

(Translation)

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Southern District Council (SDC)
(2024-2027)

Date : 4 July 2024
Time : 2:30 p.m.
Venue : SDC Conference Room

Present:

Mr CHENG Kong-chung, Francis, JP Chairman
District Officer (Southern)
Mr CHU Lap-wai, MH
Ms HO Yuen-wei
Ms LI Ka-ying
Ms LAM Yuk-chun, BBS, MH
Ms LAM Wing-yan
Ms LAM Wing-yee
Mr CHEUNG Chin-chung
Mr CHEUNG Wai-nam
Mr Jonathan LEUNG Chun, MH
Mr CHAN Man-chun, JP
Professor CHAN Yuk-kit, MH, JP
Ms CHAN Wing-yan
Mr PANG Siu-kei
Mr WONG Choi-lap
Ms WONG Yu-ching, Nicole
Mr YEUNG Sheung-chun
Mr CHAO Howard
Mr LAU Ngai, Victor
Mr SIU Wai-chung
Mr LAI Ka-chi

Agenda Item 1: Confirmation of the Draft Minutes of the 3rd SDC Meeting held on 9 May 2024

1. The Chairman said that the captioned minutes had been circulated to members for comments prior to the meeting. The Secretariat had not received any amendment proposals so far.
2. The Chairman asked SDC members whether to confirm the captioned minutes.
3. The Chairman said that SDC confirmed the captioned minutes.

Agenda Item 2: Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme – Initial Work Plan for Dealing with Government Man-made Slopes on Shek O Road (Item raised by Civil Engineering and Development Department) (SDC Paper No. 20/2024)

4. The Chairman welcomed the following representatives of Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) to the meeting:
 - (i) Miss TSE Shuk-yan, Deputy Head of Geotechnical Engineering Office (Landslip Preventive Measures);
 - (ii) Mr LAU Wai-cheung, Jonathan, Chief Geotechnical Engineer / Landslip Preventive Measures 1;
 - (iii) Mr TSANG Wai-hon, Leslie, Senior Geotechnical Engineer / Project Management 2; and
 - (iv) Miss LAU Mei-shan, Venus, Geotechnical Engineer / Project Management 21.
5. The Chairman invited the CEDD representatives to briefly introduce the paper.
6. Miss TSE Shuk-yan said that the Geotechnical Engineering Office (GEO) under CEDD was committed to improving slope safety, and one of its core duties was to take forward the Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme (LPMitP). Based on a risk-based priority

ranking system, GEO carried out Detailed Studies of Man-made Slopes in batches according to their respective landslide risk. Upgrading works would be carried out subject to the results of the studies. She added that a number of landslides in recent years had repeatedly blocked the only vehicular access of certain areas and affected the public's journeys. In view of this, GEO considered it necessary to address such landslide risk arising from man-made slopes through LPMitP. GEO had drawn up an initial outline plan for the man-made slopes on Shek O Road and it was looking forward to exchanging views with SDC members at this meeting so as to proceed to the next stage of work. She invited Mr TSANG Wai-hon, Leslie, to introduce the initial work plan for dealing with Government man-made slopes on Shek O Road under LPMitP.

7. With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Mr TSANG Wai-hon introduced the initial work plan for dealing with Government man-made slopes on Shek O Road under LPMitP, including the background of LPMitP, details of man-made slopes on Shek O Road as well as initial recommendations for dealing with these man-made slopes on Shek O Road.

8. The Chairman invited SDC members to raise comments or enquiries.

9. Mr Jonathan LEUNG Chun, MH raised the following comments and enquiries:

- (i) He was pleased to learn that GEO had drawn up initial recommendations regarding the man-made slopes on Shek O Road and considered that the work could hopefully resolve the slope-related problems on Shek O Road. He further said that the blockage of the only vehicular access to Shek O Road could have serious impact, for example, the ambulance could not take the chronically ill, the elderly or persons with disabilities for medical treatment. He hoped that LPMitP would reduce the risk of landslides;
- (ii) He would like to know the screening criteria and considerations of GEO in prioritising the 17 slopes, and how the studies on the remaining 13 slopes would be taken forward; and
- (iii) As the summer holidays were a peak time for the public to visit the beaches, he suggested that the relevant Departments should assist in publicising the latest information on the upgrading works and urge the public to use public transport to travel to and from Shek O as much as possible during the works and the temporary road closures and avoid driving, so as not to cause traffic congestion. With the aim of minimising the impact on the public, the relevant Departments could also disseminate

to drivers the latest traffic information about Shek O Road and its vicinity via electronic notice boards at tunnel entrances or broadcasting.

10. Professor CHAN Yuk-kit, MH, JP hoped that GEO could provide information on the slope upgrading works, such as the methods to be adopted, the number of soil nails and the time required for installing each set of soil nails, so that SDC members could explain the works to residents upon enquiry to alleviate their concerns when road closure or traffic control was in place during the works, and in turn facilitate effective communication between the Government and the public. He also asked about the details of the surface cover upon completion of the slope restoration works, and suggested that vegetation cover, instead of concrete or “shotcrete” or other cover, should be used to match with the beautiful natural environment of the Southern District.

11. Mr WONG Choi-lap raised the following comments and enquiries:

- (i) He was pleased to learn that GEO attached great importance to the slope-related problems in the Southern District. At present, there were a total of 160 slopes on Shek O Road. He would like to know the criteria adopted by GEO in categorising, studying and assessing these slopes, including how 80 out of the 160 slopes were classified as pending studies and upgrading while the other 30 slopes were accorded priority;
- (ii) As GEO planned to study the first batch of 17 high-priority slopes in late 2024 or early 2025 and it was expected that the four-and-a-half-year upgrading works would only commence in 2027, which would last for quite a long period of time, he would like to know whether it was possible to expedite the works and shorten the timeline;
- (iii) He suggested that GEO should increase the frequency of routine inspections during the rainy season to monitor the condition of the slopes; and
- (iv) He agreed with GEO that when screening slopes for priority treatment, it should take into account whether the only vehicular access would be affected by landslides.

12. Ms WONG Yu-ching, Nicole referred to GEO’s estimation that the upgrading works for the first batch of 17 slopes would commence in phases in the second half of 2027 and the works were expected to take four and a half years. She would like to know the average time required for each slope upgrading works and the respective slope numbers of the 17 slopes.

(Post-meeting note: Please refer to the Annex for the respective slope numbers of the 17 slopes.)

13. Miss TSE Shuk-yan gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) According to the Catalogue of Slopes, there were about 61 000 registered slopes in Hong Kong, of which about 45 000 were man-made slopes managed by the Government. GEO had preliminarily inspected approximately 160 slopes along both sides of Shek O Road and found that about 80 of them met the safety standards, while the remaining 80 or so required studies and necessary upgrading works. In view of the difficulty in dealing with about 80 slopes at the same time, it was necessary to screen the slopes for priority treatment on a “risk-based” principle and deal with them in batches according to their priority ranking. After detailed studies, GEO selected 30 slopes (mainly downward slopes, steep and large slopes and slopes with a history of landslides) for priority treatment in order to minimise the landslide risk and to prevent the vehicular access from being blocked again;
- (ii) In general, upgrading works for an average slope took about one year to complete. As for larger slopes with complicated structures, the works could take a longer time to complete. In light of the temporary road closures to be implemented during the process, it was pragmatic to carry out the upgrading works of the 17 slopes in phases on a priority basis so as to prevent the hindrance to the public’s journeys and to ensure the safety of road users;
- (iii) The remaining 13 slopes would be progressively included in LPMitP in the next few years and GEO sought to deal with them upon completion of the upgrading works for the first batch of 17 slopes. During the works, GEO would co-ordinate with the slope maintenance departments to ensure that the slopes were in good condition through routine maintenance and inspection so as to prevent landslides;
- (iv) Most of the high-priority slopes selected were located on the downhill of Shek O Road, the works of which were more complicated and should take a longer time to complete. It would also take time to prepare for the advance land survey and geological investigation. In addition, Shek O Road lay within the boundary of Shek O Country Park and further studies should be conducted before the works commenced. As such, the slope upgrading works concerned would take longer than normal and it was

preliminarily anticipated that the works would last for four and a half years. GEO would closely monitor the progress of works at different stages and examine whether there was room for shortening the timeline; and

- (v) To restore the slopes in a way that the appearance could blend in with the natural environment was one of the objectives of slope upgrading works. GEO would explore the feasibility of taking landscape measures. However, at this stage, the GEO could not guarantee that all the slopes would have a vegetation cover as it depended on whether the slopes were too steep for vegetation to grow. Where the use of hard surface cover was unavoidable for some of the slopes, GEO would beautify the surface cover to make it more aesthetically pleasing.

14. The Chairman invited the representatives of the Transport Department (TD) and the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) to provide supplementary information on the dissemination of special traffic information and roadclosure arrangements during the works.

15. Ms YEUNG Min-jing, Anna said that in general, GEO would apply to TD for temporary traffic arrangements before carrying out slope upgrading works. TD would perform gatekeeping and co-ordination work to minimise the impact of the works on traffic and the public. If temporary road closures were to be implemented, TD would disseminate the latest traffic information through various channels such as press releases, the “HKeMobility” one-stop mobile application as well as TD’s website.

16. Mr LEUNG Lincoln said that HKPF would mainly consider the flow of road traffic and the safety of road users. HKPF would actively co-operate with GEO’s works programmes and TD’s traffic arrangements, and would also provide advice to the Departments concerned. After the commencement of the works, HKPF would deploy manpower to co-ordinate road traffic during the works to ensure smooth traffic flow and road safety.

17. The Chairman asked SDC members whether they had further enquiries.

18. Ms LAM Yuk-chun, BBS, MH was in strong favour of LPMitP and would like to know whether there were trees of precious species on the 17 slopes pending upgrading works.

19. Miss TSE Shuk-yan responded that at this stage, GEO did not have information on

whether there were any trees of precious species on the 17 slopes. Nevertheless, GEO would arrange for professionals to investigate the presence of precious or protected species on the slopes during the engineering study stage. If precious species were found, GEO would liaise closely with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and the Environmental Protection Department to take appropriate measures.

20. The Chairman thanked CEDD representatives for attending the meeting and briefing SDC members on LPMitP. He also thanked SDC members for their valuable comments on LPMitP. He pointed out that slope safety was an issue of great concern to Southern District residents and the full closure of Shek O Road last year had an enormous impact. Fortunately, with the active assistance of Government Departments, SDC members, District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams) and so on, the affected residents were able to resolve the problems satisfactorily and get through the difficult times. GEO had been actively studying and taking forward the slope upgrading works on Shek O Road, with a view to solving the problem at source and putting residents' minds at ease. He hoped that GEO would positively consider the suggestion made by Professor CHAN Yuk-kit, MH, JP to share the works-related information on a regular basis so that SDC members could keep abreast of the works progress and properly explain it to the public with an aim to facilitating the smooth progress of works so as to meet the needs of the residents and safeguard their safety.

21. Miss TSE Shuk-yan thanked SDC for their support and said that GEO would maintain close liaison with HKPF and TD and enhance the collaboration in the future. While she hoped that the nuisance caused to residents during the works could be kept at a minimum level, she also hoped that Southern District residents could be more tolerant of the inconvenience caused during the works, so that GEO could expeditiously deal with the slope-related problems on Shek O Road to safeguard public safety.

Agenda Item 3: Sharing of SDC's Work in the First Half of 2024

22. The Chairman said that SDC members had been in office for six months since 1 January 2024, during which they had been proactively discharging their duties and fully exercising the functions of SDC. It could be recalled that SDC members had written down their work aspirations for this term on a card and put it in the time capsule of the seventh-term of SDC.

The time capsule would be opened at the end of the term to review the work achievements. Half a year on, SDC members hoped to take the opportunity of the meeting to share and review the initial work results, exchange views with each other, and discuss the outlook for the second half of 2024 and the key projects to be taken forward.

23. The Chairman invited Mr PANG Siu-kei to share the work of SDC in the first half of the year as well as the outlook for its work.

24. Mr PANG Siu-kei said that it had been half a year since the 20 SDC members assumed office, and under the leadership of the Chairman, all SDC members were united and set up joint ward offices to serve the residents of the Southern District in a concerted manner, transcending the borders of different political parties, sectors and backgrounds. At the same time, SDC members had been working closely with Care Teams to visit elderly singletons, people with disabilities and other people in need in the District. In addition, all SDC members had joined all the five Committees under SDC and actively participated and engaged in district affairs to lay a solid foundation for the future work. He continued to give a PowerPoint presentation on the work of SDC in the first half of 2024, consisting of the following nine parts:

- (i) Feel the pulse of the community and play a bridging role;
- (ii) Be responsive to people's needs;
- (iii) Work closely with Government Departments towards a better Southern District;
- (iv) Promote the local economy and vitalise the Southern District;
- (v) Unite community forces in the service of residents;
- (vi) Make prompt response to emergencies;
- (vii) Take precautions ahead of the storm;
- (viii) Strive for self-enhancement through training; and
- (ix) Plan for the future.

25. The Chairman thanked Mr PANG Siu-kei for his presentation and invited SDC members to provide supplementary information or share their working experience.

26. Ms LI Ka-ying endorsed Mr PANG Siu-kei's sharing of the indiscriminate interactions among all SDC members across political parties, backgrounds and sectors in order to get the job of SDC done. She went on to share her experience in working with Care Teams, which

she considered worthy of reference for all SDC members. She pointed out that earlier on, an elderly person had approached a SDC member for assistance in completing an application form for a subsidy scheme under a project of the Urban Renewal Authority. Subsequently, the SDC member learnt that other residents of the same housing estate also had the same need and thus immediately contacted the owners' corporation and the management company of the estate. With their permission, Care Teams visited the housing estates at different times of the day on several consecutive days to assist the residents in need in completing the forms. She said the incident demonstrated the collaboration among SDC members, owners' corporations and Care Teams in serving the Southern District together in a practical and pragmatic manner.

27. Mr LEUNG Chun, MH recalled that the Southern District had been hit hard by a number of once-in-a-century rainstorms and typhoons under extreme weather conditions the year before. He remarked that since the establishment of the current-term SDC, Government Departments had worked closely with SDC and made concerted efforts to cope with extreme weather conditions and expeditiously assisted the residents in dealing with emergency situations, and the performance had won the commendation of many residents. After the relief work, SDC and Government Departments summarised the lessons learnt and reviewed the potential risks and causes of the incidents. SDC would recommend preventive measures or contingency plans to relevant Government Departments on how to avoid recurrence of such serious impacts of disasters. He hoped that SDC would continue to improve, reflect on and achieve more in its District work, and enhance residents' sense of satisfaction and achievement.

28. The Chairman thanked Mr LEUNG Chun, MH for his sharing and congratulated him on being awarded the Medal of Honour recently. He further said that Mr LEUNG Chun, MH had been serving as a SDC member ever since the previous term and had been dedicated to serving the community, and the honour was a recognition of his work for and contribution to the District and SDC.

29. Ms LAM Yuk-chun, BBS, MH said that she had served in SDC for many years and was rather impressed by the current-term SDC. She added that with the improvement of governance at district level, the reformation of District Councils and the implementation of the principle of 'patriots administering Hong Kong', SDC members were able to give full play to their roles. Taking the Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee (CICRC) under SDC as an example, she said that CICRC had held three meetings, at which CICRC

members had discussed in depth the various recreational activities and the utilisation of facilities in the Southern District, such as the utilisation rate of the venues and fitness equipment, the number of library collections, the mechanism for reviewing library collections and the maintenance of horticultural facilities, and had proposed different ways for improvement. The work efficiency of all CICRC members was remarkably high, which was a far cry from the past. Government Departments had also actively responded to and followed up on the views raised by CICRC members. She shared Mr PANG Siu-kee's view that the efficiency of the current-term SDC was higher than the previous ones and hoped that SDC members would continue to work hard and liaise closely with Government Departments to resolve any problems for the well-being of residents.

30. The Chairman said that Ms LAM Yuk-chun, BBS, MH was a veteran SDC member with years of experience in serving the District. He thanked her for sharing the changes she witnessed over the terms of SDC and for highlighting the achievements following the reform of District Councils.

31. The Chairman asked SDC members whether they had further enquiries.

32. No SDC members had further enquiries.

33. The Chairman concluded the discussion as follows:

- (i) He thanked SDC members for their sharing. The current-term SDC took up office on 1 January 2024. In just half a year's time, they had become involved in a great deal of the District work, and their dedication to serving the public and their effective services were evident to all;
- (ii) The 20 SDC members came from different constituencies, including the appointed, the District Committees and the geographical constituencies. Despite coming from different constituencies and having different political affiliations, they were all able to cooperate and give full play to their strengths to resolve problems, and such unity had enabled SDC to achieve great results;
- (iii) The median age of SDC members was 37, among the youngest across the 18 District Councils. They came from various sectors, ranging from top talents of industrial and commercial sectors to leaders of social service organisations and high-flying

professionals. Among the 20 SDC members, more than one-third were female and there were also representatives from the fishing industry unique to the Southern District, making SDC broadly representative;

- (iv) SDC members had maintained close communication and cooperation with Government Departments, and ensured effective communication between the Government and the people by serving as a connection between the two. They liaised closely with Government Departments and discussed solutions to potential problems so that the residents can live and work in comfort;
- (v) The Performance Monitoring Guidelines for Members of District Councils (“the Guidelines”) required that each SDC member serve on at least three committees or working groups. It turned out that, exceeding the requirement of the Guidelines, all SDC members served on all the five committees under SDC, a clear illustration of their dedication to the work. In addition, the Guidelines required SDC members to attend at least six activities organised by the Southern District Office every year. All SDC members had fulfilled such requirement within six months, and some of them had even attended 15 activities. It was hoped that SDC members would continue to involve actively in community activities and demonstrate their vigour and drive; and
- (vi) Being the first term of SDC following the improvement of governance at district level, SDC members’ effective synergy in providing quality services to the District and the public was essential for the future development of the community. It was hoped that SDC members would continue to serve the public with enthusiasm and enhance the sense of satisfaction of the Southern District residents.

Agenda Item 4: Any Other Business

Invitation to SDC to be a Supporting Organisation of a Series of Promotional Activities under the “Happy Hearts and Healthy Lives” Programme in the Southern District and Seeking SDC’s Consent for the Use of the SDC Logo in the Publicity Materials

34. The Secretary asked SDC members whether they needed to declare interests in respect of the activities.

35. Ms LI Ka-ying declared that she was the director of the Southern Care Association Limited (the organiser); Mr CHEUNG Wai-nam declared that he was the founder and director of the organiser; Mr CHEUNG Chin-chung declared that he was the vice-chairman of the organiser; Ms LAM Wing-yeo declared that she was the founder and director of the organiser; and Mr SIU Wai-chung declared that he was the vice-chairman of the organiser.

36. The Chairman said that as this agenda item had no connection with the personal interests of the aforesaid SDC members, they could continue to sit in on the meeting but they were required to abstain from agenda discussion and decision-making.

37. The Chairman invited the Secretary to briefly introduce the agenda item.

38. The Secretary briefly introduced the agenda item as follows:

- (i) The Secretariat received an invitation from the organiser requesting SDC to be a supporting organisation of a series of promotional activities under the “Happy Hearts and Healthy Lifes” Programme in the Southern District. SDC’s consent for the use of the SDC logo in the publicity materials was also sought;
- (ii) A series of activities including free health check-ups, seasonal influenza vaccination services, exhibitions and talks would run from July to November 2024 to promote personal health management among Southern District residents, thereby enhancing the wellness of the community. It was anticipated that 7 500 Southern District residents could benefit from the activities. A launch ceremony and a closing ceremony were tentatively planned for 27 July and late October respectively; and
- (iii) SDC should decide whether it would agree to be a supporting organisation of the aforesaid activities and give consent for the organiser to use the SDC logo in the publicity materials.

39. The Chairman was pleased that SDC members agreed that SDC would be the supporting organisation of the aforesaid activities and gave consent for the organiser to use the SDC logo in the publicity materials.

40. The Chairman asked SDC members whether they had any other items to raise.

41. No other business was raised at the meeting.

Agenda Item 5: Date of Next Meeting

42. The Chairman advised that the fifth SDC meeting would be held at 2:30 p.m. on 19 September 2024 (Thursday).

43. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 3:42 p.m.

Secretariat, Southern District Council
September 2024

4th Southern District Council Meeting held on 4 July 2024

Item 2 : Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme – Initial Work Plan for Dealing with
Government Man-made Slopes on Shek O Road

Man-made slopes along Shek O Road proposed to be included into the Landslip Prevention and
Mitigation Programme

1. 11SE-D/F121
2. 11SE-D/F122
3. 11SE-D/F44
4. 15NE-B/F19
5. 15NE-B/F117
6. 15NE-B/F118
7. 15NE-B/F119
8. 11SE-D/F41
9. 11SE-D/FR46
10. 11SE-D/F157
11. 15NE-B/F121
12. 15NE-B/C271
13. 15NE-B/R67
14. 15NE-B/R18
15. 15NE-B/F77
16. 15NE-B/F32
17. 15NE-B/F120

Civil Engineering and Development Department
August 2024