

(Translation)

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

Date : 28 May 2018 (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 YU Hon-kwan, Randy, JP
Mr CHAN Lin-wai
Mr CHEUNG Fu
Mr FAN Chi-ping
Mr LOU Cheuk-wing
Ms YU Lai-fan
Ms YUNG Wing-sheung, Amy
Mr KWONG Koon-wan
Mr CHOW Ho-ding, Holden
Ms TSANG Sau-ho, Josephine
Mr KWOK Ping, Eric
Mr WONG King-chuen
Mr KWONG Kwok-kam, BH, JP
Mr CHEUNG Ming-keung

Attendance by Invitation

Ms KWOK Sze-wan, Cynthia	Engineer/Islands 1, Transport Department
Ms LEUNG Chiu-mei	District Engineer/Islands, Highways Department
Mr LEU Kun-man	Senior Marine Officer/Port Logistics, Marine Department
Mr NG Wing-yiu	Marine Officer/Pollution Control Unit, Marine Department
Ms TSANG Yuen-ping, Florence	Assistant Housing Manager/Service (Hong Kong Island) 3-1, Housing Department
Mr CHIANG Wing-lang	Senior Property Services Manager/Eastern, Architectural Services Department
Mr HO Chee-yin, Jackey	Property Services Manager/Shau Kei Wan & Islands South, Architectural Services Department
Mr WONG Siu-wah, Solomon	Senior Engineer/Municipal/Hong Kong, Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Mr HO Chi-ming	Engineer/Municipal/Hong Kong 1, Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Mr OR Yan-kin	Engineer/Consultants Management 3, Drainage Services Department
Mr CHAN Wai-chung, Christopher	Environmental Protection Officer (Water Policy & Science)53, Environmental Protection Department
Dr LEE Wai-man, Cherie	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Sewerage Infrastructure)3, Environmental Protection Department
Ms CHAU Choi-mei, Michelle	Environmental Protection Officer (Sewerage Infrastructure)34, Environmental Protection Department

In Attendance

Mr AU Sheung-man, Benjamin	Assistant District Officer (Islands)1, Islands District Office
Ms CHONG Yan-yee, Belinda	Assistant District Officer (Islands)2, Islands District Office
Mr LI Ming-yau	Senior Inspector of Works, Islands District Office
Mr KWAN Yau-kee	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr WONG Tat-ming	Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Islands), Lands Department
Ms LEE Yuk-yin	Assistant Police Community Relations Officer (Marine Port District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr CHAN Chun	Police Community Relations Officer (Lantau District), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms CHOI Siu-man, Sherman	Senior Transport Officer/Islands, Transport Department
Mr LI Kim-man	Senior Environment Protection Officer (Regional South)5, Environmental Protection Department
Ms LUN Chui-yuen, Janice	Fisheries Officer (Enforcement)1, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Mr Benny CHAN	Representative, New Lantau Bus Co., (1973) Ltd.
Ms Sonja CHAN	Representative, New World First Ferry Services Limited

Secretary

Ms TANG Yuen-shan, Serena	Executive Officer (District Council)2, Islands District Office
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Absent with Apology

Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, SBS	
Mr YUNG Chi-ming, BBS	
Mr WONG Hon-kuen, Ken	
Mr WONG Man-hon	
Mr CHAN Ngai-chung	
Ms TONG Yee-fun, Pauline	Senior Conservation Officer/1 (Lantau), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Ms WOO On-ting, Amy	Agricultural Officer (Agricultural Extension), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Ms Cardi CHUNG	Representative, Hong Kong Tourism Board

Welcome remarks

The Chairman welcomed representatives from government departments and organisations as well as Members to the meeting. She then introduced the following representatives from government departments in attendance to the meeting:

- (a) Mr CHAN Chun, Police Community Relations Officer (Lantau District) of the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF), who stood in for Mr YAU Siu-sang; and
- (b) Ms LEE Yuk-yin, Assistant Police Community Relations Officer (Marine Port District) of HKPF, who stood in for Mr YUEN King-ho.

2. Members noted that Ms LAM Ching-lan had resigned as a co-opted member of the Committee. Members also noted that Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, Mr YUNG Chi-ming, Mr WONG Man-hon, Mr Ken WONG, Mr CHAN Ngai-chung, Ms Pauline TONG, Ms Amy WOO and Ms Cardi CHUNG, representative of Hong Kong Tourism Board were unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments.

I. Confirmation of minutes of the meeting held on 26.3.2018

3. The captioned minutes were confirmed unanimously without amendments.

II. Improving public cleanliness (Paper TAFEHC 22/2018)

4. The Chairman welcomed Mr Benjamin AU, Assistant District Officer (Islands)¹ of the Islands District Office (IsDO); Mr KWAN Yau-kee, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD); Ms KWOK Sze-wan, Cynthia, Engineer/Islands 1 of the Transport Department (TD); Mr WONG Tat-ming, Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Islands) of the Lands Department (LandsD); Mr CHAN Chun, Police Community Relations Officer (Lantau District) of HKPF; Ms LEUNG Chiu-mei, District Engineer/Islands of the Highways Department; Mr LEU Kun-man, Senior Marine Officer/Port Logistics and Mr NG Wing-yiu, Marine Officer/Pollution Control Unit of the Marine Department (MD); Ms TSANG Yuen-ping, Florence, Assistant Housing Manager/Service (Hong Kong Island) 3-1 of the Housing Department (HD); as well as Mr LI Kim-man, Senior Environment Protection Officer (Regional South)⁵ of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) to the meeting to present the paper.

5. Mr Benjamin AU briefed on the background of the paper, and Mr KWAN Yau-kee briefly presented the paper.

6. Ms Cynthia KWOK briefly presented the paper and added that the more complicated and serious cases of illegal parking of bicycle would usually be tackled through joint clearance operations of departments, in which bicycles illegally occupying unleased government land would be removed pursuant to the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance. However, as it was required to post a notice on the bicycles at least 24 hours prior to the operation, there was time for people to tear away the notices so that the departments concerned could not remove the bicycles. As a result, the effectiveness of such operations might be undermined. TD earlier implemented a trial scheme at

MTR Sheung Shui Station in North District to remove bicycles that were illegally parked and caused obstruction pursuant to Sections 4A and 32(1) of the Summary Offences Ordinance (SOO) (Cap. 228) and the scheme had achieved satisfactory results. The department planned to extend the scheme progressively to other districts in the New Territories including Islands District in 2018-19. TD would identify locations where the SOO could be invoked to clear illegally-parked bicycles.

7. Mr WONG Tat-ming, Mr CHAN Chun, Ms LEUNG Chiu-mei, Mr NG Wing-yiu, Ms Florence TSANG, Mr LI Kim-man and Mr Benjamin AU briefly presented the paper respectively.

8. Mr Holden CHOW raised his views as follows:

- (a) An organisation had conducted activities akin to funeral service in Tung Chung Town Centre near Citygate, which had caused negative impact on the environment and was offensive to passers-by. Although FEHD and the Police had conducted joint clearance operation against the activities, the organisation soon reverted to its past practices by adopting guerrilla tactics to place the sacrificial offerings. He hoped FEHD would conduct further joint clearance operations and explain in detail how the problem would be tackled and followed up.
- (b) Some residents had reflected to him that mosquito infestation was serious at Ying Tung Estate, Century Link and The Visionary. Understanding FEHD had taken action against the problem, he hoped FEHD would follow up on the issue.

9. Ms Amy YUNG thanked the departments for giving response. During the meeting between Dr KO Wing-man, the former Secretary for Food and Health, and District Councillors in 2016, she reflected that a lot of refuse was accumulated in the rock crevices along the coast. It was difficult to clean up the refuse because the waves would carry some other refuse and send it into the rock crevices immediately after clearance. It required a lot of efforts to clear the refuse repeatedly. She proposed to install fencing along the coast to prevent refuse from washing into rock crevices by waves and hoped that MD would consider her proposal.

10. Mr Eric KWOK raised his views as follows:

- (a) He thanked FEHD and HD for conducting joint anti-mosquito operations in Yat Tung Estate time and again. Despite frequent application of mosquito larvicidal oil and insecticide, the results were still unsatisfactory. He proposed to launch a large-scale anti-mosquito operation both inside and outside Yat Tung Estate as soon as possible, during which FEHD would be responsible for the peripheral area of Yat Tung Estate, Yu Tung Road, Ma Wan Chung Village and Ngau Au Village, etc., while HD the area within Yat Tung Estate.
- (b) Regarding the failure of tackling mosquito problem through application of exterminating pesticide, as far as he knew, the mass disappearance of the natural predators of mosquitoes such as frogs and toads in Tung Chung (in particular in the deserted agricultural land and wetland in the periphery of Yat Tung Estate) in recent years had resulted in serious mosquito problem. He asked whether EPD would collaborate with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) to explore the introduction of organisms such as frogs and tadpoles to the deserted agricultural land and wetland in Ma Wan Chung Village, Ngau Au Village and Shek Lau Po Village for predation of mosquitoes.
- (c) Regarding bicycles, Tung Chung was plagued by the problem of shared bicycles. He asked whether the Police and TD would remove the bicycles, including shared bicycles, causing street obstruction in various districts pursuant to the SOO. He also asked whether the

bicycles in areas under the management of HD could only be removed by HD whereas the Police did not have the power to remove them.

- (d) He learnt that FEHD had installed a video camera on Pui O Beach near the estuary, but tents had been erected outside the camping areas of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department since Easter Holidays. Although the District Lands Office, Islands (DLO) had erected signs at the estuary to indicate that the site was government land, there were still tents erected for a long time with miscellaneous articles such as abandoned tents and camping equipment left behind. He hoped the departments concerned would arrange staff to deal with the matter as soon as possible.

11. Mr KWONG Koon-wan raised his views as follows:

- (a) Regarding the section of “Improvement to the hygiene condition at public refuse collection points (RCPs)” set out in paragraph (b) on page 2 of the paper, he had previously reflected to FEHD that a lot of rodents were spotted at the RCP at Chung Hing Back Street, Cheung Chau. As the problem remained unresolved after the handling of the department, he requested the department to continue to follow up on this. Besides, noting that aluminium gates were installed at the newly constructed RCPs in Cheung Chau, he requested the department to install aluminium gates at gateless RCPs or those with old or damaged metal gates.
- (b) Regarding the refuse in typhoon shelter, he hoped that MD would actively clean up the refuse in Sai Wan Typhoon Shelter in Cheung Chau. He suggested the department clean the refuse up when the tide was on the ebb so that the seabed refuse along the coast including bicycles and electrical appliances, etc., which were seen above sea level at low tide, could be cleared together.

12. Ms YU Lai-fan raised her views as follows:

- (a) She commended EPD, FEHD, DLO and MD for proactively tackling the problem of floating clinical waste while EPD had given clear explanation about the Government’s disposal arrangement of clinical waste to Members and residents of the areas concerned.
- (b) She also thanked FEHD for its daily clearance of refuse on the non-gazetted beaches in the light of residents’ reports and wind direction. The non-gazetted beaches on Lamma Island were popular places for angling and holding activities at present. She thought that non-gazetted beaches (in particular beaches of high conservation value such as Sham Wan) were not suitable for angling and holding activities and hoped that EPD and other departments concerned would step up law enforcement and management of these beaches.
- (c) Regarding illegal parking of bicycles, she opined that it was necessary to take regular law enforcement and prosecution actions while the effectiveness of the existing crackdown measures still fell short of expectations. Although the bicycles were private properties, she queried why they could be cleared only after posting a notice for 24 hours.

13. Mr FAN Chi-ping said that bicycles were dumped into the river in Ma Wan Chung and many bicycles were parked randomly in Yat Tung Estate. He asked whether the departments concerned could urge the shared bicycle operators to retrieve the bicycles. In response to the anti-mosquito method proposed by Mr Eric KWOK, he worried that disputes over rare animals and private land issues might arise due to introduction of organisms such as frogs and the proposal was therefore open to question.

14. Ms Amy YUNG opined that FEHD mainly dealt with problems in public places and possessed practical experience in prevention and control of mosquitoes and rodents. Therefore, she hoped that the department would enhance the dissemination of information on prevention and control of mosquitoes and rodents such as distributing leaflets or holding seminars to explain the methods regarding prevention and control of mosquitoes and rodents to cleansing companies or management companies. As mosquito and rodent problems were serious in Discovery Bay, she requested FEHD to assist Discovery Bay in preventing and controlling these problems.

15. Ms Josephine TSANG said that since the introduction of mechanical refuse collection vehicles (RCVs) on Peng Chau, the problem of refuse accumulation was alleviated. In earlier times, she had requested FEHD not to reduce manpower for refuse collection due to introduction of mechanical RCVs. After introducing the mechanical RCVs last year, some residents reflected that the hygiene condition on ground was still not satisfactory. She wanted the department to closely monitor the staff deployment for enhanced cleanliness in the district. As the number of rodents and cockroaches would increase in hot weather, she learnt that the department had arranged the Pest Control Teams to tackle rodent and cockroach problems. Understanding that rodents and cockroaches might have enhanced resistance to poisonous rat baits or insecticide, she suggested alternate use of different kinds of pesticides. Moreover, improper disposal of refuse by residents raised the risk of pest and rodent breeding. She suggested the department enhance publicity by posting notices and displaying banners at RCPs and in the district with a view to raising the residents' awareness of sanitation and hygiene and instilling in them a sense of responsibility.

16. The Chairman said that while there were still inadequacies, some visitors reflected that the hygiene condition in Islands District had been improved.

17. Mr KWAN Yau-kee made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) Regarding the activities akin to funeral service in mourning hall, he said that complaints had been received and action had been taken to stop such activities. According to the information of LandsD, the location concerned was a private place managed by the respective management office and owners, it was thus difficult to take law enforcement action but FEHD would continue to follow up. Regarding mosquito problem, the department had stepped up mosquito control work and would provide supplementary information on the recent anti-mosquito operations after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: FEHD had recently arranged staff to inspect Citygate and the adjacent area for several times and no "mourning hall" activities were found. Moreover, FEHD, together with the representatives of HD and the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD), inspected the works sites under their management in the vicinity of Ying Tung Estate, The Visionary and Century Link and the nearby public areas on 27 June, and would step up efforts to maintain the environmental hygiene at their sites, closely monitor the situation and implement enhanced mosquito prevention and control measures, including strengthened clearance of refuse, removal of stagnant water and application of pesticides, etc. In addition, staff of FEHD advised staff of HD and representatives of works sites on recommended measures for prevention and control of mosquitoes and rodents. Staff of FEHD also conducted inspection to Century Link and The Visionary, and provided the relevant property management agents with recommended mosquito prevention and control measures and the relevant

environmental hygiene education.)

- (b) Regarding Members' proposals concerning mosquito and rodent problems, he said that assistance could be offered to private housing estates. Upon the requests of private housing estates, the department might organise seminars, distribute promotional leaflets and provide technical advice for the areas concerned. The management office of Discovery Bay might write to or call the department for making appropriate arrangement.

(Post-meeting note: FEHD had been actively promoting environmental hygiene education and, from time to time, organised seminars on pest and rodent control and distributed publicity leaflets in Islands District, for example, the roving exhibition staged in Discovery Bay on 10 July. Staff of FEHD would also conduct inspection to private housing estates, providing the staff of private property management agents with recommended measures of pest and rodent control and the relevant environmental hygiene education.)

- (c) Regarding the mosquito problem at the peripheral areas of Tung Chung and the problems at the estuary of Pui O Beach, he said that follow-up action would be taken to handle the miscellaneous articles such as unclaimed tents.

(Post-meeting note: The pest control contract contractor of FEHD carried out pest control work at the peripheral areas of Yat Tung Estate every week and would, together with HD/property management agents, step up pest control at the public areas within and outside Yat Tung Estate at times. On 29 June, FEHD and the property management agent of Yat Tung Estate carried out a joint pest control operation within Yat Tung Estate and at the public areas outside Yat Tung Estate respectively. FEHD would continue to maintain close liaison with the property management agent of Yat Tung Estate for enhanced effectiveness of mosquito control. To combat illegal disposal of refuse at the estuary on Pui O Beach, FEHD had strengthened the cleaning work, posted notice at the location to urge the public to dispose of the refuse properly, and stepped up inspection at the location.)

- (d) Regarding improvements to RCPs, the department planned to refurbish RCPs in a gradual manner and the problem of rodent infestation at the RCP in Chung Hing Street would be followed up by the subject officers. He said that the objective of installing gates at RCPs was to prevent animals such as cattle and dogs from entering RCPs to look for food. The department was studying the installation of gates at RCPs in the light of the actual situation. For areas where cattle or dogs were spotted less frequently, the department would not consider installing gates for the RCPs for the time being, lest obstruction should be caused to residents using the facilities.

(Post-meeting note: FEHD had recently strengthened the rodent prevention and control work at the RCP in Chung Hing Back Street, including strengthened refuse clearance, floor cleansing and placing of rat baits, etc. FEHD had also visited the nearby residential developments, shops and food establishments for advising the public on prevention and control of rodents to ensure environmental hygiene. Moreover, maintenance works of RCPs in Cheung Chau carried out by the department were underway, including repair works of RCP gates. The department

would continue to monitor the RCPs and make improvements to RCPs in the district in the light of individual situations.)

- (e) Regarding mechanical village vehicles, the contract entered between the department and the contractor of Peng Chau would expire at the end of this month. Another contractor would take up the cleansing service with effect from June, and the service aided by mechanical village vehicles would continue. Regarding the litter on the ground, the department would follow up and deploy additional staff for cleaning. Besides, it was necessary to seek the professional advice from the Pest Control Advisory Section on the use of pesticide. The department would arrange staff for enhancing the hygiene awareness of residents in the district after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: FEHD had reminded the cleansing supervisors in Peng Chau that they needed to pay more attention to the cleanliness on ground. As spotted earlier, some refuse was left on the ground without proper handling after the new contractor had collected refuse with mechanical village vehicles at RCPs, but the situation was improved at present. The department also posted notices at the conspicuous places of RCPs, organised seminars on pest and rodent control and distributed publicity leaflets in the district with a view to raising the residents' awareness and sense of responsibility regarding environmental hygiene.)

18. Mr LEU Kun-man made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) Regarding the problem of refuse at rock crevices at the waterfront, he said that the department would clean the refuse up as much as possible. For those locations that were inaccessible, too high to reach or above the water mark, they were outside the department's purview, but the department would still try to clean-up. For the proposed installation of fencing at the coast, this was within the purview of an inter-departmental working group under EPD and the relevant issues could be discussed at the meetings of this working group.
- (b) Regarding the refuse problem at Sai Wan Jetty inside Cheung Chau Typhoon Shelter, since it was now the fishing moratorium period, more vessels were staying in the typhoon shelter and adequate water space should be allowed for vessels movement, hence, the department would conduct large-scale refuse cleaning operations at the typhoon shelter after the fishing moratorium when the vessels were leaving gradually. For those refuse which could only be seen above the water at low tide, such as abandoned bicycles and electrical appliances, he said that the main responsibility of the department was to collect the marine floating refuse, however, their cleansing contractor would also try to remove them but might not be able to collect large and heavy electrical appliances.

19. The Chairman enquired which department was responsible for refuse clearance at the coastal area in Cheung Chau and the bund of the typhoon shelter. She said that refuse was easily accumulated at the bund and was difficult to identify unless they were found by fishing vessels. She enquired whether it was under the purview of MD.

20. Mr KWONG Koon-wan said that this year's fishing moratorium would last for 3.5 months. In other words, the refuse in the typhoon shelter could be removed only after 15 August. He considered the waiting time too long. He pointed out that there might be no large fishing vessels (except sampans) berthing at the location. He hoped that the department would step up patrol and clearance of refuse in the typhoon shelter instead of waiting till after 15 August, otherwise the problem of refuse accumulation would be aggravated.

21. Mr Eric KWOK requested EPD and AFCD to respond to the proposed introduction of tadpoles in the deserted agricultural land and wetland outside Yat Tung Estate. He asked whether the Police and TD would consider taking law enforcement in Tung Chung pursuant to the SOO, and whether the Police and EPD could address random parking of shared bicycles within housing estates.

22. The Chairman said that the handling of illegally-parked bicycles required further study.

23. Ms Cynthia KWOK made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) Regarding illegally-parked bicycles, they were mainly cleared by the departments concerned pursuant to Chapter 28 of the Laws of Hong Kong at present. Since notices had to be posted on the bicycles 24 hours before the clearance action, the results might sometimes fall short of expectations. Before implementing the trial scheme of invoking the SOO to clear the illegally-parked bicycles which had caused obstruction, TD and the departments concerned would conduct site inspection to determine if individual illegal parking black spots of bicycles had met the criteria of invoking the SOO. During the operation, TD would invoke Section 4A of the SOO while the Police would cite Section 32 for removing the illegally-parked bicycles which had caused obstruction. Apart from law enforcement, the departments concerned would also educate members of the public to park the bicycles at proper places. IsDO would arrange for long-term displaying of large banners at conspicuous places to remind the public that bicycles illegally parked at those places would be removed and the bicycle users would be prosecuted. Members of the public were also reminded to park their bicycles at the nearby bicycle parking areas. The departments concerned would put up warning notices in the area concerned at least 3 hours before taking clearance operation, indicating that the location was not a designated bicycle parking area and bicycles parked there would cause obstruction or danger, and that the departments concerned would remove the bicycles pursuant to the relevant legislation within a specified period. On the day of operation, TD and the Police would remove bicycles from the location pursuant to Sections 4A and 32 of the SOO (Cap. 228), and make a detailed record of all bicycles removed. The departments would post notices at locations where illegally-parked bicycles were removed, indicating that the bicycle had been removed and the procedure of recovering them. To determine whether a black spot of illegal parking of bicycles had met the criteria of citing the SOO, TD had to conduct a site inspection to observe whether any bicycle illegally parked at the location concerned had caused obstruction, inconvenience or hazard to the public. Apart from the factors such as the length of time of bicycles parking illegally, the number of bicycles and the space occupied, TD would also consider the layout, pedestrian flow and other users on the road section concerned, thereby making assessment on the impact of such bicycles on the public. As such, the suitability of locations for operation could not be generalised. TD was studying which of the illegal parking black spots for bicycles in Islands District were suitable for carrying out clearance operation pursuant to the SOO.
- (b) Regarding the situation of bicycle-sharing as mentioned by Members, she said that, during the clearance operation, the departments concerned would take action against all illegally-parked bicycles including privately-owned bicycles, conventional rental or automated rental bicycles which met the criteria pursuant to the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance or SOO.
- (c) It was mentioned by Member that some public bicycle parking spaces were occupied by automated rental bicycles and could not be used by other users. If information on the locations could be provided, the department would follow up with the relevant operators of

automated bicycle rental service. The department had been maintaining close liaison with the operators of automated bicycle rental service. As understood, the operators of automated bicycle rental service would flexibly adjust the quantity of bicycles to be placed at different locations in response to the circumstances. The department would convey Members' views to the operators when necessary.

24. Mr Benjamin AU added that IsDO had earlier liaised with TD on illegal parking of bicycles and learnt that TD was exploring to invoke Chapter 228 of the Laws of Hong Kong to carry out clearance operation of illegally-parked bicycles in the vicinity of Cheung Chau Ferry Pier, which was a matter of grave concern for Members. If there were other locations which Mr Eric KWOK would like TD to conduct an operation, he might inform TD for follow-up.

25. Ms Josephine TSANG said that, as she had learnt, illegal parking of bicycles also occurred at Peng Chau Ferry Pier, Cheung Chau Ferry Pier and Mui Wo Ferry Pier. She opined that the cycle parking areas should be used to facilitate the commuting traffic of the public, but were always occupied by bicycles and even articles such as handcarts. She enquired whether TD would consider clearing the handcarts or abandoned bicycles in the said areas, and proposed to enact new legislation for extending the scope of law enforcement to cover objects such as handcarts and abandoned bicycles.

26. Ms YU Lai-fan opined that TD, FEHD and LandsD had been unable to cope with illegal bicycle parking effectively. Even if bicycle parking areas were available in vicinities, some members of the public would still park the bicycles disorderly, indicating that they were very familiar with the enforcement procedures of the departments and knew that law enforcement officers could not take prosecution action without figuring out the actual period of illegal parking. She opined that the existing enforcement procedures failed to effectively address the problem of illegal parking of bicycles, and that there was a need for the Government to review afresh the relevant policy on bicycles.

27. Mr LEU Kun-man added as follows:

- (a) Regarding the problem of refuse accumulated at the rock crevices at the coast, a large scavenging vessel equipped with cleaning water jet was needed. At the moment, a lot of vessels were berthing in the typhoon shelter, MD's contractor would deploy small work boats for effective clean-up due to limited space. Although clearance of refuse above the water mark and on seabed were outside the purview of the MD, the MD's cleaning contractor would still try its best to clean up during the large-scale cleaning operations as practicable.
- (b) Despite the fishing moratorium period, the department would still conduct regular clean-up works. Regarding Sai Wan Jetty, the MD would arrange staff for on-site inspection and patrol and would urge the contractor to conduct cleaning work.

28. The Chairman commended MD for its efforts to remove the refuse at rock crevices at the coast and noted that the department had arranged staff to clear the refuse along the waterfront in Cheung Chau.

29. Mr LEU Kun-man said that their staff may encounter certain risks during clean-up of refuse along the coast. They would endeavor to conduct clean-up under safe situation.

30. The Chairman said that the problem could be solved through co-ordination and collaboration among the departments concerned.

31. Mr LI Kim-man made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) Regarding Mr Eric KWOK's proposal of introducing organisms for addressing mosquito problem, he noted that Mr FAN Chi-ping had mentioned that caution had to be exercised during introduction of organisms for pest control to avoid giving rise to other problems. He would refer the proposal to the subject officers of AFCD for their professional advice and for exploring the feasibility of the proposal.
- (b) Regarding the problem raised by Ms YU Lai-fan about floating clinical waste washing up on beaches, the department would discuss and follow up with the departments concerned.

(Post-meeting note: Mr CHAN Wai-chung, Christopher, representative of EPD, had given response under agenda item IV.)

32. Mr FAN Chi-ping suggested EPD formulate a comprehensive plan to alleviate Members' concern. He worried that if flooding occurred in future in places which were the habitats of rare animals and no clearance could be conducted thereat, the residents would be greatly affected. He also enquired how TD would tackle the problem of illegal parking of bicycles in rural areas.

33. Ms Cynthia KWOK said that regarding illegal parking of shared bicycles in rural areas, the department had been maintaining liaison with the operators of bicycle-sharing service, who undertook to implement improvements gradually. Their measures included provision of telephone hotlines for reporting of illegal parking of shared bicycles by the public to aid the operators to make expeditious arrangement for recovering the bicycles; update of their mobile applications by showing the locations of public bicycle parking areas so as to reduce random parking of bicycles by the public; and introduction of concession schemes to encourage users of their services to park the shared bicycles at legal bicycle parking spaces. The department would relay Members' views to the operators and take follow-up action. She stressed that the department would continue to combat illegal parking of bicycles.

34. Mr CHEUNG Fu enquired, regarding Mr Eric KWOK's proposal of introducing organisms for pest control, whether EPD would introduce organisms in government land for such purpose. He pointed out that introduction of organisms in private agricultural land would require the permission from the land owners. He was also opposed to the introduction of natural enemies of mosquitoes in private agricultural land for pest control purpose.

35. Mr LI Kim-man said that discussion would be held with AFCD and professional advice would be sought to ascertain the feasibility of the proposal, and reiterated that the relevant departments would be fully consulted.

36. Mr CHEUNG Fu proposed that the Government should consider introducing organisms in government land (such as reservoirs) and he did not support introduction of organisms in private agricultural land.

37. Mr FAN Chi-ping added that introduction of organisms in trenches or river channels might cause flooding and the clearance would be difficult.

38. Mr LOU Cheuk-wing said that a lot of rodents were once spotted near his residence. After someone had started feeding the stray cats voluntarily, no more rodents were found in the area at present. He considered the method effective, and thought that it was necessary to enhance education for cyclists to develop self-discipline in order to solve the problem of illegal parking of bicycles. He recommended centralised co-ordination for crackdown of illegal parking of bicycles in public

areas by FEHD.

39. The Chairman said that priority should be accorded to tackling the problem which would pose serious hazard to the environment.

(Post-meeting note: AFCD noted Members' proposals. It was necessary to carefully consider the effectiveness and impact on the ecological environment when introducing a biological prevention and control measure. In fact, there were many natural habitats suitable for breeding of amphibians in Tung Chung Valley including Ngau Au Village and Shek Lau Po Village and various kinds of common amphibians were also spotted in these areas.)

40. Mr KWONG Kwok-kam said that the bicycle problem had been troubling the residents for many years. He opined that it was necessary for the Government to display more banners about prohibition of illegal parking of bicycles, hoping that publicity through the banners would enhance the awareness of self-discipline among the public in this respect.

41. The Chairman said that it was known that the Traffic and Transport Committee had displayed such banners in various areas, and believed that the problem could not be effectively solved within a short time.

(Mr Holden CHOW left the meeting at around 2:35 p.m.)

III. Question on facilities of Cheung Chau Market (Paper TAFEHC 23/2018)

42. The Chairman welcomed Mr KWAN Yau-kee, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands) of FEHD; Mr CHIANG Wing-lang, Senior Property Services Manager/Eastern and Mr HO Chee-yin, Jackey, Property Services Manager/Shau Kei Wan & Islands South of the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD); as well as Mr WONG Siu-wah, Solomon, Senior Engineer/Municipal/Hong Kong and Mr HO Chi-ming, Engineer/Municipal/Hong Kong 1 of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) to the meeting to respond to the question. The written reply of FEHD had been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting.

43. Mr KWONG Koon-wan briefly introduced the question.

44. Mr KWAN Yau-kee said that FEHD would conduct site inspection with ArchSD or EMSD to follow up on Mr KWONG's views.

45. Mr Jackey HO responded to the 3 proposals stated in the question including renovation of floor finishing of market floor, proposal concerning public toilets and provision of a ramp at the entrance of the market as follows:

- (a) After learning the proposal, ArchSD had conducted several site inspections. According to preliminary observation, no serious damages to the floor of Cheung Chau Market were identified. ArchSD would immediately arrange contractor for follow-up upon receiving requests for repairs from FEHD. With respect to the complete renovation of floor finishing of the market, ArchSD advised that they should consider the scope of works, phasing arrangement, permitted working hours, noise generated from the works, impact on the operation of the market during construction, protective measures, selection of materials and funding application, etc. The department would assist FEHD in carrying out the detailed

planning and collecting views from stall operators in the market. In case FEHD would like to pursue the renovation project, ArchSD would co-operate and provide assistance correspondingly.

- (b) Regarding public toilets, ArchSD had recently visited Cheung Chau Market and no major defects were identified. ArchSD would immediately arrange contractor for follow-up upon receiving report of defects from FEHD. With respect to the proposed replacement of the existing handle-type flushing system to automatic flushing system, the department advised that the existing flushing system was operating in normal condition. If FEHD considered to pursue the proposed replacement, ArchSD would re-visit and assist to work out the scope of replacement works. Subject to the request of FEHD, the refurbishment of the public toilets could also be considered. The refurbishment of toilets could be implemented in phases so that the facilities could still be partially open for use by members of the public during construction. It would take time for funding application as well. ArchSD would assist FEHD to jointly follow up on the issue.
- (c) Regarding the proposal of altering the staircase of an entrance of the market to a ramp, there was an existing ramp at an entrance provided in the middle of the street connecting to Siu Sik Lane facing the cooked food stalls. Upon preliminary inspection, the department considered that it would be more feasible to construct an additional ramp at the junction of the waterfront and Siu Sik Lane. ArchSD had to conduct further site inspection with FEHD to discuss the exact location of the ramp, and would consider its gradient, size and length to avoid causing obstruction to pedestrians. The department would report to Members after finalising the requirements and location of the ramp.

46. Mr Solomon WONG responded as follows:

- (a) EMSD had carried out a preliminary feasibility study on retrofitting a temporary lift in Cheung Chau Market. He explained that the use of temporary lift was not common in Hong Kong. It would take more time for processing the application for retrofitting a temporary lift than that for retrofitting a normal lift on a permanent basis. In addition, the components of a temporary lift should be made to order and, as estimated by EMSD, it might take 18 months from deciding to retrofit a temporary lift to commissioning service of the lift. In fact, the replacement works of cargo lift no. 2 in Cheung Chau Market would be completed in 3 to 4 months. Therefore, if the sole objective of retrofitting a temporary lift was to reduce the negative impact during the suspension of cargo lift no. 2, it seemed to be undesirable in terms of cost-effectiveness to implement the proposed project, which involved a total cost of \$2 million, including an estimated cost of \$1.6 million for installing the temporary lift and a cost of \$400,000 for demolition and disposal of the lift afterwards.
- (b) EMSD had also considered other options to reduce the impact on goods movement within the market during the replacement of cargo lift no. 2. Option 1 involved alteration of passenger lift no. 1 in Cheung Chau Market to make it accessible to the first floor where it was not serving at present. Although passenger lift no. 1 might be suspended for 2 months for alteration, the cost of this option was relatively low.
- (c) Option 2 involved utilisation of a fork-lift truck facilitating workers to work at height through an opening made at the external wall on the first floor of the market. By using this method, workers could put the goods on the pallet of the fork-lift truck, elevate the pallet to the opening on the first floor and then take the goods inside the market. In his opinion, the option was cheaper in cost which amounted to \$1 million or so and would not cause wastage because, apart from meeting the temporary need, the fork-lift truck was also useful for other

purposes. Although this option had its limitation in that the fork-lift truck had to be operated by a person holding a fork-lift truck permit, the total project cost including the cost of hiring permit holders to operate the machine would still be far below the cost of converting cargo lift no. 1 or retrofitting a temporary lift.

- (d) Option 3 involved making of an opening at the external wall and installation of a scissor lift for transportation of goods through the opening. Also, a scissor lift had to be operated by a person holding a permit. This method did not only involve making an opening at the wall but also excavating the ground for installation of the scissor lift, and the cost was therefore higher than that of using a fork-lift truck.
- (e) Having consolidated the advantages and disadvantages of various options, he opined that Option 2 was the most cost-effective one. Although a scissor lift could not serve the wheelchair users, it could meet the need of goods transportation in general.

47. Mr KWONG Koon-wan raised his views as follows:

- (a) He thanked ArchSD and EMSD for sparing no efforts to study the proposals and options. He hoped that FEHD would review again the first and second proposals in the question and improve the relevant facilities as far as possible, and explore with ArchSD the improvement works.
- (b) He thanked EMSD for recommending various options. He expected that upon completion of the 4-month maintenance works, cargo lift no. 2 would also serve as a passenger lift, and the fork-lift truck or scissor lift would be used continuously for goods transportation, thereby separating passenger movement and goods transportation in the market. He requested the departments concerned to consider his suggestion.
- (c) Regarding the 3 options proposed by EMSD, he opined that as the proposed alteration of cargo lift no. 1, which was accessible to the library, would adversely affect users of the library, he did not recommend the adoption of Option 1.
- (d) He opined that the project costs of Options 2 and 3 were relatively lower and these options could bring benefits to the stall operators on the first floor of the market. He suggested EMSD actively consider adopting the lifting facilities proposed in Option 2 or 3 during the 4 months of replacement works of cargo lift no. 2. He worried that the stall operators on the first floor would be hard to do business during the 4 months of lift maintenance due to difficult conveyance of goods in the market. He said that it was already very difficult for the stall operators to convey the goods to the first floor manually during breakdown of market lift which occurred occasionally at present. Although FEHD could make arrangement for stall operators to transport cargoes with escalators, there was a certain risk of doing so and the consequence could be very serious in the case of accident. Besides, the public could not use the escalators during transportation of goods by stall operators with escalators.

48. Mr KWAN Yau-kee said that he would follow up with EMSD on the arrangements for the temporary lift to select the appropriate option and report to Members in due course.

(Mr WONG King-chuen left the meeting at around 3:20 p.m.)

IV. Question on a large quantity of clinical waste found on the beach

49. The Chairman welcomed Mr CHAN Wai-chung, Christopher, Environmental Protection Officer (Water Policy & Science)⁵³ of EPD to the meeting to respond to the question.

50. Ms Amy YUNG introduced the question.

51. Mr Christopher CHAN responded as follows:

- (a) Regarding suspected clinical waste frequently found on beaches in Lantau Island, the department had installed solar-powered surveillance camera systems at the eastern and western sides of Sam Pak Wan beach on Lantau Island on 15 September 2017 to monitor the locations on a pilot basis to ascertain whether there were fly-tipping or disposal of refuse on the beach after activities were held.
- (b) According to the findings of the surveillance camera systems, no illegal dumping or fly-tipping activities were identified at the above locations. The marine refuse was washed ashore by water current and accumulating along the high water mark on the beach. The 6-month pilot scheme was completed in March 2018 and the department had no plan to install the surveillance camera system on other beaches at the moment.
- (c) FEHD had installed the surveillance camera systems at 5 marine refuse priority sites (including Shui Hau, Pui O (ungazetted beach area) and Nim Shue Wan on Lantau Island, as well as Sha Lan and Sam Mun Tsai/Yim Tin Tsai in Tai Po) in February this year to monitor on a pilot basis the accumulation of marine refuse at the above locations, and would adjust the clearance frequency at the above locations as appropriate.
- (d) In response to the public concern over the beach near Pak Kok Tsui on Lamma Island, EPD conducted an inspection to the above beach on 30 January this year. On that day, only a few pieces of refuse and an abandoned syringe were found in the main area of the beach, where regular cleaning was arranged, and the cleanliness of the beach was satisfactory. However, refuse was found accumulated at the upper part of the beach due to site-specific topographical factors. As the accumulated refuse had been in existence for a certain period of time, it was mixed with soil and was covered by vegetations, and could not be properly and completely removed by way of general hand picking cleaning operation. EPD and the departments concerned were looking into the arrangement for further cleaning operation.
- (e) Ms YU Lai-fan, together with FEHD and EPD, conducted a site inspection to Tai Wan To and Pak Kok Tsui beaches on Lamma Island on 30 April. As found at the scene, the cleanliness of the beaches was generally satisfactory and no abandoned syringe was identified. EPD would continue to monitor the cleanliness of all non-gazetted beaches on Lamma Island and provide the Secretariat with the photos taken during the site inspection on 30 January in due course.

(Post-meeting note: EPD had submitted the photos taken during the site inspection on 30 January to the Secretariat which had distributed them to Members for perusal.)

52. Ms Amy YUNG said that she had time and again collected clinical waste during clean beach campaigns. The medicine bags collected always showed the names of clinics and doctors, and some medicine bottles were printed with simplified Chinese characters. She had no idea whether the refuse was carried by currents and washed ashore the beaches, was disposed of from vessels or came from other ways. She hoped that EPD would trace the sources of clinical waste according to such

data as the names of clinics or doctors in order to prevent such waste from being washed ashore on the beaches. According to her understanding, clinical waste was strictly regulated by the Government. She suggested EPD take heed of the transportation process of clinical waste and investigate whether the clinical waste from outside the territory was carried by currents and washed ashore the beaches.

53. Mr Christopher CHAN responded as follows:

- (a) Complaints about clinical waste were received and the department had taken follow-up action and conducted investigation. Collection and disposal arrangements of clinical waste was being regulated through the relevant legislations at present, and the department would inspect the clinical waste producers in various regions of the territory. The local clinical waste was regulated by law. The department had always closely monitored the collection and disposal records of clinical waste (6 000 records per month) through a computerised record system, and would launch an investigation should an anomaly be detected. Prosecution actions will be initiated where improper disposal of clinical waste is found with sufficient evidence. A total of 6 clinics and organisations had been convicted for improper handling of clinical waste since 2017.
- (b) According to the Waste Disposal (Clinical Waste) (General) Regulation, clinical waste should be collected by licensed clinical waste collectors or transported to the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre in Tsing Yi for disposal by healthcare professionals. A person who disposed of clinical waste together with domestic refuse committed an offence and was liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000.
- (c) As to clinical waste printed with simplified Chinese characters or came from places outside the territory, the department had set up the Hong Kong-Guangdong Marine Environmental Management Special Panel with the relevant Guangdong authorities to enhance the collaboration with the latter and jointly explore and study feasible solutions to prevent the marine refuse (including clinical waste) originated in the Mainland from drifting to Hong Kong.

54. Ms Amy YUNG said that, as mentioned by the department a moment ago, clinics and medical institutions were under strict regulation with relevant penalties and cases cited. She enquired how EPD would handle the household refuse such as waste generated from usage of renal dialyser.

55. Mr Christopher CHAN said that expired or used injections and medicine were not classified as clinical waste. At present, waste medicine and injections generated from hospitals, clinics and other medical institutions were classified as chemical waste, and the storage, collection, transport and disposal of which were strictly regulated by the Waste Disposal Ordinance and Waste Disposal (Chemical Waste) (General) Regulation. However, these ordinances did not apply to the disposal of waste medicine and injections arising from households. The department was discussing and studying with the Department of Health the handling of injections disposed of together with household waste.

56. Ms YU Lai-fan said that she had inspected several non-gazetted beaches with EPD and FEHD earlier and no clinical waste was identified. She was surprised by the recent reports that some voluntary cleaners were injured by clinical waste. She enquired whether the volunteers had applied to the department concerned before cleaning the beaches, how they collected the refuse and who would be held responsible for the injury cases. She opined that the volunteers might collect the general refuse such as plastic bottles, cardboards and leaves by hand, but should not pick up such

articles as syringe with bare hands. She hoped that the departments concerned would enhance civic education and remind members of the public to pay attention to safety.

57. Ms Amy YUNG said that she was a member of a volunteer group for cleaning up refuse, and explained that the group members would wear gloves and use iron pincers when clearing the refuse. Taking a plastic bag with another hand, each member would directly put the refuse collected into the bag without touching it. She was more concerned about the residents or children who might be hurt by the refuse during recreational activities on the beaches.

V. Question on Village Sewerage Works at Luk Tei Tong and Ma Po Tsuen
(Paper TAFEHC 25/2018)

58. The Chairman welcomed Mr OR Yan-kin, Engineer/Consultants Management 3 of the Drainage Services Department (DSD) as well as Dr LEE Wai-man, Cherie, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Sewerage Infrastructure)³ and Ms CHAU Choi-mei, Michelle, Environmental Protection Officer (Sewerage Infrastructure)³⁴ of EPD to the meeting to respond to the question. The written reply of DSD had been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting.

59. The Chairman said that Mr WONG Man-hon was unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments and had asked Mr Randy YU to briefly introduce the question on his behalf.

60. Dr Cherie LEE responded as follows:

The design stage of sewerage works at Luk Tei Tong and Ma Po Tsuen under the Public Works Programme (PWP) No. 4353DS was about to complete at present. DSD had collected the views of the villagers earlier for gazettal of the project and had amended the alignment of the village sewerage system. The department anticipated that the amended plan would be gazetted in the third quarter of this year. The works were expected to commence earliest in late 2019 after gazettal and approval of funding by the Legislative Council (LegCo).

61. Mr Randy YU raised his views as follows:

- (a) He was perplexed that the works could only commence earliest in late 2019 and took 4 to 5 years for completion. He requested the department to elaborate on the procedure of installing sewers in rural area.
- (b) According to his observation, it also took a long time to implement sewerage works at other places in Mui Wo. As the preliminary plans for the alignment of the sewerage works were available at present, he asked why the works would take 4 to 5 years to complete.
- (c) Since the works would be gazetted in the third quarter of 2018 and commence earliest in late 2019, he enquired whether the department could, from this moment to late 2019, provide Members of the constituencies and rural committee with the relevant information in a timely manner so as to facilitate them to clearly explain the project progress to the villagers and residents as well as enhance the mutual communication.

62. Dr Cherie LEE said that subsequent to the gazettal of the project in the third quarter of this year, the department would maintain liaison with Members of the constituencies and village representatives concerned and timely report to them the project progress.

63. Mr OR Yan-kin said that the total length of sewers installed for the village sewerage works in

Luk Tei Tong and Ma Po Tsuen was about 3 kilometres. The construction time of the project was 4 years, which was similar to the construction time required for village sewerage works in other rural areas in the New Territories. In general, the difficulties of implementing village sewerage works were that the access roads in the villages were narrow and the needs of residents had to be taken care of, such that the works should not seriously affect the residents' access. Besides, many villages had only one access road and therefore the department could not carry out too many trenching works at the same time.

64. The Chairman said that sewage treatment was an issue of significant urgency and hoped that the department could secure resources for works implementation as soon as possible.

VI. Question on Public Works Programme Item No. 4331DS Outlying Islands Sewerage Stage 2
- South Lantau Sewerage Works
(Paper TAFEHC 26/2018)

65. The Chairman welcomed Mr OR Yan-kin, Engineer/Consultants Management 3 of DSD as well as Dr Cherie LEE, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Sewerage Infrastructure)³ and Ms Michelle CHAU, Environmental Protection Officer (Sewerage Infrastructure)³⁴ of EPD to the meeting to respond to the question. The written reply of DSD had been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting.

66. Mr Randy YU introduced the question.

67. The Chairman said that it had been 7 years since the planning of the project and no progress had been made so far, he asked the departments concerned to give response.

68. Dr Cherie LEE responded as follows:

- (a) PWP No. 4331DS was a large-scale project, and EPD and DSD had briefed the Islands District Council (IDC) on this as early as in 2011. At that time, the project was still in the preliminary planning stage, and the briefing aimed to facilitate Members to understand the concept of the project. Over the years, EPD and DSD had done a great deal of work concerning this major project, and the details of which would be provided by DSD.
- (b) The above works included construction of a major secondary sewage treatment works (STW) in San Shek Wan and construction of a submarine sewerage outfall to tie in with the operation, which involved substantial studies and works. Moreover, the project also involved the construction of a very long trunk sewer and sewage rising mains on South Lantau, and installation of sewers for 9 villages on South Lantau. Given the huge scale and the numerous works items involved, it took time to implement the whole project, but a lot of work had been completed in recent years.

69. Mr OR Yan-kin responded as follows:

- (a) In 2011, the department gave a briefing on the proposed project to IDC which was in support of the proposal. In 2012, funding was secured for engaging consultants to carry out detailed design of the project. The preliminary works of the project had been completed gradually, including gazettal of the construction of the STW and submarine sewerage outfall, rezoning the land use and planning of the site identified for construction of the STW, conducting environmental impact assessment and obtaining environmental permit for the project. The department had completed a series of work for implementation of the project

since 2011 and would continue to strive for resources for this project, expecting to commence the works as soon as possible.

- (b) The scope of works of above project was large, covering the area from Shui Hau to the west and Ham Tin to the east of South Lantau and involving a total length of about 9 kilometres. Such being the case, the project would be carried out in two phases. Subject to allocation of resources in this year and after the sewerage works of 3 villages in Pui O were gazetted and authorised, the Phase 1 works, including the construction of San Shek Wan STW and Pui O sewage pump house as well as the installation of sewers in Pui O Lo Wai, Pui O San Wai and Pui O Lo Uk, could commence earliest in late 2019 and were anticipated to be completed in 5 years. Subject to the progress of Phase 1 works, the department tentatively planned to secure resources for the remaining works items in 2019 for commencement in late 2020 at the earliest.

70. Mr CHEUNG Fu said that although the Government had adequate resources at present, EPD and DSD did not endeavour to obtain resources, thereby causing delays to the works. He urged the departments to implement the works as early as possible.

71. Mr Eric KWOK said that “South Lantau Sewerage Work” was a benevolent measure of the Government, but wondered whether EPD and DSD took a “people-oriented” approach. In his opinion, the practice of the departments was unfair to residents on outlying islands because even the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, which was of much greater construction difficulties, had also been completed. The crux of the issue lied in the determination of the departments concerned to improve the environment and facilities of South Lantau. He pointed out that with the Government’s substantial fiscal surplus and foreign exchange reserves in the current year, LegCo might immediately approve the funding application if the departments actively took forward the benevolent measure. To think about the environment and the benefit of the next generation, he hoped that the departments would listen to Members’ views by expeditiously improving the environment of South Lantau.

72. Mr Randy YU understood the difficulties of implementing the project, but opined that the departments concerned had accorded a low priority to the project of the Islands District. As recalled, the last discussion on the agenda item took place at a briefing session on 18 July 2011. He was reminded of the project only during his recent perusal of the paper in circulation which mentioned the application for the construction of STW. He thought that he, being a District Councillor, had not exerted adequate pressure on the departments. Understanding the technical difficulties of the project, he hoped that EPD and DSD could timely report the works progress from now on until completion of the project. He believed that projects concerning people’s livelihood would be approved by LegCo quickly. Besides, a Member of IDC was also a LegCo Member, whom he believed could solicit the support from LegCo. He hoped that the funding application would be approved and the works implemented as soon as possible.

73. The Chairman said that sewage treatment facilities were very important and therefore urged the department to seriously handle and expeditiously take forward the relevant projects.

74. Ms YU Lai-fan said that installation of sewers and construction of STW were of utmost importance and considered the long construction period unacceptable. She indicated that septic tanks were still in use for sewage treatment in villages on outlying islands at present, which were outdated and would frequently cause flow of sewage to the surrounding areas. She requested EPD to conduct a site inspection. She learnt that the Government planned to connect sewers and construct STW in the 18 districts in the territory. She pointed out that there was an urgent need to do so for Islands District, and that village houses in Islands District were generally built without foundation and constant seepage of sewage would adversely affect the building structure. She

hoped that EPD would allocate additional resources to provide sewers and STW for Islands District.

75. The Chairman said that the projects to be implemented in Islands District concentrated on Lantau Island at present. She asked whether the department had any related planning for other places in Islands District.

76. Dr Cherie LEE responded as follows:

- (a) Lantau Island was a key development area. According to the Sustainable Lantau Blueprint, the Government adopted the principle of “Development in the North, Conservation for the South” for Lantau. The department was also concerned that septic tanks were still used for sewage treatment in many villages on South Lantau. Although most of the septic tanks were in normal operation, the Government planned to provide these villages with sewerage and the related connection services. For this reason, construction of a STW on South Lantau had been included in the department’s planning in the early years so as to facilitate connection of sewers in future. The department would first construct a STW under the Phase I works, and then install a trunk sewer in a progressive manner, followed by the connection of sewers for the villages on South Lantau along the alignment of trunk sewer. These were the common objectives of EPD and DSD.
- (b) The department had successfully strived for the implementation of a number of drainage works in recent years. It would press on with securing resources to implement the project for South Lantau this year and report to the IDC on the progress, as well as seeking funding approval from LegCo.

77. The Chairman welcomed that the department had conducted a comprehensive planning for Islands District and hoped that the situation in the district would be improved.

78. Ms Josephine TSANG enquired of the department whether the project covered other outlying islands such as Peng Chau and Lamma Island apart from Lantau Island. To take Peng Chau as an example, Phase 1 sewerage works on the island was completed many years ago. Just like Lamma Island, many village houses on Peng Chau were still using septic tanks. Cleaners were hired to clean the septic tanks when they were full, which always involved more than \$10,000. She often received requests for assistance from members of the public, asking for her office to act as a mediator to explain to the occupants the situation of septic tanks and raise money for maintenance. She urged the department to include Peng Chau in the sewerage works project as soon as possible so that residents on Peng Chau would not need to bear the cost of regular cleaning of septic tanks and suffer from nuisance caused by sewer burst anymore.

79. The Chairman enquired of Ms Josephine TSANG whether STW was provided in Peng Chau.

80. Ms Josephine TSANG replied that STW was provided in Peng Chau.

81. Dr Cherie LEE said that the sewerage works on Peng Chau had been submitted to LegCo for deliberation in the current year. The department learnt that the proposed project was supported by Public Works Subcommittee and would be submitted to Finance Committee later on. The department hoped that the approval process could be completed in June and the project could then be launched as soon as possible.

82. Mr FAN Chi-ping said that Tung Chung was a key development area of the Government. The new public rental housing and Home Ownership Scheme developments were constructed with advanced design. Contrarily, the residents in the old villages, who had handed over a large amount

of land in early years, although having been compensated, were still using septic tanks. He queried that since STW and sewers were already installed in Tung Chung at present, why the nearby villages were not provided with the facilities. As CEDD had been allocated with adequate funding for implementing the drainage and sewerage works under the Tung Chung development project, he criticised it for turning a blind eye to the old villages all along, forcing the residents to keep on using septic tanks and regularly spending thousands of dollars for cleaning.

83. Mr OR Yan-kin said that, according to his knowledge, the Tung Chung New Town Extension was responsible by CEDD and the project included village sewerage system in Tung Chung. He did not have detailed information but would contact CEDD after the meeting to relay the concern of Members over the progress of the village sewerage works in Tung Chung.

84. Mr FAN Chi-ping was discontented with the department for not actively following up on the works after the approval of funding application because this was very unfair to the villagers.

VII. Progress report on DC-funded District Minor Works Projects
(Paper TAFEHC 21/2018)

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

86. Mr LI Ming-yau briefly presented the paper.

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

VIII. Report by Working Group
(i) Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries and Environmental Hygiene Committee Activities
Working Group

88. The Chairman said that the report of the Working Group (please refer to Reference 1 for details) had been sent to Members for perusal by fax or by email before the meeting. Members were welcome to give comments.

89. Members had no comment and endorsed the above working group report.

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

90. The Chairman said that regarding the proposed “Islands District Youth Camp 2018” activity of Islands Healthy City and Age-friendly Community Working Group, a Member had made a first-tier declaration of interest before the meeting.

91. Mr Randy YU declared interest as the Advisor of the Organising Committee of the youth camp this year.

92. The Chairman said that Mr YU might stay at the meeting and take part in the discussion, resolution and voting.

93. Mr Randy YU said that the report of the Working Group (please refer to Reference 2 for details) had been distributed to Members for perusal by fax or by email before the meeting. Members were welcome to give comments. He briefly presented the main points of the report, including the proposed activities and funding proposals for 2018-19, the “Islands District Healthy City Tree

Planting Festival - Green Lantau 2018” organised by the Working Group on 21 April 2018, and the progress of the third batch of district-based programmes under the Jockey Club Age-friendly City Project. He also said that the Working Group endorsed to jointly organise the “Islands District Youth Camp 2018” with the Islands District Youth Programme Committee at the meeting held on 30 April 2018, and asked Members to endorse the financial arrangement for advance payment of the activity at the meeting today.

94. Members endorsed the above working group report, which included the proposed activities and funding proposals for 2018-19.

IX. Any Other Business

(ii) 2018-19 District Minor Works Proposals

95. The Chairman said that IDC was allocated a total of \$18,688,000 under the District Minor Works (DMW) Programme in 2018-19. At the meetings of 12 February and 23 April this year, IDC endorsed and confirmed the funds allocation of DMW projects for this Committee in 2018-19, which was the same as that of the previous year, i.e. \$7,025,000. She asked the Secretariat to distribute the works proposal forms to Members. Works proposals previously submitted by Members would be processed with the proposals collected this time.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat distributed on 29 May this year the works proposal forms to Members.)

96. Members noted the above report.

X. Date of Next Meeting

97. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting would be held at 2:00 p.m. on 30 July 2018 (Monday).

-END-