Minutes of the 5th Meeting of <u>the District Facilities and Works Committee of</u> <u>the Kowloon City District Council</u>

Date:	5 September 2024 (Thursday)		
Time:	2:30 p.m.		
Venue:	Conference Room, Kowloon City District Office		
Dracont:			
<u>Present</u> : Chairman:	Ma DUN Kwak wah ID		
	Mr PUN Kwok-wah, JP		
Vice-chairman:	Mr LAM Pok		
Members:	Mr TING Kin-wa, MH		
	Mr CHO Wui-hung, MH		
	Mr LEE Chiu-yu		
	Mr NG Fan-kam, MH		
	Mr NG Po-keung, MH		
	Mr HE Huahan, MH		
	Mr LAM Tak-shing, MH		
	Ms LEUNG Yuen-ting		
	Mr CHAN Chi-wah		
	Mr CHEUNG King-fan		
	Mr WONG Man-kong		
	Mr WONG Chi		
	Ms FUNG Mo-kwan		
	Ms LAU Yuen-yin		
	Mr LAI Yin-chung		
	Mr KWAN Ho-yeung		
Co-opted Members:	Mr KO Chung-kit, Jacky		
	Ms MAK Lai-kuen		
Secretary:	Mr FUNG Chi-nang, Ryan	Assistant Executive Manager (District Council) (4), Kowloon City District Office	
In Attendance:	Mr LEE Chi-leung,	Senior Executive Officer	
	Humphrey	(District Management),	
		Kowloon City District Office	
	Mr LI Chi-him, Samson	Executive Officer I (District	
		Management), Kowloon City	
		District Office	

	Ms CHUI Pu Patience	(District Leisure Manager (Kowloon City) (Acting), Leisure and Cultural Services	
	Ms WONG Chung-tai, Ann Miss FOK Ching-man, Ann		Department Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Kowloon City, Leisure and Cultural Services Department Senior Executive Officer (Planning)12, Leisure and Cultural Services Department	
	Ms TSE Shuk-fan, Fa	anny S	Senior Librarian (Kowloon City), Leisure and Cultural Services Department	
	Mr LEE Kit-wai	:	Senior Inspector of Works (Kowloon), Home Affairs Department	
	Miss LI Hok-yee, Jenny Mr HUNG Chan-coung Mr KWOK Man-hin, Ryan Ms KWOK Sui-ki , Suki		District Engineer/ Hung Hom, Highways Department	
			Engineer/ Kowloon 9, Drainage Services Department	
			Town Planner/ Kowloon 1, Planning Department	
			Senior Engineer/ 5 (East), Civil Engineering and Development Department	
Attendance by Invitation:				
Item 6	Professor LUI Yu-ho]	Senior Advisor to the President, Hong Kong Metropolitan University	
	Mr WONG Chiu Jeremy]	Project Director (Campus Development), Hong Kong Metropolitan University	
	Ms CHAN Yu Florence]	Director of Public Affairs, Hong Kong Metropolitan University	
	Ms LEE Pik-kwan	1	Director-Designate of Public Affairs, Hong Kong Metropolitan University	
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Opening Remarks by the Chairman

1. **The Chairman of the District Facilities and Works Committee (DFWC)** welcomed all Members and representatives of departments to the fifth meeting of the DFWC.

2. **The Chairman** reminded Members to register their interests in accordance with Order 22 of the Kowloon City District Council Standing Orders (the Standing Orders) and if the matters to be discussed had any connection or potential conflict of interests with their personal interests such as property rights, profession or investment, they should make a declaration proactively at the meeting so that he could make a decision in accordance with the Standing Orders.

3. **The Chairman** stated that in accordance with Order 80(1) of the Standing Orders, the quorum at any meeting of a committee shall be half of the total number of members of the committee. If the quorum was not present at the commencement of the meeting or in the course of the meeting, he would direct the Secretary to summon the absentees. If the quorum was still not present 15 minutes thereafter, he would adjourn the meeting. According to Order 13 of the Standing Orders, he then set out that each attendee was allowed to make a maximum of three speeches during a discussion on the same agenda item and the time limit for each speech was two minutes. He also reminded the attendees to turn off their mobile phones or to turn the ringers to vibration notification to avoid causing disturbances.

<u>Item 1</u>

Confirmation of Minutes of the 4th Meeting

4. **The Chairman** declared that the minutes of the fourth meeting were unanimously endorsed by the committee without amendments.

Item 2

<u>Concern about the Progress of Works on the Road Section of Hung Hom</u> <u>Promenade near Harbourfront Horizon</u>

(DFWC Paper No. 40/2024)

5. **A Member** introduced the Paper.

6. **The Chairman** stated that the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) did not send a representative to attend this meeting. He invited Members to refer to

the written reply furnished by the ArchSD, i.e. Document No. 11 tabled.

7. **Members** stated that since the ArchSD did not send a representative to attend this meeting, they were able to follow up on this issue through raising further enquiries. Members proposed to invite the ArchSD to conduct an on-site inspection and send representatives to attend the next meeting to continue the discussion on this agenda item.

8. **The Chairman** accepted Members' proposal and instructed the Secretary to arrange for an on-site inspection with the ArchSD and announced that the discussion on this agenda item would be continued at the next meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat had sent a letter to the ArchSD on 24 September and requested for arranging Members to inspect the related works on-site.)

<u>Item 3</u> <u>Concern about the Matter on Slope Repair at 5-21 Rhondda Road in Kowloon</u> <u>Tong</u>

(DFWC Paper No. 41/2024)

9. **A Member** introduced the Paper.

10. **The Chairman** stated that the ArchSD did not send a representative to attend this meeting. He invited Members to refer to the written reply furnished by the ArchSD, i.e. Document No. 9 tabled.

11. **Members** enquired about the ArchSD's standards in and criteria of conducting regular inspections and maintenance work for the slopes in the area and stated that since the ArchSD did not send a representative to attend this meeting, they were able to follow up on this issue through raising further enquiries. Members proposed to invite the ArchSD to conduct an on-site inspection.

12. **The Chairman** accepted the Members' proposal and instructed the Secretary to arrange for an on-site inspection with the ArchSD.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat had sent a letter to the ArchSD on 24 September and requested for arranging Members to inspect the related works on-site.)

<u>Item 4</u>

Concern about the Development and Management of Site 1F3 in Kai Tak (DFWC Paper No. 42/2024)

13. **A Member** introduced the Paper.

14. **The Chairman** stated that the District Lands Office (DLO), Kowloon East did not send a representative to attend this meeting. He invited Members to refer to the written reply furnished by the DLO, i.e. Document No. 4 tabled.

15. **Members** invited the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) to report the usage and works progress of part of Site 1F3 in Kai Tak and enquired about the planning proposal and the development timetable of Site 1F3 in Kai Tak.

16. **The representative of the LCSD** gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (i) to tie in with the effective crowd diversion when major events were held at Kai Tak Sports Park, the Department planned to use about 680 square metres of space in Site 1F3 in Kai Tak as a temporary open space on the recommendations of the Hong Kong Police Force, enabling the crowds to travel between Kai Tak Sports Park and Kai Tak MTR Station more smoothly; and
- (ii) the ArchSD had commenced the improvement works in July 2024, which were anticipated to be completed and opened to the public by the end of the year.

17. **The Chairman** made a conclusion. Regarding some Members' views to request the related departments to actively participate in the meetings of the DFWC, he invited the Secretary to convey the views to the departments through the Chairman of the KCDC at the District Management Committee and announced that the discussion on this agenda item would be continued at the next meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The Chairman of the KCDC had conveyed Members' views to the departments at the meeting of the Kowloon City District Management Committee on 17 September.)

<u>Item 5</u>

Concern about the Hygiene Problem of Benches at Peace Avenue

(DFWC Paper No. 43/2024)

18. **A Member** introduced the Paper and pointed out that the design of the base of the benches at Peace Avenue made it easy for rubbish to be hidden in the gaps, thereby affecting hygiene.

19. The representative of the Kowloon City District Office (KCDO) gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- the Office had instructed the contractor to conduct a thorough cleaning of the relevant benches and requested the contractor to step up cleaning work in future;
- (ii) the relevant benches were only replaced more than a year ago and the conditions of the benches were generally good. Under the principle of the proper use of public funds, the Office deemed that it might not be appropriate to replace the benches again within a short period of time; and
- (iii) the Office had noted Members' views on the design of benches and would take them into consideration when repairing, replacing or providing additional benches in the district in future to avoid similar problems from happening.
- 20. **Members** raised the following views and enquiries:
 - Members suggested the KCDO to strengthen communication with Members and jointly discuss design proposals to meet the needs of the public when planning for minor works in future;
 - Members enquired about the criteria of the Office in arranging inspections and cleaning work and the mechanism of monitoring the work performance of contractors;
 - (iii) Members suggested the Office to collaborate with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to step up cleaning work; and

 (iv) Members suggested installing additional plastic boards at the bottom of the benches at Peace Avenue and conducting inspections and repairs for other facilities under the purview of KCDO in the district.

21. **The representative of the KCDO** gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- the Office had noted Members' views and indicated that it would strengthen communication with Members when planning for minor works in future;
- (ii) the Office would arrange for contractors to carry out cleaning work at an appropriate frequency according to the usage of and the flow of passengers nearby the individual facilities. For example, facilities that more people used would be cleaned more frequently. The Office would also monitor the work performance of contractors according to the established mechanism;
- (iii) the cleaning service contractors of the Office were responsible for the cleaning work of facilities under the purview of the KCDO. When the facilities were found to be damaged, repairs or replacements would be arranged via the Works Section of the Home Affairs Department; and
- (iv) the Office would study the feasible proposals for improving the benches at Peace Avenue with the Works Section after the meeting and pay more attention to the conditions of other facilities under the purview of the KCDO.

22. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he suggested Members to actively convey the views of the public on the facilities in the district to the KCDO so as to enhance the quality of the facilities in the district.

Item 6

<u>Feedback from Residents on the Construction of the New Campus of the Hong</u> <u>Kong Metropolitan University</u>

(DFWC Paper No. 44/2024)

- 23. **A Member** introduced the Paper and held the following views:
 - suggested the Hong Kong Metropolitan University (HKMU) and the Transport Department to arrange for enhancing the frequency of runs of buses and minibuses to cope with the increased passenger flow upon the opening of the complex; and
 - (ii) suggested the HKMU to open facilities for the use of nearby residents.

24. **The representative of the HKMU** gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (i) a footbridge crossing Fat Kwong Street would be installed at the new academic complex, which would be connected to the public pedestrian walkway at the new complex and the footbridge at Sheung Shing Street. A safe and convenient footbridge network would be provided to teachers, students and the public upon completion, helping to alleviate the busy road traffic in the area. The HKMU was also willing to strive for increasing the frequency of runs of buses and minibuses;
- (ii) the HKMU had hired a professional architectural consultant to design the new academic complex and make improvements according to residents' concerns during the design process, including retaining an appropriate distance between the complex and nearby buildings in compliance with the regulations of the Government and increasing the greening area. The big banyan tree on the existing site would also be retained and integrated into the greening design of the complex; and
- (iii) the HKMU had been listening to and collecting views from stakeholders of the community via various channels and kept refining the proposal of the development plan according to the feedback. The HKMU would continue to maintain close communication with

the community and review the design details and the opening arrangements of the new complex to ensure that the completion of the new complex could meet the needs of the university and the community.

25. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he would like the HKMU to continue to listen to the views of residents in the area to enhance the design of the complex to promote community harmony.

<u>Item 7</u>

Enquiry on the Progress of and Transformation Proposals for the Five-Year Plan on Transformation of Public Play Spaces by the LCSD in Kowloon City District (DFWC Paper No. 45/2024)

26. **A Member** introduced the Paper.

- 27. **The representative of the LCSD** gave a consolidated reply as follows:
 - the aim of the transformation proposal of public play spaces was to make the play facilities be more creative, inclusive, challenging and interesting;
 - (ii) during the process of transformation, the Department would encourage and promote community involvement via various means such as organising workshops or conducting surveys to listen to the views of different stakeholders, including students, parents, members of the local community and related organisations. The Department would also collect public views through District Councillors; and
 - (iii) the order of transformation works was Tai Wan Shan Park, Fat Kwong Street Garden No. 1, To Kwa Wan Recreation Ground, Moray Road Children's Playground, Carmel Village Street Garden, Ko Shan Road Park and Pui Ching Road Playground. The Department would first commence the transformation works of Tai Wan Shan Park and Fat Kwong Street Garden No. 1 and commence the remaining works at the soonest.

28. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he suggested Members to visit the website of the LCSD to get a grasp of the latest information on the relevant

transformation proposal of public play spaces.

<u>Item 8</u>

<u>Proposal for the Provision of Additional Covers for the Sports Facilities at the</u> <u>Rooftops of Government Properties</u>

(DFWC Paper No. 46/2024)

29. **A Member** introduced the Paper.

30. **The representative of the LCSD** replied and pointed out that the Department had conducted an on-site inspection at To Kwa Wan Complex Playground with Members and the representatives of related works departments on 28 August 2024. Owing to the space and structural constraints on the site, the Department was unable to provide additional covers at the relevant facility. Peace Avenue Playground was also subject to the same constraints that additional covers could not be provided.

31. There being no further follow-up enquiries from **Members**, the Chairman declared that this item be concluded.

Item 9

<u>Proposal for the Provision of Additional Rain Shelter Facilities at Phase II of</u> <u>Sheung Lok Street Garden</u>

(DFWC Paper No. 47/2024)

- 32. **A Member** introduced the Paper.
- 33. **The representative of the LCSD** gave a consolidated reply as follows:
 - (i) the Department had conducted an on-site inspection at Phase II of Sheung Lok Street Garden with Members and the representatives of works departments on 28 August 2024. Owing to the underground facility constraints at the proposed location, the works departments would study the feasibility of providing additional rain shelters and benches at a nearby location; and
 - (ii) the Department was studying with the works departments the replacement of larger plastic boards at the top of the existing pavilion in the garden to enhance the rain-shielding effect.

34. There being no further follow-up enquiries from **Members**, the Chairman declared that this item be concluded.

<u>Item 10</u>

<u>Concern about Locations with High Flooding Risks in Kowloon City and Proposal</u> <u>for Making Good Use of Technology for Early Issuance of Warnings</u>

(DFWC Paper No. 48/2024)

35. **A Member** introduced the Paper and suggested the Drainage Services Department (DSD) to step up inspections and clearing work to prevent flooding.

36. **The Chairman** stated that the Buildings Department (BD) did not send a representative to attend this meeting. He invited Members to refer to the written reply furnished by the BD, i.e. Document No. 1 tabled.

37. **The representative of the DSD** gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- the Department had stepped up the inspections and cleaning work on the public stormwater drainage systems with related departments;
- (ii) the stormwater drainage system improvement works in Kowloon City had commenced in August 2024. The works could upgrade the drainage capacity. The design of the works had also applied the increased rainfall in order to continuously strengthen the ability to cope with extreme weather, thereby minimising the risk of flooding in Kowloon City District; and
- (iii) the Department would review the related short-term flood prevention measures from time to time and make timely arrangements as needed. The Department would also closely collaborate with the Hong Kong Observatory to make pre-arrangements on flood prevention work in advance.
- 38. **Members** raised the following views and enquiries
 - (i) if the DSD had completed the clearing work of the flooding blackspots mentioned in the Paper; and

(ii) suggested the Department to establish a regular monitoring mechanism targeting at the flooding blackspots and enhance the design of manhole covers to resolve the problem of miscellaneous articles blocking drainage outlets, as well as enhance the old drains in the district.

39. **The representative of the DSD** gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (i) the Department would inspect known blackspots after rainstorms, review the drainage capacity of these locations and make repairs according to the information provided by the public;
- (ii) the Department had arranged for carrying out drainage inspections and clearing work at the flooding blackspots mentioned in the Paper. The Department had also set up a hotline and would carry out clearing work upon receipt of reports from the public;
- (iii) the major causes of flooding cases was blockages at drainage outlets by leaves, sediments or debris being washed by the surface runoff, which was unrelated to the design and drainage capacity of the drainage system. At present, the Department had identified some locations in the territory that were prone to blockages and enhanced manpower for inspections and clearance to lower the risk of flooding; and
- (iv) the Highways Department (HyD) was responsible for the management and maintenance of the drainage outlets on the road surface. The Department would relay Members' views on enhancing the design of manhole covers to the HyD.

40. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and stated that Members could arrange for on-site inspections with the DSD regarding the problems of drainage facilities in various districts respectively if necessary. The Chairman also suggested the Department to improve the design of drainage facilities to alleviate the flooding problem.

<u>Item 11</u>

<u>Concern about the Matter on Stagnant Water at Pedestrian Crossings in To Kwa</u> <u>Wan</u>

(DFWC Paper No. 49/2024)

41. **A Member** introduced the Paper.

42. **The representative of the DSD** replied and pointed out that in view of the problem of stagnant water at the junction of Bailey Street and Sung On Street, the junction at Ma Tau Wai Road and Kiang Hsi Street, as well as Ma Tau Wai Road and Lok Shan Road, the Department had conducted regular inspections for the underground public drainage systems near the aforementioned locations via the closed circuit television (CCTV) survey. The public drainage systems were not found to be blocked.

43. **The representative of the HyD** gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (i) the Department had completed the clearing of the blocked drainage facilities at the pedestrian crossing at Kau Pui Lung Road and the pedestrian crossing at Ma Tau Wai Road and Lok Shan Road in August. The Department was arranging for the carrying out of improvement works on the provision of additional drainage outlets at the relevant pedestrian crossings. The improvement works on the provision of additional drainage outlets at the pedestrian crossing at Kau Pui Lung Road and the pedestrian crossing at Ma Tau Wai Road and Lok Shan Road were anticipated to be completed in early September 2024 and the fourth quarter of 2024 respectively;
- (ii) the Department had completed the clearing of the blocked drainage facilities on the roads at the junction of Bailey Street and Sung On Street and at the junction of Ma Tau Wai Road and Kiang Hsi Street in August to minimise the risk of stagnant water on the roads; and
- (iii) the Department would regularly inspect and clear the drainage outlets as well as the related drainage channels on roads. If the problem of stagnant water was found on the relevant roads, the blocked drainage facilities would be arranged for clearance in a timely manner.

- 44. **Members** raised the following suggestions:
 - the performance on water diversion of the drainage facilities in the area during rainy days was unsatisfactory. Members suggested the related departments to study the improvements to the design of road surfaces and drainage facilities; and
 - (ii) suggested the related departments to inspect the relevant locations during rainy days to get a grasp of the road conditions.

45. **The representative of the HyD** replied and pointed out that various considerations were taken into account when designing the locations of road drainage outlets. The outlets would be placed on both sides of pedestrian crossings whenever possible. The Department would review the conditions of relevant roads and study corresponding measures to alleviate the situation of stagnant water.

46. **The representative of the DSD** stated that Members were welcomed to submit further information on the relevant locations to the Department for the ease of follow-up after the meeting. If necessary, Members were also welcomed to conduct on-site inspections with the Department together.

47. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and invited Members to liaise and follow up with the related departments after the meeting.

<u>Item 12</u>

Concern about Flooding Blackspots at Ma Tau Kok Road and Hang Wan Road and Proposal for the Repair of Roads and Provision of Additional Water Outlets to Resolve the Longstanding Problem of Flooding

(DFWC Paper No. 50/2024)

- 48. **A Member** introduced the Paper.
- 49. **The representative of the DSD** gave a consolidated reply as follows:
 - (i) the works off 3-9 Ma Tau Kok Road were works for improving the sewage system; and
 - (ii) the Department had carried out regular inspections for the underground public drainage systems near the locations of concern

via the CCTV survey. The public drainage systems were not blocked.

50. **The representative of the HyD** replied and pointed out that the Department had completed the clearing of the blocked drainage facilities at the junction of Pak Tai Street and Ma Tau Kok Road and the pedestrian crossing at Hang Wan Road in August. The Department was arranging for improvement works on the provision of additional drainage outlets at the relevant roads. The works were anticipated to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2024.

51. There being no further follow-up enquiries from **Members**, the Chairman declared that this item be concluded.

Item 13

Report on the Management of Facilities in Kowloon City District in 2024-25 (DFWC Paper No. 51/2024)

52. **The representative of the LCSD** introduced the Paper and stated that to tie in with the "Shining City Project" to enhance the beautification work of the city raised in the 2023 Policy Address, the Department collaborated with the Hong Kong Design Institute to beautify a wall in Tai Wan Shan Park. The relevant works were expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2024.

53. **Members** praised the greening works by the LCSD at Kai Tak Station Plaza and would like the Department to continue to listen to public views. Moreover, Members learned that the Department proposed to convert To Kwa Wan Sports Centre into a fencing hall and stated that the utilisation rates of To Kwa Wan Sports Centre almost reached saturation in June and July. Members suggested the Department to take into consideration the public demand for sports facilities.

54. **The representative of the LCSD** replied and pointed out that the 2023 Policy Address proposed the establishment of a sports centre equipped with fencing training and competition facilities. The Department was studying with the works departments and the Fencing Association of Hong Kong, China the provision of additional fencing facilities at the existing sports centre. The related proposal was still at the discussion stage and the Department would report to Members when further information was available.

55. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and suggested the LCSD to discuss with Members the matter on converting To Kwa Wan Sports Centre into a fencing hall and convey Members' views to the related departments.

<u>Item 14</u> <u>Any Other Business</u>

56. No further items were raised by **Members**.

<u>Item 15</u> Date of Next Meeting

57. **The Chairman** announced that the next meeting would be held at 2:30 p.m. on 7 November 2024 and the closing date for submission of papers would be 23 October 2024.

58. **The Chairman** announced the adjournment of the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed on 7 November 2024.

The Chairman

The Secretary

KCDC Secretariat November 2024