

**Minutes of the 5th Meeting of
the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee of
the Kowloon City District Council**

Date: 10 September 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, 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-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	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 LEE Ka-man, Acting Inspector of Police	Patrol Sub-unit Commander 2 (Hung Hom Division), Hong Kong Police Force
	Mr CHAN Chi-sing, Police Sergeant	Assistant Police Community Relations Officer, Kowloon City District, Hong Kong Police Force
	Ms YAU Lai-shan, Carol	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Kowloon City / Yau Tsim Mong)2, Social Welfare Department
	Mr LI Chi-him, Samson	Executive Officer I (District Management), Kowloon City District Office
Item 6	Mr TSANG Heng-wick, Simon	Chief Estate Officer / Land Control / Kowloon East, District Lands Office, Kowloon East, Lands Department
	Mr CHENG Wai-sun, Peter	Principal Estate Officer / Land Control / Wong Tai Sin, District Lands Office, Kowloon East, Lands Department
Item 10	Mr CHOW King-sze, Benjamin	Superintendent (Regional Joint Office) Kowloon, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
	Ms LEUNG Kit-ying	Senior Health Inspector (Regional Joint Office) Kowloon 3, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

	Mr WU Xun, Shawn	Professional Officer 4-2 / Joint Office 4, Buildings Department
	Mr YIP Chi-wai	Professional Officer 4-5 / Joint Office 4, Buildings Department
Item 11	Mr CHAN King-tung, Tony	Fauna Conservation Officer (Enforcement), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
	Dr WONG Yick-him, Simon	Veterinary Officer (Avian Influenza Surveillance), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation 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 fifth meeting of the FEHC.
2. **The Chairman** reminded Members to register their interests in accordance with Order 22 of the Kowloon City District Council Standing Orders (the Standing Orders) and 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 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 4th Meeting**

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

Item 2**Concern over the Environmental Hygiene Problems Caused by Street Sleepers in Hung Hom Area**

(FEHC Paper No. 43/2024)

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

6. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written replies furnished by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), the Kowloon City District Office (KCDO) and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), i.e. Documents No. 3, 4 and 5 tabled.

7. **Members** raised the following views and enquires:

- (i) apart from the locations mentioned in the Paper, problems of street sleepers and placing miscellaneous items also presented at the junction of Carpenter Road and Hau Wong Road, the junction of Peace Avenue and Argyle Street in Ho Man Tin area and the footbridge at the junction of Waterloo Road and Peace Avenue. Members would like the SWD to follow up on relevant cases and requested the FEHD to assist in clearing the miscellaneous items;
- (ii) the problem of street sleepers existed in a number of places in Kowloon City District. Members enquired if the relevant departments had any inter-departmental policies or guidelines to handle the relevant problem and would like the related departments to maintain communication with Members on the problem of street sleepers; and
- (iii) if the SWD had sent staff to conduct inspections at the locations mentioned in the Paper before the meeting.

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

- (i) since the problem of street sleepers involved different bureaux and departments, the relevant departments and district service units had been maintaining close collaboration. The District Offices of various districts would coordinate with the relevant departments to carry out inter-departmental joint operations in accordance with their functions with the aim of improving the environmental hygiene conditions of the relevant locations;
- (ii) the Department would clear items voluntarily discarded by street sleepers according to the established mechanism in the joint operations and provide cleansing services such as street sweeping and cleaning as necessary;
- (iii) at present, two street sleepers had been resting at the rear lanes of Million Building at Station Lane and near Kwun Yum Temple for the long term. The KCDO coordinated a total of eight joint operations from January to August 2024. The latest operation was completed on 23 August 2024. Apart from clearing refuse and cleaning rear lanes during the joint operations, the Department also strengthened pest control work there; and
- (iv) the Department would continue to actively participate in the joint operations coordinated by the KCDO in future.

9. **The representative of the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF)** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the Kowloon City Police District had participated in the inter-departmental joint operations coordinated by the KCDO for three times in 2024 to handle the problem of street sleepers. The Police would continue to send officers to support the relevant joint operations in future; and
- (ii) the Police would continue to monitor the situation of law and order in the relevant locations. If illegal acts were found, the Police would take resolute law enforcement actions to safeguard public safety.

10. **The representative of the SWD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the relevant cases had been followed up by the Integrated Services Team for Street Sleepers (IST) operated by the Salvation Army and the Hung Hom Integrated Family Service Centre of Hong Kong Children and Youth Services. The Department had also sent staff recently to inspect the relevant locations and visit the street sleepers there;
- (ii) social workers would continue to proactively reach out to street sleepers, visit them regularly to understand their reasons for street sleeping and anticipate to establish a mutual trust relationship with them so as to identify their needs and provide them with necessary services to offer assistance; and
- (iii) the Department would continue to closely collaborate with related units to address the urgent welfare needs of street sleepers and persuade street sleepers at the relevant locations to accept services and live off the streets at the soonest to reintegrate into the community.

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

- (i) in view of the cases of street sleepers in the vicinity of Station Lane in Hung Hom, the KCDO conducted a total of eight inter-departmental joint operations during January to August 2024 with other related departments, including the FEHD, the SWD and the HKPF, with an average of conducting one joint operation per month; and
- (ii) the KCDO would continue to closely monitor the situation of street sleepers in the district jointly with the relevant departments and handle various problems arising from street sleeping via inter-departmental joint operations as necessary.

12. **The Chairman** raised the following views and enquires:

- (i) if the SWD would regularly review the performance of the IST and establish an incentive and penalty mechanism based on their

performance;

- (ii) the outcome of the existing inter-departmental joint operations was not significant. Street sleepers would return to their original locations to continue street sleeping after the joint operations ended. Therefore, Members requested the relevant departments to review the effectiveness of inter-departmental joint operations and enhance the existing measures; and
- (iii) requested the SWD to send more staff to visit the relevant street sleepers and increase the number of visits with a view to offering appropriate support to the relevant street sleepers.

13. **The representative of the SWD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the staff of the Department and the IST would visit the relevant street sleepers twice a month and would increase the number of visits according to the actual needs with a view to establishing a mutual trust relationship with street sleepers and providing them with appropriate assistance; and
- (ii) the Department would continue to participate in the joint operations and comply with the related departments, hoping to address the problem of street sleepers and improve the environmental hygiene conditions of the relevant locations in the area.

14. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he would like the departments to follow up continuously on the situation of relevant street sleepers and offer them appropriate assistance and support.

Item 3

Concern over the Food Waste Recycling Problems in Kowloon City District

(FEHD Paper No. 44/2024)

15. **A Member** introduced the Paper.

16. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written replies furnished by the FEHD and the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), i.e. Documents No. 6 and 14 tabled.

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

- (i) the work on food waste recycling facilities such as the additional provision, management, monitoring and operation of food waste recycling bins was coordinated and responsible by the EPD; and
- (ii) in addition to adequate space, impacts on its household refuse collection services and staff facilities in the refuse collection points (RCPs) had to be considered as well when providing additional food waste recycling bins at premises managed by the Department such as RCPs. The Department would comply with the EPD to conduct a study based on the actual circumstances of individual RCPs to assess the feasibility of installing food waste recycling facilities in the RCPs.

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

- (i) the Department had installed 32 food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs) in ten Public Rental Housing (PRH) estates in Kowloon City District and had pioneered to install two additional FWSRBs at Tak Long Estate which had a higher usage in July 2024 first to cope with the demand for food waste recycling in the estates;
- (ii) the Department would gradually increase the number of FWSRBs in the PRH estates across the territory in future, with a target of achieving “one FWSRB for each block” by 2026;
- (iii) in respect of private domestic, as of 29 August 2024, a total of nine applications from housing estates in Kowloon City District had been received for the “Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Smart Recycling Bins in Private Housing Estates” launched by the Department at the end of December last year. Some of the applications had been approved and the Department would review and approve the remaining applications in succession;
- (iv) the Department allocated funds via the “Environment and Conservation Fund” to subsidise the non-profit organisations to implement various community waste reduction projects, among which one of the projects had been approved to recycle household food waste generated by the residents of nearby “three-nil buildings”

in the vicinity of 13 streets in Ma Tau Kok. The project was anticipated to commence in the fourth quarter of 2024;

- (v) the recycling spot located at the junction of Pak Tai Street and San Shan Road (near Jubilant Place) in To Kwa Wan had commenced service since the end of March 2024, with the daily operating hours from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. As of July 2024, more than 1 400 people cumulatively had participated in the service with a total of more than 6.3 tonnes of food waste collected. The Department would closely monitor the situation of usage of various recycling spots and adjust the operating hours and locations of recycling spots or provide additional recycling spots when necessary to offer more convenient recycling channels to the public; and
- (vi) the Department had currently set up food waste recycling points at nine public RCPs under the purview of the FEHD in the district (including the RCPs at Lung Kong Road, Sung On Street, Peace Avenue, Kowloon City Municipal Services Building, Baker Street, Hok Yuen Street, Kowloon City Road, Kwei Chow Street and Broadcast Drive) and planned to provide an additional food waste recycling point at the RCP at Ma Tau Kok Road in November 2024.

19. **Members** stated that the Department's current support for conducting food waste recycling in areas concentrated with old buildings in the district was insufficient. Hence, Members requested the Department to consider the provision of additional food waste recycling facilities near the relevant locations. In addition to facilitating residents in conducting food waste recycling, the provision of additional food waste recycling facilities could further promote food waste recycling to more residents in the areas of old buildings.

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

- (i) the current target of the Department was to prioritise the installation of food waste recycling facilities in various areas across the territory. Therefore, the Department would choose to provide additional facilities at the RCPs near areas with a higher concentration of restaurants first; and

- (ii) with regard to the problem of insufficient food waste recycling facilities in some areas of the district, the Department would convey Members' views to the related section.

21. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he would like the related departments to provide additional food waste recycling facilities at more locations in the district and maintain communication with Members to select locations that were more convenient for the public to recycle.

Item 4

Concern over the Matters on the Hygiene Conditions of Peace Avenue Refuse Collection Point and Recycling Needs in the Areas

(FEHD Paper No. 45/2024)

22. **A Member** introduced the Paper.

23. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written replies furnished by the FEHD and the EPD, i.e. Documents No. 7 and 15 tabled.

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

- (i) the Peace Avenue RCP was cleaner than other RCPs in the area. Members would like the Department to strengthen the cleaning of the food waste recycling bins in the RCP continuously to maintain the cleanliness of the RCP;
- (ii) there was no FWSRB near Peace Avenue at present. According to Members' on-site observations, the Peace Avenue RCP had sufficient space and conditions for the provision of additional FWSRBs. He would like the Department to actively study the feasibility of the relevant proposal and formulate a timetable for implementation; and
- (iii) there was a lack of recycling facilities including three-colour recycling bins in the vicinity of Peace Avenue at present. Residents could only rely on the street booths set up by "GREEN@COMMUNITY" at a designated time every week for recycling. Members suggested the provision of more recycling facilities at the Peace Avenue RCP or nearby.

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

- (i) the Department had stepped up cleaning of walls and ground near the food waste recycling bins;
- (ii) regarding the provision of additional recycling facilities at the RCPs, besides the need to consider whether there was adequate space at the RCPs, the Department also required to consider factors such as impacts on household refuse collection services and staff facilities at the RCPs, power demand for the recycling facilities, as well as the design and arrangements on the flow of people; and
- (iii) the Department would conduct a study based on the actual circumstances of individual RCPs to assess the feasibility of the provision of additional recycling facilities inside. The Department would continue to comply with the EPD and study the feasibility of installing suitable food waste recycling facilities in individual premises.

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

- (i) the contractor of the Department would collect food waste from the Peace Avenue RCP, replace new plastic bags for food waste recycling bins every day and clean the food waste recycling bins regularly to maintain environmental hygiene. If the public dirtied the bin shells or the ground during the food waste recycling process, the staff of the FEHD would conduct cleaning immediately;
- (ii) the Department sent staff to conduct inspections at the Peace Avenue Public RCP for ten times from July to August 2024 and confirmed that the contractor had collected food waste in a timely manner. At the same time, no odours were detected near the food waste recycling points. The Department would continue to monitor the environmental hygiene conditions of the food waste recycling points and communicate with the FEHD when necessary to enhance the cleaning work;
- (iii) the Department and the FEHD had preliminarily completed the technical assessment for the installation of the FWSRBs at the Peace

Avenue RCP and were currently discussing further the detailed arrangements on management;

- (iv) the Department was implementing the “Pilot Programme on Smart Recycling Systems” to procure over 90 smart recycling bins from suppliers in the form of leasing services and placed them at locations such as “GREEN@COMMUNITY”, PRH estates, housing estates, villages, shopping malls, universities and government venues to test the operation situation of smart recycling bins at different locations and environments locally. However, due to the limited resources of the pilot programme at this stage, the Department was currently unable to provide additional smart recycling bins in the vicinity of Peace Avenue. The Department noted Members’ proposals on the provision of additional recycling facilities in shopping malls and government venues in Kowloon City District and would convey them to the related section for reference.

27. **Members** would like the related departments to resolve the difficulties in the provision of additional food waste smart recycling facilities at the RCPs and implement the relevant proposals as soon as possible so as to facilitate food waste recycling for residents near Peace Avenue.

28. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he would like the related departments to allocate more resources to achieve the goal of providing additional food waste smart recycling facilities at all RCPs under the purview of the FEHD at the earliest.

Item 5

Promoting the Proper Handling of Packaging Recycling by Merchants of Street-level Shops in Hung Hom Area

(FEHD Paper No. 46/2024)

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

30. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written reply furnished by the FEHD, i.e. Document No. 8 tabled.

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

- (i) in order to assist the disadvantaged, Members suggested the EPD, the

SWD and the KCDO to work together to address the relevant problem; and

- (ii) the source of the problem was the shops that disposed of packaging. Members suggested the Department to consider posting notices or hanging banners as warnings nearby the relevant locations, deploying more plain-clothes officers for inspection and enhancing law enforcement efforts.

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

- (i) the core functions of the Department were to maintain environmental hygiene and prioritise the handling of items that obstructed the scavenging operations. If any persons were found to have illegally dumped rubbish or obstructed the scavenging operations, the Department would take law enforcement actions based on the actual circumstances;
- (ii) the Department had been paying attention to the cleanliness of streets in Hung Hom area. Apart from regular inspection work, the Department also jointly arranged inter-departmental joint operations with related departments from time to time to strengthen law enforcement efforts. In the past year, the Department took out a total of 224 prosecutions cases against persons who committed public cleanliness offences in Hung Hom area; and
- (iii) the Department would conduct publicity at locations in Hung Hom area where the problem of disposal of packaging was more serious and remind nearby shops and the public not to dispose of packaging at will.

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

- (i) if the 224 prosecution cases mentioned in the written reply were all related to street obstruction caused by merchants or the disposal of packaging; if not, Members enquired about the number of prosecutions against merchants causing street obstructions; and

- (ii) Members would like the related departments to work together to take any feasible measures to resolve the problem of disposal of packaging by merchants.

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

- (i) the number of prosecutions mentioned in the written reply only included persons who committed public cleanliness offences but excluded merchants causing street obstruction; and
- (ii) the Department was currently implementing new measures on a trial basis in Kowloon City Road near To Kwa Wan Government Offices. Staff were deployed to patrol designated locations at a fixed destination and schedules every morning and took out prosecutions against persons disposing of miscellaneous items and cleared unattended packaging immediately. The relevant measures had been conducted on a trial basis for several months. According to the Department's observations, the problem on the disposal of miscellaneous items in the vicinity of Kowloon City Road had been alleviated. The Department would conduct a review and consider the feasibility of introducing the aforementioned measures to other places.

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

- (i) Members supported the Department's extension of the new measures on a trial basis in Kowloon City Road to Hung Hom area, hoping that the relevant measures could effectively reduce the situation of disposal of packaging in the area under the "result-oriented" approach; and
- (ii) anticipating that the Department could do a proper work in communicating with shops and the disadvantaged while implementing new measures on a trial basis and law enforcement actions to achieve the goal of a three-win situation.

36. **The representative of the FEHD** responded and stated that the number of prosecutions mentioned by the Department included offending merchants. However, the prosecutions against merchants causing street obstruction were excluded.

37. **The Chairman** made a conclusion. He suggested the Department to invite Members to visit the relevant locations in Hung Hom area for publicity to remind merchants and residents of the implementation of the new measures and subsequently enhance law enforcement.

Item 6

Request for Clearing Bicycles Illegally Parked and Miscellaneous Items at Both Sides of the Fences at Muk Chui Street (under the Bridge of Ching Long Shopping Centre) at the Soonest

(FEHD Paper No. 47/2024)

38. **A Member** introduced the Paper and raised the following views and enquiries:

- (i) as at 1:30 p.m. on the day of this meeting, there were still seven illegally parked bicycles and three easy-mount frames of telecommunication companies which had been placed there for a long period of time at the location mentioned in the Paper. Members enquired about the number of prohibited items that had been dealt with by the relevant departments upon submission of the Paper and prior to the conduct of the meeting;
- (ii) the existing law relevant to the occupation of land allowed 48 hours for the land occupiers to remove the items. Members considered that the relevant regulation was tantamount to a semi-acquiescence to the occurrence of the relevant situation, which could not solve the problems of illegally parked bicycles and placing of miscellaneous items. Members would like the Department to study the feasibility of amending the ordinance or the guidelines; and
- (iii) Members requested to improve the reporting mechanism, encourage and educate frontline staff of other departments to notify the related government departments if relevant situations were found.

39. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written replies furnished by the FEHD and the District Lands Office/Kowloon East (DLO/KE) prior to the meeting, i.e. Documents No. 9 and 13 tabled.

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

- (i) the existing practice of the departments to inspect the relevant locations and affix notices only upon receipt of complaints was too passive. Members suggested the relevant departments to inspect the black spots regularly and take the initiative to prosecute the offenders and forfeit the prohibited items;
- (ii) Members requested the departments to deploy additional manpower to carry out more law enforcement actions and to study the feasibility of using technology to enhance the efficiency of law enforcement;
- (iii) apart from the locations mentioned in the Paper, Members stated that four badly rusted and long idle bicycles had not yet been removed at the location of the entrance/ exit of the car park on Sheung Foo Street near Ho Man Tin Plaza in Ho Man Tin. Members requested the related departments to follow up; and
- (iv) Members stated that the FEHD staff forfeited their materials such as banners and easy-mount frames and immediately fined them when they conducted publicity at street booths in the past. Members enquired with the FEHD about the related ordinances that authorised relevant operations and whether the same ordinance could be used to deal with the existing problems of illegal parking of bicycles and placing of miscellaneous items.

41. **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 the relevant location and found a number of trolleys carrying recyclables and piled up of miscellaneous items there, which had obstructed the scavenging operations of the Department. In accordance with the regulation of section 22(2)(a) of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132), staff of the Department affixed a “Notice of Removal of Obstruction” on the relevant items, requesting the owner of the items to remove them within the designated time. During the subsequent review, the relevant items were removed by the owner himself. The Department immediately arranged the cleansing service contractor to

clear the refuse scattered at the location to keep the street clean; and

- (ii) regarding the incident mentioned by the Member on the seizure of publicity materials at street booths by the Department's staff, according to section 104A of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132), if a person displayed any publicity materials in a public place, the Department might prosecute the relevant person and remove the relevant publicity materials; whereas targeting at illegally parked bicycles and other miscellaneous items, the Department had to allow a period of four hours after the issuance of notice for the relevant person to remove the items according to section 22(2)(a) of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132). The staff of the Department could only remove the items in cases of non-compliance.

42. **The representative of the DLO/KE** gave the following reply:

- (i) according to the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance, DLOs must give not less than one full day's statutory notice against the situation of the occupation of government land, requiring the ceasing of the occupation of that land by a date specified in the statutory notice. The staff of the Department could only forfeit the items in cases of non-compliance;
- (ii) upon receipt of the Paper, the DLO/KE, in conjunction with other related departments, conducted a joint operation targeting at illegally parked bicycles on 5 September 2024. Statutory notices had been affixed on 12 illegally parked bicycles, among which 10 bicycles were removed before the deadline and the other two bicycles which had not been removed were forfeited. However, after the operation, the departments found that there were still a certain number of illegally parked bicycles at the relevant locations. Therefore, statutory notice was affixed again on 10 September 2024, while another joint operation would be conducted with the KCDO on 12 September 2024;
- (iii) to achieve effectiveness in law enforcement, the no-stopping zone for illegally parked bicycles would be displayed on the statutory notices at present. If occupants moved their bicycle to other zones within

the area, it would still be regarded as a non-compliance with the requirements on the statutory notices. The DLO staff could forfeit that bicycle; and

- (iv) since the entrance of the car park at Sheung Foo Street near Ho Man Tin Plaza was not the location discussed in the agenda item and that location at the same time was under the purview of the District Lands Office/Kowloon West (DLO/KW), the Secretariat of the District Council was invited to refer the relevant complaint to the DLO/KW for follow-up.

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

- (i) even though the FEHD staff had affixed notices on the easy-mount frames of the three telecommunication companies, the staff of the telecommunication companies would remove the easy-mount frames every day before the deadline. Members considered that the Department had to affix the notices at appropriate times (such as the small hours) in view of the hours of use of the three easy-mount frames to successfully forfeit the easy-mount frames; and
- (ii) even if the no-stopping zone for illegally parked bicycles was expanded, the problem of some bicycles being illegally parked for long periods could not be solved. Members requested the Department to take more practical and effective operations to combat illegal parking of bicycles.

44. **The representative of the FEHD** responded and stated that Members' views were noted. The Department would review and improve the existing enforcement strategy targeting at the placing of miscellaneous items to enhance the efficiency of law enforcement.

45. **The representative of the DLO/KE** responded and stated that it would complement the KCDO's District-led Actions Scheme and try the best to raise the number of joint operations to clear illegally parked bicycles with limited resources.

46. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he would like the related departments to maintain communication with Members and complement the Government's "result-oriented" principle in solving the relevant problem.

[Post-meeting note: The Secretariat had referred the problem of illegal parking of bicycles at the location of the entrance/ exit of the car park on Sheung Foo Street near Ho Man Tin Plaza in Ho Man Tin to the DLO/KW for follow-up on 30 October 2024.]

Item 7

Concern over the Hygiene Problems of the Subway Connecting Shing Kai Road and Prince Edward Road East

(FEHD Paper No. 48/2024)

47. **A Member** introduced the Paper.
48. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written reply furnished by the FEHD, i.e. Document Paper No. 10 tabled.
49. **The representative of the FEHD** replied with the main points as follows:
 - (i) the Department was mainly responsible for the cleansing work on the ground inside subways, including cleaning up substances that posed immediate hygiene problems such as excrement and vomitus. Where necessary, the Department would also arrange for conducting specific cleansing at locations involving immediate hygiene problems, then inform the Highways Department (HyD) for full-scale cleansing. Meanwhile, the HyD would be responsible for the work on cleansing the ground and other parts of the subway;
 - (ii) upon receipt of the Paper, the Department had sent staff to inspect the aforementioned subway and the situation was generally normal. The Department had also arranged contractor to step up the cleansing work there to enhance the hygiene condition there; and
 - (iii) as for the proposal on the regular thorough cleansing and disinfection of the subway, the Department had referred to the HyD for follow-up.
50. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he would like the Department to maintain communication with the relevant Members on the hygiene condition of that subway.

Item 8**Proposing the FEHD to Allocate Additional Resources to Improve the Hygiene and Management Measures in Markets and Surrounding Environment in Kowloon City District**

(FEHC Paper No. 49/2024)

51. **A Member** introduced the Paper.
52. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written reply furnished by the FEHD, i.e. Document No. 11 tabled.
53. **The representative of the FEHD** replied with the main points as follows:
- (i) as for rodent control work, the Department currently adopted an intensive anti-rodent strategy in markets. The Department would thoroughly clear the refuse and clean the passageways and drains in the markets every night after the markets were closed to eliminate the food sources for rodents. Plentiful rodent traps were also placed in the market areas in the small hours to step up anti-rodent efforts;
 - (ii) according to the Department's pilot scheme in Kowloon City Market earlier, it was found that the effectiveness of glue traps in trapping rodents was higher than the use of cage traps and rodenticides. Thus, the Department had planned to recruit rodent control teams in October 2024 to use glue traps in To Kwa Wan Market and Hung Hom Market in the small hours, so as to enhance the effectiveness of anti-rodent work;
 - (iii) the Department would continue to adopt different types of anti-rodent methods and tools. Apart from the usual rodenticides and rodent traps, the Department had introduced alcohol rodent trapping devices in Hung Hom Market and To Kwa Wan Market to improve the efficiency of rodent disinfestation;
 - (iv) as for the cleaning and refuse collection arrangements for the markets, upon receipt of the Paper, the Department had arranged for contractors to step up cleansing work in and around the markets, and had adjusted refuse collection times and routes of conveyance for some markets to avoid causing inconvenience to shop operators and

the public;

- (v) the Department kept an open mind towards the use of new technologies to enhance management and law enforcement. If there were suitable equipment, the Department would actively consider its introduction. The Department planned to discuss with the Architectural Services Department the installation of a closed circuit television (CCTV) monitoring system in the loading area of To Kwa Wan Market to enhance the work of vehicle management in the loading area and to combat the situation of abuse; and
- (vi) the Department also planned to upgrade the CCTV systems at some locations in Kowloon City Market to strengthen the monitoring of fly-tipping and assist in law enforcement work.

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

- (i) whether the Department would change the rodent trapping technologies and equipment on a regular basis to maintain the efficiency of rodent trapping; and
- (ii) suggested the Department to install thermal detectors in the markets to track rodent activities, set up intensive glue traps in rear lanes of adjacent markets, as well as set up and recover intensive glue traps at specified times.

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

- (i) capturing and killing rodents was not the most effective way to eliminate rodents as they were extremely prolific breeders. The Department considered that environmental hygiene had to be started with for combating rodents in the three aspects, namely “food”, “harbourage” and “passages”. Therefore, the Department would adopt methods to control the environment as far as possible in the elimination of rodents;
- (ii) at present, the Department had set up five alcohol rodent trapping devices in Hung Hom Market and Kowloon City Market respectively and would change the locations in a timely manner to maintain the

efficiency of rodent trapping;

- (iii) the Department also planned to purchase more alcohol rodent trapping devices to enhance the efficiency of rodent trapping; and
- (iv) at present, the Department would only use glue traps in enclosed premises to prevent accidental harm to other non-target animals by the glue traps.

56. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and would like the Department to accept Members' views to use more high-end anti-rodent technologies to eradicate rodent infestations in future.

Item 9

Request for Stepping Up Inspections for Black Spots of Dripping Air Conditioners

(FEHC Paper No. 50/2024)

57. **A Member** introduced the Paper and enquired about the number of prosecutions taken out by the FEHD this summer targeted at dripping air conditioners.

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

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

- (i) in accordance with the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132), a person who allowed his air conditioner to discharge water in such a manner as to be a hygienic nuisance to others, the Department could issue a Nuisance Notice to request the nuisance to be abated within a specified period. A person who failed to comply with the Nuisance Notice shall be guilty of an offence. The Department could take out prosecution against the person, and upon conviction, the person was liable to a penalty of a fine of \$10,000, as well as a daily fine of \$200 as long as the nuisance continued;
- (ii) between 26 April and 2 May 2024, the Department conducted a publicity and education campaign on dripping air conditioners in Kowloon City District, including the distribution of publicity leaflets

as well as the display of posters and banners to property management companies and the local community, to raise the public's awareness of and sense of responsibility towards dripping air conditioners, and to remind them to take proactive precautions to minimise the situation of nuisance;

- (iii) based on past experience and records, the Department would identify buildings in the district where dripping air conditioners frequently occurred and take the initiative to step up inspections, among which included inspections of black spots of dripping air conditioners at different time slots in places such as roadside bus stops, minibus stops and pedestrian crossings; and
- (iv) between January and August 2024, the Department issued a total of 601 advisory letters and 65 Nuisance Notices to the occupiers/ owners of the units involved regarding the problem of dripping air conditioners in Kowloon City District. All the Nuisance Notices were complied with.

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

- (i) the problem of dripping air conditioners in the district was serious. A number of locations of dripping were even close to facilities such as pedestrian crossings and bus stops. To Kwa Wan Road was one of the black spots in the district. Members requested the Department to deploy additional manpower in summer to step up proactive inspections at the black spots of dripping air conditioners;
- (ii) the frequency of proactive inspections conducted by the Department; and
- (iii) suggested the Department to put up publicity posters and notices printed with the reporting hotline in areas concentrated with "three-nil buildings" in the district.

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

- (i) the Department took the initiative to carry out 20 inspections targeting dripping air conditioners between May and August 2024. Five to

six black spots of dripping air conditioners in the district were visited during each inspection;

- (ii) majority of the public would handle the problem of dripping air conditioners upon receipt of advisory letters. As a result, the problem of dripping air conditioners at some of the black spots had been slightly alleviated; and
- (iii) the Department would continue to conduct proactive inspections on the problem of dripping air conditioners to minimise the impact of the relevant problem on residents as far as possible.

62. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he would like the Department to continue to follow up the problem of dripping air conditioners in the district, prosecute the public who refused to rectify the problem after repeated advice where necessary, and report to Members the work progress of combating dripping air conditioners in a timely manner.

Item 10

Enhancing and Making Good Use of New Technologies to Handle and Tackle the Water Seepage Problems in Old Buildings

(FEHC Paper No. 51/2024)

63. **A Member** introduced the Paper.

64. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written reply furnished by the Joint Office for Investigation of Water Seepage Complaints (JO), i.e. Document No. 2 tabled.

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

- (i) to further enhance the work efficiency of the JO in identifying water seepage problems, Members suggested the JO to make reference to the measuring equipment used by the loss adjusters and study the feasibility of procuring the relevant measuring equipment;
- (ii) suggested the JO to organise publicity activities on water seepage in the old districts of Kowloon City;

- (iii) suggested the JO to send staff to attend meetings of the owners' corporations or owner's committees of the buildings in the district to explain to residents the causes of water seepage, their responsibilities, the testing and repair methods, and the possible solutions to the problem of water seepage disputes; and
- (iv) contact details of the JO to facilitate Members in reflecting water seepage problems in the district.

66. **The representative of the JO** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) among the 116 publicity and promotional activities mentioned in the written reply, nine of which were conducted in Kowloon City District. He would convey the views to the relevant sections to study the feasibility of organising more promotional activities in the old districts of Kowloon City;
- (ii) the JO stated that since January 2022, it had published on its thematic webpage on water seepage (www.waterseepage.gov.hk) its actual performance in investigating reported cases on water seepage in buildings each year for reference by the public. Among the cases received in 2023, investigations of 65.4% of cases could be completed and informants were notified of the investigation results within 90 working days. Investigation could not be completed within 90 working days were mostly cases that were more complicated, such as involving multiple sources of water seepage, repeated or intermittent occurrence of water seepage, requiring multiple tests to identify the source and failure of owners or occupiers to cooperate with the investigation;
- (iii) since late June 2018, the JO had engaged outsourced consultants in Stage III professional investigations in 14 selected pilot districts (including Kowloon City District) by giving priority to adopt new technologies where appropriate, including microwave tomography and infrared thermography, to assist in the investigation of sources of water seepage, so as to improve the success rate and reduce the time required for investigation. The JO would continue to maintain communication with service providers of new testing technologies and further review the availability in the market to make good use of

new technologies in detecting sources of water seepage;

- (iv) to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness in handling reports on water seepage in buildings, the JO had implemented a series of improvement measures, including setting up four regional JOs, enhancing the Water Seepage Complaint Management System, streamlining the work procedures, stepping up the monitoring of the consultants' work performance, as well as setting up the Water Seepage Resource Centre and a customer service team. The JO would review the resource and manpower arrangements in a timely manner, and deploy them flexibly to meet actual operational needs; and
- (v) the contact details of the JO would be supplemented after the meeting.

67. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he would like the JO to maintain close communication with Members on the problem of water seepage in buildings in the district and continue to find new technologies, so as to further enhance the success rate of investigation into the sources of water seepage as well as expedite the process of handling the cases.

[Post-meeting note: The Secretariat had referred to Members the supplementary information on the contact details of the JO on 16 September 2024.]

Item 11

Concern over the Problems of Illegal Feeding of Wild Animals and Feral Pigeons (FEHC Paper No. 52/2024)

68. **A Member** introduced the Paper.

69. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written reply furnished by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), i.e. Document No. 1 tabled.

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

- (i) the arrangements for staffing and division of labour of the dedicated enforcement teams (DETS);

- (ii) whether enforcement guidelines were already available to the respective authorised departments;
- (iii) the number of prosecutions upon the official commencement of the enforcement period of the Wild Animals Protection (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 (the Ordinance) since 1 September 2024; and
- (iv) requested the department to continue to step up publicity, education and law enforcement after the adaptation period of the Ordinance and regularly disseminate to the public the number of prosecutions relating to illegal feeding of wild animals and feral pigeons.

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

- (i) the DETS, with about two to three staff in a team, were responsible for territory-wide law enforcement. Upon receipt of a complaint, DETS members would liaise with the complainant and carry out on-site investigation and law enforcement based on the information provided by the complainant;
- (ii) the Department would continue to set up street booths and hang banners at black spots of illegal feeding of wild animals and feral pigeons for publicity and education;
- (iii) the DETS would also ambush and carry out inspections at black spots of illegal feeding of wild animals and feral pigeons, and would take out prosecutions immediately if an offender was found. According to information provided by the public, relevant inspections and law enforcement actions might be carried out at night;
- (iv) the Department had convened a working group with other related departments and distributed enforcement guidelines to them. In June and July 2024, the Department also provided frontline staff of the related departments with details of law enforcement of the relevant Ordinance;
- (v) regarding the announcement of the overall prosecution figures, it took time for the Department to compile the figures as law enforcement officers of the relevant departments had to register prosecution figures

through their respective departmental mechanisms. Therefore, the prosecution figures might not be able to announce on a regular basis. However, the Department had taken note of Members' views and would convey them to the related sections; and

- (vi) four to five prosecution cases targeting at illegal feeding of wild animals and feral pigeons had been taken out for the time being since 1 September 2024.

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

- (i) the AFCD had limited resources. Relying on the AFCD for territory-wide law enforcement was relatively difficult. As some habitual offenders of illegal feeding of wild animals and feral pigeons often present at specific locations, the FEHD was more aware of the aforementioned hygiene black spots. Thus, Members suggested the FEHD to assist with law enforcement in urban areas so as to reduce the burden on AFCD staff;
- (ii) whether the relevant departments would exchange intelligence on black spots of illegal feeding of wild animals and feral pigeons in order to improve the efficiency of law enforcement;
- (iii) the channels through which the public could report the relevant offences to the Department;
- (iv) the situation of law enforcement of the existing authorised departments (including the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and the Housing Department), and how the AFCD would ensure that other related departments would cooperate with the law enforcement; and
- (v) suggested the Department to emphasise the negative impacts brought about by the illegal feeding of wild animals and feral pigeons on animal welfare in publicity and education. The relevant departments could also conduct publicity in the recreation venues under the purview of the LCSD and the lobbies of the estates of the HD. Reporting channels could also be provided to remind residents of the implementation of the new legislation and inform residents of the

departments that would receive and handle relevant complaints.

73. **The representative of the AFCD** gave the following reply:

- (i) the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation had authorised the staff of the FEHD, LCSD and HD to exercise their enforcement powers under the Ordinance against illegal feeding of wild animals and feral pigeons. Among them, the LCSD would be responsible for law enforcement in recreation venues under its purview, the HD would be responsible for law enforcement in PRH estates, the FEHD would be responsible for law enforcement in public places involving environmental hygiene cases, while the AFCD would be mainly responsible for law enforcement in private places (including Tenants Purchase Scheme estates), some public places and areas within country parks;
- (ii) in order to assist the related departments in familiarising with the Ordinance and the enforcement arrangements, the management staff of the related departments had convened a meeting and communicated before the Ordinance came into effect;
- (iii) the Department had publicised the Ordinance through various channels, including the concourses of MTR stations, back of minibus seats, radio broadcasts, televisions in the lobbies of housing estates and leaflets. The Department was willing to provide more publicity materials if Members and other departments required;
- (iv) the Department planned to set up a street booth in Ma Tau Wai Estate later to publicise the Ordinance; and
- (v) the public could report the relevant behaviours towards illegal feeding of wild animals and feral pigeons through 1823.

74. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he would like the Department to step up publicity on the Ordinance and maintain good communication with various stakeholders so that the Ordinance could be effectively implemented in the community.

Item 12**Concern over the Water Quality and Ecological Problems of Kai Tak River**

(FEHC Paper No. 53/2024)

75. **A Member** introduced the Paper.
76. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written reply furnished by the EPD and the Drainage Services Department (DSD), i.e. Document No. 16 tabled.
77. **Members** raised the following views and enquiries:
- (i) the water quality of the upstream of Kai Tak River at San Po Kong was good. However, the water quality of the downstream continued to be poor. Members requested the relevant departments to expand the scope of investigation to find out the reasons causing the poor water quality of the downstream, so as to improve the environment in the vicinity of the downstream of Kai Tak River;
 - (ii) the poor water quality of the downstream of Kai Tak River had affected not only the residents, but also the wild animals inhabiting in Kai Tak River. The related departments must address the relevant problem squarely to safeguard the quality of life of the residents and the rights of survival of wild animals;
 - (iii) Members suspected that the poor water quality of the downstream of Kai Tak River might be attributable to the fact that there were still misconnections of pipes in the vicinity of the upstream and the silt and sediments in the downstream had not been cleared. Members requested the relevant departments to clear the silt and sediments in the downstream of Kai Tak River and report related data such as the timetable for the inspection, patrol and clearance regarding the water quality of Kai Tak River by the departments; and
 - (iv) invited representatives of the Buildings Department (BD) and the DSD to attend the next meeting to continue the discussion of this agenda item and conduct a site visit with Members.

78. **The representative of the EPD** gave the following reply:

- (i) the Department had been sending staff to inspect a section of Kai Tak River near Kai Tak Station Square (KTSS), the sewage treatment facilities adjacent to the construction sites and the grease traps of the adjacent restaurants. During the inspections, situations of discharge of sewage into Kai Tak River and contravention of the related environmental ordinances had not been found;
- (ii) although Kai Tak area was a new development area, the Department had also conducted a comprehensive pollution source inspection and confirmed that the situation of misconnection of pipes in the area was not found. In addition, the Department had continued to conduct pollution source inspections in the catchment areas of the upstream and midstream of Kai Tak River, endeavouring to control at source and intercept the discharge of pollutants into the stormwater drainage system, and would refer cases of misconnection of sewers to stormwater drains found to the related departments for follow-up and rectification;
- (iii) as Kai Tak River was a flood prevention facility, sediments and floating refuse in the stormwater drainage system would be collected, which might lead to the dying of fish due to changes in water temperature and salinity; and
- (iv) upon receipt of Members' Paper, the DSD had sent staff to the section of the Kai Tak River near the KTSS on a number of occasions to inspect and clear floating refuse and fish carcasses, as well as to check the outfalls on both sides of the river and the public drainage facilities nearby. Having regard to the environmental and weather conditions, the DSD would step up the clearing of floating refuse in the downstream of Kai Tak River as well as cleansing the walls of Kai Tak River, and continue to monitor the condition of the public drainage system there as well as to make follow-up where necessary.

79. **The Chairman** accepted Members' views and declared that the discussion of the agenda item would be continued at the next meeting. Representatives of the DSD and the BD were invited to attend the next meeting and arrange on-site visits for Members.

[Post-meeting note: The EPD, the BD and the DSD had conducted an inspection to Kai Tak River with Members on 16 October 2024.]

Item 13

Any Other Business

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

Item 14

Date of Next Meeting

81. **The Chairman** announced that the next meeting would be held at 2:30 p.m. on 14 November 2024 and the closing date for submission of papers would be 30 October 2024.

82. **The Chairman** announced the adjournment of the meeting at 4:51 p.m.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed on 14 November 2024.

The Chairman

The Secretary

KCDC Secretariat
November 2024