

(Translation)

Minutes of the 8th Meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee of
Sham Shui Po District Council (7th Term)

Date : 27 March 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 LI Yiu-ming, Leo	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
Dr CHAN Wai-tat, Russell	Senior Consultant, Hong Kong Centre for Cerebro-Cardiovascular Health Engineering
Ms LEUNG Hei-tung	Operations Assistant, Hong Kong Centre for Cerebro-Cardiovascular Health Engineering

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 eighth meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (“FEHC”).

Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 7th Meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee

2. The Committee confirmed the above minutes without amendment.

Item 2: Cleaning Pedestrian Walkways to Improve Cityscape (FEHC Paper No. 7/2025)

3. Mr WONG Wai-nang introduced Paper No. 7/2025.
4. Members’ views were consolidated as follows: (i) enquired about the specific time for cleaning the six new locations with mini street washing vehicles; (ii) enquired whether the cleaning agents used by mini street washing vehicles contained chemical components and about their potential impact on the environment; (iii) enquired if the cleaning locations and frequency would be adjusted according to the street conditions; (iv) suggested that the Department should use mini street washing vehicles in more locations according to the street conditions; (v) enquired about the criteria for selecting the six new locations and whether there would be regular adjustments to the locations; (vi) enquired if the Department had ever used mini street washing vehicles to clean streets; and (vii) enquired whether the Department would allocate manpower to accommodate the new arrangement.
5. Mr WONG Wai-nang gave a consolidated response as follows: (i) currently, the Department was widely using mini street washing vehicles for cleaning work in its daily street cleansing services, including at tourist hotspots and busy streets in the district, such as the entrances/exits of MTR Sham Shui Po Station, the hawker stall area and the vicinity of Pei Ho Street Market, in order to maintain environmental hygiene; (ii) to support the “Cleaning Pedestrian Walkways to Improve Cityscape” initiative, the Department had designated the six locations listed in the Paper (such as those located on slopes, near retaining walls, or under tree shade where dirt was more likely to accumulate) as additional cleaning sites. Starting from February, the Department had arranged for mini street washing vehicles to clean the six new locations weekly. The effectiveness would be assessed after three months and resources would

be allocated according to actual needs and hygiene conditions. Members were advised that should they identify other locations in the district requiring deep cleaning, they might notify the Department; and (iii) the mini street washing vehicles, using cleaning agents free of harmful chemicals combined with the heat from hot water high-pressure jets, could effectively remove dirt on the ground.

6. Members' views were consolidated as follows: (i) hoped that the Department would use mini street washing vehicles to clean the streets and eliminate odours; and (ii) according to the shops on Castle Peak Road, there were problems of odour and excrement being thrown from heights. It was hoped that relevant departments would take follow-up action.

7. Mr WONG Wai-nang gave a consolidated response that the Department would follow up on the cases and allocate resources according to actual needs and hygiene conditions so as to maintain the environmental hygiene of the area.

8. The Chairman concluded that the Committee noted the report of the Department and supported the Department in strengthening the cleaning of pedestrian walkways. The Committee advised the Department to clarify that the six places mentioned in the paper were new locations in the district where mini street washing vehicles would be arranged to clean the pedestrian walkways, and also list the existing cleaning locations to avoid misunderstandings among the public. At present, the use of mini street washing vehicles by the Department to clean the streets had shown results. It was hoped that the Department would continue to strengthen the cleaning of pedestrian walkways to improve the cityscape.

Item 3: Combating Air-Conditioner Water Dripping to Improve Community Environment (FEHC Paper No. 8/2025)

9. Mr WONG Wai-nang introduced Paper No. 8/2025.

10. Members' views were consolidated as follows: (i) enquired about the criteria for being classified as a dripping air-conditioner black spot; (ii) due to the serious water dripping from air-conditioners in Fuk Wing Street and Fuk Wa Street, enquired whether the Department had deployed more manpower for inspection and handling of the relevant cases; (iii) in view of a possible increase in the number of cases of water dripping from air-conditioners in summer, it was suggested that the Department should cooperate with owners' corporations ("OCs") and property

management companies of buildings as well as district organisations to conduct promotion and educate the public; (iv) enquired about the implementation of the Scheme of Participation by Property Management Agents in Tackling Dripping Air-conditioners and suggested that the Department should proactively invite buildings to participate in the scheme; (v) noting that the total number of cases of dripping air-conditioners in Hong Kong reached 31 000 in 2023 and increased to 34 000 in 2024, enquired about the corresponding number of cases in Sham Shui Po District (“SSP District”); (vi) enquired about the number of successful cases of prosecution against water dripping from air-conditioners; and (vii) suggested that the Department should use new technologies such as drones to investigate the source of water dripping from air-conditioners in order to improve work efficiency.

11. Mr WONG Wai-nang gave a consolidated response as follows: (i) of the two water dripping black spots in SSP District, the one in Yen Chow Street was a dripping air-conditioner black spot under the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots. After the Department issued Nuisance Notices to the units involved, the situation in the area had improved. The Department had listed it as a black spot for review and evaluation of effectiveness; another black spot was Kam Sha Mansion, against which many complaints about dripping air-conditioners had been received in the previous year, and the Department thus also identified it as a key target to be dealt with. In addition to the aforementioned black spots, the Department would continue to address water dripping issues in other areas. If the problem of water dripping from air-conditioners at these two black spots improved, the Department would deploy its resources to address the other water dripping problems around Cheung Sha Wan Road and Castle Peak Road by taking the same strategic actions; (ii) the Department would follow up on the issue of water dripping from air-conditioners in Fuk Wa Street and Fuk Wing Street; (iii) the Department would continue to promote the Scheme of Participation by Property Management Agents in Tackling Dripping Air-conditioners and proactively invite property management companies and OCs to participate; (iv) in 2023, a total of 2 091 complaints about dripping air-conditioners were recorded in the district, and the number increased to 2 726 in 2024. With heightened public awareness of water dripping from air-conditioners, the number of complaints received by the Department had increased accordingly. The Department had accelerated the issuance of Nuisance Notices to occupants of the involved units, requiring them to follow up on the water dripping problem of their units. In 2024, the Department had issued a total of 738 Nuisance Notices under the “CLEARSKY” operation, which was more than the approximately 300 Notices issued in 2023. With increasing law-abiding awareness of the public, the number of prosecutions had decreased, from 41 cases in 2023 to 8 cases in 2024. The Department would continue

to actively address the issue of water dripping from air-conditioners to avoid causing nuisance to residents and visitors; and (v) as water dripping from air-conditioners usually occurred in residential areas at night or early morning, the Department had used night vision cameras to assist in investigating the source of water dripping in 2024.

12. Members' views were consolidated as follows: with the dense streets and population in the district, the problem of water dripping from air-conditioners might worsen in summer. It was hoped that the Department would take the initiative to strengthen inspections in order to avoid mosquito breeding or impact on the business environment of shops and hawker stalls.

13. Mr WONG Wai-nang gave a consolidated response as follows: the Department would continue to follow up on the issue of water dripping.

14. The Chairman concluded that the Committee noted the report of the Department. There were many old buildings in the district, and the problem of water dripping from air-conditioners happened frequently. It took time to investigate its source and cause, and some cases involved sub-divided units, making it difficult to contact the responsible persons. The Committee thanked the Department for setting up dedicated teams to handle the issue. As summer was approaching, the issue of water dripping from air-conditioners might become more serious. It was hoped that the Department could promptly follow up on it and use new technology to strengthen inspections of dripping air-conditioner black spots. If necessary, it could cooperate with property management companies to improve the problem.

Item 4: Concern about the Accumulation of Refuse in Some Areas in Sham Shui Po District (FEHC Paper No. 9/2025)

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

16. Mr WONG Wai-nang introduced Response Paper No. 9a/2025.

17. Members' views were consolidated as follows: (i) the roadside planters in the vicinity of Fu Cheong Estate were piled up with refuse, becoming a hiding place for rodents and thus causing rodent infestations; (ii) there were insufficient litter bins in Tat Chee Avenue, and members of the public disposed of their rubbish in the District Council's planters on the roadside railings. It was suggested that the number of litter bins in Tat Chee Avenue should be increased and inspections should be strengthened;

(iii) enquired about the inspection schedule of the dedicated law enforcement teams as well as the data and effectiveness of the relevant prosecution cases; (iv) enquired if the Department had any plan to conduct joint cleaning operations with other government departments and community organisations; (v) pointed out that some drivers would dispose of rubbish near the railings while driving, and enquired about the effectiveness of reporting by the public; and (vi) enquired about the effectiveness of the Department's use of surveillance cameras for law enforcement and evidence, as well as the difficulties faced during the process.

18. Mr WONG Wai-nang gave a consolidated response as follows: (i) the Department would follow up on the problem of refuse accumulation outside Fu Cheong Estate and in Tat Chee Avenue, and would consider adding litter bins according to the actual situation. If members found out other refuse accumulation problems in the district, they could also report to the Department; (ii) when necessary, the Department would conduct joint operations with other government departments to improve the environment; (iii) any member of the public who found a driver littering on the roadside could mark down the licence plate of the vehicle involved and make a report to the Department; and (iv) the Department had placed Internet Protocol (IP) cameras at hygiene black spots and some traffic light locations, and had previously prosecuted littering drivers by virtue of relevant records. The Department would regularly review the effectiveness, adjust the position of IP cameras according to actual situations, and consider installing IP cameras at more traffic light locations.

[Post-meeting note: Sham Shui Po District Environmental Hygiene Office issued approximately 3 200 fixed penalty notices in respect of public cleanliness offences in 2024.]

19. Ms Janice FUNG gave a consolidated response as follows: (i) while the District Office managed the roadside railings and the pots of the District Council's planters under the District Minor Works programme, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD") was responsible for the hygienic condition inside the planters and gardening matters.

20. In her conclusion, the Chairman mentioned that apart from Hing Wah Street West, there was also accumulation of refuse in some other areas of the district. The Department had proactively dealt with the refuse accumulated in public places and alleys, and had achieved results. It was expected that the Department would continue to strengthen cleaning. If members found refuse accumulation in other areas within the district, they could immediately notify the Department.

Item 5: Proposal to Optimise the Complementary Arrangements and Measures for Food Waste Smart Recycling Bins in Public Rental Housing Estates (FEHC Paper No. 10/2025)

21. A member introduced Paper No. 10/2025.

22. Dr Sally LEE introduced Response Paper No. 10a/2025.

23. Members' views were consolidated as follows: (i) enquired about the application procedures for installing food waste smart recycling bins ("FWSRBs") in private housing estates, as well as the support provided by the Environmental Protection Department ("EPD") to private housing estates; (ii) some of the housing estates in the district comprised many blocks, and their FWSRBs filled up quickly. It was suggested that the Department should review the usage of FWSRBs and provide more FWSRBs accordingly to meet the actual needs of large housing estates; (iii) enquired about the inspection, repair and maintenance details of FWSRBs, as well as whether there was sufficient manpower to carry out the relevant repair and maintenance procedures; (iv) pointed out that when the FWSRBs were full, some estate offices failed to replace the inner bins in a timely manner, resulting in residents disposing of food waste near the FWSRBs, which then caused environmental hygiene problems. It was suggested that the Department and estate offices should strengthen coordination; (v) suggested that the Department should set up FWSRBs in markets under the purview of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD") and avoid environmental hygiene or rodent problems; and (vi) suggested strengthening the promotion of the use of FWSRBs, such as collaborating with the Housing Department ("HD") to put up slogans explaining that food waste could be disposed of together with plastic bags into the machines.

24. Dr Sally LEE gave a consolidated response as follows: (i) since December 2023, the Environmental Campaign Committee had supported the EPD in launching the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Smart Recycling Bins in Private Housing Estates through funding from the Environment and Conservation Fund. The scheme provided free rental services for FWSRBs, including installation and related maintenance services, for large private housing estates with a total of over 1 000 households. The Department had also established a solicitation theme through the Recycling Fund, covering salaries of additional cleaning and administrative personnel as well as additional electricity and audit fees derived from FWSRBs, for private housing estates with a total of over 200 households to apply for; (ii) the property

management companies of the housing estates would post notices when the equipment malfunctioned or when there were copious amounts of food waste. Cleaning staff would also put traditional pedal-operated food waste recycling bins next to FWSRBs for use when necessary to ensure the provision of food waste collection services and maintain environmental hygiene. Cleaning staff would usually replace the inner bins of FWSRBs two to three times a day and wipe the machine body with a damp cloth. The frequency would be increased if necessary. The Department had reminded the HD and public rental housing (“PRH”) estate offices in the district to strengthen the cleaning of FWSRBs and their surrounding areas, and to increase the frequency of replacing inner bins having regard to the actual situation. An FWSRB had an inner capacity of 120 litres and was equipped with weight sensors and fill level sensors. When the recycling bin reached 70% of its capacity, the system would send an SMS to notify the cleaning staff that the inner bin had to be replaced; (iii) as most FWSRBs were placed at well-ventilated places in the entrances/exits of PRH estates and were equipped with odour abatement devices, there would be no odour problems in general. In view of the implementation of the scheme, the EPD had provided additional resources to the HD to ramp up its manpower for enhancing cleansing services at the PRH estates, including maintaining cleanliness of the FWSRBs and their surrounding areas, replacing inner bins fully loaded with food waste, and storing them properly and temporarily at designated locations in the PRH estates (such as the central refuse collection points). These would facilitate the daily collection of food waste by the Department’s contractors for delivery to the treatment facilities for recycling; (iv) the Department would discuss with the FEHD about placing FWSRBs in public markets under its purview; and (v) the Department was gradually replacing the latest usage directions on FWSRBs, reminding members of the public that food waste and plastic bags could be put together into the recycling bins. It would also continue to strengthen publicity work.

25. Members’ views were consolidated as follows: (i) pointed out that some private housing estates in the district had less than 200 households in total, making it difficult for them to apply to the Department for the installation of FWSRBs, and that there was insufficient promotion of the scheme. It was suggested that the Department should strengthen publicity and relax the application requirements to allow joint applications from private housing estates with less than 200 households in total; (ii) suggested leveraging the networks of non-profit-making organisations in the district and District Council Members to disseminate new information about the recycling bins to the public; (iii) suggested setting up additional FWSRBs in some PRH estates, such as those with more blocks like Pak Tin Estate. Meanwhile, Lai Tsui Court was an estate comprising both PRH and Home Ownership Scheme (“HOS”) units, and the

HOS households there also used FWSRBs. The FWSRBs in the estate were not sufficient to meet the needs of the entire estate's residents; (iv) suggested strengthening the promotion of the point rewards scheme and revamping the related application to display the distribution of food waste recycling points, facilitating public participation in food waste recycling; (v) food waste recycling points near private buildings were concentrated in the vicinity of Cheung Sha Wan, while there were fewer around Nam Cheong Street. It was suggested that the Department should balance the distribution of food waste recycling points to cover more areas; and (vi) suggested strengthening the publicity efforts in private housing estates for the scheme of installing FWSRBs.

26. Dr Sally LEE gave a consolidated response as follows: (i) as for private housing estates, the Recycling Fund Secretariat had not yet received any applications from housing estates in SSP District. In addition, the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Smart Recycling Bins in Private Housing Estates had received four applications in total, and the application for Manhattan Hill had been approved. To encourage more private housing estates to participate, the Department was currently piloting a free connection to its GREEN\$ Electronic Participation Incentive Scheme for private residences and buildings self-financing the installation of FWSRBs, with a view to providing more incentives for members of the public to continue participating in food waste recycling; (ii) for single-block buildings or buildings with fewer households, the Department had set up about 200 Public Food Waste Recycling Points throughout Hong Kong, including GREEN@COMMUNITY Recycling Stations, Public Refuse Collection Points and Food Waste Recycling Spots, where pedal-operated food waste recycling bins were provided. It also planned to identify suitable locations for setting up more Public Food Waste Collection Points. In addition to FWSRBs, the Department could also provide traditional pedal-operated food waste recycling bins for private residential premises; (iii) through subsidy projects, the Department and the Environment and Conservation Fund would provide educational and promotional support to residents living in or around PRH estates, private buildings, and Public Food Waste Recycling Points participating in food waste recycling. Relevant efforts included distributing flyers and posters, providing customer service hotlines, and arranging environmental ambassadors to assist residents in using the services; and (iv) the opinions about adding FWSRBs in PRH estates such as Lai Tsui Court and improving the interface design and QR code system of the GREEN\$ application would be forwarded to relevant divisions for consideration.

27. Members' views were consolidated as follows: (i) enquired about how the amount of food waste collected by traditional pedal-operated food waste recycling bins would compare to that of FWSRBs; (ii) suggest placing FWSRBs in parks under the

purview of the LCSD; (iii) enquired about the application procedures for installing an FWSRB and the time required for approval; and (iv) suggested grouping the FWSRBs in private housing estates and PRH estates by area with centralised management, maintenance and repair.

28. Dr Sally LEE gave a consolidated response as follows: (i) an FWSRB, which could hold 120 litres of food waste, had a larger capacity than a traditional pedal-operated food waste recycling bins; (ii) at present, the outsourced contractors were responsible for the repair and maintenance of FWSRBs. The Department would monitor the performance of the contractors to ensure that they meet the requirements specified in the contracts; and (iii) the Department would review the effectiveness in a timely manner, including the amount of food waste recycled, public participation, and service efficiency. More FWSRBs would be set up if necessary, and the installation of food waste recycling facilities at different locations would be explored.

[Post-meeting note: As of April 2025, the EPD had installed about 1 300 FWSRBs in 217 PRH estates and approximately 120 private residential buildings, recycling about 100 tonnes of domestic food waste per day. In addition to FWSRBs, the EPD also provided traditional pedal-operated food waste recycling bins for 27 private housing estates and 2 villages for food waste recycling, with an average daily recycling amount of about 2 tonnes. At present, the Government mainly acquired FWSRBs from suppliers by lease, and the rent already included service fees in relation to, for example, transportation, installation, inspection, repair and maintenance, and replacement of consumables. Therefore, the repair and maintenance of FWSRBs in public and private housing estates would be carried out by the contractors, each of which would be responsible for the FWSRBs they provided.]

29. The Chairman concluded that there was a gradual increase in the use of and demand for food waste recycling machines, indicating that the public's environmental awareness had improved, and also reflecting that the Department's food waste recycling policy had begun to show results. However, the increasing usage of food waste recycling machines might lead to environmental hygiene and rodent problems. Therefore, it was expected that relevant departments and the District Council would strengthen communication and consider feasible suggestions to improve the situation and further optimise their environmental protection work.

Item 6: Sham Shui Po Community Service Screening and Dynamic Study

30. Dr Russell CHAN introduced the details of Sham Shui Po Community

Service Screening and Dynamic Study with a slide presentation.

31. Members' views were consolidated as follows: (i) enquired about the nature of the research centre; and (ii) enquired about the follow-up on cases discovered during screening and suggested collaborating with the District Health Centre.

32. Dr Russell CHAN gave a consolidated response as follows: (i) the centre was a non-profit research centre established in partnership by City University of Hong Kong, University of Oxford and Karolinska Institutet. It mainly engaged in clinical research and translation of university research results and collaborated with medical institutions such as Queen Mary Hospital and Prince of Wales Hospital; and (ii) if high-risk cases were found during screening, the consultant doctors would provide advice. The specific follow-up plan was still under planning and follow-up by doctors on the relevant cases would be considered.

33. The Committee thanked the research centre for sharing the details of the Sham Shui Po Community Service Screening and Dynamic Study and called on all members to promote relevant activities to the public with a view to establishing a healthy community.

Item 7: Any Other Business

34. Members raised no other business.

Item 8: Date of Next Meeting

35. The next meeting would be held at 9:30 a.m. on 22 May 2025 (Thursday).

36. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 11:18 a.m.

District Council Secretariat
Sham Shui Po District Office
May 2025