

(Translation)

**Question on construction of public columbarium facilities at
Sham Shui Kok Drive in Tsuen Wan
(Paper IDC 137/2016)**

**Written reply of Food and Health Bureau and
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department**

The Government has proposed construction of columbarium facilities at two sites located at the east and west of Sham Shui Kok Drive in Tsuen Wan. As regards Ms YUNG's concern over the project, we provided an information paper on the project to your secretariat for circulation among Islands District Council (IsDC) members on 1 December. We have also invited the members for a visit to the proposed sites at Sham Shui Kok Drive. The time and date of the site visit will be finalised in due course.

FEHD engaged a consultant to conduct a traffic impact assessment (TIA) study for the two sites proposed for the construction of columbarium facilities. Cheung Tung Road was also included in the TIA study. After analysing and evaluating the data collected, the consultant concluded that with appropriate traffic mitigation measures in place, the proposed construction of columbarium facilities at the two sites was feasible from transport point of view.

To minimise the environmental hygiene problem caused by burning of paper offerings, the proposed columbarium will provide eco-friendly joss paper burners. In addition, to encourage people to adopt environmentally friendly ways to pay tribute to the deceased, certain floors of the columbarium at Sham Shui Kok Drive will be designated as "smoke-free areas". Floral receptacles will be provided to encourage the offering of flowers for worshipping instead of the traditional practice of incense burning.

The consultant has also assessed the health and form of the trees on the two proposed sites and in their vicinity, as well as the feasibility of transplanting. We will retain or fell the trees or plant new ones as compensation according to the relevant guidelines.

Mr KWAN Yau-kee, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands), will be FEHD's representative in attendance at the IsDC meeting scheduled for 19 December.

December 2016