

(Translation)

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee of
Sham Shui Po District Council (7th Term) (1st draft)

Date: 18 July 2024 (Thursday)

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room, Sham Shui Po District Council

Present

Chairman

Ms LAU Pui-yuk, MH

Vice-Chairman

Dr PONG Chiu-fai, MH

Members

Mr HO Kwan-chau

Ms WU Wanqiu

Mr LEE Wing-man, MH

Mr LAM Wai-man, Raymond

Ms WU Sze-wan

Mr CHEUNG Tak-wai

Mr CHAN Wai-ming, BBS, MH, JP

Mr CHAN Kwok-wai, MH

Mr CHAN Lung-kit

Ms CHEN Lihong

Ms CHUM Pik-wa

In Attendance

Miss FUNG Yi-ching, Janice

Ms NG Ting-ting, Christy

Mr WAN Chi-shun

Mr LAM Chun-ho

Mr NG Tsz-wing, Ricky

Assistant District Officer (Sham Shui Po) 2

Liaison Officer i/c (West), Sham Shui Po District Office

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

Acting Chief Health Inspector (Sham Shui Po) 3, Food and
Environmental Hygiene Department

Chief Estate Officer/Land Control/Kowloon West, Lands
Department

Action by

Mr LO Man-ho, Martin	Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West) 52, Environmental Protection Department
Ms TAM Sze-chai, Cindy	Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West) 53, Environmental Protection Department
Mr YU Hoi-fung	Assistant District Operations Officer, SSPODIST, Hong Kong Police Force
Ms CHONG Yuen-man	Neighbourhood Police Co-ordinator, Police Community Relations Office, SSPODIST, Hong Kong Police Force
Ms CHAN Tak-ming, Virginia	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Sham Shui Po) 1, Social Welfare Department
Mr YU Wai-ho	Project Coordinator/Sham Shui Po, Transport Department
Ms CHAN Long-kwan, Joyee	Fauna Conservation Officer (Operation) 1, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Dr WONG Yick-him, Simon	Veterinary Officer (Avian Influenza Surveillance), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Secretary

Miss YUEN Cheuk-lam, Cherolyn	Executive Officer (District Council) 4, Sham Shui Po District Office
-------------------------------	---

Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed members and representatives of government departments to the fourth meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (FEHC).

Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee

2. The Committee confirmed the minutes without amendment.

Item 2: Request for Easing the Obstruction Problem of Second-hand Electrical Appliance Recycling Shops in the Vicinity of Hai Tan Street (FEHC Paper No. 19/2024)

3. A member introduced Paper No. 19/2024.
4. Mr YU Hoi-fung introduced Response Paper No. 19a/2024.
5. Mr WAN Chi-shun introduced Response Paper No. 19b/2024.
6. Mr YU Wai-ho responded as follows: (i) to improve traffic safety in the vicinity of Hai Tan Street, the Department intended to add “Slow” road markings and “Pedestrian on or Crossing Road Ahead” warning signs on Hai Tan Street and Kweilin Street to alert drivers; and (ii) the double yellow lines near the loading and unloading bay on Hai Tan Street would be extended to improve pedestrian visibility when crossing the road.
7. The views of members were consolidated as follows: (i) enquired about the specific location where the double yellow line would be extended on Hai Tan Street; (ii) the situation where goods vehicles were parked for a long time and obstructed pedestrian crossings had to be reviewed; (iii) enquired about the enforcement situation against illegal parking of goods vehicles; (iv) the parking spaces nearby had to be reviewed; (v) enquired about the enforcement situation and response measures regarding the loading and unloading of goods by goods vehicles and the obstruction by goods on the street; (vi) suggested holding a second-hand market at a location away

from residential areas to avoid prolonged obstruction of the street and accumulation of large goods in second-hand electrical appliance recycling shops; and (vii) suggested that the Department take more frequent joint operations, regularly review the effectiveness of law enforcement, and maintain communication with the industry and other stakeholders to ensure second-hand electrical appliance recycling shops could operate with minimal impact on residents.

8. Mr WAN Chi-shun gave a consolidated response: (i) due to the fact that second-hand electrical appliance recyclers were not hawkers, according to current legislation, the Department could only issue a notice to the owner to require removal of the items within four hours for obstruction of the Department's street cleaning work by items placed by a second-hand recycling shop on the pavement. Therefore, the owner could remove the items within the time limit to avoid enforcement, making it difficult for the Department to enforce the law. However, the Department could prosecute those who repeatedly obstructed the cleaning work; (ii) second hand electrical appliance recycling shops piling up goods on sidewalks and roads for goods vehicles to pick up could affect road safety. Starting from November 2022, the Department and the police had been conducting regular joint operations, with the police issuing notices requiring owners to remove items within a time limit, which was planned to be shortened from four hours to ten to thirty minutes. If the items were not removed within the time limit, the police and the Department would remove them; and (iii) starting from August 2024, the Department had increased the frequency of joint operations with the police, hoping to increase such operations from once a month to twice a month. Meanwhile, the Department would continue to require owners to remove obstacles under the pretext of "obstruction to scavenging operations".

9. Mr YU Hoi-fung gave a consolidated response as follows: (i) for the traffic violation cases in the vicinity of Hai Tan Street, the Department had continuously monitored the situation of illegal parking for six months and issued over a thousand fixed penalty tickets; and (ii) the Department would review traffic offence cases and

strengthen law enforcement at traffic black spots.

10. Mr YU Wai-ho gave a consolidated response: (i) the Department intended to extend the double yellow line on the north side of Hai Tan Street near Kweilin Street by ten metres to prevent vehicles from loading, unloading or parking at the junction, in order to enhance pedestrian safety; and (ii) the original four metered goods vehicle parking spaces on Kweilin Street (the section between Hai Tan Street and Tung Chau Street) were converted into eight daytime (8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.) metered private car parking spaces in late June, and night-time (8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. the following day) goods vehicle parking spaces.

11. A member enquired with the Environmental Protection Department (“EPD”) about the details of their discussions with second-hand electrical appliance recyclers regarding recycling facilities.

12. Mr Martin LO gave a consolidated response: (i) the Department had taken various measures to assist in improving the overall operational level of the recycling industry. The Department had launched the Recycling Fund, which included standard projects to facilitate recyclers in purchasing equipment and devices to improve operational efficiency; (ii) the Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency had also established the Registration Scheme for the Recycling Industry to promote good practices in the recycling industry; (iii) the Department had collaborated with other government departments and second-hand electrical appliance recyclers to explore renting other locations in the district to ease street obstruction. The Department would continue to support the recycling industry in improving its overall operational level and promoting sustainable development of the recycling industry.

13. The Chairman concluded that the problem of obstruction caused by second-hand electrical appliance recycling shops on Hai Tan Street had long plagued residents in the district. The Committee noted the Departments’ efforts to improve

the issue of street obstruction and expected the Departments to develop new strategies to address the problem, such as taking more frequent joint actions or installing closed-circuit televisions to enhance the deterrent effect, and strengthening communication with residents. The Committee suggested that the Departments could cooperate with the District Council to carry out publicity and education work to relevant shops, in order to improve the problem of obstruction caused by second-hand electrical appliance recycling shops.

Item 3: Suggestion for Enhancement of the Overall Environmental Hygiene and Street Management Measures in Sham Shui Po Community (FEHC Paper No. 20/2024)

14. A member introduced Paper No. 20/2024.
15. Mr WAN Chi-shun introduced Response Paper No. 20a/2024.
16. Ms Virginia CHAN responded that the Social Welfare Department (“SWD”) subvented a non-governmental organisation (“NGO”) in the district to operate an Integrated Services Team for Street Sleepers (“IST”), namely the Salvation Army IST, to conduct outreach visits for proactively reaching out to street sleepers and understanding their reasons for street sleeping. IST would render integrated services according to the willingness to receive services and the actual needs of street sleepers. These services included counselling, service referral, short-term accommodation, arranging nurses to clean wounds for street sleepers, and application for financial assistance, etc. In addition to regular visits, IST would also conduct late-night visits to continuously advise street sleepers to clean up their personal belongings, with the aim of addressing the urgent welfare needs of street sleepers, thereby helping them live off the streets and reintegrate into the community.
17. The views of members were consolidated as follows: (i) street sleepers had no fixed abode, enquired about the service scope of IST and how it could follow up

with the frequently moving street sleepers; (ii) suggested that the Department take more frequent joint operations, establish indicators, regularly review the effectiveness and follow up on the situation, in order to avoid the increasingly serious problem of street sleepers; (iii) suggested relevant departments to carry out joint operations with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”) on hygiene and fire safety management near private buildings, and to clean the vegetation cover on streets in collaboration with FEHD and LCSD to improve environmental hygiene; (iv) enquired about the current number of street sleeper cases; (v) enquired about the proactive inspections conducted by the Department; suggested proactively understanding the acceptance level of street sleepers towards IST, as well as the reasons for refusing to move into shelters or short-term accommodation under SWD, and strengthening support for street sleepers who might suffer from mental illnesses; (vi) enquired if the supply of short-term accommodation was sufficient; (vii) street sleepers were getting younger and younger. The public housing units of some might have been recovered while some had accumulated clutter in their homes due to mobility issues. Joint operations to assist them in cleaning up or providing financial assistance were suggested; (viii) enquired if the Department had an information sharing mechanism to follow up on cases of movement of street sleepers and their distribution, in order to strengthen collaboration between departments; and (ix) enquired about the education work of the Department on the illegal refuse disposal by residents of three-nil buildings.

18. Mr WAN Chi-shun gave a consolidated response: (i) the Department kept a list of locations where street sleepers were frequently seen and paid attention to the accumulation of miscellaneous articles when cleaning the streets. If a new street sleeper was found, the Sham Shui Po District Office (“SSPDO”) and relevant departments would be notified; (ii) the Department had recently participated in a joint operation in the vicinity of the footbridge at Lai Kok Estate to assist in clearing abandoned items of street sleepers; and (iii) the environmental hygiene issues of most private buildings were to be handled by the owners’ corporations or property management companies of the buildings. The Department had placed 660-litre refuse

containers near three-nil buildings to collect household refuse from residents, and posted notices to inform residents of the locations of nearby refuse collection points. The Department would prosecute residents who illegally disposed of refuse, hoping to change the habit of refuse disposal of members of the public through law enforcement.

19. Ms Virginia CHAN gave a consolidated response: (i) the Salvation Army IST in this district had been supporting street sleepers in Sham Shui Po District to live off the street and providing them with appropriate social welfare support services, paying attention to their personal welfare needs. The service team was located on the ground floor of Ming Wah Building, 36 and 38 Fuk Wa Street, Sham Shui Po. It provided services including day and late night outreach visits, emergency/short-term accommodation, employment support, personal care (such as bathing, hair cutting, and meal arrangements), and follow-up counselling and service referrals; (ii) at present, the utilisation rate of emergency and short-term accommodation services was generally maintained at 70% to 80%. If street sleepers needed it, they could apply for accommodation through social workers or IST; (iii) to follow up on the health conditions of street sleepers, the service team had set up mobile services to provide physical and mental condition assessments, promoting early access to mainstream healthcare services and treatment for street sleepers; (iv) to understand the needs of street sleepers in social welfare support services, the Department had set up the Computerised Street Sleeper Registry, which recorded personal information related to them; and (v) the Department had been participating in interdepartmental joint operations and working closely with various departments. On the one hand, it was committed to supporting street sleepers and assisting them in living off the street as soon as possible; on the other hand, it also worked to clean up the black spots and miscellaneous articles as soon as possible to reduce the nuisance to local residents and the surrounding environment.

[Post-meeting note: Responsible for the cases of street sleepers in Sham Shui Po District were the Salvation Army IST, Shamshuipo (West) Integrated Family Service Centre,

Cheung Sha Wan Integrated Family Service Centre, Tai Hang Tung Integrated Family Service Centre, Sham Shui Po (South) Integrated Family Service Centre, and Family Ties Integrated Family Service Centre. As of June 2024, there were 106 registered street sleepers in Sham Shui Po.]

20. Miss Janice FUNG supplemented as follows: (i) SSPDO had been playing a coordinating role, assisting relevant departments in conducting interdepartmental joint environmental hygiene operations at gathering places for street sleepers every week; (ii) the Office implemented the District-led Actions Scheme, allocated additional resources for single cleaning services in three-nil buildings, and collaborated with SWD and NGOs to address the issue of street sleepers from multiple perspectives. Recently, the Office had successfully advised three street sleepers to leave the vicinity of the footbridge at Lai Kok Estate; and (iii) the Office would continue to collaborate with District Council (“DC”) Members to improve the environmental hygiene of private buildings and coordinate interdepartmental joint environmental hygiene operations.

21. The Chairman concluded that the Committee had always been concerned about the hygiene issues of street sleepers and three-nil buildings. At present, there was no legislation related to the issue of street sleepers in Hong Kong, so various departments handled the problem according to their responsibilities. The Committee hoped that SSPDO and various departments could continue to actively address the issue, follow up on law enforcement and the welfare of street sleepers, and discuss countermeasures with the Committee in due course.

Item 4: Concern about the Problem of Illegal Feeding of Wild Birds and the Effect of the “Feeding Ban” (FEHC Paper No. 21/2024)

22. A member introduced Paper No. 21/2024.

23. Ms Joyee CHAN introduced Response Paper No. 21a/2024.

24. Mr WAN Chi-shun introduced Response Paper No. 19b/2024.

25. The views of members were consolidated as follows: (i) enquired if the Department had established indicators to review the effectiveness of the implementation of the ordinance; (ii) suggested that the Department strengthen inspections of wild birds and feral pigeons gathering blackspots in the district, such as around Lei Cheng Uk Estate, Po On Road, Sham Mong Road, etc., and install monitoring systems for law enforcement; (iii) enquired whether the Department would strengthen the promotion of the implementation of the new ordinance to the public in housing estates (including setting up street counters), and explain to them the enforcement powers of public officials regarding the new ordinance to avoid misunderstandings; (iv) enquired about the reporting methods for members of the public who discovered someone feeding wild birds and feral pigeons, as well as the process of providing evidence; (v) enquired whether the Department would proactively reach out to those who had fed wild birds and feral pigeons, and remind them that the new ordinance would soon come into effect; and (vi) suggested organising cleaning teams to patrol and clean black spots to combat illegal feeding of wild birds and feral pigeons.

26. Ms Joyee CHAN gave a consolidated response: (i) at the current stage, the Department would first closely monitor the effectiveness of the new ordinance and consider establishing relevant indicators if necessary in the future; (ii) if members of the public discovered that someone was illegally feeding wild birds and feral pigeons, they could report it through 1823; and (iii) the Department would consider increasing publicity within the district and inviting DC Members to participate.

27. Mr WAN Chi-shun gave a consolidated response: (i) for the illegal feeding of wild birds in the district, the Department adopted a complaint-driven approach to handle the issue. The Department would dispatch law enforcement teams to conduct inspections and issue fixed penalty notices to illegal feeders for polluting public places

under the charge of “littering” before the ordinance came into effect; after the new ordinance came into effect, the fine would be increased from the original \$3000 to \$5000. The Department would discuss enforcement details with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (“AFCD”); and (ii) at present, the Department had installed monitoring systems at black spots for littering, including black spots for feeding wild birds and feral pigeons. The Department would install monitoring systems in other locations as needed.

28. A member suggested that AFCD increase public education and publicity, and collaborate with DC Members to promote the new ordinance.

29. Dr Simon WONG said the Department was currently hanging banners and organising street counters, etc., and would send personnel to distribute leaflets to the public for promotion in the following month.

30. The Chairman concluded that illegal feeding of wild birds and feral pigeons had caused nuisance to residents in the district. As the new ordinance came into effect, it was suggested that relevant departments cooperate with the Committee to strengthen the promotion of relevant information to local residents. The Committee thanked the relevant departments for actively cracking down on illegal feeding of wild birds and feral pigeons, and hoped that the Department would consider installing surveillance cameras at black spots of illegal feeding of wild birds and feral pigeons. The Committee would closely monitor the implementation of the new ordinance and hoped that all departments would strengthen the crackdown on illegal feeding of wild birds and feral pigeons to maintain environmental hygiene.

Item 5: Any other business

31. Members did not raise any other business.

Item 6: Date of next meeting

32. The next meeting would be held at 9:30 a.m. on 19 September 2024 (Thursday).

33. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 11:15 a.m.

District Council Secretariat
Sham Shui Po District Council
July 2024