

(Translation)

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee of
Sham Shui Po District Council (7th Term)

Date: 28 March 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

Assistant District Officer (Sham Shui Po) 2

Ms WONG Yu-hang, Anita

Senior Liaison Officer 3, Sham Shui Po District Office

Dr LEE Yin-chun, Sally

Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West) 5,

Action by

	Environmental Protection Department
Ms TAM Sze-chai, Cindy	Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West) 53, Environmental Protection Department
Mr WAN Chi-shun	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sham Shui Po), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr CHAN Pui-lun	Chief Health Inspector (Sham Shui Po) 2, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr LAM Chun-ho	Chief Health Inspector (Sham Shui Po) 3 (Acting), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr WONG Wai-tong	Assistant Police Community Relations Officer (Sham Shui Po District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr CHAN Chi-chung	Community Liaison Officer, Police Community Relations Office (Sham Shui Po District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr NG Tsz-wing, Ricky	Chief Estate Officer/Land Control/Kowloon West (District Lands Office, Kowloon West), Lands Department

Secretary

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

The Chairman welcomed members and representatives of government departments to the second meeting of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Committee (“FEHC”), and welcomed Mr WAN Chi-shun, the District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sham Shui Po) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”) in place of Mr HUI Chi-ping, Edwin, and Mr LAM Chun-ho, the Chief Health Inspector (Sham Shui Po) 3 (Acting) of FEHD in place of Mr LUI Sai-tat, to attend future meetings.

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

2. The Committee confirmed the above minutes without amendment.

Item 2: Concern about the Impact of and Support for the Implementation of Municipal Solid Waste Charging (“MSW Charging”) on Old Buildings in Sham Shui Po (Paper No. 6/2024)

Item 3: Concern about Food Waste Recycling in Sham Shui Po District, Request to Increase the Number of Food Waste Smart Recycling Bins in the District (Paper No. 7/2024)

3. The Chairman suggested combining the discussion of the two papers since their nature was similar, and members had no objections.

4. A member introduced Paper Nos. 6/2024 and 7/2024.

5. Dr Sally LEE introduced Response Paper Nos. 6a/2024 and 7a/2024.

6. Mr WAN Chi-shun introduced Response Paper Nos. 6b/2024 and 7b/2024.

7. The views of members were consolidated as follows: (i) enquired about the process of delivering designated bags by the Environmental Protection Department (“EPD”) and the follow-up methods for unsuccessful deliveries; (ii) enquired about the situation and expected results of owners’ corporations (“OCs”) of private buildings

applying to EPD for designated bags; (iii) enquired about the support of EPD for single-block buildings that only had OCs but had not hired property management companies, and suggested that these single-block buildings be included in the programme of distribution of free designated bags; (iv) suggested that EPD gradually implement MSW Charging and assist members of the public in adapting to the new policy to achieve the expected results; (v) suggested adding more Food Waste Smart Recycling Bins (“FWSRBs”) in public markets, public housing estates, and private buildings; (vi) the point recording method for “GREEN\$” was replaced by a mobile application instead of a physical card, but some elderly people failed to adapt to this new method. It was suggested that support should be provided to the elderly in using the relevant application and enquired about how to timely convey new information about “GREEN\$” to the elderly; (vii) suggested EPD to promote the application for FWSRBs in private housing estates and enquired about the time required for approval of such applications from private housing estates; and (viii) suggested EPD to discuss with private housing estates on the locations to place FWSRBs.

8. Dr Sally LEE gave a consolidated response: (i) the logistics contractor would be responsible for delivering the designated bags to “three-nil buildings”. If the delivery was unsuccessful, a “notification card” with a hotline and QR code would be left for members of the public to register. Upon receipt of a registration, the designated bags would be delivered to the smart locker or self-collection point selected by the member of the public for collection; (ii) considering that there were no property management companies or other owners/residents’ organisations in three-nil buildings and rural village houses, which made it difficult for residents to adapt to MSW Charging, and that most residents of public housing estates were grassroots and senior citizens, currently EPD would distribute free designated bags to these three types of households. Single-block buildings with OCs but no property management companies could apply to EPD for bulk procurement of designated bags and distribute them to residents for use; (iii) during the first six months of the adaptation period after the implementation of MSW Charging, EPD would promote the policy and educate the public, and

strengthen inspections at refuse collection points (“RCPs”) by issuing advices and warnings against irregularities and only taking enforcement actions against serious violations. EPD had also set up a customer service centre hotline to handle public enquiries about MSW Charging and reports of irregularities. Currently, over 13 000 inquiries had been processed. EPD would review the current situation of the pilot programme before making practical arrangement of MSW Charging; (iv) EPD would install FWBSRBs as soon as possible, while in the process of implementation, factors such as site constraints, power supply, and storage space had to be considered to identify suitable locations for the installation of relevant facilities; (v) EPD had set up FWSRBs at “GREEN@SHAM SHUI PO” in September last year and encouraged members of the public with “GREEN\$” points to recycle and reduce waste. According to statistics, as of February this year, over 31 000 people had participated. In addition, to facilitate small restaurants’ participation in food waste recycling, EPD had set up food waste collection points at 60 RCPs under the purview of FEHD, and it was expected to expand to 100 RCPs by the second quarter of 2024. Food waste collection points for public use were already set up in seven RCPs in Sham Shui Po District. EPD planned to set up Recycling Spots near single-block buildings and at places concentrated with restaurants; and add more food waste collection points in public markets, public housing estates, and private buildings; and (vi) regarding the change of point recording method of “GREEN\$”, EPD would send staff to monitor the usage status and consider making appropriate adjustments.

[Post-meeting note: EPD had expedited the process of approving applications from private housing estates. Upon receipt of all application documents required, it would arrange a meeting with the applicant at the estate as soon as possible to decide the locations for the installation of FWSRBs. Generally speaking, EPD would install FWSRBs as soon as possible within three to four months after receiving all documents.]

9. Mr WAN Chi-shun added that currently, the food waste collection points in public markets in Sham Shui Po district under the purview of FEHD were only open

to market stall owners; the food waste collection points located at seven RCPs currently only collected food waste from food premises and were not open to the public. FEHD was actively considering opening up the said facilities for public use.

10. The views of members were consolidated as follows: (i) suggested strengthening support for residents of old single-block buildings which only had OCs without engaging property management companies, for example including some single-block buildings in the programme of distribution of free designated bags based on building age and number of households; (ii) suggested adding supporting facilities for MSW Charging, such as installing FWSRBs in “GREEN@COMMUNITY” or adding more temporary recycling points in the district; (iii) suggested EPD strengthen publicity and education, such as holding more briefing sessions on MSW Charging; (iv) suggested EPD provide incentives to encourage private housing estates to install FWSRBs, in order to alleviate the situation where residents of private housing estates placed their food waste in FWSRBs in nearby public housing estates, resulting in the bins being fully loaded; (v) suggested arranging staff to explain to the elderly how to use the “GREEN\$” mobile application around the newly installed food waste recycling bins; (vi) suggested negotiating with the cleansing contractor to increase the frequency of replacing the inner bins of FWSRBs; (vii) two of the buildings in Lai Tsui Court were public housing estates, and it was suggested that food waste recycling bins should be installed in the shopping centre of the estate for residents to use; (viii) enquired about the factors for consideration when deciding the number of food waste recycling bins for each housing estate, suggested adding FWSRBs according to the number of buildings in public housing estates; (ix) some property management companies of private estates were not very familiar with the details of applying for the installation of FWSRBs. It was suggested that EPD strengthen publicity; (x) residents who worked full-time were unable to carry out recycling during the opening hours of “GREEN@COMMUNITY”, it was enquired whether EPD would send staff to assist in recycling; (xi) suggested distributing food waste bins to the residents of public housing estates equipped with FWSRBs and encouraging them to use food waste bins instead of plastic bags to gather

food waste; (xii) enquired whether residents of single-block buildings without property management companies would violate laws relevant to MSW Charging for hiring cleaning workers to clean up waste in their buildings; and (xiii) enquired about the number of Recycling Spots in “GREEN@SHAM SHUI PO” and “GREEN@CHEUNG SHA WAN”.

11. Dr Sally LEE gave a consolidated response: (i) the scope of the programme currently only covered three-nil buildings. It would be difficult to screen out single-block private buildings which had no OCs under normal operation. At present, private residential premises with OCs could apply to EPD for bulk procurement of designated bags and distribute them to residents for use, assisting them in adapting to MSW Charging. However, she would reflect the suggestions of members to the Department about considerations of including single-block private buildings with less than 100 households in the programme of distribution of free designated bags; (ii) the Green Outreach had commenced promotional work in August last year, including explaining the policy and demonstrating recycling to the public of different social classes at “Recycling Spots” and markets near the single-block residential buildings and three-nil buildings in Sham Shui Po district in order to facilitate the implementation of relevant policy. Promotion to and education for the public were being taken forward at the Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores in “GREEN@SHAM SHUI PO” and “GREEN@CHEUNG SHA WAN”. According to statistics, as at February this year, the Green Outreach and “GREEN@COMMUNITY” had carried out 70 promotional activities related to MSW Charging in Sham Shui Po. In early March this year, the Green Outreach provided support to primary and secondary schools that participated in the “We-recycle@School” activity, encouraged students to develop the habit of reducing waste and recycling and be prepared for MSW Charging; (iii) the number of FWSRBs in public housing estates in Sham Shui Po district had increased from 19 to 32, and was planned to increase to 57 in the second quarter of this year. As for Lai Tsui Court and other housing estates that had not yet installed FWSRBs, EPD would identify suitable locations for installation as soon as possible; (iv) EPD assisted private

buildings in installing food waste recycling bins through the Recycling Fund and the Environment and Conservation Fund. 30 private housing estates were covered and a total of 100 bins were installed. Private housing estates had to apply to EPD for the installation of FWSRBs on their own, and the actual quantity would depend on the number of applications and approvals. In addition, EPD also provided traditional covered food waste recycling bins for private buildings. As at February, 20 applications from private housing estates had been received; and (v) EPD would inspect the installed recycling bins and increase the frequency of food waste collection according to their usage needs to prevent the recycling bins from overflowing.

[Post-meeting note: “GREEN@COMMUNITY” currently had over 20 “Recycling Spots” operating in the form of kerb-side collection booths in Sham Shui Po.]

12. The Chairman concluded that relevant departments and members had held briefing sessions and carried out publicity work on MSW Charging in the district, and assisted EPD in distributing designated bags. Members hoped that publicity on recycling supporting facilities, details of environmental protection funds, as well as the use of FWSRBs and “GREEN\$” would be strengthened to enhance policy effectiveness. In addition, EPD was expected to strengthen support for residents of single-block buildings and three-nil buildings to adapt to MSW Charging, consider including poorly managed single-block buildings in the programme of distribution of free designated bags, and provide FWSRBs nearby.

Item 4: Request for Tackling the Odour Problem of the Waterfront in the New Coastal Area (Paper No. 8/2024)

13. A member introduced Paper No. 8/2024.

14. Dr Sally LEE responded that since the opening of Cheung Sha Wan Promenade on 14 July last year, EPD had received complaints about the odour at the

waterfront. The odour problem in Sham Shui Po District was mainly caused by issues such as the Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works, West Kowloon Refuse Transfer Station, waste collection vehicles passing through the district, or misconnected drainage pipes. Regarding the issue of drainage pipe misconnection, it was discovered during inspection that the drainage outlet of the box culvert located near Cheung Sha Wan Promenade only emitted a faint odour intermittently during prevailing winds. In the pollution source investigation completed in the first quarter of 2023, EPD found a total of seven cases of drainage pipe misconnection at the upstream portion of respective drainage outlets. Among them, three cases had been repaired, and the remaining four cases were being followed up by relevant departments. The relevant departments hoped to halve the pollution level at the drainage outlets in Sham Shui Po District before the end of this year. In addition, EPD was working closely with the Drainage Services Department (“DSD”) and the Buildings Department (“BD”) to conduct pollution source investigation and repair work. At present, cases of public drainage pipe misconnection were being followed up by DSD, and misconnection cases involving buildings that required rectification were handled in cooperation with BD. However, since some cases of public drainage pipe misconnection involved busy traffic road sections and technical issues, coordination with other departments and hiring of consultants to study repair plans were necessary, resulting in a longer time required to complete the repair work. EPD was also aware that the upstream area of Sham Shui Po had carried out dry weather flow interceptor optimisation works, which intercepted some pollutants entering the coast, including the waterfront along the coast of Cheung Sha Wan. To alleviate the odour problem along the coast of Cheung Sha Wan waterfront, DSD had applied “Malodour-Control Hydrogel” at the outlet of the box culvert, and had continued to introduce remote-control desilting robots to carry out desilting works for the box culvert, so as to reduce the odour problem caused by silt accumulation. The Government was addressing the problem at source and conducting proactive investigations in areas severely affected by waterfront odours to track the main sources of pollution in the stormwater drainage system. It would follow up through departments such as DSD and BD to rectify cases of sewage flowing into the

stormwater drainage system, hoping to achieve the goal of halving pollution by the end of this year. In addition, EPD had installed an odour-monitoring device at the Cheung Sha Wan Promenade. As it was still at the experimental stage and observation time was required, no results could be provided yet.

15. Mr WAN Chi-shun introduced Response Paper No. 8b/2024.

16. The views of members were consolidated as follows: (i) enquired if there were plans to add dry weather flow interceptors and hoped to conduct on-site inspections of the facilities with relevant departments; (ii) the odour problem might worsen as summer was approaching. It was hoped that the remaining four cases of drainage pipe misconnection could be handled as soon as possible; (iii) suggested that the Department and relevant departments conduct more on-site monitoring or install odour-monitoring devices; (iv) suggested that the Department conduct a comprehensive inspection and improvement of drainage pipes and outfalls; (v) enquired about the schedule for handling the remaining half of the pollution load after the end of this year; (vi) enquired about the contingency facilities or plans to deal with odour at the waterfront in summer; (vii) enquired about solutions to prevent drainage pipe misconnection; and (viii) enquired if there were any other measures to improve the odour problem at the waterfront.

17. Dr Sally LEE gave a consolidation response: (i) the dry weather flow interceptor optimisation works had been carried out in the upstream area of Sham Shui Po. Relevant on-site inspections of facilities might need to be arranged in conjunction with DSD; (ii) EPD was currently working closely with relevant departments to rectify the misconnection of drainage pipes as soon as possible, and the rectification of one of the misconnection cases was expected to be completed by the end of this year; (iii) EPD had installed an odour-monitoring device at the Cheung Sha Wan Promenade; (iv) EPD conducted regular inspections and pollution source investigations. In addition to using the traditional dye-tracing method to trace the pollution sources in the stormwater

system, EPD also installed closed-circuit televisions at locations of strategic stormwater drains to monitor the flow of sewage in stormwater manholes; (v) due to the involvement of busy traffic road sections and technical issues in some cases of public drainage pipe misconnection, coordination with other departments and hiring of consultants to study the remediation plans were necessary, resulting in a longer time required to complete the remediation; (vi) EPD would discuss with DSD a plan to address the odour problem at outfalls in summer; (vii) as Sham Shui Po was an old district, the subsoil drains were gradually ageing and damaged, making it difficult to solve the problem of misconnected pipes from the source. EPD would continue to identify and rectify the stormwater drains misconnected with sewers and buildings; and (viii) EPD would review whether further measures were needed to improve the odour problem at the waterfront.

18. The Chairman concluded that as DSD did not send any representative to the meeting, responses were not received for some of the questions. It was hoped that relevant departments would follow up on the odour problem at the waterfront and conduct on-site inspections if necessary after the meeting.

Item 5: Proposed Provision of Additional Pet Excreta Collection Bins on Sham Mong Road near Block 6 of Aqua Marine and Inclusion of the Road Section as a Sentinel Point for Hygiene Monitoring (Paper No. 9/2024)

19. A member introduced Paper No. 9/2024.

20. Mr WAN Chi-shun introduced Response Paper No. 9a/2024.

21. The views of members were consolidated as follows: (i) enquired if there were progressive penalties to punish owners who repeatedly allow their dogs to foul the streets; (ii) suggested using a detergent that was pungent to dogs to clean the streets, in order to prevent dogs from fouling the same areas; (iii) suggested adding pet excreta

collection bins in Mei Foo area and on Sham Mong Road; and (iv) suggested using detergents to clean the streets and remove the odour of dog excrement.

22. Mr WAN Chi-shun gave a consolidated response: (i) FEHD would closely monitor street conditions and set up additional pet excreta collection bins when necessary; (ii) currently, there were no progressive penalties against those who refused to correct their behaviour despite repeated persuasion. Issuing only fixed penalty ticket was different from initiating a prosecution, where the former involved no conviction record; and (iii) currently, degreasing agents and bleach were used to clean streets and remove street odours.

23. The views of members were consolidated as follows: (i) suggested referring to the Marking Scheme for Estate Management Enforcement in Public Housing Estates, keeping records of fines, and increasing penalties for repeat offenders to enhance deterrence; (ii) enquired if FEHD had the corresponding data to view the records of repeat offenders; and (iii) enquired about the effectiveness of using bleach to clean streets.

24. Mr WAN Chi-shun gave a consolidated response : (i) if a law enforcement officer noticed that a dog owner had been fined repeatedly, he/she would consider handling the case by issuing summons. After the offender pleaded guilty, there would be a conviction record, and when the offender committed an offence again, the judge would sentence them based on the record; and (ii) FEHD used bleach to remove the odour of excrement from dogs and other pets, and then rinsed the ground clean with water to remove the odour of bleach.

25. The Chairman concluded that FEHD was expected to conduct more inspections to check if there were sufficient dog excreta collection bins. If necessary, members could join the on-site inspections. Members hoped that publicity would be strengthened to remind the public to pay attention to environmental hygiene.

Item 6: Any Other Business

26. A member indicated to FEHD that there were rodent holes in the waterfront promenade near Grand Victoria and Hoi Ying Estate. It was believed that there were rodents lurking around and relevant departments were expected to follow up.

27. Mr LAM Chun-ho responded that the Cleansing & Pest Control Section of FEHD mainly provided services for public places, and would provide technical guidance and professional advice for places under the purview of other departments or private places.

28. Mr WONG Wai-tong stated that the Police had strengthened inspections with FEHD to improve the situation of street obstruction. After the Lunar New Year, the situation of hawkers and flea trucks obstructing the passageways on Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street had improved. The Police would continue to cooperate with FEHD to support relevant personnel in law enforcement. If necessary, arrests might be made.

Agenda Item 7: Date of Next Meeting

29. The next meeting would be held at 9:30 a.m. on 23 May 2024 (Thursday).

30. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 11:23 a.m.

District Council Secretariat
Sham Shui Po District Council
May 2024