

(Translation)

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Environment and Hygiene Committee of  
Sham Shui Po District Council (6th Term)

Date: 16 July 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 9:50 a.m.)
Mr HO Kwan-chau, Leo	
Mr KONG Kwai-sang	(Arrived at 10:05 a.m.)
Mr LAO Ka-hang, Andy	(Arrived at 9:40 a.m.)
Ms LAU Pui-yuk, MH	
Mr LEE Hon-ting, Howard	
Mr LEE Man-ho, Leos	
Mr LI Chun-hei, Joshua	(Left at 12:30 p.m.)
Mr LI Ting-fung, Jay	
Mr MAK Wai-ming	(Arrived at 9:55 a.m.)
Ms NG Mei, Carman	(Arrived at 9:50 a.m.)
Ms NG Yuet-lan, Janet	
Mr SIN Kam-ho, Jeffrey	
Mr TAM Kwok-kiu, MH, JP	(Arrived at 10 a.m.; left at 11:50 a.m.)
Mr TSUI Yat-hin, Ronald	(Arrived at 9:45 a.m.; left at 10:09 a.m.)
Mr WAI Woon-nam	
Mr YEUNG Yuk	(Left at 12:30 p.m.)
Mr YUEN Hoi-man, Ramon	(Arrived at 9:35 a.m.; left at 11:07 a.m.)

Co-opted Members

Ms CHAN Hiu-ching  
Ms CHAN Ka-yi

In Attendance

Mr LAM Wui-tsun, Brian

Mr SUM Siu-hin

Mr AU Ka-lok

Miss CHEUNG Fung-heung

Mr LIM Ying-lam

Mr YIU Yau-man, Wallace

Mr CHAN Chi-suen, Rex

Mr IP Yiu-cheung, Sunny

Mr CHUNG Yan-chi, Jocky

Mr TO Chi-hung

Assistant District Officer (Sham Shui Po) 2

District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sham Shui Po), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Chief Health Inspector 1, Sham Shui Po District, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Acting Chief Health Inspector 2, Sham Shui Po District, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Chief Health Inspector 3, Sham Shui Po District, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West) 5, Environmental Protection Department

Police Community Relations Officer (Sham Shui Po District), Hong Kong Police Force

Neighbourhood Police Coordinator/Police Community Relations Office (Sham Shui Po District), Hong Kong Police Force

Principal Estate Officer/Kowloon West (North), Lands Department

Engineer/Kowloon (Distribution 2), Water Supplies Department

Secretary

Mr CHU Hei-yeung, Angus

Executive Officer (District Council) 1, Sham Shui Po District Office

Absent with Apologies

Member

Mr LI Kwing, Richard

Absent

Members

Mr HO Kai-ming, Calvin

Mr LAU Wai-chung, Lawrence

Co-opted Members

Mr CHOW Lai-yin

Mr CHUI Chun-choi

Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed members and representatives from government departments to the fourth 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 two hours as far as possible.

2. The Committee noted the leave application from Mr Richard LI.

Agenda Item 1: Confirmation of minutes of the 3rd meeting held on 21 May 2020

3. The Committee confirmed the above minutes without amendment.

Agenda Item 2: Matters for discussion

(a) Request for improving the effectiveness of law enforcement on water dripping from air-conditioners (EHC Paper 54/20)

4. Ms Eunice CHAU introduced Paper 54/20.
5. Mr SUM Siu-hin introduced Response Paper 65/20 and added that the drainage systems of air-conditioners in many old buildings in the district were damaged, resulting in drained water dripping directly onto the streets. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”) would follow up on such matters if they came to their attention. The Department would also arrange for staff to carry out inspections and follow up on cases of dripping air-conditions at different times of the day.
6. Mr Ramon YUEN said that the Office of the Ombudsman had published a direct investigation report on government departments’ handling of air-conditioner dripping in 2018, and asked if FEHD had adopted measures suggested in the report. In addition, he enquired what incentives were provided to encourage property management companies of housing estates in the district to join FEHD’s Scheme of Participation by Property Management Agents in Tackling Dripping Air-conditioners.
7. Ms LAU Pui-yuk said that dripping air-conditioners would affect people waiting for public transport on the streets, and suggested that FEHD should actively conduct inspections and follow up on the problem of water dripping at bus stops and locations with more pedestrian flow etc. Since there were many long-standing cases of dripping air-conditioners in the district, she also enquired how FEHD would determine whether the

problem of dripping air-conditioners in the complaint cases had been fully resolved.

8. Mr Jay LI said that some residents were reluctant to report dripping air-conditioners for fear of jeopardising their relations with neighbours, and suggested that FEHD take this into consideration when improving the complaint mechanism. He reckoned that the current 1823 system did not provide an interface for complainants to submit proof of dripping air-conditioners, and suggested that the Department should improve the system or launch a new application for the uploading of evidence.

9. Mr SUM Siu-hin gave a consolidated response by saying that improper installation of air-conditioners and drainage pipes, which were mainly found at buildings a few decades old, were the main reason for dripping air-conditioners. The Department had taken the initiative to review serious or long-standing complaint cases, and would continue to regularly inspect whether there were dripping air-conditioners in the district, as well as follow up on the public's complaints. As different types of air-conditioners had different drainage designs, FEHD staff would adjust the duration of inspection tests according to the actual circumstances. Where necessary, members of the public could report such cases through the "Tell me@1823" application and upload the relevant photos or videos. Since many new residential buildings had installed central drainage pipes, the problem of dripping air-conditioners had been greatly reduced. With regard to dripping air-conditioners in housing estates, it would be quicker and more effective for property management companies to deal with them directly, since they were most familiar with the structures of the buildings. This would also help to avoid jeopardising neighbourhood relationships. Thus, the Department would encourage property management companies of housing estates and buildings in the district to join the Scheme of Participation by Property Management Agents in Tackling Dripping Air-conditioners. It would also send commendation letters to participating property management companies that performed well in the scheme.

10. The Chairman said that while FEHD had received 1 871 complaints about dripping air-conditioners, only 451 Nuisance Notices were issued, and only 22 cases were prosecuted. He enquired whether the Department had enough manpower to handle the complaints. In addition, he enquired whether the Department had carried out inspections and tests on dripping air-conditioners after 6 p.m., and about the maximum penalty sentenced by court in relation to cases of dripping air-conditioners so far.

11. Mr SUM Siu-hin gave a consolidated response by saying that since improvements had been made in many complaint cases during the investigation stage, not all cases would be resulted in the issue of Nuisance Notices or prosecution. However, he would refer the suggestion to increase the penalty for dripping air-conditioners to FEHD Headquarters. Regarding staff deployment, in addition to handling complaints about dripping air-conditioners, the Department's health inspectors also had to regularly inspect premises

under the Department's management, such as food establishments and places of public entertainment, as well as handle other environmental hygiene issues. The Sham Shui Po District Environmental Hygiene Office had additionally appointed one retired public servant and four non-civil service contract staff to handle complex cases of dripping air-conditioners. Where necessary, they would work at night and visit the concerned buildings together to look for the source of dripping.

12. The Chairman concluded by saying that it was hoped that FEHD would step up the implementation of improvement measures suggested in the report published by the Ombudsman, increase the promotion of the Scheme of Participation by Property Management Agents in Tackling Dripping Air-conditioners, and simplify the complaint procedures. He also suggested that the Department's investigations should match with residents' work and rest hours as much as possible, and it should report the handling progress to complainants and the relevant stakeholders in a timely manner.

(b) 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 55-62/20)

13. Mr Leos LEE said that he reckoned the Police's figures on law enforcement operations in Paper 62/20 were reasonable. He also enquired the reason Lands Department ("LandsD") suddenly aborted its action to remove his banners on 25 June.

14. Mr Howard LEE said that apart from the junction of Cheung Sha Wan Road and Tonkin Street, illegal wild bird feeding was also found near the refuse collection point inside Un Chau Estate. He hoped that FEHD would step up its law enforcement actions. In addition, he suggested that the Department had increased the number of trips made by grab-mounted lorries to collect bulky waste at Un Chau Estate every week.

15. Mr KONG Kwai-sang said that the problem of fly-tipping of construction waste near Lei Cheng Uk Estate was severe, and he hoped that FEHD would promptly refer cases of construction waste accumulation to the Highways Department ("HyD") for follow-up. He also enquired about FEHD's referral mechanism of such cases.

16. Mr Jocky CHUNG responded that LandsD Headquarters would reply to Mr Leos LEE's enquiry about the removal of banners on 25 June as soon as possible. According to information provided by its contractor, their staff did not abort the operation and left the scene after running into the Member concerned. He then pointed out that the contractor

hired by the Department was only responsible for ascertaining whether the banners were displayed at the designated spots, while the removal of banners was FEHD's responsibility.

[Post-meeting note: LandsD Headquarters had separately replied to Mr Leos LEE after the meeting.]

17. Mr SUM Siu-hin responded that clearing fly-tipped construction waste was not FEHD's responsibility. If relevant complaints were received, the Department would promptly refer them to HyD for follow-up. If relevant cases were discovered by its staff during inspections, they would put up notices and cordon off the areas with plastic tapes to prevent pedestrians from getting injured, as well as refer the cases to HyD.

18. Mr LIM Ying-lam gave a consolidated response by saying that FEHD would flexibly adjust the number of trips made by grab-mounted lorries and refuse collection vehicles to collect bulky waste at housing estates, depending on different parameters such as the height limit for the operation of such vehicles, the parking spaces available and the quantity of bulky waste. The Department noted the suggestion to enhance the bulky waste collection service at Un Chau Estate. Separately, the Department had prosecuted individuals who fed wild birds illegally near Un Wai House in May. The Department would pay attention to the locations where relevant individuals usually appeared, and it would duly adjust the frequency and location of inspections.

19. Mr Wallace YIU responded that the Environmental Protection Department ("EPD") had always closely liaised with HyD with regard to fly-tipped construction waste. If fly-tipped construction waste was found in the district or relevant complaints were received, EPD would endeavour to complete the investigations within three working days, and refer the cases which clearing of construction waste were required to HyD for follow-up.

20. Mr MAK Wai-ming suggested that the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department should add the number of wild pigeons counted visually to the table showing the "figures on complaints or enquiries about wild pigeons and samples of bird droppings taken" in its report to reflect the level of severity of the congregation of wild pigeons. Moreover, he had encountered a case where fly-tipped construction waste on the street were not cleared for more than a week, and suggested that the relevant departments should improve the reporting mechanism and enhance co-ordination on such matters. He also enquired which department should be reported to if cases of wild birds feeding on the rooftops of tenement buildings or littering from the windows of dwellings were discovered. He said that the locations of illegal feeding of wild birds constantly changed, and asked how FEHD would deal with it.

21. Mr Jay LI said that the demolition of "subdivided flats" and unauthorised building

works and the major repairs of buildings were the main sources of construction waste, and suggested that the law enforcement departments should stop fly-tipping of construction waste at its source. As rainy season is coming, the mosquito problem was expected to worsen in Sham Shui Po. Thus, he suggested that relevant departments should carry out preventive measures as soon as possible.

22. Mr Leos LEE enquired again the reason LandsD stopped removing his banners upon his arrival at the scene.

23. Mr SUM Siu-hin gave a consolidated response that while wild bird feeding itself was not illegal, it was against the law and liable to a fixed penalty if public places were dirtied by the bird food. FEHD would issue summons to repeated offenders and the penalty would be determined by judges. Also, the Department would prosecute individuals throwing bird food onto a public place from a rooftop. If someone threw rubbish onto a private place from a rooftop and caused serious environmental hygiene problems, the Department might also issue a Nuisance Notice. Regarding mosquito problems, the Department had stepped up efforts to educate the public to remove stagnant water, and it would continue to spray mosquito larvicidal oil at breeding spots. Regarding fly-tipped construction waste, even though the clearance of such waste was not FEHD's responsibility, the Department would help to prosecute if cases of fly-tipping of waste or littering were found during their inspections.

24. Mr LIM Ying-lam responded that FEHD's foremen and outsourced service staff would report on locations where illegal feeding of wild birds frequently took place, and the Department would duly arrange staff to follow up.

25. Mr Wallace YIU responded that EPD would send flyers and reminder letters to buildings undergoing building or window inspections, as a reminder to properly dispose construction waste.

26. Mr Jocky CHUNG responded that he would look into the details of what happened on the day when Mr Leos LEE's banner was removed after the meeting, and offer an explanation afterwards.

[Post-meeting note: After the meeting, the contractor hired by LandsD replied to Mr Leos LEE and clarified on what happened that day.]

27. Ms LAU Pui-yuk enquired whether government departments other than FEHD and the Police had taken action against shop front extensions in the vicinity of Pei Ho Street Market. She also found frequent cases fly-tipping of construction waste in some private back alleys in the district, and enquired how would relevant departments follow up. In

addition, she suggested HyD to include statistics on the black spots of fly-tipping of construction waste in their report.

28. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu suggested that FEHD should analyse the reasons for severe mosquito problem in Sham Shui Po East in recent months, including whether it is related to the public works nearby. He also suggested that FEHD should consider assisting private housing estates to manage and cleanse their private roads or back alleys, including helping them to eliminate mosquitoes and wash the streets. He also found many illegal banners near Nam Cheong Street, and hoped relevant departments would increase inspections and step up removal work.

29. Ms Janet NG said that she reckoned it was too slow for HyD to handle fly-tipped construction waste, and suggested inviting HyD to send representatives to attend EHC meetings to explain further. Regarding the black spots of fly-tipping of construction waste that were on private roads, she suggested that FEHD should work with the owners' corporations managing the roads to resolve the problem. She also enquired the necessary evidence when the public report illegal wild bird feeding cases happened in private places.

30. Mr Jeffrey SIN enquired which government department was responsible for the motorcycles abandoned at the roadside. Also, he hoped that the Water Supplies Department ("WSD") would explain whether they would actively follow up on the unusual increase in the water charges of households during the epidemic, and adjust the method of calculating water charges in the next quarter. In addition, he suggested that FEHD and the Housing Department ("HD") should enhance their bulky waste collection service at various housing estates. Moreover, he enquired whether the figures on the collection of bulky waste in housing estates in Paper 61/20 showed the number of trips made by FEHD to the housing estates, or the number of trips to individual refuse collection points in the housing estates.

31. Mr MAK Wai-ming said that if people fed wild birds in private places, wild birds would congregate at the apartments above and lead to hygiene problems. Therefore, he suggested that FEHD should come up with targeted solutions to the problem.

32. Mr SUM Siu-hin gave a consolidated response by saying that FEHD would analyse the reasons for the severe mosquito problems in Sham Shui Po East after the meeting. It would also continue to step up anti-mosquito work around Mission Hill. Moreover, the Department had already carried out a large-scale cleansing operation at Sai Yeung Choi Street North in April. It would continue to carry out anti-mosquito measures in the district, including private roads and public areas. The Department also noted the problem of illegal banners around Nam Cheong Street.



33. Mr SUM Siu-hin then said that if environmental hygiene problems arose in private housing estates, the Department would first give advice to the owners or management companies. If there was no improvement after advice was given, the Department might issue a Nuisance Notice or prosecute the parties concerned. If a residential unit was filled with rubbish and the owner lacked the ability to clear it, the Department would consider helping the owner to carry out a one-off cleansing work to maintain public hygiene.

34. Mr LIM Ying-lam gave a consolidated response by saying that some of the refuse collection points in Shek Kip Mei Estate had an old-fashioned design, therefore large refuse collection vehicles could not enter. FEHD would study how to further enhance the bulky waste collection service at the housing estate concerned. He also pointed out that the abovementioned figures showed the number of trips made by the Department's vehicles to collect bulky waste at the housing estates in the district.

35. Assistant District Officer 2 responded that the Sham Shui Po District Office ("SSPDO") had conveyed members' concern and policy suggestions with regard to the shop front extensions in the vicinity of Pei Ho Street Market to the relevant policy bureaux.

36. Mr Rex CHAN responded that the Police would take action if any abandoned vehicles endangered road users' safety or were related to other criminal cases. If there were illegally parked vehicles, Police officers would first issue fixed penalty tickets. If an illegally parked vehicle remained at the same place for a long time, the Police would look for the vehicle owner through vehicle registration. If the owner could not be contacted, the case would be referred to the relevant departments for follow-up.

37. Mr Wallace YIU responded that EPD would continue to step up their inspections at shops in the vicinity of Pei Ho Street Market. During the Department's inspections, it was discovered that the music played by the relevant shops did not violate the relevant provisions in the Noise Control Ordinance. Also, after advice was given, the shops immediately turned down the volume of the music.

38. Ms LAU Pui-yuk suggested that SSPDO should hold an inter-departmental meeting to co-ordinate actions against shop front extension, noise and hygiene problems in the vicinity of Pei Ho Street Market.

39. Assistant District Officer 2 responded that during the initial implementation stage of the ordinance for fixed penalty on shop front extensions, SSPDO had liaised with relevant government departments to facilitate cooperation. With the joint efforts of relevant departments, the current mechanism in handling problems associated with shops in the vicinity of Pei Ho Street Market had proved to be very effective. Moreover, the relevant policy bureaux and departments needed time to study the suggestions on policies and

internal management, such as hiring additional staff, amending relevant laws and increasing penalties.

40. Mr Jeffrey SIN suggested that EPD should step up inspections with regard to the noise nuisance problem near Mission Hill.

41. Mr Leo HO enquired whether people should pay their water bills before the deadline as usual if they had questions about the bill amount.

42. Mr TO Chi-hung gave a consolidated response by saying that WSD would follow up on Members' reports and provide a written reply to the enquiries about water bills after the meeting.

43. The Chairman said that he hoped WSD could provide the reply as soon as possible. However, the problem concerning water charges was not related to this discussion item and the terms of reference of EHC. Therefore, he suggested that Members should discuss it on other occasion as appropriate.

44. Mr Wallace YIU responded that the area around Mission Hill was a public place, and the noise nuisance problem in that area should be handled by the Police.

45. 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

46. Ms LAU Pui-yuk said that the shop front extension, noise and hygiene problems in the vicinity of Pei Ho Street Market had become increasingly severe. She reckoned the work of relevant departments was ineffective, and enquired about the specific work undertaken by relevant departments to resolve the above problems over the past few months.

47. Ms Carman NG said that she had discovered some shops violating the orders of law enforcement departments and continued to operate their businesses, and enquired whether the current prosecution efforts were effective. She pointed out particularly that the streets in the vicinity of Pei Ho Street Market were heavily blocked, and suggested that the Police should use warning tapes to designate a path for pedestrians.

48. Ms Janet NG suggested that FEHD representatives should report the above problems to its headquarters, and actively implement different improvement policies. Also, she

reckoned that there was a spreading trend in shops committing illegal acts, and hoped that the Police and FEHD would step up their joint law enforcement operations.

49. Mr WAI Woon-nam said that it was the contractors of nearby shops who blocked the roads with goods. He suggested that relevant departments should investigate the registration information of the shops concerned to understand their relationship, and step up prosecution of all parties concerned.

50. The Chairman said that the current fixed penalty for shop front extensions did not have a deterrent effect. He suggested that relevant departments should increase the penalty and confiscate the goods, as well as report the information of all relevant inspections and law enforcement operations to EHC. He also hoped SSPDO would consider holding an inter-departmental meeting to follow up on this matter.

51. Mr SUM Siu-hin gave a consolidated response by saying that FEHD was mainly responsible for regulating shop front extensions and illegal hawking. The Department conducted joint operations with the Police on 20 May, 23 May, 25 May and 7 July this year, and made 31 prosecutions. Between May and June, the Department issued 880 verbal warnings and made 226 prosecutions at black spots of illegal hawking, and confiscated goods on 51 occasions related to hawking offences. The Department would include relevant figures in the report starting from the next meeting for members' reference. After late May, the Department had issued court summons to shops violating the law instead of issuing fixed penalty tickets, in order to increase the deterrent effect. If a shop was convicted by the court, the Department's prosecution team would also submit a report detailing the number of complaints received, the concerns of District Council ("DC"), etc. for the judge's reference when deciding on penalties. If the situation continue to worsen, the Department would consider conducting large-scale joint operations, and law enforcement officers might even arrest the individuals involved in illegal hawking. However, since such arrests were expected to the concern of different stakeholders, the Department needed to plan ahead carefully. Apart from enforcing the law and regularly educating the shops, the Department had referred complaints on the blocking of fire escapes of buildings, the hindering of disabled people's use of pavements and the damage to street facilities to the relevant departments for follow-up. The Department hoped that other related departments could work together and commit to their job responsibilities.

52. Mr Rex CHAN gave a consolidated response by saying that the Police took the issue very seriously and would continue to fully support FEHD's law enforcement operations. As shown in Paper 62/20, there was a significant increase in the number of law enforcement operations and prosecutions recently, indicating that the Police was dedicated to solve the above problems. As for the suggestion to close off the roads by using warning tapes, the Police would need to study it carefully, and provide detailed explanation to the

public and different stakeholders for doing so. Generally speaking, the Police would only close off roads temporarily to ensure people's safety. It would need to discuss with other departments before carrying out long-term closure of roads.

53. Assistant District Officer 2 gave a consolidated response by saying that relevant departments had adopted different measures to mitigate the impact of the above problems, and would continue to discuss feasible solutions to solve them at the District Management Committee ("DMC") meetings. If Members had any other policy recommendations, SSPDO would convey them to the relevant policy bureaux or departments.

54. Ms LAU Pui-yuk said that since several departments are involved in this issue, they should enhance cooperation. She also hoped to attend DMC meetings to understand the progress on this matter.

55. Ms Carman NG said that there were hawkers in the vicinity of Pei Ho Street Market illegally occupying parking spaces and an entire lane of the road. They even sold food directly from trucks or on the road, causing hygiene and road safety concerns. She hoped that relevant departments would take the issue seriously.

56. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu suggested that SSPDO should examine the role of relevant departments and their division of labour in this matter, and consult Members on the results of such review. He agreed that FEHD should carefully consider whether to arrest those illegal hawkers, and suggested that SSPDO should provide views on this matter.

57. The Chairman concluded that it was hoped that SSPDO would review the effectiveness of relevant departments' efforts on the above problems and the room for improving the related policies, and resolve similar issues at other locations in the district accordingly. Moreover, he suggested to include this issue as a follow-up item of the next meeting.

58. Ms LAU Pui-yuk moved a provisional motion, which read as follows:

"Due to the outbreak of the virus in the community near Pei Ho Street Market, many residents were extremely concerned and worried about the street obstruction problems caused by the goods/refuse of shops in its vicinity. The Committee strongly urges SSPDO to organise an inter-departmental meeting as soon as possible, with a view to coordinate relevant departments' efforts to resolve the problems caused by the shop front extensions (especially vegetable and fruit shops) around Pei Ho Street Market as soon as possible, and report to the Committee regularly."

59. Mr Leo HO seconded the motion.

60. Mr Howard LEE and Ms Janet NG said that since there were similar problems near other public markets in the district, the provisional motion should not only cover Pei Ho Street Market. Therefore, they requested that the meeting be adjourned for five minutes to allow Members to study the provisional motion carefully.

61. Ms LAU Pui-yuk said that this agenda item was to follow up on the shop front extension, noise and hygiene problems in the vicinity of Pei Ho Street Market, therefore she moved a provisional motion targeting this area. She hoped that Members would consider processing her provisional motion first.

62. The Chairman announced that the meeting would be adjourned for five minutes.

[The meeting was adjourned for five minutes.]

63. The Chairman announced that the meeting was resumed.

64. Ms Wallace YIU gave a consolidated response by saying that EPD had carried out 60 inspections on traders in the vicinity of Pei Ho Street Market and other parts of the district between May and June, in which they did not discover noises generated from loudspeakers for the purpose of attracting attention to goods, products or businesses. Therefore, the relevant traders did not violate Section 5(4) of the Noise Control Ordinance. Meanwhile, the Department would continue to liaise with Members to arrange noise volume assessments at residential units located above the relevant shops as soon as possible.

65. Mr Howard LEE moved an amended provisional motion, which read as follows:

“Due to the outbreak of the virus in the community near Pei Ho Street Market, many residents were extremely concerned and worried about the street obstruction problems caused by the goods/refuse of shops near public markets in the district. The Committee strongly urges SSPDO to review the situation of street obstruction in the district, and organise an inter-departmental meeting as soon as possible, with a view to coordinate relevant departments’ efforts to resolve the problems caused by shop front extensions around public markets in the district as soon as possible, and report to the Committee regularly.”

66. Ms Janet NG seconded the motion.

67. Ms LAU Pui-yuk said that since the problem of shop front extensions was the most serious in the vicinity of Pei Ho Street Market, she hoped that Members would focus on this area first. She agreed that shop front extensions also existed around other public markets in the district, but she reckoned that there was no conflict between the original provisional motion and the amended provisional motion. Therefore, she suggested that the Chairman

should process both provisional motions.

68. Ms Janet NG said that since the original provisional motion did not mention other public markets in the district, she reckoned that there was a conflict between the contents of the two provisional motions. Moreover, she reckoned that SSPDO should also review the street obstruction problems in the vicinity of other public markets in the district, and this suggestion was not mentioned in the original provisional motion. Therefore, she suggested that the Committee should only handle the amended provisional motion.

69. Mr Jeffrey SIN said that since the problem of shop front extensions was widespread in the district, the provisional motion should not only cover the area near Pei Ho Street Market.

70. Ms LAU Pui-yuk said that since both provisional motions requested an inter-departmental meeting to resolve the problems related to people's daily lives, and their wordings were similar, therefore she hoped that Members would support processing both provisional motions.

71. Ms Janet NG said that as the problem of shop front extensions was not confined to the vicinity of Pei Ho Street Market, she reckoned that the scope of the original provisional motion was too narrow and should not be processed.

72. Mr MAK Wai-ming said that the amended provisional motion urged relevant departments to strengthen their work in the entire district, with a view to ensure the safety of all residents in Sham Shui Po. Therefore, he reckoned that it was more desirable to process the amended provisional motion.

73. Mr WAI Woon-nam said that he was greatly concerned about all cases of shop front extensions in the district. Therefore, he supported the amended provisional motion.

74. The Chairman said that since only the amended provisional motion mentioned a district-wide suggestion to resolve the problem of shop front extensions, he reckoned that the two provisional motions were different in principle. After taking Members' views into consideration, he decided not to process the original provisional motion, but only to process the amended provisional motion.

75. Ms LAU Pui-yuk said that she reckoned it was unnecessary to amend the original provisional motion, and she did not agree with the Chairman's view and decision either. However, on the account of people's daily lives, she respected the amended provisional motion moved by other Members.

76. The Committee voted on the amended provisional motion.

77. The Chairman announced that the amended provisional motion was carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 4: Reports from Working Groups under the Committee

(a) Report from the Working Group on Pest Control in Community (EHC Paper 63/20)

(b) Report from the Working Group on Environmental Protection (EHC Paper 64/20)

[Post-meeting note: The Committee endorsed the above working group reports by circulation after the meeting.]

Agenda Item 5: Any other business

78. Ms Janet NG said that the recent coronavirus epidemic was serious and there were confirmed cases at Pei Ho Street Market. She hoped that the relevant departments would step up their cleansing and disinfection work.

79. Ms LAU Pui-yuk said that several individuals who tested positive for the virus had visited Pei Ho Street Market and restaurants in its vicinity, so that the public and market traders may fear of an outbreak in the community. Therefore, she suggested that relevant departments should step up disinfection and cleansing of Pei Ho Street Market and the streets nearby, remind people to wear masks at the entrances/exits of the market, distribute anti-epidemic supplies to market traders, arrange for traders to undergo virus tests, and enhance communication with market traders.

80. Mr SUM Siu-hin gave a consolidated response by saying that in addition to routine cleansing, FEHD would now use diluted household bleach to enhance the disinfection of public places and facilities at public markets, as well as carry out a thorough cleansing every night. Due to the confirmed cases at Pei Ho Street Market, the Department had already carried out an intensive disinfection and cleansing of the public places and facilities of the public market. Regarding anti-epidemic measures, he had conveyed the suggestions about arranging for market traders to undergo virus tests and making it mandatory to wear masks in public markets to FEHD Headquarters and relevant departments. The Department had also put up posters and issued letters to remind traders to wear masks at all times, and would provide masks to elderly traders running out of masks. In addition, the Department would continue to discuss anti-epidemic measures with market traders.

81. Mr WAI Woon-nam said that some market traders did not wear masks in summer

because it was hot and stuffy. He hoped that FEHD would install air-conditioning systems in public markets and offer subsidies for air-conditioning electricity charges to market traders.

82. Ms LAU Pui-yuk said that due to the epidemic, she suggested that FEHD should remind market traders to wear masks and consider distributing anti-epidemic supplies such as masks to all market traders. Moreover, she hoped that FEHD would convey the suggestion about arranging for market traders to undergo virus tests to the relevant policy bureaux, with a view to protect the health of market traders and the public.

83. Ms Janet NG thanked FEHD for their prompt action, and enquired whether the Department would disinfect and cleanse Pei Ho Street Market every night, as well as the methods of cleansing. In addition, she suggested that the Department should distribute anti-epidemic supplies to market traders to raise their anti-epidemic awareness.

84. Mr Jay LI said that since good ventilation was beneficial to slow down the spread of the virus, he suggested that FEHD should install air-conditioning systems in public markets. Also, he hoped that the Department would pay attention to rodent infestation problem in Pei Ho Street Market.

85. Mr Jeffrey SIN said that he believed FEHD had tried its best to disinfect and cleanse public markets. As distributing masks to market traders was not FEHD's responsibility, he hoped relevant departments would provide assistance. In addition, he suggested that FEHD should deploy staff to implement crowd control at the entrances/exits of public markets.

86. Mr Leos LEE suggested that FEHD should distribute comfortable masks with high quality to market traders.

87. Mr MAK Wai-ming suggested that FEHD should step up its efforts to carry out inspections, and advise market traders to wear masks to prevent the spread of the virus.

88. Mr Howard LEE suggested that FEHD should implement crowd control at public markets, and educate market traders about the importance of wearing masks.

89. Ms LAU Pui-yuk said that the public and market traders were very concerned about the cleanliness and safety of public markets, and hoped that FEHD would continue to enhance its disinfection and cleansing work.

90. Mr Andy LAO said that he hoped relevant departments would improve the information release mechanism for confirmed cases, and encourage the public and market traders to wear masks.



91. Mr SUM Siu-hin gave a consolidated response by saying that according to a survey in 2016, less than 80% of traders at Pei Ho Street Market supported the installation of air-conditioning systems, which was below the threshold for endorsing the suggestion. He would convey to FEHD Headquarters about Members' wish to include Sham Shui Po public markets in the Market Modernisation Programme to analyse the views on implementation of enhancement works, such as installing air-conditioning systems.

92. Mr SUM Siu-hin then said that due to the confirmed cases at Pei Ho Street Market, the Department had immediately carried out deep cleansing and disinfection work with more concentrated bleach after the closing of the market at night, and the cleansing staff had worn full protective gear. Since a worker at Pei Ho Street Market had tested positive, the Department would also carry out disinfection and cleansing work at the stall concerned and his home. Regarding crowd control measures, the Department did not set a limit on the total number of customers in public markets, and it would need to consult all stakeholders if such limit was set. Also, the Department welcomed members to distribute masks and promote anti-epidemic measures to the public, and it would broadcast in public markets to urge everyone there to wear a mask. At the same time, the Department would continue to step up rodent control and welcome suggestions from Members and market traders.

93. Miss CHEUNG Fung-heung gave a consolidated response by saying that FEHD would check customers' temperatures with handheld thermometers at Po On Road Market Cooked Food Centre and Pei Ho Street Market Cooked Food Centre, but currently there was no such arrangement at the entrances/exits on the ground level of Pei Ho Street Market.

[Post-meeting note: In order to further strengthen the anti-epidemic measures, FEHD installed a body temperature checking system at the main entrance/exit of Pei Ho Street Market, and also arranged to check customers' temperatures with handheld thermometers at the other entrances/exits.]

94. The Chairman suggested that the Department of Health should arrange for market traders to undergo virus tests. In addition, he suggested that relevant departments should consider distributing masks to market traders. The Working Group on Markets, Street Traders and Food Safety under EHC could also consider inviting organisations in the district to apply for DC Funds to purchase masks and distribute them to market traders.

95. Ms Janet NG moved two motions, which read as follows:

“Request relevant departments to immediately carry out a comprehensive cleansing of Pei Ho Street Market and invite all traders to undergo virus tests, to prevent a further outbreak of the virus in the community.”

“Request the Government to introduce additional legislation requiring all market traders in Hong Kong to wear masks in public markets, to cut off the transmission chains in the community.”

96. Mr WAI Woon-nam seconded the motions.

97. The Chairman said that since the two motions had similar contents, he suggested to combine them into one motion.

98. The Committee voted on the motion.

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

100. The Chairman concluded that it was hoped that FEHD would step up the cleansing and disinfection of public markets in Sham Shui Po to prevent the spread of the virus in the community.

Agenda Item 6: Date of next meeting

101. The next meeting would be held at 9:30 a.m. on 8 October 2020 (Thursday).

102. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:55 p.m.

District Council Secretariat  
Sham Shui Po District Office  
September 2020