

**Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of  
the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee of  
the Kowloon City District Council**

Date: 20 February 2024 (Tuesday)  
Time: 2:30 p.m.  
Venue: Conference Room, Kowloon City District Office

**Present:**

Chairman: Mr LAM Tak-shing, MH

Vice-chairman: Mr WONG Man-kong

Members: Mr TING Kin-wa  
Mr CHO Wui-hung, MH  
Mr LEE Chiu-yu  
Mr NG Fan-kam, MH  
Mr NG Po-keung, MH  
Mr HE Huahan  
Mr LAM Pok  
Ms LEUNG Yuen-ting  
Mr CHAN Chi-wah  
Mr CHEUNG King-fan  
Mr WONG Chi  
Ms FUNG Mo-kwan  
Ms LAU Yuen-yin  
Mr PUN Kwok-wah, JP  
Mr KWAN Ho-yeung

Secretary:	Miss KWOK Tsz-ying, Karrie	Executive Officer (District Council)2, Kowloon City District Office
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<b><u>In Attendance:</u></b>	Mr LAI Yin-chung	Member, Kowloon City District Council
	Ms SO Lai-yee, Ivy	Senior Liaison Officer (District Liaison)3, Kowloon City District Office
	Ms LAI Sau-yan, Carol	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Kowloon City), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr CHAN Chi-sing	Chief Health Inspector (Kowloon City)1, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr TAM Yiu-man, Jason	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional East)5, Environmental Protection Department
Ms CHAN Ling-man, Millie	Deputy District Leisure Manager (Kowloon City)2, Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Attendance by Invitation:

Item 1 - 2	Mr CHEN Kin-wun, Edwin	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Waste Collection & Charging)1, Environmental Protection Department
	Dr LAM Kwok-lun, Alain	Waste Management Manager, Environmental Protection Department
	Miss TAM Wan-chi, Bonnie	Assistant Environmental Protection Officer (Waste Collection & Charging)13, Environmental Protection Department
Item 9 - 11	Mr LI Ka-chun, Senior Inspector of Police	Patrol Sub-unit Commander 2 (Kowloon City Division), Hong Kong Police Force
	Ms HO Cheuk-yi, Inspector of Police	Patrol Sub-unit Commander 2 (Kowloon City Division), Hong Kong Police Force
	Mr SHUM Wai-fung, Inspector of Police	Patrol Sub-unit Commander 2 (Hung Hom Division), Hong Kong Police Force
	Mr CHAN Chi-sing, Police Station Sergeant	Assistant Police Community Relations Officer (Kowloon City District), Hong Kong Police Force

## **Opening Remarks**

1. **The Chairman of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (FEHC)** welcomed all Members and representatives of government departments to the second meeting of the FEHC.

2. **The Chairman** stated that in accordance with Order 80(1) of the Kowloon City District Council Standing Orders (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 or debate on an agenda item and the time limit for each speech was two minutes. He also reminded the attendees to turn off the ringers on their mobile phones or to switch the phones to vibration mode to avoid causing disturbances.

3. **The Chairman** reminded Members that 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 at the meeting so that he could make a decision in accordance with the Standing Orders.

## **Item 1**

### **Implementation of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Charging**

4. **The representative of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD)** presented the implementation details of MSW charging and supplemented as follows:

- (i) to strengthen the support for residents of “three-nil buildings”, the EPD was discussing with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) on how to enhance the relevant complementary facilities, which included placing more large waste collection bins during specific time slots every day in areas concentrated with “three-nil buildings” and where circumstances allows to facilitate residents to dispose of their waste;
- (ii) both Tak Long Estate and Sheung Lok Estate in Kowloon City District were currently equipped with food waste smart recycling bins

(FWSRBs). The Department aimed at substantially completing the installation of FWSRBs in 213 public rental housing (PRH) estates across the territory by August this year. In addition, there were eight refuse collection points (RCPs) in Kowloon City District that provided food waste recycling services to restaurants; and

- (iii) private buildings could apply for funding through the Recycling Fund and the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) to install FWSRBs. For details, please refer to the websites of the Recycling Fund and the ECC.

5. **Members'** enquiries and views were consolidated as follows:

- (i) what measures did the Department have to support owner's corporations (OCs) of old buildings in implementing MSW charging policy and manage the situation of refuse collection effectively in buildings. For example, whether the Department would subsidise OCs' installation of closed-circuit television (CCTV) in public spaces such as corridors or rear staircases for the monitoring of waste disposal situation by residents, so as to enhance the deterrent effect;
- (ii) Members said that the rooftops of some buildings in the old building clusters in the vicinity of 13 Streets were interconnected. Members enquired how would the Department assist these old building clusters in enforcing MSW charging if law-breaking public disposed of their waste in nearby buildings and how would the Department handle non-compliant waste that was not wrapped using a designated bag (DB);
- (iii) Members requested the Department to clarify who was empowered to carry out enforcement in private buildings;
- (iv) some PRH tenants currently put their waste outside their units awaiting for collection by cleansing staff. Members enquired whether the cleansing staff would continue to collect waste placed outside the tenants' units after MSW charging become effective;
- (v) government departments were currently unable to trace the source of waste on the streets. Members enquired whether the Department

would have sufficient manpower to follow-up the waste disposed on the streets when the policy came into effect and how would the Department monitor the situation of waste disposal at the side of refuse bins on the streets by the public who lack civic-mindedness;

- (vi) whether the Department had prescribed standards to specify which type of waste must be disposed of using the DBs or designated labels;
- (vii) whether housing estates could set their own penalties for residents breaching MSW charging requirements. If not, how could the Department ensure that private buildings and housing estates would adhere to the penalties imposed by the Government;
- (viii) management fees of some private housing estates had been raised in response to the commencement of MSW charging policy. Members enquired whether the Department had negotiated with property management companies (PMCs) on the level of increase in management fees in the light of the new policy;
- (ix) Members said that the functions of the OCs in old buildings were limited and enquired whether the OCs would be liable if they were unable to effectively monitor the separation and recycling of waste by residents and whether the Government would impose penalties after the commencement of the new legislation on regulation on the proper collection and handling of recyclables in residential buildings ;
- (x) Members enquired the Department's proposed time and locations for placing 660-litre large waste collection bins in the vicinity of "three-nil buildings" and how would the Department follow-up if the public disposed of the waste outside the relevant large waste collection bins;
- (xi) how would the Department assist buildings that were far from the RCPs but were not eligible to apply for the installation of FWSRBs to recycle food waste;
- (xii) how would the Department assist buildings with more than 100 households but insufficient space to install waste separation bins;

- (xiii) residents living in the estates in Kowloon Tong reflected that the Department would only subsidise its installation of FWSRBs upon obtaining the consent of 80 per cent of the households of the building. Members enquired the Department's justifications for this requirement;
- (xiv) Members said that the public in general were supportive of waste reduction. However, there remained many doubts and concerns about the implementation of MSW charging policy, including the worries that people would dispose of their waste one after another prior to the implementation of the policy and the purchase of DBs would increase the financial burden of families. Members would like the Department to give a more detailed explanation and enhance support to the public. For example, the Department could strengthen its cooperation with the Housing Department (HD) to allow more waste recyclers to set up collection booths in PRH estates every day and encourage relevant waste recyclers to recycle more waste of different types;
- (xv) whether the Department had long-term waste recovery programmes and arrangements for providing more waste recovery facilities;
- (xvi) Members said that although OCs were formed in some tenement buildings, the OCs could only operate on a limited scale due to limitations on the number of people and scale, making it had no difference from that of "three-nil buildings" without OCs. Members enquired whether the Department would not distribute DBs free of charge to relevant tenement buildings with OCs;
- (xvii) some online trading platforms at present had already put counterfeit DBs with a high degree of resemblance for sale but at much lower prices. Members enquired how would the Department distinguish the authenticity of DBs and carry out enforcement; whether relevant frontline staff would be able to distinguish the authenticity;
- (xviii) Members suggested the Department to allow the public to redeem DBs with the points gained from the recycling of plastic bottles and food waste, so as to increase the incentive for the public to participate in waste recovery;

- (xix) Members suggested the Department to lower the number of points required to redeem gifts under the GREEN@COMMUNITY and encourage more members of the public to sign up for the incentive scheme of the GREEN@COMMUNITY prior to the implementation of MSW charging;
- (xx) Members reflected that there was much room for improvement in the management quality and staff service attitude of some GREEN@COMMUNITY, and suggested the Department to step up the monitoring;
- (xxi) the Department should strengthen the recycling facilities at district level by increasing the recycling points and FWSRBs as well as extending collection hours in private and PRH estates. The Department could also install FWSRBs and recycling bins in government buildings to facilitate residents whose buildings or housing estates without such facilities installed;
- (xxii) Members suggested the Department to enhance cooperation with the Home Affairs Department (HAD) to improve liaison with OCs in the district as well as to promote and explain the details of MSW charging to OCs;
- (xxiii) many downstream recyclers which conducted waste recycling in housing estates were currently experiencing manpower shortages, leading to improper handling of a lot of waste. Members enquired the current recycling capacity of downstream recyclers and suggested the Department to set up recycling points of GREEN@COMMUNITY in private housing estates such as Laguna Verde and Whampoa Garden to facilitate the waste recycling by residents of private housing estates;
- (xxiv) Members enquired the current recycling capacity of downstream recyclers;
- (xxv) there were a number of “three-nil buildings” in Kowloon City District where many ethnic minorities resided. Members suggested the Department to make more use of the Green Outreach to promote MSW charging policy in “three-nil buildings” so that the residents of

“three-nil buildings”, especially the ethnic minorities, would have a better understanding of the details of MSW charging policy;

- (xxvi) whether the hotline currently set up by the Department could also take public enquiries, complaints and reporting in one go and whether the Department would consider setting up another complaint hotline for residents to lodge complaints about cases on overcharging of management fees by PMCs, or designating the hotline on MSW charging as a one-stop hotline for enquiries, complaints and reporting;
- (xxvii) Members suggested the Department to take reference to the promotional practice of the Police recently in promoting the message of staying alert to scams, that was presenting the contraventions in the form of short videos to the public, so as to better familiarise the public with MSW charging policy in a vivid way;
- (xxviii) Members suggested selecting some buildings as pilot sites to try out MSW charging a few months prior to the implementation of MSW charging policy to familiarise residents with the operation mode of the policy and enable the Department to consider how to solve the problems that might arise during the process;
- (xxix) Members suggested the Department to take reference to the practices adopted during the implementation of total smoking ban in restaurants in the past, that was to develop the public’s habit of MSW charging at an early age through a long-term education approach, in the hope that the younger generation would remind and assist elders to conduct waste separation and recycling;
- (xxx) Members suggested to recruit students or district councillors as environmental protection ambassadors to explain the details of MSW charging to family members and the public at home and in the community; and
- (xxxi) Members expressed their willingness to assist the Department in promoting and publicising MSW charging policy. However, Members considered that it would be more effective if staff of the Department were sent to pay district visit and carry out publicity work



together with district councillors in the district.

6. **The representative of the EPD** gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (i) the Department understood the difficulties faced by private buildings in implementing MSW charging policy and would encourage PMCs or owners' organisations of private buildings to purchase DBs in bulk from the Department and distribute to residents. The cost of relevant DBs would be recovered from residents in the management fee. It was hoped that residents would be more willing to use the DBs for waste disposal after paying the relevant fees, thereby increasing the compliance rate;
- (ii) to encourage PMCs or owners' organisations to purchase DBs in bulk for distribution to its residents of residential premises, the Department would offer a rebate equivalent to 3% of the prescribed price for each DB to applicants who apply for purchase of DBs in bulk in order to cover its additional operating costs;
- (iii) in terms of enforcement powers, the EPD would mainly inspect and take enforcement action at RCPs of private residential buildings and commercial and industrial buildings; while the FEHD would mainly be responsible for enforcement action at the RCPs under its management and against illegal dumping of waste in public places;
- (iv) after the phasing-in period, the Department would take enforcement actions on a "risk-based" approach. The Department would conduct surveillance and enforcement actions at black spots according to the complaints/ reports on non-compliant cases from frontline cleansing staff, waste collection contractors, PMCs, the public, etc.;
- (v) generally speaking, it was not necessary to wrap small quantities of waste generated on streets into DBs before disposing of them in public litter containers. In order to discourage abusive use of litter containers as a mean to evade MSW charging, the FEHD had introduced a newly-designed litter container with smaller openings with a view to discouraging the public from disposing household waste in the litter containers. If the disposal of waste at the side or on top of litter containers by the public was found, the Department

and FEHD staff would consider that as littering and the law enforcement officers would issue fixed penalty notices to the party concerned without prior warning;

- (vi) to prevent PMCs or residents' organisation from overcharging due to the implementation of MSW charging, the Property Management Services Authority (PMSA) had written to licensed PMCs requesting them to clearly provide to owners' organisations the details of all expenditure associated with MSW charging and the calculation method of the fee charged to residents due to refuse collection arrangement. The Department would also work with the PMSA to jointly formulate guidelines for PMCs on fee adjustment in light of the implementation of MSW charging;
- (vii) according to the bill on the regulation on proper collection and handling of recyclables in residential buildings, all PMCs and owners' organisations of public and private buildings with more than 100 households were required to provide recycling containers (such as recycling bins or recycling bags) in each building to separately collect common types of recyclables in domestic households and pass the recyclables collected to downstream recyclers for processing. However, due to constraints such as the size of common areas, individual residential buildings (particularly single-block residential buildings) may not be able to comply with the above requirement. In this respect, the relevant residential buildings could discuss with the Department to formulate a more practical recycling system. In addition, the proposed legislation would regulate PMCs and the owners' organisation of residential buildings at the same time. If an owners' organisation deliberately obstructed the PMC from enforcing the Government's regulations, the relevant owners' organisation would be held liable;
- (viii) "three-nil buildings" would not be regulated under the new legislation on the regulation on proper collection and handling of recyclables in residential buildings. However, the Department would continue to provide recycling support to residents of "three-nil buildings" through the public collection points of the community recycling network of GREEN@COMMUNITY and the Green Outreach of the Department. At present, the service of GREEN@COMMUNITY

had already covered about 80 per cent of the single-block residential buildings across the territory, including a number of “three-nil buildings”. Moreover, the Department was progressively setting up small recycling points in PRH estates to provide a more convenient recycling means for PRH tenants and residents of nearby “three-nil buildings”;

- (ix) in terms of food waste recycling, buildings reaching 1 000 households could apply to the ECC for the installation of FWSRBs; while private buildings with less than 1 000 households but with the participation consent from 200 households could apply for relevant funding from the Recycling Fund;
- (x) the Department did not set out the requirement that buildings could only apply for the installation of FWSRBs with the consent of 80 per cent of the households. However, in order to ensure that FWSRBs were used by a certain number of households and make better use of public funds, the subsidy programme under the Recycling Fund stipulated that private buildings must obtain the consent of 200 households in order to make relevant application;
- (xi) at present, recycling bins were already installed for public use in most government buildings. Meanwhile, the Department had also installed FWSRBs at some of the collection points of GREEN@COMMUNITY on a trial basis to promote food waste recycling;
- (xii) at present, there were more than 170 collection points of GREEN@COMMUNITY across the territory. In line with the implementation of MSW charging, the EPD was progressively expanding the community recycling network of GREEN@COMMUNITY to 50 PRH estates;
- (xiii) the Department would pay close attention to the operation of downstream recyclers and pointed out that MSW charging was an opportunity favourable to the development of downstream recyclers. It was expected that the substantial increase in the amount of recyclables as a result of MSW charging would contribute to promoting the development of relevant industries;

- (xiv) having drawn on the experience of Taipei and Korea and struck a balance between the needs of various parties, the Government considered that the current mode on charging by DBs was the most appropriate approach. The Department would like to achieve the goal of reducing waste at source under the “polluter pays” principle;
- (xv) Through purchasing DBs by the public, MSW charging created a financial incentive to drive changes in the public’s waste-generation behaviour and build up recycling habits, thus achieving an overall reduction in waste disposal. To avoid undermining the effectiveness of the policy, it was therefore not advisable to have considerable number of beneficiary groups receiving support measures, including the free distribution of DBs and financial assistance. However, the Department had taken into account the needs of low-income individuals. The authorities concerned would provide an additional subsidy of \$10 per person per month to recipients of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance and the Old Age Living Allowance;
- (xvi) the Department would provide support to residents of tenement buildings and “three-nil buildings” through the Green Outreach and Care Teams. At the same time, the Department was considering to strengthen the training and support for cleansing staff in tenement buildings and “three-nil buildings”;
- (xvii) regarding Members’ suggestion to enhance the Department’s cooperation with the HAD to improve liaison with OCs in the district, the representative of the EPD said that he would relay the suggestion to colleagues concerned in the Department;
- (xviii) the Department understood that the public and frontline cleansing staff might not be able to distinguish the authenticity of DBs. In this connection, the Department would cooperate with the Customs and Excise Department to combat the illegal selling of counterfeit DBs by individuals or on platforms in order to resolve the problem of counterfeit DBs at source;
- (xix) the Department considered the suggestion on using GREEN\$ to redeem DBs feasible and had already made plans to implement the

relevant suggestion. Further information would be announced in due course;

- (xx) with respect to strengthening the operation monitoring and adjusting the requirements for gift redemption of the collection points of GREEN@COMMUNITY, the Department would relay Members' views to colleagues responsible for relevant matters in the Department ;
- (xxi) the Demonstration Scheme would commence on 1 April 2024. The Department planned to illustrate how MSW charging would be carried out through on-site demonstration in government buildings and other buildings first. This would serve as promotion to and education for the community so that they would easily and thoroughly understand the operation and details of MSW charging. The Department would also identify other buildings to stage the on-site demonstration;
- (xxii) the Department had been uploaded in batches the training short videos to the thematic website on MSW charging and would make use of the experience and results of the Demonstration Scheme to produce short videos. The Department would like to explain the operation of MSW charging through the videos in a vivid and easy-to-understand manner;
- (xxiii) the Department would maintain close liaison with the Education Bureau and had implemented the distribution of one 15-litre DB to primary and secondary school students across the territory in due course, hoping that they would bring home the information on MSW charging and enabling the publicity to take root in every family. The Student Environmental Protection Ambassador Scheme was currently implemented in primary and secondary schools. The Department would also make use of this scheme to publicise MSW charging policy;
- (xxiv) the dedicated hotline set up by the Department was a one-stop service hotline. The public could make enquiries on matters relating to MSW charging or lodge complaints or report through that hotline; and

- (xxv) upon implementation of MSW charging, the Department and the FEHD might as required install CCTVs at black spots for illegal waste dumping in the community.

7. **Members** raised the follow-up questions and views as follows:

- (i) whether the 3% rebate offered by the Department would be given to PMCs if PMCs purchased DBs in bulk as the applicant from the Department. If yes, Members considered that the PMCs' relevant practices of receiving rebates after increasing management fee at the same time would be contrary to the measure's original intention of providing support;
- (ii) whether the authorities concerned would penalise the PMCs involved if the Department or PMSA concluded that the fees charged by some PMCs in view of MSW charging were unreasonable;
- (iii) whether the authorities concerned would consider amending the Property Management Services Ordinance to regulate PMCs' charging behaviours relating to the matters on MSW charging;
- (iv) Members suggested that DBs should be distributed free of charge to tenement buildings with only OCs that had not engaged any PMCs; and
- (v) Members pointed out that plastic bags at major supermarkets was charged at \$1 each at present, while the charge for each DB would be increased to \$1.7 under the Department's suggestion on "One-bag for Dual-use". Members requested the Department to explain the reason for charging \$0.7 more for each plastic bag.

8. **The representative of EPD** gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) the Department would offer a 3% rebate to applicants who apply for bulk purchase of DBs for distribution to its residents of residential premises. Applicants could be individuals or companies other than OCs or residents' organisations, such as PMCs or cleansing companies. However, the relevant application must obtain the consent from OCs in order to be considered as effective;

- (ii) the Department was discussing with the PMSA regarding the provision of guidelines to the PMCs on how to adjust the relevant waste handling charges upon implementation of MSW charging;
- (iii) regarding Members' suggestion to distribute DBs free of charge to residents in tenement buildings which poorly managed by OCs, the Department said that there would be practical implementation difficulty as it would be quite difficult to identify relevant buildings. However, the Department would strengthen the communication with residents in tenement buildings in the district through the Green Outreach and Caring Teams as well as increase support to relevant buildings when necessary;
- (iv) the "One-bag for Dual-use" approach could further reduce the usage of plastic bags. The public could purchase DBs of corresponding capacity at prescribed prices as shopping bags after shopping at supermarkets according to their needs and use it for waste disposal afterwards, thereby reducing the use of plastic bags effectively in the long run. The Government would use the revenue obtained from MSW charging for stepping up recycling efforts; and
- (v) the Department would closely monitor the actual situation upon implementation of the policy and had made a pledge to the Legislative Council to review the effectiveness of the policy after three years.

9. **The Chairman** concluded that the public and Members' in general were supportive of MSW charging policy. However, in order to explain the details of the policy clearer to the public, **the Chairman** requested the EPD to update Members continuously on the latest update on MSW charging policy and would like the Department to take reference to Members' views to further improve the policy.

## **Item 2**

### **Support for the Postponement of MSW Charging and the Enhancement of Public Education for Facilitating Implementation**

(FEHC Paper No. 4/2024)

10. **A Member** introduced the paper, stating that a number of the public, frontline cleansing staff and PMCs had some doubts about the implementation details of the policy. Therefore, the Member supported the postponement of MSW charging and at

the same time suggested the EPD to increase the number of waste collection points in the community as well as strengthen public education and training for buildings' OCs and PMCs.

11. **The representative of the EPD** replied and stated that the Department would make good use of the postponement period to respond to Member's demands as well as to further improve the contents of the policy for a smooth implementation by then.

### **Item 3**

#### **Concern over, Enquiry about and Proposed Solutions to Rodent Infestation in To Kwa Wan Area**

(FEHC Paper No. 5/2024)

### **Item 4**

#### **Request for Following up Rodent Infestation in Whampoa Area**

(FEHC Paper No. 6/2024)

### **Item 5**

#### **Request for Following up Rodent Infestation in Kadoorie Area**

(FEHC Paper No. 7/2024)

### **Item 6**

#### **Call for Strengthening Anti-rodent Work for the Community**

(FEHC Paper No. 8/2024)

12. **The Chairman** stated that Items 3 to 6 were all related to rodent infestation and declared that the four items would be discussed together after consulting Members.

13. **A Member** introduced Paper No. 5/2024, stating that despite the various anti-rodent measures in place in To Kwa Wan, rodents were still found from time to time in rear lanes, wet markets and even residences in the area. The Member enquired the anti-rodent measures taken at rodent black spots and its effectiveness over the past half year in To Kwa Wan area, as well as the effectiveness of the technology on using thermal camera to monitor rodent activities and its operational procedures. Also, the Member suggested that the FEHD to step up the monitoring of different black spots and adopt the most effective anti-rodent measures in accordance with the characteristics of that black spots.



14. **A Member** introduced Paper No. 6/2024, stating the recent worsening of rodent infestation in Whampoa area. The Member also enquired FEHD's corresponding measures and whether appropriate anti-rodent support would be provided to private residential units and schools which did not belong to public places.

15. **A Member** introduced Paper No. 7/2024, pointing out that the vast array of restaurants along Emma Avenue, Soares Avenue, Victory Avenue and Liberty Avenue in Kadoorie area had caused serious rodent infestation. The FEHD had previously installed new anti-rodent devices in the vicinity of Wing Ying Mansion at Emma Avenue, but the devices had recently been removed and not been reinstalled. Therefore, the FEHD was requested to reinstall new anti-rodent devices in the area, increase the amount of baits as well as strengthen the supervision over and anti-rodent work for nearby businesses in the above locations.

16. **A Member** introduced Paper No. 8/2024, stating that the rodent infestation in Kowloon City District was serious as there were many construction sites, rear lanes and restaurants in the district. The Member requested relevant departments to step up enforcement and cleaning of hygiene black spots in the district, suggested the promotion of the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection and introduced various new anti-rodent technologies to enhance the effectiveness of anti-rodent work.

17. **Members** made the follow-up enquiries and suggestions as follows:

- (i) the progress of and latest data on the Department's Rodent Activity Survey (RAS);
- (ii) whether the mobile phone application being developed by the Department for pest control service contractors' usage could be made available to the public for checking anti-rodent conditions and reporting rodent black spots;
- (iii) whether adequate anti-rodent measures had been taken at present at private lots in Whampoa area;
- (iv) over the years, the Department had provided suggestions on the anti-rodent work at Whampoa Garden but the role was rather passive. Members suggested the Department to adopt a more proactive approach in overseeing the anti-rodent work carried out by the PMC;

- (v) how would the Department draw on and make use of the experience gained from the use of thermal imaging cameras in the community to improve the Government's anti-rodent work;
- (vi) the effectiveness of anti-rodent work after using new baits by the Department; and
- (vii) suggested the Department to step up the law enforcement work against food waste disposal.

18. **The representative of the FEHD** replied with the following main points:

- (i) the RAS was a Rodent Infestation Rate (RIR) newly adopted by the Department from January 2024 onwards. It made use of thermal imaging cameras with artificial intelligence technology to calculate the Rodent Absence Rate. The public could refer to the relevant section of the Department's website to check the information. However, as the relevant technology was still in its initial stage of implementation, the Department did not have the relevant data and was yet to be reported to the committee;
- (ii) the mobile application mentioned by Members was designed to assist the Department's staff in data collection to evaluate the effectiveness of the current anti-rodent measures. Therefore, this mobile application would not be launched for public use;
- (iii) regarding the problem of rodent infestation in Whampoa area, the Department would conduct targeted anti-rodent work based on the RIR, frontline staff's assessments and public's complaints comprehensively. During January 2023 to January 2024, the Department caught a total of 396 rodents in Whampoa area;
- (iv) the owners or occupants of private premises had the responsibility to adopt appropriate measures to eradicate pests and rodents found on their premises. In the past, the Department had deployed staff to Whampoa Garden and schools in the area to conduct inspections and carry out publicity and education work concerning pest control. Upon receipt of the Paper, the Department immediately sent staff to Whampoa Garden and schools in the area to understand the situation

of rodent infestation and discovered traces of rodent activities in some locations. The Department had given advices on anti-rodent measures to relevant management personnel and distributed related promotional leaflets and posters to enhance residents' anti-rodent awareness;

- (v) in the past three weeks, the Department had also arranged service contractors to step up the pest control and street cleansing work in the public areas and streets in the vicinity of Whampoa area (such as Tak Man Street and Man Tai Street);
- (vi) the success of anti-rodent work relied on the cooperation between different parties. The persons in charge of private premises could contact the Department proactively when necessary. The Department was willing to offer assistance;
- (vii) in terms of the effectiveness of rodent catching, the Department caught a total of 4 186 rodents in the full year of 2022. The new rodent trapping technology and baits were adopted on a trial basis in 2023 and 7 269 rodents were caught thereafter, demonstrating the effectiveness of new rodent trapping technology and baits; and
- (viii) the Department would continue to step up the publicity and law enforcement work, as well as strengthen various measures so as to tie in with MSW charging policy implemented by the EPD.

19. **The representative of the EPD** gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (i) as of the end of 2023, the Department had set up 26 food waste collection points in Kowloon City District. Nearly 1 740 tonnes of food waste was collected and delivered to centralised treatment facilities, where it was converted into energy and compost;
- (ii) in order to facilitate the recycling of food waste for small-scale street-level restaurants, the Department had set up food waste collection points at eight RCPs of the FEHD to collect food waste produced by nearby restaurants;

- (iii) the Department had set up food waste collection points at five rear lanes across the territory on a trial basis, including the rear lane at Tam Kung Road in To Kwa Wan in Kowloon City District. Covered recycling bins were used to centrally collect food waste generated by street-level restaurants connected to the rear lanes. The Department would continue to invite restaurants in the district to participate in the above food waste collection scheme; and
- (iv) the Department did not have law enforcement actions against improper disposal of food waste. No districts were found to have particularly serious food waste disposal problems on the Department's record. Yet, the Department would conduct surprise checks at various hygiene black spots in the district from time to time.

20. **The Chairman** concluded that the problem of rodent infestation in the district remained serious, especially during nighttime when people frequently discarded black garbage bags on the roadside that attracted a large number of rodents. It was hoped that relevant departments continued their efforts to combat rodent infestation.

### **Item 7**

#### **Concern over Hygiene Problems along Man Tai Street**

(FEHC Paper No. 9/2024)

21. **A Member** introduced the paper, pointing out that the vast array of restaurants along Man Tai Street and Tak Man Street in Hung Hom had given rise to various environmental hygiene issues related to the disposal of food waste and the emission of oily fumes. The Member expressed thanks to the FEHD for stepping up cleansing and law enforcement work at the above locations proactively upon receipt of the Paper. The Member would like the Department to continue to pay attention to the relevant situation and give advice or warnings in a timely manner, so as to educate the owners of restaurants and shops to cultivate a good hygiene practice. In addition, the Member enquired if the Department could make use of the CCTV footage from nearby buildings to take out prosecutions against the offender under the existing legislation.

22. **The representative of the FEHD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) upon receipt of the Paper, the Department immediately sent staff to inspect the relevant locations and issued advisory letters to shop owners to remind them that they could not discard waste in public

areas and should keep venues clean at all times, or else they might face prosecution;

- (ii) during the inspection, the Department discovered grease traps of three restaurants were uncleaned. However, no excessive emission of oily fumes or illegal discharge of wastewater was observed. The Department had issued verbal warnings to the persons in charge of relevant restaurants and the relevant problem had rectified later; and
- (iii) the Department welcomed the public to submit relevant footage of irregularities. Upon receipt of the footage, the Department would study the crime pattern, conduct targeted surprise checks and take out prosecution actions.

23. **The representative of the EPD** responded that the public could submit footage of irregularities to the Department and they would arrange special inspections to curb illegal acts.

24. There being no other enquiries or comments from **Members, the Chairman** declared the discussion on this item ended.

### **Item 8**

#### **Request for Following up Hygiene Problems near Nan Wah Restaurant on Waterloo Road**

(FEHC Paper No. 10/2024)

25. **A Member** presented the paper, stating that the restaurants in the vicinity of the location mentioned in the Paper were habitual offenders in creating hygiene problems and they had become accustomed to the prosecutions made by government departments. The Member proposed implementing a pilot reward or punishment system linking to the hygiene performances of the restaurants in that area, aiming to encourage the restaurants to maintain environmental hygiene in the surrounding areas and recycle food waste actively.

26. **The representative of the FEHD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) upon receipt of the Paper, the Department immediately sent staff to inspect the relevant locations and remind shop owners in the area that they could not discard waste in public areas and should keep venues

clean at all times, or else they might face prosecution;

- (ii) according to the Department's record, in the past 12 months, the Department's staff took out a total of 13 prosecutions against persons who committed public cleanliness offences or caused the problem of shop front extension in the vicinity of Waterloo Road and Victory Avenue; and
- (iii) the licence issued by the Department to restaurants included provisions requiring licensed restaurants must dispose of their waste properly. If restaurants refused to make improvement after the Department had issued multiple warnings, their licences would be revoked.

27. There being no other enquiries or comments from **Members, the Chairman** declared the discussion on this item ended.

### **Item 9**

#### **Request for Following up Hygiene Problems Caused by Throwing Objects from Height in Yen Yee Mansion in Kadoorie Area**

(FEHC Paper No. 11/2024)

28. **A Member** introduced the paper, pointing out that the problem of throwing objects from height in Yen Yee Mansion at Soares Avenue had been existing for years. The situation was subsided earlier as the elder involved moved out temporarily. However, the relevant problem resurfaced after that elder moved back.

29. **The representative of the FEHD** replied with the following main points:

- (i) during the investigation of complaint cases, the Department's staff would take out prosecution against persons involved if it was confirmed that someone littered in public places or common parts of a building; and
- (ii) the Department welcomed the public to submit relevant footage of irregularities. Upon receipt of the footage, the Department would study the crime pattern, conduct targeted surprise checks and take out prosecution actions.

30. **The representative of the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF)** replied with the following main points:

- (i) the public should report to the Police immediately if they witnessed incidents of throwing objects from height; and
- (ii) the Police welcomed the public to provide relevant photos or videos of irregularities. If the flat where the incident occurred and the person involved were clearly captured in the relevant photos or videos and were found to be substantiated, the Police would issue tickets to prosecute the offender. Nevertheless, if the face of the person involved was not captured in the relevant photos or videos, it would greatly increase the difficulty to make a successful prosecution.

31. **The Chairman**, in conclusion, would like the FEHD and the HKPF to maintain close liaison with Members and pay more attention to the above situation.

#### **Item 10**

#### **Call for Dealing with the Environmental Nuisance Caused by Accumulation of Refuse and Shop Front Extensions in the Rear Lane of Million Building at Station Lane and in the Vicinity of Kwun Yum Temple**

(FEHC Paper No. 12/2024)

32. **A Member** introduced the paper, indicating that there were one elder each in the rear lane of Million Building at Station Lane and in the vicinity of Kwun Yum Temple in Hung Hom respectively who had been piling up lots of sundries and illegally erecting tents, leading to rodent infestation and severe environmental hygiene problems. Moreover, residents reflected that the shop front extension problem in the vicinity of Kun Yam Street was serious, which caused inconvenience to residents. Although the relevant departments had taken several follow-up actions, the problem had yet to be resolved. The Member urged the relevant departments to enhance enforcement actions and adopt measures other than street cleansing to tackle the issue of elder street sleepers piling up sundries.

33. **The representative of the FEHD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) street sleepers were a complex social issue requiring a spectrum of actions under the policy purview of various bureaux and departments. The Department had been actively participating in the inter-

departmental joint operations coordinated by the District Office to jointly improve various issues such as environmental hygiene conditions of the locations concerned with other Government departments. Since January 2023, the KCDO had coordinated a total of 13 joint operations. Apart from removing rubbish and cleaning rear lanes in the joint operations, the Department also stepped up pest control work there;

- (ii) regarding the illegal expansion of the business by shops in the vicinity of Station Lane, the Department carried out 75 joint operations in 2023 with relevant departments, including the HKPF, to enhance enforcement action. The Department took out 190 and 64 prosecutions against persons who committed public cleanliness offences or caused the problem of shop front extension in the vicinity of the above location respectively;
- (iii) as of 15 February this year, the Department conducted six joint operations with other relevant departments in the vicinity of Station Lane and Kun Yam Street. The Department took out 21 and three prosecutions against persons who committed public cleanliness offences or caused the problem of shop front extension respectively; and
- (iv) with the enhancement of law enforcement by various departments, the hygiene conditions and the situation of shop front extension at the locations concerned had improved. The Department would continue to pay attention to the situation of the above locations and take appropriate actions so as to maintain environmental hygiene.

34. **The representative of the HKPF** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) with regard to the street obstruction caused by sundries and the shop front extension problem in the vicinity of Station Lane and Kun Yam Street, the Kowloon City Police District received one relevant complaint in the fourth quarter of 2023 and had referred to the task force of the FEHD for follow-up; and
- (ii) the Police would continue to maintain close liaison with the task force of the FEHD in 2024 with a view to combat the problem of shop front



extension in the area.

35. **The representative of the KCDO** stated that the KCDO would continue to coordinate with the relevant departments, including the Social Welfare Department, to carry out joint operations. In spite of solving the environmental hygiene issues, the KCDO would also follow-up the situation of the two street sleepers mentioned in the Paper.

36. **The Chairman** concluded that the relevant problem had been existing for a long time and caused discontent among nearby residents and shop owners. The Chairman requested that all the relevant departments must take part in the joint operations, as well as provide necessary assistance to the relevant street sleepers. The Chairman would like to solve the relevant problem through the collaboration of various departments.

### **Item 11**

#### **Concern over Shop Front Extensions in the Old Areas of Hung Hom**

(FEHC Paper No. 13/2024)

37. **A Member** presented the paper, stating that many shops in Hung Hom area always placed different kinds of sundries on the pavements or roads and made the floor wet, jeopardising the safety of nearby residents. Therefore, the Member requested the relevant departments to follow-up as soon as possible.

38. **The representative of the HKPF** responded that the Police conducted a total of three joint operations with the FEHD at the above location from September to December 2023 and issued a total of 12 fixed penalty notices to offending vehicles and drivers. The relevant departments would continue to conduct joint operations in 2024.

39. **The representative of the FEHD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the FEHD would carry out joint law enforcement actions with other relevant departments from time to time. In 2023, the Department took out 228 and 117 prosecutions against persons who committed public cleanliness offences or caused the problem of shop front extension in the old areas of Hung Hom respectively; and
- (ii) as of 15 February this year, the Department took out 22, four and two prosecutions against persons who committed public cleanliness

offences, caused the problem of shop front extension and conducted illegal hawking in the old areas of Hung Hom respectively; among which the prosecutions on shop front extension and illegal hawking involved the shops mentioned in the Paper.

40. **The Chairman** concluded that the relevant problem had been existing for years and would like the departments to enhance enforcement action. The Chairman also suggested to adopt a progressive penalty for shops with repeated non-compliance records to enhance the deterrent effect.

## **Item 12**

### **Call for Taking the Opportunity of Granting New Contracts for Public Funeral Parlours to Enhance Facilities and Services**

(FEHC Paper No. 14/2024)

41. **A Member** introduced the paper, requesting the FEHD to consider adding the following terms when inviting tenders for new contract for the public funeral parlour in Hung Hom:

- (i) opening the crematoria for public use throughout the year; and
- (ii) making good use of the underground car park by allowing the parking of hearses.

42. **The representative of the FEHD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) at present, the terms of agreement concerning the operating right of the Hung Hom Public Funeral Parlour (HHPFP) stipulated that the operator was required to provide free crematoria service for the public during the Ching Ming Festival in spring, Chung Yeung Festival in autumn and on specific days;
- (ii) in order to further enhance the environmental hygiene conditions in Hung Hom area and cater to the public needs in burning offerings, the Department provided free crematoria service on a trial basis on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays from February 2023 to January 2024. It was observed that the relevant measures helped to improve the environmental hygiene conditions in the area. In view of this, the Department had already extended the free crematoria

service to Yu Lan Festival and the specific period on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays in the new operating agreement to be effective from 1 May 2024. Having regard to the principle of proper use of public funds, the Department would increase the days of opening the crematoria as needed so as to facilitate the public; and

- (iii) since the number of parking spaces available in the car park of the funeral parlours was only sufficient to meet its daily operational needs, the car park would not be opened for the parking of other hearses.

43. **The Chairman**, in conclusion, would like the FEHD to continue to relay the requests of the public to the relevant section so as to resolve the longstanding air pollution problem in Hung Hom area.

### **Item 13**

#### **Proposal of Building New Public Markets in Kai Tak in a Bid to Tackle the Issue of Residents Doing Grocery Shopping Across Districts**

(FEHC Paper No. 15/2024)

44. **A Member** introduced the paper, indicating that following the completion of various residential projects in Kai Tak area, the population in Kai Tak area was expected to increase to approximately 130 000 in 2026. However, there was only one small-scale market in Ching Long Shopping Centre at present and a lack basic auxiliary livelihood facilities in the area so that many Kai Tak residents were required to do grocery shopping across districts. The Member proposed the building of a large-scale market at Site 1J1 in Kai Tak area by relevant departments and an increase of auxiliary livelihood facilities under the “single site, multiple use” model, as well as the adoption of innovative management approach in operating the market.

45. **The representative of the FEHD** gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (i) as building a public market required the use of scarce land resources and entailed public financial commitment, both capital and recurrent, the Government therefore had to duly assess the demand and cost effectiveness in considering whether a public market should be built to ensure proper use of public resources. The Government would take into account the factors including demographic mix of that area, community needs, market facilities nearby and the number of fresh provision retail outlets when studying the building of a new public

market; and

- (ii) the FEHD was committed to adopting a brand new management mode for new public markets and markets being overhauled or redeveloped under the Market Modernisation Programme so as to enhance management standards and improve the market service quality.

46. **Members** raised the following views:

- (i) Members understood that the Government had to take into consideration various factors in building a new market but reiterated that there was only one small-scale market in Kai Tak area at present with high selling price, which failed to cater to the basic needs of residents;
- (ii) the conditions of Kai Tak area basically complied with the Government's requirements in the planning and building of a new market. Other government departments such as the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) had planned to build a library in Kai Tak area. Members urged the Department to prioritise the building of a new market operating with an innovative management approach in Kai Tak area; and
- (iii) apart from Site 1J1, Members expressed that the new market could be built at other sites in Kai Tak area, such as the Olympic Avenue, in the vicinity of Sung Wong Toi or Site 1E1. The new market not only could meet the residents' needs, but also bring about competitions to the existing market in Ching Long Shopping Centre.

47. **The representative of the FEHD** replied that apart from Ching Long Market in Kai Tak area, major supermarkets were currently available in Ching Long Shopping Centre and AIRSIDE in Kai Tak. The Department had issued around 20 Fresh Provision Shop Licences to relevant merchants and did not rule out the possibility of issuing more licences with respect to the increasing population of Kai Tak area in the future. The FEHD expressed thanks to Members' views on the building of a market in Kai Tak area. The views had been noted and would be relayed to the supervisor.

48. **Members** made further comments as follows:

- (i) the selling prices in major supermarkets were very high. Majority of the Kai Tak residents could not afford in the long term. Thus, a number of residents had to do grocery shopping across district at Tai Shing Street Market or Ngau Chi Wan Market in Wong Tai Sin District. Members would like the Department to understand the needs of Kai Tak residents and build a public market in the area as soon as possible; and
- (ii) Members also understood that matters relating to the building of a new market could not be decided by the district office of the FEHD. Therefore, Members believed that they should convey the needs of Kai Tak residents to the authorities concerned and enquired if the authority had other site suggestions that were more suitable for the building of a new public market on top of Site 1J1.

49. **The Chairman** accepted Members' views and instructed the Secretary to send a letter to the Environment and Ecology Bureau in the name of this committee to express this committee's concern over the relevant matter.

(Post-meeting notes: The Secretary sent a letter to the Secretary for Environment and Ecology Bureau on 5 March 2024 in the name of the FEHC, hoping that the relevant department would build a large-scale market in Kai Tak area and increase auxiliary livelihood facilities under the "single site, multiple use" model to cater to the daily needs of the public.)

#### **Item 14**

#### **Matters Regarding the Provision of Food Waste Processors in Kowloon City District**

(FEHC Paper No. 16/2024)

50. **A Member** presented the paper, pointing out that many single-block buildings in the district were currently unable to apply for the installation of FWSRBs via the Recycling Fund since they had less than 1 000 households. The Member would like the relevant department to consider installing FWSRBs in different locations across Kowloon City District so as to facilitate more residents in the Kowloon City District to take part in food waste recycling.

51. **The representative of the EPD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the ECC launched a two-year “Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Smart Recycling Bins in Private Housing Estates” on 29 December 2023 to subsidise large-scale private housing estates with no less than 1 000 households to install FWSRBs for food waste collection. As of 30 January 2024, the ECC had received a total of 41 applications. In order to tie in with the implementation of MSW charging and further encourage the recycling of domestic food waste, the ECC was considering to expand the Scheme to private housing estates with less than 1 000 households. Details would be announced in due course; and
- (ii) the Department installed FWSRBs at GREEN@SHAM SHUI PO and GREEN@EASTERN in September and December 2023 respectively to collect domestic food waste via public collection points from single-block residential buildings and “three-nil buildings” on a trial basis as well as encouraged public participation through providing the GREEN\$ reward. The Department would continue to explore the setting up of more public food waste collection points in suitable locations across different districts to provide the public with more convenient recycling channels.

52. **Members** raised the following enquiries and views:

- (i) Prince Edward area and Kowloon Tong area were predominately low-density residential areas and most of the buildings there, with regard to the number of households, did not meet the application requirements for the installation of FWSBRs. Members suggested that the Department to set up FWSBRs on streets with a higher residential buildings concentration or in different government buildings in the area, such as venues of the LCSD or the RCPs of the FEHD to facilitate food waste recycling of residents;
- (ii) Members enquired the eligibility for “community food waste mobile collection spots” and the proposed locations of setting up food waste collection spots in Kowloon City District; and

- (iii) Members enquired if the old buildings or “three-nil” buildings in the district with less than 1 000 household could apply for the “Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Smart Recycling Bins in Private Housing Estates” launched by the ECC.

53. **The representative of the EPD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) he would relay the views regarding the installation of the FWSBRs in Prince Edward area and Kowloon Tong area to the relevant section of the Department;
- (ii) “community food waste mobile collection spots” would be operated with a fixed destination and time schedules in single-block buildings and locations packed with restaurants by using conventional food waste recycling bins to collect food waste generated by nearby households and restaurants;
- (iii) the targets of the “Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Smart Recycling Bins in Private Housing Estates” were large-scale private housing estates. With respect to the food waste recycling in old buildings or “three-nil buildings”, the Department would support the relevant buildings to take part in food waste recycling through the “community food waste mobile collection spots”; and
- (iv) the Department welcomed Members to provide suitable locations for setting up FWSBRs in the district. The Department would conduct a feasibility study on the relevant locations.

54. **The Chairman**, in conclusion, stated that Members could submit relevant suggestions in the future regarding the suitable locations for setting up the FWSBRs to the Secretariat. The Secretariat would, after consolidation, refer to the EPD for consideration.

**Item 15****Request for Alleviating the Problems of Rodent and Mosquito Infestation and Feeding Feral Pigeons in Ho Man Tin Area**

(FEHC Paper No. 17/2024)

55. **A Member** presented the paper with the following main points:

- (i) although rodent infestation in Oi Man Estate had been alleviated, the problem still existed. The Member requested that the FEHD, the HD and the LCSD to organise talks on anti-rodent work regularly so as to raise residents' hygiene awareness;
- (ii) mosquito infestation in Ho Man Tin area was serious. The Member requested the FEHD and the LCSD to strengthen anti-mosquito work in public areas and parks; and
- (iii) quite a number of residents had been feeding feral pigeons in the area with pigeon droppings everywhere. The Member requested the FEHD to carry out regular cleansing at the pedestrian walkways and promote the message of not feeding feral pigeons to the public.

56. **Members** raised the following enquiries and views:

- (i) the HD and the FEHD had organised multiple promotional talks in the area to appeal to the public not to feed feral pigeons. However, some of the public did not listen to advice and insisted on feeding feral pigeons, resulting in various hygiene issues. Members suggested relevant departments to take strict enforcement actions against those with repeated non-compliance record to achieve a deterrent effect;
- (ii) Members proposed the FEHD to jointly step up anti-rodent work in PRH estates with the HD and educate tenants on anti-rodent skills, as well as conduct joint operations to combat the feeding of feral pigeons;
- (iii) Members enquired if the Department had successfully prosecuted those who fed feral pigeons in the past and if the Department could make use of the photos or videos taken by the public to take out prosecutions against those who fed feral pigeons;



- (iv) the FEHD conducted a clean-up campaign in the vicinity of Sheung Foo Street in Ho Man Tin before the Lunar New Year. However, relevant streets nearby were once again full of pigeon droppings a few days after the campaign, indicating that the problem of feral pigeons was severe;
- (v) the problem of rodent infestation in Sheung Shing Street Park was serious. Members asked the LCSD to take follow-up actions proactively;
- (vi) feral pigeons would be included in the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (the Ordinance) on 1 August this year. Members enquired about the differences in the law enforcement actions conducted by the FEHD in combatting feeding feral pigeons apart from the increased penalties after the amendment of the Ordinance came into effect;
- (vii) Members would like the Department to enhance publicity on related penalties upon the amendment of the Ordinance to achieve a higher deterrent effect; and
- (viii) Members enquired about the latest progress of the Trial Programme of Using Contraceptive Drug on Feral Pigeons (the Trial Programme) launched by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and if the Trial Programme would be further extended in the area.

57. **The representative of the FEHD** gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (i) although the HD was responsible for the pest control work in Oi Man Estate, the FEHD had been maintaining a close liaison with the HD staff and conducting joint inspections regularly in the public areas of the estate. If there was any sign of rodent infestation, the staff of the Department would immediately provide prevention and control measures to the staff of the HD. The FEHD would organise a talk on anti-rodent work in Oi Man Estate in due course to raise residents' anti-rodent awareness;
- (ii) the Department would continue to conduct anti-mosquito work in winter, including removing stagnant water, trimming of grass, as well as carrying out fogging in wooded area to kill adult mosquitoes. The

Department would also deploy staff to inspect the construction sites in the area. If the breeding of mosquitoes was found, relevant parties would be immediately prosecuted;

- (iii) the Department would hold regular inter-departmental meetings, invite relevant government departments to participate and share the latest information on anti-mosquito work;
- (iv) in terms of combatting the feeding of feral pigeons, the Department had hung banners and put up posters in multiple locations across the area to remind the public not to feed feral pigeons and dirty public places. The Department had also arranged cleansing contractors to strengthen cleansing work at locations where feral pigeons gathered, use high pressure hot water cleaners and diluted bleach for cleansing and disinfection as necessary at locations where feral pigeons gathered;
- (v) the Department was unable to take out prosecutions solely based on the act of feeding feral pigeons, but would deploy additional manpower to carry out surprise checks in the area. If any persons were found to have dirtied public places while feeding wild birds and feral pigeons, the Department would take out prosecutions immediately;
- (vi) the photos or videos taken by the public were not sufficient as evidence for prosecutions. Yet, the Department still welcomed the public and Members to provide relevant photos or videos so that targeted surprise checks could be formulated by the Department according to the relevant photos or videos;
- (vii) the relevant amendment of the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance was still currently at the legislative stage, the relevant information was yet to be provided by the Department. At the current stage, the Department would still invoke the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance to take out prosecutions against those who fed feral pigeons; and
- (viii) the Department did not have the latest information on the Trial Programme of Using Contraceptive Drug on Feral Pigeons.

58. There being no other enquiries or comments from **Members, the Chairman** declared the discussion on this item ended.

**Item 16**

**Any Other Business**

59. No items were further raised by Members.

**Item 17**

**Date of Next Meeting**

60. **The Chairman** announced that the next meeting would be held at 2:30 p.m. on 16 May 2024 and the closing date for submission of papers would be 29 April 2024.

61. **The Chairman** announced the adjournment of the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed on 16 May 2024.

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The Chairman

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The Secretary

KCDC Secretariat  
May 2024