

Summary of the Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the Sha Tin District Council (2015 Session)

The 2nd meeting of the Sha Tin District Council (STDC) (2015 session) was held on 26 March 2015. The major issues discussed are summarised below:

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 22 January 2015

2. Mr SIU Hin-hong proposed to amend paragraph 20.
3. The amended minutes were confirmed unanimously.

Visit of Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

4. Director of Leisure and Cultural Services briefed members on the work of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD).
5. Replies of Director of Leisure and Cultural Services to members' questions and views are summarised below:
 - (a) Land for sports facilities in Sha Tin had been reserved by the Planning Department. Regarding provision of heated pool facilities in the "Indoor Recreation Centre in Area 103, Ma On Shan", a former Regional Council project, members' views would be carefully considered by the LCSD and conveyed to the Home Affairs Bureau.
 - (b) Regarding the Fo Tan Complex, owing to the topographical limitation of the site, the LCSD would consider other options, including the possibility of incorporating the Cooked Food Market nearby, which is under the purview of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department.
 - (c) Land had been reserved for sports facilities in the vicinity of Shui Chuen O Estate, and the future "Indoor Recreation Centre, Community Hall and District Library in Area 14B, Sha Tin" is at about five minutes' driving distance from Sui Chui O Estate to.
 - (d) Regarding members' aspiration for provision of library facilities in Tai Wai, the LCSD, together with other government departments concerned and the Mass Transit Railway Corporation, had been considering the feasibility of constructing a small library in Tai Wai since 2010.

- (e) The LCSD agreed that mobile library services had to be adjusted in the light of factors like utilisation rate and population distribution, and was open-minded about changing the locations of mobile library stops.
- (f) Book drop service was currently provided at three MTR stations. As the utilisation rates of some book drops were low, the LCSD would review this service to ensure effective use of public resources. The suggestion that book drops should also be used for returning optical discs had to be carefully considered because the discs could easily be damaged.
- (g) The LCSD had to consider carefully the feasibility of building beaches in the Wu Kai Sha and To Tau areas, taking into account various factors, especially nature and heritage conservation, as well as the views of various stakeholders.
- (h) Although District Councils did not participate in the vetting of programmes under the Venue Partnership Scheme, the LCSD would consider the views of District Councils to ensure that the facilities fully met the needs of the community.
- (i) Sha Tin Town Hall was the only venue in Hong Kong that implemented the Open Stage Scheme, which allowed artists to display their talents in open space. Furthermore, the LCSD would continue to launch the School Culture Day Scheme to promote a more diversified development of art and culture in the community.
- (j) 24 additional facilities for the elderly had been constructed in Sha Tin in recent years. The LCSD would continue to collect the views of the STDC and enhance the facilities in a timely manner.
- (k) Regarding the hygiene problem of Ma On Shan Park during weekends, the LCSD had already enhanced cleansing in the park during weekends.
- (l) She thanked the STDC for providing fund for enhancement and renovation of facilities in the district through district minor works.
- (m) In organising sports activities in the district, the LCSD would consider the views of relevant sports associations, prevalence of the particular activity and the safety factor.
- (n) The LCSD had taken a series of measures to prevent the misuse of various facilities. In response to a member's concern over the low success rate of

booking the LCSD facilities by individual applicants, Director of Leisure and Cultural Services said that there was a quota for booking by groups.

6. Ms LAM Chung-yan, seconded by Ms TUNG Kin-lei, moved the provisional motion below:

“The STDC strongly requests the LCSD to identify sites in Tai Wai for development and provision of library services, giving special consideration to the property above the Tai Wai Station to facilitate the general public.”

The provisional motion above was unanimously passed.

7. Mr YEUNG Man-yui, seconded by Mr LAW Kwong-keung, moved the provisional motion below:

“The STDC strongly requests commencement of construction of the indoor recreation complex in Area 103, Ma On Shan as soon as possible, and provision of indoor heated swimming pool facilities in the complex to meet public demand.”

The provisional motion above was unanimously passed.

Visit of Postmaster General

8. Postmaster General briefed members on the work of the Hongkong Post.
9. Replies of Postmaster General to members' questions and views are summarised below:
- (a) To make the best of resources and maintain the quality of service at affordable price, the opening hours of some post offices had been adjusted since February 2015. There were other places for payment of fees and purchase of stamps, such as convenience stores.
 - (b) With the development of electronic communication technologies, demand for post office services had substantially reduced in residential areas. Nevertheless, the Hongkong Post would pay attention to the demand for post office services in Shui Chuen O Estate.
 - (c) Taking into consideration the low utilisation rate and the resources required for refitting, existing stamp vending machines, which only accepted coins, would continue to be used. Many post offices had already installed Octopus

payment machines.

- (d) In the case of public housing estates, temporary storage of bulky mails by the management office would not be feasible without consent of the Housing Department, the management company and the residents.
- (e) As the Hongkong Post handled more than 3 million mails each day, substantial resources would be required to re-deliver all mails that were unsuccessfully delivered. The addressee might request transfer of the mail to another post office for collection.
- (f) Arrangements regarding free postage service for election candidates and the content of the mails were made by the Registration and Electoral Office, and the Hongkong Post was only responsible for delivery.
- (g) Counter collection service was available for all Internet vendors.
- (h) The suggestion that a posting box should be provided at Yan On Estate would be discussed after the meeting.
- (i) Criteria for opening post offices and providing posting boxes were set out in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines. Besides service demand, the Hongkong Post would also consider factors like alternative service channels nearby in order to avoid duplication of resources. In view of the costs incurred, provision of posting boxes had to be considered carefully.
- (j) To ensure there was sufficient manpower to maintain the quality of service and to control the operational costs, the Hongkong Post would make effective use of mechanical and information technologies to cope with changing operational environments.
- (k) Mail tracking service was available for Speedpost users even if the mails were not in Hong Kong. For Local CourierPost items and registered mails, the addressee had to sign the receipt.
- (l) The Hongkong Post rendered strong support to small and medium enterprises through the provision of various platforms.
- (m) Demand and cost were factors to be considered in determining the types of service provided by individual post offices.

- (n) Though operated as a trading fund, the Hongkong Post was a government department providing postal services with the purpose of serving the community. Many post offices continued to provide services though operating at a deficit, but would optimise the use of resources such as adjusting the opening hours.
- (o) The Hongkong Post provided comprehensive local courier services unparalleled in the local market. The Hongkong Post would follow up on members' views on the revision of the terms of service in recent years.
- (p) For security sake, the Hongkong Post would pay attention to overflowing posting boxes.
- (q) Except those thwarted by environmental constraint, all post offices had barrier-free facilities.
- (r) The 13 post offices in Sha Tin, including Sha Kok Post Office, were able to achieve the pledged targets. She would remind the postmasters to reduce the queuing time through flexible deployment of manpower.
- (s) Before reducing the opening hours of post offices with relatively low utilisation rates, extensive research was conducted and data of the past few years considered.
- (t) She hoped that members would encourage more housing estates and building management companies in Sha Tin to collaborate with the Hongkong Post in providing the service of collecting bulky mails for residents.
- (u) Regarding package consolidation service between Hong Kong and overseas places and notification of the addressee before delivering overseas mails, the Hongkong Post would find out whether there was demand for these services.

STDC Matters and Information Items

10. Owing to the absence of a quorum, the Chairman decided that "2015-2016 Draft Estimates for the STDC", "The STDC to Serve as Event Supporter", "Proposed Recreation and Sports Activities from April 2015 to March 2016 Organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in Sha Tin District", "Report of the District Facilities Management Committee", "Report of the Culture, Sports and Community Development Committee", "Report of the Education and Welfare Committee", "Report

of the Development and Housing Committee”, “Report of the Traffic and Transport Committee”, “Report of the Health and Environment Committee”, “Report of the Finance and General Affairs Committee”, “Financial Account of the STDC as at 17 March 2015” and “Report of the District Management Committee” would be dealt with through circulation of papers.

Next Meeting

11. The next meeting would be held at 2:30 pm on 21 May 2015.