

(Translation)

Minutes of the 6th and 7th Meeting of the Environment and Hygiene Committee of
Sham Shui Po District Council (6th Term)

Date: 4 February 2021 (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 10:30 a.m.)
Mr HO Kai-ming, Calvin	(Arrived at 10 a.m.)
Mr HO Kwan-chau, Leo	(Left at 11:25 a.m.)
Mr KONG Kwai-sang	(Arrived at 10:10 a.m.)
Mr LAO Ka-hang, Andy	(Arrived at 9:35 a.m.)
Ms LAU Pui-yuk, MH	(Left at 11:25 a.m.)
Mr LI Chun-hei, Joshua	
Mr LI Ting-fung, Jay	
Mr MAK Wai-ming	(Arrived at 10:05 a.m.)
Ms NG Mei, Carman	(Arrived at 9:55 a.m.; left at 10:32 a.m.)
Ms NG Yuet-lan, Janet	(Arrived at 9:47 a.m.)
Mr SIN Kam-ho, Jeffrey	
Mr TAM Kwok-kiu, MH, JP	(Arrived at 9:35 a.m.)
Mr TSUI Yat-hin, Ronald	(Arrived at 9:40 a.m.; left at 11:56 a.m.)
Mr WAI Woon-nam	
Mr YEUNG Yuk	(Arrived at 9:40 a.m.)
Mr YUEN Hoi-man, Ramon	

In Attendance

Mr LAM Wui-tsun, Brian	Assistant District Officer (Sham Shui Po) 2
Mr SUM Siu-hin	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

Mr LIM Ying-lam	Chief Health Inspector 3, Sham Shui Po District, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr YIU Yau-man, Wallace	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West) 5, Environmental Protection 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 LAI Ting-fai	Engineer/Mainland South 3, Drainage Services Department
Mr YAN Kai-wing	
<u>Secretary</u>	
Mr CHU Hei-yeung, Angus	Executive Officer (District Council) 1, Sham Shui Po District Office

Absent with Apologies

Co-opted Members

Ms CHAN Hiu-ching
Ms CHAN Ka-yi

Absent
Members

Mr LEE Hon-ting, Howard
Mr LEE Man-ho, Leos
Mr LI Kwing, Richard

Co-opted Member

Mr CHUI Chun-choi

Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed members and representatives from government departments to the sixth and seventh 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 meeting would be completed as soon as possible, and the public gallery would not be open.

2. The Committee noted the leave applications from Mr MOK Wai-hai, Sam and Mr CHUNG Yan-chi, Jocky, who were the representatives from the Lands Department (“LandsD”), Mr TO Chi-hung, who was the representative from the Water Supplies Department, and Ms CHAN Ka-yi and Ms CHAN Hiu-ching, who were co-opted members, as well as an application to withdraw from the EHC from Mr LAU Wai-chung, Lawrence.

Agenda Item 1: Confirmation of minutes of the 5th meeting held on 8 October 2020

3. The Committee confirmed the above minutes without amendment.

Agenda Item 2: Report by the Chairman

4. The Chairman said that the sixth meeting of EHC was scheduled to be held in early December last year, but since the Sham Shui Po District Office (“SSPDO”) and the Secretariat of the Sham Shui Po District Council could not provide the venue or support due to the epidemic, an online meeting had been held in the format of video conference. After the online meeting, he wrote a summary of the discussions at the online meeting, and distributed copies of it to members and representatives of departments at the current meeting for reference and follow-up. As the Secretariat had stated in advance that it could not provide support to the online meeting, the above summary would not be uploaded to the District Council (“DC”) website. Furthermore, he noted that some members wished to make a site visit to certain facilities mentioned in the online meeting, but the relevant departments indicated that it could only be arranged after the epidemic had eased.

5. Mr Ramon YUEN said that while an EHC meeting had been held online, no representatives of departments had attended it to answer questions, and members had suggested following up on the agenda items of the online meeting, including the consultation papers submitted by departments, at the current meeting by listing them as “Matters arising”.

6. The Chairman said that since the sixth and seventh meetings of EHC had been combined into today’s meeting, the agenda and relevant papers of the originally scheduled

sixth meeting had been deleted from the DC website. Even though he had reservations about the relevant arrangement, he was willing to compromise after taking into account the importance of district affairs. He stressed that at the online meeting, members had expressed strong dissatisfaction with the refusal of SSPDO and the Secretariat to provide support to the online meeting.

7. Ms Janet NG said that all DC meetings should be recognised regardless of their format. She also hoped that the Environmental Protection Department (“EPD”) and the Drainage Services Department (“DSD”) would attend EHC meetings again to explain the details and progress of the relevant works.

8. The Chairman noted Ms Janet NG’s views.

9. Mr TAM Kwok-hiu said that he believed this matter showed the Government’s uncooperative attitude towards DCs, and suggested that members further discuss the feasibility of online meetings at DC meetings. Moreover, he suggested that the relevant departments should consider attending future EHC meetings and seek members’ views at the appropriate time.

10. The Chairman said that the consultation papers submitted by EPD and DSD were not included in the agenda of today’s meeting. He would ask EPD to follow up when discussing other matters.

Agenda Item 3: Matters for discussion

(a) Request for expansion of the designated area under the Noise Control Ordinance to Cheung Shun Street (EHC Paper 2/21)

11. Mr Ramon YUEN introduced Paper 2/21.

12. Mr Wallace YIU introduced Response Paper 15/21.

13. Mr Ramon YUEN enquired if the “designated area” under the Noise Control Ordinance (“NCO”) could not be expanded to the industrial and commercial zone along Cheung Shun Street, whether EPD would consider using other measures to regulate the noise made by building contractors in the area during holidays. He also enquired what criteria EPD used for defining whether an area was “densely populated”. Since there were a large number of tall buildings along Cheung Shun Street, he deemed that the area was a developed area that was densely populated, and EPD should include it as “designated area”.

14. Mr Jeffrey SIN said that works being carried out by the Housing Department (“HD”)

in certain units of Shek Kip Mei Estate generated a lot of noise. Thus, he had asked HD to delay the daily commencement time of works in order to reduce the impact on nearby residents. He hoped that EPD would make reference to this arrangement and take the initiative to advise building contractors to delay the daily commencement time of works.

15. Mr Jay LI said that apart from generating noise, piling works in the district also caused the ground to shake violently, thus affecting nearby residents. He hoped that the relevant departments would follow up on this.

16. Mr TAM Kwok-Kiu said that old areas in the Sham Shui Po District (“SSP District”) were developing rapidly in recent years and opined that the updating of environmental protection legislation had fallen far behind community development. He hoped that EPD could review or amend the relevant legislation in a timely manner and introduce administrative measures as soon as possible to solve the above noise problems. Moreover, he hoped that while formulating policies or measures, government departments would consider the habit changes in residents’ life due to the pandemic.

17. Ms Janet NG said that she believed that Hong Kong’s environmental protection legislation was more backward than Europe and the United States, and the relevant penalties did not have a sufficient deterrent effect. She hoped that EPD could study how to improve the existing policies.

18. Mr Wallace YIU gave a consolidated response by saying that based on the restricted hours under the Construction Noise Permit, EPD had specially arranged to inspect the construction sites on Cheung Shun Street during several different time periods in the morning and at night, in order to ensure that contractors complied with the various provisions of the Construction Noise Permit. The Department would take immediate law enforcement action if any violations were found. On the other hand, NCO was drawn up after extensive discussions and consultations, striking a balance between protecting the public from nuisance caused by excessive construction noise and allowing necessary construction works to be carried out. When laying down the “designated areas” under NCO, the Department had to consult the industry and various stakeholders. After the enactment of NCO, the Department had repeatedly amended the ordinance and expanded the “designated areas” according to society’s development, and would continue to review the coverage of the relevant legislation whenever appropriate. He pointed out that when neighbourhood noise problems arose, residents could promptly contact the Police when necessary. EPD would also continue to inspect the construction sites in the district to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Construction Noise Permit.

19. Mr Ramon YUEN said that since the construction sites on Cheung Shun Street were very close to the residential buildings nearby and the noise problems were seriously affecting

residents, EPD should not refuse to expand the “designated area” under NCO to Cheung Shun Street just because it was not a residential area. As the work in many construction sites in the district had commenced one after another, he hoped the Department could step up their inspections and law enforcement.

20. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu said that the existing provisions on “designated areas” under NCO failed to protect residents near industrial and commercial zones. Moreover, since the land use of many land lots in the district had changed due to society’s development, he hoped EPD could study the expansion of the “designated areas” in the district.

21. Ms Eunice CHAU said that some residents had noticed that noisy works were carried out during the restricted hours on the construction sites on Cheung Shun Street, and EPD’s inspections did not have much effect. She hoped that the Department would consider helping residents affected by noise nuisance through other means, as well as take residents’ views into account when updating NCO.

22. Mr Jeffrey SIN said that the purpose of NCO was to safeguard the public’s rest time. However, EPD currently allowed powered mechanical equipment to be used on construction sites from 7 a.m., which caused great noise nuisance to residents near the sites. He urged EPD to consider advising the contractors of the construction sites to delay the daily commencement time of works.

23. Mr Jay LI said that there were a large number of redevelopment works in SSP District and piling works on the construction sites caused strong vibrations, which might damage the structures of old buildings nearby. He hoped that the relevant departments could take this problem seriously.

24. Mr Wallace YIU gave a consolidated response by saying that EPD noted members’ views, and would take members’ suggestions into consideration when reviewing the relevant policies. Apart from carrying out regular inspections, the Department had also conveyed the public’s demands to various contractors, and the majority of them had promised to avoid carrying out works that would easily cause noise during holidays as far as possible. As for the problems caused to building structures by vibrations from piling works, they were not regulated by NCO.

25. Mr Ramon YUEN moved a motion on Paper 2/21, which read as follows:

“In view of the considerable noise nuisance caused to residents by works along Lai Chi Kok Road in Cheung Sha Wan, this Committee requests the Government to expand the designated area under NCO to Cheung Shun Street as soon as possible to ensure that residents have sufficient quiet time for rest.”

26. Ms Zoé CHOW seconded the motion.

27. The Committee voted on the motion.

28. The Chairman announced that the motion was carried unanimously. He concluded that many residents in the district were affected by noise from construction sites, and it was suggested that EPD should increase its law enforcement staff and inspections of construction sites, consider carrying out joint operations with other law enforcement departments and explore the expansion of the “designated areas” under NCO to redevelopment sites in the district in the future.

(b) Request for departments to address the second-hand electrical appliance problem in the district seriously (EHC Paper 3/21)

29. Mr WAI Woon-nam introduced Paper 3/21.

30. Mr Jay LI added that the number of empty shops in the district had increased under the epidemic. During inspections with the relevant departments, he found that some second-hand electrical appliance recyclers had moved into ground floor stores to operate. As a result, the problem of street obstruction had improved slightly. On the other hand, he also observed a rising trend of second-hand electrical appliances being moved to other districts via Sham Shui Po. He hoped that the relevant departments would provide space for second-hand electrical appliance recyclers to move in to operate.

31. Mr SUM Siu-hin introduced Response Paper 13/21.

32. Mr Wallace YIU introduced Response Paper 16/21 and added that the Highways Department (“HyD”) had completed the works at the roadside of Lai Chi Kok Road near Wang Cheong Factory Estate in Cheung Sha Wan on 31 May 2019, which added daytime loading/unloading bays and free nighttime parking spaces for commercial vehicles at the location for use by second-hand electrical appliance recyclers. HyD was also adding loading/unloading bays and tightening the restrictions of prohibited areas at Yee Kuk Street to further regulate the loading and unloading of goods by second-hand electrical appliance recyclers, in order to reduce the obstruction of streets and other nuisance. The relevant departments would continue to follow up and implement the relevant suggestions.

33. Mr Rex CHAN responded that the Police had always concerned about the problems arising from the recycling of second-hand electrical appliances. They would adopt a “zero tolerance” approach in enforcing the law and instituting prosecutions, continue to support the law enforcement of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”), as well as conduct joint operations with FEHD. If articles were found to be obstructing the streets,

the Police would first post a “Notice to Remove Obstruction”, and if the owners failed to remove the articles within a reasonable time, they would be prosecuted. The Police also strove to keep roads clear to ensure the safety of road users. In 2020, the Police issued more than 4 000 penalty tickets to illegally parked vehicles in the vicinity of Yee Kuk Street and Hai Tan Street. It also conducted very successful large-scale law enforcement operations with District Traffic Teams from different Police Regions to clear articles obstructing the streets near Nam Cheong Street, and used video-recording to prosecute for illegal parking. In addition, the Police and FEHD also jointly stepped up actions against unlicensed hawkers at Tai Nan Street in recent months.

34. Assistant District Officer 2 responded that SSPDO had discussed long-term solutions to the above problem with the relevant departments, but the relevant plan was shelved due to problems including site selection. SSPDO would continue to explore other feasible solutions with the relevant departments and welcome concrete suggestions from members.

35. Mr WAI Woon-nam said that due to the small number of units and loading and unloading spaces for second-hand electrical appliance recycling at Wang Cheong Factory Estate, recyclers had no incentive to move there to operate. He hoped SSPDO would co-ordinate with other departments to find places with better ancillary facilities for second-hand electrical appliance recyclers, in order to solve the problem of second-hand electrical appliance recycling activities causing nuisance to residents in the district in the long run.

36. Mr Ronald TSUI said that he hoped the relevant departments could actively explore innovative solutions to solve at source the long-standing problems in the district. Moreover, he suggested that the Committee set up one dedicated working group for every environmental hygiene problem in the district, in order to centralise the discussions and follow-up work.

37. Ms Janet NG said that the problem of street obstruction in the district was very serious. However, the penalties did not have a sufficient deterrent effect and law enforcement efforts were not strong enough. She suggested that the relevant departments address the problem at the policy and legislative levels.

38. Ms Zoé CHOW said that the “Notice to Remove Obstruction” issued by FEHD currently gave the owners four hours to remove the articles. She thought this was too long and many offenders made use of this loophole to use streets as their temporary storage space for articles. Moreover, she opined that front-line staff of the various departments were working very hard to carry out inspections and enforce the law, but the problem was still not solved, and therefore it was necessary to change the existing policies and legislation. She hoped representatives of the relevant departments would convey this to their headquarters or

to the policy bureaux.

39. Mr KONG Kwai-sang said that the main reasons why it was hard to solve the problem of street obstruction in the district were the small number of law enforcement operations and the inadequate deterrent effect of the penalties. He suggested that the relevant departments should consider setting up dedicated teams for monitoring and issuing tickets on the streets around-the-clock, in order to increase the operating costs of offenders.

40. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu said that he hoped SSPDO would consider following up the above problem regularly through the District Management Committee (“DMC”), and solving this long-standing problem through the District-led Actions Scheme (“DAS”). In addition, he hoped the Environment Bureau would review its existing policy and report on its proposed solutions to DC.

41. The Chairman suggested that the relevant departments consider subsidising social welfare or non-profit-making organisations in the district to coordinate the second-hand electrical appliance recycling in the district, for the purpose of assisting recyclers to move away from residential buildings and reducing the obstruction of streets due to second-hand electrical appliance recycling activities.

42. Mr SUM Siu-hin gave a consolidated response by saying that second-hand electrical appliances were items with a value and FEHD could neither remove them like ordinary waste, nor discard or confiscate them. Therefore, apart from educating the relevant operators, the Department had to invoke the relevant legislation to take law enforcement action in order to reduce the impact on residents. At the same time, depending on the manpower available, the Department would arrange for staff to carry out inspections, take law enforcement action and remove second-hand electrical appliances that obstructed public places and back alleys at different times of the day, including nighttime, in order to enhance the effectiveness of the relevant work. The Department also noted that street obstruction occurred frequently on Castle Peak Road, and would step up its law enforcement.

43. Mr Wallace YIU gave a consolidated response by saying that EPD noted members’ views, and he would convey the relevant suggestions to the Department for consideration internally.

44. Mr Rex CHAN gave a consolidated response by saying that the Police would continue to assist with street management under the existing framework, and welcome the updating of the relevant legislation according to society’s development. As for the suggestion to set up dedicated teams to monitor the streets around-the-clock, the Police opined that such arrangements could not be made for the time being after reviewing the

deployment of staff and workload.

45. Assistant District Officer 2 gave a consolidated response by saying that apart from stepping up law enforcement, SSPDO would explore other long-term solutions with the relevant departments. As second-hand electrical appliance recycling was a legitimate commercial activity, the Government had to consider the recyclers' views in formulating the relevant measures, and provide them with incentives in order to encourage them to comply.

46. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu said that as many grass-roots people were involved in second-hand electrical appliance recycling, he hoped EPD could consider engaging social welfare or non-profit-making organisations to coordinate the second-hand electrical appliance recycling in the district. He also hoped that SSPDO would use more innovative methods to solve the ongoing environmental hygiene problems in the district.

47. Mr WAI Woon-nam said that he hoped DMC could meet as soon as possible to deal with the above problem.

48. The Chairman concluded that it was suggested that the relevant departments should step up their joint operations and demonstrate determined law enforcement to offenders. They should also consider setting up a licensing system to regulate second-hand electrical appliance recycling activities, and encouraging recyclers not to occupy the streets through subsidies. Moreover, he hoped that DMC would follow up the above problem as soon as possible.

(c) Request for following up on the abandoned sewer manhole on the pavement of Pak Tin Street near JCCAC (EHC Paper 4/21)

49. The Chairman said that while Mr YAN Kai-wing, who jointly submitted the paper, was not an EHC member, he hoped to share his views on this issue. Therefore, he had given Mr YAN permission to attend the current meeting.

50. Mr Jeffrey SIN introduced Paper 4/21.

51. Mr LAI Ting-fai introduced Response Paper 17/21.

52. Mr YAN Kai-wing said that he hoped DSD could explain the different types of manholes, who was responsible for their repair and how they were connected to public sewers. He also hoped that DSD would check whether the sewer at the pavement of Pak Tin Street was within the boundary of the plans of the Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre ("JCCAC"). Moreover, if in the end it could not be determined who was responsible for managing the defective manhole, he hoped DSD would consider putting the manhole under

its management.

53. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu said that he opined that the owner of a manhole could be identified by checking the records as the construction of infrastructural facilities like manholes required approval from the relevant departments. He suggested that DSD should examine whether it was necessary to preserve the manhole, and if affirmative, the Department should put the manhole under its management, and regularly clear any drain blockage.

54. Mr Jeffrey SIN enquired whether the sewerage of Pak Tin Estate was collected by sewers at Pak Tin Street, and whether DSD had any plans to replace or widen the sewers there. He suggested that SSPDO should assist JCCAC in contacting the relevant departments to find out who should be responsible for managing the manhole on the pavement of Pak Tin Street, so that if a blockage occurred at the manhole again, it could be handled promptly. He also hoped DSD would assist in solving the odour problem at that location.

55. The Chairman said that according to his understanding, the owner was responsible for the repair of the terminal manhole, while DSD was only responsible for managing public sewers. He hoped that DSD could explain in detail who was responsible for managing the various sewage facilities.

56. Mr LAI Ting-fai gave a consolidated response by saying that the sewerage of a housing estate or building would be discharged to public sewers via a terminal manhole. Thus, the repair of a terminal manhole was generally the responsibility of the developer or owners of the housing estate or building. Since the defective manhole was connected to JCCAC and was structurally a terminal manhole, DSD suggested asking the centre about the repair and maintenance of that manhole. He opined that plans sometimes could not reflect the actual situation, and whether the manhole was marked on the plans might not have any direct relation to who was responsible for its repair and maintenance. Regarding this case, the Department did not have the relevant information on who was responsible for the repair of that manhole, so in general it would refer problems relating to the manhole to the user, JCCAC, for follow-up. The Department had made a site visit with representatives of the centre and told them that it would refer problems relating to the manhole to the centre for follow-up. Afterwards, the Department did not receive any formal reply or objection to that from the centre. Since DSD did not receive a reply or information such as the relevant land lease from the centre, it could not follow up further or judge whether it could put the manhole under its management. He also pointed out that according to the plans of DSD, the sewers at Pak Tin Street mainly collected sewerage from the three schools nearby, while the sewerage of Pak Tin Estate did not pass through there.

57. The Chairman said that he noted that the building housing JCCAC was formerly a factory building under HD, and JCCAC was only a tenant. As he guessed that the owner of the building was the Government Property Agency or the Financial Secretary Incorporated, he suggested that DSD and the relevant departments should study how to improve the structure of the manhole and sewer pipes.

58. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu said that he hoped DSD could identify the department responsible for the terminal manhole as soon as possible, and report that to members in the next meeting.

59. Mr YAN Kai-wing said that when the factory building was converted into JCCAC, the legal responsibility for the underground structures might not have been segmented very carefully. Given that the Hong Kong Baptist University, which was responsible for managing the centre, might not want to follow up a problem that was outside its purview, he suggested that DSD should consider putting the manhole under its management.

60. Mr Jeffrey SIN said that he hoped that SSPDO would help to find out who was responsible for managing the terminal manhole, and that DSD would handle the odour problem at that location.

61. Assistant District Officer 2 gave a consolidated response by saying that SSPDO would contact the relevant departments after the meeting to examine who was responsible for managing the said manhole.

62. Mr LAI Ting-fai gave a consolidated response by saying that DSD had not yet received a reply from JCCAC, and that the Department would follow up the above problem depending on the information provided by the centre.

63. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu said that since the Home Affairs Department (“HAD”) was responsible for supporting the conversion project of JCCAC, and the building housing the centre was a government building, he suggested that the counterpart in HAD should contact the centre to follow up the above problem.

64. Mr Jeffrey SIN moved a motion on Paper 4/21, which read as follows:

“Request the relevant departments/organisations to arrange a thorough examination with regard to the problem of the sewer manhole on Pak Tin Street failing to discharge sewerage, arrange appropriate follow-up work (such as connecting it to public sewers) as soon as possible to solve the unpleasant problem of sewerage accumulating in the manhole and emitting foul odour, and report the progress to the DC.”

65. Mr Jay LI seconded the motion.

66. The Committee voted on the motion.

67. The Chairman announced that the motion was carried unanimously. He concluded that since the defective terminal manhole was only connected to JCCAC and the building housing the centre was a government building, it was hoped that the answer as to which government department owned the manhole and was responsible for its repair would be found out as soon as possible. In addition, he praised DSD for its prompt handling of the problem of blocked sewer pipes.

(d) 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 5-12/21)

68. Mr Jeffrey SIN said that he had found construction waste being fly-tipped in refuse depots managed by HD in the district, and hoped the relevant department could pay attention to this loophole. He enquired about the progress of the relevant departments on investigating the appearance of a large number of illegal banners in the district last October. Moreover, as residents of Shek Kip Mei Estate often found promotional leaflets about duty-not-paid cigarettes and alcohol at their metal door gates, he hoped the Customs and Excise Department (“C&ED”) could step up its law enforcement.

69. Ms Eunice CHAU said that as a “low level” of odour was occasionally detected in the monitoring of odour level by DSD at the Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works, she hoped that the Department could further strengthen its odour management measures, and arrange for members to visit the facilities inside the facility as soon as possible.

70. Mr KONG Kwai-sang said that people were often seen feeding wild birds on the footbridge connecting Lei Cheng Uk Estate and Po On Road Market, and problem of congregation of wild birds also occurred in sport grounds and streets nearby. He hoped that the relevant departments could step up their inspections.

71. The Chairman said that he had discussed with DSD earlier to arrange for members to visit the Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works, and that the Department would follow up on this later.

72. Mr Wallace YIU responded that EPD was very concerned about the fly-tipping of construction waste in the district, and the rise in fixed penalty tickets issued and prosecution figures in 2020 reflected the result of stepped-up law enforcement by the Department.

73. The Chairman said that he hoped EPD could speed up the handling of complaints about fly-tipped construction waste.

74. Mr Rex CHAN responded that combating the sale of duty-not-paid cigarettes was mainly the work of C&ED. If the relevant problem was very serious, he welcomed members reporting to the Police, who would arrange for a Special Duty Squad to follow up and enforce the law.

75. The Chairman suggested writing to HD to request that the security of public housing estates in the district be tightened, in order to prevent offenders from placing promotional leaflets about duty-not-paid cigarettes and alcohol outside the metal door gates of residential units.

[Post-meeting note: The Secretariat of DC wrote to HD about the relevant matter on 24 February 2021.]

76. Mr LIM Ying-lam responded that FEHD and LandsD had carried out multiple joint operations to follow up illegal banners at the end of last year. Later on, FEHD had issued letters to recover the relevant fees for removing the promotional materials or illegal banners. In addition, FEHD would take law enforcement action against people feeding wild birds in public places. The Department noted the illegal acts on the footbridge connecting Lei Cheng Uk Estate and Po On Road Market, and would coordinate and follow up the matter with HD.

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

78. Mr YEUNG Yuk enquired how one should handle illegal banners if they were found during the Lunar New Year holiday.

79. Mr LIM Ying-lam responded that if large numbers of illegal banners were found in the district, members could contact FEHD. The Department would timely follow up the matter with LandsD or its contractor.

80. Mr Ramon YUEN and the Chairman thanked FEHD for actively tackling different environmental and hygiene problems in the district.

Agenda Item 4: Reports from Working Groups under the Committee

(a) Report from the Working Group on Markets, Street Traders and Food Safety (EHC Paper 121/20)

81. The Committee noted and endorsed the above report.

Agenda Item 5: Any other business

(a) Establish a non-standing working group on “concerns over the operation of Cheung Wah Street public refuse collection point” (EHC Paper 111/20)

82. The Chairman introduced Paper 111/20, and suggested setting up a non-standing working group on concerns over the operation of Cheung Wah Street public refuse collection point.

83. The Committee voted on the setting up of the working group.

84. The Chairman announced that the setting up of the working group was endorsed unanimously, and suggested the following terms of reference for the working group:

(a) to study and analyse the reasons for the continuing poor hygiene and odour at Cheung Wah Street public refuse collection point despite active efforts made by FEHD for improvement;

(b) to study the impact of Cheung Wah Street public refuse collection point on the lives of nearby residents, especially those in Lai Bo Garden;

(c) to study the feasibility of having the refuse Cheung Wah Street public refuse collection point collects reduced substantially, relocating it, closing it, etc., as well as the future land use;

(d) to report to EHC.

85. The Committee voted on the terms of reference of the working group.

86. The Chairman announced that the terms of reference of the working group were endorsed unanimously.

87. Mr Jay LI nominated Mr CHUM Tak-shing as the chairman of the working group. Mr WAI Woon-nam and Ms Janet NG seconded the nomination.

88. The Chairman accepted the nomination and announced that, in accordance with the

provisions of Section 5 of Schedule 5 of the District Councils Ordinance (Cap. 547), since only he himself was nominated, he himself was elected as the chairman of the non-standing working group on concerns over the operation of Cheung Wah Street public refuse collection point. He would invite members of the public interested in the relevant issue or stakeholders to join the working group later.

89. The Chairman then said that some members wished to visit the West Kowloon Transfer Station. He enquired if EPD could arrange it as soon as possible.

90. Mr Wallace YIU responded that after the easing of the epidemic, the resumption of normal public services by the Government and the relaxation of the prohibition on group gathering, EPD would welcome visits to the West Kowloon Transfer Station by members.

91. The Chairman said that he opined that the epidemic had eased and many government departments had reopened their venues. He urged EPD to promptly arrange the visit after the Lunar New Year.

Agenda Item 6: Date of next meeting

92. The next meeting would be held at 9:30 a.m. on 15 April 2021 (Thursday).

93. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:05 p.m.

District Council Secretariat
Sham Shui Po District Office
April 2021