

(Translation)

**Minutes of the First Meeting of the
Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (2024) of the
Kwai Tsing District Council**

Date: 14 February 2024
Time: 2:30 p.m. – 4:51 p.m.
Venue: Kwai Tsing District Office (“K&T DO”) Conference Room

<u>Present</u>	<u>Time of Arrival</u> <u>(p.m.)</u>	<u>Time of Departure</u> <u>(p.m.)</u>
Ms KWOK Fu-yung, MH (Chairman)	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Mr CHAN Chi-wing, MH (Vice Chairman)	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Mr NG Chi-wah	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Mr NG King-wah	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Miss CHU Lai-ling, MH	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Mr LEE Wai-lok	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Miss CHAU Kit-ying	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Ms LAM Chui-ling, MH, JP	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Mr TSUI Hiu-kit	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Mr YUEN Yun-hung	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Ms CHAN On-ni	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Ms Miranda CHAN Oi-yi	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Mr PANG Yap-ming	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Mr WONG Chun-yeung	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Miss WONG Shuk-man	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Mr WONG Siu-kwan	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Ms LAU Mei-lo	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Mr LAU Hing-wah, James, BBS, MH, JP	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Ms TANG Lai-ling	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting

In Attendance

Mr TANG Huggin, JP	District Officer (Kwai Tsing), Kwai Tsing District Office
Mr NG Yam-fung Benny	Kwai Tsing District Council Member
Mr CHOW Kim-ho	Kwai Tsing District Council Member
Ms LAM Ying-wai	Kwai Tsing District Council Member
Ms LEUNG Kar-ming, MH	Kwai Tsing District Council Member
Ms GUO Huimin	Kwai Tsing District Council Member
Mr AU Chi-fai	Kwai Tsing District Council Member
Mr POON Chi-shing, MH	Kwai Tsing District Council Member
Dr YAU Hei-ling, Danny	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West) ⁴ , Environmental Protection Department
Mr CHAN King	Acting Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Waste Collection & Charging) ⁶ , Environmental Protection Department
Miss CHIN Kit-wai, Tammy	Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West) ⁴³ , Environmental Protection Department

Dr LAM Kwok-lun, Alain	Waste Management Manager, Environmental Protection Department
Ms TANG Sau-chun, Janey	Housing Manager/Kwai Chung 4, Housing Department
Mr WONG Kong	Chief Health Inspector (Kwai Tsing)1, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr YIP Chi-hung, Derek	Chief Health Inspector (Kwai Tsing)2, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr NG Wing-hung	Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing & Pest Control) Kwai Tsing, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr YU Hok-chi, Raymond	Administrative Assistant/Lands, District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing
Miss LUI Chiu-tai, Judy (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council) 3, Kwai Tsing District Office

Absentee

Miss LO Yuen-ting, MH	(Absent without apologies)
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Opening Remarks

The Chairman stated that Members of Kwai Tsing District Council (“K&T DC”) who were not Members of this committee were invited to the meeting for the agenda item relating to municipal solid waste charging. The Chairman welcomed Members, K&T DC Members, representatives of government departments to the 1st meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (“FEHC”) (2024) of K&T DC.

Discussion Items

Environmental Protection Department’s Introduction to Implementation of Municipal Solid Waste Charging

(Proposed by Environmental Protection Department)

2. Acting Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Waste Collection & Charging)⁶ and Waste Management Manager, Environmental Protection Department (“EPD”), introduced the agenda item with presentation slides.

3. Members discussed the aforesaid matter and put forth enquiries and opinions as follows:

- (i) The Department had pointed out that designated bags (“DBs”) would be distributed to residents in rural areas through Rural Committees after the implementation of the scheme. However, some villages in the district (such as Cheung Hang Village, Pumping Station Upper Village, etc.) were not managed by Rural Committees. Therefore, an enquiry was made on how the Department would distribute DBs to the residents in the villages concerned.
- (ii) Were concerned about the recycling of recyclables and enquired whether the Department had set targets for recycling plastic bags. After having considered that residents obtained a lot of plastic bags in daily shopping, they worried about the implementation of waste charging would cause a waste of such bags. In addition, not all housing courts or estates were equipped with waste plastics recycling bins at that time. Therefore, an enquiry was made on whether the Department would plan to provide plastic bag recycling bins in each

housing court or estate.

- (iii) Members considered 3 000 DBs distribution/sales points to be inadequate, and deemed that the Department should increase the number of locations for distributing or selling DBs. It was suggested that the Department should implement the scheme of “one bag for two uses”. For example, DBs could be introduced in various retailers and catering outlets to replace all kinds of plastic bags for the time being. Member asked the Department about the progress in implementing the scheme of “one bag for two uses”, and whether it had any plan to implement such a scheme in government-managed markets.
- (iv) Pointed out that purchasing DBs would cause an economic burden to the public and suggested the Department to add DBs to the Gift Redemption List of the GREEN\$ Electronic Participation Incentive Scheme for encouraging the public to submit recyclables and reducing their expenses on DB purchase.
- (v) Enquired about the amount of personal data to be disclosed when the public reported non-compliance cases via the Department’s hotline, the number of staff members answering the hotline, and whether the reporting persons should be liable for their reports (such as whether they would be required to give evidence at court in the future).
- (vi) Asked the Department about their concrete measures for supporting subdivided unit (“SDU”) households. Many SDU residents were concerned about their failure to collect the DBs delivered door-to-door by the Department due to their long working hours. It was suggested that EPD should cooperate with other government departments and institutions (such as the Home Affairs Department or the Property Management Services Authority) to learn about the SDU residents in different districts and provide them with appropriate support.
- (vii) Pointed out that the existing waste charging subsidy failed to cover the recipients of Higher Disability Allowance, and that waste charging would increase the recipients’ economic burdens in handling medical

waste. In this context, it was hoped that the Department could provide the recipients with waste charging subsidy.

- (viii) Were concerned about the implementation of waste charging in housing estates and believed that the Housing Department (“HD”) had not yet grasped the actual implementation details of waste charging. It was hoped that EPD would strengthen communication with HD before implementing the policy and publicise the policy details and timetable among residents in housing estates at the earliest possible time. It was suggested that EPD should post posters with the help of HD to publicise the opening hours of recycling points in housing estates. A request was also made to the Department to provide a concrete timetable for publicising waste charging in housing estates.
- (ix) Regarding food waste recycling:
 - (a) Enquired whether the existing food waste recycling facilities in Hong Kong were sufficient to cope with the quantity of food waste recovered which was expected to increase. An enquiry was also made on whether the Department would conduct data analysis on food waste recovery in the future for introducing food waste recycling facilities suitable for Hong Kong.
 - (b) Pointed out the limited or incorrect understanding of food waste recovery by many members of the public, and believed that the Department should carry out publicity and education work as soon as possible to enhance the public’s civic and recycling awareness.
 - (c) Stated that food waste recycling bins had only been installed in 6 public housing estates in the district at that time, where the bin distribution was undesirable. In addition, the bins malfunctioned frequently and the mechanism for reporting such malfunctions was not well-established. Therefore, it was believed that EPD should strengthen communication with HD. Enquiries were also made to the Department in relation to the concrete timetables for providing food waste smart recycling bins (“FWSRBs”) and Recycling Stores at different locations (including public housing estates, catering outlets, markets, three-nil buildings, etc.) in the district in the future.

(x) Enquired about the buildings or catering outlets in the district participating in the Demonstration Scheme that would be launched on 1 April.

(xi) Regarding recycling facilities:

(a) Taking into account the general insufficiency of recycling facilities in Hong Kong at that time, and the Government's initiative to reduce the number of litter bins on streets in the future, it was suggested that the Department should make reference to the practices of the Mainland to increase the number of kerbside recycling bins significantly or to provide recycling bins adjacent to existing litter bins, so as to facilitate the public's participation in recycling during the course of waste disposal.

(b) As there were only 3 remotely located Recycling Stores in Kwai Tsing District which could not meet the recycling needs of the residents, it was hoped that the Department could provide more Recycling Stores in the district and consider setting them up in places with higher pedestrian flow and greater accessibility. In addition, the existing Recycling Stations in the district failed to provide recycling convenience to all the residents. Therefore, the Department had been suggested to place recycling bins in all buildings in order to increase residents' recycling willingness.

(c) Noticed a gradual rise in recycling awareness among the residents, as well as an overflow of recycling facilities (including recycling bins in rural areas) in the district, reflecting the insufficient frequency of recyclables being transported away from various recycling points or GREEN@COMMUNITY. It was anticipated that relevant problems would worsen after the implementation of waste charging, and therefore a request was made to the Department to strengthen the supervision of frontline recycling work. In addition, enquiries were made on whether the transportation of recyclables from various recycling points could be more frequent, and how the recyclables collected would be handled.

(xii) Regarding policy execution:

(a) Enquired the Department about how it would enforce law in locations where closed-circuit television (“CCTV”) systems had not been installed (especially in the areas with large litter bins outside three-nil buildings). In addition, the progress of HD in monitoring non-compliant waste disposal by installing CCTVs was deemed to be too slow. EPD should coordinate with HD headquarters to install CCTVs at the main entrances and exits of all buildings. In the long run, it was hoped that EPD could subsidise CCTV installation in private buildings to facilitate evidence collection.

(Post-meeting note: HD added after the meeting that the concerns over the progress of CCTV installation to monitor non-compliant waste disposal had been relayed to the Estate Offices in Kwai Tsing District.)

(b) Many frontline cleaners of buildings were concerned about the workloads and the issue of liabilities after the implementation of waste charging. Regarding frontline cleaners of buildings in the course of refuse collection, enquiries were made on (i) whether they should be vested with the responsibility to check each refuse bag had been properly wrapped in a DB, (ii) how they should handle non-compliant waste, and (iii) who should assume the liability if non-compliant waste had been mistakenly collected.

(xiii) Deemed that the Department had been very passive in publicising policies and disseminating information. If the Department could make early announcements on the measures for waste reduction at source or on the recycling facilities to be completed soon, the residents’ doubts could be dispelled while public opinions could also be collected. It was hoped that the Department could disseminate information on environmental protection or recycling in Kwai Tsing District to K&T DC Members regularly in the future, so that they could publicise relevant policies to residents. It was also suggested that the Department should assign an environmental protection ambassador in each district to assist in the publicity and education on recycling and environmental protection for the residents. Meanwhile, efforts should be made to strengthen publicity in the

education sector to cultivate environmental protection awareness among students at a tender age.

- (xiv) Pointed out that there were many ethnic minorities in the district who had limited knowledge of the waste charging scheme or had no channel to express their opinions on the scheme. It was believed that the sole reliance on existing online publicity targeting ethnic minorities was insufficient to help them understand the complicated policy. Therefore, the Department and the Social Welfare Department (“SWD”) were suggested to cooperate to hold a policy briefing session targeting ethnic minorities. Enquiries were made on the concrete measures taken by the Department and its outreach teams to publicise the waste charging scheme among ethnic minorities, e.g. whether publicity materials in ethnic minority languages had been produced.
- (xv) Expressed difficulty in finding out the opening hours and detailed locations of mobile recycling stores on EPD’s website and application. It was, therefore, hoped that the Department could make improvements. In addition, the Department was suggested to add online reporting and real-time response functions to its application.
- (xvi) It was hoped that the Department would regulate property management companies’ procedures for handling recyclables as soon as possible, so that both the public and property management companies could adapt to relevant procedures ahead of policy implementation. The Department was suggested to proactively supervise Owners’ Corporations after the official implementation of waste charging in order to prevent some Owners’ Corporations from overcharging residents for management fees on the pretext of waste charging.
- (xvii) Opined that the Government had already been publicising the waste charging policy for a long time and therefore should not further postpone the policy’s implementation date. Otherwise, it would cause a negative impact on the Government’s image. The Department was suggested to increase manpower to cope with the workload arising from waste charging implementation.

- (xviii) Believed that the Department should explain to K&T DC Members the division of labour among different teams in EPD, so that K&T DC Members could seek help from the appropriate teams when needed.

4. Acting Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Waste Collection & Charging)⁶, EPD, responded as follows:

- (i) When the Department decided upon the arrangements for free DB distribution, Rural Committees' lists should prevail for the time being. In the event that a village had already been registered on a Rural Committee's list, the village concerned would be included in relevant arrangements accordingly.
- (ii) At that moment, over 90% of authorised retailers adopted the practice of "one bag for two uses", i.e. in addition to selling DBs in packs, retailers also sold single DBs at checkout counters as substitutes for plastic shopping bags. Business operators were required to sign agreements with the Government to become authorised retailers; however, small business operators might be unwilling to handle the documents concerned. As a result, the aforesaid practice was not expected to be extended to other small business operators for the time being. The Department was planning to recruit small business operators on a wholesale basis through wholesalers to provide retail services of DBs and designated labels in their businesses. Further details would be announced in a timely manner upon confirmation.
- (iii) The Department had already planned to include DBs in the Gift Redemption List of the GREEN\$ Electronic Participation Incentive Scheme. Relevant details would be announced after the implementation of the scheme.
- (iv) The hotline of EPD had been put into service since July 2023. Phone enquiries from the general public were answered by human customer service representatives at that moment. As of January this year, over 11 000 cases had been processed via the hotline. After the implementation of waste charging, the hotline would also be used to answer questions from the public about relevant measures and to

receive reports. If members of the public wanted to report serious non-compliance cases after the implementation of waste charging, they would have to provide clear information such as the date, time and location of the incidents. Provision of personal data (such as names and contact information) by the reporting persons was purely voluntary. Upon reviewing different cases, the Department would adopt a risk-based strategy to arrange officers to carry out law enforcement at the locations concerned, subject to the availability of resources. The contact information provided by reporting persons would facilitate the Department to follow up relevant cases. The main purposes of reporting were to facilitate the Department's collection of information for developing a list of black spots of irregularities, as well as carrying out law enforcement actions in case of a serious or large-scale non-compliance. The reporting persons would not have to assume prosecuting or legal responsibility.

- (v) According to preliminary understanding, most of the SDU households resided in three-nil buildings. The Department was conducting door-to-door investigations on the distribution of SDU households in various districts of Hong Kong to gather basic information. In the future, if the Department found that actual situations deviated from the investigation results obtained in household visits, a relaxed and pragmatic attitude would be adopted to satisfy the needs of the residents in the premises concerned (for example, departmental officers would leave registration cards outside the units where no one had answered the doors, so that the households in need could register for DB collection as instructed). In addition to supporting low-income individuals, the Department also hoped to publicise relevant policies to those who could not be reached on weekdays by distributing registration cards for DB collection.
- (vi) The Department noted Members' opinions on the issue that the waste charging subsidy did not cover the recipients of Higher Disability Allowance. SWD had proactively approached people from all walks of life and stakeholders to learn about different individuals' economic burdens and needs arising from waste charging. The departments concerned would follow up the issue and announce details upon confirmation.

- (vii) The Department was still working on the details of the Demonstration Scheme. Details in relation to the involvement of Kwai Tsing District in the scheme could not be released at that moment.
- (viii) The Department noted Members' opinions on strengthening communication with HD, and would intended to look into the matters which were to be followed up with HD together after the meeting.
- (ix) The Department noted Members' opinions on strengthening publicity in the education sector. The Department regularly held online seminars for members from different sectors. Interested individuals could register on the Department's website for participation.
- (x) The Department noted Members' opinions on the publicity targeting ethnic minorities and would take appropriate follow-up actions. The Department had translated all waste charging publicity materials into different languages, and had uploaded translations in at least 8 different languages to the thematic website of waste charging. Members were welcome to distribute the publicity materials to the public who required them.
- (xi) Regarding EPD's mobile application, a real-time response function was under development and would be available to the public upon testing completion.
- (xii) The Department had suggested property management companies to collect household waste with transparent refuse bags upon implementation of waste charging, so as to facilitate frontline cleaners to conduct visual examination for non-compliance. To comply with statutory requirements, frontline cleaners must pick out non-compliant wastes and repack them into DBs. An exemption clause was included in the existing legislation stating that in so far as frontline cleaners had reported non-compliance cases to their employers or property management companies under practicable circumstances, their legal responsibilities would be borne by their employers or property management companies.

- (xiii) Regarding the Department's manpower, the policy concerned was mainly carried out by reallocating existing resources.

5. Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West)⁴, EPD, responded as follows:

- (i) In Kwai Tsing District, there were 1 Recycling Station (GREEN@KWAI TSING) and 3 Recycling Stores (GREEN@TSING YI, GREEN@TAI WO HAU and GREEN@KWAI FONG) for the time being. In addition, there were 4 Recycling Spots operating at fixed times and locations, as well as 19 Add-on Recycling Spots in the district. Recycling Stores were open all year round except for Christmas and Lunar New Year. Night-time recyclable drop-off service was provided in GREEN@TAI WO HAU and GREEN@KWAI FONG to facilitate the working public to submit recyclables during holidays and at night. Members of the public could browse individual social media pages of GREEN@COMMUNITY for searching nearby recycling facilities to submit recyclables. All facilities under GREEN@COMMUNITY accepted 9 types of recyclables, including plastic bags.
- (ii) EPD was gradually establishing small-scale Recycling Stores in 50 public housing estates to facilitate participation in clean recycling by residents of public housing estates and nearby areas. Several Recycling Stores, including GREEN@CHEUNG HONG, GREEN@LAI KING, GREEN@KWAI SHING and GREEN@ON YAM, would be set up in Kwai Tsing District soon. The 4 Recycling Stores mentioned above were expected to commence operations successively from the second quarter of 2024 to facilitate nearby residents' participation in clean recycling. Members could refer to individual social media pages of GREEN@COMMUNITY for the latest updates.
- (iii) Regarding food waste recycling, 29 FWSRBs were installed in 6 public housing estates in Kwai Tsing District. The Department would upload details about newly added FWSRBs to EPD's website. According to existing information, there were plans to add FWSRBs in Kwai Tsui Estate, Wah Lai Estate, Kwai Chung Estate, Shek Lei (I)

Estate and Shek Lei (II) Estate in the future. As to private housing estates, the Department subsidised private buildings to participate in the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection for installing FWSRBs in the buildings concerned through Recycling Fund and Environmental Campaign Committee. 7 FWSRBs had been installed in 2 private housing estates in Kwai Tsing District. Upon receipt of a FWSRB malfunction report, the Department would refer the reporting case to contractor for follow-ups and repairs. The Department intended to strengthen communication with HD to handle malfunction cases as soon as possible.

(Post-meeting note: EPD provided a relevant hyperlink as follows:
<https://www.foodwasterecycling.hk>.)

- (iv) The food waste recycled in Hong Kong was processed by O·PARK1 as well as Tai Po and Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works at that time. Whether more food waste treatment facilities would be provided in the future would be subject to the actual recycling situation by then.

(Post-meeting note: EPD added that the operating O·PARK1, together with Tai Po and Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works where Food Waste/Sewage Sludge Anaerobic Co-digestion Trial Scheme was adopted, as well as O·PARK2, could collect and process a total of 600 tonnes of food waste per day, which was sufficient to meet the needs for food waste treatment at that time. The Department would closely monitor the amount of food waste collected and the degree of participation by the public in food waste recycling, so as to timely review the planning and development of food waste treatment facilities as well as the resources required.)

6. Waste Management Manager, EPD, responded as follows:

- (i) According to local experience, there were concerns among the community over the problem of illegal disposal of waste into kerbside recycling bins. Therefore, increasing the number of kerbside recycling bins was not the most effective way to encourage recycling. After referring to the waste classification and collection experience in Japan and Taipei City, the Department encouraged the public to bring

their waste home for disposal.

- (ii) The Government was drafting a relevant bill requiring the property management companies and/or owners' organisations of the residential buildings under the coverage of the bill to provide containers (such as recycling bins and bags) for collecting recyclables in each building. By so doing, common household recyclables could be classified and collected, and then handed over to downstream recyclers recognised by the Government for proper treatment. The Department would keep recycling records to facilitate future inspections.
- (iii) Regarding the site selection of GREEN@COMMUNITY, the Department had encountered many obstacles during the initial stage of the scheme. As a result, some Recycling Stations had been set up in relatively remote areas. The Department understood that, with increasing acceptance of GREEN@COMMUNITY, the public began to expect having recycling facilities close to their residences. Therefore, it would take time to adjust the site selection and construction of GREEN@COMMUNITY in the future.

Enquiry into Matters Related to Municipal Solid Waste Charging

(Proposed by Ms TANG Lai-ling, Mr YUEN Yun-hung, Ms KWOK Fu-yung, MH, Mr NG Chi-wah, Miss CHU Lai-ling, MH, Miss WONG Shuk-man, Mr NG King-wah, Mr WONG Chun-yeung, Miss LO Yuen-ting, MH, Mr WONG Siu-kwan, Mr CHAN Chi-wing, MH, and Mr TSUI Hiu-kit)
(FEHC Paper Nos. 1, 1a, 1b and 1c/D/2024)

7. Members discussed the aforesaid matter and put forth enquiries and opinions as follows:

- (i) Pointed out that some residents of Shek Lei (II) Estate had reported a decrease in the number of litter bins in the estate, which had caused inconvenience. Therefore, an enquiry was made on whether HD intended to remove more litter bins or adjust the locations of litter bins. It was also suggested that the Department should maintain a certain number of litter bins in housing estates for the convenience of residents.

- (ii) Asked the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”) about the distribution principles of kerbside litter bins.
- (iii) Suggested EPD to cooperate with Immigration Department to publicise the new legislation to incoming travellers.
- (iv) Said that EPD and HD had not conducted sufficient publicity and education on FWSRBs in the past. Therefore, it was hoped that the Department could strengthen publicity and education among K&T DC Members or volunteers in the future, so that they could impart relevant knowledge to the residents.

(Post-meeting note: HD added that the Department had relayed the opinions to EPD for appropriate arrangements.)

- (v) Pointed out that the refuse collection points in rural areas were all in open design without effective CCTV surveillance. Members often found refuse collection vehicles from other districts delivering waste to the open-air refuse collection points for disposal. Therefore, an enquiry was made on how FEHD would monitor illegal waste disposal after the implementation of waste charging.
- (vi) Asked HD about its concrete publicity plan for the implementation of waste charging in the future.

8. Chief Health Inspector (Kwai Tsing)¹, FEHD, responded as follows:

- (i) At that time, the provision of litter bins was mainly based on the consideration of principles such as the district’s pedestrian flows and usage of refuse bins. The Department would review the provision of litter bins in due course. As of 2023, the total number of refuse containers in Kwai Tsing District was 616, whereas the number in 2024 had dropped to 605. The Department had no plan to further reduce the number of litter bins in the district for the time being.
- (ii) Frontline cleaners were responsible for collecting waste from refuse collection points in rural areas. Should they spot any members of

the public discard non-compliant waste at refuse collection points, they would urge them not to do so. The Department had no plan to arrange on-site law enforcement personnel at that moment, but would arrange plainclothes or uniformed personnel to patrol the areas. Strengthened inspections and prosecutions would be carried out when necessary.

9. Housing Manager/Kwai Chung 4, HD, responded as follows:

- (i) The Department was preparing for the official implementation of waste charging and would continue reviewing the provision of litter containers in the public areas of public housing estates. The Department had no plan to reduce the number of litter containers at that moment.
- (ii) Regarding the decrease in the number of litter bins in Shek Lei (II) Estate, the Department would communicate with the housing estate and make appropriate arrangements in light of the circumstances.

(Post-meeting note: HD added that it had reported the matter to the estate office concerned for appropriate arrangements.)

- (iii) EPD had carried out various publicity activities in housing estates, including appointment of publicity ambassadors, organisation of booth activities, arrangement of Smart Recycling Promotion Vehicles to visit housing estates, utilisation of the Housing Channel to release publicity videos and text messages, posting of publicity posters, suspension of banners, and distribution of leaflets. HD had been facilitating EPD's work in disseminating information on waste reduction and recycling, as well as assisting in increasing residents' understanding of waste charging. The Department would contact EPD to study the way to comprehensively strengthen waste reduction publicity and recycling. Relevant information would also be provided to K&T DC Members.

10. Members opined that the waste charging policy was well-intended, but efforts should be made to minimise the inconvenience caused to the public when effecting implementation details. Apart from collecting opinions from K&T DC Members

at the meeting, Members hoped that EPD would also provide supplementary information on waste charging to Members after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The information paper submitted by EPD regarding the aforesaid matters was set out in FEHC Circulation (Information) Paper No. 14/2024 and circulated to FEHC on 20 March 2024.)

Concern over Matters Related to Rubbish Accumulation in the Vicinity of Kwai Fong Circuit

(Proposed by Ms KWOK Fu-yung, MH, and Ms TANG Lai-ling)
(FEHC Paper Nos. 2 and 2a/D/2024)

11. Members discussed the aforesaid matter and put forth enquiries and opinions as follows:

- (i) The problem of rubbish accumulation in the area around Che Fong Street at Kwai Fong Circuit had been in existence for years, and FEHD had included the area in the list of hygiene black spots in the district. The previous surprise checks conducted by FEHD could not resolve the problem at its root, and the problem had spread to the rear lanes of nearby private buildings. Relevant owners' corporations had reported the situation to various government departments for many times, but the problem remained unsolved. It was hoped that the Department could address the problem proactively.

12. Chief Health Inspector (Kwai Tsing)¹, FEHD, responded as follows:

- (i) The Department had always been concerned about the environmental hygiene conditions in the vicinity of Kwai Fong Circuit. As there were many shops selling wet market goods, such as vegetables and fresh food, at the location concerned where the pedestrian flow was relatively high, rubbish and recyclables accumulated easily.
- (ii) In recent years, the Department had increased manpower to clean the vicinity of Che Fong Street, i.e. adding 4 cleaning workers on day shift and 3 on night shift. The cleaning workers cleaned Che Fong Street once or twice a day and conducted major cleaning in the vicinity of Kwai Fong Circuit every week. The street cleaning team established

by the Department was not only responsible for cleaning the rear lanes in the vicinity of Kwai Fong Circuit, but also for further strengthening pest control work.

- (iii) The Department understood that elderly scavengers in the vicinity of Kwai Fong Circuit mainly relied on selling cardboards for a living. Therefore, at that time, the Department handled their violations primarily through issuing verbal advice on a discretionary basis under the principle of “education followed by enforcement”. The Department observed that the environmental problems caused by elderly scavengers chiefly arose from their lack of space to handle recyclables. The Department would continue to communicate with them and urge them to sell cardboards collected as soon as possible to minimise impacts to the surroundings.
- (iv) The Department kept an open mind to maintaining communication with K&T DC Members and stakeholders in the district to resolve problems.

Any Other Business

- 13. There was no other business.

Date of Next Meeting

- 14. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 p.m. on 9 April 2024.

Kwai Tsing District Council Secretariat
March 2024