

(Translation)

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

Date : 6 February 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 HO Siu-kei

Vice-chairman

Mr LAU Chin-pang

Members

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

Attendance by Invitation

Mr TANG Chi-sum, Terence	Property Service Manager/Service (Hong Kong Island & Islands)5, Housing Department
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In Attendance

Mr LI Ho, Thomas	Assistant District Officer (Islands)1, Islands District Office
Mr CHAN Ka-leong	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 government departments and Members to the meeting and introduced the following representatives of departments:

- (a) Mr CHAN Ka-leong, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands), Mr Ric YAN, Chief Health Inspector (Islands)¹ and Ms CHEUNG Suk-man, Chief Health Inspector (Islands)² of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD); and
- (b) Mr Esmond YAU, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional South)⁵ of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD).

I. Food and Environmental Hygiene Department – Anti-rodent Campaign 2024 (Phase I) in Islands District
(FEHC Paper No. 1/2024)

- 2. The Chairman invited representatives of the FEHD to present the paper.
- 3. Mr CHAN Ka-leong briefly presented the paper.
- 4. Members expressed their views as follows:
 - (a) It was indicated in the paper that the locations for rodent disinfection work did not cover Tai Peng New Village, Tai Peng Old Village, Sha Po New Village, Sha Po Old Village and Ma Wan Chung Village. Members would like to know the reasons behind and hoped that the FEHD could carry out rodent disinfection work at the above locations.
 - (b) Some stone houses in Peng Chau had always been locked, resulting in rodent infestation. Members asked the FEHD to collaborate with the District Lands Office, Islands (DLO/Is) to carry out inspections on a regular basis.
 - (c) The FEHD's rodent disinfection work only covered 22-48 Yung Shue Wan Main Street on Lamma Island. Members however considered it necessary for rodent control work to be carried out in other sections of Yung Shue Wan Main Street and hoped that the FEHD could extend the coverage of rodent disinfection to the entire Main Street.
 - (d) The current Anti-rodent Campaign did not cover housing estates in Tung Chung New Development Area, such as Mun Tung Estate. Members hoped that the relevant locations could be covered in the Campaign by the FEHD.

5. The replies by Mr CHAN Ka-leong were as follows:

- (a) The FEHD's routine rodent disinfection work covered Tai Peng New Village, Tai Peng Old Village, Sha Po New Village and Sha Po Old Village.

(Post-meeting note: The FEHD stepped up its rodent disinfection work in the district through its Anti-Rodent Campaign.)

- (b) The FEHD would follow up on the rodent disinfection work in Ma Wan Chung Village after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The FEHD's routine rodent disinfection work covered Ma Wan Chung Village. Where necessary, the FEHD would consider including the village concerned in the subsequent Anti-Rodent Campaigns.)

- (c) The FEHD would contact the DLO/Is after the meeting to learn about the situation of the stone houses in Peng Chau and carry out a joint operation where necessary.

(Post-meeting note: The FEHD contacted the DLO/Is to conduct a site visit to the stone houses in question on 14 March. Measures to tackle the issue were also discussed.)

6. Mr Ric YAN said that the FEHD's routine rodent disinfection work had already covered the entire Yung Shue Wan Main Street. Recently, the FEHD also deployed its night-time rodent control roving teams to carry out rodent disinfection work at the relevant location, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of its anti-rodent work.

(Post-meeting note: Services of the night-time rodent control roving teams in Yung Shue Wan Main Street came to a close on 29 February. The FEHD would continue to deploy its daytime rodent control roving teams to provide services at the above location.)

II. Food and Environmental Hygiene Department – Anti-mosquito Campaign 2024 (Phase I) in Islands District
(FEHC Paper No. 2/2024)

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

8. Mr CHAN Ka-leong briefly presented the paper.

9. Members anticipated that mosquito infestation would be more serious in summer and considered that the FEHD had to step up mosquito control and extend the duration of its Anti-mosquito Campaign.

10. The Chairman said that as rainfall would be on the rise in springtime, he asked the FEHD to step up mosquito prevention and control in the neighbourhood.

III. Market Management Consultative Committees of Public Markets under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
(FEHC Paper No. 3/2024)

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

12. Mr CHAN Ka-leong briefly presented the paper.

13. The Chairman asked Members to consider nominating District Councillors to the Market Management Consultative Committee of the Cheung Chau Market and Cheung Chau Cooked Food Market (Cheung Chau Consultative Committee) (three seats), the Market Management Consultative Committee of Mui Wo Market, Mui Wo Cooked Food Market and Tai O Market (Mui Wo and Tai O Consultative Committee) (two seats), as well as the Market Management Consultative Committee of Peng Chau Market (Peng Chau Consultative Committee) (two seats).

14. Members voted by a show of hands and approved the following appointments unanimously: Ms Mealoha KWOK, Mr YIP Pui-kei and Mr NG Man-kit as members of the Cheung Chau Consultative Committee; Mr WONG Man-hon and Mr HO Siu-kei as members of the Mui Wo and Tai O Consultative Committee; and Mr Ken WONG and Ms LAU Shun-ting as members of the Peng Chau Consultative Committee.

IV. Market Management Consultative Committee of FEHD Sunlight Market under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
(FEHC Paper No. 4/2024)

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

16. Mr CHAN Ka-leong briefly presented the paper.

17. The Chairman asked Members to consider nominating District Councillors to the Market Management Consultative Committee of Sunlight Market (two seats).

18. Members voted by a show of hands and unanimously approved the appointments of Mr LAU Chin-pang and Mr YIP Pui-kei as members of the Market Management Consultative Committee of Sunlight Market.

V. Question on the current situation of the Sunlight Market in Tung Chung
(FEHC Paper No. 5/2024)

19. The Chairman said that the written reply from the FEHD had already been

distributed to Members for reference prior to the meeting.

20. Mr LUO Chenghuan briefly presented the question.

21. Mr CHAN Ka-leong elaborated on the FEHD's written reply and added that the Department would continue to work in concert with the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD), with a view to exploring measures to improve the environment of the market.

22. Members expressed their views as follows:

- (a) Last year, some District Councillors raised an issue concerning the weather-beaten stalls in Sunlight Market to the FEHD, yet the situation had not been improved. Sunlight Market was built for the purpose of offering an additional location for Tung Chung residents to buy food, thereby promoting healthy competition. However, given the low patronage and unsatisfactory operating environment of the market, members considered that the Department should focus on exploring short to medium term improvement measures and provide assistance to the stall licensees.
- (b) It was discussed in the previous meetings that there was a crossing place with unclear signs outside Sunlight Market, which would pose a safety hazard to pedestrians and drivers, and discourage residents from visiting the market. However, no signs of improvement had been shown so far. As the relevant crossing place was located at a section of the roundabout with narrowing lanes, the line of sight of drivers would be obstructed easily. Members asked the department concerned to follow up on the above situation.
- (c) Some residents stated that they were not clear about the location of Sunlight Market. Members considered that the FEHD should step up publicity on the market.
- (d) Members pointed out that the current design of the Sunlight Market had imposed constraints on the operation of stall licensees. The rental of the stalls in Sunlight Market was affordable and many residents considered that if the market stalls could be used for other purposes, such as setting up cooked food stalls for selling light refreshments, it might attract more patronage. To this end, Members asked the FEHD to consider extending the opening hours of the market and raising the variety of goods that could be sold, with a view to providing the stall licensees with greater flexibility. Members also asked the Department to provide statistics on the patronage and details on the operation of the market, including the kinds of goods that were more popular, such that Members could learn about the consumption patterns of the residents, thereby providing more information to the stall licensees for reference.

- (e) Adopting an environmentally friendly design concept, the Sunlight Market had a roof with an unobstructed view. However, the FEHD's current study on the installation of mobile chillers to lower the market's temperature seemed to be contrary to the above design concept. In addition, Members believed that the installation of chillers would not be sufficient to cope with the demand under the sizzling weather, hence they considered that the Department had to explore a long-term solution.
- (f) Members noticed that trucks were often parked outside the main entrance of Sunlight Market during school hours for the loading/unloading of goods, resulting in traffic congestion. Although some truck drivers would load/unload their goods at the nearby loading/unloading area, the trucks concerned had to be parked on a section of the road with double white lines when the seafood stall at the location was pumping water, such that other vehicles had to run on the opposite traffic direction, causing traffic chaos. Members pointed out that the situation above would pose a safety hazard to pedestrians and drivers, hence they asked the relevant department to follow up on the situation.

23. Ms CHEUNG Suk-man gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The Market Management Consultative Committee of Sunlight Market comprised not only the representatives of tenants and District Councillors, but also professionals in market management. The FEHD hoped to have a discussion on the patronage and the operating environment of Sunlight Market with members in the Market Management Consultative Committee, with a view to improving the current situation of the market.
- (b) The FEHD had all along maintained close liaison with the Transport Department (TD) with respect to traffic matters in Sunlight Market. The department would relay the views by Members to the TD after the meeting for follow-up.

(Post-meeting note: To enhance awareness of the pedestrians over road safety, the FEHD affixed yellow and black warning strips on the ground at the pedestrian entrance of Sunlight Market in Fu Tung Street and put up "Beware of Vehicles" signs on the glass panels. During peak traffic hours, the Department also deployed its market management service contractor to the market entrance to remind the public to be mindful of vehicles whilst crossing the road. Subsequently, the Department asked the ArchSD to place additional warning tiles and put up "Beware of Vehicles" warning signs at the entrance of Sunlight Market in Fu Tung Street as a reminder to pedestrians. Once again, the Department asked the TD to re-examine the road safety facilities in the vicinity of Sunlight Market, after which the TD replied that "SLOW" signs would be painted on the traffic lanes outside the two market entrances in the vicinity of Fu

Tung Street to remind drivers to drive slowly at the location, whereas additional warning signs (TS460: Pedestrians on or crossing road ahead) would also be put up on the external walls of Sunlight Market facing Fu Tung Street, thereby reminding drivers of the presence of pedestrians on or crossing the road ahead.)

- (c) The FEHD would ask the market management service contractor of Sunlight Market to follow up on the situation of the loading/unloading area and request the drivers to drive their vehicle away from the above area where necessary.
- (d) The FEHD would furnish Members with statistics on the patronage of Sunlight Market after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat relayed the relevant statistics to Members for reference on 19 March 2024.)

24. The Chairman hoped that the Market Management Consultative Committee would perform its functions and asked the FEHD to explore solutions to the shading and ventilation problems of the Sunlight Market with the Committee.

(Post-meeting note: Regarding the issue where some stalls in the market would be exposed to sunlight, the FEHD arranged for the market management contractor to install radiation protection mesh on the external walls of the meat stalls in the market in the end of February and its effectiveness was currently under evaluation. Should the shading effect be satisfactory, the Department would consider installing the mesh on the external walls of the fish stalls in the market on a trial basis. As regards the issue where high temperatures were recorded in the market under the hot weather, the Department conducted a study with the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) previously on the installation of mobile chillers (Proposed Facilities) in common areas of the market, so as to lower the market temperatures. Afterwards, the Department further asked the EMSD to review and assess the application of the Proposed Facilities. In reply, the EMSD did not recommend the Department to install the Proposed Facilities because Sunlight Market was designed as an open space, hence installing the Proposed Facilities would achieve poor results and be contrary to energy efficiency. In view of this, the Department was conducting a study (Relevant Study) on the installation of a number of fans at the ceilings of the stalls. The ArchSD and EMSD had been requested to offer technical support to the Relevant Study, with a view to enhancing air ventilation, expediting heat dissipation, so as to improve the shopping and business environment of the market.)

VI. Question on attracting tenants to the Cheung Chau Market and boosting consumption
(FEHC Paper No. 6/2024)

25. The Chairman said that the written reply from the FEHD had already been distributed to Members for reference prior to the meeting.

26. Ms Mealoha KWOK briefly presented the question.
27. Members expressed their views as follows:
- (a) Many tenants in the Cheung Chau Market reflected that the stalls were not spacious enough for business, and the sparse flow of people in the market had led tenants to consider surrendering their tenancies. Members hoped that the FEHD would expand the size of the stalls to improve the operating environment for the tenants.
 - (b) Members asked the FEHD to follow up on the problem of rodent infestation and the rusty handrails at some staircases in the Cheung Chau Market.
28. Mr CHAN Ka-leong gave a consolidated response as follows:
- (a) The FEHD would immediately follow up on the problem of rodent infestation and the rusty handrails at staircases in the Cheung Chau Market.
 - (b) The FEHD had to ensure that the passages between stalls were free from obstruction. The Department had all along been maintaining close liaison with the tenants on how inventories should be placed.
 - (c) The FEHD was open to the suggestion of merging the stalls. At present, there were 12 vacant stalls in the Cheung Chau Market. If the tenants had a successful bid for stalls and the commodities for sale were of the same type, they might apply to the Department for merging the stalls. The Department would consult the ArchSD and the Market Management Consultative Committee upon receipt of an application.
29. Members expressed their views as follows:
- (a) Commissioned years ago, the Cheung Chau Market mainly served as a location for farmers on Lantau Island to sell their produce at that time, therefore the stalls were designed to be relatively small. However, as there were changes to the types of tenants nowadays, Members considered that the relevant design was outdated and asked the FEHD to re-examine it. In addition, Members suggested that the Department should refer to the design of some new private markets and remove the tiled walls separating the stalls, such that the location of the stalls could be adjusted more easily. Members also asked the Department to consider merging some of the stalls.
 - (b) Some Members had visited the Cheung Chau Market and noticed that more than 12 stalls in the market, including those with a successful bid, were probably not in operation. Members asked the FEHD to pay attention to the relevant situation.

- (c) An elevator in the Cheung Chau Market was frequently out of order, Members asked the FEHD to carry out improvement works.

30. Mr CHAN Ka-leong said that the installation of escalators in the Cheung Chau Market would be carried out by the FEHD from May to August this year. In addition, the department noted Members' suggestions on the re-planning of stalls.

(Post-meeting note: To enhance the operating environment of the existing public markets managed by the FEHD, facilitate business of the tenants and offer customers with a more pleasant shopping experience, the government earmarked \$2 billion for the implementation of the Market Modernisation Programme (MMP), under which improvement works for market facilities would be carried out. The MMP comprised of overhaul or redevelopment projects, minor refurbishment or improvement works projects, as well as a trial run of the pilot scheme on stall enhancement projects. When the government identified markets for the implementation of the above projects under the MMP, multiple factors would be taken into account, such as geographical locations and distribution of the markets, conditions of the facilities, capacities to operate, community needs and readiness of the tenants, etc. In particular, the government would endeavour to make sure that locations of the markets under the MMP could facilitate their future operations, and the markets would spread across the territory reasonably, such that they would be beneficial for the public. In addition to regular general market maintenance, the Department had all along been implementing measures to improve the operating environment, such as replacing the two escalators in the Cheung Chau Market and installing a new elevator. At this stage, the government did not have any plans to completely refurbish or redevelop the Cheung Chau Market under the MMP. Noting the views and suggestions from Members, the Department would review the operating environment of the market from time to time, with a view to implementing adequate and feasible improvement proposals.)

31. Ms CHEUNG Suk-man said that the FEHD was aware of the elevator problem in the Cheung Chau Market and was planning to install another elevator in the market. At present, a geological survey carried out by a contractor commissioned by the ArchSD was underway and the relevant tendering exercise had been completed.

32. Members were pleased to learn that escalators would be installed in the Cheung Chau Market. Nevertheless, with very few customers visiting the market at the moment, Members were concerned that the patronage would be further reduced if renovation works were to be carried out. In this connection, Members asked the Department to explore some short-term measures, such as designating some space in the market for the use of tenants, so as to provide them with more room for business.

33. The Chairman asked the FEHD to pay attention to the above issues and explore solutions.

(Post-meeting note: On 8 March, the FEHD's staff visited the Cheung Chau Market and Cheung Chau Municipal Services Building with Mr NG Man-kit and Ms Mealoha KWOK, during which the following issues were raised by the Members concerned:

- (a) Additional seats should be provided in the market for public use/rest. In response, the Department would put forward the suggestion for a detailed discussion with attendees to the meeting of the Market Management Consultative Committee in early April. Should a consensus be reached among the relevant stakeholders, the suggestion would be implemented as soon as possible.
- (b) Additional electric fans should be installed in the market to enhance air ventilation. In response, the Department would put forward the relevant proposal for a detailed discussion with attendees to the meeting of the Market Management Consultative Committee in early April. After a consensus had been reached among the relevant stakeholders, the suggestion would be implemented as soon as possible.
- (c) As regards the rust, peeling paint and damages of the handrails, ceilings and anti-slippery materials at the staircases in the Municipal Services Building, the Department had informed the ArchSD to arrange for repair/renovation/replacement works as soon as possible.
- (d) With respect to the hazard posed to the public owing to slippery passages/floors in the market, the Department relayed the matter to the ArchSD to follow up on the situation/assess the anti-skidding function and abrasion of the floor tiles in the market. Where necessary, arrangements would be made to replace the tiles as soon as possible. In the meantime, the Department urged its market cleansing service contractors to keep the area dry at all times whilst cleaning the common passages/floors of the market, such as drying the floors with floor mops or a floor dryer, so as to prevent slippery floors.)

VII. Question on the illegal smoking and littering in public housing estates in Islands District (FEHC Paper No. 8/2024)

34. The Chairman said that the written reply from the FEHD had already been distributed to Members for reference prior to the meeting.

35. Mr YIP Pui-kei briefly presented the question.

36. Mr CHAN Ka-leong elaborated on the FEHD's written reply and added that upon receipt of the question, the Department had conducted site inspections to Mun Tung Estate, Yat Tung (I) Estate, Yat Tung (II) Estate and Fu Tung Estate with management staff of the estates concerned, shopping centres of the estates concerned and the Link on 22 and 29 January, during which technical advice on rodent control were given to the relevant management staff concerned. The Department would soon organise seminars on rodent control for the relevant management staff and learn about their progress on the follow-up actions. Meanwhile, roving exhibitions on rodent infestation would also be set up in the public housing estates.

(Post-meeting note: The FEHD would continue to organise activities to promote rodent disinfection in the relevant housing estates and offer technical advice on rodent control to management staff. In addition, public awareness on the importance of rodent control would be enhanced, hence the public would be more committed to participating in rodent control work in their premises. In February and March, the FEHD invited Members of the Islands District Council to take part in several promotional events on rodent and mosquito control organised by the Department, including a roving exhibition on rodent and mosquito control in Fu Tung Estate, Tung Chung on 4 March with the staff of the Housing Department (HD), during which the relevant information were disseminated and some publication materials were distributed to the residents respectively. Meanwhile, they inspected the rodent blackspots in the housing estate and learned about the progress of anti-rodent work carried out by various stakeholders. On 7 March, seminars on rodent control were organised in Mun Tung Estate, Yat Tung (I) Estate and Yat Tung (II) Estate in collaboration with the staff of the estate offices of various housing estates and the Link.)

37. Mr Terence TANG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The HD was very concerned about the captioned situation. Additional staff of the estate offices would be deployed to inspect various blackspots in the housing estates, give advice to the offenders and step up their efforts in publicity and education. According to information available, the Department received about 20 complaints in relation to smoking in the Statutory No Smoking Areas and littering within the housing estates in the Islands District in 2023. In addition to arranging inspections by staff of the estates offices, the Department also deployed special task forces to various housing estates for law enforcement and control operations against the misdeeds. The Department would continue to follow up on the situation to maintain environmental hygiene in the housing estates.
- (b) The HD pointed out that non-residents of the housing estates were also subject to the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance and the Fixed Penalty (Smoking Offences) Ordinance. Fixed Penalty Notices would be issued to those who littered in a housing estate, as well as those who smoked or carried a lighted cigarette, cigar or pipe in the Statutory No Smoking Area. If a member of the public smoked in the public places, the HD would have no authority to enforce the law and could only ask the persons concerned to leave.
- (c) The HD would review the effectiveness and staff deployment of the above work in a timely manner. The Department would maintain close liaison with the FEHD on issues relating to environmental hygiene and carry out joint inspections within the housing estates where necessary.

38. Members expressed their views as follows:

- (a) Members noticed that there had been a frequent presence of rodents within the housing estates and considered that the HD had to address the problem squarely.
- (b) Members said that they had received multiple complaints from residents on environmental hygiene and considered that there should be more than 20 complaint cases every year, therefore they asked the HD to keep the situation in view.
- (c) Members enquired about the frequency of inspections conducted by the HD. In addition, Members had participated in some inspections with the special task forces. However, these inspections would only be conducted during office hours and a substantial number of staff would be involved in every inspection. Members were of the view that it was difficult to identify offenders under such practice, and the effectiveness of the practice was unsatisfactory. Members asked the Department to step up its efforts in law enforcement and suggested that the Department should invite Members to carry out inspections more frequently.
- (d) Members asked whether the HD could take enforcement actions if a member of the public smoked in the public area within a housing estate.
- (e) Members were of the view that there were insufficient litter containers within the housing estates. For instance, no litter containers were placed on the entire storey of the carpark in Yat Tung Estate. Members asked the Department to place more litter containers.
- (f) Members pointed out that the hygiene conditions of the toilets in Yat Tung Shopping Centre were not satisfactory and asked the department concerned to follow up on the situation.

39. Mr Terence TANG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The HD conducted a site inspection on 30 January and was aware of the rodent infestation problem within the housing estates. At present, apart from routine rodent trapping work, the Department also engaged external anti-rodent teams for rodent control in order to improve the situation. As suggested by the Department, many members of the public would eat and drink on the podium of the Link's shopping centre nearby, resulting in rodent infestation. The Department would proactively follow up on the problem of rodent infestation with the Link and asked for Members' understanding and allowance for some time to improve the situation.
- (b) In 2023, 68 inspections were conducted by the HD's special task forces, during which three Fixed Penalty Notices were issued. Points were deducted in 22 cases, and the Marking Scheme for Estate Management Enforcement was implemented successfully.

- (c) If a member of the public smoked in a common area within a housing estate, some advice would first be given by the HD. If the person failed to comply with the advice, the Department would evict the person concerned from the housing estate in accordance with section 21 of the Housing Ordinance (Cap. 283). Nevertheless, if a member of the public smoked on a floor of a building or at the covered locations of a housing estate, it would be possible for the Department to take enforcement actions.
- (d) In response to the implementation of the solid waste charging scheme, the number of litter containers within the housing estates would be decreased gradually and the opening of which would also be reduced in size.
- (e) The HD would relay the hygiene problems of the toilets in Yat Tung Shopping Centre to the company concerned for follow-up.

(Post-meeting note: The HD relayed the hygiene problems of the toilets in Yat Tung Shopping Centre to the Link for follow-up. The Link indicated that it would review the hygiene problems and step up cleansing work.)

40. Members expressed their views as follows:

- (a) Members noted that front-line staff of the HD would give advice to or evict those who smoked within the housing estate, but considered that the work was not effective. Members were of the view that to effectively improve the situation, the Department should empower its staff to enforce the law. Members also suggested that the Department should consider conducting joint operations with the Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office of the Department of Health.
- (b) Members asked whether the FEHD could take enforcement actions against smoking offences and littering within the housing estate, and whether the Department would carry out joint operations with the HD.
- (c) Members noted that there were rodent infestations in schools in the housing estates in Tung Chung. As they were under the management of the HD, Members asked whether the Department's rodent disinfection work would cover the schools as well.
- (d) Members noticed that there were people feeding pigeons in the housing estate area, which affected environmental hygiene. Members asked the HD to follow up on the situation.
- (e) Members were concerned about the low prosecution rates of the HD's special task forces and opined that the Department should change the

mode of the relevant inspections to increase the deterrent effect.

- (f) Members pointed out that some members of the public often gathered at the open space outside the main entrance of Yat Tung Shopping Centre and at Lai Shuk Ying Memorial Square to smoke, eat and drink at night, leaving behind a lot of litter and affecting environmental hygiene. Members asked the HD to follow up on the situation.

41. The Chairman considered it necessary for the HD, the FEHD, the Link and District Councillors to maintain close liaison and collaborate with each other to tackle the problem through publicity and law enforcement.

42. Mr CHAN Ka-leong suggested that environmental hygiene should be improved through education and publicity efforts (such as organising clean-up campaigns and activities promoting rodent control), complemented by long-term rodent disinfestation work.

43. Mr Terence TANG said that the HD had already carried out rodent disinfestation work in the housing estates, during which rodenticides had been applied. Besides, the Department was aware of the difficulties encountered by its front-line staff when they gave advice to smokers. The Department would continue to follow up on the relevant situation and seek assistance from the Police where necessary.

VIII. Question on the environmental hygiene in Tung Chung Town Centre
(FEHC Paper No. 9/2024)

44. The Chairman said that the written replies from the FEHD and the DLO/Is had already been distributed to Members for reference prior to the meeting.

45. Mr YIP Pui-kei briefly presented the question.

46. Mr Ric YAN elaborated on the written reply.

47. Members expressed their gratitude on the FEHD's proactive follow-up and advised that the Department had liaised with the Members concerned on the captioned issue and conducted inspections, and the present hygiene conditions at the locations mentioned in the question had improved significantly. Furthermore, with a heavy pedestrian flow at the open space outside Exit A of Tung Chung MTR Station, littering was spotted from time to time. Members hoped that the Department could step up inspection and law enforcement, with a view to improving environmental hygiene at the above location.

IX. Question on stepping up the clearance of bulky waste before and after the Lunar New Year
(FEHC Paper No. 10/2024)

48. The Chairman said that the written reply from the FEHD had already been distributed to Members for reference prior to the meeting.
49. Mr LAU Chin-pang briefly presented the question.
50. Members expressed their views as follows:
- (a) The HD liaised with Members in relation to the captioned issue and conducted a site visit with them to the temporary large Refuse Collection Point (RCP) in Yat Tung Estate. Members noted that the situation of accumulation of abandoned furniture at the above location had improved and expressed their gratitude for the Department's swift follow-up.
 - (b) There was also an accumulation of abandoned furniture in Mun Tung Estate RCP. Members asked the relevant department to follow up on the situation and step up its efforts in clearance.
 - (c) Front-line management staff of the housing estates pointed out that construction waste such as mud and bamboo sticks from nearby construction sites were from time to time disposed of by workers at RCPs of the housing estates. Members asked the relevant department to follow up on the situation and explore ways to combat the activities associated with the illegal dumping of construction waste.
51. Mr CHAN Ka-leong gave a consolidated response as follows:
- (a) The FEHD was responsible for the collection of domestic waste. The Department would deploy refuse collection vehicles to collect domestic waste in a timely and flexible manner having regard to the amount of domestic waste collected during the period from the relevant RCPs to ensure timely and proper completion of the relevant service.
 - (b) As regards the illegal dumping of construction waste at RCPs of the housing estates, follow-up actions had to be undertaken by the HD as the relevant locations were under the purview of the HD.
52. Mr Terence TANG gave a consolidated response as follows:
- (a) At present, large RCPs were set up in all housing estates in Tung Chung for the temporary storage of oversized refuse disposed of by the residents. The estate offices would lock the RCPs, whereas the FEHD's contractors would regularly visit various housing estates to clear the oversized refuse in the RCPs, such that there would not be an accumulation of refuse. Having regard to the actual situation, the estate offices would ask the FEHD to deploy refuse collection vehicles to clear the oversized refuse where necessary to keep the environment of the housing estates clean.

- (b) As regards the illegal dumping of construction waste, the HD would install surveillance cameras at the RCPs to monitor the situation and put up warning banners to remind residents not to break the law. As the RCPs would be locked, residents who wished to dispose of oversized refuse had to contact the staff of the estate offices and register their personal particulars in advance. The Department had also asked the estate offices to deploy sufficient security and cleansing staff to step up inspection and clear the refuse in a timely manner.
- (c) Endorsed by the Housing Authority on 24 May 2023, the new enhanced measures to the Marking Scheme for Estate Management Enforcement came into effect on 18 December of the same year. Under the new measures, more points would be deducted for misdeeds jeopardising environmental hygiene. Points deducted for misdeeds, such as littering, obstruction of corridors or staircases with miscellaneous articles and obstruction of cleansing work, would be increased from 5 to 7; whereas those for the indiscriminate dumping or disposing of decoration debris at RCPs, within buildings or in other public places would be increased from 7 to 15. The HD hoped that the new measures would encourage residents of the public housing estates to pay more attention to the environmental hygiene of their homes and the housing estates. Meanwhile, the estate offices would step up publicity on the above measures and remind the residents to be civic-minded and empathetic towards others at all times, so as to build a pleasant housing estate and community together.
- (d) The estate offices would immediately deploy management staff to stop the dumping of refuse in the housing estate by an external vehicle. In addition, surveillance cameras had already been installed in various housing estates. If the persons dumping refuse did not heed the advice, the HD would subsequently contact the vehicle owners in accordance with the registration particulars of the vehicles concerned and request them to clear the refuse within a specified period. Otherwise, legal actions would be taken against them.
- (e) The HD noted that with an impending implementation of the waste charging scheme, quite a few residents would hurry to clear their household articles and furniture, resulting in the accumulation of more oversized refuse at the RCPs than usual. The Department would ensure that the refuse would be cleared before the Lunar New Year.

53. Members expressed their views as follows:

- (a) Members were pleased to learn that the HD would clear the refuse before Lunar New Year and thanked the departments concerned for their follow-up actions.
- (b) Relatively small in size, the Mun Tung Estate RCP was not enclosed by

hoardings. The recent increase in the amount of refuse and the failure of timely clearance by the department concerned resulted in an accumulation of refuse, posing an impact on the environment within the housing estate. Members asked the relevant departments to follow up on the situation and suggested enclosing the RCP concerned by hoardings and expanding the area of the RCP.

- (c) The temporary RCP near Ching Yat House of Yat Tung Estate was not fenced off either. Glass pieces scattered on the ground, which was in no way satisfactory. While the HD mentioned repeatedly that a permanent RCP would be set up in Ying Tung Estate, there had been no progress so far. Members hoped that the HD would step up its inspection at the RCPs in various housing estates.

54. The Chairman asked Members to maintain close liaison with the HD and the FEHD to resolve the hygiene problems in the district.

X. Question on the facilitation measures for Municipal Solid Waste Charging
(FEHC Paper No. 7/2024)

55. The Chairman said that the written reply from the FEHD had already been distributed to Members for reference prior to the meeting.

56. Ms Mealoha KWOK briefly presented the question.

57. Mr CHAN Ka-leong elaborated on the written reply and added that there were 98 village-type RCPs or RCPs set up by temporary structures, as well as over 630 bin sites in Islands District. To tie in with the implementation of the waste charging scheme, the FEHD put up/set up specified signs, boards showing information on the RCPs and poster racks at the above RCPs, thereby reminding the residents to properly put their refuse into a designated bin bag or affix specified labels before dumping refuse. The Department would also arrange to affix the relevant signs to the litter bins at the bin sites, with a view to stepping up its efforts in promoting the waste charging scheme.

58. Members expressed their views as follows:

- (a) Members asked the FEHD whether all litter containers in the streets would be replaced with those with a smaller opening upon implementation of the waste charging scheme.
- (b) Members noted that there had been an accumulation of refuse beside the litter containers in various locations recently and considered that the situation would only worsen upon implementation of the waste charging scheme. Members asked the FEHD to follow up on the situation and explore improvement measures.
- (c) Members said that when there was an accumulation of refuse beside the

litter containers, the FEHD's staff would only clear the refuse but would not prosecute those who littered indiscriminately. Members considered such practice unsatisfactory.

- (d) Members asked the FEHD whether enforcement actions would be taken against those who failed to use a designated rubbish bag for disposal of refuse and enquired about the approach to be taken by the FEHD to monitor the relevant misdeeds.
- (e) After the implementation of the waste charging scheme, members of the public might dispose of refuse into the roadside three-coloured recycling bins with a larger opening. Members considered that the departments concerned should keep in view the above situation, such that the results of the waste charging scheme would not be undermined.

59. Mr CHAN Ka-leong gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) Adopting a new design, the existing roadside litter containers with a smaller opening placed in the streets by the FEHD were provided by the EPD on a trial basis.
- (b) The FEHD would step up its enforcement actions to combat the illegal dumping of refuse. The Department would conduct random checks by deploying plainclothes staff to patrol the area and enforce the law, whereas additional staff would be deployed to patrol the hygiene blackspots in the district. The Department would also deploy its frontline staff to clear the litter containers in various locations more frequently, such as those in the Public Transport Interchanges and ferry piers, and would step up its efforts in street cleansing to maintain environment hygiene.

XI. Question on the enhancement of recycling work in Islands District
(FEHC Paper No. 11/2024)

60. The Chairman said that the written reply from the EPD had already been distributed to Members for reference prior to the meeting.

61. Mr LAU Chin-pang briefly presented the question.

62. Members noted that Smart Food Waste Recycling Bins would be available in all housing estates in Tung Chung starting from April this year and asked the EPD whether they were available in the housing estates in Islands District.

63. Mr Esmond YAU said that the Smart Food Waste Recycling Bins in Yat Tung (II) Estate had already been put into service since last September, and a total of five Smart Food Waste Recycling Bins had been installed by the EPD at Him Yat House, Kit Yat House, Sui Yat House, Kui Yat House and Mei Yat House respectively.

According to information, over 30% of the residents in Yat Tung (II) Estate had used the bins before.

64. Members asked the EPD about the amount of food waste that could be collected by the Smart Food Waste Recycling Bins in Yat Tung (II) Estate, the relevant utilisation rates and the frequency for the Department to clear the food waste.

65. Mr Esmond YAU said that each Smart Food Waste Recycling Bin could cater for the needs of about 500 households. As food waste was mainly organic matter with a relatively high moisture level, daily collection services was generally required. At present, the EPD would arrange for delivery of the food waste collected in Yat Tung (II) Estate to O-PARK1 for recycling every day and the food waste would be converted into energy or materials.

66. Members pointed out that there were over 11 000 households in Yat Tung Estate and believed that there would be an increase in the demand for the Smart Food Waste Recycling Bins upon implementation of the waste charging scheme. Therefore, Members were of the view that the number of Smart Food Waste Recycling Bins currently planned to be placed by the EPD was insufficient to cope with the demand. Members hoped that the Department could review the situation and consider placing additional Smart Food Waste Recycling Bins in large housing estates.

67. Mr Esmond YAU said that the EPD would review the participation rates, the amount of food waste collected and the effectiveness of the operation in various housing estates, and would provide additional Smart Food Waste Recycling Bins in individual housing estates where necessary.

68. The Chairman asked the EPD to maintain close liaison with the local community, with a view to facilitating the smooth implementation of the waste charging scheme.

XII. Date of Next Meeting

69. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:33 p.m. The next meeting would be held at 2:30 p.m. on 8 April 2024 (Monday).

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