

**Summary of the Minutes of  
the 4th Meeting of the Sha Tin District Council (2012 Session)**

The 4th meeting of the Sha Tin District Council (STDC) (2012 session) was held on 22 March 2012. The major issues discussed are summarised below:

**Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 16 February 2012**

2. The minutes of the above meeting were confirmed without amendment.

**Matters Discussed**

**Public Consultation on Licensing Scheme for Private Columbaria**

3. Representative of the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) gave a brief account of the paper. Most members supported the proposed licensing scheme. The replies of the FHB representative to the members' questions and proposals were as follows:

- (a) In response to the call for increasing the supply of public columbaria, the government had identified 24 potential columbarium sites, and it was expected that by 2016, about 120,000 additional niches would have been built.
- (b) Regarding the suggestion of providing interim service for people queuing for columbarium niches, it was more practicable to speed up the building of columbaria at the above sites because interim columbaria were subject to similar requirements and incurred similar costs.
- (c) Regarding the concern over the lack of regulation against illegal columbaria, the government would speed up the imposition of licensing control over private columbaria.
- (d) The FHB was still considering whether it was necessary to set a limit on the number of urns being kept at home.
- (e) Regarding private columbaria that ceased business, the proposed legislation stipulated that applicants were required to give a clear account of the arrangements to be made if their columbaria ceased operation. As for the ashes kept in columbaria that ceased business, the licensee should act according to stipulated terms and conditions.

- (f) Regarding the setting up of a fund to protect consumers, as it involved ethic risks, the FHB had to give prudent consideration to this proposal.
- (g) Regarding the controversial exemptions, the government would take the members' views into account.
- (h) A statutory Private Columbaria Licensing Board would be set up to process all applications.
- (i) The proposal of requiring every columbarium to register its location in the Land Registry, as well as the proposal of providing detailed licensing guidelines, would be thoroughly considered.
- (j) Regarding the land right related to columbaria, the proposed legislation stipulated that the columbarium site should be wholly owned by the applicant. As for existing sites held under lease, the licensing authority would consider the nature of the lease and the past performance of the applicant.
- (k) Regarding the concern over consumers having insufficient information about the sale and purchase of columbarium niches, the government would step up consumer education.
- (l) Regarding the proposal of converting existing coffin burial sites into columbarium sites, the government had already considered this option.
- (m) The proposed legislation did not cover the ratio of the area of a columbarium to the number of niches, but the applicant was not allowed to change the number of niches after the licence was issued.
- (n) The proposed licensing scheme catered for the operation of private columbaria, which had a place in the market for all sorts of reasons.

4. Representative of the Planning Department added that in pursuance of the Town Planning Ordinance, public consultation should be conducted for applications that did not comply with the land use plan.

5. Regarding the Puguangming Temple case, representative of the Lands Department explained that the case involved legal proceedings, and therefore it was not appropriate to disclose any information at the present stage.

New Home Ownership Scheme Developments in Area 4C (Heung Fan Liu Street), Area 4D (Pik Tin Street) and Area 31 (Hin Tin Street) of Sha Tin

6. Representative of the Housing Department gave a brief account of the paper. Her replies to the members' questions and proposals were as follows:

- (a) Large-scale Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) developments usually involved land resumption and change of land use, and often took ten years or so to complete. Selecting the three small sites could help expedite the supply of HOS flats. The Housing Authority would speed up the construction process without compromising quality, and would inject greening elements into the projects.
- (b) Regarding the provision of ancillary facilities, the Housing Authority would keep close contact with the Transport Department to cope with changing traffic needs in the future.
- (c) The three sites were residential zones, and were located in the vicinity of housing estates that had social facilities of a certain scale; nevertheless, the Housing Department would actively look for space available for building additional facilities.
- (d) Each of the three developments would provide more than ten parking spaces. Whether parking spaces would be increased depended on the utilisation rate.
- (e) The natural slope near Area 31 was outside the housing estate area. In general, the responsibility for maintenance and management of natural slopes normally fell on the government. Nevertheless, the Housing Department assessed the slope according to the procedural guidelines of the Geotechnical Engineering Office, and it did not imply that the slope had any safety problem.
- (f) The cost of using prefabricated components would not normally be higher than that of in-situ construction.
- (g) Regarding the concern over the single exit of Hin Tin Street, the Housing Authority would adhere to the requirements of the Buildings Ordinance in constructing the new HOS courts.
- (h) The hill path leading to the indigenous burial site would not be affected during the construction of the Area 4D item.

- (i) The greening design of the new HOS court at Hin Tin Street would be in line with the Sha Tin Greening Master Plan.
- (j) The three projects would provide about 740 flats accommodating more than 2 400 people, and were expected to push forward the development of social facilities.
- (k) The option of widening Hin Tin Street would be discussed in due course.
- (l) The Housing Department was considering the provision of a passing place for public light buses at Heung Fan Liu Street to ameliorate traffic congestion.

7. Representative of the LCSD added that the MTRC would devise an appropriate remedy option for the acquisition of Hin Tin Playground, and therefore it was not necessary to expand the greening zone of Area 31.

8. Representative of the Housing Department added that she would inform the Development and Housing Committee of the particulars of each project item.

9. Mr TANG Wing-cheong moved a provisional motion, which was revised by Mr Kwok Kam-hung as follows:

“As the public generally expect the government to resume the HOS, the Sha Tin District Council (STDC) agrees that the government should speed up the resumption of the HOS to meet the public’s pressing needs for housing. Furthermore, the STDC strongly requests the government to resolve the long-term shortage of facilities in Tai Wai immediately, such as building more markets as well as sports and recreation venues, searching for sites available for constructing libraries, remedying the acquisition of recreational sites for the construction of the Hin Keng Station of the Shatin to Central Link, increasing the frequency of green minibuses, and urging bus route nos. 305 and 81S to provide whole-day service; furthermore, the government should continue to search for sites across the territory for developing large-scale HOS courts, otherwise the STDC would not support the new HOS developments in Area 4C (Heung Fan Liu Street), Area 4D (Pik Tin Street) and Area 31 (Hin Tin Street) of Sha Tin.”

The revised motion above was passed by a vote of 24 in favour, 1 against and 9 abstentions.

10. The provisional motion of Mr NG Kam-hung was not discussed in the meeting because less than half of the members agreed to discuss it.

## Public Consultation on the Management of Fixed Hawker Pitches

11. Representative of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) gave a briefed account of the paper.

12. The FEHD representative noted the comments of the members on the proposed measures. His replies to the members' questions and proposals were as follows:

- (a) Newspaper stalls were fixed pitches, and the FEHD would follow up on the issue of pavement obstruction by newspaper stalls.
- (b) The meaning of "removing the commodities without dismantling the stalls at night" was that after business hours stall hawkers must keep their commodities in enclosed metal structures without the need to dismantle the stall.
- (c) The FEHD had been taking active measures against violation of fire safety regulations by the stall hawkers at Fa Yuen Street before the fire accident. After the accident, the FEHD and the Fire Services Department immediately took action to urge the hawker stalls to comply with relevant regulations.
- (d) Upon completion of public consultation, the FEHD would implement improvement measures at Fa Yuen Street. Improvement measures would be extended to other hawker pitches in the future.

## **STDC Matters**

### Target Buildings Selection Panel of the Buildings Department - Representative of the STDC

13. The STDC vice-chairman would be the STDC representative sitting on the target buildings selection panel of the Buildings Department from 1 March 2012 to 28 February 2014.

### Proposed Budget of the STDC for 2012/2013

14. District Officer (Sha Tin) explained that in order to earmark \$2,500,000 for organising activities in celebration of the Mid-Autumn Festival and the 15th anniversary of Hong Kong's reunification with China, it was proposed that the budget of committees under the Sha Tin District Office (STDO) and working groups under the STDC for this financial year would be 18-20% less than that for 2011/2012.

15. The above proposal and the tentative ceiling for the STDC expenditure heads in 2012/2013 were endorsed by the STDC on 16 February 2012.

16. At the meeting of the Finance and General Affairs Committee on 13 Mar 2012, the proposed estimates of expenditure heads under the STDC committees for 2012/2013 were endorsed and would be recommended to the STDC for consideration.

17. The paper on the proposed budget was endorsed by the Council unanimously.

#### Updated Member Lists of Committees under the STDC

18. The paper was endorsed by the Council unanimously.

#### Recreation and Sports Activities Programme from April 2012 to March 2013 Organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) in Sha Tin District

19. The vice-chairman said that as the amount exceeded \$1,000,000, the three funding applications had to be recommended to the STDC for consideration.

20. The LCSD representative said that the LCSD would consider the suggestion of organising more activities for special groups. He invited all members to look around the LCSD facilities on 17 April 2012.

21. The three funding applications in the amount of \$5,790,300 were endorsed by the Council unanimously.

#### Reports of Committees

22. The Council noted the reports of the District Facilities Management Committee, the Culture, Sports and Community Development Committee, the Education and Welfare Committee, the Development and Housing Committee, the Traffic and Transport Committee, the Health and Environment Committee, and the Finance and General Affairs Committee.

23. The Council endorsed the revised terms of reference of the Development and Housing Committee, as well as the formation of four standing working groups under the Committee.

#### Financial Account of the STDC as at 13 March 2012

24. The Council noted the above paper.

### **Sha Tin Crime Report for the Second Half of 2011**

25. In response to the concern over a sharp increase in pickpocketing cases, representative of the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) said that the crime had shown a generally upward trend and most cases occurred in crowded places. The police would urge the public to take good care of their belongings through education.

26. In response to the concern over a sharp increase in serious gambling cases, the HKPF representative said that the crime mostly occurred in public housing estates, but neither syndicated nor triad-controlled gambling activities were discovered. Cases occurring in public housing estates mostly involved senior citizens, and the police would try to talk them round before taking enforcement action. Representative of the Housing Department added that the Housing Department had been cooperating with the police in combating gambling activities in public housing estates.

27. In response to the concern over a sharp increase in fraud cases, the HKPF representative explained that rising public consciousness of the crime had brought about an increase in cases reported, and most victims were senior citizens. The police would continue to disseminate anti-crime messages to senior citizens through the Silver Hawk Project.

28. The HKPF representative added that syndicated theft of vehicles was not found in the district, and cases of missing bicycles were on the rise because many bicycles were parked unattended on the roadside. As for youth crimes, most of them were sporadic bullying cases.

### **2012/2013 Work Plan of the STDO**

29. District Officer (Sha Tin) said that for the sake of increasing the effectiveness of building management, the Home Affairs Bureau and the Home Affairs Department were considering whether further amendment to the Building Management Ordinance would be necessary.

30. District Officer (Sha Tin) said that the STDO would continue to make efforts in promoting national education.

### **Report of the District Management Committee.**

31. The Council noted the above paper.

### **Member List of Planning Committee on Festive Lighting in Sha Tin 2012-2013**

32. The Council noted the above paper.

### **Member List of Sha Tin District Organising Committee for Celebration of the 15th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR**

33. The Council noted the above paper.

### **Customer Liaison Group of the Hongkong Post – Representative of the STDC**

34. Mr CHAN Kwok-tim was elected unopposed as a member of the Hong Kong Post's Customer Liaison Group, representing the STDC, from 1 April 2012 to 31 December 2013.

### **STDC Invited to be Supporter of Events**

35. The Council unanimously endorsed the acceptance of invitation to be the supporter of the Toy Image DIY Design Competition organised by the Vocational Training Council.

36. All members were invited to attend an exhibition jointly organised by the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Oriental Ceramic Society of Hong Kong. The STDC Secretariat would make arrangements for the members in due course.

### **Next Meeting**

37. The next meeting would be held at 2:30 p.m. on 24 May 2012.