

(Translation)

Islands District Council
Minutes of Meeting of District Facilities Management Committee

Date : 10 May 2021 (Monday)
Time : 10:30 a.m.
Venue : Islands District Council Conference Room,
14/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong

Present

Mr WONG Hon-kuen, Ken (Chairman)
Mr YU Hon-kwan, Randy, MH, JP (Arrived at around 10:35 a.m.)
Mr WONG Man-hon
Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, SBS, MH
Mr YUNG Chi-ming, BBS, MH
Mr CHAN Lin-wai, MH
Mr HO Chun-fai (Arrived at around 10:35 a.m.)
Mr HO Siu-kei (Arrived at around 10:35 a.m.)
Ms WONG Chau-ping
Ms YUNG Wing-sheung, Amy
Ms TSANG Sau-ho, Josephine
Mr KWOK Ping, Eric
Mr TSUI Sang-hung, Sammy (Arrived at around 10:35 a.m.)
Mr FONG Lung-fei
Ms LAU Shun-ting
Mr LEE Ka-ho
Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho

Attendance by Invitation

Mr TSANG Chi-yuen	Housing Manager/Hong Kong Island & Islands 8, Housing Department
Ms HUI Shuk-yee	Engineer/Islands 2, Transport Department
Mr TSANG Wai-man	Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Islands), Lands Department
Mr YAN Man-chi, Robin	Property Service Manager/Service (Hong Kong Island & Islands)3, Housing Department
Mr YAU San-ping, Peter	Senior Executive Officer (District Management), Islands District Office
Mr LEE Lap-chi, Alfred	District Secretary, Islands District Office
Ms LEUNG So-ping, Selina	Senior Executive Officer (Planning)21, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms KONG Yuen-fan, Bonnie	Architect (Works)5, Home Affairs Department

Ms CHAU Cheung-ling

Liaison Manager,
Ho & Partners Architects Engineers & Development
Consultants Limited
Architectural Assistant,
Ho & Partners Architects Engineers & Development
Consultants Limited

Mr CHOI Lung-fai

In Attendance

Ms LEUNG Tin-yee, Christy

Assistant District Officer (Islands)2,
Islands District Office

Ms LIM Ting-ting, Sylvia

Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories West),
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Ms SIU Kit-ping, Currie

District Leisure Manager (Islands),
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Ms CHU Po-yee, Polly

Senior Librarian (Islands),
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Secretary

Ms NG Ching-sum, Rain

Executive Officer (District Council)2,
Islands District Office

Absent

Mr WONG Chun-yeung

Welcoming remarks

The Chairman welcomed representatives of government departments and Members to the meeting.

I. **Confirmation of minutes of the meeting held on 15.3.2021**

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

3. The captioned minutes were confirmed unanimously.

4. The Chairman said as the Members who raised agenda item II had not arrived, the agenda would be adjusted accordingly.

VI. Report on the Services of the Public Libraries in Islands District by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department between February and March 2021
(Paper DFMC 15/2021)

5. The Chairman welcomed Ms CHU Po-yee, Polly, Senior Librarian (Islands) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) to the meeting to present the paper.

6. Ms Polly CHU presented the paper.

(Mr Randy YU, Mr HO Chun-fai, Mr HO Siu-kei and Mr Sammy TSUI arrived at the meeting at around 10:35 a.m.)

VII. Report on the management of Leisure and Cultural Services Department's recreational and sports facilities in Islands District (Feb to Mar 2021)
(Paper DFMC 16/2021)

7. The Chairman welcomed Ms SIU Kit-ping, Currie, District Leisure Manager (Islands) of the LCSD to the meeting to present the paper.

8. Ms Currie SIU briefly presented the paper.

9. Mr Eric KWOK said that *rhodedendrons* had been planted in the planters on the side of Yu Tung Road, but in recent years what was left were only weeds. He enquired of the LCSD how the landscape works would be carried out, as the paper did not provide information like the species of the plants.

10. Ms Currie SIU said that in February and March this year, the LCSD had planted about 12 000 shrubs for landscape beautification. It also planted more than 6 000 *Schefflera arboricola* and *Axonopus compressus* in the planters on the sides of Yu Tung Road.

11. Mr Eric KWOK enquired why *rhodedendrons* were not planted currently. In addition, according to his observation, the roadside planters between the petrol station and Yu Tai Court were also overgrown with weeds.

12. Mr FONG Lung-fei said that the shrubs in the greening zone adjacent to Yat Tung Estate had withered due to a lack of maintenance. The concealed environment also gave rise to a serious rodent infestation. As dense vegetation was prone to rubbish accumulation and would attract rodents, he had proposed before that turfs should be laid in all greening zones instead. While *Schefflera arboricola* were easy for maintenance, they were not aesthetically pleasing and tended to overgrow. He hoped that the LCSD would consider planting other species, such as *Aglaia odorata*.

13. Ms Currie SIU said that the LCSD would consider the relevant proposals

and follow up on the situation of Yu Tung Road and its roadside planters.

II. Question on pier in Tai Long Tsuen, South Lantau
(Paper DFMC 20/2021)

14. The Chairman welcomed Ms LEUNG Tin-yee, Christy, Assistant District Officer (Islands)2 of the Islands District Office (IsDO) to the meeting to respond to the question.

15. Mr Randy YU briefly presented the question.

16. Ms Christy LEUNG said that Tai Long Village Pier had been destroyed by Typhoons Hato and Mangkhut in 2017 and 2018 respectively. The Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) assisted the IsDO in completing the temporary repair works of the pier in September 2017 and September 2018, including replacing the catwalk. Villagers were able to continue to use the pier after the completion of the temporary repair works. The IsDO was undertaking the design of the repair and improvement works for the long term and had conducted an on-site inspection with village representatives and stakeholders to explain the details of works and consult their views. The IsDO was considering the suggestions made by the stakeholders during the on-site inspection to further improve the design of the pier and strengthen its resistance against inclement weather. The works was expected to commence in the third quarter of 2021.

17. Mr HO Chun-fai said that the typhoons had caused damages to the pier and the villagers suffered inconvenience travelling to and from the village. He thanked the IsDO for arranging temporary repair works and implementing the improvement works. He also wished to know the works schedule.

18. Mr Randy YU said that the IsDO had coordinated and carried out the temporary repair works promptly, and the works contractor had also arranged boats to ferry villagers. He hoped that the IsDO would provide the anticipated completion date.

19. Ms Christy LEUNG said that she would provide the works schedule to Members after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The repair works of Tai Long Village Pier were anticipated to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2021.)

IV. Question on proposal for conversion of green belt at Yu Tung Road opposite Ching Yat House of Yat Tung Estate into dog garden
(Paper DFMC 22/2021)

20. The Chairman welcomed Mr YAN Man-chi, Robin, Property Service

Manager/Service (Hong Kong Island & Islands)³ of the Housing Department (HD) and Ms SIU Kit-ping, Currie, District Leisure Manager (Islands) of the LCSD to the meeting to respond to the question. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department did not send any representative to attend the meeting because the issue was not followed up by the Department. The written reply of the LCSD had been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting.

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

22. Mr Robin YAN said that considering the dense population in public housing estates and the limited space in residential blocks and public areas, the keeping of dogs would adversely affect the environmental hygiene and cause nuisance to residents. In this connection, the tenancy agreements signed between the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) and tenants stipulated that the tenants were not allowed to keep animals including dogs in their flats without the HA's written consent. However, taking into consideration the concern of many residents and organisations about the issue, the HA implemented the Temporary Permission Rule, granting public rental housing tenants a one-off permission to continue to keep dogs that had been kept before 1 August 2003 until the death of the dogs. If individual tenants were certified by a psychologist or a doctor that they needed the company of a dog for mental support, the HA would grant them discretionary approval for keeping companion dogs on a case-by-case basis. However, the provision of facilities for dogs or dog gardens in housing estates would attract outsiders to bring their dogs there, thereby affecting the residents. Having considered and balanced the interests of all parties, the HA was unable to accept the proposal of providing dog gardens and relevant facilities in the housing estate.

23. Mr FONG Lung-fei said that people who were allowed to keep dogs were mostly elderly, but the pet garden to be built in Area 29A of Tung Chung West as mentioned in the LCSD's reply was remote and inconvenient. He therefore proposed building a dog garden near Yat Tung Estate. At present, the weeding had been completed on Chung Yan Road, many people were attracted to walk their dogs there. Residents also supported the conversion of the greening zone into a dog garden to resolve the issue of dog excretion. As not many pedestrians used the road section, no significant impact would be caused to the residents. He hoped that the LCSD would consider the proposal.

24. Ms Currie SIU said she noted the proposal.

25. Mr FONG Lung-fei said residents appreciated that the Department had carried out the weeding on Chung Yan Road, but they hoped that the fences there would be removed.

V. Question on proposed provision of additional monthly bicycle parking spaces in Yat Tung Estate
(Paper DFMC 23/2021)

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

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

28. Mr Robin YAN said that the HD would identify suitable places in its public housing estates to provide bicycle racks for tenants or their visitors to park their bicycles temporarily, depending on the environment and actual circumstances. Bicycles that were not often used should be stored at home. As for the proposal of providing monthly rental bicycle parking spaces, the HD would not make changes to the relevant arrangement for the time being, considering that residents of public housing estates were accustomed to using bicycle parking spaces for free. In addition, to maintain environmental hygiene in housing estates and effective management of bicycle parking spaces, the HD and the estate office would clear abandoned bicycles and other articles from the bicycle parking spaces regularly. Two large-scale clearance operations had been conducted since July 2020. Some of the spaces had been cleared, and the relevant work would carry on.

29. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho said that residents in Tung Chung seldom used the bicycle parking spaces because the problem of bicycle theft was serious. The public housing estates in Cheung Chau also faced the same problem. The HD should therefore combat bicycle theft apart from removing the articles and abandoned bicycles.

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

- (a) Residents were willing to pay rent to park their bicycles in safer places to avoid having them stolen. He pointed out that many residents would lock the old bicycles that they were not willing to abandon in free parking spaces. He hoped the free parking spaces would be turned into paid ones to prevent abuse by residents.
- (b) He thanked the HD for conducting large-scale clearance operations. He said that there was a good management system in the Mainland to keep bicycles from being left all over the place. He proposed providing fee-charging bicycle parking spaces in the vacant areas in Yat Tung Estate and increasing the number of parking spaces gradually for the effective management of bicycles. With the system in place, it would be possible to find the owners of the bicycles abandoned at the parking spaces and solve the problem of bicycles being abandoned haphazardly.
- (c) He said that the clearance of abandoned bicycles required substantial resources and would cause environmental problem. No one was willing to recycle the bicycles even though they were made of metal.

He hoped the HD would reconsider the proposal on fee-charging bicycle parking spaces.

31. Mr Sammy TSUI expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He said that many people in Tung Chung liked cycling. He believed that there would be more cyclists after the completion of the cycling tracks in the area. He said that the HD's loose management of bicycle parking spaces led to the problem of bicycles being parked haphazardly, which affected users who had genuine needs. He proposed that tenants using bicycle parking spaces should be required to complete real-name registration for the sake of easy management.
- (b) Bicycle was a daily means of transport for Tung Chung residents. To encourage members of the public to use bicycles as a means of transport, the Government should step up its anti-theft measures, such as installing video cameras in bicycle parking areas, which could save manpower and protect the property of residents. He said that the existing video cameras lacked deterrent effects as they only covered the roadsides and the exits, but not the bicycle parking areas. He requested that the Police follow up on the thefts of bicycle parts, but the cases remained unresolved because the thefts were not caught on video cameras.

32. Mr Robin YAN made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) In the case of some bicycle parking spaces, there were no other places available for locking bicycles nearby when the parking spaces were all occupied. The HD admitted that there was room for improvement in terms of management.
- (b) After the two large-scale clearance operations against abandoned bicycles, many parking spaces were freed up in Yat Tung Estate. The HD would ask the management office to step up clearance.
- (c) With regard to the theft black spots in bicycle parking areas, the HD would consider the installation of CCTV cameras for surveillance according to the actual situation when necessary.

33. Mr FONG Lung-fei said that despite the two large-scale clearance operations carried out by the HD, the location had currently been fully parked with bicycles again. He found that thefts of bicycle parts often occurred at the location but no one would follow up, which showed that the bicycles involved were mostly abandoned or left idle for a long time. He proposed that the HD should consider outsourcing the management of bicycles in order to resolve the problem of bicycle theft and prevent residents from abandoning their bicycles haphazardly.

34. Ms Josephine TSANG said that bicycle parking areas were not intended for long-term parking. Residents could temporarily park their bicycles there when they went to work, but they should collect their bicycles and place them somewhere else after work. She opined that it was not feasible to outsource the management of bicycles as it would be difficult to determine the service fees. However, she agreed that residents should be required to complete real-name registration to facilitate the management office to clear unregistered bicycles. Members of the public should also reflect on whether they actually needed several bicycles at the same time.

35. Mr Robin YAN noted Members' views and would relay Members' proposals to the HD.

III. Question on narrow pavement outside the main entrance of Yu Tai Court (Paper DFMC 21/2021)

36. The Chairman welcomed Mr TSANG Chi-yuen, Housing Manager/Hong Kong Island & Islands 8 of the HD; Ms HUI Shuk-yee, Engineer/Islands 2 of the Transport Department (TD); Mr TSANG Wai-man, Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Islands (DLO/Is)) of the Lands Department (LandsD) and Ms SIU Kit-ping, Currie, District Leisure Manager (Islands) of the LCSD to the meeting to respond to the question. The Highways Department (HyD) said the matter did not fall within their purview but had provided a written reply before the meeting. The written reply of the DLO/Is had also been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting.

37. Mr Eric KWOK briefly presented the question.

38. Mr TSANG Chi-yuen said that the pavement outside Yu Tai Court was located on government land. Mr Eric KWOK referred the matter to the Director of Housing in writing on 5 November 2020. However, as the road section was not under the management of Yu Tai Court, the HD issued a letter to refer the issue to the DLO/Is on 11 November and asked the DLO/Is, the TD and the HyD to review the usage of the road section. He learnt that the DLO/Is had referred the case to the TD for follow-up.

39. Ms HUI Shuk-yee said that the project proponent should conduct a traffic impact assessment and put forward mitigation proposals to ensure that the transport infrastructure could cope with the additional pedestrian and vehicular flows. The pedestrian entrance of Yu Tai Court was located on Tung Chung Road. The project proponent, namely the HD, had the responsibility to review whether the road section concerned would be able to cope with the additional pedestrian flows after the intake of residents and put suitable improvement measures in place. After receiving the referral from the DLO/Is on the enquiry about the width of the pavement on Tung Chung Road near Yu Tai Court in November 2020, the TD wrote to the HD in November and December 2020 as well as March and May 2021 to ask the Department to review the width of the pavement concerned and adopt appropriate improvement

measures as soon as possible. However, the TD had not received any improvement proposals yet. In view of the gradual intake of Yu Tai Court, the TD was consulting the relevant departments on the mitigation measures for the pavement.

40. Mr FONG Lung-fei enquired whether the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines stipulated the minimum width of a pavement. He doubted that the relevant departments had not taken into account the width of the pavement before the construction of Yu Tai Court. In addition, another entrance of Yu Tai Court had an elevator providing access to the footbridge, but there was no staircase. If the elevator was out of order, residents would have to make a detour. He found the design puzzling.

41. Ms WONG Chau-ping criticised the HD for placing the vehicular exit/entrance of Yu Tai Court at the roundabout and causing traffic congestion. There were inadequacies in the design of the ancillary facilities. She asked the relevant departments to consult the stakeholders before implementing the proposal of widening the pavement. She cautioned that there were several hundred-year-old banyan trees near the pavement which needed to be handled carefully to avoid negative impact on the ecological environment, and attention should also be paid to the rural traditions. At the beginning of this year, an old banyan tree was hewn to the discontent of the villagers. She had lodged a complaint about the matter.

42. Mr Eric KWOK said that at the early stage of resident intake of Yu Tai Court, residents had already reported that the pavement was too narrow for pushchairs, wheelchair users and people with crutches to pass through and, if no improvement was made, the 5 000 residents might have to walk on the carriageway after full occupation of all flats. He said that the HD, as the project proponent of Yu Tai Court, should have done proper planning for the pavements around the housing estate, but it so far had not put forward any improvement proposals. He agreed that stakeholders should be consulted before the commencement of the works and that the old banyan trees had to be conserved. In addition, he asked the TD to provide a timetable for the mitigation measures for the pavement.

43. Mr Randy YU said that the responses and written replies of the departments reflected that none of them was willing to take the lead, with all saying “they would work jointly with other departments” or “the departments concerned would make a response.” He opined that there should be a department to take up the leading role. He proposed that the Secretariat should invite the departments concerned, Members and stakeholders to conduct an on-site inspection and study the improvement measures. The matter should then be followed up at the meetings of the District Facilities Management Committee (DFMC). He opined that the issues of resident access, environmental protection and fung shui should be dealt with in a balanced manner.

44. The Chairman said the HD had replied that the road section did not fall within their purview. However, the TD said the HD had the responsibility to submit the improvement proposals first. He hoped the departments would enhance their

communication with each other and reach a consensus before making a response to Members' enquiries. He also hoped that Members would conduct an on-site inspection.

45. Mr TSANG Chi-yuen said that he had approached the engineer responsible for the Yu Tai Court construction project to gain an understanding of the situation. He was told that a traffic impact assessment had been conducted and the report had been submitted before the implementation of the development plan. The relevant departments had to evaluate the potential problems and carry out improvement works accordingly. The road section outside Yu Tai Court was located on government land. In the initial stage of the development of Yu Tai Court, the Government did not ask the HA to include the road section in the construction plan, so the repair works of the road section were not the HA's responsibility.

46. Ms HUI Shuk-yee said that the TD considered the data of the traffic assessment report misleading and had raised the issue with the engineers of the HD. She also requested that the HD review the width of the road section again and carry out appropriate improvement works. Generally speaking, the project proponent would determine the width of the pavement and carry out the works in accordance with the standards, with consideration given to factors such as the use of the land and pedestrian flows. The TD also noted Members' views on the conservation of the old banyan trees.

47. Mr Eric KWOK was disappointed that the HD and the TD passed the buck to each other. He opined that the HD, as the project proponent of Yu Tai Court, had the responsibility to maintain close communication with other departments and improve the estate's facilities, including dealing with the issue of the overly narrow pavement. He agreed that an on-site inspection should be arranged.

48. Ms WONG Chau-ping said that the road section linking the petrol station and Yu Tai Court was always congested, so she hoped the TD would handle the issue as well. In addition, she raised with the TD on 25 March this year that the pedestrian crossing leading to the footbridge of Ma Wan New Village was very dangerous. She proposed that a zebra crossing should be provided at the location as soon as possible.

49. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho opined that the TD had the responsibility to widen the pavement outside the main entrance of Yu Tai Court and the HD should provide the relevant data. He hoped that the departments would enhance their communication with each other.

50. Ms HUI Shuk-yee said that the TD was reviewing the situation of the pedestrian crossing between Ma Wan New Village and the nearby footbridge. The TD would consider providing a zebra crossing or other suitable crossing facilities such as "slow" signs, depending on the pedestrian and vehicular flows. The Department would consult Members on the feasible improvement proposals.

51. Mr Eric KWOK said that if the pavement widening works involved

government land, he proposed inviting representatives of the DLO/Is to conduct an on-site inspection together.

52. Mr Randy YU said that the HD was the developer of Yu Tai Court, not the contractor. It therefore had the responsibility to conduct proper planning for the ancillary transport facilities and take the initiative to assist the TD in improving the traffic in the vicinity of Yu Tai Court, including the entrance of the estate, the nearby roads and pavements. He criticised the HD for its erroneous planning for the construction of Yu Tai Court, which had led to the inadequacies of the transport arrangements, pavements and other relevant facilities. However, the TD should also bear some responsibilities. He said that only when the relevant departments made concerted efforts would the DFMC be able to execute its function. He hoped that an on-site inspection could be arranged as soon as possible.

53. Ms WONG Chau-ping enquired whether it was possible to invite the representatives of the nearby villages to join the on-site inspection.

54. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to liaise with the departments concerned and the stakeholders to arrange for an on-site inspection.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat of the Islands District Council (IDC) had relayed the Committee's views to the departments concerned.)

(Post-meeting note: The HD was in active discussion with the TD and the DLO/Is to ascertain which departments should bear the maintenance responsibility for the improvement works of the pavement section. Members and the stakeholders would be invited for an on-site inspection after a consensus was reached.)

VIII. First Batch of District Minor Works Projects proposed by Leisure and Cultural Services Department for 2021/22
(Paper DFMC 17/2021)

55. The Chairman welcomed Ms SIU Kit-ping, Currie, District Leisure Manager (Islands) of the LCSD to the meeting to present the paper.

56. Ms Currie SIU briefly presented the paper.

57. Mr WONG Man-hon said that with regard to the Silver Mine Bay Beach beautification works (Annex 2 of the paper), the LCSD had restored the beach surface many times by removing the sand over the past dozen years. However, the beach would revert to its former state shortly every time after the works were carried out. Given the ineffectiveness of the works, the Department should look for other ways to eradicate the problem. He wrote to the IsDO, the Environmental Protection Department and the LCSD last month in hope of conducting an on-site inspection with the departments, but none of them had replied. He said that the estuary of

Wang Tong River was always clogged, causing foul odours and affecting hygiene. He urged the relevant departments to deal with the issue as soon as possible.

58. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho said that the bricks for protecting the trees beside Tai Hing Tai Road were damaged. He hoped the LCSD would take note of the situation and deal with it when carrying out the enhancement works.

(Post-meeting note: The LCSD had referred the case of brick damage to the HyD for direct follow-up.)

59. Mr Randy YU said he had discussed the issue of Silver Mine Bay Beach with the CEDD and the Drainage Services Department many times, but they had not come up with a solution. He opined that there should be a department to take the lead. He said that the current of River Silver caused a serious loss of sand at the location shown in the photo in the lower right corner of Appendix 2 while sediment was always accumulating at the estuary of Wang Tong River. Although the CEDD had arranged for reconstruction, the root of the problem stemmed from the change in water flow in Silver Mine Bay, which resulted in the migration of sand and soil. He enquired whether there were ways to alter the flow of Wang Tong River and River Silver. The CEDD had offered advice, but no department had followed up on the issue. He suggested that the stakeholders should conduct an on-site inspection again and discuss genuine long-term solutions with the relevant departments.

60. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to write to the CEDD to arrange for an on-site inspection and assist in solving the problem. He reckoned that the reclamation works of Hei Ling Chau Typhoon Shelter carried out many years ago had caused the change in water flow and the subsequent loss of sand and soil.

61. The Chairman asked Members to vote by a show of hands on whether to endorse the allocation of \$1,590,000 for the implementation of the works outlined in the paper.

62. Members voted by a show of hands and the voting results were 16 votes in favour and one against. The proposal was endorsed.

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

63. Mr Eric KWOK said that Silver Mine Bay had a beautiful scenery in the old days, but it was not what it had used to be. He agreed with the Chairman that the reclamation works of Hei Ling Chau Typhoon Shelter carried out many years ago might have changed the water flow. He suggested that Mr Randy YU and Mr WONG Man-hon should submit an issue for the LCSD to commission a consultant to study the effect of the change in water flow and identify a solution.

64. Mr Randy YU said that he noted the suggestion.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat of the IDC had conveyed the Committee's views to the departments concerned.)

IX. Utilisation and improvement works of Community Halls in Islands District
(Paper DFMC 18/2021)

65. The Chairman welcomed Mr YAU San-ping, Peter, Senior Executive Officer (District Management) and Mr LEE Lap-chi, Alfred, District Secretary of the IsDO to the meeting to present the paper.

66. Mr Peter YAU briefly presented the paper.

67. Mr Eric KWOK enquired whether the plan to replace the sound system of Tung Chung Community Hall on Man Tung Road was permanently shelved because the cost quoted was too high. If so, he proposed that the existing system should be enhanced, for example, by providing adaptors and USB ports to facilitate the use by residents.

68. Mr Peter YAU clarified that the plan was shelved not because the cost quoted was too high, but because the funding approval was not secured given the limited resources of the Government. The IsDO had invited the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department to re-examine the sound system and provide a cost estimate for the new specifications. The IsDO would apply for funding again this year.

69. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho said that as far as he understood it, a temporary night heat shelter would be opened when the Hong Kong Observatory issued the Very Hot Weather Warning. He enquired whether there were similar measures in other places in Islands District.

70. Mr Peter YAU said that Tung Chung Community Hall was the only temporary night heat shelter and temporary cold shelter in Islands District. There were no similar arrangements in other places so far.

71. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho asked whether Tung Chung residents were the only ones in Islands District who needed heat and cold shelters. He said that Rural Committees (RCs) would provide venues for residents to stay during typhoons. He enquired whether the IsDO would open the relevant venues as temporary heat and cold shelters.

72. Mr Peter YAU said that the IsDO would use RCs as temporary typhoon shelters when a typhoon hit Hong Kong. As for whether heat and cold shelters would be set up in other parts of Islands District, the IsDO would review the situation

and reply later.

X. Progress report on DC-funded District Minor Works Projects
(Paper DFMC 19/2021)

73. The Chairman welcomed Ms LEUNG Tin-yee, Christy, Assistant District Officer (Islands)² of the IsDO; Ms LEUNG So-ping, Selina, Senior Executive Officer (Planning)²¹ of the LCSD; Ms KONG Yuen-fan, Bonnie, Architect (Works)⁵ of the Home Affairs Department; Ms CHAU Cheung-ling, Liaison Manager and Mr CHOI Lung-fai, Architectural Assistant of Ho & Partners Architects Engineers & Development Consultants Limited to the meeting to present the paper.

74. Ms Christy LEUNG briefly presented the paper and asked Members to note the paper. She added that the project of “Improvement of the Pedestrian Link at the Central Piers” (IS-DMW286) was completed in April this year and the affected tourism signposts had been relocated. In addition, the first phase of the feasibility study for “Conversion of Cycle Parking Area adjacent to Tung Chung Road Soccer Pitch into Children's Play Area and Elderly Fitness Corner” (Item 8 of the Annex) would be carried out subject to Members’ funding approval.

75. Members discussed the projects as follows:

(a) Improvement of the Pedestrian Link at the Central Piers (IS-DMW286)

76. Mr Eric KWOK thanked the IsDO for coordinating the project which had taken four years to complete.

77. Mr Randy YU said that many District Minor Works (DMW) projects lasted longer than four years. The project was proposed by the IDC and the completion of the project was depended on the assistance provided by the Central & Western District Leisure Services Office of the LCSD and the HyD. He thanked the IsDO for coordinating the project. In addition, he said that the project was a difficult one given that collaboration between districts was needed and it took only four years to complete. He commended the departments for the efficiency of their work which included the timely relocation of the tourism signposts.

(b) Provision of cover to the new taxi stand on Yat Tung Street (Item 9 of the Annex)

78. Mr Eric KWOK said that Ms Mable CHAN, the former Commissioner for Transport had mentioned at an IDC meeting that the improvement works of Yat Tung Street would be completed in the third quarter of 2022. However, as far as he understood it, the HD was carrying out some improvement works, which had delayed the trial pit works on Yat Tung Street. He hoped the IsDO would liaise with the HD and endeavour to complete the project on time.

79. Mr FONG Lung-fei asked, since the HD was conducting excavation works

in that road section, whether the trial pit works could be carried out concurrently to save repetitive works procedures.

80. Ms Christy LEUNG said that the IsDO would monitor the completion date of the works underway on Yat Tung Street. The trial pit works would be implemented as soon as practicable. As the proposed location and the nature of the trial pit works were different from those of the works being carried out by the HD, it might not be possible to carry them out concurrently.

(c) Construction of a fitness corner on the vacant government land on Sai Tai Road, Cheung Chau (Item 4 of the Annex)

81. Mr YUNG Chi-ming said that the project could be commenced only after the community hall works were completed and the site was returned. He would like to know the schedule of the community hall works.

82. Ms Christy LEUNG said that she would reply later.

(Post-meeting note: The works of Cheung Chau Community Hall were anticipated to be completed in the third quarter of 2023.)

(d) Application for provision of a sitting-out area at Pui O Soccer Pitch (Item 7 of the Annex)

83. Mr HO Chun-fai said that the content in the “Progress Review” column was misleading. The Planning Department did not support the proposal on the grounds that Pui O was designated as a Coastal Protection Area. However, the proposed site was neither located in the wetland area nor vegetated. There were only sand, gravel and weeds. He hoped the relevant departments would figure out the actual situation.

84. Ms Selina LEUNG said that the LCSD had relayed Members’ views to the DSD. It was understood that the DSD was reviewing the relevant proposal.

(e) Maintenance/replacement of the porch of Peng Chau Ferry Pier (IS-DMW207)

85. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho said that the project was proposed in 2014/15. According to the remark, the assessment result showed that the foundation structure of the pier was unable to support the load of the canopy structure. He did not understand why the problem had not been discovered until six or seven years later, and no other feasible proposals had been put forward so far. He said that Peng Chau Pier was in urgent need of improvement, but the study alone had already taken a fairly long time. He hoped the relevant departments would expedite their work.

86. The Chairman said he had made an enquiry to the Office of the Ombudsman about why the TD was responsible for the works of Cheung Chau Pier but not the works of Peng Chau Pier. A year ago, the TD replied that the foundation structure of Peng Chau Pier was unable to support the design of the cantilevered canopy and they

promised to ask the Architectural Services Department to follow up. Therefore, the works were no longer under the responsibility of the IsDO, and there was no information such as the works schedule. He said that the canopy of Peng Chau Pier was unauthorised building works and had been removed at the request of the LandsD, so the ticket counter did not have any shelter. Without a feasible proposal at the current stage, the works had been delayed yet again, which was very discouraging to Members.

(f) Installation of floodlight system in Yim Tin Playground (IS-DMW310)

87. Mr Randy YU said that according to the paper, while the project was anticipated to be completed in December 2021, a large sum of estimated cash flow would be required after March 2022. The reason, however, was not given in the remarks. He enquired whether there had been a change in the completion date.

88. Ms Currie SIU said that the project would be completed by the date stated in the paper.

(g) Enhancement of the facilities of the pet garden in Tung Chung North Park (IS-DMW364)

89. Mr LEE Ka-ho said that the completion date stated in the previous progress report had been May 2021, but it was postponed to July 2021. He enquired about the progress of the project.

90. Ms Currie SIU said that the project was nearly completed and the facilities had been open for public use.

(h) Shek Tsai Po Rest Garden (Item 10 of the Annex)

91. Mr HO Siu-kei enquired about the progress of the project.

92. Ms Selina LEUNG said that the LCSD was conducting the preliminary study with other departments and would report to the committees in due course.

93. The Chairman asked Members to vote by a show of hands on whether to endorse the paper and the allocation of \$284,000 for engaging a consultant to carry out the first phase of the feasibility study for the “Conversion of Cycle Parking Area adjacent to Tung Chung Road Soccer Pitch into Children's Play Area and Elderly Fitness Corner” (Item 8 of the Annex).

94. Members voted by a show of hands. The project proposals and the allocation were unanimously endorsed.

(Members who voted in favour included: the Chairman Mr Ken WONG, Mr Randy YU, Mr WONG Man-hon, Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, Mr YUNG Chi-ming, Mr CHAN Lin-wai, Mr HO Chun-fai, Mr HO Siu-kei, Ms WONG Chau-ping, Ms Amy YUNG,

Mr Eric KWOK, Mr Sammy TSUI, Mr FONG Lung-fei, Ms LAU Shun-ting, Mr LEE Ka-ho and Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho. Ms Josephine TSANG left the meeting temporarily.)

XI. Any Other Business

(i) Proposed District Minor Works in 2021 to 2022

95. The Chairman said that the DMW provision allocated to the IDC in 2021-22 was \$18,688,000. On 26 April this year, the IDC endorsed and confirmed that \$11,663,000 of the DMW provision was allocated to the DFMC. He asked the Secretariat to distribute the works proposal forms to Members and asked Members to submit the forms on or before the specified date. He reminded Members to submit a proposal for works that had been previously put forward in the form of a question or by other means if they wished to submit them formally to government departments for consideration.

(ii) Discovery Bay Mobile Specimen Collection Stations

96. Ms Amy YUNG said that as there were no mobile specimen collection stations in Discovery Bay, people subject to compulsory testing had to go to the mobile specimen collection station in Tung Chung on their own for testing. They had to wait in a long queue and be exposed to the sun and rain, so the situation was not ideal. She hoped that mobile specimen collection stations would be set up in Discovery Bay and Peng Chau to provide convenience for residents subject to compulsory testing.

97. The Chairman said that it was not within the Committee's terms of reference to discuss the issue of mobile specimen collection stations. However, he understood that the situation was very urgent, so he proposed that the IDC Chairman should write to the relevant departments to assist in setting up mobile specimen collection stations in Discovery Bay or remote areas.

98. Mr Randy YU said that the issue had been a protracted battle. He had mentioned to the relevant departments that the mobile specimen collection stations in Islands District were not enough to meet the demand. He said that due to the failure of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) to allocate resources properly, there were often not enough specimen bottles for testing. The departments also failed to allocate more specimen bottles on request. Peng Chau, for example, also did not have enough specimen bottles. After repeated requests, sometimes it was given more quotas but sometimes it was not. He would follow up Ms Amy YUNG's request with the relevant departments and would inform Members of the latest progress by email. Considering the persistence of the epidemic, he and the District Officer would explore ways to address the inadequate provision of testing quotas in remote areas with the relevant departments.

99. Mr LEE Ka-ho said that he had proposed convening a special meeting on the epidemic. At that time, the Chairman replied that he would follow up. As the epidemic persisted, many residents had to undergo compulsory testing. It was therefore necessary to follow up on the demand for compulsory testing in Islands District. Since no single government department could deal with all the issues, he hoped a special meeting would be arranged for discussion.

100. Mr YUNG Chi-ming hoped that more specimen bottles would be provided in Cheung Chau. The 200 bottles provided every day were not enough to meet the demand. He had written to the Department of Health and the Hospital Authority, but the problem had not improved.

101. Mr Randy YU said that Cheung Chau had a population of 20 000, so 200 specimen bottles every day were absolutely not enough. However, the CHP had to handle the matter of compulsory testing in other areas as well. They did not have enough manpower to spare for meetings, and so the special meeting had not been arranged so far. He would try his best to arrange for the meeting so that Members could express their views.

102. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho clarified that the number of specimen bottles for the St John Hospital had increased from 200 to several hundred. In addition, restaurants would no longer be provided with specimen bottles and he therefore would like to discuss the relevant matter in the meeting.

XII. Date of Next Meeting

103. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m. The next meeting would be held at 10:30 a.m. on 12 July 2021 (Monday).

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