

(Translation)

Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the Environment and Hygiene Committee of
Sham Shui Po District Council (6th Term)

Date: 8 October 2020 (Thursday)
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Venue: Conference Room, Sham Shui Po District Council

Present

Chairman

Mr CHUM Tak-shing

Members

Ms CHAU Yuen-man, Eunice	
Ms CHOW Wing-heng, Zoé	(Arrived at 9:55 a.m.)
Mr HO Kai-ming, Calvin	(Arrived at 1:05 p.m.)
Mr HO Kwan-chau, Leo	(Arrived at 9:35 a.m.)
Mr KONG Kwai-sang	(Arrived at 10:15 a.m.)
Mr LAO Ka-hang, Andy	
Ms LAU Pui-yuk, MH	
Mr LEE Hon-ting, Howard	
Mr LEE Man-ho, Leos	(Arrived at 9:45 a.m.)
Mr LI Chun-hei, Joshua	
Mr LI Kwing, Richard	(Arrived at 9:35 a.m.)
Mr LI Ting-fung, Jay	
Mr MAK Wai-ming	(Left at 12:45 p.m.)
Ms NG Mei, Carman	
Ms NG Yuet-lan, Janet	(Arrived at 9:40 a.m.)
Mr SIN Kam-ho, Jeffrey	(Left at 1:47 p.m.)
Mr TAM Kwok-kiu, MH, JP	(Arrived at 10:18 a.m.)
Mr TSUI Yat-hin, Ronald	(Arrived at 9:40 a.m.; left at 1:29 p.m.)
Mr WAI Woon-nam	
Mr YUEN Hoi-man, Ramon	(Arrived at 9:55 a.m.; left at 12:44 p.m.)

In Attendance

Mr LAM Wui-tsun, Brian	Assistant District Officer (Sham Shui Po) 2
Mr LIM Ying-lam	Acting District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sham Shui Po), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Ms NGO Mei-ling	Chief Health Inspector 2, Sham Shui Po District, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Miss CHEUNG Fung-heung	Senior Health Inspector (Market Management), Sham Shui Po District, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr LEE Pak-ho	Senior Health Inspector (Administration & Development (Special Duties)), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr YIU Yau-man, Wallace	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West) 5, Environmental Protection Department
Mr TO Chi-hung	Engineer/Kowloon (Distribution 2), Water Supplies Department
Mr CHAN Chi-suen, Rex	Police Community Relations Officer (Sham Shui Po District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr IP Yiu-cheung, Sunny	Neighbourhood Police Coordinator/Police Community Relations Office (Sham Shui Po District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr MOK Wai-hai, Sam	Chief Estate Officer/Kowloon West, Lands Department
Mr CHUNG Yan-chi, Jocky	Principal Estate Officer/Kowloon West (North), Lands Department

Secretary

Mr CHU Hei-yeung, Angus	Executive Officer (District Council) 1, Sham Shui Po District Office
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Absent with Apologies

Member

Mr YEUNG Yuk

Co-opted Member

Ms CHAN Ka-yi

Absent

Member

Mr LAU Wai-chung, Lawrence

Co-opted Members

Ms CHAN Hiu-ching

Mr CHOW Lai-yin

Mr CHUI Chun-choi

Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed members and representatives from government departments to the fifth meeting of the Environment and Hygiene Committee (“EHC”). To prevent the spread of the epidemic in the community, he requested all attendees to check their temperatures and register their names before entering the Conference Room. He also said that the public gallery would not be open, and the meeting would be adjourned within four hours as far as possible.

2. The Committee noted the leave applications from Mr YEUNG Yuk and Ms CHAN Ka-yi.

Agenda Item 1: Confirmation of minutes of the 4th meeting held on 16 July 2020

3. The Committee confirmed the above minutes without amendment.

Agenda Item 2: Matters for discussion

(a) Green Burial 2020 (EHC Paper 71/20)

4. Mr LEE Pak-ho introduced Green Burial 2020 with the aid of PowerPoint.
5. Mr Richard LI suggested that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”) waive the administrative fee for mounting commemorative plaques at the Gardens of Remembrance, as well as organise more talks and visits to promote Green Burial. In addition, he hoped that while developing Green Burial, FEHD would continue to improve the traditional burial facilities and services.
6. Mr Jay LI enquired whether FEHD would draw lots to decide whether the applications would be successful if there were too many applications to scatter cremated ashes or mount commemorative plaques at the Gardens of Remembrance. He also enquired if other ceremonies could be held by members of the public at the Gardens of Remembrance for the deceased currently. In addition, he suggested that FEHD include the element of recording the life stories of the deceased into the Gardens of Remembrance.
7. Mr LEE Pak-ho responded that FEHD had always actively held talks and organised visits to Green Burial facilities for elderly homes. During the epidemic, this was replaced by talks held through video conference systems. The reason why the Department developed Green Burial was not to replace traditional burial, but to offer a more environmentally friendly choice of burial. Thus, they would continue with the policies of

increasing the number of niches and improving traditional burial. Regarding memorial ceremonies, members of the public could hold different kinds of ceremonies at the Gardens of Remembrance according to their religious beliefs. At the Gardens of Remembrance where electronic kiosks were installed, they could also upload photos or life stories of the deceased to the Internet Memorial Service website in order to cherish the memories of the deceased in another way. Due to the designs of the sites, there was limited space for commemorative plaques at individual Gardens of Remembrance, therefore the Department was looking for space to build more electronic kiosks. Regarding fees, the scattering of cremated ashes at the Gardens of Remembrance was free, and only the mounting of commemorative plaques required the payment of an administrative fee.

8. Mr MAK Wai-ming enquired about the number of people who had registered in the Green Burial Central Register in recent years, the percentage of Green Burial cases in the total number of deaths, and the waiting time for scattering ashes at sea.

9. Mr LEE Pak-ho responded that in 2019, there were 3 401 people on the Green Burial Central Register and 7 179 Green Burial cases, which accounted for 14.7% of the total number of deaths. Due to the impact of the epidemic, FEHD had to limit the number of passengers on the ferries for scattering ashes at sea to maintain social distancing. As a result, people now had to wait for six to eight weeks on average.

10. Mr MAK Wai-ming said that the above percentage was rather small, showing that Green Burial was inefficient in reducing the huge demand for traditional burial. He also enquired if those who had registered in the Green Burial Central Register were mostly the elderly.

11. Mr LEE Pak-ho responded that it would be difficult for people in Hong Kong to change their traditional concepts of burial overnight, therefore FEHD hoped to drive more people to accept Green Burial through continuous promotion and education. Also, as approximately 60 to 70% of those on the Green Burial Central Register were aged 60 or above, the elderly were FEHD's main target of promotion.

12. Ms Janet NG said that she very much supported Green Burial and hoped to assist FEHD in promoting it to the public. However, she thought that ordinary publicity leaflets and folders were not attractive to the elderly, and suggested that FEHD produce other kinds of promotional materials.

13. Mr Richard LI said that the Government had gazetted the proposal to change the arrangement for public niches from allowing permanent storage of ashes to setting a limit for the storage period, and if the storage period was not extended after expiry, FEHD would dispose the relevant ashes by means of Green Burial. He enquired if FEHD had the number

of cases that required such handling.

14. Mr LEE Pak-ho gave a consolidated response by saying that regarding promotion, FEHD had written to more than 1 000 elderly homes to inform them that it could send staff to the elderly homes or use video conference systems to hold Green Burial talks, and it had also worked with television stations to produce programmes introducing Green Burial and the relevant policies. The Department also created promotional materials suitable for the elderly, such as towels, pill boxes and zipped bags. He welcomed members to work with the Department to promote in the district, and said that after the epidemic had eased, the Department would conduct face-to-face promotions targeting the elderly at hospitals, public housing estates and parks again. Regarding the arrangement for public niches, the Government gazetted the proposal to limit the storage period of ashes to 20 years in 2019. As a result, the Department would only start disposing ashes by means of Green Burial under that arrangement in 2039 at the earliest, and therefore it did not have any relevant figures yet. The Department would actively remind the registrants to extend the storage period before it expired, and would also continue to encourage people to make good use of niches through other policies and measures.

15. The Chairman concluded that the Committee supported FEHD's Green Burial initiatives and welcomed cooperation between FEHD and the District Council in promoting the relevant services.

(b) Policies to address sharp increase in domestic waste if Wuhan pneumonia will co-exist with humans (EHC Paper 72/20)

16. Mr Jeffrey SIN introduced Paper 72/20.

17. Mr Wallace YIU introduced Response Paper 101/20, and added that in order to strengthen on-site support for recycling, the Environmental Protection Department ("EPD") had set up Green Outreach to provide outreach services. Through on-site instructions and demonstrations, Green Outreach could educate the public the importance of waste reduction at source on a long-term and regular basis. It also assisted members of the public to practise source separation of waste and recycling properly, and disseminated the latest information on waste management to the community. Green Outreach would strive to create and maintain direct and effective liaison networks with different stakeholders, such as property management companies, frontline cleaning workers, residents' organisations, District Council members and district organisations, to support separation of waste and recycling work. It would provide practical advice on the relevant work and help to seek suitable outlets for the recyclables collected. In addition, Green Outreach would promote various waste reduction and recycling measures of EPD in the district, including the Producer Responsibility Scheme on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment ("WPRS"),

as well as the Producer Responsibility Scheme (“PRS”) on glass beverage containers, in order to raise public awareness and enhance public participation. Green Outreach had launched pilot outreach services in three districts (Sha Tin District, Eastern District and Kwun Tong District), and started to progressively expand its services to all districts in Hong Kong in mid-2020.

18. Mr LIM Ying-lam introduced Response Paper 94/20.

19. Mr MAK Wai-ming said that there was a sharp increase in domestic waste during the epidemic. He enquired whether FEHD would flexibly adjust the number of daily trips made by refuse collection vehicles to public housing estates according to their volume of waste.

20. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu enquired what policies or measures the relevant departments had introduced with regard to domestic food waste recycling.

21. Mr Jeffrey SIN enquired if the relevant departments would assist private housing estates in collecting and disposing of discarded face masks.

22. Ms Janet NG said that the environmental hygiene at the food waste collection locations in public markets was unsatisfactory, and the promotion about the food waste collection points was inadequate. She hoped the relevant departments would follow up on this.

23. Mr Leos LEE enquired if there were any electronic waste collection points in Sham Shui Po District (“SSP District”), and whether the relevant departments would assist public and private housing estates in separating and recycling electronic waste.

24. The Chairman enquired how the relevant departments would handle the collected recyclables, and whether they had set any policy objectives to promote waste reduction at source.

25. Mr Wallace YIU gave a consolidated response by saying that with the opening of the Organic Resources Recovery Centre (“ORRC”) Phase 1 in 2018, the volume of food waste recycled in 2018 increased by 84% when compared to 2017, and Phase 2 of ORRC was now under planning. Regarding support for recycling at housing estates, EPD’s Green Outreach would assist public and private housing estates in practising source separation of waste and recycling by providing on-site instructions and demonstrations. The Department would also continue to implement various PRSs to encourage producers to reduce waste at source. With regard to electronic waste, the Department had launched WPRS to ensure that regulated waste electrical and electronic equipment produced in Hong Kong would be

treated properly. The Department noted members' wish for EPD to launch other recycling schemes for waste electrical and electronic equipment.

26. Mr LIM Ying-lam gave a consolidated response by saying that FEHD noted the recent increase in domestic waste at public housing estates and would send larger refuse collection vehicles to those housing estates where feasible. The Department had provided food waste collection bins at public markets in the district, and hired contractors to collect and screen food waste at different stalls. The Department would also ensure the cleanliness of areas around the food waste collection bins.

27. Mr Jeffrey SIN enquired how people should dispose of discarded face masks.

28. Mr Wallace YIU responded that since disposable face masks (including N95 masks and surgical masks) were made of composite materials involving different kinds of plastics and metals which were difficult to separate, they should not be recycled or discarded in recycling bins to avoid contaminating other recyclables. The Government had distributed reusable face masks to citizens of Hong Kong in order to reduce the use of disposable face masks. The face masks used by the general public would be mainly collected by refuse collection vehicles along with other domestic waste, and sent to landfills directly or through refuse transfer stations. Each landfill was designed and constructed as an enclosed containment facility incorporating a multilayered composite liner system covering the entire area of the site, and leachate would be collected and properly treated. At the end of the daily operation, the contractor would cover the tipping areas with a layer of soil of approximately 150 millimetres, on which a cement-based cover material would be sprayed to ensure environmental hygiene. Thus, the disposal of face masks in landfills would not result in the spreading of diseases.

29. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu suggested that EPD actively answer environmental protection questions that people were concerned about and share the relevant information on the Department's website.

30. The Chairman concluded that it was hoped that the relevant departments would take the problem of a sharp increase in waste during the epidemic seriously, step up efforts to reduce waste at source, as well as increase recycling and waste treatment facilities.

(c) Request for departments to enforce the law rigorously to solve the nuisance problems caused by second-hand electrical appliances (EHC Paper 73/20)

31. Mr WAI Woon-nam introduced Paper 73/20.

32. Mr Rex CHAN responded that the Police would remove obstructions that posed an

immediate threat to pedestrians or road users as quickly as possible, carry out joint law enforcement operations with FEHD, and remove obstructions blocking the streets where feasible.

33. Mr Wallace YIU introduced Response Paper 102/20.

34. Mr LIM Ying-lam introduced Response Paper 95/20.

35. Mr WAI Woon-nam said that second-hand electrical appliances left on the streets might release poisonous substances that would affect people's health, while collection vehicles loading and unloading goods in the middle of the night also caused noise nuisance to nearby residents. He hoped that the relevant departments would step up their law enforcement efforts and explore long-term solutions to the problem.

36. Mr Jay LI said that due to the huge demand for electrical appliance recycling services and the affordable shop rents, second-hand electrical appliance recycling shops in the district were crowded with customers. However, under the constraints of the exemptions under the Waste Disposal Ordinance, the majority of recycling shops only had a business area of less than 100 square feet, which resulted in nuisances such as blocking of streets. He suggested that the relevant departments should provide more facilities for storing second-hand electrical appliances in the long run.

37. Ms Janet NG suggested that FEHD and the Police conduct more joint law enforcement operations, and hoped that FEHD could deploy more staff to SSP District to solve the problem of blocking of streets.

38. Mr Rex CHAN gave a consolidated response by saying that the Police would continue to fully support FEHD's law enforcement work, and conduct more joint law enforcement operations if there was adequate manpower.

39. Mr Wallace YIU gave a consolidated response by saying that after consulting EHC and the electrical appliance recycling sector, EPD added a daytime loading/unloading bay and nighttime free parking spaces for commercial vehicles at the section of Lai Chi Kok Road near Wang Cheong Factory for use by second-hand electrical appliance recyclers. It also added a loading/unloading bay and tightened the restrictions of prohibited zones at Yee Kuk Street in order to further regulate the loading/unloading of goods by second-hand electrical appliance recyclers, thereby reducing the problems of blocking of streets and other nuisances. EPD would continue to follow up the above measures with the relevant departments. In addition, EPD had hired contractors to provide a free collection service for regulated electrical equipment ("REE"). However, the purpose of that service was not to replace the second-hand electrical appliance recycling shops that were operating legally.

The Department would continue to monitor the situation of the second-hand electrical appliance recycling industry. Also, noise produced in public places and in the middle of the night was mainly handled by the Police through their law enforcement action, while EPD was mainly responsible for regulating noise produced by machinery inside shops.

40. Mr LIM Ying-lam gave a consolidated response by saying that FEHD would review the current arrangement for issuing Notices to Remove Obstruction, and strengthen the joint law enforcement operations with the Police to further increase the deterrent effect.

41. Mr WAI Woon-nam said that he hoped the relevant departments would severely punish the second-hand electrical appliance recyclers who breached the law, and provide incentives to encourage recyclers to relocate from roadside shops to factory buildings far away from residential areas. He also noted that quite a few South Asians frequently placed second-hand electrical appliances on roads and produced noise in the district, and hoped that the relevant departments would follow up.

42. Mr Rex CHAN responded that the Police had printed leaflets in multiple languages for frontline officers to facilitate their communication with people of different nationalities. The Police would continue to monitor South Asians gathering on the streets to see if they had violated the prohibition on group gathering or were obstructing the roads, and law enforcement action would be taken when appropriate.

43. The Chairman concluded that the Committee was concerned about the nuisances caused by second-hand electrical appliance recycling activities and suggested that EPD consider providing more complaint channels. It was also hoped that the relevant departments could standardise and regularise their joint law enforcement operations, and explore long-term solutions to the problem.

(d) Vegetable stalls and meat stalls are dotted all over main streets and small alleys
Request for addressing of hygiene black spots and enhancement of cleansing measures (EHC
Paper 74/20)

44. Mr MAK Wai-ming introduced Paper 74/20.

45. Mr LIM Ying-lam introduced Response Paper 96/20.

46. Mr Wallace YIU introduced Response Paper 103/20.

47. Mr Rex CHAN responded that the Police had stepped up patrols in the vicinity of Po On Road Market and advised the relevant shops to reduce their noise. Recently, they had carried out three joint law enforcement operations with FEHD, conducted more than ten

inspections and issued over 100 tickets there. The Police would continue to fully support the actions of other law enforcement departments, as well as monitor violations of the law at that location.

48. Ms LAU Pui-yuk said that the problem of shop front extensions had become increasingly severe in the district. She hoped that the Sham Shui Po District Office (“SSPDO”) would coordinate an interdepartmental meeting with all the relevant departments and carry out joint law enforcement operations.

49. Mr MAK Wai-ming said that the current law enforcement and prosecution mechanism was not effective enough, and the problem could only be eradicated by reducing the number of those kinds of stalls. He suggested that FEHD consider limiting the number of fresh provision shop licences issued to the above kinds of stalls. Also, he hoped the Police would pay attention to the noise problem at that location, and enquired whether the drop in the number of noise complaints was related to the situation that EPD could not visit the homes of the affected residents to carry out noise measurements during the epidemic.

50. Mr Jeffrey SIN said that there were people running stalls on the floor of the pavement and road near Yen Chow Street, which could cause accidents easily. He hoped the relevant departments to follow up on this issue.

51. Mr Wallace YIU gave a consolidated response by saying that EPD had actively followed up on all noise complaints. However, after assessment at the relevant locations, they did not notice any traders producing noise by using loudspeakers or violating the Noise Control Ordinance.

52. Mr Rex CHAN gave a consolidated response by saying that it was beyond the Police’s purview to reduce the number or income of such stalls. Regarding the noise problem, since most vegetable vendors operated during the day and restocked at night, it was inevitable that noise would be produced by cargo trucks at night. The Police would advise the relevant individuals to reduce their noise during loading and unloading of goods.

53. Mr LIM Ying-lam gave a consolidated response by saying that FEHD noted members’ wish for the Department to step up law enforcement efforts. Since meat stalls required fresh provision shop licences to operate, the Department could regulate them through various methods, such as administrative means. However, since vegetable stalls did not require those licences, the Department would combat the relevant violations mainly by invoking laws related to hindrance of street cleansing and obstruction of roads.

54. Assistant District Officer 2 gave a consolidated response by saying that law enforcement against environmental hygiene and shop front extension problems was mainly

the responsibilities of FEHD and the Police, and suggestions about increasing the number of law enforcement staff and operations would be the internal management affairs of those law enforcement departments. At this stage, it would not be very effective for SSPDO to take lead in the coordination with other departments to deal with this problem. SSPDO would continue to monitor the actual situation at the relevant locations and the handling mechanisms of various departments.

55. Mr Jay LI said that an organisation was studying the patterns of loading and unloading of goods in the vicinity of Pei Ho Street Market. He suggested that the relevant departments invite organisations to carry out similar studies at other locations in the district.

56. Mr MAK Wai-ming said that the streets that the cargo trucks visited during night hours were located in residential areas, and the trucks very often had left when the Police arrived to handle noise complaints. Thus, one long-term solution was to encourage traders to move their stalls away from residential areas. Also, he suggested that FEHD introduce a licensing system for vegetable stalls, and that EPD step up their prosecution of stalls producing noise in order to increase the deterrent effect.

57. Ms LAU Pui-yuk said that some vegetable stalls near Ki Lung Street were equipped with spotlights and large sound equipment for promotional purposes, causing serious nuisance. Apart from FEHD and the Police, she believed that the problems might also be relevant to other departments, such as the Highways Department (“HyD”) and the Lands Department (“LandsD”). Hence, she again suggested that SSPDO coordinate the work of all the relevant departments.

58. Ms Janet NG said that she hoped the relevant departments could work together and enforce the law more rigorously. If necessary, legislative amendments should be considered to plug the current policy loopholes.

59. The Chairman concluded that while the Committee supported joint law enforcement operations by the various departments, the relevant stalls would resume their usual practice after the operations were ended. Hence, it was hoped that SSPDO could coordinate efforts of other relevant departments, and study if there was any room for improving the current measures in accordance with the scope of work of different departments.

(e) Request for support to market traders to install the Octopus payment system (EHC Paper 75/20)

(f) Request for extension of rent concession arrangements for market traders (EHC Paper 76/20)

60. Mr MAK Wai-ming suggested that Papers 75/20 and 76/20 should be discussed together since they were similar in nature.
61. The Chairman approved the above suggestion.
62. Mr MAK Wai-ming introduced Papers 75/20 and 76/20.
63. Mr LIM Ying-lam introduced Response Papers 99/20 and 100/20.
64. Ms LAU Pui-yuk enquired about the detailed arrangements of FEHD's subsidy scheme for market traders to install contactless payment systems, including the timetable and the payment platforms supported. She also enquired whether FEHD would actively coordinate the overall installation of the systems in the markets, provide technical support to the traders and subsidise the maintenance fees of the systems. In addition, she supported FEHD's provision of rent concessions to market traders and hoped that the Government would continue to introduce compassionate measures.
65. Mr MAK Wai-ming enquired if market traders had actively participated in the above subsidy scheme. Due to the drop in the number of shoppers in the markets during the epidemic, he also enquired if FEHD had launched corresponding promotion campaigns.
66. Mr LIM Ying-lam gave a consolidated response by saying that the above subsidy scheme covered Octopus and other common electronic payment platforms.
67. Ms NGO Mei-ling gave a consolidated response by saying that FEHD would launch festival promotions at markets during the New Year, Chinese New Year, Dragon Boat Festival and Mid-Autumn Festival periods every year. Since there had been confirmed cases of COVID-19 at markets, the Department had taken measures to restore public confidence, such as stepping up cleansing, applying anti-microbial coating and introducing UV sterilising devices at public markets, as well as ensuring good ventilation in the markets.
68. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu said that FEHD should undertake long-term planning for the use of contactless payment systems at public markets. He suggested that FEHD should first find out the most common payment platform used by market customers, and then designate that payment system as the standard platform for all market traders.
69. Mr LIM Ying-lam responded that market traders were free to choose which payment platform system to install, and the subsidy scheme also allowed traders to install more than one payment platform system.
70. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu said that FEHD should standardise the payment platform

systems used by all market traders.

71. Mr MAK Wai-ming said that he hoped FEHD would step up its promotion of markets to attract more shoppers.

72. The Chairman concluded that the Committee welcomed FEHD's policy of rent concessions and its subsidy scheme to help market traders install contactless payment systems. It was suggested that in the long term, FEHD should take the lead in directly purchasing and installing those payment systems for all market traders.

(g) The number of rat Hepatitis E cases has increased sharply Enhance anti-rodent measures in the community (EHC Paper 77/20)

73. Mr MAK Wai-ming introduced Paper 77/20.

74. Mr LIM Ying-lam introduced Response Paper 97/20.

75. Mr MAK Wai-ming said that there were cases of humans infected by rat Hepatitis E in the community, reflecting the seriousness of the rodent problem. He suggested that FEHD study new ways to stop rodents from entering people's homes.

76. Mr Jeffrey SIN said that viral hepatitis could be transmitted through sewage and hoped the relevant departments would take note of this. In addition, he suggested that FEHD actively assist the frontline workers of the Housing Department ("HD") in combating rodent infestation.

77. Mr Richard LI said that rodent control work by various departments was getting more effective. He hoped that FEHD would share its experience of rodent control with other departments, and regularly visit the community with members to conduct inspections.

78. Mr LIM Ying-lam gave a consolidated response by saying that FEHD had adopted a series of measures to eradicate rodents in back alleys including using poisonous bait or traps, while residents should also avoid cluttering up their homes so that rodents would have no place to hide. The Department would continue to coordinate and conduct on-site inspections with relevant departments, such as HD and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD"), as well as provide professional advice to markets under HD's management.

79. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu suggested that the Working Group on Pest Control in Community study the rodent infestation in residential buildings in the district, identify the black spots of rodent infestation in the district, as well as analyse the effectiveness of the

rodent control work of various departments.

80. The Chairman said that he hoped the Working Group on Pest Control in Community and the Working Group on Private Premises and Urban Revitalisation would use their funding to assist with rodent disinfection in the “three-nil” buildings in the district.

81. Mr MAK Wai-ming said the Working Group on Pest Control in Community had openly invited organisations to apply for funding to alleviate the pest and rodent infestation problems in old-styled buildings.

82. The Chairman concluded that it was suggested that FEHD improve its current methods and tools of rodent control to enhance the effectiveness.

(h) Request for reports on the works progress and opening of the new refuse collection point in Wing Hong Street Call for immediate restructuring of the service scope of Wing Hong Street/Cheung Wah Street Refuse Collection Points (EHC Paper 78/20)

83. The Chairman introduced Paper 78/20.

84. Mr LIM Ying-lam introduced Response Paper 93/20.

85. Mr Jay LI enquired if FEHD would consider converting Cheung Wah Street Refuse Collection Point (“RCP”) into a waste recycling centre.

86. Mr LIM Ying-lam responded that the land use of Cheung Wah Street RCP was restricted by the relevant terms of the land lease. FEHD would monitor the operation of Wing Hong Street RCP, and continue to improve the environmental hygiene of Cheung Wah Street RCP, as well as reduce the volume of waste handled there.

87. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu said that one should not give up using land flexibly just because of restrictions of the land lease. He suggested that the relevant departments should explore changing the land use of the above location.

88. The Chairman concluded that setting up of a working group to study this issue would be considered. It was hoped that FEHD would consider studying the feasibility of changing the land use of Cheung Wah Street RCP, and actively divert the refuse there to the new Wing Hong Street RCP, in order to reduce the impact on nearby residents.

89. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu praised FEHD for working diligently to deal with the above issue.

(i) Request for the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to handle the situation about illegal banners in the district seriously (EHC Paper 79/20)

90. Mr Jeffrey SIN introduced Paper 79/20.

91. Mr LIM Ying-lam introduced Response Paper 98/20.

92. Mr Jeffrey SIN said that large numbers of illegal vertical and horizontal banners had appeared in the district recently, and suggested that FEHD step up its inspections. Moreover, he enquired if SSPDO had tacitly consented to the illegal hanging of banners by individual organisations.

93. Mr Leos LEE said that some organisations frequently took advantage of the loophole in which the relevant departments could not handle illegal banners during holidays, which was unfair to individuals and organisations that hung banners lawfully. He suggested that FEHD should actively investigate cases of illegal hanging of banners in the district, so as to identify and prosecute those responsible as soon as possible.

94. Mr Joshua LI said that currently FEHD could only remove the illegal banners after verification by LandsD, and suggested the relevant departments to simplify the handling procedures. He also enquired whether FEHD and LandsD had taken any concrete measures for improvement after the discussion on this matter at the third meeting of EHC.

95. Mr Andy LAO suggested that the relevant departments should check whether the national flags hanging in the streets met the specifications.

96. Ms Eunice CHAU said that the above problem usually arose before and after long holidays, and suggested that the relevant departments actively inspect the locations where illegal banners frequently appeared.

97. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu said that he hoped the relevant departments would apply the same standards when making assessments and enforcing the law with regard to banners hung by different organisations.

98. Mr LIM Ying-lam gave a consolidated response by saying that FEHD noted the black spots named by members, and would remain in close contact with LandsD. Earlier, LandsD updated its list of designated spots due to the Legislative Council General Election. FEHD would request the latest list from LandsD in due course. In addition, the Department would step up its inspections and law enforcement operations before and after long holidays depending on the available manpower.

99. Mr Rex CHAN gave a consolidated response by saying that the Police would remove objects that endangered the safety of the public or road users. If other objects that did not pose an immediate threat to public safety were found, the Police would refer the cases to the relevant departments for follow-up according to prevailing practice.

100. The Chairman enquired if members of the public could use plastic bags to cover up illegal publicity materials in the streets.

101. Mr Rex CHAN responded that the Police would treat all illegal publicity materials impartially regardless of their content.

102. Mr Leos LEE enquired what members of the public should do if they saw someone illegally hanging publicity materials in the streets.

103. Mr Rex CHAN responded that in such cases, members of the public should promptly and directly notify FEHD and LandsD to follow up, and avoid physical confrontation with the people involved.

104. Assistant District Officer 2 gave a consolidated response by saying that SSPDO did not tacitly consent to any illegal acts, and believed that the relevant departments would take law enforcement action in a fair and impartial manner.

105. Mr Jeffrey SIN said that there was a large number of illegal banners or flags in the district blocking the view of pedestrians and drivers. He hoped the relevant departments would take the matter seriously. In addition, he suggested that the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene and the Director of Lands delegate to Members of the Sham Shui Po District Council, who were public officers, in writing the authority to directly remove illegal publicity materials in the streets in the district in accordance with Section 43 of Chapter 1 and Section 93 of Chapter 630 of the Laws of Hong Kong.

106. Mr Rex CHAN responded that the above suggestion involved amendments to legislation and territory-wide law enforcement policies, which was outside the purview of the Sham Shui Po Police District.

107. The Chairman expressed his dissatisfaction and regret that LandsD representatives did not attend the meeting to answer members' questions.

108. Mr Jeffrey SIN moved a motion on Paper 79/20, which read as follows:

“FEHD should actively handle complaints about illegal hanging of banners, and investigate the illegal hanging of banners across the district to prevent cases of illegal hanging of

banners from happening again.”

109. Mr Ronald TSUI seconded the motion.

110. The Committee voted on the motion.

111. The Chairman announced that the motion was carried unanimously.

112. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu said that he hoped that LandsD would respond to members’ questions after the meeting.

[Post-meeting note by LandsD: Due to the Legislative Council General Election set for 2020, LandsD temporarily cancelled all designated spots approved in accordance with the Implementation Guidelines of the Management Scheme for the Display of Roadside Non-commercial Publicity Materials (“the Management Scheme”) between 5 July and 27 September 2020. As this discussion paper was mainly about illegal banners in August 2020, in which the designated spots approved under the Management Scheme by LandsD in the district were not involved. LandsD believed that FEHD could directly handle the illegal banners in the district as appropriate in accordance with the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap.132).]

113. The Chairman concluded that the relevant departments were suggested to simplify the procedures for removing illegal publicity materials, step up their law enforcement efforts, as well as actively inspect black spots in the district before and after long holidays.

(j) Reports by the District Lands Office / Kowloon West, the Hong Kong Police Force, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, the Environmental Protection Department, the Drainage Services Department, the Highways Department, the Customs and Excise Department and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department on environmental hygiene problem, wild bird problem and poultry market relocation problem in the district (EHC Papers 80-87/20)

114. Ms Janet NG said that she knew many residents in the district had filed complaints about odour between June and August, and enquired why there were no odour complaints in EPD’s report for those months.

115. Ms Eunice CHAU said that the result of the odour monitoring at the Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works showed that its odour problem had slightly worsen in the summer. She suggested that the relevant departments step up their odour mitigation measures.

116. Mr Jay LI said that many shops and buildings in the district were undergoing works recently, leading to an increase in fly-tipped construction waste. He hoped that the relevant departments would follow it up.

117. Mr Jeffrey SIN said that many public housing residents had received promotional leaflets about duty-not-paid cigarettes and alcohol recently, and suggested that the relevant departments actively work with HD to combat illegal acts.

118. The Chairman said that some vegetable stalls near Hing Wah Street frequently occupied the streets to operate, and there was also a food establishment in the district that continued to operate after its licence had been suspended. He hoped that FEHD would follow up these matters seriously.

119. Mr Wallace YIU gave a consolidated response by saying that any odour complaints received by EPD or the Drainage Services Department (“DSD”) about the West Kowloon Transfer Station or the Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works would be included in their reports. Due to the impact of the epidemic, the amount of fly-tipped construction waste cleared by HyD in the district between January and September this year was smaller than the same period last year. EPD would continue to monitor the situation after the epidemic. The Department had also stepped up law enforcement efforts in September, issuing 31 summons or fixed penalty tickets to combat the problem of fly-tipped construction waste.

120. Mr LIM Ying-lam gave a consolidated response by saying that FEHD noted the black spots of shop front extensions named by members, and would continue to step up law enforcement efforts against illegal acts that hindered street cleansing and obstructed roads. As for the food establishment that carried on its business after its licence had been suspended, the Department had instigated prosecution on the first day of its operation without a licence, and would continue to inspect that establishment and follow up.

121. The Chairman concluded that the Committee noted the above eight reports.

Agenda Item 3: Follow-up matters

(a) Shop front extension, noise and hygiene problems in the vicinity of Pei Ho Street Market

122. Mr LIM Ying-lam said that FEHD had conducted four joint law enforcement operations with the Police in recent months, among which was a large-scale joint operation on 13 August where the Department had cleared a large number of obstructions. Between July and September this year, the Department instigated 379 prosecutions, issued 1 275 verbal warnings and made 83 seizures of illegal articles at the black spots in the vicinity of

Pei Ho Street Market. The Department would continue to prosecute shops that hindered street cleansing and obstructed roads by issuing fixed penalty tickets or summonses, making arrests, etc.

123. Mr Rex CHAN said that the Police fully supported FEHD's law enforcement work. Apart from conducting joint law enforcement operations, the Police would also meet the responsible persons of the shops in that area with FEHD staff and advise them to make improvements.

124. Mr Wallace YIU said that between July and September this year, EPD had received five complaints about noise made by chain vegetable traders using loudspeakers, and conducted 11 inspections. After issuing verbal advice and warnings, the overall noise level at those locations dropped. In addition, after coordination by the relevant member, the Department contacted a family living in an apartment above the chain vegetable traders' shops, and would duly follow up and ascertain whether it would be suitable to carry out a noise assessment at the apartment.

[Post-meeting note: EPD thanked the relevant member for providing the information. The responsible person of the apartment told the Department that the noise situation had greatly improved and there was no need for EPD staff to carry out a noise assessment and investigation at the apartment for the time being. Should the need arise later, the responsible person of the apartment could contact EPD staff again to arrange a noise assessment.]

125. Ms LAU Pui-yuk said that there were shops at the above location that frequently occupied the entire pavement, causing inconvenience to pedestrians, and suggested that the relevant departments conduct large-scale law enforcement operations more frequently. She said that there were also shops at that location that were equipped with large sound equipment for promotional purposes. She hoped that EPD would monitor their noise level and added that if the sound equipment was an illegal structure, the case should be referred to the Buildings Department for follow-up.

126. The Chairman concluded that the relevant departments were suggested to conduct large-scale law enforcement operations every week. Also, since the relevant departments had kept following up on this matter and reported their law enforcement figures in their regular reports, he decided to remove this issue from the list of follow-up matters.

Agenda Item 4: Reports from Working Groups under the Committee

(a) Report from the Working Group on Environmental Protection (EHC Paper 88/20)

127. The Chairman concluded that the Committee noted and endorsed the above working group report.

Agenda Item 5: Any other business

(a) Funding applications to the Working Group on Environmental Protection (EHC Papers 90-91/20)

128. The Chairman said that at the meeting on 23 September 2020, the Working Group on Environmental Protection had considered and endorsed two funding applications with a total amount of \$299,950, namely an application for Clean Air Network to organise “Let Our Children Enjoy Clean Air” with a funding amount of \$99,950, and an application for People Service Centre to organise “Sham Shui Po Greening Project” with a funding amount of \$200,000. He asked members to consider whether to endorse the above funding applications and reminded them to declare any conflict of interests in accordance with the Sham Shui Po District Council Standing Orders.

Application No: 200161 - Let Our Children Enjoy Clean Air (EHC Paper 90/20)

129. The Committee voted on the funding application.

130. The Chairman announced that the funding application was endorsed unanimously.

Application No: 200162 - Sham Shui Po Greening Project (EHC Paper 91/20)

131. The Committee voted on the funding application.

132. The Chairman announced that the funding application was endorsed unanimously. He also said that as the amount of this funding application exceeded \$100,000, it had to be further submitted to the District Council for endorsement.

133. Mr Joshua LI said that the public toilets at the bus terminal in Mei Foo Sun Chuen were temporarily closed due to renovations, and the temporary mobile toilets had poor hygiene and damaged facilities. He hoped that FEHD would repair them and step up their cleansing.

134. Mr LIM Ying-lam said that FEHD would arrange repairs as soon as possible and step up cleansing.

Agenda Item 6: Date of next meeting

135. The next meeting would be held at 9:30 a.m. on 3 December 2020 (Thursday).

136. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 1:55 p.m.

District Council Secretariat
Sham Shui Po District Office
November 2020