

(Translation)

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

Date : 23 January 2025 (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, Leo

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

Co-opted Members

Ms CHEUNG Ying-ying

Mr TAM Chun-yu

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
Mr WONG Wai-nang	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 CHAU Chun-yin	Chief Health Inspector (Sham Shui Po) 3, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Dr LEE Yin-chun, Sally	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West) 5, Environmental Protection Department
Ms TAM Sze-chai, Cindy	Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West) 53, Environmental Protection Department
Mr SUEN Sze-ming	Acting Assistant Police Community Relations Officer (Sham Shui Po District), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms CHONG Yuen-man	Neighbourhood Police Coordinator, Police Community Relations Office (Sham Shui Po District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr NG Tsz-wing, Ricky	Chief Estate Officer/Land Control/Kowloon West, Lands Department

Secretary

Miss YUEN Cheuk-lam, Cheryl	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 seventh meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (“FEHC”), and welcomed Mr WONG Wai-nang, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sham Shui Po) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”), to succeed Mr WAN Chi-shun in attending future meetings.

Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee

2. The Committee confirmed the above minutes without amendment.

Item 2: Introduction of the Anti-rodent Charter (FEHC Paper No. 2/2025)

3. Mr WONG Wai-nang introduced Paper No. 2/2025.
4. Members’ views were consolidated as follows: (i) enquired about the biggest difficulties faced by housing estates in the district in rodent control and the assistance provided by the Department for this purpose; (ii) enquired about the expected number of participating housing estates and the measures for promoting the Anti-rodent Charter; (iii) enquired whether the Department would regularly review the effectiveness of the Anti-rodent Charter by means such as comparing rodent control data from housing estates, and publish the information for publicity; (iv) requested copies of the Anti-rodent Charter for members to distribute at different housing estates for publicity; (v) enquired whether the Department would establish a database to follow up the rodent infestations in buildings within the district; and (vi) enquired about the number of “Notice of Elimination of Vermin” issued by the Department to owners’ corporations (“OCs”) in accordance with the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance. In addition, regarding the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance under revision, if an OC refused to comply with the relevant notice, the Department could take action on its behalf and charge the OC the fee. Members enquired about the relevant legal procedures and whether the liaison ambassadors of the housing estates under the Anti-rodent Charter would be liable for legal responsibility.
5. Mr WONG Wai-nang gave a consolidated response as follows: (i) applicants participating in the Anti-rodent Charter must submit their applications directly to the Department’s Pest Control Advisory Section. The district office had only been informed that there were about 15 applications from the district though

detailed information about them was not available; (ii) the Department welcomed property management companies/OCs/resident organisations of any housing estates/buildings to participate in the Anti-rodent Charter, and had not set any target for the number of participating residential properties. However, whether or not a housing estate/building was a signatory of the Anti-rodent Charter, the district office would provide it with information and assistance on rodent prevention and control when needed; (iii) the Anti-rodent Charter aimed to raise awareness on maintaining environmental hygiene and cultivate good habits among residents, and therefore no performance indicators had been set. Since the housing estates/buildings had to deal with the rodent infestation issues on their own, the Department might not have their actual rodent infestation data. In addition, while the Pest Control Advisory Section provided technical support for rodent prevention and control, the district office maintained contact with the housing estates/buildings that had signed the Charter to assess the effectiveness of the programme; (iv) as the Anti-rodent Charter were newly introduced, its information was available on the website and no publicity leaflets had been printed. The Department noted members' views on this matter; and (v) the Anti-rodent Charter was a voluntary programme aimed at encouraging residents to maintain environmental hygiene. Therefore, the relevant liaison ambassadors were only responsible for coordinating anti-rodent efforts in their housing estates/buildings, and would not bear any legal liability for this. Furthermore, regarding the issuance of the "Notice of Elimination of Vermin", the Department would consider issuing the notice to the relevant person whose premises were infested with vermin. The district office issued such notice in 2024.

[Post-meeting note: Sham Shui Po District Environmental Hygiene Office issued one "Notice of Elimination of Vermin" in total in 2024.]

6. Members' views were consolidated as follows: (i) noting that the headquarters was in charge of the Anti-rodent Charter, enquired whether the district office had additional resources such as manpower and funding to support the programme, and how it maintained a balance between the supportive efforts for the Anti-rodent Charter and its routine street cleansing work; and (ii) suggested that the Department should set a target number of participating housing estates based on existing resources, so that the district office would not find it difficult to support the programme due to manpower constraints.

7. Mr WONG Wai-nang gave a consolidated response as follows: (i) while the Department's Pest Control Advisory Section was responsible for the Anti-rodent Charter, the main duties of the district office were routine street cleansing as well as

pest and rodent control. Therefore, implementing the Anti-rodent Charter would not bring additional work to the district office; and (ii) as the rodent problem might partly originate from buildings and housing estates, eliminating rodent infestations at source could better address the problem. With improved rodent control in housing estates/buildings, the rodent problem in the district could be alleviated, which would therefore reduce the daily workload stress of the Department.

8. The Chairman concluded that the Committee noted the report of the Department and supported the Anti-rodent Charter. Whilst the Department had been mainly responsible for pest and rodent control in public places in the past, the Anti-rodent Charter could further alleviate rodent infestation in private places through cooperation between the Government and community. As the Anti-rodent Charter was a voluntary programme, the Committee suggested that the Department should review its effectiveness regularly to optimise the programme and lower the Rodent Absence Rate. At the same time, the Department could consider establishing performance indicators to periodically reveal the effectiveness of the programme to the public. In addition, the Committee also hoped that the Department would consider members' views about designing relevant promotional leaflets which members could help distribute, and organising relevant publicity activities in the district.

Item 3: Concern about Illegal Hawking by Unlicensed Hawkers in Sham Shui Po, Efforts in Joint Operations to be Stepped up to Improve Street Management and Deter Unlawful Acts (FEHC Paper No. 3/2025)

9. A member introduced Paper No. 3/2025.

10. The Chairman added that some members, together with FEHD, the Police and the District Office, had previously held meetings with hawkers and market representatives to discuss the issues of street stalls and illegal parking, as well as actions during the Lunar New Year period. Members had also conducted promotion in Tai Nan Street and around Pei Ho Street Market to remind the public not to patronise unlicensed hawkers and conduct unlicensed hawking activities.

11. Mr WONG Wai-nang introduced Response Paper No. 3a/2025.

12. Mr SUEN Sze-ming responded as follows: (i) the Police had been conducting joint operations with FEHD to crack down on unlicensed hawking activities and had strengthened law enforcement during the Lunar New Year periods; (ii) the Police would take decisive enforcement action against illegal parking to prevent

vehicles from obstructing road users, especially during the Lunar New Year periods when illegal parking often occurred outside shops in Apliu Street due to loading and unloading of goods. The Police would also consider issuing summonses to owners of “dead vehicles” (i.e. unclaimed vehicles). If serious obstruction was found, the Police would consider removing the “dead vehicles” with tow trucks; (iii) as for the traffic condition of the flea market in Nam Cheong Street, the Police had been cooperating with FEHD to prosecute drivers of illegally parked vehicles. In the past three months, the Police had filed 983 prosecutions regarding vehicles illegally parked in Nam Cheong Street; and (iv) the Police conducted joint operations with FEHD every month to ensure that recycling vehicles for second-hand electrical appliances along Hai Tan Street would not cause road obstruction.

13. Members’ views were consolidated as follows: (i) suggested that relevant departments should continue to follow up on the issue of long-hour unlicensed hawking activities on weekends or weekday evenings along Wing Lung Street and Fuk Wing Street to prevent the area from becoming another hub for unlicensed hawking; and that relevant departments should follow up on the problem of unlicensed hawker vehicles in the vicinity of Un Chau Shopping Centre and Fat Tseung Street; (ii) given the persistent unlicensed hawking activities in the four streets surrounding Pei Ho Street Market (“Pei Ho Four Streets”) as well as Nam Cheong Street, suggested that the Department should review the effectiveness of existing actions and deploy additional manpower to patrol and station at illegal hawking black spots in the daytime of the peak hawking period during the Lunar New Year to mitigate the situation; (iii) suggested that the Department should take enforcement action immediately when unlicensed hawkers start to occupy areas or set up their stalls in order to stop unlicensed hawking at source; (iv) some unlicensed hawkers were residents of public housing estates and occasionally traded on footbridges connecting estates. Such situation had also been observed during previous Lunar New Year periods. Members thus enquired about the Department’s countermeasures, such as whether manpower had been arranged to patrol the community and advise the public, or whether it had worked with property management companies and the Housing Department (“HD”) to address the issue; (v) enquired whether hawkers using public housing units to store goods or to produce and sell food would violate the Housing Ordinance, and whether the Department had a notification mechanism to inform property management companies and HD of the situation to enhance deterrence; (vi) suggested that relevant departments should issue warning and take enforcement action against unlicensed hawkers when they were seen setting up stalls; (vii) pointed out that as a large number of police officers were stationed in Pei Ho Four Streets, hawkers might scatter to Wing Lung Street and Fat Tseung Street and then return to Pei Ho Four Streets when the Police officers were mobilised.

14. Mr WONG Wai-nang gave a consolidated response as follows: (i) it was difficult for the Department to keep track of all unlicensed hawkers in the district in real time with existing resources. In addition to sending out personnel for daily patrols, it was also necessary to obtain relevant information through a notification mechanism. Members were welcome to provide relevant information to the Department so that it could swiftly crack down on unlicensed hawking activities. The Department would continue to follow up on the situation at the locations mentioned by members and would also strengthen joint operations with the Police during the Lunar New Year period to tackle the problem of unlicensed hawking; (ii) generally speaking, the current policy of the Department was to give warning before taking enforcement actions, and prosecution and seizure actions would be taken only if the verbal warning was not heeded; and (iii) unlicensed hawking activities in the district would peak during the Lunar New Year. In addition to deploying extra manpower for patrolling Pei Ho Four Streets, other major streets and hawker black spots and allocating resources when necessary, the Department would also conduct joint operations with the Police during the Lunar New Year period to combat unlicensed hawking. It would review the effectiveness after the Lunar New Year, and then adjust and formulate strategies to deal with the relevant unlicensed hawking activities.

15. Mr SUEN Sze-ming gave a consolidated response as follows: (i) given that the Police had to handle both the emergency hotlines and other cases, and that hawkers would move from place to place around Pei Ho Four Streets, it was hard to arrange manpower to keep standing watch in Pei Ho Four Streets. The Police would cooperate and discuss countermeasures with FEHD.

16. Members' views were consolidated as follows: (i) as for hawkers or refugees who breached the conditions of stay, enquired whether the Department would cooperate with non-profit-making organisations to disseminate to the refugees the message that illegal hawking was not allowed.

17. Mr WONG Wai-nang said members' views were noted and would be relayed to the headquarters.

18. The Chairman concluded that the issue of unlicensed hawking in Sham Shui Po had gradually improved, and expressed gratitude to the relevant departments for their efforts. If members noticed any unlicensed hawking activities in the district, they could provide relevant information to the Department. The Committee hoped that relevant departments would take more joint law enforcement actions and strengthen publicity to the public. It also suggested that police cars or FEHD vehicles should be

parked near the black spots in the district where unlicensed hawking activities involving the use of vehicles were found and that relevant promotional soundtracks or videos should be played in order to enhance the deterrent effect. The Committee also hoped that the Department would consider the situation of some vulnerable groups when taking enforcement action and handle relevant cases cautiously.

Item 4: Any Other Business

19. A member told FEHD that there was an odour of pet excrement along Sham Shing Road, and hoped that the Department would clean the street during the year-end clean-up campaign.

20. A member pointed out that the Fat Tseung Street access point of the Lunar New Year fair at Cheung Sha Wan Playground was only used for exit, but the banner indicated that it was an exit/entrance, causing confusion among the public. It was suggested that the Department should allow members of the public to use the access point for entering and exiting the fair.

21. Mr CHAN Pui-lun responded that the exit/entrance at Fat Tseung Street would be used for both entry and exit during periods of low foot traffic. The Department noted the views of the relevant member and would make corresponding arrangements based on the actual circumstances.

22. Mr CHAU Chun-yin responded that the Department would arrange manpower to clean Sham Shing Road.

Item 5: Date of Next Meeting

23. The next meeting would be held at 9:30 a.m. on 27 March 2025 (Thursday).

24. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:38 a.m.

District Council Secretariat
Sham Shui Po District Office
March 2025