Chairman said that the joint written reply of Hong Kong Resort Company Limited (HKRC), Auberge Discovery Bay Hong Kong (Auberge) and Discovery Bay Transit Services Limited (DBTSL) was distributed to Members for perusal prior to the meeting.

34. Ms Amy YUNG introduced the question.

35. Ms Amy YUNG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) She was regretful that HKRC and its subsidiaries as usual did not attend the meeting. She was dissatisfied with the joint written reply of HKRC, Auberge and DBTSL and opined that the issue was not addressed. She did not object to outsiders using Discovery Bay residents' service (RS) but in recent years, there was a large number of tourists, including hotel guests, who carried a large amount of luggage filling up the RS compartments, making the residents unable to board the buses. The "Easter Egg Hunt on the Beach" activity this year was originally scheduled for the first two days of the holiday, but owing to weather, it was postponed to the third day of the holiday and thus the

traffic congestion this year was less serious than last year. HKRC indicated in the joint written reply that the RS was operating smoothly, yet to her understanding, the “Easter Egg Hunt on the Beach” activity in one year attracted a high passenger flow and the organiser reflected the situation to the Transport Department (TD) and rented buses from Citybus to carry the visitors. This year, residents reflected to her that staff of the activity organiser stood at the exit of Tung Chung MTR Station with signage directing participants to take the RS, thus the waiting time for the coaches lengthened. She opined that the residents should be given priority for using the RS and the activity organiser should make its own transport arrangement for carrying participants to the activity venue. Hotel guests generally carried several pieces of large luggage which obstructed people gaining access to the RS compartment and posed risks to other passengers.

- (b) According to the regulations of TD, there were different types of coach licences in Hong Kong, such as licences for hotel coaches, commercial coaches and RS respectively. Given the increased numbers of activities and hotel guests in recent years, the RS had been overloaded. Residents reflected to her that there were large numbers of passengers during holidays and they were unable to board the RS. She appealed to HKRC and its subsidiaries for respecting the residents.
- (e) There were not enough recycling bins and rubbish bins on the beach, and the cleanup frequency was insufficient. The waste left behind after the beach activity remained uncollected until the following day, which caused infestation of rodents or other hygiene problems. Residents reflected to her that the tourists did not separate waste according to the recycling guidelines and the hygiene condition was unsatisfactory. She urged the developer, when organising activities, to request the cleaning contractor to collect and remove the waste (mostly food and drink bottles) immediately from the beach and Discovery Bay to avoid accumulation of waste.

(Mr KWONG Koon-wan left the meeting at around 3:15 p.m.)

VI. Question on illegal camping
(Paper TAFEHC 26/2019)

36. The Chairman welcomed Dr TAM Tze-wai, Country Parks Ranger Services Officer (HK) and Dr YOUNG Lau-ching, Maria, Country Parks Officer (Lantau) of AFCD to the meeting. The written reply of AFCD had been distributed to Members for perusal prior to the meeting.

37. Ms Sammi FU presented the question.

38. Dr Tam Tze-wai and Dr Maria YOUNG explained the written reply of AFCD.

39. Mr Randy YU expressed his views as follows:

- (a) As far as he understood, Pui O Beach and its vicinity was either under the management of Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) or District Lands Office (DLO). He asked DLO how the issue of illegal camping on Government land was to be dealt with, and if people set up tents on the grounds of LCSD such as Pui O Beach when the several tens of camp bays of Pui O Campsite were full, what measures the relevant departments had in place.
- (b) According to the written reply of AFCD, it had been promoting good practice and conduct and civilised tourism for tourists overseas, the Mainland in particular, via various channels (including Hong Kong Tourism Board)(HKTB). He said there was an influx of visitors shortly after the commissioning of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge but the situation was improved after communication and coordination between the Governments of two places. He suggested the Secretariat write and pass on Members' views to HKTB and find out how to promote civilised tourism and the ways of giving support. It was hoped that HKTB would step up publicity to remind Hongkongers and Mainland visitors to get along well with each other.

40. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) To his understanding, illegal camping around Pui O Campsite was getting more serious, with some people setting up tents near the end of Pui O River for years. DLO had erected signs indicating that it was Government land but the campers took no notice. Complaints were lodged to the Police last year by villagers of Shap Long, Pui O. The campers left after being warned by the Police but returned around two weeks later. He hoped that DLO would introduce measures which could provide a deterrent. The area behind Pui O Beach was almost devoid of 80 percent of climbing plants, and erosion occurred at river mouth, causing environmental damage and serious ecological problems. He urged DLO to take prompt actions to prevent matters from deteriorating.
- (b) He was pleased that Mainlanders went camping at Pui O Campsite but they set up tents in areas other than the designated sites (e.g. the beach), showing a low level of environmental awareness. There used to be abundant trees on Pui O Beach with mangroves and climbing plants near Pui O River. However, many plants for protection purpose were gradually destroyed in recent years and he was afraid that over time, the beach environment in Pui O would further deteriorate. He hoped that the relevant departments would take prompt actions.
- (c) He opined that it was necessary to step up publicity and education amongst Mainlanders. According to his observation, some Mainland people went to the camping grounds for fishing leading to a decline of fish stocks. He suggested AFCD or relevant departments to remind

campers of environmental protection and not to cause damage to the beach and marine ecology.

41. Ms Sammi FU said that to her understanding, Pui O Campsite and the beach did not fall within the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap. 298A). She asked whether LCSD or DLO had the authority to carry out enforcement there. Although there were camping spots at other areas and country parks, the visitors usually obtained information from the travel guides and went camping at hot spots. The camp sites were now allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. She enquired of AFCD whether priority would be given to Hong Kong residents for use of some popular camp sites.

42. Mr KWOK Chi-hang responded as follows:

- (a) For matters relating to camping, according to the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 28), DLO could post a notice requiring the occupiers to cease the unlawful occupation of Government land before a specified deadline. If the occupiers moved the tents before the specified deadline, there would not constitute a breach of the notice. As the tents could easily be moved to other plots of Government land, it would be difficult for DLO to take enforcement actions.
- (b) In the case of Pui O, DLO would follow up after any complaints received and take appropriate actions where possible.

43. Dr TAM Tze-wai said camp sites were all along allocated on a first-come, first-served basis and some popular camp sites were found overcrowding during long holidays. Tents were close to each other and some people even camped illegally outside the camp sites when they found the sites fully occupied upon their arrival. The department was considering to introduce an advance booking system but further study would be required to prevent inequality when giving priority to Hong Kong residents in the use of camp sites.

44. Mr Randy YU expressed his views as follows:

- (a) Regarding the camping locations on Pui O Beach, as far as he knew, there were no express provisions specifying that Hong Kong residents had priority in the use of camp sites although the primary objective of the camping facilities of LCSD was to provide for Hong Kong residents' use. HKTb had never promoted Hong Kong as a best place for camping and the camping resources should be reserved for Hong Kong residents only. Holders of Hong Kong identity cards could make reservations by telephone for use of Pui O Campsites on statutory holidays in such way that Hong Kong people appeared to have priority in using camping sites. He proposed AFCD consider adopting the venue booking system of LCSD.
- (b) In response to Mr KWOK Chi-hang's remarks about enforcement actions by DLO, he urged DLO to seek resources from Lands Department (LandsD) for enforcement or warning actions, and suggested that it work with HKTb to step up publicity through a

two-pronged approach among Mainland people, especially the residents of Guangdong Province, and remind them to comply with the rules of camp sites or points for attention, e.g. never taking tents along as there might not be vacant camp sites on long holidays. He urged LandsD to issue warnings during long holidays this year and take enforcement next year.

45. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) As far as he understood, if there were Government sites in between private farmland, LandsD would erect signs and enclose them with metal fences. He suggested DLO take reference to the above and use eco-friendly wood fences. LCSD or AFCD could grow plants to beautify the environment and erect appealing signs proclaiming the beach ownership to prevent users from prolonged occupation by means of leaving for the day and camping at night. This would alleviate the difficulties for LandsD in enforcement.
- (b) He did not agree to the term of “priority to Hong Kong residents” because of its sensitive nature. He opined that the present reservation system for Pui O Campsite had loopholes resulting in scalping with families getting sites for camping without booking. He hoped that the problem could be resolved.

46. Mr KWOK Chi-hang gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) He noted Mr Randy YU’s proposals and would look into the matter.

(Post-meeting note: After enquiries of LandsD, DLO noted that no extra resources could be allocated for enforcement or warning actions in respect of the camping issue. If DLO staff discovered unlawful occupation of unleased Government land by tents during patrol, DLO staff would give verbal warnings to occupiers and would take appropriate actions where possible.)

- (b) Regarding Mr Eric KWOK’s proposal of fencing off the campsites, DLO would take into account the objective and cost effectiveness etc. in taking land control action by fencing. If the fencing materials were not strong enough, the fences would easily be damaged and people might enter into the concerned Government land without permission. He opined that enclosure of Government land with wooden fences might not achieve the objective of preventing entry by any unauthorised persons. He noted Mr Eric KWOK’s views and would pay attention to the scenery factor when taking any land control action by fencing.

47. Mr Eric KWOK disagreed to the comments of Mr KWOK Chi-hang. He opined that the ecology of beaches was the paramount consideration. Compared with the fence costs, damages to beaches would have more serious consequences. If

someone damaged the fences, he or she would commit illegal camping and a criminal offence of causing damage to Government property.

48. Ms Josephine TSANG said that as far as she knew, not only Chinese residents but also people of other nationalities set up camps illegally. Given that there were legal loopholes, she asked whether LandsD would review the existing legislation to facilitate enforcement actions.

49. Mr KWOK Chi-hang said that to his understanding, LandsD had no plans to amend the legislation for tackling the problem arising from camping and DLO would deal with unlawful occupation of Government land according to the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 28) under current mechanism.

50. The Chairman said illegal camping could not be solved overnight. Detailed discussion among relevant departments would be required.

51. Ms Amy YUNG said that Mr Randy YU suggested just now that HKTb co-ordinate with the Mainland counterparts. She suggested HKTb tell the Mainland what the problem was, not just from the legal perspective but also the regulatory framework and guidelines for both sides to cooperate in tackling the problem for sustainable development in Hong Kong.

52. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to issue a letter to HKTb to reflect the current campsite situation and Members' views.

(Post-meeting note: Islands District Council (IDC) Secretariat relayed Members' views to HKTb which gave its reply to the Committee in writing in respect of illegal camping in July 2019.)

VII. Second Batch of Proposed Projects under District Minor Works of Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries and Environmental Hygiene Committee for 2019/2020
(Paper TAFEHC 27/2019)

53. The Chairman welcomed Ms YEUNG Cin-man, Winnie, Assistant District Officer (Islands)² and Mr LI Ming-yau, Senior Inspector of Works of Islands District Office (IsDO) to the meeting to present the paper.

54. Ms Winnie YEUNG presented the paper.

55. Mr Eric KWOK said some hikers told him how their cell phone batteries ran out without backup batteries when they went hiking. He suggested that solar panels be installed at hillside pavilions for hikers to recharge their phones immediately.

56. Ms Winnie YEUNG said the purpose of maintenance and minor works contracts was mainly to provide maintenance for facilities which were out of service due to weather conditions. Resources would be allocated for works under the maintenance and minor works contracts. It noted Mr Eric KWOK's proposal of installing solar panels at pavilions and would convey it to Home Affairs Department after the meeting.

57. Members endorsed the allocation of \$6,000,000 for implementation of three district minor works (DMW) projects.

VIII. Progress report on DC-funded District Minor Works Projects
(Paper TAFEHC 28/2019)

58. The Chairman welcomed Mr LI Ming-yau, Senior Inspector of Works of IsDO to the meeting to present the paper.

59. Mr LI Ming-yau presented the paper.

60. Members endorsed the paper and noted the report of IsDO.

IX. Report by Working Group

(i) Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries and Environmental Hygiene Committee Activities Working Group

61. The Chairman said that the report of the working group was attached for Members' reference (Reference 1). Members were welcome to comment on the activity report.

62. The Chairman said six members declared interests under Tier-1 for their posts as honorary consultants of Hong Kong Outlying Islands Women's Association prior to the meeting with regard to the proposal of 「惜物減廢『嶼家嶼社』齊推動」 put forward by the Islands Healthy City and Age-friendly Community Working Group. For Tier-1 declarations, the members concerned could remain in the meeting and take part in the discussion, decision-making and voting.

63. Members had no comment and endorsed the activity programme 2019-20 and the allocation proposal.

(ii) Islands Healthy City and Age-friendly Community Working Group

64. Mr Randy YU said that the report of the working group (see Reference 2 for details) had been sent to Members for perusal by fax or email before the meeting. Members were welcome to comment on the report.

65. Mr Randy YU declared interests with his post as consultant of the current-term Organising Committee of Islands Youth Camp.

66. The Chairman said Mr YU could remain in the meeting and take part in the discussion, decision-making and voting.

67. Members had no comment and endorsed the activity programme 2019-20 and the allocation proposal.

X. Any Other Business

68. The Chairman said IDC was allocated \$31,688,000 for implementation of DMW in 2019-20. At the meeting on 15 April, IDC endorsed and confirmed the DMW funding allocation of \$7,000,000 to this Committee for 2019-20. She asked the Secretariat to distribute the project proposal forms to Members. The project proposals submitted by Members earlier would be processed with the proposals received this time.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat distributed the project proposal forms to Members on 28 May this year.)

69. Members noted the above report.

XI. Date of Next Meeting

70. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on 29 July 2019 (Monday).

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