

(Translation)

Minutes of the 17th Meeting of Sham Shui Po District Council (6th Term)
under the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Date: 8 November 2022 (Tuesday)

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room, Sham Shui Po District Council

Present

Chairman

Mr CHUM Tak-shing

Members

Mr HO Kwan-chau, Leo (Left at 1:12 p.m.)

Ms LAU Pui-yuk, MH (Left at 1:12 p.m.)

Mr LI Ting-fung, Jay

Mr MAK Wai-ming (Arrived at 9:45 a.m., left at 11:31 a.m.)

Ms NG Mei, Carman (Left at 11:18 a.m.)

Ms NG Yuet-lan, Janet

Mr YUEN Hoi-man, Ramon

In Attendance

Mr WONG Yan-yin, Paul, JP

District Officer (Sham Shui Po)

Ms CHAN Siu-ping, Daphne

Senior Liaison Officer 2, Sham Shui Po District Office

Miss LAU Sze-nga, Vivicia

Senior Liaison Officer 3, Sham Shui Po District Office

Ms WONG Yu-hang, Anita

Senior Liaison Officer 4, Sham Shui Po District Office

Ms MAK Siu-ling, Iris

Chief Manager/M (KWS), Housing Department

Mr YU Wai-yip, Ricky

District Social Welfare Officer (Sham Shui Po), Social Welfare Department

Mr NG Lok-chun, Jim

District Commander (Sham Shui Po District), Hong Kong Police Force

Mr WAN Chi-pui

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

Ms TAM Pui-wah, Alice

Chief Transport Officer/Kowloon 1, Transport Department

Mr KWAN Chung-wai, David

Chief Leisure Manager (HKE), Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Ms SHING Lai-kam, Goldie	District Leisure Manager (Sham Shui Po), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr HUI Chi-ping, Edwin	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sham Shui Po), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr LUI Sai-tat	Chief Health Inspector (Sham Shui Po) 3, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr POON Kwok-chung, Peter	Senior Engineer/2(S), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Dr AU Ka-wing, Albert	Principal Medical & Health Officer (Epidemiology), Department of Health
Dr TSANG Wai-kong, William	Senior Medical & Health Officer (Emergency Preparedness and District Relations)1, Department of Health
Mr HO Lai-wa	Chief Engineer/Kowloon, Water Supplies Department
Mr LAU Wai-leung, Peter	Senior Engineer/Kowloon 1, Water Supplies Department
Mr YU Man-tat	Senior Chemist/Water Safety, Water Supplies Department
Mr LO Wai-kin, William	Senior Engineer/ Walkability 3, Transport Department
<u>Secretary</u>	
Ms HO Kam-ping, Jennifer	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Sham Shui Po District Office

Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives from government departments to the seventeenth meeting of the Sham Shui Po District Council (“SSPDC”). He said that Ms Anita WONG, Senior Liaison Officer 4, Sham Shui Po District Office (“SSPDO”), would attend the future meetings. To reduce the risk of the spread of the epidemic, the attendees and observers had scanned the QR code with the “LeaveHomeSafe” mobile application, checked their temperatures and registered before entering the Conference Room.

Agenda Item 1: Confirmation of minutes of the 16th meeting held on 6 September 2022

2. The minutes of the above meeting were confirmed without amendment.

Agenda Item 2: Matters for discussion

(a) Tackling the rampant melioidosis cases in Sham Shui Po District (SSPDC Paper 27/22)

(b) High concern over the outbreak of melioidosis cases in Sham Shui Po Request for the Authority to stop the spread of disease by identifying the source of infection as soon as possible (SSPDC Paper 28/22)

3. The Chairman said that as the above two papers were similar in nature, he suggested discussing them together. Members raised no objection.

4. Mr Ramon YUEN introduced Paper 27/22. He hoped to know the government departments’ overall judgement and relevant work on melioidosis. Besides, he enquired whether the outbreak could be prevented if there was a notification system of melioidosis, and whether the private healthcare system had the ability to handle relevant cases. He was concerned that if the public and private healthcare systems did not work closely, there might be missing cases that the authority might overlook.

5. Mr Leo HO introduced Paper 28/22.

6. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had invited the Sham Shui Po District Health Centre (“DHC”) to the meeting but was declined by the party concerned. He asked Members to refer to the Response Paper 27a/22.

7. Dr Albert AU introduced Response Paper 27b/22. He thanked Members for their views and added that humans could become infected through contact with contaminated soil and water; inhalation of contaminated dust/water droplets; and ingestion of contaminated water. Person-to-person transmission was very rare. The Government was very concerned about the increase of melioidosis cases in recent months and had conducted investigations and adopted multiple preventive and control measures. He said that the last melioidosis case was recorded in the district 21 days ago. The Centre for Health Protection (“CHP”) of the Department of Health (“DH”) would continue to closely monitor if the outbreak of melioidosis cases had been under control.

8. Mr HO Lai-wa added that the Water Supplies Department (“WSD”) had increased the content of residual chlorine in water supplied to Sham Shui Po District in last month and this month respectively, increased the frequency of checking water samples of the water supply system, and installed high efficiency particulate air filters at the air vents of Shek Kip Mei Nos 1 to 3 Service Reservoirs and Beacon Hill Service Reservoir. The Department was arranging the installation of real-time residual chlorine monitoring device at outfall locations of the service reservoirs at the moment. It was expected that the installation would be completed in the coming few days gradually.

9. Ms LAU Pui-yuk was disappointed that DHC did not send staff to the meeting. She said that melioidosis cases were rarely seen in Hong Kong in the past, and residents were concerned about the successive outbreaks of infection cases within the district. She pointed out that many residents would do morning exercises in the vicinity of service reservoir in the district. Given that some soil samples of the service reservoir tested positive for melioidosis bacteria, she enquired about the Government’s follow-up action, whether the temporary closure of the morning exercise locations of the relevant service reservoir would be considered, and if increasing the content of residual chlorine in fresh water was a district-wide measure. She then enquired about the timetable of including melioidosis as a notifiable infectious disease and whether the construction site in Pak Tin Estate would continue to be disinfected. Besides, many residents said that they had shown similar symptoms of melioidosis before, but did not know how to consult a doctor. She suggested the authority set up a temporary testing station to assist in blood testing and provide a hotline or dispatch a mobile van etc., so that residents could make enquiry when necessary.

10. Mr Ramon YUEN said that since the source of infection was pending investigation, he enquired about the direction of investigation. Besides, he noted that the results of the genome sequencing for the samples might be similar to those of some patients. He enquired whether it indicated that the patients had visited relevant places before and whether there were melioidosis cases referred by private hospitals or clinics at the moment.

11. Ms Carman NG said that many morning walkers were concerned that they might have touched the soil while doing outdoor exercises. She suggested the Bureau provide information or step up publicity at the venues in the vicinity of Shek Kip Mei Service Reservoir, including the cleaning advice upon contact with soil, etc. She also hoped that WSD would provide the documents on the aforementioned air improvement measure for residents' information. Besides, she noted that the ground on the construction site in Pak Tin Estate had been spread with slaked lime to kill the bacteria. However, she was concerned that the wind would easily churn up a cloud of dust. She hoped that the Housing Department ("HD") would consider adding a dust filter to avoid the dust being spread to the podium nearby. She also suggested CHP sending mobile vans to the housing estates in the district for promotion to facilitate the elderly who could not attend the talks on melioidosis, and exploring more facility improvement options, while DHC should assist in public education.

12. Ms Janet NG said that some residents might pick plants to take home. She was concerned whether plants would become the medium of bacterial transmission, and hoped that the Government would step up the publicity on relevant information.

13. Mr Jay LI said that rainstorm would make the melioidosis bacteria in soil and muddy water more easily exposed to the ground and likely to spread. He enquired whether the typhoon hitting Hong Kong in recent days would increase the risk of melioidosis outbreak in other construction sites in the district, and about the reasons for the rising trend of local melioidosis cases in recent years. Besides, he enquired whether the Bureau, apart from giving advice on spreading slaked lime, would brief contractors or construction workers and provide protective equipment in order to raise their awareness and reduce the risk of infection.

14. Mr Leo HO said that the works company of the construction site in Pak Tin Estate had contacted him for help, saying that workers who used to work at the concerned construction site were worried about being infected. He enquired how they could receive antibody tests.

15. Dr Albert AU thanked Members for their views. He gave a consolidated response by saying that CHP would continue to step up publicity education, including organising talks, producing publicity materials, and would consider disseminating new information through non-governmental organisations and by means of SMS to the public, so as to ease residents' concern over the melioidosis bacteria. Moreover, CHP would also discuss with the Health Bureau the necessity and possibility of sending mobile vans to the district. Members of the public could also call DH's hotline if needed. Besides, CHP had conducted antibody tests on 26 high-risk construction workers in Pak Tin Estate, and the result showed that 10 persons tested positive for antibodies. However, they did

not show any serious symptoms in recent days and the past year, and it was believed that these were asymptomatic cases in the past. He then said that as both serological test and antibody test could not tell when the patient was infected, and thus they were not the scientific methods for diagnosing acute infection. He appealed to the public to seek medical treatment as soon as possible if they displayed symptoms.

As regards disinfection, relevant departments had already spread the ground of the construction site in Pak Tin Estate with slaked lime, which would effectively kill the bacteria on the soil surface. Experts also advised HD to conduct thorough disinfection again after carrying out deep excavation at the construction site. Besides, the Government would list melioidosis as a statutorily notifiable infectious disease on Friday. It would help CHP monitor the prevalence of the disease, and CHP would also strengthen the monitoring of melioidosis cases with the Hospital Authority (“HA”). All registered doctors had to report suspected or confirmed infection cases. He believed that private hospitals had the capability and technique to conduct bacterial culture tests on samples taken from patients in order to diagnose whether the patients had been infected with the melioidosis bacteria. He then said that the rise in melioidosis cases in recent years might be related to the factors such as temperature rise, ageing population and increase in people with chronic illness.

Regarding the follow-up investigation, four soil samples collected from the construction site were tested positive, but the number of bacteria was so small that bacterial culture was unsuccessful. On the other hand, positive bacterial culture was yielded from six of the soil samples collected from the service reservoir. After completing whole genome sequencing, the results revealed that the bacteria of the soil and those of some patients were genetically highly similar. He stressed that chlorine could kill the bacteria in fresh water. The authority had also collected water samples from the service reservoir, buildings and homes of the patients for testing, and all samples tested negative for melioidosis bacteria. WSD would strengthen the monitoring work to ensure the content of residual chlorine in fresh water be maintained at a level that complied with the standard. Besides, to ensure that the melioidosis bacteria did not enter the service reservoir through its air vents, CHP had collected swab samples near the ventilator and in the service reservoir with WSD. Some samples collected tested negative for the time being.

[Post-meeting note: CHP had enhanced public education through various channels, including launching a dedicated webpage on melioidosis to provide the latest information for reference by the public. CHP had provided information, such as causative agent, clinical features, mode of transmission, high risk groups and ways of prevention, by means of fact sheets, leaflets, infographics and slides, etc. CHP had also enhanced public education through social media, and produced leaflets about melioidosis for distribution in

the community through the Home Affairs Department. Besides, CHP also gave health advice to the construction industry through the Labour Department. Important health information had been translated into various languages and uploaded to CHP website to keep ethnic minorities informed of the situation, and preventive measures to be taken were also suggested. Besides, CHP also delivered the latest health information about melioidosis to organisations serving ethnic minorities so as to seek their assistance in disseminating the message to ethnic minorities. To help Sham Shui Po District heighten the vigilance and prevent melioidosis infection, CHP organised five health talks for residents in Sham Shui Po in October and November. CHP also distributed leaflets about melioidosis through DHC to residents in the district and disseminated important messages to members of the local community and residents through SSPDO.]

16. Mr Ramon YUEN said that as some patients infected with melioidosis were asymptomatic or had mild symptoms, and the general symptoms were similar to common cold, he was concerned that doctors might not be able to effectively differentiate and report to the authority.

17. Dr Albert AU said that the existing patients with melioidosis were admitted to hospitals through accident and emergency rooms, and were in relatively serious condition. He added that as some symptoms of melioidosis were similar to general bacterial infection, doctors might not be able to ascertain if the patients had melioidosis from clinical features, instead they had to consider factors such as the residing locations of patients, whether they had visited the district where outbreaks occurred, and took samples from patients suspected to have melioidosis for examination. Doctors had to report to the authority for further investigation if suspected or confirmed melioidosis cases were found. He said that the existing cases were recorded in HA system and be reported, proving that the practice was effective. He appealed again to the public to seek medical treatment as soon as possible if they had symptoms so as to receive appropriate medical diagnosis and treatment.

18. Mr HO Lai-wa said that WSD had already shared water safety measures adopted by the Department on social media, and would step up publicity where necessary so as to ease the minds of the public.

19. The Chairman concluded that he hoped the Government could find the source of infection as soon as possible, continue to carry out publicity and education work in the district, and improve relevant measures, so as to reduce the risk of infection.

(c) Enquiry about the progress of measures to be implemented in Sham Shui Po District under “Walk in HK” (SSPDC Paper 29/22)

(d) Request for the Task Force/Walkability to report the progress and give an account of the “Walkable City Scheme” in Sham Shui Po District (SSPDC Paper 30/22)

20. The Chairman said that as the above two papers were similar in nature, he suggested discussing the two items together. Members had no objection.

21. Ms LAU Pui-yuk introduced Paper 29/22. She said that as the space for access was narrow at the junction of Yu Chau Street and Pei Ho Street due to the footpath widening works, many residents objected the works. She enquired of the Transport Department (“TD”) about the way forward of the issue. Besides, she also enquired of TD about measures in short, medium and long term to reduce traffic accidents in the district, and suggested that the Department should first consult residents before launching measures to ensure smooth implementation.

22. Mr Jay LI introduced Paper 30/22. He said that the information on the scheme provided by the Department earlier was rather fragmented and he would like to enquire about the details of the scheme, including the improvement measures, expected achievements, feasibility and future directions.

23. Mr William LO introduced Response Paper 29a/22.

24. Mr Ramon YUEN said that he was worried about the figures of traffic accidents in the market and street area of Sham Shui Po as shown in the open data. He hoped that the Department could set up low speed limit zones in the market and street area as soon as possible.

25. Ms LAU Pui-yuk said that she hoped that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”) could continuously tackle shop front extensions to cater for the footpath widening works in the market and street area. Moreover, she suggested that TD should expedite the setting-up of low speed limit zones and she enquired about the speed limit arrangements during peak hours. Besides, she also enquired about the details concerning the setting-up of the pilot area of diagonal pedestrian crossings, including the location of the pilot area and its feasibility.

26. Mr Jay LI said that on 4 November, a fatal traffic accident happened at the junction of Tai Nan Street and Wong Chuk Street in his constituency, and he urged the Department to carry out planning as early as possible in accordance with the pedestrian and driving experiences in Sham Shui Po District. He then said that it was necessary to set up low speed limit zones. He also suggested that the Department should refer to overseas experiences and consider setting up underground streets and pedestrian crossing lights designed for the elderly and children. Moreover, he enquired about the availability

of the full consultancy study report.

27. Ms Janet NG said that fatal traffic accidents were contrary to the goal of “make it safe” in “Walk in HK”. She urged the Department to study the speed reduction measures for vehicles as soon as possible to prevent the recurrence of similar incidents.

28. Mr William LO said that he expressed regret at the citizen’s death in the traffic accident. He said that TD would study the setting-up of low speed limit zones in the market and street area as soon as possible, but he also said that the demands of pedestrians as well as the loading/unloading of goods by traders had to be balanced, and the impact on traffic by the setting-up of low speed limit zones had to be further assessed. He then said that since 2019, TD had been creating a pedestrian-friendly environment along the four directions, i.e. “make it connected”, “make it safe”, “make it enjoyable” and “make it smart”, and a series of measures had been implemented in Sham Shui Po District to improve pedestrian environment and enhance road safety, leading to a better walking environment. However, he said that to enhance the overall pedestrian environment, the cooperation of departments was necessary. Besides, he said that TD had all along reported timely to SSPDC the improvement measures of walking environment implemented in Sham Shui Po District and also the progress of the consultancy study. The recommendations from the consultancy study and the concerned measures implemented were already uploaded to TD’s “Walk in HK” website. Apart from providing informative contents online to citizens, the concerned technical guidelines and manuals were also updated to widely implement the improvement measures of walking environment in the long run. Moreover, regarding the proposal on the setting-up of the diagonal pedestrian crossings, he said that many factors of the works had to be carefully reviewed and considered, and coordination of different parties was required to make it feasible.

29. Mr Ramon YUEN said that he hoped that the Department would announce the actual timetable of the works next year and include the study progress of low speed limit zones in the regularly reported items. Besides, he questioned about the actual effect of building part of the covers for footpaths.

30. Mr Jay LI said that the district planning study on Sham Shui Po mentioned in the Policy Address had recently started to call for tender. He appealed to the Department to pay attention whether the redevelopment plan would affect the “Walkable City Scheme”.

31. The Chairman concluded that following the improvement in street management of Sham Shui Po in recent years, the feasibility of implementing low speed limit zones increased. He believed that the Department had the ability to implement low speed limit zones in the market and street area after gaining experiences from the trial in the school

area.

(e) Follow up on the reprovisioning of the Yen Chow Street Temporary Hawker Bazaar (SSPDC Paper 31/22)

32. Mr Jay LI introduced Paper 31/22.

33. The Chairman said that prior to the meeting, he had received a request from Mr Jay LI and the Concern Group of Hawkers in Yen Chow Street Cloth Market (“the Concern Group”) to express their views at the meeting. He agreed to the request and adjourned the meeting for five minutes.

[The meeting was adjourned for 5 minutes.]

34. The Chairman announced that the meeting was resumed.

35. Mr Edwin HUI introduced Response Paper 31a/22. He added that on 14 October this year, FEHD had arranged for 16 unlicensed operators who accepted the relocation to Blocks 1 to 3 of Tung Chau Street Temporary Market to attend restricted auctions of stalls and would arrange for the signing of tenancy agreements later on. Regarding the size of the stalls, the Department, after taking into account the views of relevant departments and stakeholders, had provided the stallholders with more spacious stalls than those in ordinary markets and hawker stalls, with about 10 square metres for small stalls and about 27 square metres for large stalls. For the use of Blocks 4 to 5 of Tung Chau Street Temporary Market, the Department had taken note of the proposal of the “Pang Jai Community Fabric & Fashion Hub” (“the Community Proposal”) put forward by the relevant organisations and would discuss with the stakeholders in due course taking into consideration the land use of the temporary market, policy objectives and public aspirations.

36. Ms Janet NG said that the local fashion industry and designers relied on the Yen Chow Street Temporary Hawker Bazaar (commonly known as “Pang Tsai”) to provide low-cost cloth. She said that while local institutions offered fashion courses, the Government had failed to put in place a comprehensive market trading policy for the clothing industry, resulting in many cloth vendors leaving the industry due to rising rental costs. She urged FEHD and SSPDO to assist in the development of Blocks 4 to 5 of the Tung Chau Street Temporary Market into a community cloth centre.

37. Mr Jay LI said that he would like to let the Concern Group respond. He was disappointed at FEHD’s response and considered that the reduction in the issuance of hawker licences by FEHD in recent years had run contrary to the Department’s original intention of establishing markets to provide job opportunities for the grassroots, and had

affected the nurturing of talents and the heritage of the cloth industry. Moreover, regarding the land use of the Tung Chau Street Temporary Market, FEHD had lent the site to Hong Kong Design Centre for holding a short-term exhibition, “Heart of Cyberpunk”. He was therefore puzzled by FEHD’s practice of leaving the site unused since 2016 and not developing Blocks 4 to 5 on the ground that the land use of the Tung Chau Street Temporary Market was market development. He hoped that FEHD would consider implementing the Community Proposal in the context of the overall economic policy, the livelihood of the operators and the long-term community planning in the district.

38. Mr Ramon YUEN said that he hoped that FEHD would provide a timetable for discussing the Community Proposal with stakeholders, and that in order to tie in with the overall development of Blocks 1 to 3 of the Tung Chau Street Temporary Market, the planning of Blocks 4 to 5 should not be separated from the former.

39. The Chairman permitted the Concern Group to speak again and adjourned the meeting for five minutes.

[The meeting was adjourned for 5 minutes.]

40. The Chairman announced that the meeting was resumed.

41. Mr Edwin HUI gave a consolidated response by saying that it was believed that operators did not choose to leave the Bazaar solely because of the rent issue, but also because of factors such as their age and the increase in ex-gratia payments. He added that for the stall rental, for example, the open market rental of a large stall of 27 square metres was about \$5,000, and the upset price for registered non-licensed operators was around \$1,500; while the rental of a small stall of 10 square metres, as compared to the open market rental at about \$2,500, the upset price for registered non-licensed operators was about \$700 to \$800. Except for individual large stalls, most of the stalls were sold at the upset prices. As far as the hawker policy was concerned, the Department had made special arrangements for the cloth business operators in Pang Tsai, including the formulation of exit plan and relocation arrangements for non-licensed operators, the granting of one-off ex-gratia payments or bidding for vacant stalls in Blocks 1 to 3 of the Tung Chau Street Temporary Market by way of restricted auctions and the granting of relocation allowances. Regarding the development of Blocks 4 to 5 of the Tung Chau Street Temporary Market, the Department would first designate Blocks 1 to 3 as the new cloth market for the time being, while no timetable for the planning of Blocks 4 to 5 had been drawn up yet, but the Department would reconsider it in response to the needs of the new cloth market in Blocks 1 to 3 in the future. The Department would arrange for the remaining vacant stalls in Blocks 1 to 3 to be leased out through open auctions later on. In addition, the Department had an established mechanism to handle the loan of its venues and applications for Temporary

Places of Public Entertainment Licence (if applicable) for holding large-scale events, and would examine such applications in accordance with the requirements of the Department.

42. Mr Ramon YUEN expressed concern that the Department would only consider developing Blocks 4 to 5 until after the new cloth market in Blocks 1 to 3 of the Tung Chau Street Temporary Market had officially commenced operation and it was possible that the useable land would be left idle again, and hoped that the Department would consider developing Blocks 1 to 5 together.

43. Ms Janet NG thanked the Department for making special arrangements for stall rental. She also hoped that FEHD would consider developing Blocks 4 to 5 of the Tung Chau Street Temporary Market to preserve the traditional cloth business, support public education related to local fashion and boost the local economic development.

44. The Chairman concluded that the relocation of the Yen Chow Street Temporary Hawker Bazaar had become a reality and FEHD had arranged restricted auctions early on for the unlicensed operators who chose to stay in the Bazaar and allowed sufficient time for them to move out. He said that the contribution of grassroots cloth operators to the development of local cloth industry should not be overlooked and hoped that the Department would actively promote the relevant policies. He favoured FEHD's "special arrangements for special circumstances" approach to the relocation of and exiting the Bazaar of the unlicensed operators, and hoped that FEHD could make special arrangements to foster the development of local cloth industry in future. Lastly, he hoped that FEHD would develop Blocks 4 to 5 of the Tung Chau Street Temporary Market into a community cloth centre and work with community organisations to develop the local fashion industry.

(f) Request for the reprovisioning of the Refuse Collection Point in Mei Foo (SSPDC Paper 32/ 22)

45. Ms Janet NG introduced Paper 32/22. She regretted that the Market Revitalisation Section of FEHD ("Revitalisation Section") was unable to send representative to attend this meeting. In addition, she had received a letter from the Incorporated Owners of Mei Foo Sun Chuen to various government departments and SSPDC expressing concern that there was no plan to reprovision the refuse collection point during and after the revitalisation of Lai Wan Market, and objecting to the permanent closure of the Lai Wan Market Refuse Collection Point. She continued that apart from residents of Mei Foo Sun Chuen, residents in the neighbourhood would also use the refuse collection point and therefore hoped that reprovisioning could be arranged at a suitable location.

46. Mr Edwin HUI introduced Response Paper 32a/22. He pointed out that after

initial communication with the management company of Mei Foo Sun Chuen, the passing place near the roundabout at Lai Wan Road was intended to use as a temporary refuse collection point during the construction period to collect household refuse from Phases 1 and 7 of Mei Foo Sun Chuen. If there were more suitable locations in the estate, FEHD would be happy to consider. Regarding the timing and frequency of refuse collection services, FEHD would co-ordinate and collaborate with the management company of Mei Foo Sun Chuen. As to the location of large household refuse collection, FEHD was exploring with the Lands Department and relevant departments at the moment the feasibility of using the government site near Mei Foo Sun Chuen as a large household refuse collection point for Mei Foo Sun Chuen.

47. Ms Janet NG said that she hoped that the design of the Lai Wan Market Revitalisation Project could be changed to reprovision the refuse collection point. If this was not possible, she hoped that the Revitalisation Section, FEHD and SSPDO would collaborate to identify a suitable location for reprovisioning of the refuse collection point to alleviate the foreseeable hygiene problems.

48. Ms LAU Pui-yuk said that Mei Foo residents were deeply concerned about the matter and hoped that the Department would handle the issue of refuse collection point properly in the course of revitalising the market to avoid hygiene problems and other negative impacts, and actively identify a suitable site for a refuse collection point.

49. Ms Janet NG moved a provisional motion regarding Paper 32/22 and Mr Ramon YUEN seconded that, the motion read as follows:

“The Revitalisation Section, SSPDO and FEHD are requested to identify suitable sites for the reprovisioning of Mei Foo Refuse Collection Point in the future to resolve the situation of rubbish enclosing the estate.”

50. Ms LAU Pui-yuk asked if the wording of the provisional motion could be amended.

51. Ms Janet NG explained that if the Revitalisation Section could change the design of the market revitalisation project, the refuse collection point could be reprovisioned within the market. Moreover, during the project construction period, SSPDO might need to communicate with the Lands Office to consider whether there were suitable locations for collecting large household refuse.

52. Mr Ramon YUEN added that he supported the Lai Wan Market Revitalisation Project and pointed out that there was no conflict between the revitalisation project and the reprovisioning of the refuse collection point. He hoped that FEHD and SSPDO would

actively identify suitable sites for reprovisioning of refuse collection point.

53. The District Officer said that the Revitalisation Section was a section under FEHD and thus a reference to FEHD in the provisional motion would suffice. While SSPDO would actively assist and cooperate with FEHD in communicating with the affected residents, they could not replace the role of FEHD as FEHD had certain criteria and requirements in identifying suitable sites. Therefore, he considered that it would be clearer to delete “SSPDO” from the provisional motion.

54. Ms Janet NG proposed amending the provisional motion, which read as follows:

“FEHD and SSPDO are requested to identify suitable sites for the reprovisioning of Mei Foo Refuse Collection Point in the future to resolve the situation of rubbish enclosing the estate.”

55. Ms LAU Pui-yuk proposed amending the provisional motion, which read as follows:

“While SSPDC support Lai Wan Market Modernisation Programme, FEHD and the authorities concerned are requested to identify suitable sites for the reprovisioning of Mei Foo Refuse Collection Point in the future to resolve the situation of rubbish enclosing the estate.”

56. Ms Janet NG added that she also supported the Lai Wan Market Modernisation Programme at an earlier meeting of the Environment, Hygiene and Housing Affairs Committee. As such, there was no further mention of support for the Programme in Paper 32/22, and it was stressed that the focus of the paper was on the reprovisioning of refuse collection point.

57. Mr Ramon YUEN added that as the Incorporated Owners of Mei Foo Sun Chuen had expressed their objection to the Lai Wan Market Modernisation Programme in their letter, he needed to reiterate his support for the Programme and his stance on the reprovisioning of refuse collection point.

58. The Chairman permitted Ms LAU Pui-yuk to move an amended provisional motion, which was seconded by Mr Leo HO.

59. The meeting voted on the amended provisional motion by open ballot and the result was as follows:

For: Ms LAU Pui-yuk, Mr Leo HO (2)

Against: Ms Janet NG, Mr Ramon YUEN (2)

Abstain: Mr CHUM Tak-shing, Mr Jay LI (2)

60. The Secretary announced the voting result: 2 Members voted for it, 2 Members voted against it and 2 Members abstained. The Chairman declared that the amended provisional motion was not carried.

61. Ms Janet NG said that she opposed the above motion because she insisted that SSPDO had a role in the reprovisioning of Mei Foo Refuse Collection Point and therefore the motion had to cover SSPDO.

62. The Chairman permitted Ms Janet NG to move an amended provisional motion, which was seconded by Mr Ramon YUEN.

63. The meeting voted on the amended provisional motion by open ballot and the result was as follows:

For: Mr CHUM Tak-shing, Ms Janet NG, Mr Ramon YUEN,
Mr Jay LI (4)

Against: (0)

Abstain: Ms LAU Pui-yuk, Mr Leo HO (2)

64. The Secretary announced the voting result: 4 Members voted for it, no Member voted against it and 2 Members abstained. The Chairman declared that the amended provisional motion was carried.

65. The Chairman concluded that SSPDC urged FEHD to make its best effort to reprovision the Mei Foo Refuse Collection Point and expected SSPDO to provide appropriate support.

(g) Tackling the employment fraud in Southeast Asian countries by Sham Shui Po Police District (SSPDC Paper 33/ 22)

66. Mr Ramon YUEN introduced Paper 33/22. He said that most of the telephone and online frauds involved fraud syndicates outside Hong Kong which might be more difficult for the Police to enforce the law, and asked the Police to provide data on such frauds,

publicity programmes on fraud prevention and their effectiveness.

67. Mr Jim NG responded that the Police were highly concerned about cross-border employment frauds and as at 31 October, eight men and two women had been arrested by the Police on suspicion of conspiracy to defraud. The Security Bureau had received a total of 46 requests for assistance, while Sham Shui Po Police District received three requests for assistance between August and September, involving four persons. One case was investigated and confirmed to be unrelated to a cross-border fraud; two cases were referred to the Organised Crime and Triad Bureau for follow-up; and the other case was still under investigation. Two of the assistance seekers had been confirmed safe. No new cross-border fraud cases had been reported to the Sham Shui Po Police District since September, and overall, no new cases had been reported to the Police since mid-September. To combat employment frauds, the Police had launched publicity campaigns on social media platforms and various mainstream media to remind the public to be careful of multinational job opportunities offering high pay, with low requirements and without relevant work experience; and to call “Anti-Scam Helpline 18222” at once, if they suspected that they had been approached by fraudsters. In addition, the Police had also maintained close contact with airlines and airport security companies to facilitate early intervention in suspected cross-border employment fraud. For district publicity, the Police Community Relations Office of Sham Shui Po District and local stakeholders would make home visits in the district to promote fraud prevention messages. Furthermore, the Sham Shui Po Police District and Sham Shui Po District Fight Crime Committee (“SSPDFCC”) would carry out local publicity campaigns for fraud prevention, and also hold regular fraud prevention talks in schools with the Kowloon West Regional Crime Prevention Office. In terms of investigation, an e-Crime Processing and Analysis Hub (“e-Hub”) had been set up at the headquarters to consolidate different types of frauds and refer them to the investigation teams for central follow-up, with a view to intercepting fraud cases and expediting their processing. The most common type of fraud recently had been “click farming” fraud, fraudulent use of credit card information and online shopping fraud.

68. Mr Ramon YUEN said he was glad to note that the number of employment fraud in Southeast Asian countries had not increased, but was concerned about the seriousness of the “click farming” fraud and suggested that the Police should step up publicity. He was pleased to see that the Police had recently stepped up their publicity, but was doubtful about the effectiveness. He said that many victims of frauds were initially wary of the fraudsters, but after coming into contact for a period of time, they became less wary and were defrauded. Many of them were highly educated and the Police were advised to run publicity campaigns targeting at them.

69. Ms LAU Pui-yuk enquired about the Police’s publicity efforts on fraud prevention in schools and youth centres, especially those targeting online fraud prevention campaigns

on young people.

70. Mr Jim NG gave a consolidated response by saying that the Police's current publicity coverage were very in-depth, but as there were too many types of frauds, the public might not pay attention to them, let alone read them in detail. In this regard, the Police had collated information on different fraud cases and stepped up publicity through online platforms, seminars or other channels to remind the public not to fall into traps. As for publicity campaigns in schools and the community, the Police had also launched publicity work through mainstream media and school talks. In addition, the Police had also allocated a lot of resources to online publicity campaigns for online fraud prevention to maximise the effectiveness.

71. Mr WAN Chi-pui added that to promote fraud prevention among young people, the Police would, through the Junior Police Call, organise different types of activities, such as sports, to reach out to young people and cultivate positive values and convey fraud prevention messages to them. Moreover, the Police and SSPDFCC would run a fraud prevention campaign by visiting different parts of Sham Shui Po District every day in November by publicity van to spread the latest fraud prevention information to the community. The Police would also organise a Fight Crime Carnival at the end of the year to disseminate information about fraud prevention.

72. The Chairman concluded by thanking the Police for their response. Although the number of transnational fraud cases had declined, the Police were expected to continue combating the crime so as to avoid its resurgence. As for local fraud cases, the Police would step up publicity and education efforts, and would organise various fraud prevention campaigns in the future.

(h) Concern over the collaboration between public and private hospitals in Sham Shui Po District

73. The District Officer stated that the Chairman of SSPDC had been informed by email before the meeting that as the Government considered that agenda item 2(h) was not a district matter, the discussion of the relevant paper was inconsistent with the functions of the District Council as specified in the District Councils Ordinance. He would leave the meeting together with the representatives of the government departments present and the Secretariat would not provide support services.

Agenda Item 3: Reports from the Committees under the District Council

(a) Report from the District Facilities and Community Affairs Committee (SSPDC Paper 34/22)

(b) Report from the Environment, Hygiene and Housing Affairs Committee (SSPDC Paper 35/22)

(c) Report from the Planning Development and Transport Affairs Committee (SSPDC Paper 36/22)

74. The meeting noted and endorsed the content of the aforesaid reports.

Agenda Item 4: Any other business

(a) Hong Kong Flower Show 2023 - “Introductory Exhibition of Green Attractions in 18 Districts” (SSPDC Paper 37/22)

75. The Chairman said that in response to the Leisure and Cultural Services Department’s invitation to SSPDC to participate in the “Introductory Exhibition of Green Attractions in 18 Districts”, he suggested choosing Lai Chi Kok Park as one of the most recommended greening attractions in Sham Shui Po District.

76. The Meeting approved the above proposal.

(b) The meeting schedule of 2023 Sham Shui Po District Council and its committees

77. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had earlier issued a meeting schedule of 2023 SSPDC and its committees for Members and relevant departments to take note of.

78. The meeting noted and endorsed the meeting schedule.

Agenda Item 5: Date of next meeting

79. The next meeting would be held at 9:30 a.m. on 10 January 2023 (Tuesday).

80. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 1:25 p.m.

District Council Secretariat
Sham Shui Po District Office
January 2023