

(Translation)

Islands District Council
Minutes of Meeting of the
Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee

Date : 5 August 2024 (Monday)
Time : 2:30 p.m.
Venue : Islands District Council Conference Room,
14/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong

Present

Chairman

Mr HO Siu-kei

Vice-Chairman

Mr LAU Chin-pang

Members

Mr YU Hon-kwan, MH, JP
Mr NG Man-kit
Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, SBS, MH
Mr HUI Chun-lung, MH
Ms KWOK Wai-man, Mealoha
Mr WAN Yeung-kin
Mr WONG Man-hon, MH
Ms WONG Chau-ping, MH
Mr WONG Hon-kuen, Ken
Mr YIP Pui-kei
Ms LAU Shun-ting
Mr LUO Chenghuan

Co-opted Member

Mr CHUK Hing-toi, MH

Attendance by Invitation

Mr NG Tsz-chuen, Dixon

Mr SO Kin-keung

Property Services Manager/Shau Kei Wan & Islands South,
Architectural Services Department
Property Services Officer/Shau Kei Wan & Islands South/1,
Architectural Services Department

In Attendance

Mr MOK Mong-chan	Assistant District Officer (Islands)1, Islands District Office
Mr FUNG Wai-nok	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr YAN Ka-kit, Ric	Chief Health Inspector (Islands)1, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Ms CHEUNG Suk-man	Chief Health Inspector (Islands)2, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr YAU Pak-lun, Esmond	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional South)5, Environmental Protection Department

Secretary

Ms KWONG Tsz-wing, Wing	Executive Officer (District Council)2, Islands District Office
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**Welcoming Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed representatives of the government departments and Members to the meeting, and introduced Mr CHUK Hing-toi, a co-opted Member.

I. Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 June 2024

2. 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.

3. Members had no other amendment proposals, and the minutes were confirmed unanimously.

II. Food and Environmental Hygiene Department - Facelifting works for Ham Tin San Tsuen Public Toilet  
(FEHC Paper No. 24/2024)

4. The Chairman welcomed Mr FUNG Wai-nok, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands), Mr YAN Ka-kit, Ric, Chief Health Inspector (Islands)1 and Ms CHEUNG Suk-man, Chief Health Inspector (Islands)2 of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to the meeting to present the paper.

5. Mr FUNG Wai-nok briefly presented the paper.

6. Members enquired:
- (a) whether the squatting type water closets in the female toilet were a new addition and whether they could be replaced by pedestal water closets.
  - (b) whether the FEHD had liaised with relevant stakeholders to ensure that the number of temporary portable toilets was sufficient to meet the demand.
  - (c) whether the effluent from the subject public toilet was discharged into a septic tank or a communal sewer.
7. Mr Ric YAN gave a consolidated response as follows:
- (a) The FEHD had consulted the Village Representative before the works and, based on the relevant views, retained some of the squatting type water closets.
  - (b) The subject public toilet was equipped with a biochemical tank to treat the effluent discharged from the public toilet in a biodegradable manner.
  - (c) The FEHD would consult the Village Representative on the location and number of portable toilets to be provided before the commencement of the facelifting works, and would carry out the works without disrupting the daily lives of the villagers.
8. The Chairman asked whether the FEHD would arrange for sludge collection vehicles to remove the sludge if the biochemical tank overflowed.
9. Mr Ric YAN responded that the public toilet would treat effluent by biochemical means and only one to two desludging operations by sludge collection vehicles were required each year.
10. Members enquired how the FEHD would discharge the treated effluent and where it would be discharged.
11. Mr Ric YAN responded that the effluent would be degraded in a biochemical tank before discharge. The pollution level of the treated effluent had been greatly reduced and would leach away through the soil. Arrangements would be made for the remaining sludge to be transported by sludge collection vehicles to a sewage treatment plant for treatment.

III. Food and Environmental Hygiene Department - Facelifting works for Tai Long Wan Village Public Toilet  
(FEHC Paper No. 25/2024)

12. The Chairman invited representatives of the FEHD to present the paper.

13. Mr FUNG Wai-nok briefly presented the paper.

14. Members noted the paper.

IV. Question on the water seepage through ceiling in Cheung Chau Market  
(FEHC Paper No. 26/2024)

15. The Chairman welcomed Mr FUNG Wai-nok, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands), Mr YAN Ka-kit, Ric, Chief Health Inspector (Islands)<sup>1</sup> and Ms CHEUNG Suk-man, Chief Health Inspector (Islands)<sup>2</sup> of the FEHD; and Mr NG Tsz-chuen, Dixon, Property Services Manager/Shau Kei Wan & Islands South and Mr SO Kin-keung, Property Services Officer/Shau Kei Wan & Islands South/<sup>1</sup> of the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) to the meeting to respond to the question. The written reply from the FEHD had been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting.

16. The Chairman said that the question was jointly raised by Mr NG Man-kit, Ms KWOK Wai-man, Mealoha and Mr YIP Pui-kei, and invited Mr NG Man-kit to briefly present the question.

17. Mr NG Man-kit briefly presented the question.

18. Members said that they had received requests for assistance from stall tenants of the Cheung Chau Market about the problem of water seepage from the ceiling of the market, which had resulted in the inflow of sewage into the stall areas and affected their operation of the market. Members had reflected the matter to the FEHD and the ArchSD, and the latter had subsequently applied waterproof paint at the locations concerned, but the seepage had not improved. Members pointed out that the current practice of only wrapping the leaking pipes with plastic tapes and diverting the effluent from the ceiling to other places with canvas was not ideal. Members urged the departments concerned to replace the damaged pipes as soon as possible.

19. Mr Dixon NG said that the leaking pipes were located above the stalls and it would take a relatively long time to set up a working platform to deal with the problem. The ArchSD had carried out temporary repairs to address the problem and had maintained communication with the FEHD. In addition, upon receipt of the question, the ArchSD had inspected the Cheung Chau Market and planned to replace the pipes at locations with more serious seepage in late August.

20. Mr FUNG Wai-nok said that the FEHD had all along been concerned about the subject matter and had earlier explored possible solutions with the ArchSD. At present, the above pipe replacement works were planned to commence at the end of August and the details of the works (e.g. the number of stall tenants involved) had yet to be finalised. As regards long-term measures (e.g. replacement of all pipes), the FEHD would need to further discuss with the affected stall tenants with a view to

minimising the impact on them during the works.

21. Members expressed their views as follows:

- (a) Members thanked the FEHD and the ArchSD for their follow-up work. Members had raised the subject issue at the Market Management Consultative Committee meeting, highlighting that the situation had not only affected environmental hygiene, but also the operation of the stalls and even the livelihood of the stall tenants. Members were pleased to note that the ArchSD had drawn up a timetable for the pipe replacement works and agreed that priority should be accorded to those locations with more serious seepage. However, Members considered it necessary to replace all pipes in the Cheung Chau Market in the long run.
- (b) At present, a number of works projects were being carried out in the Cheung Chau Market, hence many stall tenants had indicated that their business had been affected. Problems such as leakage of pipes had further aggravated the business environment. Moreover, in view of the relatively low patronage to the market at night, Members suggested that the ArchSD should carry out pipe replacement works at night in order not to affect the business of the stalls and for safety reasons. It was understood that the escalator works in the Cheung Chau Market were expected to be completed in September this year. Members considered that if the pipe replacement works could be completed by September, the impact on the stall tenants could be minimised. Members also enquired whether the FEHD and the relevant departments would provide subsidies to the stall tenants.

22. Mr Dixon NG said that in order not to affect the business of the stall tenants during daytime and as the water supply to the market would have to be suspended during the pipe replacement, the ArchSD had planned to carry out the pipe replacement works at night. Moreover, as large-scale pipe replacement works took longer time to complete and the affected stalls might have to suspend business for a few days, the Department would normally carry out partial or temporary repairs to minimise the impact on the stall tenants.

23. Mr FUNG Wai-nok said that the FEHD would accord priority to locations with more serious seepage and would maintain liaison with the ArchSD and the stall tenants with a view to shortening the works period and minimising the impact on the stall tenants. Regarding the arrangements for subsidies, the FEHD would assist the affected stall tenants in submitting applications for rental waiver and would process the applications in accordance with the established procedures.

24. Members said that many stall tenants were not aware of the FEHD's subsidy scheme. In this connection, Members called on the FEHD to explain the details of the scheme to the stall tenants. Members also enquired about the time normally taken by the FEHD to vet and approve applications for the subsidy, and how applicants could

enquire about the vetting and approval progress. In addition, Members would be pleased to act as a bridge of communication between the Department and the stall tenants if necessary.

25. Mr FUNG Wai-nok said that the FEHD would explain the details of the rental waiver applications (including the application procedures and details about the announcement of application results) to the stall representatives concerned at the next Market Management Consultative Committee meeting. If necessary, the Department would consider arranging a separate meeting to facilitate further communication with the parties concerned.

26. Members considered it not feasible to carry out the works at night and then allow the stall tenants to open for business in the following morning. Members were of the view that the ArchSD should carry out the works in phases and arrange for the affected stall tenants to suspend their business temporarily and resume operation only after completion of the works.

27. Mr Dixon NG explained that if only some of the pipes were to be replaced, it would be feasible for the stall tenants to open for business in the morning upon completion of the works in the previous night. However, if large-scale replacement works were to be carried out, it would be difficult to resume water supply for the stalls to open for business in the following morning.

28. Mr FUNG Wai-nok assured that the FEHD would co-operate with the works departments in the replacement of pipes.

29. The Chairman thanked the departments concerned for their positive response to Members' enquiries. He called on the departments to maintain liaison with the stall tenants on the subject matter and the subsidy scheme to resolve the problem.

(Post-meeting note: According to the FEHD, the first phase of the works to replace the damaged and aged pipes in the Cheung Chau Market, which involved the replacement of four sets of ceiling pipes on the ground floor of the market, commenced on 30 August and was completed in mid-September. To minimise the impact on the stall tenants, the works were carried out at night and early hours of the morning when the market was not open for business. The FEHD staff had informed the stall tenants concerned accordingly.)

V. Question on the optimisation of recycling services in the Islands District  
(FEHC Paper No. 27/2024)

30. The Chairman welcomed Mr YAU Pak-lun, Esmond, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional South)<sup>5</sup> of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) to the meeting to respond to the question. The written reply from the EPD had been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting.

31. The Chairman invited Mr YIP Pui-kei to briefly present the question.
32. Mr YIP Pui-kei briefly presented the question.
33. Mr Esmond YAU elaborated on the written reply from the EPD.
34. Members expressed their views as follows:
- (a) While the existing recycling network in public housing estates in the Islands District was generally well established, some Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) courts and private housing estates, in particular those without owners' corporations (OCs), such as Yu Tai Court and Yu Nga Court, had yet to receive the EPD's subsidy for the installation of food waste recycling bins. Members enquired how the EPD would assist HOS courts without OCs in implementing recycling so that the food waste recycling network could be extended to all HOS courts and private housing estates in the district. In addition, Members considered the existing number of waste separation bins in rural areas insufficient to meet the demand of residents, and suggested that more waste separation bins should be provided in rural areas such as Sheung Ling Pei and Fui Yiu Ha.
  - (b) Members reflected that some residents and property management companies had reported malfunctioning of food waste recycling bins, which affected the hygiene conditions, but the property management companies had failed to arrange timely repairs. Members called on the EPD to address this issue. In addition, Members were pleased to note that the Department had replaced the sensors on the lids of food waste recycling bins, which would help alleviate the hygiene problem caused by the incomplete closure of the lids of the food waste recycling bins.
  - (c) On gift redemption units, Members pointed out that gifts such as rice and oil were particularly popular and ran out of stock easily, but the time required for replenishment and the occasional breakdown of the machines might discourage residents from participating in recycling. In addition, Members suggested that the EPD expand the locations of the GREEN\$ Electronic Participation Incentive Scheme so that apart from Recycling Spots or Recycling Stations, residents could use the waste separation bins in their housing estates to earn GREEN\$.
  - (d) Members considered that the distribution of domestic food waste buckets helped encourage residents to recycle food waste, but the insufficient frequency of the EPD's distribution of food waste buckets in housing estates, coupled with the distance between the housing estates and the Recycling Station at GREEN@ISLAND, had dampened the incentive for residents to collect food waste buckets. In housing estates with a larger number of households, such as Yat Tung Estate, residents

who did not have food waste buckets had to use plastic bags to carry their food waste, which in turn generated additional waste. Members therefore suggested that EPD consider collaborating with District Council members to distribute domestic food waste buckets at their offices for the convenience of residents.

- (e) Members acknowledged that the EPD's efforts in promoting recycling were very effective and had greatly enhanced public participation in recycling. Members enquired when the Recycling Stores at Yat Tung (II) Estate and Ying Tung Estate would come into operation upon completion of the tendering process. In the meantime, residents would need to go to the Recycling Spot at Man Tung Road for recycling. With the upcoming intake of two large-scale housing estates in Tung Chung, it was expected that the population in the district would increase significantly. As such, Members suggested that the EPD should consider increasing the number of Recycling Spots for the convenience of the residents before the said Recycling Stores came into operation.
- (f) Members were pleased to note that the EPD was able to tackle the problem of malfunctioning of food waste recycling bins within 48 hours. In addition, Members hoped that the EPD would increase the provision of ancillary recycling facilities in rural areas, including food waste recycling bins and waste separation bins (e.g. glass recycling bins).
- (g) At present, the Recycling Spots in rural areas were only open once a week for about a few hours. While Members acknowledged the limited resources of the non-profit-making organisations, there might not be sufficient space in residents' homes to store the items to be recycled for a week. Moreover, the population of Tung Chung was expected double in the future. In this connection, Members requested the EPD to provide a five-year plan on how it would improve recycling in the rural areas of the outlying islands as well as the urban area of Tung Chung.
- (h) There was only one Recycling Spot in the northern section of Lamma Island, which was insufficient to meet the demand of the residents. It took about half an hour to walk from Hung Shing Ye to the Recycling Spot, which was inconvenient for residents to participate in recycling. Members therefore suggested that the EPD consider setting up an additional Recycling Spot at Tai Wan Tsuen for the convenience of residents in Hung Shing Ye and Tai Wan Tsuen areas.

35. Mr Esmond YAU gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The EPD thanked Members for their views and advised that the current publicity on waste reduction and recycling was adequate. The Department would arrange for the Green Outreach to continue their publicity and education in the district. He would convey the suggestion



of collaborating with District Council members' offices in distributing domestic food waste buckets to the relevant sections of the Department.

- (b) The major recycling channel in rural areas was Recycling Spots. The EPD had made full use of the existing resources to set up additional Recycling Spots in rural areas. In addition, more than 100 sets of kerbside recycling bins had been provided in the rural areas of the outlying islands to supplement the opening hours and coverage of the Recycling Spots. Regarding Members' suggestion of providing additional recycling bins in Sheung Ling Pei and Tai Wan Tsuen areas, he would convey the suggestion to the relevant sections for follow-up action.
- (c) The EPD currently subsidised the installation of food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs) in private housing estates mainly through the Recycling Fund and the Environment and Conservation Fund. The Environmental Campaign Committee had also launched the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Smart Recycling Bins in Private Housing Estates in December last year, accepting applications for installation of FWSRBs from housing estates with over 1 000 households. The EPD was considering extending the scheme to private housing estates with less than 1 000 households, the details of which was expected to be announced in the third quarter of this year. At present, a total of six eligible private housing estates in the Islands District were applying for FWSRBs, and some of the applications had already been approved. Apart from FWSRBs, the EPD would also provide conventional pedal-operated food waste recycling bins to private residential buildings under the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection. As regards the provision of food waste recycling service for private housing estates without OCs, he would enquire with the relevant sections about the feasibility of the suggestion after the meeting and revert to Members concerned in due course.
- (d) He would relay the following Members' suggestions to the relevant sections for consideration and follow-up action:
  - i. To set up additional locations for collection of domestic food waste buckets and arrange residents to collect the buckets at designated locations and times.
  - ii. To set up additional Recycling Spots in Tung Chung and Tai Wan Tsuen on Lamma Island before the Recycling Store at Yat Tung (II) Estate came into operation.
  - iii. To improve the stability of the gift redemption units and to increase the frequency of replenishment to improve the level of recycling services.
  - iv. Members were invited to reflect to him the types of additional recycling bins required. The EPD would consider the suggestion

after reviewing the distribution of the recycling network in the community and the available resources. Regarding the suggestion of providing additional glass recycling bins, he would further discuss with Members concerned on the specific locations of the bins after the meeting.

- v. To increase the number or coverage of kerbside recycling bins to meet residents' needs.
- vi. Regarding the formulation of a five-year plan for recycling, he would forward Members' suggestion to the relevant sections after the meeting and consider reporting to Members in a timely manner.

36. Members said that gift redemption was the main incentive for residents to participate in the recycling schemes. Among the many gifts, domestic food waste buckets were particularly popular, but the current stock of four to five buckets per gift redemption unit was insufficient to meet the demand of residents. Despite the increase in the frequency of replenishment, the supply of gifts in the redemption units still fell short of demand, rendering many residents unable to redeem their favourite gifts even though they had accumulated sufficient points. Members therefore hoped that the EPD would optimise the gift redemption mechanism to attract residents to participate in recycling.

37. The Chairman urged the relevant sections of the EPD to follow up on Members' views and hoped that all parties concerned would co-operate to improve waste reduction and recycling.

(Post-meeting note: The EPD had conveyed the suggestions to the relevant sections after the meeting and replied to Members concerned on the question in paragraph 35(c).)

## VI. Any Other Business

38. Members expressed their views as follows:

- (a) People often smoked in the area around the staircase of the eastern glass doors of the Citygate and a large number of cigarette butts were disposed of at the staircase, which affected the hygiene. Members hoped that the FEHD and the property management company of the Citygate would pay attention to the above problem and take follow-up actions accordingly. In addition, Members suggested that notice boards be erected outside the Citygate to remind the public not to dispose of cigarette butts indiscriminately.
- (b) While acknowledging the FEHD's efforts in mosquito control and promotion of environmental hygiene, Members hoped that the Department would step up anti-mosquito efforts in schools by

designating them as mosquito blackspots as many parents had reflected the seriousness of the mosquito problem in their schools at the peak of the current mosquito season.

- (c) As village nullahs had no covers, they were susceptible to water accumulation in hot and rainy weather, aggravating the rodent and mosquito problems. Members therefore suggested that the FEHD step up the cleansing to eradicate rodent and mosquito infestation with a view to improving environmental hygiene.
- (d) Members noted that the FEHD had been actively tackling the rodent infestation in Peng Chau and Lamma Island, but the problem remained acute. As such, Members requested the FEHD to strength its efforts in rodent prevention and control.

39. Mr FUNG Wai-nok gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) Regarding the disposal of cigarette butts at the Citygate, the FEHD would deploy additional manpower to enforce the law and strengthen education, and would advise the property management company of the Citygate to post no-smoking notices in the shopping mall.
- (b) In view of the hot and rainy weather, the FEHD had allocated additional resources for mosquito control and would continue to keep in view the mosquito infestation in the outlying islands.
- (c) The FEHD would closely monitor the hygiene conditions of village nullahs and the rodent infestation problem on Peng Chau and Lamma Island. The Department would also allocate additional resources to alleviate these problems.

## VII. Date of Next Meeting

40. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled for 7 October 2024 (Monday) at 2:30 p.m.

-END -