

For information
on 23 May 2013



STDC Paper 43/2013

Sha Tin District Council

Report on the meeting of the
Health and Environment Committee held on 9 May 2013

(1) The Committee discussed the following:

- (i) paper on “Development of a Pilot Community Green Station at Sha Tin” submitted by the Environmental Protection Department;
- (ii) paper on “Removal of Aqua Privies in Mui Tsz Lam” submitted by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD);
- (iii) paper on “Strategy and Work for Improvement of Environmental Hygiene in Hong Kong” submitted by the FEHD, and passed the following two provisional motions unanimously:
 - (a) “The Health and Environment Committee of the Sha Tin District Council strongly requests the government departments concerned to review the current policy as soon as possible, and draw up appropriate measures as well as increase manpower to resolve the issue of illegal disposal of construction waste”; and
 - (b) “The Health and Environment Committee of the Sha Tin District Council strongly requests the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to review afresh the current legislation, increase penalty, and effectively combat obstruction of public access by shops occupying the pedestrian lane for commercial purposes, so as to keep the environment clean, tidy and hygienic”;
- (iv) paper on “Cleaning Up Spots that Need to Improve Environmental Hygiene” submitted by the FEHD;
- (v) replies of the Department of Health, Social Welfare Department and Hospital Authority to the question on “Government Dental Service in Sha

Tin District”; and

- (vi) reply of the Hospital Authority to the question on “Waiting Time for Consultation in the Accident and Emergency Departments of Public Hospitals”.

(2) The Committee endorsed the following:

- (i) revised member list of the Committee’s Working Group on Environment Protection;
- (ii) work plans of the Committee’s Working Group on Health City and Medical Service and Working Group on Cleanliness and Hygiene of Sha Tin District for 2013/2014;
- (iii) funding application in the amount of \$202,000 for “2013 Sha Tin District Cleanliness and Hygiene Activities” submitted by the Working Group on Cleanliness and Hygiene of Sha Tin District;
- (iv) the motion on prevention of the outbreak of quarantinable diseases through a territory-wide cleaning campaign jointly launched by the government and citizens:

“Stepping up Enforcement and Strengthening Cleaning Services:

1. organise a territory-wide campaign on the report of hygiene black spots, under which the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) obtains information on environmental hygiene black spots from the public; moreover, the FEHD is requested to draw up a performance pledge stipulating that cases reported by the public should be handled properly within a specified timeframe;
2. allocate additional resources to subsidise the cleaning of public areas in buildings without owners’ corporations so as to dissipate lurking hygiene risks;
3. allocate additional resources and recruit additional staff, strengthen frontline staff training, increase cleaning manpower and the frequency of street cleaning by mechanical sweepers, as well as

increase the number of refuse bins on the street and the daily frequency of refuse collection;

4. strengthen enforcement against littering, spitting and other unwholesome behaviours;
5. step up patrolling of public areas (such as restaurants and places of public entertainment), housing estates and the street, ensuring that public areas are always kept in clean and hygienic conditions;
6. increase the frequency of beat patrol and raids at hawking black spots, and step up the crackdown on illegal hawking during early hours and early morning;

Community Publicity and Education:

7. organise a territory-wide cleaning competition among housing estates every year, so as to encourage residents of public housing estates, owners of private housing estates and management companies to pay attention to the environmental hygiene of housing estates;
8. establish environmental hygiene indices for 18 districts, so that the public could learn about the environmental hygiene conditions of various districts;
9. fix a monthly territory-wide domestic and community cleaning day, and nurture public consciousness of domestic and community cleanliness through this activity;
10. step up public education on health, targeting particularly at primary and secondary school students, in the hope of cultivating good hygiene habits in them;
11. recruit volunteers to act as cleaning ambassadors, who will educate and give advice to people violating the legislation on cleanliness; and
12. set up volunteer teams in each district, pay regular visits to elderly people living alone and clean their homes.” (Passed with a vote of 18

in favour and 1 abstention);

- (v) the motion on “Vigilance against Avian Influenza in Hong Kong”:

“The Health and Environment Committee of the Sha Tin District Council requests the government departments concerned to take the following measures:

1. strengthen cross-border communication, exchange information with relevant departments closely on hygienic conditions and disease control work, and publicise immunisation messages in due course;
2. assess the risk of quarantinable diseases prudently and guard against a large outbreak in the community;
3. strengthen the screening of birds imported to Hong Kong to ensure food safety;
4. step up patrolling of areas where wild birds gather, and urge the public not to feed and contact wild birds through publicity;
5. implement a territory-wide cleaning campaign, so as to draw public attention to environmental and personal hygiene, and motivate the government and citizens to enhance cleanliness and prevent quarantinable diseases together;
6. step up publicity and education, including organising territory-wide cleaning competition among housing estates on a regular basis; fixing a monthly territory-wide domestic and community cleaning day; establishing environmental hygiene indices at the community level for 18 districts, so that the public could learn about the environmental hygiene conditions of various districts in Hong Kong; and set up volunteer teams in each district, pay regular visits to elderly people living alone and clean their homes.” (Passed unanimously); and

- (vi) the motion on “Request for Provision of T21 Tests for Pregnant Women by Public Hospitals”:

“The Health and Environment Committee of the Sha Tin District Council requests the Hospital Authority to introduce the T21 test, apply it in collaboration with ultrasound scanning, and use this technique firstly on “high-risk pregnant women” suspected to be suffering from Down’s syndrome after going through ultrasound scanning, and then progressively extend this technique to all pregnant women by phases in replacement of chorionic villous sampling.” (Passed unanimously.)

- (3) The question on “Noise Caused by East Rail Trains” was not discussed at the meeting because it was withdrawn by the member raising it.
- (4) Owing to the absence of a quorum, the Vice Chairman, who hosted the meeting on behalf of the Chairman, decided that discussion of the questions on “Environmental Hygiene in Tai Wai” and “Cleanliness in the Tai Shui Hang Area” would be adjourned until the next meeting, and that “Reports of Working Groups”, “2013/2014 Approved Estimates of Expenditure Head 4 under the Committee”, “Statistical Overview of Sha Tin District Environmental Hygiene Service (as at 31 March 2013)” and “Sha Tin District Anti-mosquito Campaign 2013 (Second Phase)” would be dealt with through circulation of papers.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat

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