

Southern District Council
Report from the Area Committees

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to report on the major items discussed during the Area Committees meetings.

Items Discussed

I. East Area Committee (EAC)

1. No report is available at this stage.

II. South Area Committee (SAC)

Matters discussed at meeting held in March 2018

1. Illegal Parking in the Vicinity of Ap Lei Chau Main Street

Ap Lei Chau Main Street, being the main road in northern Ap Lei Chau, was an essential corridor for vehicles to access to buildings and ground floor shops in the area. As there were numerous residential buildings and restaurants in the community, parking spaces were necessary for local residents and non-local visitors to load/unload and parking purposes. Thus, some car owners parked their vehicles illegally along Ap Lei Chau Main Street. Such behaviour had aggravated traffic congestion and caused obstruction to residents and other road users.

A Committee Member reflected that the serious problem of illegal parking in the vicinity of Ap Lei Chau Main Street had caused obstruction to local residents and other road users. Despite strengthened enforcement operations carried out by the Police, the problem of illegal parking remained unresolved. In this regard, Committee Members asked the Police to continue their patrol and law enforcement efforts.

2. Illuminated Bollards at Lee Nam Road Safety Island

SAC resolved to ask the Highways Department (HyD) to follow up on the matter.

3. Request to Increase the Frequency of NWFB Route No. 595

A Member reported that frequency of NWFB Route No. 595 had reduced and said that it took up to 20 minutes to wait for the bus at 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. As the bus route ran between South Horizons and Aberdeen, and was not covered by MTR service, the reduced frequency should not be related to the commissioning of the MTR South Island Line. SAC requested enhanced service and provision of the latest frequency timetable of Route No. 595.

4. Illegal Parking at Lei Tung Estate

A Committee Member said that illegal parking remained a serious problem in the vicinity of Aberdeen Baptist Lui Ming Choi College. SAC asked the Police to continue to strengthen their patrol and law enforcement actions, and provide the dates of patrol operations carried out and the number of prosecutions instituted.

5. Illegal Parking of Vehicles along Lee Nam Road in the Vicinity of Hong Kong Southern District Government Primary School

A Committee Member commented that illegal parking problem at the above location had slightly improved, and asked the Police to continue to step up their patrol and law enforcement operations in the vicinity, and provide the dates of patrol operations carried out and the number of prosecutions instituted accordingly.

6. Addition of On-street Metered Parking Spaces and Double Yellow Line in Ap Lei Chau

The Transport Department (TD) responded that a public consultation on the issue was being conducted. SAC resolved to invite TD to report the latest progress.

7. Illegal Parking at Yi Nam Road near MTR South Horizons Station Exit A

A Committee Member said that apart from illegal parking, light goods vehicles of courier companies were parked illegally and used for delivering goods at the above location in daytime. Upon discussion, SAC asked the Police to monitor the situation and strengthen their law enforcement actions, and provide the respective numbers of patrol operations carried out and prosecutions instituted accordingly.

8. Illegal Parking of Motorcycles at Ap Lei Chau Estate

A Committee Member commented that the situation had shown no improvement as there were still many motorcycles illegally parked near Lei Fook House, Ap Lei Chau Estate. In this connection, SAC asked the Police to continue to monitor the situation and strengthen their law enforcement actions, and provide the dates of patrol operations carried out and the number of prosecutions instituted accordingly.

9. Frequency of Cross-Harbour Tunnel Bus Routes

A Committee Member said that the situation had slightly improved. Upon discussion, SAC resolved to delete this discussion item.

10. Proposal on the Conversion of the Open-air Car Park at Ap Lei Chau Main Street into a Multi-storey Car Park

Since SAC had put forth the proposal to the Southern District Council (SDC) and requested the latter to follow up, SAC resolved to delete this discussion item.

11. Central Dividers on Ap Lei Chau Bridge Road near The Oasis

As the works had been completed, SAC resolved to delete this discussion item.

12. Unsightly Streetscape Arising from Ubiquitous Occurrence of Fly-posting on Lamp Posts

A Committee Member reported that the situation concerning fly-posting on lamp posts near MTR South Horizons Station Exit A and the bus stop opposite to Lei Chak House, Ap Lei Chau Estate, as well as at the footbridge between Ap Lei Chau Estate and South Horizons, had greatly improved. Committee Members thanked the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), TD and HyD for their prompt actions. Despite this, there was still a small number of fly-posting at the above locations. SAC asked the relevant departments to continue to follow up on this matter.

13. Problem of Stray Dogs in Ap Lei Chau

A Committee Member said that quite a number of stray dogs were still found in the vicinity of Wind Tower Park and the dockyard at Ap Lei Chau Praya Road. Upon discussion, SAC resolved that the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) would be asked to continue with its patrol and capture operations against stray dogs.

14. Problems of Wild Pigeon Feeding and Pigeon Droppings in Ap Lei Chau

A Committee Member said that the problem of wild pigeon feeding by Ap Lei Chau residents still persisted. The locations where wild pigeons were spotted included the entrance/exit of Wind Tower Park, Ap Lei Chau Estate, the minibus stop for GMB route No. 63 in Ap Lei Chau Estate and Ap Lei Chau Main Street. In this regard, SAC asked FEHD to follow up on the matter and provide the number of prosecutions instituted accordingly.

15. Imposition of Control over Large Dogs

A Committee Member reported the spotting of quite a number of unmuzzled large dogs. In this connection, SAC urged AFCD to deploy officers to carry out blitz operations.

16. Problem of Erection of Promotional Easy-mount Frames and Touting Activities at Yi Nam Road and Ap Lei Chau Bridge Road

A Committee Member said that the situation had shown no improvement so far. In daytime some employees were engaging in promotional and touting activities while in the evening quite a number of easy-mount frames were placed on pavements causing obstruction to the pedestrians. FEHD was urged to continue to follow up on the matter.

17. Proposal on the Retrofitting of Handrails for the Ramp Connecting Ap Lei Chau Estate and South Horizons along South Horizons Drive

As the Housing Department (HD) responded that the project would be incorporated as one of the projects under the 2018/19 budget, SAC put the issue on hold and would further follow up on the issue upon completion of the project.

18. Rodent Problem

A Committee Member said that the rodent problem in the vicinity of Ap Lei Chau, especially South Horizons and Ap Lei Chau Estate, still persisted. In this connection, SAC asked FEHD to continue to follow up on the matter.

III. West Area Committee (WAC)

Matters Discussed at the Meeting Held in March 2018

1. Issues of Bicycle-sharing

A Member enquired whether it was lawful to park a rental bicycle of bicycle-sharing on the street. The Police responded that bicycles being parked in public places should be removed by the Lands Department (LandsD). If the bicycles were locked onto railings, action would be taken either by FEHD or LandsD. If the bicycles had seriously obstructed a passageway, such as being locked on an emergency access, immediate action would be taken by the Police. Another Member opined that the insurance policy for bicycle-sharing would be a matter of concern to other road users.

(Post-meeting note: The Traffic and Transport Committee under SDC has discussed the “bicycle-sharing in the Southern District” at its meeting on 20 November 2017. The representative of TD said that the roads in urban area were narrow roads with high pedestrian flow. The routing of many buses and minibuses had also given rise to frequent picking up and dropping off of passengers on the roadside. Therefore, on the premise that traffic safety should be of prime concern, the Government did not encourage the public to use bicycles for transport purpose in the urban area.

2. Pedestrian Crossing Problem at the Junction of Wah Fu Road and Wah Cheung Street

A Member continued to express concern about the pedestrian crossing problem at the junction of Wah Fu Road and Wah Cheung Street. HD’s Representative replied that a meeting was convened in mid January 2018 to discuss the problem with TD, DC Member of the constituency concerned and representatives from the local communities. After the meeting, all parties had reached a consensus on the proposal for adding double white solid lines with a road marking of “Stop” at the junction of Wah Cheung Street giving access to Wah Fu Road. With implementation of the proposed measure, it was expected that the risk of traffic accidents could be minimised.

IV. North Area Committee (NAC)

Matters Discussed at the Meeting Held in March 2018

1. Environmental Hygiene Problem outside Kai Bo Frozen Meat Shop in Tin Wan

Effluent was still found on the pavement outside Kai Bo Frozen Meat Shop in Tin Wan. Committee Members requested FEHD to strengthen their patrol operation.

2. Damage of the Breakwater on the West of the Southern Entrance of Aberdeen South Typhoon Shelter

Committee Members expressed concern over the progress of maintenance works for the breakwater on the west of the southern entrance of Aberdeen South Typhoon Shelter, especially the completion date. Members urged the Civil Engineering and Development Department to expedite the works.

3. Problem of Wild Pigs in North Area

The feeding of wild animals by some members of the public at fixed time and locations every day would attract wild pigs to the residential areas for food and cause nuisance. The situation might get worse during the Ching Ming Festival as the wild pigs might be attracted by the food left behind by grave sweepers and roam around the locations in question more frequently. The Committee requested the relevant department to follow up.

4. Problem of Wild Birds in Yue Fai Court

Some members of the public often threw rice on the ground in the vicinity of Yue Fai Court for feeding wild birds. Their behaviour had led to the gathering of a large number of wild birds and caused environmental hygiene problem there. The Committee requested the relevant department to follow up.

5. Hygiene Problem of the Alley between Ka Fook Court and Dai Kee Chinese Barbecue Tea Restaurant in Tin Wan

A Committee Member considered it ineffective to solely rely on the cleansing contractor to tackle the hygiene problem of the alley between Ka Fook Court and Dai Kee Chinese Barbecue Tea Restaurant in Tin Wan and invited FEHD to step up inspection of the location and take enforcement actions. FEHD was also requested to take corresponding measures and remind the restaurants to maintain environmental hygiene when issuing restaurant licences.

6. A Fatal Traffic Accident at Aberdeen Main Road

A Committee Member mentioned a fatal traffic accident that took place at Aberdeen Main Road earlier on and requested the Police to provide the relevant information of the case and the follow-up actions taken.

7. A Traffic Incident involving a Light Goods Vehicle in Tin Wan

A Committee Member mentioned a traffic hit-and-run case that took place earlier on in Tin Wan where a light goods vehicle nearly crashed into the bus stop and requested the Police to provide the relevant information of the case.

8. Proposal on the Addition of Yellow Boxes at the Entry/Exit Point of Aberdeen Car Park

A Committee Member said that vehicles going up Aberdeen Reservoir Road towards Aberdeen Car Park were often blocked by vehicles waiting in front of traffic signals on the opposite lane. These vehicles that were unable to enter the car park caused further hindrance to other vehicles going to Shek Pai Wan Estate via Aberdeen Reservoir Road. The Committee suggested TD to consider adding yellow boxes at the entry/exit point of the Car Park.

Advice Sought

2. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

Secretariat, Southern District Council

May 2018