

(Translation)

Minutes of Meeting of Islands District Council

Date : 17 April 2023 (Monday)
Time : 2:00 p.m.
Venue : Islands District Council Conference Room,
14/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong

Present

Chairman

Mr YU Hon-kwan, Randy, MH, JP

Vice-Chairman

Mr WONG Man-hon, MH

Members

Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, SBS, MH
Mr WONG Hon-kuen, Ken
Mr HO Chun-fai
Mr HO Siu-kei
Ms WONG Chau-ping
Mr NG Man-kit
Mr WAN Yeung-kin
Mr KWOK Ping, Eric
Mr FONG Lung-fei
Ms LAU Shun-ting

Attendance by Invitation

Mr TANG Chi-sum, Terence	Property Service Manager/Service (Hong Kong Island and Islands) 5, Housing Department
Mr LEUNG Ka-kay, Gary	Senior Engineer/Special Duty 3, Drainage Services Department
Mr TP LEUNG	Senior Resident Engineer, AECOM Asia Company Limited

In Attendance

Ms YEUNG Wai-sum, Amy, JP

Mr LI Ho, Thomas

Ms TSE Yik-ting, Ellie

Mr MOK Sui-hung

Ms LIU Pui-shan, Lis

Mr LEE Sun-fu, Joe

Mr YEUNG Che-yuen, Patrick

Mr KWONG Wang-ngai, Walter

Ms YAN Lai-ming, Jenny

Mr LING Ka-fai

Mr TSANG Wai-man

Ms KWAN Ka-mun, Karen

Dr CHEUNG Hoi-yan

Mr WONG Yu-hang, Eddie

Ms LI Ka-chai, Denise

Mr CHAN Sheung-yung, Cyrus

Mr HUI Kar-nung

Mr TO Chak-foo

Ms LIM Ting-ting, Sylvia

Ms HA Chung-wan, Joanne

District Officer (Islands), Islands District Office

Assistant District Officer (Islands)1, Islands District Office

Assistant District Officer (Islands)2, Islands District Office

Senior Liaison Officer (1), Islands District Office

Senior Liaison Officer (2), Islands District Office

Senior Executive Officer (District Management),
Islands District Office

Senior Engineer/1 (Lantau),

Civil Engineering and Development Department

Senior Town Planner/Islands 2, Planning Department

District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western/Southern/
Islands), Social Welfare Department

District Lands Officer/Islands (District Lands Office,
Islands), Lands Department

Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office,
Islands), Lands Department

Chief Transport Officer/Islands, Transport Department

District Commander (Lantau), Hong Kong Police Force

District Commander (Marine Port District) (Acting),
Hong Kong Police Force

Police Community Relations Officer (Lantau District),
Hong Kong Police Force

Police Community Relations Officer (Marine Port District),
Hong Kong Police Force

District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands),
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Chief Manager/Management (Hong Kong Island and
Islands), Housing Department

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

District Leisure Manager (Islands),

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Secretary

Ms Kennis CHAN

Senior Executive Officer (District Council),
Islands District Office

Welcoming remarks

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives of the government departments to the Islands District Council (IDC) meeting and introduced the following representatives of departments:

- (a) Mr YEUNG Che-yuen, Patrick, Senior Engineer/1 (Lantau) of the Civil Engineering and Development Department, who stood in for Mr CHENG Yuk-lung, Stanley;
- (b) Mr WONG Yu-hang, Eddie, District Commander (Marine Port District) (Acting) of the Hong Kong Police Force, who stood in for Mr Clive WALTON;
- (c) Mr KWONG Wang-ngai, Walter, Senior Town Planner/Islands 2 of the Planning Department, who stood in for Ms TANG Tsui-yee, Caroline; and
- (d) Ms LIU Pui-shan, Lis, Senior Liaison Officer (2) of the Islands District Office.

2. The Chairman welcomed Mr NG Man-kit, the newly-elected Chairman of the Cheung Chau Rural Committee, and Mr WAN Yeung-kin, the newly-elected Chairman of the Lamma Island (North) Rural Committee, to join the IDC as Members.

I. Confirmation of the Minutes of Meeting held on 20 February 2023

3. 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.

4. Members had no other amendment proposals. The minutes were confirmed unanimously

(Members who voted in favour included: the Chairman Mr Randy YU, the Vice-chairman Mr WONG Man-hon, Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, Mr Ken WONG, Mr HO Chun-fai, Mr HO Siu-kei, Ms WONG Chau-ping, Mr NG Man-kit, Mr WAN Yeung-kin, Mr Eric KWOK, Mr FONG Lung-fei and Ms LAU Shun-ting.)

II. Question on Sunlight Market in Tung Chung (Paper IDC 13/2023)

5. The Chairman welcomed Mr HUI Kar-nung, District Environmental

Hygiene Superintendent (Islands) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to the meeting to respond to the question. The consolidated written reply of the FEHD and the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) and the written reply of the Transport Department (TD) had been distributed to Members for perusal prior to the meeting.

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

7. Mr HUI Kar-nung presented the consolidated written reply of the FEHD and the ArchSD.

8. Mr HUI Kar-nung added that on the day of the opening of Sunlight Market, the fuse of the main switch for stall No. 5 blew due to the rain. The contractor of the ArchSD then immediately carried out inspection and restored the power supply to the affected stall. In addition, the ArchSD had followed up on the problem of some stalls being exposed to sunlight, especially the stalls located in the middle of the market and the beef stall No. 1, and examined feasible improvement measures. As some stall holders complained that the air-conditioning was insufficient, Yee Tai Cleaning Company Limited (Yee Tai), the market management service provider, checked the air-conditioners for the stalls concerned and had found no problems with the operation of the air-conditioners. Yee Tai advised the stall holders to install electric fans on their own to enhance air circulation and the delivery of cool air if necessary. If the stall holders still considered it necessary to install additional air-conditioners after installing electric fans, they had to submit a written application to the FEHD. The FEHD would approve the applications on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the ArchSD.

9. Ms Karen KWAN said she had nothing to add to the written reply of the TD.

10. The Chairman said that as stated in the consolidated written reply, the ArchSD was examining the problem of some stalls being exposed to sunlight and exploring improvement measures. He asked when the FEHD would give a response in this regard.

11. Mr HUI Kar-nung said that according to the ArchSD, since the duration and direction of sunshine would vary through different seasons, the ArchSD needed more time for a detailed study. As such, the reply date had not yet been determined. He would discuss Members' views with the ArchSD again after the meeting and reply to the IDC in due course.

12. Mr FONG Lung-fei said he had been closely monitoring the operation of Sunlight Market after its opening. He pointed out that the ground at the pedestrian crossing was currently painted red, but it was difficult for pedestrians and drivers to see the crossing clearly on rainy days, therefore he was worried that traffic accidents might occur easily. He suggested that the TD should erect large signs such as "Drive with Care" to alert road users, or fix reflective road studs to alert pedestrians and

drivers to the crossing. As for the problems of sunlight exposure and insufficient air-conditioning, he said that when the temperature outdoor was over 30 degrees Celsius, the temperature inside Sunlight Market was even higher. As a result, the bean products at the tofu stalls spoiled, affecting the stalls' business. The quality of meat at the meat stalls was also compromised with the loss of moisture due to exposure to sunlight for long hours, especially under intense direct sunlight. Some stalls covered the fruits and vegetables with cloth to avoid sunlight, but fruits and vegetables might spoil due to moisture when wrapped for a long time. He suggested that the ArchSD should install tinted glass or use shade cloth to reduce the intensity of sunlight, or provide portable air-conditioners to lower the temperature indoor. He pointed out that the ArchSD should have taken the above-mentioned situations into account when devising the design. He urged the department to solve the problem as soon as possible, otherwise people's desire to shop in the market would be affected.

13. Ms WONG Chau-ping said that since Sunlight Market was newly completed, the public and Members were highly concerned about its facilities. Considering that it took time for Members to follow up through the IDC, she hoped the FEHD could provide a direct channel for members of the public to express their opinions, with a view to solving the problems as soon as possible. In addition, she requested the TD to respond to the question on the pedestrian crossing and asked whether it had the same functions as a zebra crossing.

14. Mr Eric KWOK said that although the entrance of Sunlight Market was aesthetically designed, the stalls near the entrance would be affected by the intense direct sunlight. He agreed to the addition of shading devices to mitigate the impact. The former Food and Health Bureau had promised that the Sunlight Market would not suffer from water leakage and poor air circulation like the Tin Shui Wai market, but the problems had finally occurred. He expressed his disappointment in this regard. He opined that if the situation remained unsatisfactory after the addition of air-conditioners and electric fans, there might be a defect in the design. The relevant departments should carry out studies and make improvements immediately. In addition, many members of the public had reflected that they did not know a pedestrian crossing was provided outside Sunlight Market. Members had expressed their opinions on the issue to the TD, but he was dissatisfied that the department had not yet resolved the problem. He opined that the department should install traffic lights or erect signs at the pedestrian crossing to alert road users with a view to avoiding accidents.

15. Mr HO Siu-kei said that the indoor heat in Sunlight Market not only affected the quality of the goods, but also deterred members of the public. As a result, residents would rather shop for food in other areas at a higher price and the construction of Sunlight Market would become meaningless. In addition, Members had repeatedly raised questions about the traffic of Sunlight Market at meetings and requested the addition of a zebra crossing or a safety island, but no follow-ups had been made by the TD. He opined that the department should explore improvement measures upon receipt of the views of Members.

16. Mr HUI Kar-nung gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The FEHD noted the views of Members. He said the purpose of the construction of Sunlight Market was to provide residents with an additional choice for shopping for fresh food. He did not want members of the public to refrain from patronising because of the above problems. The department would reflect the problems of sunlight exposure and high indoor temperature to the ArchSD and explore feasible improvement measures.
- (b) He said that like other public markets in the Islands District, a Market Management Consultative Committee (MMCC) would be set up for Sunlight Market. The MMCC, comprising of representatives of market tenants, the market management service provider, Members and representatives of the FEHD, would hold meetings on a regular basis. Members were welcomed to express their views at the MMCC meetings. Urgent matters related to the operation of the market should be directed to the Markets Section of the Islands District Environmental Hygiene Office, and the department would follow up immediately.

17. Ms Karen KWAN said the red colour at the pedestrian crossing was to highlight the location of the crossing and to alert drivers to watch out for pedestrians. She would convey Members' views to the relevant divisions for their consideration and provision of written replies.

(Post-meeting note: The written reply provided by the TD after the meeting had been forwarded to Members for perusal on 19 May 2023.)

18. The Chairman said that it took time for the ArchSD to develop an improvement plan for the problem of sunlight exposure. He suggested that the FEHD should refer to the practice of fishermen in Tai O and use black mesh for shading.

19. Mr FONG Lung-fei said at first he did not notice that the location painted red was a pedestrian crossing. He hoped the TD would step up publicity. Although the goods prices at the private markets nearby had dropped after the opening of Sunlight Market, he believed that many stalls in Sunlight Market were operated by conglomerates and there would not be great price fluctuations. He suggested that the FEHD should modify the tendering arrangement for fruit and vegetable stalls to restrict 60% to 70% of the stalls for application by individual proprietors, so that they could run a small business to improve their livelihood. He believed that individual proprietors, although inexperienced, were able to run their businesses on a continuous basis as long as proper assistance was provided by the department.

20. Ms WONG Chau-ping said that currently, the pedestrian crossing only served to alert drivers and it was not mandatory for drivers to stop and give way to

pedestrians. Therefore, the safety of the public was not safeguarded. She also pointed out that the dark red colour painted on the ground at the crossing was not obvious and failed to serve its purpose. She considered the above issue urgent and urged the TD to carry out a study seriously.

21. The Chairman reminded Members to focus their discussion on the design of Sunlight Market rather than the tendering arrangement for the stalls.

22. Mr HUI Kar-nung said the FEHD would explore ways to step up assistance to the grassroots during the tendering practices, for example, talks could be held to explain to them the tendering procedures and the points to note.

23. Mr Eric KWOK said he had expressed concern about the tendering practice for the stalls of markets under the FEHD before the establishment of the Working Group on Bazaars/Temporary Markets in Islands District. He hoped the department could solve the problem effectively.

24. The Chairman opined that the afore-mentioned problems needed to be addressed urgently in order to improve the facilities of Sunlight Market. He said the purpose of the construction of Sunlight Market was to lower the prices of goods sold at the private markets, and the desired effect had been achieved. He asked the TD to provide a written reply to Members as soon as possible after studying the problems, and encouraged Members to actively join the MMCC to be set up by the FEHD.

III. Question on the assistance to the elderly of Yat Tung Estate in appointment booking for the replacement of Hong Kong Identity Cards
(Paper IDC 14/2023)

25. The Chairman said that the Immigration Department (ImmD) had provided a written reply for Members' perusal prior to the meeting.

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

27. Mr FONG Lung-fei learned from the written reply that the ImmD had optimised the appointment booking arrangement for identity card replacement services, so as to facilitate the appointment making by members of the public. He thanked the ImmD for its proactive response. He suggested that government departments, when launching new programmes in the future, should enhance publicity to ensure that all members of the public, including the elderly, were informed of the relevant information.

IV. Question on the problem of throwing objects from heights in public housing estates
(Paper IDC 15/2023)

28. The Chairman welcomed Dr CHEUNG Hoi-yan, District Commander

(Lantau) of the Hong Kong Police Force and Mr TANG Chi-sum, Terence, Property Service Manager/Service (Hong Kong Island and Islands) 5 of the Housing Department (HD) to the meeting to respond to the question.

29. Mr Eric KWOK briefly presented the question.

30. Mr Terence TANG responded as follows:

- (a) In the past two years, a total of 270 tenants were allotted 7 or 15 penalty points under the Marking Scheme for Estate Management Enforcement in Public Housing Estates for throwing objects from heights. For throwing objects from heights that jeopardised environmental hygiene, 7 penalty points would be allotted. In 30 of the cases, the throwing of objects from heights had caused danger or personal injury, therefore, 15 penalty points were allotted by the department immediately. In addition, the department had instituted a total of 215 prosecution cases against households who committed misdeeds.
- (b) The department had allotted 7 penalty points to the household in Mun Tung Estate who threw toys from heights. In addition, another four cases, including the case of a chopper being thrown from a height, were still under investigation and no arrests had been made. The department had posted notices at the lobbies of the public estate buildings immediately after the incident, advising residents not to throw any objects out of their windows, so as not to affect environmental hygiene or cause danger to the public.
- (c) To eradicate black spots of throwing objects from heights, the department had installed Mobile Digital Closed Circuit Television Systems and Mobile Surveillance Systems in public rental housing estates for monitoring and deterrent purposes. The department had also installed video cameras at the relevant locations, some of which being permanent installations, to monitor the areas covered on a long-term basis. If misdeeds such as throwing objects from heights were detected, the department would immediately visit the households concerned for investigation. When it was confirmed that a tenant had committed the misdeed, the case would be referred to the estate office for allotment of penalty points and prosecution. The department would review regularly the effectiveness of the monitoring systems in order to step up efforts in combating misdeeds of dropping objects from heights. The fact proved that the installation of video recording systems in public rental housing estates had a significant deterrent effect and was effective in apprehending offenders involved in cases of throwing objects from heights. The systems could not only help the HD staff locate the offenders, but also facilitate the collection of evidence. For example, video clips of the objects falling down

captured by the systems could be used as evidence and enhance the success rate of criminal prosecutions.

- (d) The department also deployed Special Operation Teams to patrol the various public rental housing estates on a regular basis and assist in the prosecution of persons who threw objects from heights. In addition, estate staff would take actions in accordance with the marking scheme if they found any non-compliance during routine patrols and complaint handling.
- (e) The HD would continue to carry out publicity and educate tenants on the importance of civic-mindedness and law-abiding behaviour through notices, estate newsletters, the Housing Channel, posters, leaflets and promotional videos against throwing objects from heights (which had been uploaded to websites of the Housing Authority and the department) and by implementing campaigns in partnership with non-governmental organisations. The department also drew tenants' attention to the grave consequences of throwing objects from heights, which included termination of public housing tenancy or prosecution.

31. Dr CHEUNG Hoi-yan responded as follows:

- (a) According to the records, the Police received a total of 34 reports of objects falling from heights in Yat Tung Estate and Mun Tung Estate in the past two years. After investigation, the Police issued verbal warnings to the owners and made referrals to the HD for follow-up for three of the cases. In addition, another three cases were referred to the Criminal Investigation Team of Lantau District for follow-up and were currently under investigation. No summonses had been issued and no arrests had been made so far.
- (b) Upon receipt of a report on objects being thrown from height, the Police would contact the housing estate security guards in the vicinity and gather evidence by visiting the households and shops door to door when necessary. The Police would also check the recordings of CCTV cameras near the incident scene for relevant video clips or clues, so as to collect evidence and identify witnesses. When sufficient evidence was collected, the Police would lay charges or arrest the offenders immediately.
- (c) The Police believed the public would agree that prevention and education were the best approaches. Therefore, the Police worked with all the public housing estates under the HD on Lantau Island, the property management companies and the relevant government departments to post notices or play videos in the residential buildings and distribute educational leaflets to residents. Earlier, the Police had passed the leaflets to the HD and the property management companies

for distribution to residents and for posting in prominent positions in the lobby, thereby appealing to residents to co-operate and practise good neighbourliness. The Police Crime Prevention Offices could provide property management companies with more advice on crime prevention when necessary or upon request.

32. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He agreed that prevention and education were the most ideal approaches. However, these approaches had little effect on certain residents due to their individual characteristics.
- (b) Having engaged in district work for more than 23 years, he found that the problem of objects thrown from heights was not serious in the early days of resident intake of Yat Tung Estate, but it had worsened since 2010, with over ten incidents occurring each year on average. The objects thrown down even included faeces, suitcases, etc. He had provided the information of the incidents to the Police, the HD and the property management company for follow-up.
- (c) The recent incident of a chopper being thrown from a height posed a great threat to residents. He hoped the Police and the HD would work together to apprehend the offender with the aid of the video footage captured by the CCTV cameras, and terminate the tenant's tenancy to recover the public rental housing unit concerned. The property management company could even take advantage of the incident to warn residents about the serious consequences of throwing objects from heights.
- (d) He opined that the current Marking Scheme for Estate Management Enforcement was too lax, resulting in connivance to the tenants. He said that since the implementation of the marking scheme, the department had not released any statistics on tenants whose tenancies were terminated due to the penalty points allotted. If the HD refused to improve the policy, the tenants would continue to throw objects from heights recklessly.
- (e) He was once nearly hit by a glass bottle thrown from a height, over which he still had lingering fears. He emphasised that the problem of objects being thrown from heights was not a rare occurrence. Apart from the use of surveillance systems, he suggested that the Police should carry out forensic analyses and take finger-prints from the dropped objects, as well as gather evidence from all residents of the buildings concerned in order to apprehend the offenders.
- (f) Mr YEUNG Yiu-fai, Deputy Director (Estate Management) of the HD, had said at a committee meeting of the Legislative Council in February

this year that based on his search on the Internet, there were fewer cases of objects being thrown from heights in public housing estates than before, which proved that the department's monitoring and enforcement had been effective. However, he disagreed with Mr YEUNG.

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

- (a) The problem of objects being thrown from heights caused a great disruption to the daily life of residents. It came to his knowledge every day that there were objects, including unknown liquid, dropped from heights at Kan Yat House and Kit Yat House. At his office in Kan Yat House, there were feminine hygiene products thrown from heights every month and some pedestrians were hit by those objects. He referred the incident to the HD for follow-up. Although the HD had installed surveillance cameras at the relevant location, the tenant concerned had not yet been identified so far.
- (b) The Police once arrested a person who threw a glass bottle from a height and the person was a suspected ex-mentally ill person. The Police also arrested a mentally ill person who threw a wooden plate from a height at Kit Yat House, and the person was then sent to a mental hospital for treatment immediately. He opined that some ex-mentally ill persons might develop mental disorder if they failed to take medicines on time, which could give rise to incidents of objects being thrown from heights. Even though the ex-mentally ill people lived with their families, their family members might not be able to prevent such incidents from happening.
- (c) He noted that the waiting time for the allocation or change of public rental housing units for ex-mentally ill persons was shorter than that for ordinary people. It might be related to the Social Welfare Department's efforts to help ex-mentally ill persons re-integrate into the community as quick as possible. If no proper follow-up services were provided to these persons after they moved in, problems such as objects being thrown from heights were likely to occur. In addition, some ex-mentally ill persons were allocated with flats on high floors, as a result, residents would face greater dangers when objects were thrown from those flats. Therefore, he suggested that the HD should arrange for ex-mentally ill persons to be accommodated on low floors or away from areas frequented by residents, so as to minimise the impact of objects thrown from heights on residents.
- (d) There was a tenant of Yat Tung (II) Estate who often threw objects from his flat. Whenever such an incident happened, the person concerned would be sent to the hospital immediately for treatment and would return to the flat concerned when his condition improved.

However, when the tenant relapsed into the old habit, the Police could do nothing about it. The marking scheme of the HD also failed to achieve any deterrent effect because the penalty points allotted under the marking scheme were only valid for a period of two years and would be revoked afterwards. Therefore, even if a tenant committed the misdeed of throwing objects from heights for four times within a period of two years, the relevant tenancy would not be terminated. As such, the problem would never end. He added that the tenant concerned had thrown down objects including a chopper, a wok and a chopping board, and the Police had recorded the incidents, but the problem had not yet been resolved.

- (e) He opined that the Social Welfare Department should step up its follow-up work on ex-mentally ill persons, including ensuring that they took medicines regularly and paying regular visits. He hoped the relevant departments would address community problems proactively, and opined that the Police should take stringent enforcement actions against the misdeeds of throwing objects from heights.

34. Ms WONG Chau-ping suggested that residents should use walkways with covers when accessing the housing estates in order to ensure their own safety.

35. Mr Terence TANG responded as follows:

- (a) The throwing of a chopper from a height jeopardised the safety of residents, and it was unacceptable. The HD and the Police attached great importance to the case.
- (b) The HD would increase the number of surveillance equipment and work with the Police to solve the problem. The department opined that the problem of objects being thrown from heights in public housing estates had improved slightly.
- (c) The department would later request the property management company to contact Mr FONG Lung-fei to learn more about the details of the pouring of unknown liquid in Kan Yat House and Kit Yat House and conduct an in-depth investigation.

(Post-meeting note: The HD said the property management company had updated Mr FONG Lung-fei on the follow-up of the above-mentioned incidents.)

36. Dr CHEUNG Hoi-yan said she believed the public understood that the Police had to have sufficient evidence when prosecuting. The Police would continue to maintain close liaison with the HD and the property management company, and enhance its ability to gather evidence with the use of technology and surveillance systems. She reiterated that the Criminal Investigation Team of Lantau District would examine and handle each case seriously, but they were not in a position to

disclose the investigation details of the case at the current stage.

V. Question on the progress of the “Outlying Islands sewerage, stage 2 - Lamma village sewerage phase 2, package 2” project
(Paper IDC 16/2023)

37. The Chairman welcomed Mr LEUNG Ka-kay, Gary, Senior Engineer/Special Duty 3 of the Drainage Services Department (DSD) and Mr TP LEUNG, Senior Resident Engineer of AECOM Asia Company Limited (AECOM) to the meeting to respond to the question.

38. Ms LAU Shun-ting briefly presented the question.

39. Mr Gary LEUNG said it had been more than a year since the project in question commenced at the end of 2021. Members might comment on the project later after listening to the progress report. He asked Mr TP LEUNG to present the progress of the project in detail.

40. Mr TP LEUNG briefly presented the progress of the project with the aid of PowerPoint presentation.

41. Ms LAU Shun-ting asked the DSD about the progress of sewerage works in other villages in the Islands District such as Tai Wan Kau Tsuen and Tai Wan San Tsuen in addition to the sewage pumping stations in Hung Shing Ye and Tai Wan To.

42. Mr WAN Yeung-kin said the village representative of Wang Long was worried that if a terminal manhole was located at a low-lying place, the rainwater pouring into the terminal manhole might lead to backflow of sewage into properties when there was flooding caused by heavy rainfall. He sought the DSD’s response to the question. In addition, he asked how the department would ensure site safety during the construction and monitor the works quality.

43. Mr Gary LEUNG made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) In addition to the two sewage pumping stations in Hung Shing Ye and Tai Wan To, the DSD was also carrying out sewerage works in seven other rural areas, among which, two works projects located in Tai Yuen Village and Tai Wan San Tsuen respectively were expected to be completed by the end of 2023, while the remaining five works projects were approximately 10% completed. In addition, negotiation with owners of the village houses on the location of the terminal manholes was approximately 50% completed.
- (b) Regarding the problem that the original design of the sewerage system failed to cover some village houses in Tai Wan San Tsuen, AECOM was currently studying the alignment of the sewers to reduce the

impact on private land. The department would discuss with Members and rural committees of the districts concerned as soon as the design was ready.

- (c) The department understood that in low-lying areas, rainwater might pour into the terminal manholes, resulting in problems such as backflow of sewage. In the first phase of the project, similar situations had occurred in a few locations, including the Yung Shue Wan Main Street. After an internal study, the department sealed up the manhole covers in low-lying areas, so as to prevent sewage backflow or overflow caused by rainwater pouring into the sewerage system. Drawing on the experience of the first phase of the project, the department would similarly seal up the manhole covers in the second phase of the sewerage project.

44. Mr TP LEUNG responded that AECOM had sent resident engineering staff to monitor the implementation of various works, so as to ensure that the projects met the contractual safety and quality requirements.

45. Mr WAN Yeung-kin said that representatives of the various villages had expressed concern about site safety. He urged AECOM to ensure that the pits excavated were covered properly, so as to avoid obstacles to wheelchair users or accidents caused by uneven road surface. In addition, sufficient lighting should be provided at the site area, so that passers-by could see the road conditions clearly at night. Moreover, he asked AECOM to contact the rural committees on a regular basis to collect villagers' views on the works.

46. Mr TP LEUNG said AECOM would follow up on the views of Mr WAN Yeung-kin. He promised to step up communication with the rural committees and ensure that the works procedures were up to par.

47. The Chairman suggested that AECOM, when carrying out district works in different villages, should meet with the rural committees on a regular basis to strengthen communication with them.

VI. Report on the Work of the Islands District Management Committee (February 2023)
(Paper IDC 17/2023)

48. Members noted the paper.

VII. Reports on the Work of the IDC Committees
(Papers IDC 18-21/2023)

49. Members noted and endorsed the papers unanimously.

(Members voted in favour included: the Chairman Mr Randy YU, the Vice-chairman Mr WONG Man-hon, Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, Mr Ken WONG, Mr HO Chun-fai, Mr HO Siu-kei, Ms WONG Chau-ping, Mr NG Man-kit, Mr WAN Yeung-kin, Mr Eric KWOK, Mr FONG Lung-fei and Ms LAU Shun-ting.)

VIII. Report on the Work of the Islands District Council Working Group on Duty Visit and Proposed Plan of Duty Visit
(Paper IDC 22/2023)

50. The Chairman asked if Members had any comments on the Report on the Work of the Islands District Council Working Group on Duty Visit and the Proposed Plan of Duty Visit.

51. Mr Erik KWOK said that in his written reply, he had proposed to visit the sewage treatment plants of Singapore if the schedule permitted, but no such visit was included in the itinerary. He asked about the reasons.

52. The Chairman said that according to the itinerary, the delegation would have an exchange with Singapore's national water agency in the morning of 24 August 2023 to learn about the smart water meters and water conservation measures of the country. In the afternoon of the same day, the delegation would visit the NEWater Visitor Centre, during which the members would learn how used water was converted into clean water at the water reclamation plants. As such, there was no need to visit any sewage treatment plants.

53. Mr Eric KWOK said that usually, a visitor centre only provided a brief introduction in the form of PowerPoint slides or short videos, and it could not allow Members to inspect the process of sewage treatment personally. He pointed out that during the duty visit to Yunnan in the previous term of the District Council, Members visited a local sewage treatment plant and inspected the process of sewage purification, with the engineers and staff of the plant giving explanations to Members on the spot. He said that if the schedule permitted, he hoped such a visit could be added to the itinerary.

54. The Chairman said that the Secretariat noted Mr Eric KWOK's views and would convey them to the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Singapore, so that they could make professional judgments and plan the most suitable itinerary.

55. Member endorsed the Report on the Work of the Islands District Council Working Group on Duty Visit and the Proposed Plan of Duty Visit unanimously.

(Members voted in favour included: the Chairman Mr Randy YU, the Vice-chairman Mr WONG Man-hon, Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, Mr Ken WONG, Mr HO Chun-fai, Mr HO Siu-kei, Ms WONG Chau-ping, Mr NG Man-kit, Mr WAN Yeung-kin, Mr Eric KWOK, Mr FONG Lung-fei and Ms LAU Shun-ting.)

IX. By-election of Vice-Chairman of Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries, Environmental Hygiene and Climate Change Committee (2023)

56. The Chairman said that as at 1:00 p.m. on 17 April 2023, i.e. the close of nomination, one nomination for the Vice-chairman of the Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries, Environmental Hygiene and Climate Change Committee (TAFEHCCC) was received. The nomination list had been provided for Members' consideration prior to the meeting. Since only one valid nomination was received and the nominee was Mr NG Man-kit, the Chairman announced that Mr NG Man-kit was elected uncontested as the Vice-chairman of TAFEHCCC.

X. Date of Next Meeting

57. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:22 p.m. The next meeting would be held on 19 June 2023 (Monday) at 2:00 p.m.

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