

For information
on 19 July 2012



STDC Paper 79/2012

Sha Tin District Council

Report on the meeting of the
Health and Environment Committee held on 5 July 2012

(1) The Committee endorsed the following:

- (i) revised member lists of working groups under the Committee;
- (ii) funding applications for “Sha Tin Housing Estates Book Exchange Programme”, “Production of Environmentally Friendly Souvenirs” and “Hong Kong Flower Show 2013” submitted by the Working Group on Environment Protection, the amount applied for were \$43,360, \$45,390 and \$3,250 respectively;
- (iii) funding applications submitted by the Working Group on Health City and Medical Service, details were as follows:

	<u>Name of activity</u>	<u>Amount applied for</u>
(a)	Study Report on Alcohol Drinking Habits Among Youth	\$40,000
(b)	Publicity of Information on Women’s Health	\$24,770
(c)	Alcoholism Photo Contest	\$16,140
(d)	Alcoholism Debate Competition	\$26,440
(e)	Sha Tin Health Festival 2012	\$66,250
(f)	Green Walking for Fitness 2013	\$46,400

- (iv) funding application in the amount of \$138,550 for “2012 Sha Tin District Cleanliness and Hygiene Activities II” submitted by the Working Group on Cleanliness and Hygiene of Sha Tin District.

(2) The Committee discussed the following:

- (i) discussion paper on *2012/13 Work Plan of the New Territories East Cluster*

of the Hospital Authority submitted by the Hospital Authority;

- (ii) reply of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) to the question on the village sewerage works in Sha Tin District, and passed the provisional motion below:

“The Health and Environment Committee of the Sha Tin District Council (STDC) strongly requests the government to complete the sewer connection works for Sha Tin villages as soon as possible, and clear the riverbed mud and upstream garbage more frequently, so as to fully resolve the water pollution problem of Shing Mun River.” (Unanimously passed);

- (iii) replies of the Department of Health, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and the Hong Kong Police Force to the question on alcoholism, and passed the provisional motion below:

“The Health and Environment Committee of the STDC strongly requests relevant government departments to ameliorate the aggravating problem of alcoholism in Hong Kong by stepping up effective publicity and preventive education, and to safeguard public health, especially the health of young people, through research and policy as soon as possible.” (Unanimously passed);

- (iv) replies of the Drainage Services Department, the EPD and the FEHD to the question on the water quality and odour problems of Shing Mun River, and passed the provisional motion below:

“As there is still occasional emission of bad odour from Shing Mun River in Sha Tin, especially during spring and summer, the Health and Environment Committee of the STDC strongly requests relevant government departments to fully resolve the odour problem of the river, so as to dissipate the disturbance caused to the residents along the river bank, especially those living in the upstream area.” (Unanimously passed); and

- (v) replies of the Commissioner for Heritage’s Office of the Development Bureau, the Antiquities and Monuments Office, the Planning Department, the Transport Department and the FEHD to the question on environmental problems in Tao Fong Shan, and passed the provisional motion below:

“Tao Fong Shan was once listed among the ten leading scenic spots in Sha Tin. It was named after Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre. With Chinese garden design, the architectural complex built in 1930 manifests a blend of Chinese and Western cultures, making it unparalleled in Hong Kong and Mainland China. It was accorded a Grade 2 historic building status by the government. Moreover, MacLehose Trail is a nice place for spending leisure time and hiking. Therefore, it is necessary to enhance conservation of Tai Fong Shan.

Nevertheless, the religious atmosphere of the entire Tao Fong Shan has been seriously destroyed in recent years by unauthorised alteration of land use and sale of columbarium niches by Ching To Yuen. Tao Fong Shan Road is unable to cope with the increasing number of people travelling by vehicles to Ching To Yuen to worship their ancestors. Normal visits by local residents are affected, and the police have to implement road closures to cope with surging vehicle flow during the two ancestor worship festivals in spring and autumn respectively.

To conserve the historic building of Tao Fong Shan and safeguard the reasonable rights and interests of local residents, the Health and Environment Committee of the STDC strongly requests the government to take the following actions:

- (a) conserve the historic architectural complex by making long term planning for the development of Tao Fong Shan;
- (b) dissipate the nuisance caused to the residents by enforcing a ban on the illegal columbaria immediately;
- (c) preserve the religious uniqueness of Tao Fong Shan by terminating Ching To Yuen’s application for change of land use permanently; and
- (d) improve the supporting traffic facilities of Tao Fong Shan so as to avoid traffic congestion and ensure that rescue work will not be affected.” (Unanimously passed).

(3) The Committee noted the following:

- (i) information papers on “Sha Tin District Environmental Hygiene Service Statistical Overview (as at 31 May 2012)” and the “Second Phase of the Anti-rodent Campaign 2012 in Sha Tin” submitted by the FEHD; and

- (ii) minutes of meetings of the Committee's Working Group on Environment Protection and Working Group on Cleanliness and Hygiene of Sha Tin District.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat

STDC 13/55/40

July 2012