

**Summary of the Minutes of
the 8th Meeting of the Sha Tin District Council (2012 Session)**

The 8th meeting of the Sha Tin District Council (STDC) (2012 session) was held on 22 November 2012. The major issues discussed are summarised below:

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 27 September 2012

2. The minutes of the above meeting were confirmed unanimously.

Visit of Director of Highways (D of Hy)

3. D of Hy briefed the members on the work of the Highways Department.
4. Replies of D of Hy to the members' questions and proposals regarding road maintenance and improvement were as follows:
- (a) Eco-paving blocks, which were generally welcomed by the members, would be used as much as possible for resurfacing purposes unless the location was not suitable, as in the case of slopes and locations subject to soil erosion.
 - (b) The road surface material currently used was catching up with the world standard. Durability of the material might be affected by technical constraints encountered during the paving process.
 - (c) Regarding the suggestion of using noise abatement material for expressways, all expressways were currently required to use material with noise abatement effect.
 - (d) The Highways Department would consider the proposal on road improvement. Regular inspection would be conducted to ensure that the roads were in good condition.
 - (e) Road cleaning service was generally provided by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). The Highways Department was responsible for cleaning structures on the road, including footbridges and pedestrian subways, on a regular basis. Nevertheless, cleaning of the surface inside the structures was the responsibility of the FEHD.
 - (f) The luminous efficacy of LED road lights was lower than that of the high pressure sodium lamps currently used. The LED road lights on trial were only used on village roads with low traffic flow. Nevertheless, the Highways

Department would keep track of the development of LED road lights. As for the activation of road lights, optical systems were used in most instances.

- (g) The comments on the stringent requirement of pedestrian flow in the construction of covered walkways would be referred to the Transport Department.

5. Replies of D of Hy to the members' questions and proposals regarding barrier-free access facilities were as follows:

- (a) The new policy to provide a "universal accessible environment" covered existing public walkways (including footbridges, elevated walkways and tunnels). The Government would also consider installing lifts at walkways where ramps had already been installed. The projects could commence as soon as funding application was passed by the Legislative Council.
- (b) The proposal of installing escalators to connect Sui Wo Court and the MTR Fo Tan Station fell under the "provision of hillside escalator links and elevator systems". Feasibility studies on proposals ranked in the top 10 would be conducted first. The Sui Wo Court proposal ranked between 11 and 20.
- (c) Ms PONG Scarlett Oi-lan's proposal regarding the construction of barrier-free access facilities would be followed up by the Highways Department or referred to the department concerned.

6. Replies of D of Hy to the members' questions and proposals regarding matters related to the MTR service were as follows:

- (a) Regarding the proposal to construct a footbridge connecting Hin Keng Shopping Centre and the Hin Keng Station of the Shatin to Central Link (SCL), pedestrian flow had to be considered in order to make the best of public money.
- (b) The reason for setting up a Community Liaison Group at the SCL Hin Keng Station was that the Hin Keng Section involved numerous projects outside the station, which affected a relatively large area of residents. Station Information Zones were set up along the Ma On Shan Line, which mainly involved projects inside the station.
- (c) The request for adding an exit at Tai Shui Hang Station would be referred to the Transport Department.

(d) The noise problem at the “scissors junctions” of the Ma On Shan Line would be referred to the Environmental Protection Department.

7. D of Hy said that the Highways Department and the Lands Department would consider the proposal to make good use of the space underneath flyovers.

8. Regarding the concern over the condition of the ageing Lion Rock Tunnel, D of Hy said that a study was conducted in 2007 and the tunnel was proved to be in good condition. The Highways Department would keep a watchful eye on the operation of the tunnel. The proposal of adding interchange stations at the tunnel access points would be referred to the Transport Department.

9. D of Hy explained that the Advisory Committee on Appearances of Bridges and Associated Structures played an advisory role, not a leading role, in the development of district facilities projects.

10. Regarding the proposal of putting fixed traffic cones before a warning sign vehicle, D of Hy explained that it was not always feasible because the vehicle might not be stationary in some instances. To raise awareness of road users, there were usually two warning sign vehicles moving one behind the other.

11. In response to the concern over the progress of constructing the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Link Road, D of Hy said that the Highways Department had strived to complete it in phase with the main body of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge project in 2016 as scheduled.

12. Regarding the colour of cycling tracks, D of Hy said that construction of cycling tracks was the responsibility of the Civil Engineering and Development Department. The main track was red, and the branch track green. The Highways Department would renew the colour of existing cycle tracks according to the above standard.

13. Regarding the comments of Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael on noise pollution assessment, D of Hy said that his views would be referred to the Environmental Protection Department.

Visit of Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

14. Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (D of FEH) briefed the members on the work of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD).

15. Replies of D of FEH to the members' questions and proposals regarding environmental hygiene were as follows:

- (a) Cases of specific locations would be handled by the FEHD officer concerned after the meeting.
- (b) The FEHD was responsible for the cleanliness and hygiene of all public places. Besides imposing more stringent enforcement actions, publicity and education would be stepped up to promote the development of public spirit.
- (c) Regarding unclear division of labour among various departments in the cleaning of public places, D of FEH encouraged the FEHD staff to perform cleaning work for serious cases before referring them to the department concerned.
- (d) Regarding the proposal of strengthening enforcement efforts against ragpickers abandoning garbage on the street, the FEHD had to be prudent in handling each case because the department had been criticised for being too stringent towards the disadvantaged.
- (e) Mosquito and rodent problems in Sha Tin were not very serious when compared with other districts. Nevertheless, the FEHD would strengthen cleaning work in individual areas of Sha Tin where the problems were more serious.
- (f) The FEHD would follow up on the accumulation of garbage at individual locations.
- (g) The FEHD would coordinate with the Housing Department regarding the problem of pigeons gathering at Wo Che Estate.
- (h) Regarding smoke coming from ashtrays on top of rubbish bins, the FEHD staff had poured water into the ashtrays to prevent smoke and would increase the frequency of cleaning.

16. Replies of D of FEH to the members' questions and proposals regarding enforcement actions were as follows:

- (a) The FEHD had been actively taking enforcement and clearance actions against illegal hawking and unauthorised extension of business. As the penalty imposed by the court might not have any deterrent effect, the FEHD was considering the imposition of more stringent enforcement actions in the future, and hoped that the

new strategy would earn the support of the STDC.

- (b) Regarding water seepage in buildings, the Joint Office would only intervene according to law if the seepage posed a sanitary nuisance. It was not easy to identify the source of seepage because there were many possibilities. Technically, the FEHD could only carry out non-destructive tests, which had limited effectiveness. The FEHD hoped that the management company could help to identify the seepage source when conducting maintenance projects for the building. To reduce staff wastage, the FEHD had gradually replaced contract staff with health inspectors, in the hope of expediting the handling of seepage cases.
- (c) The FEHD staff had been working very hard to clear up banners and advertisements illegally posted on the street. Prosecution work was basically difficult, despite occasional successful prosecution with the help of information on the illegal advertisement.
- (d) Feasibility study on the two proposed sites of public columbaria in Sha Tin was underway. The STDC would be consulted once the result came out. Private columbaria listed in Part B had experienced a downturn in business since the list was released. The legislation regulating private columbaria was expected to be submitted to the Legislative Council for discussion at the end of 2013.
- (e) Milk powder for children under 36 months of age would be subject to statutory control in the future. As for adult milk powder, nutritional label was currently required for consumers' reference.

17. In response to the concern over the facilities of Tai Wai Market, D of FEH said the facilities would be renewed, including provision of barrier-free access facilities and direction signs. As for the proposal of constructing a municipal services building in Tai Wai, the letting rate had to be considered in order to make the best of public money.

STDC Matters

Proposed Amendment to the STDC Funding Application Procedures and Regulations in Respect of Approved Expenditure Items and Funding Criteria

18. The Council endorsed the above paper unanimously.

Updated Member Lists of STDC Committees

19. The Council endorsed the above paper unanimously.

Reports of STDC Committees

20. 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.

Financial Account of the STDC as at 13 November 2012

21. The Council noted the above paper.

Revised Budget for the STDC

22. The Council noted the above paper.

Report of the District Management Committee

23. The Council noted the report.

STDC to Serve as Supporter of Event

24. The Council unanimously endorsed the STDC serving as supporter of the HSBC Community Partnership Programme and the HSBC Community Festival.

Next Meeting

25. The next meeting would be held at 2:30 p.m. on 24 January 2013.