

**Minutes of the 6th Meeting of
the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee of
the Kowloon City District Council**

Date: 14 November 2024 (Thursday)
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, 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 Pok
Ms LEUNG Yuen-ting
Mr CHAN Chi-wah
Mr CHEUNG King-fan
Mr WONG Chi
Ms LAU Yuen-yin
Mr PUN Kwok-wah, JP
Mr KWAN Ho-yeung

Co-opted Members: Mr LO Chiu-kit
Mr YEUNG Ho-shing

Secretary: Miss SIN Hong-ying, Executive Officer (District Council)², Kowloon City District Office
Bonnie

In Attendance: Ms SO Lai-ye, Ivy Senior Liaison Officer (District Liaison)³, Kowloon City District Office
Mr CHAN Chi-sing District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Kowloon City), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Ms CHAN Mei-chu	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 2	Mr LAI Yiu-lam, Calvin	Senior Building Surveyor/E1, Buildings Department
	Mr LII Kin-chiu	Engineer/Kai Tak Development, Drainage Services Department
Items 3 to 4	Dr WONG Yick-him, Simon	Veterinary Officer (Avian Influenza Surveillance), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Items 7 to 8	Inspector SIN Tai-kam	Patrol Subunit 4 Commander of Kowloon City Division, Hong Kong Police Force
	Sergeant WONG Wai-pun	Neighbour Police Co-ordinator of Police Community Relations Office, Kowloon City District, Hong Kong Police Force
Item 9	Mr Peter PANG	Senior Manager, Acquisition and Clearance, Urban Renewal Authority
	Mr Howard CHEUNG	Manager, Community Development, Urban Renewal Authority

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Opening Remarks by the Chairman

1. **The Chairman of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (FEHC)** welcomed all Members and representatives of departments to the sixth meeting of the FEHC.
2. **The Chairman** reminded Members to register their interests in accordance with the stipulation of Order 22 of the Kowloon City District Council Standing Orders (the Standing Orders) and stated 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 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 should be half of the total number of members of the committee provided that District Council members must constitute half or more of the members attending the meeting. 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 the stipulation of Order 13(1) 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 switch off their mobile phones or turn the ringers to vibration notifications to avoid causing disturbances to the meeting.

Item 1

Confirmation of Minutes of the 5th Meeting

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

Item 2

Matter Arising: Concern over the Water Quality and Ecological Problems of Kai Tak River

(FEHC Paper No. 53/2024)

5. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written reply furnished by the Buildings Department (BD), i.e. Document No. 18 tabled.

6. **The representative of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD)**

replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the Department had set up six regular water quality monitoring stations at Kai Tak River. According to the monitoring results over the past three years, the Water Quality Index of Kai Tak River had achieved “Fair” to “Good” gradings and the water had sufficient dissolved oxygen content, indicating continuous improvement in the water quality of Kai Tak River;
- (ii) the Department had deployed staff to inspect the sewage treatment facilities of the construction sites and the grease traps of the restaurants in the vicinity of Kai Tak River, and had not found any illegal discharge of sewage; and
- (iii) the Department would continue to trace the sources of pollution in the stormwater collection system in the upstream and midstream areas of Kai Tak River (i.e. Wong Tai Sin, Tsz Wan Shan and San Po Kong) and endeavour to control and intercept the discharge of pollutants into Kai Tak River at source.

7. **The representative of the BD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the Department had been maintaining close communication and collaboration with the EPD and the Drainage Services Department (DSD) on cases of misconnection of private building sewers to the stormwater collection system (sewer misconnection); and
- (ii) as of 11 November 2024, the Department had received a total of 16 cases of sewer misconnection, of which 13 cases had been rectified. As for the remaining three cases, statutory orders had been issued to require the relevant owners / owners’ corporations (OCs) to arrange for rectification works. The related rectification works were also currently in progress and were targeted to be completed by the end of 2024. The Department would continue to closely follow up on the situations of rectification of the three cases.

8. **The representative of the DSD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) Kai Tak River was one of the most important drainage channels in East Kowloon. The Department was responsible for the maintenance of the river and its ancillary public drainage system. The Department would send staff to carry out inspections regularly to ensure the smooth flow of the river and minimise the risk of flooding;
- (ii) the Department would keep in view the environmental hygiene nearby Kai Tak River from time to time. If floating refuse or fish carcasses were found in the river, the Department would immediately refer the case to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) for follow-up action, and would assist the FEHD in clearing up the floating objects in the river; and
- (iii) the Department would closely monitor the situation of Kai Tak River, maintain close liaison with the EPD and the FEHD and provide appropriate assistance.

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

- (i) requested the BD to provide details of the three outstanding cases of sewer misconnection currently and the penalties for cases of sewer misconnection;
- (ii) during an on-site inspection, floating oil was found on the river surface, the clean-up of which had yet to be completed to date. Members enquired whether the EPD had identified the source of the oil pollution and whether it had measures or equipment to remove the oil pollution;
- (iii) it was found during the on-site inspection that there was still odour emitting from Kai Tak River, with large areas of black pollutants on both sides of the river which had not been properly cleaned up. The DSD was requested to provide a timetable for the clean-up of the pollutants there;
- (iv) requested the related departments to report on the situation of the follow-up actions taken after inclement weather;

- (v) requested the FEHD to provide the number of cases concerning the hygiene situations of Kai Tak River received between September and November 2024; and
- (vi) there were obvious rust stains on both sides of the river, which were estimated to be caused by the rust on the bank being washed down to both sides of the river by rainwater. Members enquired about the situation of the follow-up actions taken by the related departments on the rust stains.

10. **The representative of the EPD** replied that the floating oil on the surface of Kai Tak River might be caused by the larvicidal oil used by the nearby construction sites flowing into the river through the stormwater collection system. Coupled with the slower flow of water during the high tide, the oil pollution was concentrated at the location of the footbridge of Kai Tak Station Square. As the use of larvicidal oil was a necessary measure to ensure occupational safety at construction sites, the Department had advised the relevant construction sites to avoid excessive use of larvicidal oil. During the Department's recent inspection, it was found that the oil pollution on the river surface mentioned earlier had dissipated.

11. **The representative of the DSD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the Department had been cleaning up the pollutants on the walls on both sides of Kai Tak River after the on-site inspection in October, and was now focusing on treating the pollutants on the walls on both sides of the river in the vicinity of Kai Tak Station Square;
- (ii) the Department and the related departments were tracing the source of the rust stains on both sides of Kai Tak River and would study treatment methods; and
- (iii) the Department understood that the public space along Kai Tak River would be opened for public use upon completion of the works. The Department would cooperate and arrange for cleaning up the pollutants at other locations of Kai Tak River in a timely manner.

12. **The representative of the BD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) out of the three outstanding cases of sewer misconnection, two were

located in Tsz Wan Shan and one was located in San Po Kong respectively. The relevant owners had carried out rectification works in accordance with the orders issued by the Department, and the works were expected to be completed by the end of 2024. The Department would closely monitor its progress;

- (ii) if the owners or OCs involved in sewer misconnection cases failed to comply with a statutory order without reasonable excuses, the Department would consider taking out prosecution against the relevant owners to urge them to fulfil their legal responsibilities as owners to rectify the relevant situations of irregularities or defects. If the owners had a reasonable excuse for failing to comply with the statutory order, the Department would consider carrying out default rectification works for the relevant owners, and then recover the costs of works, supervision charges and surcharges from them; and
- (iii) to enhance public awareness of sewer misconnection, the Department had stepped up the relevant work on publicity and education, hoping that this would enhance public understanding of sewer misconnection and reduce the chance of occurrence of sewer misconnection.

13. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he would like various departments to work closely together to follow up on the issue of water quality of Kai Tak River on an on-going basis, and report to the committee on the latest work progress in a timely manner.

Item 3

Concern over the Problem of Illegal Feeding of Wild Birds and the Effectiveness of the Wild Animals Protection (Amendment) Bill after It Comes into Effect

(FEHC Paper No. 54/2024)

Item 4

Problems Regarding Feral Pigeons in To Kwa Wan

(FEHC Paper No. 55/2024)

14. **The Chairman** stated that as Items 3 and 4 were related to illegal feeding of feral pigeons, he declared that the two items would be discussed together after consulting Members.

15. **A Member** introduced Paper No. 54/2024.
16. **A Member** introduced Paper No. 55/2024.
17. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written replies furnished by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), the FEHD and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), i.e. Documents No. 1, 5, 6, 15 and 16 tabled.
18. **Members** raised the following enquiries and views:
 - (i) Kowloon City District had been plagued by the problem of feeding of feral pigeons for years, with the situation being more serious in the parks in the district. Members suggested the related departments to consider conducting on-going operations to combat feeding of feral pigeons at the black spots in the district to enhance the deterrent effect and reduce the source of food for feral pigeons;
 - (ii) requested the Department to provide Members with a list of illegal feeding of feral pigeon black spots in the district;
 - (iii) the number of prosecutions took out by departments other than the FEHD against the problem of illegal feeding of feral pigeons;
 - (iv) the LCSD was one of the departments empowered to take enforcement actions under the Wild Animals Protection (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 (the Ordinance). Many parks in the district (such as Hutchison Park) were black spots of feeding of feral pigeons. However, the security personnel or staff in the parks were mostly older people who might not have adequate knowledge and conditions to take enforcement actions. Members enquired about the details of the LCSD's enforcement actions; and
 - (v) the AFCD was responsible for enforcement in private places. However, the AFCD had limited manpower. Members suggested that more departments (such as the FEHD) should be empowered to take enforcement actions in private places to enhance the effectiveness of enforcement there.

19. **The representative of the LCSD** replied with the main points as follows:
- (i) the Department arranged for cleansing contractors to clean the facilities in the parks under its purview on a daily basis. If residual grains and other food crumbs or animal excreta were found in the parks, the Department would deploy staff to clean up the venues immediately, and would deploy additional cleansing staff to step up the cleansing work as necessary;
 - (ii) in connection with the Ordinance which had come into effect on 1 August 2024, the Department had hung new banners at the black spots of feral pigeon feeding to remind the public not to feed wild birds and its penalties; and
 - (iii) to further educate the public, the Department, in collaboration with the AFCD, would also arrange to set up “Mission P.” educational booths in parks where the problem of feeding of feral pigeons was more serious, so as to promote the message of “Don't Feed Feral Pigeons”, with a view to stepping up education and publicity in the community.
20. **The representative of the FEHD** replied with the main points as follows:
- (i) the Department was mainly responsible for maintaining street cleanliness and environmental hygiene. If the public dirtied a public place because of feeding feral pigeons or other wild animals, the Department might issue a \$3,000 fixed penalty notice under the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap. 570) to the offender. Over the past six months, the Department had issued fixed penalty notices to three offenders at Wo Chung Street, Dyer Avenue and Baker Street respectively under the relevant legislation;
 - (ii) the Department issued a \$5,000 fixed penalty notice under the Ordinance to a feral pigeon feeder near Zung Fu car showroom in Hung Hom on 24 October 2024;
 - (iii) the Department had arranged for enforcement officers in plain clothes to step up inspections at the locations mentioned in the Paper and nearby public places, and would continue to take rigorous

enforcement actions. The Department had also sent staff multiple times to conduct surprise inspections in To Kwa Wan area. Although no individuals were found to feed wild birds illegally, a total of four fixed penalty notices had been issued to individuals who had breached the cleanliness legislation there; and

- (iv) apart from stepping up cleansing of the streets mentioned in the Paper, the Department also posted notices at prominent locations in the district to remind the public not to feed feral pigeons or else they would be prosecuted.

21. **The representative of the AFCD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the Department had noted Members' views on empowering more departments to take enforcement actions in private places, and would relay the views to the related sections for consideration;
- (ii) the Department had identified some of the black spots of feral pigeon feeding in the district, such as Whampoa Garden, Chatham Gate and Ma Tau Wai Road / Ma Hang Chung Road Rest Garden. Members were welcome to provide more locations and discuss with the Department the measures to combat the relevant problem. The Department was also willing to provide technical advice to other departments and landowners on measures regarding the prevention and control of feral pigeons;
- (iii) the Department had hung banners and put up notices at most feral pigeon feeding black spots in the district, including the locations mentioned in the Papers. Publicity materials were not hung at some black spots as no suitable locations could be identified;
- (iv) the Department agreed that sustained enforcement actions at black spots could be effective in combating illegal feeding of feral pigeons at source, but the relevant practice would involve substantial manpower and time; and
- (v) the Department had conducted a total of 32 inspections in the district between August and October 2024, during which no fixed penalty notice had been issued.

22. **Members** raised the following enquiries and views:
- (i) enquired about the reasons why enforcement in private places had to be carried out by the AFCD and how the existing division of labour among departments was formulated; and
 - (ii) the public fed feral pigeons at the location of the slope at Ping Chi Street every day, thus attracting a large number of feral pigeons to gather there. Members enquired about the reasons why the AFCD did not take out prosecution for the 32 inspections conducted, and suggested the AFCD to conduct inspections and take enforcement actions at the black spots in the district at different times.
23. **The representative of the LCSD** replied with the main points as follows:
- (i) the Department would arrange venue staff to conduct regular inspections at recreational venues (including Hutchison Park) under its purview. If any person was found feeding feral pigeons illegally, the venue staff would take out prosecution directly without giving any warning. Where necessary, the Department would conduct joint enforcement operations with the AFCD and the FEHD; and
 - (ii) the Department also held meetings with representatives of the housing estates near Hutchison Park (such as Laguna Verde) from time to time to understand the situation of illegal feeding of feral pigeons in Hutchison Park.
24. **The representative of the FEHD** replied that the Department was responsible for enforcement work against illegal feeding of feral pigeons in public places. The relevant division of labour was determined according to the terms of reference of each department, which was an internal guideline among the departments.
25. **The representative of the AFCD** replied with the main points as follows:
- (i) the Department conducted inspections mainly in response to complaints or reports. Some of the 32 inspections had been carried out in private or privately-owned places. However, as each case had its own difficulties and considerations, situations of illegal feeding might not be detected. Therefore, the Department had not taken out

any prosecution during the inspections;

- (ii) Members were welcome to provide the locations of black spots and the time of occurrence of illegal feeding to the Department. The Department would deploy manpower to conduct investigation and enforcement actions at the relevant locations; and
- (iii) the current division of labour among departments was based on an internal guideline. The Department noted Members' suggestion on the division of labour among departments and would relay the suggestion to the related sections for consideration.

26. **Members** suggested the FEHD to take enforcement actions in private places because they would like to enhance the flexibility and effectiveness of enforcement. This way, the FEHD staff would not be prevented from taking enforcement actions when the offenders went from public places to private places.

27. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he would like the departments to enhance collaboration and communication to reduce the impact of illegal feeding of feral pigeons on the environment of the community, and that the departments to report on the latest progress.

Item 5

Request for Alleviating the Problem of Rodent Infestation in Kowloon City District

(FEHC Paper No. 56/2024)

28. **A Member** introduced the Paper.

29. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written reply furnished by the FEHD, i.e. Document No. 7 tabled.

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

- (i) since 2024, the Department had been adopting thermal imaging cameras with artificial intelligence technology for surveillance of rodent activities in the community. In the rodent infestation surveys conducted in the first half of the year, the Rodent Absence Rate (RAR) of Kowloon City District was 93 per cent, indicating that the

situation of rodent infestation in the district was generally under control. Taking into account the data collected from the surveyed locations, the Department would combine observations made during routine inspections and reports from the local community to keep track of the rodent infestation situation and trend in the community so as to allocate resources properly and adjust rodent prevention and control strategies;

- (ii) upon receipt of the Paper, the Department had stepped up cleaning and pest control work at the locations mentioned in the Paper, including increasing the frequency of street cleansing, increasing the number of locations of rodent bait placement, arranging overnight rodent control teams to carry out trapping work in rear lanes, deploying staff to step up hygiene inspections of restaurants and providing hygiene education on proper disposal of waste, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of rodent prevention and disinfection in a comprehensive manner;
- (iii) the Department had inspected all restaurants nearby the aforementioned locations and reminded the persons-in-charge of the relevant restaurants to dispose of waste properly and perform proper precautionary work on rodent infestation;
- (iv) apart from government departments, various stakeholders should also fully cooperate and step up the work on rodent prevention and control in their respective areas in order to combat rodent infestation more effectively. In this connection, the public should continue to maintain environmental hygiene and eliminate the three basic survival conditions of rodents, namely food, harbourage and passages, meaning the elimination of food sources and hiding places of rodents, as well as blockage of their passages; and
- (v) the Department had been maintaining liaison with various departments and local organisations, including conducting joint cleansing operations with other departments, and joining hands with District Council members, Care Teams and residents' organisations to organise a series of talks and promotional activities on pest control in the community, with a view to raising the alertness of the residents of Kowloon City District in pest control.

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

- (i) Members would like the Department to introduce the details and effectiveness of other new rodent trapping technologies apart from the new type of rodent traps;
- (ii) the number of advice made or prosecutions took out by the FEHD against restaurants nearby the black spots of rodent infestation in the district;
- (iii) the method of calculating the RAR and its purpose;
- (iv) most of the parks in Ho Man Tin area had problems of rodent infestation, which were particularly serious in the evening. Members had also witnessed rodent activities in Ho Man Tin East Service Reservoir Playground on a number of occasions, hence they requested the LCSD to step up anti-rodent operations in the parks in Ho Man Tin area;
- (v) the rodenticide currently used by the FEHD was ineffective in rodent disinfestation as it could hardly attract rodents. Members suggested the Department to make reference to the practice of other countries and adopt a rodenticide with higher effectiveness;
- (vi) suggested the FEHD to provide the public with effective anti-rodent advice for residential premises;
- (vii) suggested the FEHD to step up publicity and education on rodent prevention and control to the OCs of buildings and other stakeholders so as to minimise the impact of rodent infestation on residents; and
- (viii) suggested the FEHD to consider stepping up efforts in anti-rodent work carried out by frontline staff so as to enhance the efficiency of anti-rodent work.

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

- (i) the Department had installed thermal imaging devices at 100 rodent infestation black spots in the district. The thermal imaging devices

took photographs every two minutes and operated from 7:00 p.m. every night to 7:00 a.m. the next day. The Department would make reference to the data over the past six months and calculate the RAR by dividing the number of thermal images without the presence of rodents by the total number of photographs;

- (ii) the Rodent Infestation Rate (RIR) was calculated on the basis of the number of baits (i.e. sweet potatoes) placed at the rodent infestation black spots that were eaten. However, the relevant method of calculation might not be accurate as rodents might not eat the baits or the baits might be eaten by other animals. The RAR was a more scientific method of calculation with a higher accuracy. Therefore, it had fully replaced the RIR as a reference indicator for measuring rodent infestation;
- (iii) the Department had been trying out the new type of rodent traps in the district in recent months. According to preliminary observations, the effectiveness of the new type of rodent traps was not much different from that of the conventional rodent trapping methods. The Department would continue to explore the possibility of applying other new technologies to enhance the effectiveness of rodent trapping;
- (iv) the Department had provided technical support on anti-rodent work to the management offices of buildings near rodent infestation black spots, and distributed leaflets to residents and put up posters in the buildings to enhance residents' awareness of anti-rodent work; and
- (v) the Department did not have figures on the number of advice made or prosecutions took out against restaurants nearby rodent infestation black spots in the district for the time being.

33. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he would like the FEHD to further step up efforts for the rodent prevention and control work for the rodent infestation black spots in the district, as well as continue to improve the environmental hygiene situations in the district.

Item 6**Matters on the Requests to Improve the Environmental Hygiene and Replace Manhole Covers at the Rear Lanes in Hung Hom Area**

(FEHC Paper No. 57/2024)

34. **A Member** introduced the Paper.
35. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written replies furnished by the FEHD and the Highways Department (HyD), i.e. Documents No. 8 and 17 tabled.
36. **The representative of the FEHD** replied with the main points as follows:
- (i) regarding the problem of accumulation of recyclables in the side lane of Hung Wu Building, the Department had issued warning letters in July 2024 to the persons-in-charge of the shops at the relevant location, reminding them not to place any items in public places or they would be liable to prosecution. The Department had also arranged staff to carry out designated patrols in the vicinity to enhance enforcement efforts. Since July 2024, the Department had taken out seven prosecutions against the shops at the relevant location for the problem of illegal disposal of waste. The situation there was now generally under control, with significant improvement in the environmental hygiene;
 - (ii) the Department had referred the problem of defective manhole covers at the aforementioned location to the HyD for follow-up action;
 - (iii) upon receipt of the Paper, the Department had immediately sent staff to inspect the rear lanes of Hip Fai Building, Wisdom Building, Fu Yip Building, Po Yuen Mansion, Golden Mansion and Sang On Building. Miscellaneous items such as trolleys were found to be placed in the public places. Therefore, the Department had issued 12 Notices to Remove Obstruction, requiring the owners of the relevant items to remove the aforementioned items within a specified timeframe. During the subsequent re-inspection, the Department had removed the items which were still placed in those places;

- (iv) over the past three months, the Department had issued ten fixed penalty notices and taken out one prosecution against shops causing the problems of obstruction to the street and street sweeping at the aforementioned locations respectively. The Department had also deployed staff to conduct publicity and education to nearby merchants and erected signboards there to remind the public not to place miscellaneous items or litter in public places or they might face prosecution;
- (v) the miscellaneous items at the rear lane of Million Building were the personal belongings of a street sleeper. The Kowloon City District Office (KCDO) would coordinate with the related departments to carry out inter-departmental joint operations in accordance with their functions to alleviate the environmental hygiene problem caused by the street sleeper. During the joint operations, staff of the Department were responsible for clearing the refuse on the ground and items discarded by the street sleeper, as well as cleansing the public places nearby. Since January 2024, the KCDO had coordinated a total of ten joint operations, the latest of which was completed on 25 October; and
- (vi) the rear lane of Yuen Shing Building was situated on a private lot and the environmental hygiene problems within the relevant building area were the responsibility of the related owners or occupants. When handling complaint cases or carrying out routine inspections, the staff of the Department would request the related owners or occupants to deal with the situation of accumulation of refuse or mosquito infestation in private places and would issue nuisance notices to the related individuals where appropriate, requesting them to remove the miscellaneous items or refuse within a specified timeframe. The staff of the Department had reminded the OC and the representatives of the management company to maintain environmental hygiene.

37. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he requested the Department to continue to follow up on the environmental hygiene situation of the locations mentioned in the Paper, and take out prosecutions against offenders where necessary.

Item 7**Concern over Street Obstructions and Hygiene Problems Caused by Rubbish Discarded by Shops in To Kwa Wan Area**

(FEHC Paper No. 58/2024)

38. **A Member** introduced the Paper.
39. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written replies furnished by the FEHD and the EPD, i.e. Documents No. 2 and 9 tabled.
40. **The representative of the FEHD** replied with the main points as follows:
- (i) upon receipt of the Paper, the Department had deployed staff to conduct inspections in the vicinity of Pak Tai Street, during which miscellaneous items such as recyclables and trolleys had been found to be placed in public places, causing obstruction to the scavenging operations of the Department's staff. The Department had issued four Notices to Remove Obstruction immediately, requiring the owners of the relevant items to remove the aforementioned items within a specified timeframe. The Department had also immediately removed the recyclables piled up there. During a subsequent re-inspection, the staff of the Department found that the owners had removed the relevant miscellaneous items on their own. The Department had promptly arranged for the contractor to step up street cleansing and pest control work in the vicinity of the aforementioned location;
 - (ii) the Department had deployed staff to educate the nearby shops and reminded their persons-in-charge not to place any items outside the shops. The staff of the Department had also gave advice to scavengers collecting recyclables in the vicinity of the aforementioned location and requested them to keep the place clean when scavenging and not to place recyclables on the street for extended periods. The Department would take appropriate enforcement action with regard to the circumstances. If the relevant items might affect traffic or pedestrian safety, the Department would refer the case to the Police for follow-up actions; and
 - (iii) over the past six months, staff of the Department had issued a total of

12 fixed penalty notices to offenders causing street obstruction in the vicinity of the aforementioned location and taken out 12 prosecutions against nearby restaurants for causing hygiene or street obstruction problems.

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

- (i) since March 2024, the Department had set up Food Waste Recycling Spots at five locations in Kowloon City District with a higher concentration of single-block buildings, “three-nil” buildings and restaurants nearby, providing night-time food waste collection services in the form of kerbside collection booths at fixed time and locations. One of these recycling spots was located at the junction of Pak Tai Street and San Shan Road in To Kwa Wan. The Department would conduct regular publicity and promotion for the recycling spots and explore the possibility of setting up additional recycling spots at suitable venues to facilitate food waste recycling among residents and restaurants in the district;
- (ii) the Food Wise Eateries Scheme aimed to encourage restaurants to work with customers towards reduction of food wastage and food waste generation at source by offering food portioning options and adopting food waste reduction measures. The scheme had a total of two classes of recognition, namely Gold Class and Silver Class. To further encourage restaurants to actively participate in food waste recycling and donate surplus food, the Department had introduced an honourable Diamond Class of recognition in the fourth quarter of 2024. Restaurants of Gold Class could be upgraded to Diamond Class if they participated in food waste recycling or donate surplus food. Restaurants accredited under the Food Wise Eateries Scheme would receive stickers to display at their shops for promotion and customers’ identification. The list and addresses of participating restaurants would also be published on the restaurant searching platform “OpenRice” and the official webpage of the Hong Kong Waste Reduction Website for public reference and to serve as free publicity of the restaurants; and
- (iii) the Department would continue to promote waste reduction and recycling and conduct publicity and education activities in order to

encourage more restaurants in the district to participate in the Food Wise Eateries Scheme and make good use of the Food Waste Recycling Spots.

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

- (i) some owners of miscellaneous items would only move the miscellaneous items to a location just a few steps away after receiving the Notice to Remove Obstruction issued by the FEHD. Members enquired how the FEHD would address this issue;
- (ii) the FEHD's approach to handling trolleys and miscellaneous items placed outside shops, in rear lanes between buildings and on roads;
- (iii) enquired about the current number of participating restaurants in the Food Wise Eateries Scheme and suggested the EPD to promote this scheme more extensively to attract the participation of more restaurants;
- (iv) the problems of disposal of waste and miscellaneous items were very common in various sub-districts of Kowloon City. Members considered that the root of the problem was the shops. Members suggested the related departments to list the shops as the focus of enforcement and follow-up targets, and to request the shops to handle the miscellaneous items properly before disposal to minimise the impact of the miscellaneous items on environmental hygiene; and
- (v) suggested the EPD to promote the measures on centralising the treatment of food waste on a sub-district basis across the territory.

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

- (i) Notices to Remove Obstruction issued by the Department would set out the area in which the items were not permitted to be placed. Owners must remove the items from the area within a specified timeframe, otherwise the Department would regard it as failure to comply with the instructions of the notice and would remove the items;

- (ii) the Department had advised the restaurants and shops in the vicinity of Pak Tai Street to avoid disposing of large quantities of miscellaneous items in public places at the same time. Scavengers were also advised not to place recyclables on the street for extended periods; and
- (iii) the Department would contact the Police to follow up if miscellaneous items were found placed on the road causing traffic safety problems.

44. **The representative of the EPD** replied that the number of participating restaurants in the Food Wise Eateries Scheme would be provided after liaising with the related sections of the Department.

45. **The representative of the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF)** replied that the Police was willing to cooperate in the joint operations coordinated by the KCDO and would provide support to other departments, including the FEHD, when necessary.

46. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he would like the related departments to actively consider Members' suggestions to further improve the situation of environmental hygiene in Kowloon City District and across the territory.

[Post-meeting note: The Secretariat had referred to Members the EPD's supplementary information on the Food Wise Eateries Scheme on 6 December 2024.]

Item 8

Request for Mitigating the Problem of Disturbances to Residents by Noise from Bars

(FEHC Paper No. 59/2024)

47. **A Member** introduced the Paper.

48. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written replies furnished by the FEHD and the EPD, i.e. Documents No. 3 and 10 tabled.

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

- (i) any person who intended to sell liquor at any premises for consumption on the premises must obtain a liquor licence before

commencement of such business. The Liquor Licensing Board (LLB) was established in accordance with the Dutiable Commodities (Liquor) Regulations (Cap. 109, Subsidiary Legislation B) as an independent statutory body to issue liquor licences for premises where liquor was sold or supplied for consumption by customers on the premises. In general, the issue of a liquor licence was subject to the premises in question having first obtained a restaurant licence from the Department. Premises granted a restaurant licence had to comply with the provisions in various ordinances and regulations, including planning requirements;

- (ii) according to the Department's records, there were a total of nine bars in the vicinity of South Wall Road and Tak Ku Ling Road. The relevant bars all held Light Refreshment Restaurant Licences issued by the Department and liquor licences issued by the LLB. Over the past six months, the Department had not received any hygiene or noise complaints about the bars in the vicinity of the aforementioned locations; and
- (iii) if the Department received noise complaints about a bar, it would refer the case to the HKPF for follow-up actions.

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

- (i) noise generated from music played by amplifiers in places of entertainment (including bars) was regulated under Section 13 of the Noise Control Ordinance (Cap. 400). According to the related provisions, upon receipt of a noise complaint, the Department must send staff to conduct a noise assessment at noise sensitive receivers (such as the complainant's residential premises). If it was confirmed that the relevant noise constituted annoyance, the Department would issue a noise abatement notice to the person(s)-in-charge of the premises, requiring the noise to be abated by a specified deadline;
- (ii) staff of the Department would inspect the bars in the vicinity of Lung Shing area from time to time, remind the persons-in-charge of the bars to adjust the volume of the amplifiers inside the bars to an appropriate volume and distribute relevant promotional leaflets for the reference of the persons-in-charge of the bars. At present, some bars had

already installed two sets of doors to reduce noise emission from customers entering and leaving the bars; and

- (iii) the FEHD, in conjunction with the LLB, was responsible for processing applications for liquor licences for bar premises. During this process, the EPD would provide the FEHD with related noise complaints and enforcement information upon request. When vetting individual applications, the LLB would, in addition to considering the related noise complaints and enforcement information, make reference to applicable good management practices set out in the Good Practices on the Control of Noise from Liquor Licensed Establishments formulated by the Department in determining how to impose appropriate conditions for more effective management of the noise problem.

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

- (i) as of 14 November 2024, the Police had received a total of 39 noise complaints relating to bars in the vicinity of South Wall Road and Tak Ku Ling Road, representing an average of 3.5 cases per month;
- (ii) most bars in the vicinity of South Wall Road and Tak Ku Ling Road had installed two sets of doors. Hence, the noise problem of the bars was not serious. In response to the aforementioned complaints, the Police had also sent officers to inspect the relevant locations, during which serious noise problem had not been found; and
- (iii) so far, the Police had not found any parties hosted in the bars in the small hours at the relevant locations. The Police would continue to step up inspections in conjunction with the EPD and the FEHD to prevent the occurrences of the relevant situation.

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

- (i) large groups of people gathered outside the bars in the small hours to chat, smoke or even quarrel. The sound would reach the residents and interfere with their daily lives. Members suggested that the related departments to pay attention to the relevant situation; and

- (ii) with the opening of Kai Tak Sports Park in the first quarter of 2025, it was expected that a large number of the public and tourists would spend their evenings in restaurants or bars in the Lung Shing area after attending concerts or football matches in the future, which could cause serious noise problems by then. Members would like the Police to deploy additional manpower to the Lung Shing area after the events in Kai Tak Sports Park in the future to deal with the noise problem of the bars.

53. **The representative of the HKPF** replied that the Police would cooperate with the relevant departments to mitigate the nuisance brought about by noise.

54. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he suggested posting notices outside the bars to remind bar patrons to keep the volume down. He would also like the related departments to maintain close cooperation to mitigate the noise nuisance caused by the bars to the residents.

Item 9

Concern over the Environmental Hygiene Problems of Buildings in Redevelopment Areas and Request for Stepping up Inspections and Improvements

(FEHC Paper No. 60/2024)

55. **A Member** introduced the Paper.

56. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written replies furnished by the FEHD and the Urban Renewal Authority (URA), i.e. Documents No. 11 and 14 tabled.

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

- (i) the Department would deploy staff regularly to inspect the hygiene situations in the Kowloon City redevelopment areas and would take immediate enforcement and follow-up actions if refuse accumulation was found;
- (ii) over the past six months, the Department had received a total of 41 complaints about environmental hygiene problems of buildings in the vicinity of Lung Kong Road, Nam Kok Road and Nga Tsin Long

Road. The Department had deployed staff to investigate and follow up on each case. The Department would also provide hygiene education on proper waste disposal to the residents of the relevant buildings, and arrange for staff or service contractors to step up rodent prevention measures and street cleansing work in public places at risk of rodent infestation in order to maintain environmental hygiene; and

- (iii) upon receipt of the Paper, the Department had sent staff to conduct inspections at the relevant locations and found that the hygiene situation there was generally in order.

58. **The representative of the URA** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the URA was now processing the sale and purchase of properties under the Nga Tsin Wai Road / Carpenter Road Development Scheme (Project KC-017). It was expected that the residents would gradually move out. The Authority would remind them not to dispose of furniture and miscellaneous items at the building staircases or in public places to avoid affecting environmental hygiene and obstructing the fire escapes, which would affect other residents;
- (ii) for buildings which had been acquired under Project KC-017, if the OC of the building had already engaged a property management company (PMC), the URA would, upon assuming the ownership, discharge the owner's responsibilities and pay the management fees. To maintain the cleanliness and environmental hygiene in the common areas of the buildings, the Authority would continue to use the cleansing services provided by the cleansing contractor engaged by the residents before the acquisition;
- (iii) to alleviate the situation of rodent infestation, the PMC engaged by the Authority would provide regular rodent prevention and control services for the buildings acquired under the redevelopment project, including placing baits and rat cages as well as sealing the ground holes with rodent activity; and
- (iv) upon receipt of the Paper, the Authority had instructed the PMC to follow up on the hygiene situations at the relevant locations. Among them, the miscellaneous items at the entrances of the

buildings at 43 Lung Kong Road and 50 Nga Tsin Long Road had been removed. The items at the entrances of the buildings at 29 Lung Kong Road and 52 Nam Kok Road belonged to the residents and the nearby shops. As such, the Authority had posted notices at the relevant buildings to remind the residents and shops to handle the refuse and miscellaneous items properly.

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

- (i) the area of the Project KC-017 covered four to five streets. While residents began moving out gradually, a small number of residents remained in some buildings. Members enquired how the related departments would manage unoccupied buildings and those with residents who had yet to move out respectively; and
- (ii) the Authority had not provided any means of communication in case of emergency for residents in the redevelopment areas. Members requested the Authority to provide the relevant information for residents to make enquiries.

60. **The representative of the URA** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the PMC engaged by the Authority would be responsible for cleaning and hygiene matters of buildings if all residents had moved out or if the building was still partially occupied by residents but not managed by a management company;
- (ii) the Authority had engaged the Pacific Extend Properties Management Limited to manage the buildings under Project KC-017. The PMC had posted information on the emergency contact numbers and security hotlines at prominent locations for residents in need to reach out and make enquiries. However, as some buildings in the redevelopment areas were still managed by the OCs or the original PMCs, the Authority had not posted the contact information in the relevant buildings; and
- (iii) the URA had provided the contact information of the relevant management office and the security office in the URA's Kowloon City Newsletter, which was distributed to the residents and shops

under Project KC-017 in November 2024.

61. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he would like the Authority to post clear contact information at prominent locations in all affected buildings to ensure that residents in need could receive assistance.

Item 10

Problems Regarding Dog Fouling on Kau Pui Lung Road

(FEHC Paper No. 61/2024)

62. **A Member** introduced the Paper.

63. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written reply furnished by the FEHD, i.e. Document No. 12 tabled.

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

- (i) apart from providing regular street sweeping and cleansing services, the Department also deployed staff to conduct surprise inspections from time to time. Immediate enforcement action would be taken if any person was found to have breached the cleanliness legislation;
- (ii) upon receipt of the Paper, the Department had sent staff to conduct a number of inspections in the vicinity of the aforementioned locations. Although no individuals had been found to allow dog fouling in the streets by faeces, a total of four fixed penalty notices had been issued for breaches of the cleanliness legislation. According to records, the staff of the Department had issued fixed penalty notices to 19 individuals for breaches of the cleanliness legislation at the locations mentioned in the Paper over the past six months;
- (iii) the Department had posted warning signs at prominent places in the vicinity of the aforementioned locations to remind the public not to allow dog fouling and dirtying public streets or they would be prosecuted; and
- (iv) the Department had arranged cleansing service contractors to step up street cleansing efforts at the relevant locations and installed additional dog excreta collection bins in the vicinity of the

aforementioned locations for use by dog owners.

65. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he would like the Department to continue to step up inspections and ensure timely replacement of dog excreta collection bins to maintain cleanliness of streets in the district.

Item 11

Matters Regarding the Provision of Additional Reverse Vending Machines in To Kwa Wan

(FEHC Paper No. 62/2024)

66. **A Member** introduced the Paper and stated that some of the existing GREEN@COMMUNITY recycling spots were of mobile nature and might not provide daily recycling service. In the absence of reverse vending machines (RVMs), some members of the public might dispose of plastic bottles directly on the streets, giving rise to environmental hygiene problems.

67. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written reply furnished by the FEHD, i.e. Document No. 4 tabled.

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

- (i) to align with the upcoming Producer Responsibility Scheme on Plastic Beverage Containers and Beverage Cartons, the EPD had rolled out the RVM Pilot Scheme (the Pilot Scheme) in 2021. A total of 60 RVMs were installed at locations such as public places, government facilities and shopping malls with suitable pedestrian flow to test the situation of practical application of RVMs for collecting plastic beverage containers in Hong Kong. The number of RVMs had increased to 120 since the third quarter of 2022. In Kowloon City District, the number of RVMs had increased from two in the beginning to five at present; and
- (ii) the Pilot Scheme had a limited scale of service due to its pilot nature. The Department had reviewed the operation data of the RVMs in Kowloon City District and planned to facilitate wider public participation in the Pilot Scheme by relocating underutilised RVMs in the district to venues with heavier pedestrian flow that meet the operational requirements of RVMs. The Department would report to

Members as soon as there were further updates.

69. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he would like the EPD to actively respond to Members' suggestions and to consider providing additional RVMs at more locations in the district.

Item 12

Concern over the Matter on Recent Suspected Food Poisoning of Tour Groups

(FEHC Paper No. 63/2024)

70. **A Member** introduced the Paper.

71. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written reply furnished by the FEHD, i.e. Document No. 13 tabled.

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

- (i) upon receipt of the food poisoning report of the tour group, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) under the Department's purview and the Centre for Health Protection had immediately deployed staff to conduct inspection at the relevant restaurant and collect the food and environmental samples for testing. The restaurant had also been instructed to suspend operation with immediate effect, carry out thorough cleaning and disinfection, and improve the food preparation process and environmental hygiene. In addition, the Department had noticed damages on the restaurant's kitchen walls during the inspection. The staff of the Department had immediately taken out prosecution against the restaurant in accordance with the Food Business Regulation. The staff of the Department had subsequently met with the persons-in-charge of the relevant restaurant to explain the investigation findings and give them advice;
- (ii) to enhance food safety and hygiene awareness of food caterers, the CFS, in conjunction with the Environmental Hygiene Branch of the Department, had been inspecting food premises serving tour groups with reference to the list provided by the Travel Industry Authority (TIA) in various districts of Hong Kong since 12 September 2024. These inspections were to ensure that the persons-in-charge of the relevant premises complied with the licensing conditions and hygiene

standards stipulated under the law in food handling and preparation. During the operations, the staff of the Department had also provided food safety and hygiene education to the persons-in-charge and staff of the premises, and had taken food samples for testing;

- (iii) the CFS had also hosted an online health seminar in collaboration with the TIA on 13 September 2024 to provide advice for tour group catering service providers on safe food preparation and remind them to maintain good personal, food and environmental hygiene at all times. Caterers were also encouraged to adhere to Good Hygiene Practices and formulate a food safety plan based on the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point system; and
- (iv) to strengthen food safety supervision in licensed food premises, the Department had introduced the Hygiene Manager (HM) and Hygiene Supervisor (HS) Scheme. All large food establishments and food establishments producing high risk food were required to appoint an HM and an HS; and all other food establishments were required to appoint an HM or an HS. The relevant persons must have completed an HM or HS training course recognised by the Department. The Department would provide free HS training courses on a regular basis for persons who intended to take up the duties of HS in licensed food premises. The Department would also conduct regular inspections of food premises to ensure licensees were in compliance with the relevant regulations.

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

- (i) in the short run, the Department should step up inspections of tour group catering service providers that had previous food safety problems. In the long run, the Department should consider whether the operating environment of the relevant restaurants could meet the Department's licensing requirements;
- (ii) as the relevant restaurants mainly served tour groups and any food safety problems would affect Hong Kong's international image, Members considered that the Department should perform its gate-keeping work properly by conducting regular spot checks on food samples in the relevant restaurants to safeguard food safety;

- (iii) whether the Department would trace if the food ingredients used by the relevant restaurants complied with the food safety standards of Hong Kong; and
- (iv) enquired whether the Department maintained a list of HM and HS of all restaurants, and what penalties were to be imposed on the persons-in-charge, HM and HS of restaurants in the event of food safety problems.

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

- (i) at present, the Department's penalties were mainly targeted at restaurants. If a restaurant was found not to have appointed an HM and / or HS, the Department would make a verbal warning to the relevant restaurant. If the relevant restaurant still refused to comply, the Department would issue a warning letter to the restaurant. If the restaurant failed to comply with the relevant licensing conditions after receiving three warning letters within a year, the Department would revoke the licence of that restaurant;
- (ii) in the event of food safety problems in a restaurant, the Department would increase the inspection frequency of the restaurant. As at early November 2024, the Department inspected the restaurant with food poisoning problem mentioned in the Paper once a week, and would make special inspection arrangements according to the circumstances;
- (iii) the section responsible for food safety in the Department would conduct regular spot checks on food samples in various restaurants. Once food safety problems were detected, the related restaurants would be prosecuted; and
- (iv) the licensing conditions imposed by the Department required restaurants to obtain food ingredients from legitimate sources. In this food poisoning incident, the Department would also investigate and follow up on the source of the food ingredients.

75. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he would like the Department to step up inspections of the operating environment of restaurants in the district and increase the frequency of spot checks on food samples to ensure food safety.

Item 13

Any Other Business

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

Item 14

Date of Next Meeting

77. **The Chairman** announced that the next meeting would be tentatively held at 2:30 p.m. on 9 January 2025 and the tentatively closing date for submission of papers would be 20 December 2024.

78. **The Chairman** announced the adjournment of the meeting at 4:17 p.m.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed on 9 January 2025.

The Chairman

The Secretary

KCDC Secretariat
January 2025