

(Translation)

Islands District Council
Minutes of Meeting of District Facilities Management Committee

Date : 10 January 2023 (Tuesday)
Time : 2:00 p.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 HO Chun-fai (Vice-Chairman)
Mr YU Hon-kwan, Randy, MH, JP
Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, SBS, MH
Mr YUNG Chi-ming, BBS, MH
Mr CHAN Lin-wai, MH
Mr HO Siu-kei
Ms WONG Chau-ping
Mr KWOK Ping, Eric
Mr FONG Lung-fei
Ms LAU Shun-ting

Attendance by Invitation

Ms KWOK Wai-chun	Librarian (Cheung Chau Public Library), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr LEE Sun-fu, Joe	Senior Executive Officer (District Management), Islands District Office
Ms WONG Yik-ting, Sarina	District Secretary, Islands District Office
Mr CHAN Chak-chung	Senior Inspector of Works, Islands District Office
Mr PANG Tat-hung, Raymond	Executive Officer (Planning)21A, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms WONG Hoi-ming, Helen	Architect (Works)4, Home Affairs Department
Mr Ken TONG	Senior Architect, Ho & Partners Architects Engineers & Development Consultants Limited

In Attendance

Ms TSE Yik-ting, Ellie
Ms SIU Kit-ping, Currie
Ms CHU Po-yee, Polly

Assistant District Officer (Islands)2, Islands District Office
District Leisure Manager (Islands),
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Senior Librarian (Islands),
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Secretary

Ms KWONG Tsz-wing, Wing

Executive Officer (District Council)2,
Islands District Office

Absent with Apology

Mr WONG Man-hon, MH

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### **Welcoming Remarks**

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

2. Members noted that Mr WONG Man-hon was unable to attend the meeting because of other commitments.

#### **I. Confirmation of minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2022**

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

4. The minutes were confirmed unanimously without amendments.

(Members who voted in favour included: the Chairman Mr Ken WONG, the Vice-Chairman Mr HO Chun-fai, Mr Randy YU, Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, Mr YUNG Chi-ming, Mr CHAN Lin-wai, Mr HO Siu-kei, Ms WONG Chau-ping, Mr Eric KWOK, Mr FONG Lung-fei and Ms LAU Shun-ting.)

#### **II. Question on the provision of pavements on the Pui O section of South Lantau Road on Lantau Island**

(Paper DFMC 5/2023)

5. The Chairman said that the written reply from the Transport Department (TD) had been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting.

6. Vice-Chairman Mr HO Chun-fai briefly presented the question.
7. Mr Eric KWOK said that the question had made it clear that there was no pavement at the road section concerned and that the public needed to walk on the carriageways, which posed safety concerns. He had also witnessed incidents in which the vehicles had almost hit pedestrians. The situation was particularly alarming during holidays when the pedestrian flow increased tremendously. Hence, there was an urgent need for the provision of pavements. He noted that the TD had not sent a representative to attend the meeting, which showed that the TD had taken the problem lightly and disregarded public safety. While concurring with the written reply of TD that public resources should be prudently used, he regarded the proposed works mentioned in the question as minor works and wondered why the TD had refused to examine the feasibility of the proposed works and alternatives, such as replacing them with the provision of pedestrian streets. He was dissatisfied with the written reply and considered that the TD had not attached importance to livelihood issues.
8. Vice-Chairman HO Chun-fai said that the pedestrian flow at the road section was high, and even though the TD had made arrangements for the operation of a special bus route, Route 3R, by the New Lantau Bus Company in summer, it failed to effectively divert the flow of pedestrians. Pui O Beach had a lot of visitors even in non-summer months. He noted that there was a pavement near the bus stop at Pui O San Wai Tsuen, but it was only about one metre wide. A lot of visitors gathered there to wait for buses to Mui Wo. There were occasions where they had occupied the single-lane carriageway and affected the road traffic, requiring the intervention of the Police and staff of the bus company. Therefore, it was a problem not to be taken lightly. In addition, he suggested that the proposed pavements should be located at a proper distance from the carriageways, so as not to affect carriageway widening works that might be implemented in the future.
9. Mr Ho Siu-kei considered it a situation that required immediate improvement, as a large number of visitors would get on or alight from buses at the location in question during holidays. He was dissatisfied with the written reply of the TD. In his opinion, the TD had shirked its responsibility and had not considered discussing the possible solutions with other departments. As the TD had not given a proper response to the question raised by the Vice-chairman, he suggested that the Chairman should follow up on it by other means.
10. Mr Randy YU considered it more appropriate to refer the issue to the full council of the Islands District Council (IDC) or the Traffic and Transport Committee (TTC) for discussion. However, livelihood issues should also be discussed by the DFMC. He said that the situation described in the question involved serious safety issues and definitely required follow-up actions. Therefore, he could not understand why the TD had indicated that it would closely monitor the situation and only take improvement measures when necessary. Currently, it was Members who had been monitoring the situation and drawing TD's attention to the problem. He had not seen any effort on the part of the TD indicating that the TD was monitoring the situation. He was dissatisfied with the written reply of the TD, and was disappointed that the TD had

addressed the issue in a perfunctory manner. He pointed out that the width of the carriageway in question was only 6.8 metres, which was 0.5 metres less than the width currently recommended for a standard dual two-lane carriageway, i.e. 7.3 metres. Furthermore, there had been occasions where half of the carriageway had been occupied by pedestrians, causing road traffic problems and posing safety hazards to the public. He could not understand why the TD did not regard it as a situation that required necessary action. He further pointed out that if the TD had proposed to look into the issue for three months and explore the feasible options afterwards, he would consider such attitude acceptable. However, the TD had indicated in their reply that they would "closely monitor the situation and take improvement measures only when necessary", which was absolutely unacceptable to him. He had conveyed his views regarding the traffic conditions in the district to the Commissioner for Transport. The Commissioner had indicated that he would actively follow up on the problems and provide solutions to them. The attitude was a far cry from the current attitude of the TD. Furthermore, the situation affected not only pedestrians and vehicles but also the buffaloes in the area, as they were forced to walk onto the carriageway. Hence, it posed a safety hazard to the pedestrians, the vehicles and the buffaloes. He suggested that the Chairman should refer the issue to the TTC or its working groups for follow-up so that Members could keep a close watch on the issue.

11. Ms WONG Chau-ping supported the proposal of Mr Randy YU. She pointed out that the TD had not been responding proactively to the views and suggestions of Members, especially in the year 2019. Although its attitude had improved slightly since then, it was still not proactive enough. According to her own observation at the Pui O section of South Lantau Road, she agreed that the aforementioned problem not only existed but also occurred frequently. Pointing out that government departments often mentioned in their reports that "studies on carrying capacity" had been conducted for the Lantau Island, she wondered if the scope of such studies included the pavements frequently used by residents and visitors. Furthermore, she suggested that Members should also enquire about the responsibility on the part of government departments in the question, i.e. which departments would be responsible in the event of an accident involving loss of life. In this way, the relevant departments would respond more proactively to the question raised by Members. She said that if the TD had tried to explore solutions to improve the situation after receiving the question raised by Members, she would be more accommodating even if the problem remained unresolved. However, she found it absolutely unacceptable that the TD had declined to take any follow-up actions.

12. Mr HO Siu-kei doubted if the reply from the TD had been submitted to the highest ranking officers of the department for examination, since the attitude adopted was very different from that of the Commissioner. He criticised the TD for providing a perfunctory reply, which showed no respect for the opinions expressed by local residents. He considered follow-up actions as necessary.

13. The Chairman said that the question had been included as an agenda item because the provision of pavement fell within the purview of the DFMC. However, it turned out that both the written reply from the TD and the discussion among Members involved the issue of road safety. Noting that the representatives of the TD would attend

the meetings of the TTC, he agreed to refer the question to the TTC for further follow-up. He indicated that he was puzzled by the written reply of the TD. He suggested that Vice-Chairman Mr HO Chun-fai should provide the TD with information on the period of times when the pedestrian flow was the highest.

14. Ms WONG Chau-ping agreed with the suggestion of the Chairman and said that she would discuss the related arrangement with the Secretariat. She further added that the location mentioned in the question was the central location connecting Tung Chung, Tai O, Mui Wo, and South Lantau. If the TD failed to actively follow up on the issue after the TTC meeting and disregarded the life safety of the public, she suggested that the four rural committees of Lantau Island should jointly write to the Commissioner for Transport to request follow-up actions.

15. Mr Randy YU suggested that the Secretariat should ask the Secretary of the TTC to make arrangement for the representatives of the TD to provide a response to the question raised by Members.

(Post-meeting note: The matter in question was discussed at the TTC meeting held on 17 January 2023.)

III. Report on the Services of the Public Libraries in Islands District by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department between October 2022 and November 2022  
(Paper DFMC 1/2023)

16. 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.

17. Ms Polly CHU presented the paper. She added that renovation works lasting for a whole year would be carried out at the Cheung Chau Public Library, starting in the first quarter of 2023. The works would be carried out in phases and were expected to be completed by early 2024. During the construction period, library services would be temporarily suspended depending on the actual area of the works. The remaining part of the library would maintain its operation and provide services to the public.

18. Members noted the content of the paper.

IV. Report on the management of Leisure and Cultural Services Department's recreational and sports facilities in Islands District (October to November 2022)  
(Paper DFMC 2/2023)

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

20. Ms Currie SIU presented the paper.

21. Mr Eric KWOK asked whether the planters on the roadsides of Yu Tung Road between Mun Tung Estate and Yat Tung Estate and the planters in the middle of the carriageways of the road section were managed by the LCSD.

22. Ms Currie SIU said that the planters along the whole Yu Tung Road had all along been managed by the LCSD. However, as the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) was carrying out ground investigation works, some of the roadside planters on the pavements had been handed over to the Lands Department (LandsD), which in turn had allocated the site concerned to the CEDD. She said that she could provide detailed information on the locations of the planters handed over to the LandsD for Members after the meeting.

23. Mr Eric KWOK said that the two large banyan trees behind Fuk Yat House of Yat Tung Estate, which were close to the footbridge on Yu Tung Road, had very long aerial roots that affected the pedestrians. In the past, he had written to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and the Highways Department (HyD) to request for follow-up. However, he had learned recently that there had been a change in the responsible departments. He enquired whether the LCSD was currently responsible for the management of the trees in question, and if so, he asked the LCSD to arrange for pruning. In addition, he pointed out that there was an accumulation of garbage in the planters opposite the Mun Tung Estate bus terminal. Previously, he had reported the problem to the Sustainable Lantau Office (SLO) under the CEDD. However, the SLO seemed to be uncertain as to whether the location was under the purview of the office. He enquired whether the LCSD was responsible for the management of the location and requested follow-up actions from the LCSD.

24. Ms Currie SIU said that if the two large banyan trees in question fell under the purview of the LCSD, the LCSD would seek the advice of the Tree Team regarding the proper treatment of the aerial roots. In general, the Tree Team would not recommend the pruning of aerial roots. As regards the planters opposite the Mun Tung Estate bus terminal, the LCSD was only responsible for the horticultural maintenance of the plants in the planters. The disposal of garbage in the planters would be handled by the FEHD. The LCSD, therefore, would contact the relevant section of the FEHD and asked them to follow up on the issue.

(Post-meeting note: As the section of Yu Tung Road where the banyan trees in question were located was under the purview of the CEDD, the LCSD had referred the matter to the CEDD for follow-up after the meeting. Regarding the disposal of garbage in the planters, the LCSD had followed the guidelines in the Works Technical Circulars issued by the Development Bureau and referred the matter to the FEHD which was responsible for the cleaning of roadside planters after the meeting.)

25. Members noted the content of the paper.

V. Utilisation and improvement works of Community Halls in Islands District  
(Paper DFMC 3/2023)

26. The Chairman welcomed Mr LEE Sun-fu, Joe, Senior Executive Officer (District Management) and Ms WONG Yik-ting, Sarina, District Secretary of the Islands District Office (IsDO) to the meeting to present the paper.

27. Mr Joe LEE presented the paper.

28. Mr Eric KWOK said that the audio-visual system improvement works for Tung Chung Community Hall was a project proposed by the IDC in its last term of office, but the works had not yet commenced. He learnt from the paper for the previous meeting that the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) was assessing the tenders of the contractors. Therefore, he had hoped that the works could be completed in the current financial year. However, the EMSD now needed to re-tender the contract and the implementation of the works might be postponed to the next financial year. He was disappointed that the upgrading of the audio-visual system would take four to five years to complete. The cultural and entertainment activities and performances held in the community hall had been affected by the outdated audio-visual equipment and many residents of Yat Tung Estate had already complained about it. As the project would bring about significant benefits to the residents, he hoped that it could be implemented as soon as possible.

29. The Chairman enquired about the expected completion date of tender evaluation for the re-tender exercise and whether the IsDO could report the evaluation result to Members before the next meeting.

30. Mr Joe LEE said that the IsDO had enquired the EMSD about the re-tender exercise prior to the meeting. It was learned that tender evaluation was expected to be completed by the end of January 2023. The IsDO would inform Members through the Secretariat when the IsDO received the latest information on the re-tender exercise from the EMSD. In respect of residents' concern over the audio-visual equipment, the IsDO would provide necessary assistance to performers or groups using the community hall, such as setting up projectors and sound amplification equipment for them.

(Post-meeting note: The IsDO had provided Members with information about the re-tender exercise for the audio-visual system improvement works of the Tung Chung Community Hall after the meeting.)

## VI. Progress report on DC-funded District Minor Works Projects (Paper DFMC 4/2023)

31. The Chairman welcomed Ms TSE Yik-ting, Ellie, Assistant District Officer (Islands)<sup>2</sup> and Mr CHAN Chak-chung, Senior Inspector of Works of the IsDO; Mr PANG Tat-hung, Raymond, Executive Officer (Planning)<sup>21A</sup> of the LCSD; Ms WONG Hoi-ming, Helen, Architect (Works)<sup>4</sup>, of the Home Affairs Department; and Mr Ken TONG, Senior Architect of Ho & Partners Architects Engineers & Development Consultants Limited to the meeting to present the paper.

32. Ms Ellie TSE briefly presented the paper and asked Members to note the content of the paper.

33. Members had discussions on the various projects:

(i) Conversion of the cycle parking area adjoining Tung Chung Road Soccer Pitch into a sitting-out area (IS-DMW370)

34. Mr Eric KWOK noted that the cycle parking area would be converted into a sitting-out area. He said that although there was an elderly fitness corner in the vicinity of the Tung Chung Road Soccer Pitch, the site would be used for the construction of a community hall and an indoor sports centre. The elderly fitness corner would therefore be removed. If there was enough space at the sitting-out area, he suggested that an additional elderly fitness corner should be provided at the site, on condition that the underground cables would not be affected.

35. Ms WONG Chau-ping said that the departments should pay close attention to the problem of tree root protrusions before commencement of works. She suggested that the affected area should be partially enclosed to prevent accidents and ensure public safety.

36. Mr Raymond PANG said that the LCSD was currently reviewing the facilities to be provided at the proposed sitting-out area and would consult the stakeholders in respect of the proposals in due course. As regards the problem of root protrusions, he said that when the LCSD learnt about the problem, it had promptly referred it to relevant sections of the HyD and the LCSD for follow-up. As far as he knew, the IsDO had also contacted the HyD in respect of the problem.

37. Ms Ellie TSE said that the IsDO had followed up on the issue of tree root protrusions with the HyD and the LCSD. It was understood that both departments had conducted on-site inspections with Members and would propose short, medium, and long-term solutions to address the problem. IsDO would continue to follow up on the issue with the two departments and keep Members informed of the latest development.

38. Ms WONG Chau-ping noted that the two departments would propose short, medium and long-term solutions to the problem of tree root protrusion and hoped that the IsDO could assist in following up on the problem. Pointing out that it was quite common for perimeter enclosures and fences installed at sitting-out areas to get damaged or blown down by strong wind, she asked departments to ensure that the fences were securely installed to protect public safety. Furthermore, as the proposed sitting-out area would be facing the rural villages in Tung Chung and villagers attached great importance to feng shui, she suggested departments should consult local residents and village representatives before designing the sitting-out area in order to avoid future conflicts.

39. The Chairman asked the IsDO to follow up on the issue of perimeter fences with the HyD, and requested the LCSD to take note of the views of Ms WONG Chau-ping regarding the feng shui issue.



40. Ms Ellie TSE said that the HyD had already fenced off the area with tree root protrusion problem. The IsDO would also contact the HyD in respect of the security of the fences after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The IsDO had contacted the HyD after the meeting. The HyD indicated that it would deploy staff to inspect the fences regularly. The IsDO had convey the reply from the HyD to Ms WONG Chau-ping.)

(ii) Construction of Cheung Chau Sai Wan Forecourt (IS-DMW352)

41. Mr YUNG Chi-ming enquired about the estimated commencement date of the works.

42. Mr Ken TONG replied that the consultant was studying the design of the works in detail and conducting a tree risk assessment in respect of the trees within the site. The works were expected to commence in 2023.

VII. Any Other Business

43. No further issues were raised by Members.

VIII. Date of Next Meeting

44. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:39 p.m. The next meeting would be held at 2:00 p.m. on 13 March 2023 (Monday).

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