

(Translation)

Islands District Council
Minutes of Meeting of the
Community Affairs, Culture and Recreation Committee

Date : 6 July 2020 (Monday)

Time : 10:30 a.m.

Venue: Islands District Council Conference Room

Present

Mr WONG Man-hon (Chairman)

Ms LAU Shun-ting (Vice-Chairman)

Mr YU Hon-kwan, Randy, MH, JP

Mr YUNG Chi-ming, BBS, MH

Mr CHAN Lin-wai, MH

Mr WONG Hon-kuen, Ken (Arrived at around 10:55 a.m.)

Mr HO Chun-fai

Mr HO Siu-kei

Ms WONG Chau-ping

Ms TSANG Sau-ho, Josephine (Left at around 4:05 p.m.)

Ms YUNG Wing-sheung, Amy

Mr KWOK Ping, Eric

Mr TSUI Sang-hung, Sammy (Arrived at around 10:40 a.m.)

Mr FONG Lung-fei

Mr LEE Ka-ho

Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho

Attendance by Invitation

Mr KAO Hsi-chiang	Chief Health Inspector (Islands)2, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr LI Cheuk-ho, Ronald	Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing & Pest Control) Islands 2, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr YUEN Kwok-keung	Senior Land Executive/Lantau (District Lands Office, Islands), Lands Department
Mr NG Wing-kei	Land Executive/Land Control 1 (District Lands Office, Islands), Lands Department
Mr TSANG Wai-man	Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Islands), Lands Department
Mr LAW Hoi-ming, Vincent	Lantau North Divisional Commander, Hong Kong Police Force
Ms KWOK Sze-wai, Venus	Police Community Relations Officer (Lantau District), Hong Kong Police Force

Dr LUK Wan	Chief of Service of Family Medicine and Primary Health Care Service, Kowloon West Hospital Cluster, Hospital Authority
Dr Michael WONG	Deputy Hospital Chief Executive, Hospital Authority
Mr TONG King-man	Assistant Chief Ambulance Officer (New Territories South)(Atg), Fire Services Department
Mr TAM Kit-fung	Superintendent (Ambulance) (New Territories South West), Fire Services Department
Mr LEUNG Wai-ho	Depot Commander Tung Chung Ambulance Depot, Fire Services Department
Dr HUANG Shan-shan	Senior Medical and Health Officer (Emergency Preparedness and District Relations)2, Department of Health
Mr CHAN Yat-kin, Kaiser	Senior Liaison Officer (2), Islands District Office
Ms FUNG So-chun, Winnie	Liaison Officer i/c (Peng Chau/Discovery Bay), Islands District Office
Mr TSUI Ip, Edmond	Liaison Officer (Peng Chau/Discovery Bay)2, Islands District Office
Mr YAN Man-chi, Robin	Property Service Manager/Service (Hong Kong Island & Islands)3, Housing Department
Mr HAU Chi-leung, Arnold	Property Service Manager/Service (Hong Kong Island & Islands)4, Housing Department

In Attendance

Mr LI Ho, Thomas	Assistant District Officer (Islands)1, Islands District Office
Ms CHOW Yuen-on, Alice	Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Islands, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms CHU Po-yee, Polly	Senior Librarian (Islands), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms WONG Fan-ni, Jasmine	Senior Manager (New Territories South)Promotion, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr WONG Kin-sun	Senior Community Relations Officer (Hong Kong West/Islands), Independent Commission Against Corruption
Ms KWAN Wai-yin, Katy	Senior School Development Officer (Islands)2, Education Bureau
Mr WONG Chi-leung	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western/Southern/Islands)2, Social Welfare Department
Mr LAM Kit-sing	Representative, Islands District Sports Association
Ms CHOI Kwok-por	Representative, Hong Kong Islands Cultural & Art Association

Secretary

Ms LAM Po-yan, Eloisa	Executive Officer (District Council)1, Islands District Office
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Absent with Apologies

Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, SBS, MH	
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Absent

Mr WONG Chun-yeung	
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Welcoming remarks

The Chairman welcomed representatives of government departments and organisations as well as Members to the meeting. He also introduced the following standing representatives of government departments who attended the meeting of the committee for the first time:

- (a) Ms CHU Po-yee, Polly, Senior Librarian (Islands) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) who succeeded Ms KWOK Lai-kuen, Elaine; and
- (b) Ms CHOW Yuen-on, Alice, Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Islands of the LCSD who succeeded Ms CHAN Sok-fong, Cherry.

2. Members noted that Mr CHOW Yuk-tong and Ms YUEN Wai-kwan were unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments.

I. Confirmation of the Minutes of Meeting held on 4 May 2020

3. The Chairman said that the captioned minutes had incorporated the amendments proposed by government departments and organisations and had been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting.

4. The captioned minutes were confirmed unanimously without amendments.

II. Social Welfare Department Central Western, Southern and Islands District Social Welfare Office Annual Work Plan 2020-21 (CACRC 31/2020)

5. The Chairman welcomed Mr WONG Chi-leung, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western/Southern/Islands) 2 of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to the meeting to present the paper.

6. Mr WONG Chi-leung briefly presented the paper.

7. Mr FONG Lung-fei said that carers of disabled persons who wished to return to the job market with no intention to receive financial assistance such as Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) made enquiries about the details of day care services. However, only one organisation provided care service one day a week in Yat Tung Estate at present. He proposed that the organisation should increase service days which enabled carers to work or relax. In addition, he enquired whether the unemployment support scheme had not been implemented as many residents said that the staff of the SWD could not provide relevant information.

8. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:
- (a) Ever since he became a Member of the District Council (DC) from the last term, he had been concerned about the mental health of the youth, and had repeatedly suggested the District Social Welfare Officer seek assistance from policy bureau in order to enhance support for families of young mental patients in the district. He enquired whether the SWD could refer the patients to hospitals for treatment if it could not handle the cases in time. He also hoped that the SWD would follow up on the situation more holistically and pro-actively to prevent suicide due to insufficient support.
 - (b) There were many singleton or doubleton elderly households in Mun Tung Estate. While the Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council (NAAC) Elderly Centre was serving the community, some elderly persons reflected that its activities were not attractive. As a result, many male elderly persons gambled, causing noise nuisance. He urged the SWD to understand the situation, provide more facilities and organise suitable activities for the elderly.
 - (c) He was a member of the Residential Care Homes for the Elderly Service Quality Group of the previous term and commended the service of the elderly home at Man Tung Road. In view of inadequate elderly homes in Tung Chung, he proposed that the Government should allocate more resources for building care homes in the area to meet the needs of the elderly in Tung Chung and South Lantau.
 - (d) Regarding the unemployment support scheme that would last for six months, he had criticised at the previous meeting that the eligibility criteria for application were stringent. While the income and asset upper limits had been doubled, holders of savings insurance were still ineligible for application. Receiving at least five requests for assistance every week, he hoped that the SWD would relax the eligibility criteria for application to benefit more families with financial difficulties.
9. Ms Josephine TSANG expressed her views as follows:
- (a) An elderly person living in an elderly home in Mui Wo reflected to her that she was requested to pay the rent in advance. The elderly had no choice but to pay with the \$10,000 granted by the Government. The elderly then lived on the allowance of the Government and could barely make ends meet. She requested the SWD to note the issue and learn more about matters related to the contracts of elderly homes.
 - (b) Mental patients of Peng Chau were not given adequate support as well. Singleton patients could not attend regular medical appointments

because they had no carer. Some patients could not take care of themselves and were emotionally unstable, creating nuisance in the community. She urged the representative of the SWD to follow up on the matter.

10. Ms Amy YUNG said that according to the paper, the SWD deployed a mobile publicity van (MPV) to promote mental wellness but she had never seen it in Discovery Bay. She requested the SWD to provide the route and parking locations of the MPV so that she could inform the residents of the details. Most mental patients tended not to admit their illness. If they were willing to receive treatment or counselling, the situation could be improved. She enquired whether the patients should be brought to the MPV but was concerned that they might refuse because of the fear of being labelled.

11. Mr Sammy TSUI said that many elderly persons lived in Tung Chung new town where relatively few recreational facilities for the elderly apart from benches were provided. Compared with the urban areas, Tung Chung had more open spaces. He proposed that the SWD and relevant departments should study provision of a park or relevant facilities for the elderly on the open space mentioned at the previous meeting for recreational activities. He hoped that the SWD would lead other government departments in improving the welfare of the elderly. Apart from handling matters of elderly homes and medical affairs, adequate activity spaces should also be provided to promote the physical and mental well-being of the elderly.

12. Mr LEE Ka-ho expressed his views as follows:

- (a) The existing policy encouraged discharge of ex-mentally ill persons as soon as possible but frontline staff including social workers and nurses of care homes were in shortage. He said that the issue had been discussed for a long time at the meetings of DCs and the Legislative Council (LegCo) and urged the Government to allocate additional resources promptly for improvement.
- (b) It was stated in the paper that the SWD would provide support for carers of people with dementia. He reminded the SWD that it should also provide support for carers of the elderly and mental patients. He said that the carers, taking care of family members on a long-term basis, could not go to work and were under great mental stress. As the support of the SWD was limited to organising activities in the area, which was ineffective, he proposed that support schemes catering for the practical financial and psychological needs of the carers should be implemented.
- (c) In the past few years, there was a high suicide rate of students mainly attributable to examination pressure. The number of suicide cases of school children dropped in the current year, which might be a result of school suspension for half a term. However, a student jumped to death soon after class resumed. He urged the bureau to squarely deal with

youth mental health issues.

- (d) He enquired whether the MPV had a scheduled route to facilitate residents' use of its service.

13. Mr Randy YU expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He said that Members present were not registered social workers but often shouldered their work due to lack of frontline staff. He understood that the expenditure on social welfare was huge and believed that Members were willing to provide assistance. However, he was worried that the unprofessional advice provided by Members might aggravate the problems. He proposed that the SWD should make good use of existing resources and enhance the interaction and collaboration with DC Members.
- (b) After closure of an elderly home in Tai O a few years ago, the SWD pledged to set up a Day Care Centre but the site had not been refurbished before the NAAC moved in. He enquired about the progress of the project. In addition, Yan Chai Hospital invited Members to jointly handle matters regarding the elderly dental clinic. He requested the department to provide a written reply or call the Secretariat to report the progress.

14. Mr WONG Chi-leung made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The Government had launched a special scheme of assistance to the unemployed under the CSSA scheme that the asset limits for able-bodied persons was temporarily relaxed by 100% for six months from June 2020. The residents could make enquiries with Social Security Field Units about the service. The SWD had arranged additional manpower to process the applications.
- (b) Regarding enquires of day respite service for the persons with disabilities, the SWD would learn more about the details from Mr FONG after the meeting in order to provide suitable assistance to the needy cases.

(Post-meeting note: In Islands District, District Support Centre for Persons with Disabilities provided temporary daytime relief for family members or carers of persons with disabilities who were unable to take care of the persons with disabilities due to various commitments and sudden engagements. It could also make life for those involved in routine care for the persons with disabilities less stressful and more stimulating. In addition,

two new centres, including the Day Activity Centre cum Hostel for Severely Mentally Handicapped Persons in Ying Tung Estate and the Hostel for Moderately Mentally Handicapped Persons in Mun Tung Estate, would be opened soon and would provide residential respite service to the needy.)

- (c) He noted the concern of Members about the need of mental health service for the young people. The SWD had allocated additional resources to the relevant welfare service units in order to strengthen the support to the youth in need. The welfare service units concerned would also enhance their liaison with the schools in order to identify the needy cases as early as possible.
- (d) He would reflect Members' views to the welfare service units concerned in order to ensure appropriate assistance to the needy elderly.
- (e) The SWD had planned to increase the supply of residential care service placements for the elderly through setting up new elderly homes in Tung Chung. He would also approach Ms TSANG after the meeting to follow up the elderly case mentioned.
- (f) As a result of the epidemic, roving promotional programmes of the MPV had been suspended to prevent crowd gathering. When the epidemic was contained, the department would foster its cooperation with the welfare service units in the district in order to attract more people to receive the service. The department was pleased to learn that the Members would like to assist in the publicity work. Information about the MPV would be provided for the Members in due course.
- (g) Different SWD's subvented services had their respective Schedules of Accommodation. Regarding the suggestion of a park or relevant facilities for the elderly, he believed that respective departments would consider the Members' proposal according to the scopes of their services.
- (h) The SWD would continue to closely monitor the services provided for the ex-mentally ill persons and their carers in the district. Appropriate assistance would be rendered to the needy through casework intervention and other support services.
- (i) The SWD attached great importance to the support given to the carers of elderly and ex-mentally ill persons and would continue to organise different programmes and activities, such as the "Support for Carers Project", to promote the available welfare services in the community and facilitate early identification of the needy cases.

- (j) In order to enhance communication with the Members, the District Social Welfare Officer had mentioned at an earlier DC meeting that a welfare service briefing would be held in September or October. With regard to the premises at former Lung Tin Court in Tai O, the SWD would report the progress to Members in due course.

(Post-meeting note: To cater for the needs of Tai O residents, the premises at former Lung Tin Court in Tai O had been handed over to the NAAC for setting up Tai O Sub-office of the Tung Chung Integrated Services Centre. Renovation works were in progress and services would be introduced in stages.)

15. Mr FONG Lung-fei expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He opined that home accidents were the major cause of sudden death of elderly persons at home. However, elderly singletons could not afford the cost of installing handrails at home, whereas the Housing Department (HD) would only accept cases referred by doctors. He enquired whether the SWD could deploy resources for installing handrails for elderly persons in need.
- (b) He understood that a community centre for mentally handicapped persons would be set up in Mun Tung Estate and enquired of the SWD about services to be provided. He said that every morning several buses provided transport services for 30 to 40 mentally handicapped children from Mun Tung Estate to schools and hoped that the centre could provide suitable assistance for them.
- (c) Regarding financial assistance, he said that the residents sometimes needed money for urgent purposes, such as paying medical expenses. Learning that some SWD staff suggested the residents seek assistance from personal loan companies or DC Members, he urged the department to assist the residents in tackling their financial problems instead of shirking responsibilities.

16. Mr Eric KWOK said that the application forms for Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) and Working Family Allowance were complex in design which he and his staff spent much time helping the elderly to fill in. He proposed in the previous term of the DC that the SWD should simplify its application forms by using multiple choice questions except when collecting information on bank account, mainland travel permit or re-entry permit and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region passport.

17. Mr LEE Ka-ho was dissatisfied that the work plan of the SWD only concentrated on publicity, while the department's support for carers was inadequate

given that it only took actions when the carers sought assistance. As the number of patients was on the rise, he opined that the department should identify mental patients and help them seek assistance early to prevent the situation from deteriorating.

18. Mr WONG Chi-leung made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) He stressed that the SWD was very concerned about the service needs of the elderly, ex-mentally ill persons and their carers. Apart from casework service, the SWD had implemented different projects including the “Support for Carers Project” in order to early identify the needy families and individuals. Appropriate assistance would be provided to them after assessment.
- (b) Singleton elderly could obtain assistance from elderly centres if they needed social workers’ assistance. HD would handle the request for conversion works of an existing public housing flat.
- (c) The Special Child Care Centre in Mun Tung Estate would provide day training service to the children with special needs.
- (d) When being approached by the needy individuals, the social service units would conduct assessment and render appropriate assistance to them. Trust fund would be applied if they were eligible for the service. He welcomed the Members to refer needy cases to the social welfare units for follow-up. He clarified that Working Family Assistance was out of the purview of the SWD. He would share the views on the design of the OALA application form to the section concerned. If the applicants had difficulty to complete the form, they could approach the welfare service units for assistance.

(Mr Sammy TSUI joined the meeting at around 10:40 a.m.; Mr Ken WONG joined the meeting at around 10:55 a.m.)

III. Question on the issue of street sleepers (Paper CACRC 36/2020)

19. The Chairman welcomed Mr WONG Chi-leung, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western/Southern/Islands)² of SWD; Mr KAO Hsi-chiang, Chief Health Inspector (Islands)² and Mr LI Cheuk-ho, Ronald, Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing & Pest Control) Islands 2 of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), Mr TSANG Wai-man, Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Islands) (DLO/Is) and Mr NG Wing-kei, Land Executive/Land Control 1 (DLO/Is) of the Lands Department (LandsD) as well as Mr LAW Hoi-ming, Vincent, Lantau North Divisional Commander and Ms KWOK Sze-wai, Venus, Police Community Relations Officer (Lantau District) of the Hong Kong Police Force to the meeting to respond to the question. The written replies of the FEHD, the Highways

Department (HyD) and the LandsD were tabled for Members' perusal.

20. Mr FONG Lung-fei briefly presented the question.

21. Mr WONG Chi-leung said that St. James' Settlement was funded by the SWD to operate an Integrated Service Team for Street Sleepers (ISTSS) to conduct day and late-night outreaching visits and provide emergency shelter, employment guidance, personal care, accommodation assistance and counselling services for street sleepers having regard to their needs and situations. If necessary, the ISTSS would refer cases to other service units. In addition, the ISTSS had emergency funds providing emergency support for street sleepers. The department subsidised six non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to operate Hostels for Single Persons and Emergency Shelter. Together with the hostels operated by NGOs on a self-financing basis, about 600 hostel places were provided.

22. Mr Ronald LI briefly presented the written reply of the FEHD.

23. Mr TSANG Wai-man briefly presented the written reply of the DLO/Is.

24. Mr Vincent LAW said that the Police attached great importance to public order. During patrol, its officers would observe whether street sleepers disturbed social order or created nuisance and intervene if that happened. The case at Shun Tung Road Tunnel was referred to the SWD for follow-up. The Police also closely cooperated with the FEHD to clean the streets regularly to avoid degradation of environment in the community.

25. Mr Thomas LI said that the Islands District Office (IsDO) would consider taking part in large-scale cleaning operation if its participation was needed.

26. Mr FONG Lung-fei said that the residents had reflected many times that street sleepers at the location concerned caused panic to elevator users (such as the elderly, women and juveniles). He was also concerned how it would be handled if a street sleeper passed away. After studying the replies of various departments, he queried whether the issue could be resolved. As shown in the photo in the question, there was some liquid by the side of a street sleeper which he believed to be urine diluted by water. It emitted odour and had an adverse impact on the environment. He enquired if the departments concerned only deal with the problem after it worsened.

27. Ms Amy YUNG said that an elderly person in Discovery Bay collected aluminium cans, glasses and plastic bottles for re-sale every day. She slept outside shops at night and placed miscellaneous objects there. Her residence in Tai Shui Hang was also full of miscellaneous objects. Although residents of Discovery Bay sympathised with her, they were annoyed by such behaviour. She enquired which departments were responsible for providing assistance to the elderly.

28. Mr LEE Ka-ho enquired which department was responsible for coordinating joint operations to tackle the issue of street sleepers, under what conditions would the

operations be initiated and which departments would be involved. In addition, he was concerned whether the joint operations would clear street sleepers and opined that the Government was responsible for providing support for them, or else they would only move from one place to another and the root of the problem was not addressed.

29. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) Street sleepers gave rise to problems in respect of occupation of government lands, environmental hygiene and support services. Given that the issue of street sleepers staying overnight at McDonald's aroused public concern a few years ago, he hoped that the IsDO would coordinate the collection of the number of street sleepers in Islands District (including Tung Chung).
- (b) He enquired whether the IsDO had provided support or social worker counselling service for street sleepers.
- (c) He enquired whether the IsDO would follow the example of the bicycle removal operation to conduct operations for clearing sleeping places of street sleepers if the issue remained unsolved despite provision of support services. He opined that as environmental hygiene was affected, the IsDO should take actions or the issue would persist and become community-wide.

30. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He understood that Mr FONG Lung-fei would like to resolve the issue of street sleepers from the residents' perspective but opined that street sleepers were homeless due to financial issues. Data revealed that some street sleepers were drug addicts or mentally ill, thus unable to work. He enquired whether the SWD had instructed frontline social workers to encourage street sleepers to reintegrate into society.
- (b) He understood that if the situation deteriorated, street cleansing had to be stepped up and hygienic problems had to be dealt with. However, the onus should not be on the street sleepers. He also opined that the remarks of Members were inhumane.
- (c) The Police replied that they would keep in view whether street sleepers disturbed social order. He pointed out that youth gangs might harass street sleepers, and the Police should be mindful of that. He reiterated that no one would sleep on the street on his own will. He proposed that the SWD, the FEHD, the LandsD, the Police, the Labour Department and hospitals should jointly tackle follow-up issues.
- (d) Street sleeping was a global social problem. He requested the departments concerned to make reference to overseas examples, explore

solutions to the problem and help street sleepers overcome financial difficulties in the long run. He hoped that the SWD would provide a further written reply to illustrate ways for resolving the issue of street sleepers in Hong Kong.

31. Ms Josephine TSANG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) She was concerned about the definition of street sleepers. She had approached several street sleepers and some became homeless as they were not accepted by their families while some did not want to work. She agreed with Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho that the issue of street sleepers could not be resolved by one single department. Frontline social workers could help healthy and mentally sound street sleepers get a job and move into halfway houses.
- (b) One male street sleeper put up a tent in a housing estate at night and was driven away by the Police. He said that he was divorced and the residential unit was granted to his ex-wife. As such, he camped in the area within the purview of the HD to force the department to assign him a public housing unit. She opined that Members and relevant departments should realise that some persons did not become street sleepers due to financial, ageing or mental issues. Street sleeping would cause social problems and should be dealt with thoroughly.

32. Ms WONG Chau-ping agreed that what happened to street sleepers was heartrending. She also agreed that follow-up work, including understanding the family, financial and psychological condition of street sleepers, should be well conducted after joint operations so as to provide assistance accordingly.

33. Ms Amy YUNG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) She agreed that street sleepers should be not labelled as mental patients or someone who abused social resources. She opined that street sleepers could be categorised into those with mental illness and those who were temporarily homeless because of economic downturn, and the two groups should be handled separately. She offered assistance to one of the six NGOs mentioned by the representative of the SWD from time to time and found that some street sleepers were mentally sound. They moved into hostels simply because they could not find accommodation. Learning that churches organised activities such as outings for them occasionally, she proposed that the SWD should invite other NGOs to jointly provide such services.
- (b) Given that some people could not find accommodation during recession, she proposed the provision of more halfway houses. She learnt that quarantine facilities were under construction in the Hong Kong Disneyland. If the number of street sleepers increased, the Government

could consider converting existing facilities into temporary hostels for street sleepers and encouraging them to look for jobs or seek assistance from NGOs. She hoped that the SWD and the departments concerned would not have discrimination against street sleepers.

34. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He proposed that the government departments concerned (the IsDO and the SWD in particular) should cooperate with local service units to offer support, including individual counselling, crisis intervention and outreaching services (such as providing hostel and group support service). They could also help street sleepers, if they wished, to reintegrate into society. He considered it the first step to resolve the issue of street sleepers.
- (b) There were many street sleepers all over the world, including the United States, Brazil and Japan, which proved that the issue was difficult to resolve. He pointed out that some street sleepers were stubborn and like to move from place to place. As mentioned by Mr FONG Lung-fei, some street sleepers defecated and placed their beds anywhere, causing an adverse impact on the environment. He opined that reference could be made to bicycle clearance operations to clean the places concerned after a notice was issued instead of clearing the street sleepers.

35. Mr HO Siu-kei said that Islands District was not an affluent district. However, compared with Sham Shui Po and Kwun Tong, the issue of street sleepers had not been serious in the past. He proposed that the Assistant Social Welfare Officers of Islands District should cooperate with the SWD staff of Sham Shui Po and Kwun Tong to tackle the issue.

36. Mr YUNG Chi-ming said that several years ago, there were two street sleepers in Cheung Chau. One of them, an elderly person who was rich, liked to sleep rough near the pier because it was cool and well ventilated. The other one was a public housing tenant aged around 50 to 60 who preferred rough sleeping than going home because he was mobility impaired. After repeated advice by the SWD, the FEHD, the DLO/Is and the IsDO, the two street sleepers eventually left. The two cases were settled satisfactorily after two years of efforts of the departments concerned (the SWD in particular).

37. Mr WONG Chi-leung made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The ISTSS would conduct day and late-night outreaching visits to approach street sleepers, follow up on their cases and provide assistance to them. Services including CSSA and/or emergency fund applications, temporary shelter referrals and counselling would be rendered. Those who were emotionally disturbed or with mental

illness would be referred to the Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness or the Hospital Authority (HA) for follow-up.

- (b) Street sleeping may be due to various reasons. As such, the ISTSS would render appropriate assistance to the street sleepers in accordance with the situation of each individual case. Social workers were mainly concerned about the welfare needs of street sleepers. If joint departmental operations were conducted, the social workers of the ISTSS would visit or contact street sleepers before and after the operations to understand their needs and offer assistance.

38. Mr KAO Hsi-chiang said that the FEHD conducted regular street cleaning work at the two locations mentioned in the question. The street sleepers there, after being advised by the department, would move their personal items aside at their own initiative to facilitate cleaning work. In addition, the department would continue to participate in inter-departmental joint operations.

39. Mr TSANG Wai-man said that the LandsD would follow up accordingly when inter-departmental joint operations were conducted.

40. Mr Vincent LAW clarified that the Police did not conduct patrols targeted at any individual groups. Generally speaking, police officers would take action during patrols only when they encountered situations in which social order was disturbed or individuals were harassed. The Police would also deploy officers to participate in joint operations to ensure public order.

41. Mr Thomas LI said that the IsDO would take part in joint operations depending on the situation.

42. Mr FONG Lung-fei thanked the SWD for referring the two cases mentioned in the question to the St. James Settlement for assistance a few months ago. It was learnt that the person concerned was a non-street sleeper using the place for private purposes. Street sleepers at the footbridge also said that the objects the person used to occupy the place did not belong to him but someone who had passed away, and the objects were removed by the FEHD after communication had been made. The person who slept rough near the police station was well-dressed. It was believed that he just wanted to occupy the place. He opined that such selfish behaviour should not be tolerated or others might follow. Although the issue of street sleepers in Islands District was less serious than that of Sham Shui Po, he, as a DC Member of Yat Tung Estate, was duty-bound to resolve problems of the area.

43. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho said that all persons involved in the cases mentioned by Members had assets but some street sleepers were working poor. Taking cleaning workers as an example, their monthly salary was around \$9,000 and the monthly income of a couple would be \$18,000 in total. Given that the rent of a unit of 100 to 300 square feet, regardless of on outlying islands or in urban areas, would be at least \$6,000 to \$7,000, low-income persons led very hard life. Mr FONG Lung-fei

mentioned that some street sleepers were well-dressed and he attributed the problem to high land price in Hong Kong. While the cases mentioned by Mr YUNG Chi-ming had been resolved, the issue of street sleepers still existed in Cheung Chau, which deserved our attention.

44. Mr LEE Ka-ho enquired again which department was responsible for coordinating joint operations, under what conditions would operations be initiated, details of the operations, and whether support would be provided before or after clearance operations.

45. Mr Thomas LI responded as follows:

- (a) To his understanding, no joint operation was conducted in Tung Chung in respect of the issue of street sleepers. Regarding street sleepers unwilling to move out or move into public housing units, the SWD had provided solutions. If there were environmental hygiene issues, such as occupying streets, contaminating subways and littering, law enforcement departments could take actions according to relevant legislations. Regarding Members' proposal of following the practice of clearing bicycles, he opined that the two issues were different in level of complexity and severity.
- (b) The IsDO would consider intervening in issues which were relatively complex and severe. If street sleepers did not heed advice or wilfully occupied the place despite having the ability to live independently, the departments concerned would explore solutions.

46. Mr WONG Chi-leung said that the ISTSS would provide emergency shelter to the street sleepers and assist them to look for rental accommodation. Through casework intervention, the social workers would render appropriate assistance to the street sleepers in accordance with the situation of each individual case.

47. Mr Eric KWOK enquired whether surveys had been conducted in respect of street sleepers in Islands District. As statistics were provided before bicycle clearance operations, the IsDO was duty-bound to conduct a survey on the issue of street sleepers in Islands District to find out whether referral to the SWD was necessary. He hoped that Members would vote on whether the IsDO should conduct a survey to provide data of street sleepers in Islands District and refer the cases to the SWD or other NGOs for follow-up.

48. Ms Amy YUNG opined that there was no need to vote on the matter. She supported a survey to be conducted by the IsDO, to formulate the direction of work and decide which departments should participate in the operations.

49. Mr Randy YU opined that most Members present were concerned about the issue of street sleepers and agreed that there was no need to vote. He said that the residents lodged complaints about hygienic issues and nuisances, while Members were

concerned about the personal problems of street sleepers. Among 18 districts across the territory, the issue of street sleepers was certainly more serious in other districts. The situation might be even worse in other big cities such as London and New York. He said that if the information collected by 18 Members and social welfare organisations were put together, the seriousness of the issue could be seen. A survey could then be conducted by the IsDO. If the results showed that the issue was serious, Members could conduct a focussed discussion. On the contrary, the cases could be dealt with one by one. It was hoped that the issue could be resolved before getting serious. Regardless of whether street sleepers wilfully occupied spaces or slept rough for reasons of personal freedom, addressing the issue squarely was conducive to resolving livelihood problems of street sleepers and would be beneficial to Islands District.

50. Mr LEE Ka-ho expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He was pleased to note that the issue of street sleepers in Islands District (including Tung Chung) was not serious. However, he considered the replies given by the departments too vague. While claiming that they would cope with joint operations, none had been carried out in Islands District.
- (b) He agreed that with relevant data, Members could follow up on the issue more easily. In future discussions on the issue of street sleepers, the dilemma of improving the cityscape or respecting human rights of street sleepers could be avoided.

51. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho understood that the speech of the Police did not target anyone. He noticed that public housing applicants had to provide their personal address and proof of residential address. He enquired of the SWD whether there were special arrangements under which street sleepers needed not provide residential address when applying for public housing.

52. Mr HO Chun-fai said that all Hong Kong citizens were concerned about the issue of street sleepers. He proposed that relevant departments should implement an incentive and penalty mechanism. If street sleepers were mentally sound public housing tenants with assets, investigations should be conducted and their welfare benefits should be terminated if necessary. He hoped that Islands District would take the lead in implementing relevant measures.

53. Mr WONG Chi-leung said that street sleepers could approach social workers to apply for emergency shelter/ short-term hostel services. Social workers would also discuss long-term accommodation arrangements with them. He said that if applicants were eligible for CSSA or other welfare services, the SWD would proceed the application accordingly, no matter if they were street sleeping or not. Besides, the ISTSS would pro-actively assist the street sleepers and would refer the cases to other service units for support if necessary.

54. Mr Thomas LI made a consolidated response as follows:
- (a) As pointed out by the SWD, St. James Settlement had set up an outreaching team to handle the issue of street sleepers in the district, and was believed to have substantially collected data of the street sleepers. Members could inform the IsDO about the environmental hygienic problems caused by personal items of street sleepers and the cases would be referred to the FEHD or the LandsD for further action. If the departments concerned could not handle complex cases, the IsDO would intervene timely.
 - (b) He believed that the SWD would provide relevant data after the meeting. If investigation by the IsDO was necessary, extra resources might be needed. He proposed that Members could relay information of the cases to the IsDO to facilitate handling.
55. Mr Randy YU believed that the SWD and social welfare organisations such as the St James' Settlement had obtained some data. He proposed that Members could hand over cases of street sleepers in the district to the Assistant Social Welfare Officers of the SWD for data consolidation. He believed that the overall picture would then be clear. He also opined that the issue of street sleepers had to be followed up persistently as it could not be resolved shortly.
56. Mr Ken WONG said that the IsDO only needed to gather the data of Members and the SWD which enabled Members to understand the situation of the district without using extra resources to conduct investigation. He clarified that Members only requested the IsDO to consolidate the information provided by Members and the SWD for reference. He would be disappointed if the IsDO was unwilling to follow up on the matter as extra resources were required.
57. Mr Thomas LI said that he misunderstood that Members proposed deployment of staff to conduct street/on-site inspections. The IsDO would be pleased to follow up on the matter if only collection of data was needed.
58. Mr Eric KWOK opined that the IsDO had established a liaison network of NGOs and local groups in the district. He proposed collecting data through telephone calls. Deployment of staff for investigation would be necessary only if there was suspicion. He was dissatisfied with the IsDO's shifting of responsibilities on grounds of having other commitments. He said that DC Members worked on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays and had to respond to enquiries from the residents in the evening.
59. Mr Josephine TSANG opined that there was misunderstanding in communication. DC Members had a very good understanding of the district and were suitable persons to collect data. She said that Members would cooperate with the IsDO and resolve the issue early to prevent the situation from deteriorating. Members wished to formulate solutions using the data provided by the IsDO and had no intention

to force the department to follow up on the issue.

60. Mr CHAN Lin-wai opined that the issue of street sleepers was long standing and all areas in the district were in similar situation. He proposed formulating solutions for discussion at the following meeting.

61. Mr Sammy TSUI enquired whether the SWD had grasped information of street sleepers of the district. If not, he proposed that it should consolidate relevant data. Learning that NGOs provided services such as visiting young night drifters and vagrants at present, he enquired whether there were similar services in Tung Chung. If not, the SWD was duty-bound to deploy more manpower for the provision of relevant services. He opined that even if DC Members and the residents provided information, the SWD still had to follow up on and resolve the issue.

62. Mr FONG Lung-fei said that he had liaised with the department concerned about the issue but it replied that the follow-up by a number of departments would be necessary. At present, there were only a few street sleepers. If the number of street sleepers increased and caused community issues, he enquired how the situation should be dealt with. As representatives of public opinion, DC Members were responsible for reflecting community issues. The Government should respond to the demand of residents but not shirking responsibility on the excuse of heavy workload. He criticised the IsDO for not pro-actively showing concern for the community.

63. Mr WONG Chi-leung said that St. James' Settlement would conduct outreaching visits in respect of cases. As some street sleepers could only be located at night, the ISTSS would provide services in daytime and late-night. Members could contact the ISTSS if they spotted street sleepers who needed assistance of social workers. In addition, as street sleepers did not have fixed abode, the number of cases handled by the ISTSS might not reflect the situation of the district.

64. Mr YUNG Chi-ming said that there were social workers in every district so the SWD should have a better understanding of the situation than other departments. He opined that the SWD was duty-bound to play a coordinating role.

65. The Chairman suggested contacting the SWD and relevant NGOs within two weeks for discussion as proposed by Mr Randy YU.

66. Mr WONG Chi-leung said that if the Members discovered street sleepers, they could inform the SWD for follow-up. The SWD would enquire the ISTSS about the number of street sleeper cases after the meeting.

67. Mr Randy YU proposed that Members should submit information of the cases to the SWD so that it could forward the contact details to Members via the Secretariat.

68. Mr WONG Chi-leung hoped that the Members could provide the detailed information of respective cases to the SWD as much as possible so as to facilitate social workers' follow-up.

69. The Chairman requested the SWD to provide the contact information to Members as soon as possible.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat forwarded the “Integrated Service for Street Sleepers Referral Form” and relevant contact details provided by the SWD to Members after the meeting. As at 25 August, there were a total of seven street sleepers in the district according to the information from service units collected by the SWD. Social workers would continue to follow up on their welfare needs and persuade them to receive the service and quit street sleeping as early as possible.)

IV. Question on On Tung Street Temporary Soccer Pitch
(Paper CACRC 37/2020)

70. The Chairman welcomed Dr Michael WONG, Deputy Hospital Chief Executive of HA; Mr TSANG Wai-man, Administrative Assistant/Lands (DLO/Is) and Mr YUEN Kwok-keung, Senior Land Executive/Lantau (DLO/Is) of LandsD, Mr KAO Hsi-chiang, Chief Health Inspector (Islands) 2 and Mr LI Cheuk-ho, Ronald, Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing & Pest Control) Islands 2 of the FEHD to the meeting to respond to the question. The consolidated written reply of the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) and the FEHD and the written reply of DLO/Is had been provided to Members for perusal. The LCSD said that the soccer pitch was out of its purview and therefore did not provide a reply.

71. Mr FONG Lung-fei briefly presented the question.

72. Dr Michael WONG responded as follows:

- (a) The North Lantau Hospital (NLH) Extension Project was divided into two phases. Phase one had been completed and would be fully commissioned at the end of the current year. Phase 2 consisted of two stages. Under stage 1, a Supporting Services Centre would be constructed on a land adjacent to the soccer pitch at On Tung Street currently enclosed by wire fences. Funds for the project had been approved by the Finance Committee of LegCo in the previous month and the works were about to commence. Under stage 2, a clinical building would be constructed on the slope between the aforementioned land and the NLH building.
- (b) He clarified that the soccer pitch at On Tung Street did not fall within the scope of phase 2 development of the NLH. The original plan was to build a private hospital on the soccer pitch and the land currently reserved for phase 2 of the NLH Extension Project. It was later decided that the latter would be used for phase 2 development of the NLH, hence

the misunderstanding. He reiterated that the soccer pitch at On Tung Street was out of the scope of development.

73. Mr TSANG Wai-man briefly presented the written reply of the DLO/Is.

74. Mr KAO Hsi-chiang said that the FHB and the FEHD had provided a consolidated written reply. He added that as the NLH had planned to develop the land, it was inappropriate to construct a temporary market there. However, the FEHD noted Members' concern about constructing a temporary market in Tung Chung and their views on site selection.

75. Mr FONG Lung-fei said that apart from the land mentioned by the bureau, there was an open space enclosed by wire fences between the soccer pitch and the grassland. He enquired of the bureau whether the open space was out of the scope of development. If the soccer pitch at On Tung Street had no use in the short run, he enquired whether it was possible for the LCSD to provide leisure and fitness facilities at the pitch and the adjacent open space.

76. Mr LEE Ka-ho agreed with Mr FONG Lung-fei's views. He said that the soccer pitch at On Tung Street was originally planned for the construction of a private hospital and therefore could only be put to temporary uses before works commenced. Given that the plan had been cancelled, he enquired what use the site would be put to, and if no long-term development plan was formulated yet, he proposed improving the existing ancillary facilities. He also pointed out that the soccer pitch had only two football goals, which were inadequate. He proposed provision of additional goals, changing rooms and toilets.

77. Dr Michael WONG was not certain of the actual location of the open space Mr FONG referred to, but he reiterated that the land adjacent to the soccer pitch was not reserved for the construction of the Supporting Services Centre in stage 1 of phase 2 development of the NLH. He said that he would check the map after the meeting and follow up with Members in due course.

78. Ms Alice CHOW said that information revealed that the soccer pitch at On Tung Street was constructed and managed by the IsDO. If Members hoped that provision of additional sports and recreational facilities at the soccer pitch, the LCSD could communicate with Members after the meeting and relay their opinions to the IsDO.

79. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) At the beginning of phase 1 development of the NLH, the temporary soccer pitch at On Tung Street was temporarily used for storage of medical equipment. It had been left idle ever since the NHL started operation in 2012 until he proposed in 2016 using the funds of the District Facilities Management Committee (DFMC) to convert the derelict soccer pitch into the temporary soccer pitch currently used by

Tung Chung residents.

- (b) The temporary recreational grassland in Tung Chung Area 22 was funded by the previous term of the DFMC. He was pleased to learn that the LCSD had planted some flowers there. The IsDO had provided advice on improving the grassland and encouraged the residents to make use of the grassland for leisure purposes through publicity work. As the temporary recreational grassland was within the scope of development of phase 2 development of the NLH, he considered it inappropriate to construct a market there. However, he proposed that Members and the departments concerned should discuss and strive for enhancement of the soccer pitch at Tung Chung Road.

80. Dr Michael WONG said that Mr Eric KWOK had a very good understanding of the development of the land and the HA had nothing to add.

81. Mr FONG Lung-fei reiterated that if the temporary soccer pitch had no development use in the short run, he proposed provision of ancillary facilities thereat, in particular toilets.

82. Mr Randy YU proposed that DC Members of the constituency concerned should conduct an on-site inspection and submit a proposal to the DFMC in respect of the facilities to be provided. A vote would be taken on whether DC funds should be allocated for minor works such as provision of temporary toilets, leisure and recreation facilities, etc.

83. Mr FONG Lung-fei said that there was no lighting at the soccer pitch at On Tung Street at night and he did not know whether it was because of the epidemic or other reasons. However, many residents exercised at the pitch at night and he enquired which department was responsible for management.

84. Mr LEE Ka-ho enquired of the IsDO whether the soccer pitch at On Tung Street had been reserved for specific uses.

85. The Chairman asked the LCSD to respond to the question on the lighting of the soccer pitch.

86. Ms Alice CHOW reiterated that the soccer pitch at On Tung Street was managed by the IsDO instead of the LCSD.

87. Mr Thomas LI said that he would learn more about the situation after the meeting and reply to Members in respect of the lighting of the soccer pitch.

88. The Chairman asked the LandsD to respond whether the pitch had been reserved for specific uses.

89. Mr TSANG Wai-man said that the site was put to short-term use as a

temporary soccer pitch. The LandsD would conduct further studies if there were proposed long-term uses.

V. Question on general out-patient clinic service in Islands District
(Paper CACRC 38/2020)

90. The Chairman welcomed Dr LUK Wan, Chief of Service of Family Medicine and Primary Health Care Service, Kowloon West Hospital Cluster and Dr Michael WONG, Deputy Hospital Chief Executive of North Lantau Hospital under Hospital Authority to respond to the question.

91. Ms Amy YUNG presented the question.

92. Dr LUK Wan responded as follows:

- (a) The general out-patient clinic (GOPC) services were primarily used by the elderly, low-income persons and chronically ill patients. There was huge demand for GOPC services with annual attendances close to 6 million. The service utilisation (including that of Islands District) was monitored and kept under review by HA. The use of GOPC services in urban areas stood high and in comparison, the clinics in Islands District were in less demand. In the light of high demand for GOPC services, a balance had to be struck to ensure that timely service was provided to users across the territory. As such, public GOPC services could not be provided in Discovery Bay in the near future.
- (b) HA understood the aspirations of residents in Islands District for extending the operating hours of GOPCs on Saturdays and providing GOPC service on public holidays. In planning for the provision of public healthcare services, the Government took into account a number of factors, including the general demand for primary healthcare services, the demographic changes and distribution of target groups, as well as other providers of primary healthcare services in the district, etc. It would work to coordinate with the development policy of the Government and monitor closely the changes in demand for public healthcare services in Islands District to ensure that timely service was provided. The extension of operating hours on Saturdays and provision of service on public holidays involved additional resources. In view of the current resource and manpower constraints, it would be difficult to deploy manpower for an extra GOPC or to extend the operating hours of the GOPCs in Islands District on public holidays. He hoped that Members would be understanding.

93. Mr FONG Lung-fei said that at present most users of GOPC were the elderly who mainly made appointments by phone. Once, an elderly person who failed to make appointments by phone sought assistance from him. He spent several hours to

contact the clinic but in vain. He asked the HA whether improvements could be made. Noticing that the HA was conducting tests on a mobile app for making appointments, he enquired when it would be rolled out and whether there were other ways for the elderly to make appointments.

94. Ms Amy YUNG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) Discovery Bay was a private residential area whose residents were mainly middle-class. After the implementation of transport concession scheme, the population distribution had changed. More elderly persons moved to Discovery Bay, and so did the grassroots because dog keeping was not allowed in urban residences. As such, the demand for GOPC services had increased. At present, the residents had to travel to Tung Chung or other districts for GOPC services. Many residents reflected to her that they could not call an ambulance even when they were seriously ill. The service of Rehabus had been suspended, rendering them difficult to seek medical consultation. As such, she hoped that the HA would consider setting up a GOPC in Discovery Bay. She said that residents of Discovery Bay had paid much tax and hoped that more resources could be allocated to cope with the needs of the elderly and grassroots of the area.
- (b) She understood there was a shortage of healthcare staff in Hong Kong and appreciated their dedicated service. She hoped that the Government would allocate more resources to the healthcare sector. She hoped that the HA would extend the service hours of GOPC which were too short for some residents to collect medicine. The consultation fee of private clinics could easily reach several thousand dollars which were unaffordable for the residents generally. She urged the HA to take care of the underprivileged elderly of Discovery Bay and Nim Shue Wan.

95. Mr LEE Ka-ho said that many elderly persons were not familiar with the operation of the telephone appointment system. He proposed that there should be designated staff to answer the calls for GOPC appointments to provide convenience to the elderly.

96. The Chairman said that the population of Mui Wo had increased after the completion of several Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) blocks. He hoped that the HA would increase the quotas of GOPC to meet the demand of residents of the area.

97. Dr LUK Wan made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) GOPC users could be mainly divided into two groups: one was patients with episodic diseases such as fever, gastroenteritis and dermatitis while the other was patients with chronic diseases such as hypertension, hyperlipidaemia and diabetes mellitus. An appointment would be

arranged for chronic disease patients after each consultation so they did not need to make any appointment calls, whereas episodic disease patients mostly made appointments by phone. Starting from June of the current year, the HA launched a one-stop mobile app “HA Go” for GOPCs of seven clusters. Members of the public who downloaded the app on a mobile phone, completed registration and confirmed their identity in a GOPC could make appointments via the app or by phone. The mobile app would also show the quotas still available in various districts. The HA would launch a one-stop mobile app for Kowloon West cluster in August and Members would be informed in advance.

- (b) He was aware of the increase in the number of elderly persons in Discovery Bay and the demand for GOPC services in Nim Shue Wan and Cheung Sha Lan. The HA would consider Ms YUNG’s views if it planned to provide additional GOPC services.
- (c) The HA noted that resident intake of new HOS blocks in Mui Wo was in progress. It would closely monitor the usage of the GOPC there and make adjustment if resources were available.
- (d) Regarding Mr LEE Ka-ho’s proposal of arranging designated staff to answer appointment calls, he would relay it to the Headquarters, and there was no such arrangement at present. However, chronic disease patients with questions about the appointment date could call the designated phone number on the appointment slip. Their calls would be answered by designated staff and assistance would be provided. Regarding episodic disease patients, the HA would relay the proposal to relevant staff for improvement in the future.

98. Ms Josephine TSANG said that there was only one government clinic in Peng Chau at present and a number of residents of Discovery Bay sought medical consultation there. As such, there was a need to extend the service hours of the GOPC during holidays. As it did not provide service on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, the residents had to travel a long way to Queen Mary Hospital or Princess Margaret Hospital for consultation. Fortunately, a private doctor was willing to provide service during the time periods as substitution. Initially, the elderly were willing to seek consultation from the private doctors using health care vouchers. As the charges of private clinics were high, they could only seek consultation from government clinics after their vouchers were used up. As such, she hoped that the HA would consider providing consultation services on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays so that residents of Discovery Bay and Nim Shue Wan could also be benefited. Discounting financial considerations, setting up a government clinic in the district could ease the mind of the residents.

99. Ms LAU Shun-ting said that despite the considerable amount of population in Sok Kwu Wan, Lamma Island, doctor’s consultation services were only available for two days a week. There was a nurse on duty from Monday to Friday but not round

the clock and there was no private doctor or Chinese medicine practitioner in Sok Kwu Wan. The Chairman of Lamma Island (North) Rural Committee (RC) and Lamma Island (South) RC as well as DC Members had been concerned about the matter and had reflected it to the Secretary for Food and Health. While extension of service hours of the nurse to Saturday afternoon had been successfully secured, there was no doctor on duty. She pointed out that on multiple occasions, patients in Sok Kwu Wan died because they were not saved in time, illustrating that there was a great demand for healthcare service. She hoped that the HA would take into account the residents' needs and provide solutions.

100. Dr LUK Wan understood the demand for healthcare services of residents of Peng Chau and Sok Kwu Wan, Lamma Island and said that the HA would continue to monitor the usage of such services in various districts. He reiterated that resources were limited at present. If additional resources were available in the future, the HA would suitably deploy resources according to the usage of each district.

101. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho hoped that 24-hour healthcare services could be provided for all islands. He did not understand why Members often mentioned RC Chairmen when expressing views and considered it unnecessary. Members could submit issues with urgency to DC for discussion.

102. Mr Randy YU reminded the HA that if there were adequate resources in the future, the demand for GOPC services of Mui Wo and Lamma Island should be considered and responded to.

VI. Question on ambulance service in Chek Lap Kok and Lantau Island
(Paper CACRC 39/2020)

103. The Chairman welcomed Mr TONG King-man, Assistant Chief Ambulance Officer (New Territories South) (Ag), Mr TAM Kit-fung, Superintendent (Ambulance) (New Territories South West) and Mr LEUNG Wai-ho, Depot Commander Tung Chung Ambulance Depot of Fire Services Department (FSD) to the meeting to respond to the question.

104. Ms Amy YUNG briefly presented the question.

105. Mr TONG King-man responded as follows:

- (a) In response to local demand, the number of vehicles for daytime service of the fire station and ambulance depot in North Lantau and Chek Lap Kok had been increased from 14 in 2010 to 18 at present, while the number of vehicles for night-time service had been increased from 10 to 13.
- (b) Regarding the number of ambulance service cases handled by the fire stations and ambulance depots on Lantau Island and in Chek Lap Kok,

among the 22 296 emergency service calls in 2019, 92.95% were responded to within the target response time of 12 minutes, which was higher than the 92.5% performance pledge of FSD.

- (c) FSD had all along closely monitored the changes in demand for ambulance service in various districts and the deployment of resources to make suitable adjustments.
- (d) FSD reviewed the ambulance service data of Lantau Island and Chek Lap Kok regularly and would deploy existing resources in good time according to the demand. To ensure the reliability of the entire fleet, FSD had formulated Replacement of Ambulance in good time to maintain their age at a healthy level.

106. Ms Josephine TSANG said that a number of elderly persons in Peng Chau had to attend medical appointments at private hospitals regularly, and many of them were singletons or doubletons. There was an elderly couple in their 80s or 90s who lived on the second floor. The wife was a wheelchair user who had difficulties in attending medical appointments. She had called Peng Chau Fire Station on behalf of the resident for assistance. The fire station referred her to the Fire Services Communications Centre (FSCC) which responded that they would assist persons in need to attend medical appointments at public hospitals, not private hospitals. She opined that the turnout rate of Peng Chau ambulances was relatively low. While it was out of the purview of the fire station, she hoped that FSD would adopt special arrangements for such rarely occurred cases to assist those in need. Regarding the above case, the FSCC said that it could deploy staff to assist the lady going downstairs, but a statement of confirmation had to be signed afterwards. She considered such arrangement troublesome for the elderly and hoped that FSD would be concerned about the need of the public.

107. Mr Eric KWOK enquired whether FSD would increase the number of ambulance depots and ambulances on Lantau Island and in Chek Lap Kok to tie in with the increase in residential population and labour force. He learnt that the infrastructure of the reclamation works in Tung Chung new town would be completed in 2030. After completion of public housing in Areas 99, 103 and 109, the population was expected to exceed 30 000. If the new town further developed, its population would reach 140 000 and he enquired whether FSD had plans to increase the number of ambulances and fire engines.

108. Ms WONG Chau-ping said that it was difficult for vehicles to enter some remote villages in Tung Chung. However, with the development of Tung Chung new town, many vehicles could now reach the entrance of villages. In June or early July of the current year, a service box exploded and caused a fire in the Ngau Au Village. However, fire engines could not enter the village and there was also no fire hydrant in the village. Eventually, water pipes from residences of villagers were used to put out the fire. She hoped that FSD would follow up on whether the fire hydrants in villages were adequate.

109. Mr TONG King-man responded as follows:

- (a) Regarding the sub-division arrangements of New Territories South, Cheung Chau, Peng Chau and Lamma Island were under one of the Hong Kong's Sub-divisions. FSD frontline staff was mainly responsible for transporting patients with urgent needs of public emergency ambulance services to hospitals. As such, they were required to transport patients to designated HA hospitals in accordance with the existing regulations. FSD would convey Ms TSANG's views to the officer-in-charge of the sub-division.

(Post-meeting note: On 8 July 2020, Mr TONG conveyed the relevant views to Assistant Chief Ambulance Officer (Hong Kong).)

- (b) Regarding Mr KWOK's enquiry, FSD had to take into account the situation such as existing resources and the speed of population growth of the district to formulate long-term arrangements and targets for review. In 2011 and 2015, FSD commissioned a consultant and the Efficiency Unit to conduct a holistic review on the deployment of emergency ambulance service resources in Hong Kong. Changes in all aspect of society and the demand for ambulance services were studied. FSD planned to commission a consultant to conduct a comprehensive review and study in 2020-21 on future service development. The results obtained in similar studies in 2011 would also be renewed so as to explore the demand for emergency ambulance services and make long-term arrangements.

- (c) Regarding Ms WONG's enquiry, the representatives who attended the meeting were under the Ambulance Command of FSD and were mainly responsible for emergency ambulance services. He would reflect the relevant matters to the officers concerned.

(Post-meeting note: On 9 July 2020, Mr TONG conveyed the relevant views to Senior Division Commander (Marine and Diving).)

VII. Question on public dental services in Tung Chung
(Paper CACRC 40/2020)

110. The Chairman welcomed Dr HUANG Shan-shan, Senior Medical and Health Officer (Emergency Preparedness and District Relations) 2 of the Department of Health (DH) to the meeting to respond to the question. The written reply of the DH had been tabled at the meeting and distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting.

111. Mr LEE Ka-ho briefly presented the paper.
112. Dr HUANG Shan-shan briefly presented the written reply and added that the dental treatments currently provided were mainly preventive in nature. There were 11 dental clinics providing emergency dental services. For focused resource deployment, no consideration had been given to expand the mobile dental clinic service at this stage.
113. Mr LEE Ka-ho expressed his views as follows:
- (a) There had been rounds of discussion on dental healthcare services at IDC meetings. At present, Hong Kong healthcare policies did not include dental services, which might be due to limited resources. He pointed out that dental services were closely related to the public. Provision of emergency dental services only might delay treatment. Taking teeth problems of the elderly as an example, tooth extraction service would be provided only when they suffered from tooth decay or toothache. He opined that treatments should not be provided to the public only when they suffered from dental diseases. According to the reply of the DH, the Government placed emphasis only on publicity without any plans to expand public dental services, at which he was disappointed and hoped that the DH would consider expansion of dental services.
 - (b) He requested the DH to provide the number of quotas for consultation and that of patients receiving treatments at the Tung Chung Dental Clinic.
114. Mr Eric KWOK said that the Project Concern Hong Kong Dental Clinic in Yat Tung Estate provided services on only two days per week, but residents of Yat Tung Estate and Mun Tung Estate had a great demand for the services. He enquired whether the DH could provide resources to increase the number of dental healthcare staff (including one dental officer and one nurse) and the number of days of service (such as extending to four days per week) to meet the demand of the residents.
115. Dr HUANG Shan-shan made a consolidated response as follows:
- (a) While the Government provided dental services, private clinics accounted for 70% of the sector. As such, expansion of public services was difficult. The Government had implemented various measures to cater for the needs of the public and the elderly, such as grants to cover costs of dental treatment via the CSSA for low-income earners. The elderly could pay for dental services using health care vouchers, and the eligibility criteria had been expanded to cover persons aged 65. The accumulation limit of vouchers had also increased by \$1,000 to \$8,000 with greater flexibility in using the vouchers. The Community Care Fund also provided subsidies for dental services for eligible recipients of OALA and the scheme had been extended to February 2022.

“Outreach Dental Care Programme for the Elderly” had also been implemented, under which 10 NGOs set up 23 outreach dental teams to serve the elderly living in elderly homes. The Government was dedicated to providing comprehensive dental services for the elderly.

- (b) The DH could provide relevant data of the Tung Chung Dental Clinic for civil servants after the meeting.
- (c) She pointed out that the Project Concern Yat Tung Estate Dental Clinic was set up by a voluntary organisation, not a government dental clinic.

116. Mr Sammy TSUI expressed his views as follows:

- (a) In view of the demand for public dental services, the Government was duty-bound to deploy more resources for developing dental services. He was not satisfied that under the existing policies, resources were pulled for private organisations and non-profit making organisations (NPOs).
- (b) The population of Tung Chung was over 100 000 and dental services should be provided for the area to avoid wasting residents’ time travelling to Tsuen Wan for treatment. He pointed out that Tung Chung had been developed for a long time and provision of dental services was a responsible practice. He opined that the Government had adequate financial resources given that it deployed \$800 million for mask production. As such, resources should be allocated for improving dental healthcare services.
- (c) He proposed that the NLH should provide dental services so as to enhance the dental services of the district.

117. Dr HUANG Shan-shan understood the demand for public dental services of Tung Chung residents. However, apart from resources, dental healthcare workers were also in short. The Government was planning to increase the degree places in dentistry and striving to assist the public through various schemes under the existing constraints.

118. Mr Sammy TSUI enquired whether the DH would follow Kwai Tsing District by cooperating with NGOs in Tung Chung to introduce mobile dental clinics for provision of public dental services.

119. The Chairman opined that mobile dental clinics could allay the demand for dental services in Islands District, especially the needs of the elderly. He hoped that the DH would proactively consider the proposal.

120. Dr HUANG Shan-shan made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) She pointed out that mobile dental clinics were provided under the “Outreach Dental Care Programme for the Elderly” jointly implemented with NGOs. At present, relevant services were also provided by the Project Concern Hong Kong. She pointed out that mobile dental clinics could not provide all dental healthcare treatments and there were some discrepancies between its services and those of proper clinics. It only provided some services for those who could not visit proper clinics.
- (b) At present, there were dental clinics in all 18 districts in Hong Kong which were easily accessible, members of the public in need could seek consultation from proper dental clinics to receive proper dental healthcare services.
- (c) As a result of resource deployment, the number of mobile dental clinics was limited, and therefore priority was given to elderly members of residential care homes and day care centres for the elderly as well as those who could not visit proper clinics because of their physical conditions.

121. Mr LEE Ka-ho expressed his views as follows:

- (a) The 11 public dental clinics could not serve all 18 districts. For example, there were no public dental services in Tung Chung. In addition, the number of quotas of each clinics was not adequate to meet public demand.
- (b) He understood that mobile dental clinics could not replace proper dental clinics. However, if a mobile dental clinic could park at housing estates regularly, basic dental services (such as dental examination) could be provided to make up for the lack of dental clinics in the area.
- (c) While the Government refused to provide more public dental services, it set up funds for NGOs to provide limited services. There was a suspicion of the Government evading responsibility by outsourcing. He hoped that the Government would review its long-term dental healthcare policies and formulate short-term measures.

122. Dr HUANG Shan-shan said that the DH had formulated established policies but she would reflect Members’ views to the department.

VIII. Question on quality of masks procured by Islands District Council
(Paper CACRC 41/2020)

123. The Chairman welcomed Mr CHAN Yat-kin, Kaiser, Senior Liaison Officer (2) of the IsDO, to the meeting to respond to the question. The IsDO had provided a written reply for Members’ perusal.

124. Mr LEE Ka-ho briefly presented the question.
125. Mr Kaiser CHAN briefly presented the written reply.
126. Mr LEE Ka-ho expressed his views as follows:
- (a) He was doubtful of the standards of masks procured by the Islands District Council (IDC). While they met the standards of particulate filtration efficiency and European standard EN149:2001, anti-pollen and dust prevention masks in the market which could not block pneumonia virus also stated that their particulate filtration efficiency was over 95%. In addition, there was no trademark on the masks procured.
 - (b) He found that some masks were faulty, including becoming yellowish, stained and with broken ear straps. Although the masks were distributed after selection, a small amount were still faulty. If the quality of masks was poor, public health would be affected, and so would the reputation of the IDC. He hoped that the IsDO would pay attention to the issue and check with suppliers before purchasing again.
127. Mr Eric KWOK also said that ear straps of the masks broke easily. His ward office had procured masks of better quality which adopted a three-layer design with valid certification so customers with questions could contact the manufacturer. He was doubtful of the quality of masks procured by the IDC.
128. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho expressed his views as follows:
- (a) He opined that the procurement process was not transparent enough. Since it was stated in the written reply that most masks were manufactured in the Mainland China, he enquired which province was the place of origin, and whether it was Wuhan. In addition, according to the written reply, a small portion of them were from Taiwan where export of masks had been prohibited for some time. He hoped that the IsDO would provide detailed information of the manufacturers concerned. He understood that it was inappropriate to reveal information of the manufacturers when procurement was still in progress. However, procurement had been completed at present so the IsDO should submit to Members a working report revealing the origin of the masks.
 - (b) He had reflected that CuMask could not block pneumonia virus and therefore its usage rate was low. If the masks procured could not block pneumonia virus, it was doubtful whether distribution of masks was for publicity purpose. In addition, as the IsDO requested Members to take photographs when they distributed masks, he proposed that the IsDO should deploy staff to assist in distribution.

- (c) Learning that the IsDO placed labels with the words “sponsored by the IDC” on the masks received from suppliers, he enquired whether its staff had examined the quality of the masks. He reiterated that the IsDO should provide a working report for Members’ perusal.

129. Mr Kaiser CHAN made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The IsDO had screened out problematic masks at the post-processing stage. He apologised for distributing some masks of poor quality.
- (b) With regard to specifications, the supply of masks was limited at the beginning of the procurement process. As such, it was difficult to require higher standards of masks. At that time, the IsDO requested the manufacturers to provide specifications of masks available for consideration. Owing to increased financial provisions for the year, the IsDO had requested in the tender document supply of masks meeting the specifications mentioned by Mr LEE Ka-ho. Unfortunately, no mask provided by the tenderers met the specifications.
- (c) Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho said that the procurement process had been completed. While the IDC had set aside \$1 million as anti-epidemic fund, only \$500,000 had been approved and \$300,000 to \$400,000 had been spent. In this connection, procurement could continue. He pledged that the IsDO would listen to the views of Members and raise the standards when procuring anti-epidemic materials in the future.

130. Mr Eric KWOK noted that procurement was still in progress and proposed that the IsDO should provide an interim report to Members for review. He hoped that in future procurements, the quality of masks would improve. He opined that the procurement of surgical masks was intended to protect the public, otherwise cloth masks or other items could be made as alternatives instead.

131. Mr Kaiser CHAN responded as follows:

- (a) He supplemented that the masks were not manufactured in Wuhan. The manufactures were mainly from Fujian, Guangdong and Shandong.
- (b) He clarified that procurement had been suspended. The IDC had set aside \$1 million for anti-epidemic purpose and \$500,000 had been approved so far. Members could consider how to use the remaining provision. The IsDO would listen to the views of Members. If procurement should continue, it would make corresponding arrangements.

132. Mr Randy YU expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He agreed that a review should be conducted at the current stage. The date of the next IDC meeting was to be held on 1 September, which would be two months later. He hoped that the IsDO would provide Members with relevant data by circulation after the meeting.
- (b) As it was summer holiday for the time being, it was easier to procure masks for adults than for children. If Members agreed, he proposed that the IsDO should study procurement of masks for children in the following month for distribution. He opined that the remaining provision could be used for procuring 100 000 to 200 000 masks for children. Relevant procurement arrangements could be accounted for in the interim report. He reminded the IsDO to ensure effective quality control.

133. Mr Eric KWOK agreed with Mr Randy YU's views. He had stated in the reply slip of the circulation paper that among the masks to be procured, one-third should be for children. He proposed that apart from improving the quality of masks, more masks for children should be procured. Some residents reflected to him that it was difficult to buy masks for children in the market and hoped that such masks would be distributed.

134. Mr LEE Ka-ho agreed with the views of Mr Eric KWOK and Mr Randy YU. He had proposed in the reply slip the procurement of masks for children, as their supply was tighter than that for adults. Many parents were worried that their children did not have sufficient masks after the school term began. He hoped that masks for children could be procured within two months. He also agreed that the IsDO should ensure that medical standards were met when procuring masks in the future or it would be perceived as a publicity gimmick.

135. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho pointed out that the IsDO consulted Members only on whether masks should be procured, without providing information of place of manufacturing and specifications. He proposed that the IsDO should provide relevant information in the future or Members would have difficulties in decision making. He reiterated that the quality of masks should be improved.

136. Mr Kaiser CHAN made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) As re-tendering was necessary and two weeks should be reserved for suppliers to submit tenders, it would be difficult to complete procurement within a month. In addition, after selection of suitable suppliers, delivery arrangements had to be made. It was estimated that the process would take two months.
- (b) Regarding the request of Mr Eric KWOK and Mr LEE Ka-ho for procurement of masks for children, the IsDO had requested quotations for masks for children earlier. Although their price was just slightly higher than masks for adults, the suppliers failed to provide quality

assurance or satisfactory samples. In addition, a definite decision of procuring masks for children had not been made in the IDC at that time, so that the relevant quotations were not accepted. As there was no opinion against the procurement of masks for children in the IDC, the IsDO would request quotations for masks for children in the following procurement and stipulate higher specification requirements.

- (c) The IsDO was also concerned about the quality of masks. Apart from price, quality was also a factor of consideration in procurement. In the past, cheaper masks made of materials not thick enough or those of poor quality obviously had been screened out.
- (d) The IsDO would continue to follow up on the issue. So far more than \$300,000 had been spent and the remaining \$100,000 might not be adequate for procurement. It was necessary to discuss with the Secretariat after the meeting whether additional provision should be requested by submitting a new application or amending the provision arrangement.

IX. Question on request for demolishing an unused meter box of Pui O Mobile Library service point
(Paper CACRC 42/2020)

137. The Chairman welcomed Ms CHU Po-ye, Polly, Senior Librarian (Islands) of LCSD to the meeting to respond to the question.

138. Mr HO Chun-fai briefly presented the question.

139. Ms Polly CHU said the support of technical departments was required for implementation of the works. The LCSD had contacted the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD), Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD), Transport Department and HyD for assistance. It also conducted a site inspection in Pui O and follow up on the matter with the ArchSD and EMSD. The EMSD removed the wires of the meter box in November of the previous year and the ArchSD had pledged to remove the meter box. The LCSD would continue to follow up on the works pro-actively with the ArchSD, including clarifying the land ownership of the location of meter box and applying for an excavation permit (XP).

140. Mr HO Chun-fai said that he received a reply from the LCSD stating that the works would be followed up as soon as possible. He hoped that the LCSD would provide the actual completion date. He said the summer holiday was approaching and people visiting Pui O would cause heavy traffic and even accidents. He was dissatisfied that the removal of a meter box took so long and opined that special arrangement should be made in a special case.

141. Mr Eric KWOK was surprised that it would take the LCSD a year to remove

a meter box. He pointed out that when driving a vehicle from Chi Ma Wan turning right to Mui Wo, the meter box next to the right lane would block the driver's view. He was familiar with the situation as he had lived there for a long time, but outside drivers (such as one-day visitors) were prone to accidents. It was sheer luck that there had been no accident so far. He hoped that the LCSD would provide the works schedule. If progress delay was attributable to other departments, Members could assist in coordination. He said that if it would take one more year to handle the issue, he would consider lodging a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman.

142. Mr Randy YU understood that the application for an XP took time. However, as the EMSD had terminated the electricity of the meter box, removal of the box should pose no risk. He proposed that the LCSD should request the ArchSD to first remove the equipment above the base, whereas that below the base should be enclosed by a short fence so that passers-by would not be tripped and it could be removed once an XP was obtained. The target was to remove equipment on the top within a month. The HyD said that the works was an emergency non-commercial works of the district. He hoped that the HyD would issue the XP as soon as possible, and requested the LCSD to follow up on the matter pro-actively. Members could assist in putting pressure on relevant departments if necessary.

143. Ms Polly CHU responded that apart from providing electricity, the meter box was used for posting information of the mobile library. As posting of notices about the parking location of the mobile library was necessary, the LCSD initially planned to install a new meter box before the old one was removed. In response to Members' views, the LCSD had closely liaised with relevant departments for removal of the old box first. It was only recently that the ArchSD accepted the request for removal of the meter box. She would continue to follow up on the matter and provide a works schedule as soon as possible.

144. Mr HO Chun-fai said that the problem had existed for more than two years. He wrote to the LCSD in the previous year to request removal of the meter box. The LCSD should have adequate time to handle the matter which, however, remained unresolved. At the beginning of the previous year, he had discussed with the LCSD the suitable sites for installation. As the generator would pose risk and cause pollution, it was suitable to install the meter box at the edge of the pitch. The LCSD agreed to study the proposal, but there was no update about follow-up actions afterwards.

145. Mr Eric KWOK pointed out that the box-shape structure, not the equipment below it, blocked drivers' view. He proposed that the LCSD should remove the box-shape structure first. The equipment below could be removed at a later time as relevant work could only commence after road excavation.

146. Ms Polly CHU said that she would discuss the feasibility of the proposal with the ArchSD.

X. Question on cracks appearing in sanitary fittings of Ying Tung Estate

(Paper CACRC 43/2020)

147. The Chairman welcomed Mr HAU Chi-leung, Arnold, Property Service Manager/Service (Hong Kong Island & Islands)⁴ of HD to the meeting to respond to the question.

148. Mr Sammy TSUI briefly presented the question.

149. Mr Arnold HAU responded as follows:

- (a) After intake of Ying Tung Estate in 2018, no case of request of maintenance of WC pan had been received. There were 18 nos. of WC pan replacement cases, accounting for around 0.5% of all cases of Ying Tung Estate. There were 74 nos. of cistern maintenance cases, accounting for around 2% of all cases. There was only 1 no. of cistern replacement case, accounting for 0.03% of the total. There were 55 nos. of washing basin maintenance cases, accounting for 1.54% of the total. There were no case for the wash basin replacement, faucet maintenance and faucet replacement. While there was no filter maintenance case, 15 filter replacement cases were recorded, accounting for 0.42% of the total. The figures of maintenance and replacement of toilets and sanitary appliances were similar to those of other new housing estates.
- (b) The building contracts of newly constructed public housing of the HD clearly stipulated the quality requirements of toilets and sanitary fitments, which should be followed when contractors made procurements.
- (c) The defect liability period of construction works was two years.
- (d) If the quality of construction materials or building components did not meet the contractual requirements, the Central Monitoring Unit of the HD would alert the relevant project team of the situation in order to improve future vetting process. Residents with doubt on the construction quality of components and fitments of the unit could directly inform the estate office. The works team of the HD would then deploy staff to the unit to conduct detailed investigation. If the problems were caused by substandard materials or improper site work, maintenance and replacement services would be provided for free.

150. Mr Sammy TSUI expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He doubted that there were discrepancies between the figures provided by the HD and the actual ones. In recent months, he had received more than a dozen complaints about cracks appearing on toilets. The cracks were usually over 10 inches in length appearing at the lower middle part of toilet bowls, prompting worries that the toilet bowls would crack any time and cause danger.

- (b) The HD said that the maintenance period was two years. Given that the residents had moved in for less than two years, he suspected that insufficient follow-up actions were taken because of a lack of manpower. After the residents and Members reflected the issue to the estate office, the HD should arrange staff to conduct site inspections to find out whether the problem was man-made or a result of natural wear and tear. However, no inspection had been arranged yet. As the spot and length of cracks were similar in many cases, he opined that the problem was attributable to quality defects instead of man-made mistakes. He enquired whether the Central Monitoring Unit of the HD should be approached for follow-up.
- (c) He stressed that the residents had to use toilets every day and was worried that cracking of toilet bowls would cause danger. He reiterated that he had received more than a dozen complaints about toilet bowls and a few about wash basins. He was not satisfied with the existence of quality defects of equipment in newly completed housing estates. He hoped that the HD would request contractors to conduct on-site inspections according to the contract.

151. Mr Arnold HAU responded as follows:

- (a) He said that the resident intake of Ying Tung Estate took place in March 2018 and the two-year maintenance period had expired. However, the maintenance team of the HD would take over the maintenance work and identify the cause of the cracks. He would follow up on the complaints with Mr TSUI in due course.
- (b) According to the photographs provided by the maintenance team of the HD, the size and types of cracks varied. Some appeared on the top of the wash basins or pedestal toilets and seemed to be caused by objects falling from height rather than natural wear and tear, and therefore the fitments should be replaced by the tenants at their own expense. The HD would follow up on cases as referred by Member of cracks appearing on the sanitary fitments without any reason.
- (c) He clarified that the maintenance team of the HD had adequate manpower to handle the issue of cracks. He would obtain information of the cases from Members after the meeting. Staff of the maintenance team would then conduct site inspections at those relevant flats.

152. Mr Sammy TSUI added that some residents complained to the management office at the end of the previous year and beginning of the current year when there were only small cracks which were considered not serious during examination. However, the cracks grew bigger and posed potential risks.

153. Mr Arnold HAU reiterated that the defect liability period mentioned by

Members was only a contractual requirement applied to the contractors in respect of maintenance of the construction quality of the new buildings. HD's pledge to the tenants for the maintenance and repair works were beyond the defect liability period.

XI. Question on request for erection of fences around the volleyball court between Luk Yat House and Ying Yat House in Yat Tung Estate
(Paper CACRC 44/2020)

154. The Chairman welcomed Mr YAN Man-chi, Robin, Property Service Manager/Service (Hong Kong Island & Islands)³ of HD to the meeting to respond to the question.

155. Mr Eric KWOK briefly presented the question.

156. Mr Robin YAN responded as follows:

- (a) The volleyball court at issue was situated between the wings of Luk Yat House and Ying Yat House. There was a concourse staircase at the east and a fence to the west. He noted that Mr KWOK had raised a similar proposal at the Estate Management Advisory Committee. However, based on the results of previous feasibility studies and those of the recent site inspection conducted by the Works Section of the HD, erection of fences was infeasible. As there was a transformer room and a switch room on the ground floor of both wings of Luk Yat House and Ying Yat House, electricity supply system and sewers of the two buildings were linked to the cable draw pit and sewer system respectively under the ground of the court where there were other facilities such as gas pipelines and fire hose. In this connection, there might not be adequate space for constructing the foundation and erecting fences.
- (b) He said that security guards of the management office conducted patrol at the volleyball court in various time slots at night and submitted reports regularly to the HD for inspection. The reports showed that there were three to four cases of noise nuisance from February to April. After being advised by security guards of the management office, the persons involved left. In addition, the volleyball court was enclosed by barricades at late night by the management office and entry by residents and members of the public was not allowed. In order to enclose the volleyball court more effectively, the HD would request the management company to provide more barricades at some spots and propose advancing the lights off time of the court to 9 p.m., which could balance the needs of the residents for using the court while reducing noise nuisance.

157. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He said that the issue was long standing. As early as from 2005 to 2007, he received complaints about noise nuisance caused by residents' gathering and volleyball playing. The problem deteriorated four or five years ago, making it difficult for residents to fall asleep. He hoped that the problem would be completely resolved.
- (b) The measures mentioned above had been implemented in the previous term. They were somehow successful in the beginning but their effectiveness declined over time. The HD would take action only after receiving complaints and the follow-up actions only lasted for a few weeks which lacked persistency.
- (c) He proposed that the representative of the HD should make references to the records regarding the underground facilities. Members had proposed installation of a sliding gate with a height similar to that of an adult which did not involve conversion of underground facilities. Initially, Mun Tung Estate volleyball court was open round the clock. Later, he wrote to the departments concerned to request following the opening hours of the LCSD facilities in order to ease the noise nuisance at night. He enquired whether the HD agreed to install a sliding gate, and opined that while the court could be managed by staff in the short run, a sliding gate should be used in long run.
- (d) He agreed to turn off the lights of the volleyball court at night and would request the Chairmen of Mutual Aid Committees to support the proposal.

158. Mr Robin YAN said that the volleyball court would be enclosed by barricades and chained up after it was closed. However, there were inadequate barricades at some spots. The HD would request the management company to provide more barricades at the spots concerned in order to enclose the court more effectively.

159. Mr Eric KWOK said due to the epidemic, the court was currently enclosed by fences to prevent gathering of residents. His original proposal was to enclose the court by a sliding gate to reduce noise nuisance.

160. Mr Robin YAN said that due to constraints of the environment of the court, the proposal of installing a sliding gate might not be feasible, but it would be studied pro-actively.

161. Mr Eric KWOK proposed conducting a site inspection with the HD to explore solutions.

XII. Question on Islands District Football Team
(Paper CACRC 45/2020)

162. The Chairman welcomed Mr LAM Kit-sing, Chairman of the Islands District

Sports Association (IDSA) and Mr CHAN Yat-kin, Kaiser, Senior Liaison Officer (2) of IsDO to the meeting to respond to the question. The IsDO had provided the written reply to Members for perusal.

163 Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho briefly presented the question.

164. Mr Kaiser CHAN briefly presented the written reply and added that the Islands District Football Team (the football team) was subsidised by the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) to participate in competitions organised by the Hong Kong Football Association (HKFA). In the previous five years, the football team extensively met the requirements for training hours and number of spectators but failed to meet those for rankings for two years. The authorities demanded that the team's ranking should not be lower than that of the previous year. However, the rise and fall in rankings were normal and football teams of other districts could not meet the requirements every year either.

165. Mr LAM Kit-sing responded as follows:

- (a) To prepare for the opening of season in September, three open selections were conducted in June and July annually. The previous two selections were conducted on 27 June and 5 July in the current year respectively, while the third one would be conducted on 12 July at 1:00 p.m. at the artificial turf pitch in Ma On Shan. The IDSA publicised the information on social networking sites in April and May every year and put on banners to openly recruit players. Selections would be conducted in June and July.
- (b) Mr WONG Pak-to, Mr LIU Kwok-fai and Mr CHAN Chi-tao were the coach, assistant coach and manager of the football team respectively. Mr CHAN Chi-tao was also an executive member of the IDSA. They all participated on a voluntary basis and the football team would provide allowances to the coach and assistant coach.
- (c) In 2019-20, no player of the football team lived or worked in Islands District. In 2018-19, one player lived and one player worked in Islands District.
- (d) The submission of financial reports of the football team would be determined at the meeting of the IDSA.
- (e) In 2015-16, the football team played 30 matches and ranked 12th among the 16 teams of the Island District. In 2016-17, it played 26 matches and ranked 7th among 14 teams. In 2017-18, it played 22 matches and ranked 6th among 12 teams. In 2018-19, it played 26 matches and ranked 8th among 12 teams. In 2019-20, it played 14 games only as half of the matches were cancelled due to the epidemic. The football team ranked 7th among 16 teams at present.

- (f) Upon the change of term of the IDC, the IDSA would submit a working report. If necessary, match reports could be submitted regularly. He would relay the views to the IDSA, so that the IDSA would consider whether it would submit the working report and financial report to the IDC.

166. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He was pleased to learn that the football team extensively met the targets in the previous five years. Given that its target ranking was 7th at present, he enquired whether the football team would aim to rank 6th to improve its level gradually.
- (b) He noted that there were only two players living or working in Islands District in the previous two terms. As third division football teams must participate in matches in name of the district, he proposed that priorities should be given to those living in the district in selections to avoid queries, and middle ranking should be aimed at. There was no need to organise a team with no resident of Islands District to achieve good results. In addition, in view of several selections conducted outside Islands District, he enquired whether it was because there were insufficient soccer pitches in Tung Chung.
- (c) He was pleased to learn that the training hours and number of spectators of the football team met the targets. The number of spectators in the first two years of its establishment was even twice of the target and was expected to grow further. In addition, he noted that there were only around 60 “likes” on the social networking page of the football team. He opined that publicity should be stepped up. In general, apart from recruiting more players of the district, he was pleased with the performance of the football team.
- (d) He clarified that the request for submission of financial reports was not made for checking the financial condition of the football team. However, having regard to the subsidy of \$330,000 provided by the Government annually, the football team was duty-bound to account for the usage of the fund, such as whether players’ shirts and boots were subsidised. If the football team failed to meet targets, the HAB would like to know the reasons and request performance enhancement without imposing penalties. He enquired if the ranking of the football team fall drastically in the future, whether the HAB would impose penalties.

167. Mr FONG Lung-fei said that the residents of Yat Tung Estate often played football or taught football in the area. Since there was a soccer pitch in Tung Chung North, he proposed conducting selections there and enhancing publicity of player selection exercises in the district. He opined the third division was for amateurs and

the residents should be encouraged to take part in matches as leisure activities.

168. Mr Sammy TSUI opined that the application criteria of the Guidelines on the Use of Islands District Council Funds should be fulfilled when forming a district football team, of which most members should be Tung Chung residents. Other districts were also provided with funds and it was not appropriate to use the funds of Islands District to subsidise residents of other districts. The purpose of forming a football team was to provide sports activities for residents and there was no need to recruit elite players of other districts.

169. Mr LEE Ka-ho understood that football teams of other districts faced similar situation as Islands District, with high mobility of residents. However, he emphasised that as the team was named after the district, priorities should be given to its residents in selections. He noted that the football team would conduct selections in Tai Hang Tung, Ma On Shan and Kwai Chung. However, as mentioned by Mr FONG Lung-fei, there was a grass pitch and a number of football lovers in Tung Chung so selections should be conducted in the area. Players from other districts interested in joining the team could travel to Tung Chung for selections.

170. Ms Amy YUNG agreed with the views expressed by a few Members. There were also football teams in Discovery Bay whose selections were also conducted outside the area due to inadequate publicity. There were elite players in Discovery Bay and a number of parents hired coaches for their children or taught their children themselves. As such, it was absolutely feasible for residents to form their own teams. She hoped that the football team would step up publicity of selection in Discovery Bay by distributing leaflets or disseminating the information on social networking platforms or relevant websites with her assistance.

171. Mr HO Chun-fai was pleased to note that Members present were concerned about the sports development of the district. He enquired about the details of the selection work, venues and selection criteria of the football team. He opined that the aim of forming the football team was to encourage the youth to take part in sports activities and whether it would be relegated from the third division in the coming season should not be a concern. He also opined that outside players could be recruited to connect various districts.

172. Mr Eric KWOK said that the IDC supported the football team. He also understood that it was not easy to recruit players from Islands District and there might be a shortage of funds and manpower, etc. He proposed that the IDSA should submit financial reports to the IDC on a regular basis so that in case it faced financial difficulties, Members would be informed. The HAB had all along supported sports activities in Hong Kong. If necessary, the HAB might subsidise the football team using the IDC funds.

173. Mr LAM Kit-sing made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) He appreciated Members' concern about the football team and pointed

out that since Islands District lacked a standardised 11-a-side soccer pitch, it was difficult to conduct player selections and organise friendly matches in the district. He pledged to listen to Members' view on conducting preliminary selection in Islands District (such as Tung Chung).

- (b) As mentioned by Mr Eric KWOK, the IDSA had limited resources. It mainly relied on the Government and other funding for operation. He pointed out that the ratio of the number of games and the funds allocated varied among districts. Apart from training games, the football team played about 30 games a season but was granted provisions of not more than \$330,000 annually. Under the accountable system, some expenditures would not be reimbursed and if there were remaining funds, the IDSA would provide subsidies.
- (c) He reiterated that whether the financial reports could be disclosed would be determined by the IDSA, but the IsDO could provide some statistics.
- (d) Regarding trainings for young players in Islands District, the "U Team" under the IDSA was formed by players aged under 18. After taking part in the third division football league, the football team would be qualified for running the "U Team" again. However, open recruitment could only commence upon HKFA's notification. In the previous years, the work was conducted by former DC Member Mr KWONG Koon-wan. He hoped that interested Member could assist in the team formation work. The "U team" was formed with the allowances from the IDSA while no IDC funds were allocated for such purpose. The funds allocated for the football team to participate in the third division league could not be embezzled as well, so there was a severe shortage of resources. He hoped that Members interested in training the youth would assist in developing the "U Team" to cultivate players to join the Islands District football team.
- (e) He hoped that Members would continue to support the football team and strive for a standard football pitch and resources. The IDSA would endeavour to cope with Members' work.

174. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He apologised for mistaking the 7-a-side soccer pitch at Man Tung Park as a 11-a-side soccer pitch, and hoped that he would succeed in securing provision of a standard 11-a-side soccer pitch in Islands District in the future.
- (b) It was stated in the HKFA Match Rules that "District football teams must be verified by the relevant DC of the 18 districts and directly or indirectly managed by the DC". He noted that the IDC of the current term had

endorsed at its first meeting appointing the IDSA to form the district football team. He enquired whether the IDC could and how it would manage the football team and assist the IDSA to relieve its financial difficulties.

175. Mr FONG Lung-fei expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He enquired whether selections must be conducted at an 11-a-side soccer pitch, rather than a 7-a-side soccer pitch in the district.
- (b) He proposed that the IDSA should organise an Islands District league to select skilful players to join the third division league.
- (c) He opined that there were many young football lovers in Tung Chung and pledged to take part in publicity work.

176. Mr HO Siu-kei thanked the IDSA for explaining its operation and supported stepping up the training of young players in Islands District. He said that in the past, the LCSD would organise district football activities for the youth during summer holidays to identify potential players. He proposed that the IDSA could follow the LCSD's practices by recruiting residents of Islands District to join in the "U Team" and organising matches. He also supported Mr FONG Lung-fei's proposal of organising friendly matches in the district to encourage residents to take part in sports activities.

177. The Chairman was worried that the operation of "U Team" would be suspended because of change of term of the DCs and hoped that team formation work could begin as soon as possible. Consolidating Members' views, he proposed that the football team should first select talent in the district and step up publicity.

178. Mr HO Chun-fai urged relevant departments to expand the existing 7-a-side soccer pitch at Man Tung Road Park and make improvements to other substandard soccer pitches.

179. Mr LAM Kit-sing made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) He thanked Members for provision of valuable opinions and hoped that they would strive for a standard 11-a-side soccer pitch in Islands District for organising formal matches.
- (b) Regarding the selection of young players and formation of the "U Team", he said that the team would be divided into five groups and all groups had to participate in matches. As such, substantial input of manpower and resources were needed. He hoped that Members would recommend persons who could assist in formation and management of the "U Team" or join the Football Committee under the IDSA. If there was latest information about the formation of the "U Team", he would notify Members as soon as possible.

180. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He hoped that the IsDO would respond how the IDC could indirectly manage the district football team.
- (b) He pointed out that there was an open space to the northeast of the soccer pitch at Man Tung Road Park. He enquired of the LCSD about its ownership and whether it could not be developed into an 11-a-side soccer pitch due to ownership constraints.

(Post-meeting note: The soccer pitch near Man Tung Road Park was not under the management of the LCSD. According to the information provided by the LandsD, the land was under multiple ownerships.)

181. Mr Thomas LI responded as follows:

- (a) He learnt that the IDSA would convene a meeting shortly and believed that the views of Members would then be discussed.
- (b) Regarding the match rules mentioned by Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho, he was not certain whether they were formulated by the Home Affairs Department. At the current stage, it was inappropriate to offer interpretation but the IsDO would follow up on the matter with Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho after the meeting.

182. Mr LEE Ka-ho expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He also mistook the soccer pitch at Man Tung Road Park as an 11-a-side soccer pitch. He was surprised that there was no standard soccer pitch in Islands District.
- (b) He pointed out that the utilisation rate of soccer pitches in the district was high. Taking the 7-a-side hard-surface soccer pitch at Tung Chung North Park as an example, it could also be used for cricket activities. However, the pitch had been enclosed recently for maintenance for a year. He enquired whether the LCSD and the authorities would provide a cricket ground to avoid greater wear and tear of the soccer pitch as multiple activities were conducted there.

(Post-meeting note: There were fence replacement works at the 7-a-side hard-surface soccer pitch at Tung Chung North Park from 8 April to 10 July. In response to the latest development of COVID-19, the LCSD closed all free outdoor facilities including the 7-a-side soccer pitch at the Tung Chung North Park from 6:00 p.m., 28 March to 19 June. The 7-a-side soccer pitch at the Tung Chung North

Park reopened on 20 June and the LCSD conducted the later phases of the fence replacement works only in some non-peak hours which did not affect public use of the soccer pitch. The relevant works were completed on 10 July. In response to the latest development of COVID-19, the LCSD temporarily closed all free outdoor facilities including the 7-a-side soccer pitch at the Tung Chung North Park again from 15 July until further notice.)

183. Mr LAM Kit-sing responded that eight Ex-officio Members of the IDC were also ex-officio executive Members of the IDSA and the staff of the IsDO and the LCSD would attend its meetings. It was believed that they had some understanding of the operation and development of the football team.

184. Mr Kaiser CHAN understood that Members were concerned about the lack of players from the district in the football team. He pointed out that there were three teams in the third division which named after their districts, including that of the Islands District. More skilful players preferred joining football teams in the second or first divisions or even those of the Hong Kong Premier League. As such, the football team encountered difficulties in recruiting players. As the population of Tung Chung continued to grow, the IsDO would study stepping up publicity of player recruitment with Mr LAM Kit-sing after the meeting.

(Ms Josephine TSANG left the meeting around at 4:05 p.m.)

XIII. 2020 Islands District Council National Day Reception
(Paper CACRC 46/2020)

185. The Chairman welcomed Ms FUNG So-chun, Winnie, Liaison Officer i/c (Peng Chau/Discovery Bay) and Mr TSUI Ip, Edmond, Liaison Officer (Peng Chau/Discovery Bay)² of IsDO to the meeting to present the paper.

186. Mr Edmond TSUI briefly presented the paper.

187. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho enquired of the Chairman the relationship of the paper and the functions of DC.

188. The Chairman said that the paper was related to the funding for community activities.

189. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho further enquired whether the paper was related to the functions listed in Section 61(b)(ii) of the District Councils Ordinance.

190. The Chairman explained that the paper was related to Section 61(a)(iv) of the District Councils Ordinance, i.e. “on the use of public funds allocated to the District for local public works and community activities”.

191. Members voted by a show of hands on the proposal of supporting the 2020 Islands District Council National Day Reception and allocating \$70,000 to the IsDO for organising the activities stipulated in the paper. There were nine votes in favour, one against and five abstentions. The proposal was endorsed.

(Members voted in favour included the Chairman Mr WONG Man-hon, the Vice-chairman Ms LAU Shun-ting, Mr Randy YU, Mr YUNG Chi-ming, Mr CHAN Lin-wai, Mr Ken WONG, Mr HO Chun-fai, Mr HO Siu-kei and Ms WONG Chau-ping. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho voted against. Ms Amy YUNG, Mr Eric KWOK, Mr Sammy TSUI, Mr FONG Lung-fei and Mr LEE Ka-ho abstained.)

XIV. Reports by Working Groups

(i) CACRC Vetting Group

192. The Chairman said that the Vetting Group had processed 46 funding applications for community involvement projects to be organised from September to October of the current year at the meeting on 29 June. The proposals would be submitted to the committee for consideration and endorsement by circulation of paper.

193. Members noted the contents of three activity evaluation reports.

(ii) CACRC Activities Working Group

(a) “Islands District Cultural Festival 2020”

- The Working Group proposed organising the “Islands District Cultural Festival 2020” from October 2020 to February 2021. Activities included the “Islands District Council Presents: Golden Oldies Concert”, “Islands District Cantonese Opera Show” (the name to be confirmed subject to the date of the activity) and ““Show Time!” Islands District Youth Musical Talent Show’. The total expenditure was expected to be \$1.55 million.

(b) “Funding Scheme for Women’s Development” 2010-21

- The IDC was funded by the Women’s Commission to organise the “Funding Scheme for Women’s Development” of the year. The Working Group was authorised by the IDC to implement the project and letters were issued on 10 June to women groups and NGOs in the district to invite submission of activity proposals for the current year. Relevant information had been uploaded to the IDC website and the deadline for application was noon, 23 June.

194. Members noted and endorsed the reports of the two working groups.

XV. Reports on the work of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in Islands District

(i) Cultural Activities

(Paper CACRC 32/2020)

195. The Chairman welcomed Ms WONG Fan-ni, Jasmine, Senior Manager (New Territories South) Promotion of the LCSD to the meeting to present the paper.

196. Ms Jasmine WONG briefly presented the paper.

197. Members noted the contents of the paper.

(ii) Extension Activities held in Public Libraries

(Paper CACRC 33/2020)

198. The Chairman welcomed Ms CHU Po-ye, Polly, Senior Librarian (Islands) of the LCSD to the meeting to present the paper.

199. Ms Polly CHU briefly presented the paper.

200. Members noted the contents of the paper.

(iii) Sports and Recreational Activities

(Paper CACRC 34/2020)

201. The Chairman welcomed Ms CHOW Yuen-on, Alice, Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Islands of the LCSD to the meeting to present the paper.

202. Ms Alice CHOW briefly presented the paper.

203. Members noted the contents of the paper.

XVI. The 8th Hong Kong Games

(Paper CACRC 35/2020)

204. The Chairman welcomed Ms CHOW Yuen-on, Alice, Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Islands of LCSD to the meeting to present the paper.

205. Ms Alice CHOW briefly presented the paper.

206. Members voted by raising hands on the formation of delegation and working group for Islands District. The proposal was unanimously endorsed.

XVII. Date of Next Meeting

207. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m. The next meeting would be held at 10:30 a.m. on 9 September 2020 (Wednesday).

- End -