

**Summary of the Minutes of  
the 2nd Meeting of the Sha Tin District Council (2013 Session)**

The 2nd meeting of the Sha Tin District Council (STDC) (2013 session) was held on 21 March 2013. The major issues discussed are summarised below:

**Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 24 January 2013**

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

**Visit of Director of Water Supplies (D of WS)**

3. D of WS briefed members on the work of the Water Supplies Department (WSD).
4. Replies of D of WS to members' questions and proposals were as follows:
  - (a) The quantity of Dongjiang water purchased by Hong Kong only accounted for 2.5% of the Dongjiang runoff. Water supply in Hong Kong was stable and sufficient; nevertheless, the WSD was exploring new water sources, such as seawater desalination.
  - (b) The WSD put seawater desalination at high priority. Feasibility of this initiative hinged on cost-effectiveness, and the WSD would take follow-up action after the consultation report was completed.
  - (c) The WSD monitored the quality of the Dongjiang water supply 24 hours round the clock through a monitoring device at the Muk Wu Pumping House. The quality was up to standard, and after treatment in Hong Kong, the quality complied with the World Health Organisation's guidelines. The Guangdong Province also kept a watchful eye on the quality of the Dongjiang water supply.
  - (d) As the pipe laying works for reclaimed water involved the entire building, the WSD had started to explore the feasibility with the Housing Department.
  - (e) The crux of the water seepage issue was the lack of an effective and efficient detecting device. The current technique employed was to test concrete humidity. It was learned that the Buildings Department was seeking assistance from scientific research companies in the design of a more effective detector.
  - (f) The WSD did not encourage the use of water filters because the fresh water supplied by the WSD was normally suitable for drinking. Frequent cleaning of

water tanks was a way to keep the water clean. Water passing through rusty pipes might turn brown or yellow but was still suitable for drinking, and the problem could be resolved by replacing the pipes.

- (g) The WSD would follow up on the progress of replacing water mains. The plan was to replace 3 000 kilometres of aged water mains by 2015. Replacement of water mains was basically a routine of the WSD,
- (h) Cost-effectiveness had to be considered in supplying water for Mui Tsz Lam Village. This issue had been submitted to the Development Bureau for consideration, and the WSD would monitor the progress closely.
- (i) It was not appropriate to open reservoirs for recreation purposes for fear of creating polluters and affecting the water quality.
- (j) The existing water storage capacity in Hong Kong was sufficient to cope with the demand for four to six months.
- (k) Five more water wagons had been purchased recently. At present, totally ten water wagons were at disposal. Besides water wagons, water tanks could also be used for providing temporary water supply.
- (l) In order to make room for the Dongjiang water and rain water, High Island Reservoir and Plover Cove Reservoir were not fully filled with water.
- (m) The WSD would follow up on the following matters:
  - (i) cleaning of areas in the vicinity of reservoirs;
  - (ii) insufficient water pressure or replacement of water mains in individual areas; and
  - (iii) provision of information on places of Sha Tin that lacked water supply.  
(Post-meeting note: Places without water supply included Mui Tsz Lam Village and some of the high terrain village houses in Sha Tin Tau New Village Area 6.)

5. Chief Engineer/NTE of the WSD explained that in order to make room for rain water collected by the Lower Shing Mun water tunnel, the storage capacity of Lower Shing Mun Reservoir had to be reduced to an appropriate level before the rainy season.

## **STDC Matters**

### **Follow-up on the Signature Projects Scheme**

6. DO (Sha Tin) provided the following supplementary information:
  - (a) After the direction of the Signature Projects Scheme was set, Sha Tin District Office (STDO) would follow up on the feasibility study and then submit the result to the STDC for discussion.
  - (b) Regarding the general direction of “Revitalisation of Shing Mun River – Sha Tin Town Centre Section”, the secretariat had consulted the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) regarding the proposals discussed at the special meeting.
  - (c) Regarding the general direction of “Decking of Tai Wai Nullah and Reprovision of Tai Wai Playground”, the Planning Department pointed out at the special meeting that change of usage of the land currently zoned “Residential (Group A)” would be subject to established procedures, and members understood that this issue could be handled separately.
  - (d) After the general direction was set, the STDO would conduct a preliminary study with the departments concerned. The study might include seeking professional advice and holding public participation and consultation activities.
7. Regarding “Revitalisation of Shing Mun River – Sha Tin Town Centre Section”, representative of the Transport Department said that they would provide professional advice on the design of cycle tracks and collaborate with the relevant works department. Regarding “Decking of Tai Wai Nullah and Reprovision of Tai Wai Playground”, they would give advice on traffic impact assessment.
8. Representative of the Highways Department said that they would facilitate the implementation of the two projects in respect of road arrangements.
9. Representative of the Drainage Services Department said that “Decking of Tai Wai Nullah and Reprovision of Tai Wai Playground” would not affect the flood relief capacity of the Nullah.
10. DO (Sha Tin) said that whether the two projects would eventually be implemented depended on the result of the feasibility study. Regarding the management of the new facilities, response of the LCSD was positive. She added that donations could be sought in

the course of implementation.

11. By a vote of 34 in favour, 1 abstention and 0 against, the Council endorsed the above two projects as the general direction of the Signature Projects Scheme. The Chairman said that preliminary studies would be arranged, and encouraged members to seek residents' views.

#### 2013/2014 Draft Estimates for the STDC

12. The Council noted the above paper, and noted the arrangements made for cost overrun in 2012/2013.

(Post-meeting note: The total amount of expenditure finally verified for 2012/2013 was \$22,492,000. As at 31 March 2013, additional provision from the Home Affairs Department (HAD) was totally \$258,000, and the cost overrun of the STDC in 2012/2013 was cut down to \$336,000.)

#### Updated Member Lists of the STDC Committees

13. The Council endorsed the above paper unanimously.

#### Recreation and Sports Activities Programme from April 2013 to March 2014 Organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in Sha Tin District

14. The Chairman explained that as the amount of each application exceeded \$1M, the applications were recommended to the Council for consideration.

15. Representative of the LCSD explained that because a lot of youth activities would be organised by various schools in the district, most activities under the programme targeted at the elderly and children. As the Hong Kong Canoe Union would organise a lot of canoe activities in Sha Tin, the LCSD had no plans of organising the same activities for the time being. The LCSD would organise, inter alia, physical training classes for people with Down's syndrome. Data on activities for the disabled would be provided to the member concerned in due course.

(Post-meeting note: In 2012-2013, 68 activities were organised with 4 289 participants. In 2013-2014, 74 activities with an estimated 6 460 participants would be organised.)

16. The Council unanimously endorsed the three funding applications.

### Reports of the STDC Committees

17. 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 12 March 2013

18. The Council noted the above paper.

### **Sha Tin District Police Action Plan for 2013 and Crime Brief for 2012**

19. District Commander (Sha Tin) said that in Sha Tin, crimes that drew the foremost attention of the police included violence, drug offences, illegal gambling, triad activities and “quick cash” crimes. The police would strive to promote public safety and step up street management through multi-organisational collaboration.

20. In response to the concern over increasing number of illegal immigrants and mainland tourists arrested, District Commander (Sha Tin) provided relevant figures and the rates of increase.

21. District Commander (Sha Tin) said that the police currently adopted an advisory approach in drawing cyclists’ attention to safety. In view of increasing bicycle accidents, the police would propose the introduction of legislation if necessary, but consensus in the community on statutory regulation would be necessary.

22. Office-in-charge (District Intelligence Section) (Sha Tin) briefed members on the “Hong Kong Police Mobile Application” (HKP Mobile App) launched on 18 July 2012. The HKP Mobile App allowed members of the public to have a better understanding of the policing work. Interested parties were welcome to download the application via the QR Code, Android system or IOS system.

23. The Council noted the Sha Tin District Police Action Plan for 2013 and Crime Brief for 2012.

### **2013/2014 Work Plan of the Sha Tin District Office**

24. District Officer (Sha Tin) anticipated cooperation of various parties in the implementation of the Signature Projects Scheme. In the coming year, the STDO would put more effort in youth work. She said that the STDO Public Enquiry Service Centre had won the Best Public Enquiry Service Centre Award for three consecutive years. She

thanked all STDO staff for providing quality service to the public.

25. The Council noted the paper.

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

26. The Council noted the report.

### **STDC to Serve as Supporter of Event**

27. District Officer (Sha Tin) said that Hong Kong Jockey Club wished to display the logos of 18 District Councils on the publicity materials and inside the venue of the “18 Districts Cup” race held on 2 June 2013. Some members worried that this might give the public an impression that the District Councils supported betting activities and promoted gambling.

28. A member wondered whether the logos of 18 District Councils were registered.

(Post-meeting note: Any organisation wishing to use the STDC logo should file a written application with the STDC.)

29. As some District Councils were seeking advice from the HAD, District Officer (Sha Tin) suggested that members could make decision with reference to the views of the HAD.

(Post-meeting note: On 28 March 2013, Hong Kong Jockey Club withdrew their application for displaying District Council logos.)

### **Next Meeting**

30. The next meeting would be held at 2:30 p.m. on 23 May 2013.