

(Translation)

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

Date: 9 April 2024
Time: 2:30 p.m. – 3:26 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	02:34	End of Meeting
Mr LEE Wai-lok	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Miss CHAU Kit-ying	02:34	End of Meeting
Ms LAM Chui-ling, MH, JP	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Mr TSUI Hiu-kit	02:45	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
Miss LO Yuen-ting, MH	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting

In Attendance

Mr KAO Hsi-chiang	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Kwai Tsing), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr YIP Chi-hung, Derek	Chief Health Inspector (Kwai Tsing)2, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Ms CHAN Wai-heung	Senior Health Inspector (Market Management)Kwai Tsing, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Miss CHIU Yu-ying, Janice	Acting Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West)4, Environmental Protection Department
Ms LAI Wai-ling	Housing Manager/Kwai Chung 6, Housing Department
Mr CHUNG Leung-hang, Victor	Senior Land Executive/Land Enforcement 2 (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing), Lands Department
Miss LUI Chiu-tai, Judy (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council) 3, Kwai Tsing District Office, Home Affairs Department

Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives of government departments to the 2nd meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (“FEHC”) (2024) of Kwai Tsing District Council (“K&T DC”).

Confirmation of the Minutes of the 1st Meeting (2024) held on 14 February 2024

2. Members endorsed the minutes unanimously.

Discussion Item

Enquiry about the Improvement Status of Hygiene Black Spots and Rodent Infestation in Kwai Tsing District

(Proposed by Mr LEE Wai-lok, Ms CHAN On-ni, Miss CHAU Kit-ying, Mr PANG Yap-ming and Ms LAU Mei-lo)

(FEHC Paper Nos. 3, 3a/D/2024)

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

- (i) Enquired about the improvement status of hygiene black spots in Kwai Tsing District, including Kwong Fai Circuit in Kwai Hing, Tai Ha Street in Tai Wo Hau, Tsing Yi Market, Shing Fong Street and Hing Fong Road in Kwai Fong.
- (ii) Enquired of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”) about the details of the “Clean-up Campaign”, including the cycle of the campaign and whether it had set any effectiveness indicators.
- (iii) Some members of the public reported the presence of rodents in the gardens in Kwai Shing West Estate last month. The situation improved after it had been reported to the Housing Department (“HD”) and the cleaning company. However, some residents had recently complained about the increasingly serious rodent infestation in the vicinity of High Prosperity Terrace, and there had been cases of rodents entering residential units along nearby scaffolding. Members requested HD to

follow up on the rodent infestation in the estate and strengthen rodent control work.

- (iv) With the increasing awareness of environmental protection among the public, there was a strong demand for food waste recycling. Members enquired whether the relevant department would install food waste smart recycling bins (“FWSRBs”) at the aforementioned hygiene black spots.
- (v) Hoped that the Environmental Protection Department (“EPD”) would strengthen cooperation with K&T DC and proactively disseminate information on environmental protection to K&T DC Members regularly, such as details of the additional environmental facilities to be provided in the district, so that K&T DC Members could bring useful information back to the community and raise public awareness of environmental protection.

4. District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Kwai Tsing), FEHD responded as follows:

- (i) The Department would continue to strengthen the cleaning and anti-rodent work in various hygiene black spots. As for food waste recycling, the Department noted Members’ opinions and would strengthen communication with EPD.
- (ii) Regarding the rodent infestation in public housing estates, the Department would provide technical advice and support on pest control to HD when necessary.
- (iii) The Department would continue to carry out the “Clean-up Campaign” in the district and consider deploying more overnight rodent control teams where resources permitted to address the infestation of rodents at night. As for reference indices or indicators, members of the public could browse the relevant information on FEHD’s website.

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

- (i) At that time, the Department had already set up a food waste recycling

point at Hing Shing Road Refuse Collection Point which was under the purview of FEHD to facilitate nearby restaurants in recycling food waste.

- (ii) Pointed out that the Department had set up Food Waste Recycling Spots in single-block buildings, three-nil buildings, and locations concentrated with restaurants to collect food waste from nearby restaurants and households at a designated location and time on a daily basis at that time. At that moment, there were five Food Waste Recycling Spots in Kwai Tsing District, which were located at the junction of Lai Fong Street and Shun Fong Street, Kwong Fai Circuit, Tai Loong Street, Shek Yam Road, and Tak Tai Path.
- (iii) The Department had provided FEHC with a summary of the recycling facilities in the district by circulation after the last meeting. The Department would update Members on the summary of the recycling facilities in the district after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The information paper submitted by EPD regarding the aforesaid matter was set out in FEHC Circulation (Information) Paper No. 15/2024 and circulated to FEHC on 2 May 2024.)

6. Housing Manager/Kwai Chung 6, HD responded that the scaffolding works being carried out at High Prosperity Terrace could have provided an opportunity for rodents to crawl into residential units. At that time, the management of High Prosperity Terrace was undertaken by an outsourced contractor. The Department would reflect the rodent infestation in the estate to the relevant management company and request it to strengthen the cleaning and rodent control work in the estate, such as placing rodent baits in rodent infested areas and the surroundings.

Suggestion on Enhancing the Recycling Services and Publicity Work in Shek Lei (II) Estate

(Proposed by Mr LEE Wai-lok, Ms CHAN On-ni, Miss CHAU Kit-ying, Mr PANG Yap-ming and Ms LAU Mei-lo)
(FEHC Paper Nos. 4, 4a, 4b/D/2024)

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

(i) Regarding Shek Lei (II) Estate:

- (a) There was a total of 12 blocks in Shek Lei (II) Estate, but there were only ordinary recycling bins in the estate at present. With the lack of incentive and educational recycling facilities or activities, the effect on raising residents' environmental awareness was minimal. It was hoped that the Department would provide more recycling facilities in the estate before the completion of the redevelopment project of Shek Lei (II) Estate.
- (b) The Department previously stated that seven FWSRBs would be installed in Shek Lei (II) Estate in the future. Members were concerned that these bins might be insufficient to meet the recycling needs of the residents of all the 12 blocks in the estate.
- (c) Members enquired about the concrete schedule and installation locations of FWSRBs by the Department in Shek Lei (II) Estate, so that they could timely carry out publicity and education work on using FWSRBs among the residents.

(ii) Regarding food waste recycling:

- (a) The FWSRBs in some housing estates, such as Wah Lai Estate, were installed at the main entrances of the estate. The areas nearby would inevitably be fouled by a small amount of food waste when residents carried food waste for recycling. Moreover, the frequent malfunctioning of FWSRBs may cause odour or pest problems during hot weather in the future, which could affect residents on lower floors. Members enquired whether the Department would consider adjusting the locations of FWSRBs.
- (b) Given that the distribution of FWSRBs in Kwai Shing West Estate was uneven, Members hoped that the Department would re-plan the installation locations and provide more FWSRBs in the estate.

- (c) Members enquired of EPD about the factors to consider when determining the installation locations of FWSRBs, such as whether it would consult with HD or other stakeholders in the district beforehand.
 - (d) Residents had reported difficulties in handling the containers used to carry food waste after recycling, and Members hoped that the relevant department would follow up on the issue.
 - (e) Members opined that the publicity on food waste recycling by the Department was inadequate, and most members of the public had a half-baked knowledge or incorrect perception of food waste recycling. The Department should strengthen relevant publicity and education.
 - (f) Members hoped that the Department would formulate a proposal for food waste recycling in rural areas as soon as possible.
 - (g) The usage rate of FWSRBs had not reached its peak, yet there had been frequent incidents of malfunction. Members were concerned of EPD's monitoring of the recycling bin operator. They enquired about its existing monitoring system over the contractor, such as whether the relevant contractor had performance pledges, and whether there was a penalty mechanism against the contractor for failure to meet the relevant performance pledges.
- (iii) Commented that they were unable to obtain information on environmental protection in the district effectively, such as the installation schedule of FWSRBs in the district, the environmental carnivals to be held in housing estates, etc. They had repeatedly requested HD for relevant information, but the Department had stated that no relevant information could be provided and they doubted why.
- (iv) Enquired whether there was a connection between GREEN@COMMUNITY and the Municipal Solid Waste Charging

Scheme, such as whether the two schemes would be complementing each other or achieve synergy effect in terms of their recycling locations and objectives.

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

- (i) The Department had provided a brief written reply regarding the work of improving the community recycling network. In terms of recycling services in Shek Lei (II) Estate, the Department planned to set up “Add-on Recycling Spots” in Shek Lei (II) Estate or its vicinity by August this year, as well as install FWSRBs in the estate in June this year to facilitate clean recycling in the estate and enhance residents’ motivation in recycling. The details of the relevant plans would be announced upon finalisation.
- (ii) The Department shared the status of the installation of FWSRBs in public housing estates in Kwai Tsing District. At that time, a total of 46 FWSRBs had been installed in Tai Wo Hau Estate, Shek Yam Estate, Shek Yam East Estate, On Yam Estate, Cheung Hong Estate, Lai King Estate, Wah Lai Estate, Kwai Fong Estate, Kwai Shing West Estate, Kwai Tsui Estate, Lai Yiu Estate, and Kwai Luen Estate in Kwai Tsing District. The Department expected to expand the installation of FWSRBs to the remaining 11 public housing estates and courts in the district by August this year, including Shek Lei (I) Estate, Shek Lei (II) Estate, Cheung Hang Estate, Cheung Wang Estate, Cheung Ching Estate, Easeful Court, High Prosperity Terrace, Kwai Chung Estate, Kwai Shing East Estate, Cho Yiu Chuen, and Broadview Garden. The Department had uploaded the up-to-date list of FWSRBs installed to EPD’s dedicated website.

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

- (iii) Regarding the malfunctioning of FWSRBs, the Department understood the strong demand from the public for food waste recycling. As regards the machine failures of FWSRBs that could have been caused by frequent use, the Department would require the contractor to conduct inspections and repairs as soon as possible. On the other hand, the Department also

required the contractor to regularly optimise and upgrade the hardware and software of FWSRBs to meet the increasing demand for food waste recycling in the future. At the same time, the Department would continue to monitor the operation of FWSRBs through big data. The Department attached great importance to the operation and hygiene of FWSRBs. In order to reduce the odour caused by food waste, the FWSRBs were mainly placed in well-ventilated locations in housing estates and equipped with an odour abatement system. In the event of malfunctioning of relevant functions, the Department would promptly report to the contractor and request for repairs.

- (iv) It was understood that Members were very concerned about the installation of FWSRBs, so the relevant division had been arranged to contact those who had doubts. The Department would prepare an overview of the installation schedule of FWSRBs in Kwai Tsing District, so that Members could have a more comprehensive understanding of the relevant situation.
- (v) Regarding the monitoring of the operation of FWSRBs and the arrangement of maintenance work by the contractor, as well as the proposal for food waste recycling in rural areas, the Department would provide a written reply 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. 15/2024 and circulated to FEHC on 2 May 2024.)

9. Housing Manager/Kwai Chung 6, HD responded as follows:

- (i) The Department would actively work with EPD, such as holding environmental publicity activities and installing FWSRBs in housing estates.
- (ii) A reverse vending machine had been installed in Shek Lei (II) Estate at present.
- (iii) For issues related to Wah Lai Estate, Kwai Shing West Estate, and Tai Wo Hau Estate, the Department would forward them to the relevant estate

offices for follow-up actions after the meeting.

Request for Providing the Data and Information relating to the Failure of Wing Fong Street Market to Meet the Requirements for Redevelopment

(Proposed by Ms KWOK Fu-yung, MH and Ms TANG Lai-ling)

(FEHC Paper Nos. 5, 5a/D/2024)

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

- (i) Residents' opinions on the redevelopment of Wing Fong Street Market had been collected, and both the local residents and the tenants of Wing Fong Street Market supported the redevelopment proposal. The then Chief Executive announced in his Policy Address that Wing Fong Street Market would be included in the Market Modernisation Programme ("MMP"), and this issue had been discussed repeatedly in the District Council. Nonetheless, FEHD had repeatedly responded, without providing substantial data or justifications, that Wing Fong Street Market had not been included in the Department's redevelopment plan. Therefore, the Department was requested to provide explanation and specific data to substantiate why Wing Fong Street Market had not been included in its redevelopment plan, such as insufficient footfall, in response to the strong demand from residents for the overhaul of Wing Fong Street Market.
- (ii) Enquired whether the Department had set priority for the redevelopment of markets in the 18 districts across Hong Kong; and if so, of the priority order of Wing Fong Street Market in Kwai Tsing District.
- (iii) Suggested if the Department was unable to redevelop Wing Fong Street Market, it could consider outsourcing or leasing the market to private developers for refurbishment, in order to leverage on the market's geographical location and cater for the daily shopping needs of nearby residents.
- (iv) Looked forward to seeing the improvement of the operating environment of Wing Fong Street Market in the near future, and they were willing to assist the Department in collecting opinions from stakeholders on this

matter.

11. Chief Health Inspector (Kwai Tsing)², FEHD responded as follows:

- (i) The Market Development Division of FEHD had clearly stated in the written reply submitted earlier that the Department would consider different factors when identifying markets for redevelopment or overhaul under the MMP, mainly including whether the selected markets were situated in locations which could support their future business viability, and whether these markets were reasonably distributed across the territory to benefit the entire community.
- (ii) The Department understood that the then Chief Executive proposed in a consultancy report back in 2015 to include Wing Fong Street Market in the MMP. However, with the changing times and different government considerations, Wing Fong Street Market had not been included in the MMP for redevelopment and overhaul for the time being.

12. District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Kwai Tsing), FEHD responded as follows:

- (i) Reiterated that according to the reply from the Market Development Division of FEHD, the Government had not considered including Wing Fong Street Market in the MMP at this juncture.
- (ii) He had paid multiple visits to Wing Fong Street Market for on-site inspections to understand the operation situation of the market stalls and areas that needed improvement. As far as he knew, Wing Fong Street Market had gathered a group of regular customers.
- (iii) The main task at that time was to inject vitality into Wing Fong Street Market so as to attract patronage. Therefore, the Department hoped to attract members of the public to visit Wing Fong Street Market by improving its hardware facilities. The Department would also welcome valuable suggestions from K&T DC Members on the hardware improvement of Wing Fong Street Market.
- (iv) Thanked the relevant organisations for providing detailed information and

data on Wing Fong Street Market at the meeting of the Community Affairs Committee of K&T DC in August 2023. The Department hoped to strengthen communication with Members and stakeholders in the future to further enhance the business viability of Wing Fong Street Market.

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 11 June 2024.

Kwai Tsing District Council Secretariat
April 2024