## Minutes of the 7th Meeting of <u>the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee of</u> <u>the Kowloon City District Council</u>

Date: Time:	9 January 2025 (Thursday)		
Venue:	2:30 p.m. Conference Room, Kowloon City District Office		
venue.	Conference Room, Rowtoon	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 FUNG Mo-kwan		
	Ms LAU Yuen-yin		
	Mr PUN Kwok-wah, JP		
Co-opted Members:	Mr LO Chiu-kit		
	Mr YEUNG Ho-shing		
Secretary:	Miss SIN Hong-ying, Bonnie	Executive Officer (District Council)2, Kowloon City District Office	
In Attendance:	Ms SO Lai-yee, 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	SeniorEnvironmentalProtectionOfficer(RegionalEast)5,EnvironmentalProtection
	Ms CHAN Ling-man, Millie	Department Deputy District Leisure Manager (Kowloon City)2, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Attendance by Invitat	<u>ion</u> :	
Item 2	Mr LI Chi-him, Samson	Executive Officer I (District Management), Kowloon City District Office
Items 3 to 4	Mr HUANG Qian-gen, Simon, Inspector of Police	Patrol Sub-unit Commander 3 (Hung Hom Division), Hong Kong Police Force
	Mr YEUNG Hei-kan, Police Sergeant	Assistant Police Community Relations Officer, Kowloon City District, Hong Kong Police Force
Item 5	Mr NG Tsz-wing, Ricky	Chief Estate Officer / Land Control / Kowloon West, District Lands Office, Kowloon West, Lands Department
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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 seventh 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 6th Meeting**

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

### Item 2

## **Follow-up on the Environmental Hygiene Problems in Buildings and Communities along "5 Streets" and "13 Streets" in To Kwa Wan**

(FEHC Paper No. 1/2025)

6. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written replies furnished by the Kowloon City District Office (KCDO), the Urban Renewal Authority and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), i.e. Documents No. 1, 4 and 6 tabled.

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

 the Department would take into account a series of factors when determining the locations for placing refuse collection bins (RCBs), including the pedestrian flow, width of pavements, quantity of refuse generated and other site environment factors. The Department would also timely review the number and distribution of the RCBs in

<sup>5.</sup> **A Member** introduced the Paper.

the area and make adjustments based on the views of frontline cleansing staff and various stakeholders;

- (ii) the Department had currently placed a certain number of 660-litre temporary refuse bins at four locations near "5 Streets" and "13 Streets" in To Kwa Wan to facilitate residents of the three-nil buildings in the vicinity of the relevant locations to dispose of household refuse. Residents could also dispose of refuse at the Ma Tau Kok Road Refuse Collection Point (RCP) nearby which was open round-the-clock;
- (iii) two 660-litre refuse bins were currently placed near Ming Lun Street
  / Grand Waterfront and 112 To Kwa Wan Road / 2 Hok Ling Street.
  The bus stop at Ma Tau Kok Road was not suitable for placing a 660-litre refuse bin due to the narrow road;
- (iv) the 660-litre refuse bin at Chung Sun Street was removed from its original location since the staff of the Department transferred it to the RCP for cleaning. The Department would consider placing another emptied refuse bin at the relevant location for residents' use when removing the refuse bin for cleaning in the future;
- (v) apart from conducting various types of rodent prevention and control work on a regular basis, the Department would also deploy staff to inspect private buildings and provide suggestions on rodent prevention and control measures to the relevant residents' organisations and management staff;
- (vi) the Department would regularly deploy staff to inspect the vicinity of "5 Streets" and "13 Streets" to combat acts of illegal disposal of refuse and tackle the problem of rodent infestation at source. Over the past three months, the staff of the Department issued fixed penalty notices (FPNs) to a total of 17 individuals for illegal disposal of refuse in the vicinity of "5 Streets" and "13 Streets";
- (vii) upon receipt of the Paper, the Department had immediately deployed staff to conduct inspection at the public places in the vicinity of "5 Streets" and "13 Streets". Traces of rodent activities were found. Therefore, the Department had immediately strengthened the rodent

#### prevention and control work there; and

(viii) the Department had arranged for the overnight rodent control teams to place rodent traps in the vicinity of the relevant locations in the small hours so as to enhance the anti-rodent work there. The Department had also introduced rodent prevention and control measures and distributed promotional leaflets to the persons-incharge of nearby shops as well as posted promotional posters at prominent locations of public places with a view to raising public awareness of rodent prevention and control.

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

- (i) to improve the hygiene conditions of common areas in buildings, the Office had been utilising the resources of the "District-led Actions Scheme" to engage cleansing service contractors to carry out a oneoff cleaning work in the common areas of the three-nil buildings in the district since 2020. The Office had also included anti-rodent work in the service scope of contracts since 2023, requiring contractors to place bait boxes in the common areas of buildings upon completion of the cleaning work in order to further alleviate the problem of rodent infestation in three-nil buildings;
- (ii) the Office would provide cleaning and anti-rodent services to about 300 three-nil buildings in the district in 2024-25, among which most of the three-nil buildings located in "5 Streets" and "13 Streets" were included; and
- (iii) the Office would continue to pay attention to the problems of environmental hygiene and rodent infestation in the three-nil buildings in the district and extend the aforementioned cleaning and anti-rodent services as far as possible. The Office was also willing to offer assistance to various government departments in order to jointly enhance the living environment of the three-nil buildings in the district.

- 9. **Members** raised the following enquires and views:
  - (i) there was only one refuse bin with a relatively small opening provided near the bus stop at Ma Tau Kok Road. Hence, nearby residents frequently disposed of oversized refuse next to that refuse bin and affected environmental hygiene. Members invited the related departments to conduct an on-site inspection there to jointly study the measures to alleviate the relevant problem; and
  - (ii) there were large quantities of oversized refuse (such as bicycles and sofas) in the common areas of the three-nil buildings in "5 Streets" and "13 Streets", many of which had become hotbeds for rodent infestation. Members enquired if the clearing of oversized refuse in the three-nil buildings would be included in the one-off cleaning work in three-nil buildings implemented by the KCDO and if other measures would be adopted to assist residents of three-nil buildings to dispose of oversized refuse.

10. **The representative of the FEHD** replied and expressed willingness to conduct an on-site inspection with Members in the vicinity of Ma Tau Kok Road and discuss measures to further improve the environmental hygiene conditions of the nearby streets.

11. **The representative of the KCDO** replied and stated that the Office would request the contractor to clear all refuse, including oversized refuse. However, since some large items such as furniture and household appliances being placed in the common areas of three-nil buildings possessed certain value, it was difficult for contractors to determine if the relevant items had been disposed of. Thus, these large items might not be cleared during the carrying out of cleaning work.

12. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he would like the FEHD to step up publicity and education work in the three-nil buildings in "5 Streets" and "13 Streets", as well as to inform residents the locations of nearby RCPs and large refuse bins so as to facilitate public use.

### Item 3

# Concern about the Problem of Miscellaneous Articles Occupying the Area outside Focal Industrial Centre (Block A)

(FEHD Paper No. 2/2025)

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

14. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written replies furnished by the FEHD and the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF), i.e. Documents No. 7 and 12 tabled.

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

- (i) upon receipt of the Paper, the Department had immediately sent staff to inspect the location mentioned in the Paper at different time periods. During the inspection, the Department did not find unattended items being placed on the pavement that obstructed the street cleansing work of the Department, nor did it observe sewage being discharged from the recycling vehicles that dirtied public places. The Department had reminded the persons-in-charge of nearby shops not to place items in public places;
- (ii) the Department had taken out prosecutions against two individuals who committed public cleanliness offences in the vicinity of the relevant locations over the past month; and
- (iii) in view of the obstruction of roads by miscellaneous articles and other traffic problems there, the Department had referred the situations to the HKPF for follow-up.

16. **The representative of the HKPF** replied and stated that the Police issued a total of 212 FPNs between November and December 2024. The Police had been conducting enforcement operations and stepping up patrols at the location mentioned in the Paper from time to time, targeting at road safety and obstruction problems. Situation of serious traffic congestion was not found at present. The Police would enhance patrols and enforcement efforts there in the future.

17. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he would like the related departments to step up inspections, pay close attention to the situation of street obstructions by

miscellaneous articles at the relevant location and take enforcement actions in a timely manner.

## <u>Item 4</u>

## Follow-up on the Problem of Noise outside Traffic Kowloon West Operational Base

(FEHD Paper No. 3/2025)

18. **A Member** introduced the Paper.

19. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written replies furnished by the HKPF and the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), i.e. Documents No. 2 and 11 tabled.

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

- the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department conducted maintenance works on the generators at Traffic Kowloon West Operational Base at around 8:00 a.m. on 7 December 2024. Sounds similar to motors of vehicles were emitted during the works. Sounds were no longer emitted upon completion of the relevant works at 8:00 p.m. on the same day; and
- (ii) to avoid affecting residents, the Police had notified the officers of the Traffic Kowloon West Operational Base that sounding the sirens of police vehicles should be avoided when there was no emergency situation. The Police had not received complaints regarding sounding the sirens of police vehicles at the Traffic Kowloon West Operational Base recently.

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

 upon receipt of the Paper, the Department had immediately sent staff to conduct investigations at the Traffic Kowloon West Operational Base and in the vicinity of Hung Sing House in Hung Hom Estate. During the investigation, it was found that the works contractor of the Highways Department was carrying out lift installation works at the footbridge near Hung Hom Road off the Traffic Kowloon West Operational Base. A generator was operating in the construction site. Apart from the aforementioned works, no other noise sources were emitting sound continuously there; and

(ii) the contractor of the relevant works had put up noise-insulating fabric around the construction site so as to minimise the impact of noise from the works on nearby residents. The staff of the Department had immediately conveyed the concerns of the residents of Hung Sing House to the persons-in-charge of the construction site. They were suggested to consider arranging the works process with a higher noise level to be conducted at a later time in the morning and enhance the noise insulating measures in the construction site to avoid the works causing nuisance to nearby residents.

22. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he would like the Traffic Kowloon West Operational Base to put up notices when the works were being carried out in the future so as to inform residents the time of works to be carried out.

### <u>Item 5</u>

## <u>Reflection of the Situation of Indiscriminate Parking of Bicycles and Handcarts in</u> <u>Kowloon City District and Hung Hom Area</u>

(FEHD Paper No. 4/2025)

23. **A Member** introduced the Paper.

24. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written replies furnished by the District Lands Office/Kowloon West (DLO/KW) and the FEHD, i.e. Documents No. 3 and 8 tabled.

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

(i) upon receipt of the Paper, the Department had immediately deployed staff to inspect and step up enforcement at locations mentioned in the Paper. During inspections, handcarts with items to be recycled were found to be placed at these locations, thereby obstructing the scavenging operations of the Department. The staff of the Department had affixed "Notices to Remove Obstruction" on the relevant items in accordance with the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Chapter 132), requiring owners of these items to remove them within a specified timeframe. In the subsequent reinspection, the staff of the Department had immediately seized the handcarts that had not been removed and arranged for the contractor to step up cleaning at the relevant locations;

- (ii) the Department issued a total of 34 "Notices to Remove Obstruction" and seized a total of five handcarts at the locations concerned from 1 December 2024 to the commencement of the meeting;
- (iii) the Department would consider the damaged bicycles placed in public spaces as waste. The staff of the Department would affix notices on these bicycles, requiring the owners to remove the bicycles within a specified timeframe. Upon expiry of the notices, the staff of the Department would conduct re-inspections and remove the relevant bicycles. The Department removed a total of two bicycles being disposed of at the locations concerned from 1 December 2024 to the commencement of the meeting; and
- (iv) with regard to the situation of illegal parking of other bicycles at these locations, the Department had referred these cases to the Lands Department (LandsD) for follow-up.

#### 26. **The representative of the DLO/KW** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the Office, in collaboration with the FEHD, would participate in the inter-departmental joint clearance operations regularly coordinated by the KCDO to clear the illegally parked bicycles in the district. Generally speaking, the Office would affix notices on the usable bicycles that were fastened to the railings in accordance with the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Chapter 28) of Hong Kong legislation prior to the joint clearance operations, requiring the relevant situation of the occupation of Government land must be ceased before the specified deadline. If the relevant bicycles were not removed by owners before the deadline, the relevant bicycles would be removed and taken over during the joint clearance operations;
- the Office participated in the inter-departmental joint clearance operations off the gas station at Wuhu Street, off McDonald's at Baker Street and in the vicinity of Ma Tau Kok Road and To Kwa Wan Road

on 27 September, 18 October and 13 December 2024. A total of two usable bicycles locked on the railings were removed. Another 12 bicycles were removed by owners before the deadline; and

- (iii) the next joint operation would be conducted on 17 January this year. The Office had proposed to include all the locations mentioned in the Paper in the scope of the operation.
- 27. **Members** raised the following enquiries and views:
  - the illegally parked handcarts in the district at present were mainly large handcarts made of iron and wood. Members enquired if the five handcarts removed by the FEHD were of the same type;
  - (ii) if the timeframe for the "Notice to Remove Obstruction" affixed by the FEHD was still four hours;
  - (iii) if the LandsD had other measures to strengthen enforcement against illegally parked bicycles; and
  - (iv) handcarts with large amounts of foam boxes had been parked near the open space at Ma Hang Chung Road / Pau Chung Street near Fook Chi Building for extended periods, thus affecting the hygiene conditions there. Members requested the Department to follow up.

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

- according to Section 22A of the Public Health and Municipal Services
  Ordinance (Chapter 132), the timeframe for the "Notice to Remove
  Obstruction" was still four hours;
- the handcarts seized by the Department were large handcarts made of iron and wood; and
- (iii) the Department had noted the situation of the open space at Ma Hang Chung Road / Pau Chung Street near Fook Chi Building and would deploy additional staff for inspection and follow-up.

29. **The representative of the DLO/KW** replied and stated that the Office would contact the KCDO to suggest stepping up the joint clearance operation of illegally parked bicycles at Wuhu Street.

30. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he would like the related departments to actively follow up on the problems of illegally parked bicycles and handcarts and to hang banners at prominent locations of various illegal parking black spots in the district to remind the public not to park bicycles and handcarts illegally.

## Item 6

# **Reflection of the Situation of Footpaths and Roads Fully Covered with Stains in Kowloon City District and Hung Hom Area**

(FEHD Paper No. 5/2025)

31. **A Member** introduced the Paper.

32. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written reply furnished by the FEHD, i.e. Document No. 9 tabled.

33. **The Member** thanked the FEHD for its prompt action and invited the Department to investigate the time when the road stains appeared so as to adjust the time of conducting deep cleaning for maximum efficiency. In addition, some residents stated that some cleansing staff only kept spraying water without brushing the ground and using bleaching powder when conducting cleaning work. Members requested the Department to strengthen supervision to ensure that the relevant staff would carry out cleaning in accordance with the established procedures.

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

- (i) apart from providing routine street cleaning and refuse collection services on a daily basis, the Department also cleaned the streets and rear lanes as well as cleared the drains and gullies on the roads regularly. The Department would deploy the cleansing service contractor or its staff to conduct special scavenging operations when necessary;
- (ii) upon receipt of the Paper, the Department had immediately sent staff to inspect Wuhu Street, Dock Street, Po Loi Street, Bulkeley Street, Cooke Street and Baker Street. Cleansing service contractor was

arranged to carry out deep cleaning of the pavements in the vicinity of the above locations. The situation in the vicinity of the aforementioned streets had now improved.

- (iii) there were a number of three-nil buildings or private buildings without refuse storage chambers at the locations mentioned in the Paper. Private refuse collectors were engaged to clear refuse for the relevant buildings, mainly at night. Therefore, the Department estimated that the relevant stains appeared at night. The Department would review the existing time for street cleaning and make adjustments where feasible; and
- (iv) according to the guidelines of the Department, the cleansing staff must brush the ground after spraying water when conducting general street cleaning work. Bleaching powder would only be used for cleaning when stubborn stains were found. The Department would step up supervising the performance of cleansing staff.

35. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he would like the FEHD to not only strengthen training for and give reminders to frontline staff, but also remind the personsin-charge of nearby restaurants not to dispose of refuse on streets so as to safeguard the hygiene of streets in the district.

## <u>Item 7</u>

## <u>Concern about Dogs Fouling the Streets in Kowloon City District and Suggestion</u> <u>of Implementing Mitigation Measures to Improve the Situation</u>

(FEHD Paper No. 6/2025)

36. **A Member** introduced the Paper.

37. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written reply furnished by the FEHD, i.e. Document Paper No. 10 tabled.

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

 Members had discussed the problem of dog fouling in the district during the third FEHC meeting in 2024. At that time, Members requested the Department to provide the enforcement statistics on dog fouling. However, the Department had yet to provide the statistics to date. Members enquired if the Department had not taken out any prosecutions during this period;

- (ii) Kai Tak Station Square was a pet inclusive public space at present. However, traces of dog fouling were frequently observed under the lampposts there. Members suggested the Department to step up enforcement in addition to strengthening publicity and education for dog owners; and
- (iii) Members pointed out that some dog walkers did not clean up the urine stains properly after their dogs fouled, resulting in persistent urine odour under the lampposts or on the sides of the walls. Members enquired if the Department had legislation to regulate dog owners that they must clean up the excreta of dogs after their dogs fouled.

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

- (i) upon receipt of the Paper, the Department had sent staff to inspect the vicinity of the locations mentioned in the Paper at different time periods. Although no prosecutions were taken out against offenders for allowing their dogs to foul and dirty the streets, a total of nine FPNs were issued for individuals committed public cleanliness offences. Over the past two months, the Department had also issued FPNs to 32 individuals for committing public cleanliness offences at the relevant locations;
- (ii) apart from putting up warnings, the Department had also hung large banners at dog walking hotspots in the district to remind the public to properly clean up the excreta of their dogs, otherwise they would be prosecuted;
- (iii) the Department had installed an additional foot-pedal dog excreta collection bin at Peace Avenue, which dog owners and dog walkers were encouraged to use. The Department would also consider changing the same type of dog excreta collection bin at other suitable locations in the district based on its usage and public views;
- (iv) over the past six months, the Department had not taken out any prosecutions against dog fouling in Kowloon City District.

According to the Department's observation, dog walkers were more likely to allow dogs fouling when no one was around. Hence, the Department would actively study the feasibility of installing internet protocol (IP) cameras at the related black spots in the district so as to enhance deterrent effect and step up efforts in combating such illegal acts; and

- (v) there was no legislation to regulate the handling of dog urine by dog owners at present. In terms of dog excreta, the Department would take out prosecutions against individuals who allowed the excreta of their dogs to dirty streets or public places in accordance with the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance. The Department would also step up the cleaning of black spots with a view to minimising the impact of urine stains and their odour on environmental hygiene.
- 40. **Members** raised the following enquiries and views:
  - suggested the Department to consider educating dog owners to take their dogs to the roadside near the locations of gullies for fouling to minimise the impact of dog urine on street hygiene; and
  - suggested the Department to consider reviewing and studying the existing approach to proof of dog fouling and other hygiene problems so as to enhance the effectiveness of enforcement.

41. **The representative of the FEHD** replied and stated that Members' views had been noted and would make corresponding follow-ups.

42. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he would like the FEHD to collaborate with the related departments to install additional IP cameras at the black spots of dog fouling in the district so as to enhance deterrent effect and the effectiveness of enforcement.

## <u>Item 8</u>

**Problems Regarding Rodent Infestation at Lung Cheung Road Playground** (FEHC Paper No. 7/2025)

43. **A Member** introduced the Paper.

44. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written reply furnished by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), i.e. Document No. 5 tabled.

## 45. **The representative of the LCSD** replied with the main points as follows:

- the cleansing contractor of the Department would clear refuse and fallen leaves in the playground every day as well as cover the refuse bins properly with a view to eliminating food sources and harbourages for rodents;
- (ii) the Department also engaged a rodent control services contractor to carry out anti-rodent work in the playground, including placing rodenticides, sealing off rodent harbourages and conducting relevant cleaning work afterwards;
- (iii) according to the anti-rodent report for December 2024 submitted by the cleansing contractor, traces of rodent activities were not found in Lung Cheung Road Playground; and
- (iv) upon receipt of the Paper, the Department had deployed staff to inspect locations such as the venue facilities, hillsides and gullies in Lung Cheung Road Playground. The results indicated that the hygiene conditions in the playground were satisfactory. The Department would continue the cleaning and anti-rodent work in the venue to ensure the environmental hygiene of the playground.

## <u>Item 9</u>

## Any Other Business

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

## <u>Item 10</u> Date of Next Meeting

47. **The Chairman** announced that the next meeting would be held at 2:30 p.m. on 13 March 2025 and the closing date for submission of papers would be 26 February 2025.

## 48. **The Chairman** announced the adjournment of the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed on 13 March 2025.

The Chairman

The Secretary

KCDC Secretariat March 2025