

(Translation)

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

Date : 8 October 2024 (Tuesday)
Time : 2:30 p.m.
Venue : Islands District Council Conference Room,
14/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong

Present

Chairman

Mr WONG Man-hon, MH

Vice-Chairman

Mr HUI Chun-lung, MH

Members

Mr NG Man-kit
Mr HO Siu-kei
Mr HO Chun-fai
Mr YU Hon-kwan, MH, JP
Mr CHOW Yuen-kuk, Jonathan
Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, SBS, MH
Ms KWOK Wai-man, Mealoha
Mr WONG Hon-kuen, Ken
Mr YIP Pui-kei
Mr LAU Chin-pang
Ms LAU Suk-han
Ms LAU Shun-ting

Co-opted Member

Mr NG Tak-wai

Attendance by Invitation

Mr AU Ho-yin, Gary	Senior Liaison Officer (1), Islands District Office
Ms LIU Pui-shan, Lis	Senior Liaison Officer (2), Islands District Office
Mr CHAN Koon-hong, Dan	Assistant Secretary (Infrastructure, International School and Statistics)2, Education Bureau
Ms HO Wing-yee, Iris	Project Manager (School Building)1, Education Bureau
Mr PO Chi-lok, Thomas	Assistant Project Manager (School Building)22, Education Bureau

Mr FONG Tat-chi, Ambrose	Senior Project Manager 129, Architectural Services Department
Ms CHAN Chi-hang	Project Manager 151, Architectural Services Department
Mr FU Kai-ming	Director, DLN Architects Limited
Ms LEE Ngan-yee	Chairman, School Sponsoring Body
Mr WONG Wai-shing, Vincent	Director, School Sponsoring Body

In Attendance

Ms AU YEUNG Wing-sum, Livia	Assistant District Officer (Islands)2, Islands District Office
Ms CHU Lai-yee, Agnes	Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Islands, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms CHUNG Chi-yuen, Candy	Senior Librarian (Islands) (Acting), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms LEUNG Wai-nga, Viola	Senior Manager (New Territories South) Promotion, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms LAM Fong-shing, Florence	Senior School Development Officer (Wanchai & Islands), Education Bureau

Secretary

Ms CHAN Ying-tung, Shadow	Executive Officer (District Council)1, Islands District Office
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Absent

Ms XIANG Ming-han



Welcoming Remarks

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

I. **Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 August 2024**

2. The Chairman said that the captioned minutes had incorporated the amendments proposed by government departments and had been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting. The minutes were confirmed unanimously without further amendments proposed by Members.

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

(i) **Performing Arts Programme**
(CICRC Paper No. 17/2024)

3. The Chairman welcomed the following guest who attended the meeting to present the paper: Ms LEUNG Wai-nga, Viola, Senior Manager (New Territories South) Promotion of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (“LCSD”).

4. Ms Viola LEUNG briefly presented the paper.
 - (ii) Extension Activities of Public Libraries
(CICRC Paper No. 18/2024)
5. The Chairman welcomed the following guest who attended the meeting to present the paper: Ms CHUNG Chi-yuen, Candy, Senior Librarian (Islands) (Acting) of the LCSD.
6. Ms Candy CHUNG briefly presented the paper.
 - (iii) Recreation and Sports Activities
(CICRC Paper No. 19/2024)
7. The Chairman welcomed the following guest who attended the meeting to present the paper: Ms CHU Lai-ye, Agnes, Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Islands of the LCSD.
8. Ms Agnes CHU briefly presented the paper.
9. Members expressed their views as follows:
 - (a) Most of the performing arts activities organised by the LCSD were held at the Tung Chung Integrated Services Centre of the Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council. In this regard, Members suggested that the Department should consider holding activities at the venues of other non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the district (such as the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Tung Chung Integrated Services, the Outlying Islands Women's Association and the Tung Chung Safe Community), as well as places outside Tung Chung (for instance, Lamma Island), to attract more residents to participate. Furthermore, Members suggested that the Department should expand the scale of the "Elementary A Cappella Classes" and form a district team.
 - (b) The paper showed that the Department had organised 116 book exhibitions between April and September this year, with a total of 111 852 participants. However, the number of participants in the 93 reading programmes organised by the Department was only 321. In this connection, Members considered that the figures provided by the Department were generalised and hoped that the Department would provide detailed information.
10. Ms Viola LEUNG said that the venues for performing arts activities were rented by the arts groups. She took note of Members' views and would relay them to the relevant sections of the Department to explore the feasibility of holding such activities at other venues.
11. Ms Candy CHUNG gave her response as follows:
 - (a) The Department had submitted a paper at a Committee meeting earlier

this year, providing detailed information on the extension activities of public libraries.

- (b) As book exhibitions covered a wide range of topics and audiences, the number of participants was higher.
- (c) The number of participants in the reading programmes was determined by the attendance and the submission of reading reports.

12. Members enquired about the number of participants in the “Backstroke Training Course for Children/Junior/Youth”, the “Backstroke Training Course for Adult” and the “Breaststroke Training Course for Children/Junior/Youth (Level III)” held in September this year.

13. Ms Agnes CHU said that the Department would provide the required information to Members after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The LCSD has replied to Members after the meeting in respect of the enquiry about the swimming training courses.)

III. Half-yearly implementation progress of Community Involvement Programme of the Islands District Office in 2024-25 (April to September 2024)
(CICRC Paper No. 20/2024)

14. The Chairman welcomed the following guests who attended the meeting to present the paper: Mr AU Ho-yin, Gary, Senior Liaison Officer (1), and Ms LIU Pui-shan, Lis, Senior Liaison Officer (2), of the Islands District Office (“IsDO”).

15. Mr Gary AU briefly presented the paper.

16. Members considered that the National Day lighting decorations installed by the IsDO in the district this year were more spectacular than those in previous years, which helped to enhance the festive atmosphere. In addition, Members suggested that the IsDO should extend the duration of community involvement activities to allow residents to fully engage in the activities.

17. The Chairman considered that the height of the aforementioned lighting decorations should be raised to ensure public safety.

18. Mr Gary AU said that it was not possible to adjust the height of the lighting decorations as tender specifications had already been confirmed with the contractor. However, the office had put up notices near the decorations to remind residents and visitors not to touch the lighting decorations. He undertook to raise the height of the lighting decorations by two to three feet in the future to ensure public safety.

IV. A 30-classroom primary school at Area 89 (Northern side), Tung Chung
(CICRC Paper No. 21/2024)

19. The Chairman welcomed the following guests who attended the meeting to

present the paper: Mr CHAN Koon-hong, Dan, Assistant Secretary (Infrastructure, International School and Statistics)², Ms HO Wing-ye, Iris, Project Manager (School Building)¹ and Mr PO Chi-lok, Thomas, Assistant Project Manager (School Building)²², of the Education Bureau; Mr FONG Tat-chi, Ambrose, Senior Project Manager 129, and Ms CHAN Chi-hang, Project Manager 151, of the Architectural Services Department; Mr FU Kai-ming, Director of DLN Architects Limited; and Ms LEE Ngan-ye, Chairman, and Mr WONG Wai-shing, Vincent, Director, of the Shu Yan Educational Organization.

20. Mr Dan CHAN briefly presented the paper.

21. Ms LEE Ngan-ye added the following information:

- (a) Shu Yan Educational Organization (“SYEO”) had established a private school in North Point in 1960, with the educational philosophy of “Nurturing through inspirational teaching and educating without discrimination”, and it had cultivated many leaders in our community. However, due to financial and rental problems, the school had been forced to cease operation in 2003.
- (b) In 2002, the Education Bureau (“EDB”) had allocated a school site in Area 89 of Tung Chung to the SYEO and the Hon Wah Educational Organization (HWEO) for the operation of a "through-train" school under the Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS). Over the past two decades, the Bureau had postponed the construction of the school, as the places in public primary and secondary schools in the Islands District could still meet the local demand. However, the SYEO had never deviated from its original intention of operating a school. In this regard, the alumni association had written to the EDB to advocate for the resumption of the school construction project.
- (c) She hoped that the primary school to be operated by the SYEO and the secondary school to be operated by HWEO would jointly provide quality basic education for residents of Tung Chung in the future. The mission of the new school was to “cultivate virtues and nurture talents”, aiming to nurture students to become ethical, law-abiding and responsible leaders of tomorrow who were proud of their national identity and had global perspectives. She hoped that the new school would continue to explore, strive for excellence, innovate and serve the community. In addition, she pledged to open up the school to the community for the organisation of cultural, sports and recreational activities, so as to work together with the residents of Tung Chung to build a better community.

22. Members expressed their views as follows:

- (a) Members supported EDB’s plan to construct a primary school in Area 89 and expressed confidence in the quality school education that could be provided by the SYEO and the HWEO for the residents.
- (b) Members expressed that there was currently a shortage of school places

in Tung Chung and many students in the district were allocated to schools in other districts. With the population of Tung Chung set to more than double between 2025 and 2030, the construction of only one additional school would be far from adequate to meet the future demand for school places. In this connection, Members hoped that the Bureau would formulate a long-term school building programme for the district, and considered that the Bureau should explore with the relevant departments regarding the release of other sites in the district for the construction of schools, so as to cope with the anticipated population growth. In addition, Members enquired about the timetable for the construction of the secondary school in Area 89 of Tung Chung.

- (c) The traffic congestion problem on Ying Tung Road was serious. Since heavy vehicles would be travelling along Ying Tung Road during the school construction period, Members were concerned that it would worsen the existing congestion problem and accelerate road surface wear and tear. Therefore, Members considered it necessary for the Bureau to maintain close liaison with the Transport Department (“TD”) to minimise the impact of the works on local traffic.
- (d) Members were pleased to learn that the SYEO was willing to open the school premises for community use. It was hoped that the school could collaborate with youth organisations in the district to nurture students to become young people with an affection for our country and Hong Kong and equipped with global perspectives.

23. Mr Dan CHAN gave his response as follows:

- (a) In the 2024-25 Budget, the Financial Secretary had made it clear that in view of the Government’s fiscal deficit, all departments would need to critically review the priorities of their capital work projects. The EDB would accord priority to the primary school construction project in Area 89 of Tung Chung. On the other hand, the Government was conducting an internal vetting process in respect of the secondary school project in Area 89 of Tung Chung, and there was no specific timetable for the construction of the school at this stage. The Bureau would relay Members’ views to the departments responsible for vetting and approving public works projects in order to expedite the implementation of the related project.
- (b) There were currently seven aided primary schools in Tung Chung, providing approximately 5 100 school places for about 4 900 students in the 2023/24 school year. In the 2024/25 school year, the number of students in Tung Chung dropped to 4 600. Due to the decline in the number of school-aged children across all districts in Hong Kong, the decreased demand for primary school places in Tung Chung was within the Bureau’s expectation. With the gradual resident intake of new housing projects in the Tung Chung New Development Area, the number of school-aged students in the district would increase correspondingly. The Bureau anticipated that the places offered by the 216 registered classes (i.e. approximately 5 400 school places) of the

seven aided primary schools in the district would be fully utilised by 2028 at the earliest. The proposed Shu Yan Primary School would provide at least 750 additional school places, bringing the total number of public sector primary school places in Tung Chung to about 6 200 (i.e. 248 classes), which would be sufficient to meet the demand for additional school places in Tung Chung up to 2030. As regards the number of students and the demand for school places in Tung Chung beyond 2030, the Bureau would update the estimates having regard to factors such as the birth rate and the actual number of students enrolled.

- (c) Regarding the impact of the school construction works on local traffic in the area, the Bureau noted Members' concern and would maintain close communication with the TD to ensure that the works would not adversely affect traffic in the area.
- (d) The Bureau would sign a Tenancy Agreement and a School Sponsoring Body Service Agreement with SYEO, which would set out the terms and conditions regarding the opening up of school premises for community use.

24. Mr Ambrose FONG said that sufficient space would be reserved within the site for access of construction vehicles and the works would be closely monitored by the Department and the contractor to ensure that no adverse impact on the local traffic would be caused.

25. Members expressed their views as follows:

- (a) Members suggested that the Bureau should consider opening the school car park for public use at night to alleviate the shortage of car parking spaces in the area.
- (b) Members considered that in estimating the number of students and the demand for school places, the Bureau should take into account not only the birth rate but also the number of children of new immigrants in Hong Kong.
- (c) While the paper indicated that the existing primary school places in Tung Chung were sufficient to meet the demand, Members pointed out that quite a number of students in the district had been allocated to schools in other districts in the past two years and enquired about the reasons behind such arrangement.
- (d) With the end of the epidemic and the introduction of various schemes by the Government to attract overseas talents to Hong Kong (such as the Top Talent Pass Scheme and the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme), the population of Tung Chung had been steadily increasing in recent years and the demand for school places had also been rising, resulting in a shortage of school places in the area. Members enquired about the Bureau's response plan in this regard.

- (e) Members asked the Bureau to provide the statistics on the number of secondary school students and the demand for school places in the district.

26. Mr Dan CHAN gave a response as follows:

- (a) As there were only three to five car parking spaces in each public sector school, coupled with security considerations, the parking spaces were generally restricted to school buses at present.
- (b) In estimating the number of students and the demand for school places, the Bureau would take into account the birth rate, the actual enrolment in kindergartens and primary schools (including cross-boundary students), the population projections regularly updated by the Census and Statistics Department, the latest population changes in different districts as reported by the Planning Department, the distribution of the population in each of the housing estates at the time of intake provided by the Housing Department (including school-aged children), the enrolment rates by age groups and data on new immigrants to ensure that a comprehensive estimation of the number of students and the demand for school places could be made.
- (c) In respect of the issue of students from the Islands District commuting to schools in other districts, the Regional Office of the Bureau had provided a detailed response at the District Council meeting held on 6 May this year. The Bureau would take into account the actual circumstances of the district when approving the number of permitted classes.
- (d) To cope with the future demand for school places in Tung Chung, as pointed out by the Bureau at the District Council meeting on 6 May this year, the Bureau would make good use of the surplus class capacity to increase the number of school places. If the actual number of students was found to exceed the estimate at the time of school placement, the Bureau would consider adopting existing measures, such as the temporary allocation of additional places. He said that he would relay Members' views to the relevant sections of the Bureau so that early preparations could be made.
- (e) Currently, there was a surplus of approximately 40 classes available in secondary schools in Tung Chung. He reiterated that the Bureau would make good use of the surplus to meet the demand for school places. Due to the fiscal deficit of the Government, it took a longer time to vet and approve public works projects. The Bureau would relay Members' views to the departments responsible for approving capital works projects, in order to expedite the implementation of the proposed secondary school project in Area 89 of Tung Chung. Once the project was approved by the Government, the Bureau would provide Members with a specific implementation timetable.

27. Members expressed their views as follows:

- (a) Members clarified that the car park they referred to in their proposal was the open space opposite the school, which could provide more than 40 parking spaces.
- (b) Members believed that the Bureau would proactively address the issue of students commuting to schools in other districts.
- (c) Members enquired about the Bureau's backup plan to meet the demand for school places in the event that the aforementioned school construction project could not be completed as scheduled.

28. The Chairman expressed his views as follows:

- (a) Since the secondary school construction project in Area 89 was still at the approval stage, he suggested that the Bureau should make use of the surplus class capacity to increase the school places to ensure that there would be sufficient school places in the district to meet the demand and to prevent students from going to schools in other districts.
- (b) He opined that the Government, despite its financial stringency, should still accord priority to allocating resources to educational projects so as to provide a favourable learning environment for children and young people. He expressed his full support for the school construction project and called on the Bureau to commence the project as soon as possible, so as to minimise the impact on future intake of residents.

29. Members expressed their support for the school construction project and hoped that the SYEO would provide their students with balanced school education in the moral, intellectual, physical, social and aesthetic aspects and nurture them to become well-rounded students.

V. Any Other Business

30. No further issues were raised by Members.

VI. Date of Next Meeting

31. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:41 p.m. The next meeting would be held at 2:30 p.m. on 9 December 2024 (Monday).

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