

(Translation)

**Minutes of the 4th Meeting of
Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee,
the 7th Term Kwun Tong District Council**

Date: 16 July 2024 (Tuesday)

Time: 2:35 p.m. – 4:11 p.m.

**Venue: Conference Room, Kwun Tong District Office,
Unit 05-07, 20/F, Millennium City 6, 392 Kwun Tong Road,
Kwun Tong, Kowloon**

Present

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| Mr TAM Siu-cheuk (Chairman) | Mr HSU Yau-wai |
| Mr LAM Wai (Vice-chairman) | Mr CHAN Yiu-hung, Jimmy, MH |
| Mr YU Siu-lun | Mr TSANG Wing-fai |
| Mr YU Ka-ming | Ms CHING Hoi-yan |
| Mr NG Ting-fung | Ms FENG Yunsi |
| Mr LUI Tung-hai, MH | Mr WONG Chun-ping, MH, JP |
| Ms LEE Shuk-woon, Sophia | Mr WONG Kai-san |
| Mr LEE Ka-hang | Mr LAU Kar-wah |
| Mr LAM Fung, MH | Mr AU YEUNG Kwan-nok |
| Ms KAM Kin | Mr CHENG Keung-fung |
| Mr MA Yat-chiu, MH | Mr LAI Wing-chun, MH |
| Mr CHEUNG Yiu-pan | Mr KAN Ming-tung, MH |
| Mr CHEUNG Pui-kong | Mr KWAN Kin-wing |
| Ms FU Pik-chun, MH | Mr PANG Chi-sang |

In Attendance

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| Mr CHEUNG Ka-long, Kelvin | Assistant District Officer (Kwun Tong) 2 |
| Mr CHOW Lap-kan, Douglas | Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Kwun Tong District Office |
| Ms LAW Kit-nor | District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Kwun Tong), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department |
| Mr HO Pok-man | Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing & Pest Control) Kwun Tong 2, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department |
| Mr TANG Tsz-chun, Tommy | Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional East) ³ (Acting), Environmental Protection Department |

Mr CHEUNG Kai-him, Matthew Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional East)³ (Acting),
Environmental Protection Department
Mr LAW Hang-kong Deputy District Leisure Manager (Kwun Tong)¹,
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr YU Chi-man, Clement Housing Manager/Kowloon East 4 (Acting),
Housing Department

Secretary

Mr WONG King-yui, Bobby Executive Officer (District Council) 1,
Kwun Tong District Office

In Attendance by Invitation

Ms TSANG Chi-yan, Linda Head (Mosquito Risk Assessment & Advisory Unit),
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Item II

Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed all Members of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (“FEHC”) and government representatives to the 4th meeting of FEHC under the 7th Term Kwun Tong District Council (“KTDC”).

I. Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting

2. Members had no further comments and the minutes of the third meeting were confirmed.

**II. Progress report on environmental hygiene issues in Kwun Tong District by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”)
(KTDC FEHC Paper No. 15/2024)**

3. The representative of FEHD presented the paper.

4. The Chairman invited Head (Mosquito Risk Assessment & Advisory Unit) of FEHD to brief Members on the current locations of the gravidtraps placed by FEHD and the relevant reference guidelines.

5. The representative of FEHD said that the Gravidtrap Index (“GI”) survey was part of the dengue

vector surveillance programme. FEHD would set gravidtraps in areas with local dengue fever cases recorded and in densely populated places (such as housing estates, parks, schools and hospitals) in accordance with the guidelines of the World Health Organization. At present, FEHD had selected a total of 64 survey areas throughout the territory, four of which were located in Kwun Tong District, including Kwun Tong Central, Lam Tin, Yau Tong and Kowloon Bay. FEHD would place around 60 gravidtraps in each survey area. As the normal average flight range of *Aedes albopictus* was usually less than 100 metres, the gravidtraps were set at a distance of about 100 metres from each other. The representative of FEHD also said that areas with dense vegetation and those near hillsides were prone to mosquito breeding. FEHD had stepped up anti-mosquito efforts in these known mosquito-infested areas, so there was no need to place additional gravidtraps. She added that the gravidtraps would be placed in the survey areas for two weeks and FEHD would collect them once a week. The department would combine survey data from the two weeks to calculate the Area GIs and Density Indices. FEHD would regularly publish the GI and the monthly Area GIs of each survey area on its website for public reference.

6. Members raised views and enquiries as follows:

- 6.1 Members opined that FEHD should increase the locations for placing gravidtraps, such as placing them in Kwun Tong North, Kwun Tong South, and in the squatter areas of Lei Yue Mun and Cha Kwo Ling.
- 6.2 Members suggested that FEHD delineate the survey areas according to the boundaries of the seven Area Committees of Kwun Tong District.
- 6.3 Members opined that FEHD should place gravidtraps in areas near hillsides and densely populated places (such as Sau Mau Ping area).
- 6.4 Members enquired about the reasons for the significant increase in the GI of Yau Tong in May and June as compared to the same period last year.
- 6.5 Members said that the arrival of summer would likely lead to mosquito breeding and believed that FEHD should strengthen its mosquito and rodent control efforts, particularly by inspecting locations where larvicide sand and pesticides had been applied after rainfall.
- 6.6 Members opined that FEHD should step up the cleaning of sewers and storm drains in the Kwun Tong North area, as silt and leaves could be washed to outfalls during the rainy season, causing drain blockages.

6.7 Members suggested that FEHD introduce advanced technology to enhance the efficiency of mosquito and rodent control work.

6.8 Members pointed out that there was an increase in GI and enquired if FEHD would strengthen anti-mosquito work.

7. The representative of FEHD responded as follows:

7.1 Locations of gravidtraps: FEHD stated that under normal circumstances, dengue vector surveillance would not cover industrial, commercial and countryside areas. In addition, FEHD would review the locations of gravidtraps at the end of each year, factors such as urban development, local dengue fever cases and suggestions made by Members would be taken into account to formulate the scope of dengue vector surveillance for the following year.

7.2 Significant increase in GI: FEHD said that the temperature in April and May this year was higher than that in January to March this year and October to December last year. Additionally, the onset of the rainy season had caused mosquitoes to breed more rapidly throughout the territory.

7.3 FEHD said that some areas near hillsides and densely populated places, including Po Tat Estate and On Tat Estate, had been included in the gravidtrap survey area.

8. Members raised follow-up views and enquiries as follows:

8.1 Members enquired about the locations covered by the four survey areas in Kwun Tong District.

8.2 Members enquired whether the addition and management of gravidtraps required substantial resources and costs.

8.3 Members relayed that GI could not reflect the actual number of mosquitoes.

8.4 Members believed that interdepartmental cooperation was necessary for the Government to eradicate mosquito infestation.

8.5 Members enquired about the measures currently taken by FEHD to tackle the issue of

high GIs.

8.6 Members pointed out that GI monitored *Aedes albopictus* and not other mosquitoes.

8.7 Members opined that FEHD should revise the levels of GI and avoid using 20% as a level.

9. The representative of FEHD responded to Members' views and enquiries as follows:

9.1 FEHD said that it had been actively implementing anti-mosquito measures, including removing stagnant water containers conducive to mosquito breeding, clearing stagnant water, spraying insecticides, and applying larvicide sand and oil. In addition, FEHD would also conduct joint inspections with other departments in locations with more severe mosquito infestation and provide corresponding technical advice on mosquito prevention and control to relevant departments. For locations with serious mosquito infestation, FEHD did not rule out the possibility of taking prosecution actions. As July and August were the peak months for mosquito infestation, FEHD would utilise the funding from the Kwun Tong District Office ("KTDO") to increase the number of outsourced pest control roving teams to strengthen anti-mosquito work.

9.2 FEHD said that Members could learn about the coverage of different survey areas on its website. Also, FEHD pointed out that further dividing the gravidtrap survey areas into various sub-districts could affect the representativeness of the data.

9.3 FEHD said that gravidtraps only monitored the activity level of *Aedes albopictus*, while over 70 species of mosquitoes had been recorded in Hong Kong, including *Culex quinquefasciatus*, which were more commonly seen in urban areas. Even in areas with relatively low GIs, members of the public might still be bitten by mosquitoes other than *Aedes albopictus*.

10. The Chairman concluded Members' views and urged FEHD to (i) clearly display the locations covered by each survey area in Kwun Tong District for Members' reference; (ii) actively consider Members' suggestions to delineate the survey areas according to the boundaries of the seven Area Committees and increase the locations for placing gravidtraps; and (iii) readjust the distribution of gravidtraps. The Chairman also encouraged Members to report any mosquito infestation blackspots in the district.

[Post-meeting note:

FEHD said that the community dengue vector surveillance programme would be reviewed yearly to cover locations with new local dengue fever cases and to tie in with town development. The latest changes to the four survey areas in Kwun Tong District were as follows:

In 2016, the Kwun Tong Central survey area included Sau Mau Ping Estate in its coverage and increased the number of gravidtraps. The survey area was expanded to cover Sau Mau Ping South Estate and nearby areas in 2018. The Lam Tin survey area included On Tat Estate, Po Tat Estate and Hing Tin Estate in its coverage in 2018, with an increase in the number of gravidtraps. The Yau Tong survey area was established as a new survey location in July 2018. The Kowloon Bay survey area was expanded in 2019 to cover part of the Kowloon Bay industrial and commercial area, accompanied by an increase in the number of gravidtraps.

FEHD said that mosquito activity was not affected by administrative boundaries. Therefore, when conducting dengue vector surveillance, the behaviour of vector mosquitoes and the risk of dengue fever transmission should be the primary considerations.

In addition, FEHD provided FEHC with maps showing the coverage of the four survey areas in Kwun Tong District. The Secretariat circulated the relevant information to Members on 4 September 2024.]

11. Members noted the paper.

III. Environmental Hygiene Problems in Kwun Tong District (KTDC FEHC Paper No. 16/2024)

12. The Secretary presented the paper.

13. Members raised follow-up views and enquiries as follows:

- 13.1 Members relayed that the sewage leakage issue at Hip Wo Street had persisted for five to six years. Although the situation improved at the beginning of the year after interdepartmental collaboration, and the Buildings Department (“BD”) had also issued repair orders to the relevant owners’ corporation, the leakage problem had not yet been completely resolved. Hence, they enquired how government departments would follow up on this matter.

- 13.2 Members reported the issue of waste accumulation at the domestic waste storage point

next to the building entrance of Block 4 of Lotus Tower of Garden Estate. Members cited the response from the office of the Hong Kong Housing Society, which indicated that FEHD had changed its waste collection contractor in recent years. The new contractor used large hook-lift refuse collection vehicles (RCVs) that were too wide to enter the housing estate daily to clear waste. Members enquired whether the waste collection service for the housing estate was still provided by FEHD's waste collection contractor, and whether the contractor could switch to using narrower RCVs with compactors for collecting domestic waste.

- 13.3 Members relayed that the two waste storage points at Yau Mei Court in Yau Tong also faced the issue of large RCVs being unable to enter the housing estate to clear waste due to their excessive width, resulting in the accumulation of large domestic waste.
- 13.4 Members enquired about how departments would follow up on the environmental hygiene issues in divested housing estates.
- 13.5 Members enquired with the Environmental Protection Department ("EPD") about matters concerning the concrete batching plants ("CBPs") in Yau Tong, asking whether the department would take further action to address the illegal operations of the CBPs while applying for a court injunction.
- 13.6 Members suggested that FEHD regularly conduct joint inspections with District Council ("DC") Members at hygiene blackspots to ensure that relevant problems could be fully resolved.
- 13.7 Members suggested that the Housing Department ("HD") and relevant enforcement departments strengthen law enforcement after the Wild Animals Protection (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 took effect.
- 13.8 Members suggested that FEHD enhance the supervision and monitoring of outsourced contractors in handling the sewage leakage from RCVs and simplify reporting procedures.
- 13.9 Members said that FEHD should conduct a detailed study on the issue of hook-lift RCVs being unable to enter housing estates due to their excessive size, in order to facilitate the public in disposing of large domestic waste.
- 13.10 Members enquired FEHD about street cleansing procedures.

14. The representative of FEHD responded to Members' views and enquiries as follows:
- 14.1 Collection of domestic waste from housing estates: FEHD said that domestic waste collection service was currently provided by outsourced contractors, who typically used large hook-lift RCVs or RCVs with compactors to collect large domestic waste. FEHD would reply to Members after gathering relevant information.
- [Post-meeting note: FEHD called the District Councillor concerned on 19 July 2024 and informed her about the follow-up on the relevant matters. FEHD indicated that housing estates could propose suitable new collection points, and the department would arrange trial runs to evaluate whether it was appropriate to provide large domestic waste collection services at the new collection points.]
- 14.2 Environmental hygiene issues of divested housing estates: FEHD would require the relevant management companies to address the issues. In cases where repeated advice was not heeded, FEHD would write to request that the parties concerned make improvements within a specific period, and proceed with prosecution if the issues remain unresolved after the deadline.
- 14.3 Street cleansing procedures: FEHD said that apart from cleansing streets with conventional street washing vehicles, it would also use mini-street washing vehicles for deep cleansing. Also, in narrower streets and areas with busy traffic, FEHD would deploy hot water gun teams, use pressure washer surface cleaners, or fill mop buckets with clean water to cleanse the streets. FEHD would determine cleansing frequency based on pedestrian flow and the cleanliness of the streets.
- 14.4 Sewage leakage problem of Hip Wo House: FEHD said that it would closely monitor the situation and enhance cleansing at the location.
15. The representative of EPD responded to Members' views and enquiries as follows:
- 15.1 CBPs in Yau Tong: EPD said that it had been closely monitoring the operations of all CBPs in Yau Tong and following up on all illegal activities in accordance with the law. EPD had issued over 30 summonses for criminal prosecutions against the CBPs at 20 and 22 Tung Yuen Street in Yau Tong for their suspected contravention of the Air Pollution Control Ordinance ("APCO"). Additionally, EPD had applied to the court for an interim injunction through the Department of Justice to prohibit the two CBPs from operating and causing nuisance to the public. As all cases had entered judicial

proceedings, it was not appropriate for EPD to comment further. Also, the Environment and Ecology Bureau and EPD had proposed amendments to the APCO to the Legislative Council to enhance law enforcement powers, including the closure of premises with irregularities, to combat illegal activities involving the conducting of unlicensed specified processes more effectively. EPD would continue to follow up on the matter closely.

- 15.2 Sewage leakage problem of Hip Wo House: EPD said that in February this year, it was confirmed through a dye-tracing test that the sewage originated from the sewerage system of Hip Wo House. EPD immediately requested the building's person-in-charge to take interim measures. In addition, EPD and KTDO jointly inspected the sewer manhole of one of the sewerage systems in Hip Wo House and confirmed that the system was damaged. The relevant investigation results had been forwarded to BD for follow-up on the repair of the sewerage system.

16. The representative of HD said that the department would actively address the environmental hygiene issues in divested housing estates that were still managed by HD. For divested estates that had established owners' corporations, HD would refer the environmental hygiene issues to the corporation or the management company, and raise these issues at meetings of the owners' corporation as an owner if necessary.

17. Members noted the paper.

IV. Any Other Business

18. Members pointed out that in January 2024, the Lands Department ("LandsD") allocated 13 designated spots to each DC Member for the display of roadside non-commercial publicity materials. However, after an inspection in May this year, Members found that many designated spots in Kwun Tong District were still vacant. They enquired why LandsD had not allocated the vacant spots for use by DC Members or local groups, or whether those spots had been reserved for other purposes.

19. The representative of KTDO said that he would relay the enquiry to the relevant department.

20. Members suggested that LandsD reserve designated spots for use by Care Teams and local groups that were long-term partners of KTDO, so that they could promote their services and activities in the district.

21. The Chairman hoped that LandsD would adjust the arrangement for allocating designated spots based on Members' feedback and appoint representatives to attend the next meeting to address Members' enquiries.

22. Members noted the paper.

[Post-meeting note: the Secretariat forwarded the response from LandsD regarding the allocation of designated spots under the Management Scheme for the Display of Roadside Non-commercial Publicity Materials to Members on 4 September 2024.]

V. Date of Next Meeting

23. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 p.m. on 16 September 2024 (Monday).

24. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

The minutes of the meeting were confirmed on 16 September 2024.

Kwun Tong District Council Secretariat
September 2024