

(Translation)

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

Date: 15 October 2024
Time: 2:30 p.m. – 3:29 p.m.
Venue: Kwai Tsing District Office (“K&T DO”) Conference Room

<u>Present</u>	<u>Time of Arrival</u>	<u>Time of Departure</u>
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
Miss LO Yuen-ting, MH	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Ms YU Ching-tong, Eva (Co-opted Member)	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Mr LEUNG Wai-man, MH (Co-opted Member)	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting

Standing Representatives of Departments and Institutions

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 POON Chi-sum, Sam	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West) ⁴ , Environmental Protection Department
Ms LAM Hang-ling, Sara	Acting Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing), Lands Department

Representatives of Departments and Institutions Attending by Invitation

Mr NGAI Kwok-kwan, Maxx	Deputy District Leisure Manager (Kwai Tsing) ¹ ,
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Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Secretary

Miss LUI Chiu-tai, Judy

Executive Officer (District Council) 3, Kwai Tsing District Office

Miss CHENG Sui-ki, Charlotte

Executive Officer (District Council) 3 (designate), Kwai Tsing District Office

Absentee

Ms KWOK Fu-yung, MH (Chairman) (On leave due to confinement)

Opening Remarks

The Vice Chairman welcomed Members and representatives of government departments to the 5th meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (“FEHC”) (2024) of Kwai Tsing District Council (“K&T DC”).

2. Members unanimously endorsed the application for absence by Ms KWOK Fu-yung, MH. The meeting would be chaired by Mr CHAN Chi-wing, MH, in the capacity of the Vice Chairman of FEHC.

Confirmation of Minutes of the 4th Meeting (2024) held on 13 August 2024

3. Members endorsed the minutes unanimously.

Discussion Item

Improvement Works to Shing Mun Road Public Toilet in Kwai Tsing District

(Proposed by Food and Environmental Hygiene Department)

(FEHC Paper Nos. 11/D/2024)

4. Chief Health Inspector (Kwai Tsing)¹, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”), introduced the paper.

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

- (i) Enquired about the reasons for the reduction in the number of bowl type urinals in male toilets in the Department’s works project, and suggested that the Department consider carrying out extension works for the public toilet;

- (ii) Suggested the provision of both pedestal type toilets and squatting type toilets to cater to the needs of different individuals; and
- (iii) Given that Shing Mun Road Public Toilet was located on a hillside, it was suggested that the Department implement anti-mosquito measures, such as the installation of mosquito electrocuting devices and spraying of mosquito repellents.

6. Chief Health Inspector (Kwai Tsing)¹, FEHD, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) According to previous statistics from FEHD, the utilisation rate of the public toilet was about 90 persons on weekdays, and over 100 persons during holidays, indicating that the overall utilisation rate was not high. Therefore, it was proposed to reduce the number of bowl type urinals in male toilets, as well as strengthen cleaning and improve facilities under the improvement works project;
- (ii) Extension of the public toilet involved various aspects including land use, which would be difficult to be implemented in the short term. The main objective of the current improvement works was to improve and replace existing facilities in order to provide greater convenience and meet the prevailing standards. Currently, public toilets of similar design included Wing Lok Street Public Toilet in the Central and Western District; and
- (iii) Noted Members' suggestions of providing both pedestal type toilets and squatting type toilets, as well as implementing anti-mosquito measures. The relevant opinions would be conveyed to the Department for consideration.

Suggestion on Improving the Conditions of Uncontrolled Vegetation at the Planting Beds of Various Carriageways and Dual Carriageways in Tsing Yi District

(Proposed by Mr LAU Hing-wah, James, BBS, MH, JP)

(FEHC Paper Nos. 12/D/2024 & 12a/D/2024 & 12b/D/2024 & 12c/D/2024 & 12d/D/2024)

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

- (i) The overgrowing of weeds would affect road safety, and it had been noted

that such problem was more serious this year. Therefore, an enquiry was made as to whether the Department had drawn up a regular grass-cutting timetable in this regard;

- (ii) Suggested rezoning the planting beds at certain locations in the paper for other uses (such as their conversion into motorcycle parking spaces) or covering them with cement to resolve the weed issue in the long run, and enquired whether the Department had conducted relevant study on this issue;
- (iii) Commended the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (“LCSD”) for swiftly addressing the weed issue in Tsing Yu New Village upon receipt of feedback from residents, and suggested that the Department urge the contractor to expedite the removal of grass clippings after trimming;
- (iv) Enquired about the Department’s criteria for removing weeds;
- (v) Commended the Kwai Tsing District Office for coordinating with various departments earlier on to clear roads in the district that had been blocked by weeds during inclement weather; and
- (vi) Suggested that the Department enhance the current mechanism by arranging outreach teams or fleets to conduct inspections and timely address weed issues within the district, subject to available resources.

8. Deputy District Leisure Manager (Kwai Tsing)1, LCSD, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) Regarding the overgrowing of weeds on the planters at locations A to G in the paper, the gardening contractor of LCSD had completed the trimming and weeding work in mid-October, and the Department had also conducted an on-site inspection to confirm that the weed removal work had been properly completed. The Department would tighten the supervision of contractors’ work;
- (ii) The Department was mainly responsible for matters relating to vegetation maintenance. In addition to pruning of plants, it would also carry out beautification works for some green belt areas, such as beautification of the garden plots at Tsing Yi Interchange in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of

the National Day. Regarding the design of roadside greening areas, the Department was exploring with the Highways Department (HyD) the use of cement or other materials to cover the planters at the corner of certain interchanges to ensure driving safety. Rezoning of the green belt areas would have to be reconsidered by relevant departments;

- (iii) Generally speaking, the contractor would clean up the yard waste generated upon trimming on the same day, but when there was a large amount of yard waste, another vehicle would be deployed for waste collection. The Department would remind contractors to properly load and transport away yard waste on the same day as far as possible; and
- (iv) The criteria for removing weeds depended on the gardening design of the planters, and plants not specifically planted by the Department would be considered weeds and be removed. The Department understood that the overgrowing of weeds would become more severe during the rainy season and it would increase resources and continue to monitor the landscaping work of roadside planters.

9. Acting Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing), Lands Department (“LandsD”), gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) The Special Duties Task Force under LandsD was responsible for grass cutting in Kwai Tsing District and a regular grass-cutting timetable was not readily available. The task force would arrange grass cutting work at sites on a need basis according to the actual conditions; and
- (ii) Noted Members’ suggestion on drawing up a regular grass-cutting timetable and it would be conveyed to the Department.

(Post-meeting note: To ensure proper allocation of resources, the Department would arrange for more frequent grass cutting work to be carried out at sites with rapid growth of plants or more serious mosquito infestation in summer according to the actual conditions. The Department would keep a close watch on the situation of government lands with respect to their vegetation maintenance. Reports could be made via 1823 or directly to the Special Duties Task Force of LandsD if any special circumstances were found.)

Suggestion on Providing More GREEN\$ Gift Redemption Units and Increasing the Gift Variety in Kwai Tsing District

(Proposed by Mr YUEN Yun-hung, Mr WONG Siu-kwan, Ms CHAN Miranda Oi-yi, Mr TSUI Hiu-kit, Ms WONG Shuk-man, Miss LO Yuen-ting, MH, Mr WONG Chun-yeung and Mr NG Chi-wah)

(FEHC Paper Nos. 13/D/2024 & 13a/D/2024)

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

- (i) According to the information provided by the Environmental Protection Department (“EPD”), there were currently only 10 automatic gift redemption units (“redemption units”) in Kwai Tsing District. However, the number of redemption units was insufficient to cover all the 27 public housing estates in the district, especially the large ones, making it difficult for local residents to use the services provided by such units. Therefore, a Member enquired about the installation costs of the redemption units and the reasons for not considering the installation of additional redemption units at this stage;
- (ii) Commended EPD for promptly addressing the insufficient supply of gifts in the redemption units and malfunctioning of the machines upon receipt of feedback from residents. Currently, the replenishment of gift items had been expedited, and the fault rate had also significantly decreased. Given the frequent malfunctions of the redemption units, it was suggested that the Department review the situation and replace the components as and when necessary;
- (iii) In response to the insufficient number of redemption units and slow replenishment of gift items, it was suggested that the Department make reference to past practices and organise more large-scale redemption activities in the district to facilitate residents’ use of GREEN\$ services, thereby raising their environmental awareness;
- (iv) Suggested that seasonal products such as fans and hot water bottles be offered in the redemption units;
- (v) In the past, the Department had not provided adequate number of food waste buckets for redemption by residents, resulting in some of them using plastic

bags to store food waste, which in effect increased the volume of waste. Therefore, it was suggested that EPD consider the provision of food waste containers for redemption when calculating the points that could be earned, in order to enhance residents' environmental awareness;

- (vi) Suggested that the Department provide real-time data on the availability of gift items for redemption to facilitate residents' checking;
- (vii) Suggested that the Department offer supermarket coupons or Octopus card rewards instead of gifts items in the redemption units. This would allow residents to use their points more flexibly, while the administrative work of the Department could also be saved;
- (viii) Suggested the operation of Smart Recycling Promotion Vehicles ("SRPVs") be strengthened in Kwai Tsing District to facilitate residents' use of recycling and redemption services. However, the information on the services provided by SRPVs was still unclear for the time being. It was therefore hoped that the Department would strengthen publicity;
- (ix) Enquired whether the Department would consider installing additional redemption units in future at different locations in the district, such as Shek Lei, Ching Wah Court, and Cheung Hong Commercial Centre No. 2;
- (x) Suggested that the Department outsource gift redemption services to supermarkets to provide convenience to the public and address the insufficient supply of gifts; and
- (xi) Commended EPD for actively discussing with the management company and residents of Broadview Garden to adjust the installation location of food waste smart recycling bins ("FWSRBs").

11. Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West)⁴, EPD, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) In terms of gift redemption, there were currently about 40 redemption spots in Kwai Tsing District. The Department would adjust its redemption arrangements from time to time based on the actual usage of such services by residents. Members' suggestion of organising large-scale redemption

activities was noted and would be conveyed to relevant sections. Moreover, the Department was currently discussing with potential suppliers on the introduction of services such as redemption of e-coupons to enhance the flexibility of gift redemption;

- (ii) As regards malfunctioning of the machines, the Department had replaced the components of most of the redemption units upon discovery of the issue in May this year. The Department had then made use of big data to monitor the operation of the redemption units to ensure uninterrupted service;
- (iii) On the use of FWSRBs, its pre-treatment facilities could separate impurities such as plastic bags following the launch of O·PARK2 in March 2024. Therefore, residents could then deposit food waste along with plastic bags into FWSRBs. However, EPD encouraged members of the public to use reusable containers to store food waste as much as possible when participating in recycling. The Department would keep in view residents' habits of using FWSRBs and continue to arrange for the Green Outreach to brief local residents on the details as necessary; and
- (iv) The Department understood and was pleased to see the strong demand from the public for food waste recycling and gift redemption with points. Regarding the installation of additional redemption units and recycling facilities, the Department would need to holistically review the entire recycling network to avoid duplication of resources. The Department would also adjust its services based on the opinions of the aforementioned parties and the preferences of residents, so as to increase residents' participation while providing them with greater convenience.

(Post-meeting note: EPD procured redemption units from a supplier through rental arrangements. The average monthly rental fee for each redemption unit was about \$4,600, which included service fees for transportation, installation, inspection, repairs and maintenance, wireless network, software updates and replacement of consumables.)

12. The Vice Chairman pointed out that the recycling facilities in rural areas were severely inadequate, and currently only three-colour recycling bins were available in these areas, while the collection frequency of recyclables by the contractors was low. Therefore, it was suggested that EPD collaborate with other departments in installing additional recycling facilities such as FWSRBs.

Any Other Business

13. There was no other business.

Date of Next Meeting

14. The next meeting was scheduled to be held on 10 December 2024 (Tuesday).

Kwai Tsing District Council Secretariat
December 2024