Sha Tin District Council
Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of
the Culture, Sports and Community Development Committee in 2018

Date : 26 April 2018 (Thursday)
Time : 2:30 pm
Venue : Sha Tin District Council Conference Room
4/F, Sha Tin Government Offices

Present	**Title**	**Time of joining the meeting**	**Time of leaving the meeting**
Mr CHIU Man-leong (Chairman)	DC Member	2:30 pm	4:28 pm
Ms CHAN Man-kuen (Vice-Chairman)	”	2:30 pm	4:28 pm
Mr HO Hau-cheung, SBS, MH	DC Chairman	2:30 pm	4:28 pm
Mr PANG Cheung-wai, Thomas, SBS, JP	DC Vice-Chairman	2:30 pm	4:28 pm
Mr CHAN Billy Shiu-yeung	DC Member	2:30 pm	4:28 pm
Mr CHAN Kwok-keung, James	”	2:38 pm	4:10 pm
Mr CHENG Tsuk-man	”	2:43 pm	4:11 pm
Mr CHING Cheung-ying, MH	”	2:30 pm	4:28 pm
Mr CHIU Chu-pong, Sunny	”	2:30 pm	4:12 pm
Mr HUI Yui-yu, Rick	”	2:39 pm	3:14 pm
Mr LAI Tsz-yan	”	2:46 pm	4:28 pm
Ms LAM Chung-yan	”	2:30 pm	4:28 pm
Mr LEUNG Ka-fai, Victor	”	2:30 pm	4:28 pm
Mr LI Sai-hung	”	2:30 pm	4:28 pm
Mr LI Sai-wing	”	2:30 pm	3:26 pm
Mr LI Wing-shing, Wilson	”	2:41 pm	4:28 pm
Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS	”	2:44 pm	4:20 pm
Mr NG Kam-hung	”	2:30 pm	4:28 pm
Ms PONG Scarlett Oi-lan, BBS, JP	”	2:48 pm	4:20 pm
Mr PUN Kwok-shan, MH	”	2:30 pm	4:28 pm
Mr TONG Hok-leung	”	2:30 pm	4:28 pm
Ms TUNG Kin-lei	”	2:30 pm	4:28 pm
Mr WAI Hing-cheung	”	2:30 pm	4:28 pm
Mr WONG Fu-sang, Tiger	”	2:30 pm	4:28 pm
Mr WONG Hok-lai	”	2:37 pm	4:28 pm
Mr WONG Ka-wing, MH	”	2:37 pm	4:28 pm
Ms WONG Ping-fan, Iris	”	2:30 pm	4:28 pm
Mr WONG Yue-hon	”	2:30 pm	4:28 pm
Mr YAU Man-chun	”	2:30 pm	4:28 pm
Mr YIP Wing	”	2:30 pm	4:28 pm
Mr YIU Ka-chun	”	2:30 pm	4:28 pm
Ms YUE Shin-man	”	2:30 pm	3:16 pm
Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael	”	2:30 pm	4:28 pm
Ms LUK Tsz-sum, Ada (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council) 2 / Sha Tin District Office		

In Attendance	**Title**
Ms LI Po-yi, Jan	Senior Community Relations Officer/ Regional Office (New Territories East)/ Independent Commission Against Corruption
Ms LI Wing-sze, Grace	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Sha Tin) 2 / Social Welfare Department
Ms LEE Mei-yee	Senior Librarian (Sha Tin) / Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms CHAN Siu-kin, Ester	Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Sha Tin/ Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr LEUNG Cheuk-ming, Rico	Senior Manager (New Territories East) Promotion/ Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms NG Sheung-han, Alice	Manager (New Territories East) Marketing and District Activities / Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms TSANG Suet-man	Senior School Development Officer (Sha Tin) 1 / Education Bureau
Ms CHENG Siu-ling, Katy	Chief Liaison Officer / Sha Tin District Office
Ms LEUNG Wai-shan, Cecilia	Senior Liaison Officer (West) / Sha Tin District Office
Mr YUEN Chun-kit, Derek	Senior Executive Officer (District Council) / Sha Tin District Office
Ms LEUNG So-ping, Selina	Senior Executive Officer (Planning) 1 / Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr CHEUNG Hang-yiu, Galax	Executive Officer (Planning) 1/2 / Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr LUI Kan-man, Raymond	Liaison Officer in Charge (West) 4 / Sha Tin District Office
Mr CHAN Siu-tai, Andrew	Liaison Officer in Charge (Youth Programme) / Sha Tin District Office
Ms LAW Wai-yee, Amy	Executive Assistant (District Council) 4 / Sha Tin District Office
Mr CHAN Ka-cheung, Vincent	Executive Assistant (District Council) 7 / Sha Tin District Office
Ms FUNG Kit-ling, Daisy	Executive Assistant (District Council) 1 / Sha Tin District Office
Ms LO Wai	Treasurer / Sha Tin Celebration Committee
Mr KWONG Kam-wing	Vice-Treasurer / Sha Tin Celebration Committee

Absent	**Title**	
Mr CHAN Nok-hang	DC Member	(Application for leave of absence received)
Mr LEE Chi-wing, Alvin	”	(”)
Mr MAK Yun-pui	”	(”)
Mr SIU Hin-hong	”	(”)
Mr TING Tsz-yuen	”	(”)
Ms TSANG So-lai	”	(”)

Action

The Chairman welcomed all members as well as representatives of government departments and organisations to the meeting.

Action

Application for Leave of Absence

2. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had received applications for leave of absence in writing from the following members:

Mr CHAN Nok-hang	Sickness
Mr TING Tsz-yuen	”
Mr Alvin LEE	Official Commitment
Mr MAK Yun-pui	”
Ms TSANG So-lai	”
Mr SIU Hin-hong	Out of Town

3. Members unanimously endorsed the applications for leave of absence submitted by the members above.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 1 March 2018
(CSCDC Minutes 1/2018)

4. Members confirmed the above minutes unanimously.

Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

Responses of Government Departments to Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting
(Paper No. CSCD 21/2018)

5. The views of Mr YAU Man-chun were summarised below:

(a) he thought the key to solving the noise nuisance from dance performances at the riverside of Shing Mun River lay in implementing deterrent measures to prevent irregularities or offences. The police had neglected the matter in the past, only issuing sporadic verbal warnings and instituting close to no prosecution, which aggravated the situation;

(b) after the last meeting of the Culture, Sports and Community Development Committee (CSCDC), residents from different constituencies, including Jat Min, Chun Fung, Wong Uk, Sha Tin Town Centre, etc., were dissatisfied with the police's lax enforcement and failure in handling complaints and even suspected them of harbouring offenders. He said that the police evicted a young person for singing outside Sha Tin MTR Station, while only 1 prosecution had been initiated in the past 7 years and no warning or eviction had been made in the past 12 months regarding the Shing Mun River noise nuisance cases. He said that all members who were concerned with the matter expressed regret about the police's way of handling the matter by only evicting performers that did not cause nuisance to others;

(c) the residents involved in the reported case mentioned in the last meeting said the police did not follow up on the matter, contradicting the police's account that no member of the public was willing to testify in court or give a statement, when at least two residents were willing. He was very dissatisfied with the above;

(d) in the past 2 months, some residents called the police who then did not follow up on the matter and even could not be reached by phone later on. He therefore thought the police's report at the meeting was inconsistent with how they handled the matter. He hoped to minute the incident and wished that the police would handle relevant problem seriously;

(e) he thought the Sha Tin District Office (STDO)'s educational publicity efforts, such as displaying banners and distributing leaflets, could not solve the problem, and thus law enforcement was the only way. During the last term of the Sha Tin District Council (STDC), relevant persons disregarded the advice of the DC Members concerned during the action. He hoped the District Officer (Sha Tin) would lead the related tasks, as she could exert pressure on the police, while the STDO or other departments could offer their cooperation in handling the matter;

(f) according to his experiences in the past 6 years, he said relevant situations had been occurring in different locations along Shing Mun River and he did not wish for conflicts to arise when residents try to solve them on their own; and

(g) he hoped the Chairman would write a letter to the police in the name of the CSCDC to express members' opinions and hope for strict enforcement action by the police with zero tolerance for offenders.

6. The views of Mr Billy CHAN were summarised below:

(a) he hoped that the STDO or the STDC could relay relevant messages to the police after this meeting to point out their problem in law enforcement. He said each time the police would reply that the reporters of such cases were unwilling to testify. But according to his understanding, some residents were willing to testify in court, yet the police failed to contact them to handle relevant complaints;

(b) in the past 1.5 months, some residents said no police officers were deployed to the scene over an hour after they called the police, or even the 999 emergency services for assistance. He hoped the STDO would demand the police to carry out prosecution and strengthen law enforcement besides on-site appeals, instead of only enforcing the law on foreigners;

(c) he said that the reply from the STDO was copied from previous responses and asked about the measures the STDO actually implemented. He thought on-site appeals and distribution of leaflets were ineffective, as the number of stalls had increased from 1 to 2 in the past to 5 to 6 at present. Some residents said the volume of such stalls was only turned down for around half an hour after the police's visits, and then was turned up much higher than before. The police and the STDO seemed unable to deal with the issue; and

(d) he agreed with the suggestion to write a letter to the police in the name of the CSCDC to demand law enforcement and hoped that the District Officer / Sha Tin could handle the matter.

7. The views of Mr Michael YUNG were summarised below:

(a) he believed that the police had no reason for racial discrimination. It made no sense to evict only street performers outside Sha Tin MTR Station but not those at the riverside of Shing Mun River;

(b) he expressed regret at how the police handled the issue. During the last DC meeting, Ms MAK LAU Wai-mun, Josephine, the newly appointed District Commander (Shatin) said the police was understaffed. He asked if their reply meant relevant DC Members would have to request those people not to sing by saying that "the STDO, together with the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF), the Environmental Protection Department and the invited DC Members, will continue to urge on-site the singers and dancers at the riverside of Shing Mun River to mind their volume and make use of suitable venues in the district". Since such a nuisance problem should be handled by law enforcement agencies, he asked if DC Members were invited to the joint operation due to current manpower shortage at the HKPF;

(c) he believed the STDO's reply had integrated the responses from the government departments concerned. He said DC Members had mentioned the heart of the matter in meetings, and yet they were invited to join on-site operations. Judging from its reply, he thought the STDO was trying to pass a problem within its responsibility to DC Members. As the bridge between members of the public and the government, DC Members did not have the power of law enforcement and had already located the problems for the departments, hoping the issues could be resolved. He asked the STDO what the logic was for inviting "DC Members to urge on-site the singers and dancers";

(d) he thought the approach would set DC Members against members of the public. Noise nuisance had persisted for a few decades and had been worsening because the departments repeatedly adopted ineffective measures to deal with the issue; and

(e) he agreed with the suggestion proposed by Mr YAU Man-chun and Mr LAI Tsz-yan for the CSCDC to write a letter to the HKPF and hoped that the Chairman would ask about the issue concerning the deployment of police force away from the Sha Tin District in respect of the co-location arrangement and the commissioning of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge. He asked if patrolling and prosecution efforts would be reduced, since noise nuisance was not a criminal offence. He thought the HKPF should clearly explain the above in relevant responses to members.

8. The views of Mr WONG Hok-lai were summarised below:

(a) he said if the HKPF did not enforce the law, the number of similar stalls would continue to grow. Members of the public sang and danced every day at relevant locations at the riverside of Shing Mun River, occupying even the jogging and strolling tracks at the weekends; and

(b) he said the HKPF only evicted small-scale street performers, without handling the large-scale performances. He saw earlier that the HKPF evicted a foreign street performer outside the Sha Tin MTR Station and thought that they should handle the people singing and dancing in public squares the same way.

9. Mr Sunny CHIU hoped the STDO would handle the problem seriously. Besides the parties held opposite the Shing Mun River Promenade Garden that members often complained about, small groups had started to gather in the Shing Mun River area during holidays. Singing stalls were spotted along the cycle tracks and the banks of Shing Mun River up till the riverside behind the Yuen Wo Playground and the Yuen Wo Road Sports Centre. If the departments failed to handle the issue seriously, the number of stalls clustered would continue to grow.

10. The views of Mr LAI Tsz-yan were summarised below:

(a) he said he saw police officers approach and evict a foreign street performer performing outside Sha Tin MTR Station due to his/her nationality, as a complaint had been lodged. The performer then left and the police officers later questioned onlookers. He said that performers singing at the riverside of Shing Mun River every day were however not evicted, even when complaints were received. He asked if such an approach was a form of racial discrimination and if such operations were deployed based on the number of performers;

(b) given the heavy pedestrian flows outside Sha Tin MTR Station and at the riverside of Shing Mun River, he believed that members of the public witnessed how the police handled the issue. With regard to the above situation, he opined that the HKPF had selectively taken enforcement actions, which could cause the situation to spread along Shing Mun River. He said residents living from across Shing Mun River were still affected by noise nuisance even after closing their windows and did not receive assistance from the HKPF even after lodging complaints. He wanted to learn more about the HKPF's enforcement standards for relevant situations;

(c) he opined that the distribution of leaflets could not discourage members of the public from breaching the law. He once went to urge those singing and dancing by Shing Mun River to lower their volume, who did so for 1 to 2 hours after the action but increased the volume again afterwards. Some of them claimed that they had always been singing this way without any complaint and that some DC Members even praised them for their beautiful singing; and

(d) he agreed with Mr YAU Man-chun's suggestion to write a letter to the HKPF in the name of the CSCDC and hoped that the STDO would provide assistance so as to enhance law enforcement.

11. The views of Mr James CHAN were summarised below:

(a) he said the previous incident had been widely discussed online, among young people and Sha Tin residents, and opined that even though the matter might not involve racial discrimination, it was the fact nonetheless that some people kept

attacking foreign street performers. He said the HKPF acted upon receiving complaints but did not handle the complaints regarding the noise nuisance at the riverside of Shing Mun River; and

(b) he thought the Chairman should write a letter to the HKPF to demand an explanation for the situation and urge them to enforce the law with rigour and fairness.

12. Mr Raymond LUI , Liaison Officer in Charge (West)4 of the STDO gave a consolidated response as follows:

(a) he understood that members were concerned about the problem of the singing and dancing at the riverside of Shing Mun River. The STDO had been following up on the matter. The HKPF had successfully prosecuted a case in 2015. Mr YAU Man-chun also said in the last meeting that doing so could effectively improve the existing situation. He also agreed that prosecution was an effective method and that the HKPF could initiate prosecution under the Noise Control Ordinance (Cap. 400) of the Laws of Hong Kong;

(b) he would relay to the HKPF for follow-up that some members said certain members of the public were willing to testify. He trusted that the HKPF would seriously follow up on every case. The STDO would also discuss again with relevant departments the ways to handle the problems; and

(c) in respect of inviting relevant DC Members to on-site appeal operations, such arrangement had already been in place for a few years. He understood that DC Members had tight working schedules and said that departments would inform relevant DC Members prior to taking such actions. DC Members were welcome to participate in publicity work for better understanding of the situation.

13. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

(a) he suggested that the Secretariat help write a letter to the HKPF regarding opinions including residents willing to testify, inconsistent enforcement actions, lack of enforcement rigour, etc. to demand an explanation from the HKPF to members at the next meeting under the agenda item “matter arising from the previous meeting”. He hoped that the HKPF would directly contact relevant members, especially for the matter concerning residents willing to testify, to facilitate closer cooperation in law enforcement; and

(b) he personally did not object to writing a letter to the HKPF in the name of the CSCDC.

14. The Chairman asked for a vote on writing a letter to the HKPF in the name of the CSCDC.

15. Members unanimously endorsed writing a letter to the HKPF in the name of the CSCDC.

Action

16. The Chairman said a letter would be written to the HKPF in the name of the CSCDC, mentioning what the CSCDC discussed and requesting its response to the issues of inconsistent law enforcement, insufficient enforcement effort and manpower arrangement for police officers. The letter would also mention that members said certain residents were willing to testify, hoping that the HKPF and relevant DC Members would follow up on the enforcement.

17. Members unanimously endorsed the above paper.

Discussion Items

2018/2019 Leisure and Cultural Services Department Annual Work Plan - Progress of Capital Works Projects Related to Leisure and Cultural Services Facilities in Sha Tin
(Paper No. CSCD 22/2018)

18. The Chairman welcomed Ms Selina LEUNG, Senior Executive Officer (Planning 1) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), to the meeting to answer members' questions.

19. Ms Selina LEUNG briefly introduced the above paper.

20. The views of Mr LI Sai-wing were summarised below:

(a) he was more concerned about the cultural and sports facilities in Ma On Shan, especially the matter regarding the sports centre in Area 103 Ma On Shan. He said detailed information was not provided on page 10 of the paper. He said members expressed different views earlier towards the LCSD's proposal to build a centralised new book processing centre (new book centre) of the Hong Kong Public Libraries in the sports centre in Area 103 Ma On Shan. He asked if the Sha Tin District had to provide the site for the new book centre and enquired about its size. He said the Sha Tin District had a tense land supply and according to the development area drafted for the sports centre in Area 103 Ma On Shan, the land in the Sha Tin District seemed to be used to serve the whole of Hong Kong. He said it was possible for the Sha Tin District to provide a site for the new book centre, but it would be difficult for the Sha Tin residents to generously support the notion;

(b) he said some residents communicated the lack of water dispensers in the area of the Ma On Shan Promenade. Since the district open space in Area 90 Ma On Shan was close to the Ma On Shan Promenade, he asked if it was possible to provide additional water dispensers there;

(c) he asked if there could be more communication with members on the progress of the sports centre in Area 103 Ma On Shan and the district open space in Area 90 Ma On Shan for members' further participation and knowledge. The last paragraph of page 11 of the report mentioned that the Government was preparing the preliminary design for the district open space in Area 90 Ma On Shan and he asked if members could be given more details on the design. He also asked about the progress of the sports centre in Area 103 Ma On Shan after consulting members last year and if there were blueprints or designs that members could refer to; and

(d) he said the priorities of relevant projects were listed on page 2 of the paper, with the Expansion of Sha Tin Public Library (STPL Expansion) as the first priority followed by the sports centre in Area 103 Ma On Shan. He said he only learnt about the upcoming STPL Expansion through press reports and asked how the Government sorted out its priorities between building new facilities and improving existing ones. He said Ma On Shan was still in need of a lot of community facilities. The number of relevant facilities in the Sha Tin District was in accordance with the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG), but he opined that the above standards and guidelines had already become outdated.

21. The views of Mr YIU Ka-chun were summarised below:

(a) he said the layout of the paper had remained the same in the past decade or so, which was to lay down the 8 outstanding projects of the former Regional Council (RC). He suggested deleting items (a) and (c) in paragraph 2 which had already been completed. Besides, the priority of projects making progress could be updated, such as "(f) district open space in Area 90 Ma On Shan" and "(g) district open space in Area 11 Sha Tin";

(b) the projects in the paper were not additionally-funded by the LCSD, but rather, facilities that the RC promised to build for Sha Tin residents. He therefore thought the Policy Address or the LCSD should invest more resources in completing the 8 outstanding projects of the RC as soon as possible. Even though the Government had been considering the above in the past few years, only certain projects received additional funding, such as the construction of the sports centre in Area 103 Ma On Shan had been sped up and an indoor heated swimming facility had been added;

(c) he asked why the Whitehead sports park was making progress, but it was not one of the 8 outstanding projects of the RC, such as the project under item 10 on page 16. He agreed that a "parallel approach" should be adopted due to changing circumstances and demands for sports. However, the feasibility study for "(d) Expansion of Sha Tin Public Library", one of the 8 projects, had yet to be completed. He asked if a works timetable should be formulated if a plan had not yet been devised regarding the project commencement. As the paper did not provide such information and there was no proper planning, he asked when the 8 projects would be completed; and

(d) he said that there was still no timetable for the project of "(h) Redevelopment of Fo Tan Cooked Food Market, Sha Tin", whereas the number of residential estates had grown in the area. He hoped the bureau concerned and the LCSD could expeditiously allocate additional resources to proceed with all 8 outstanding projects of the RC and to formulate a timetable so as to be accountable to members of the public.

22. The views of Mr Thomas PANG were summarised below:

(a) he said this was the 18th year after the RC had been scrapped and he wondered at the number of projects the two former councils left behind. Only 2 of the 8

projects in the Sha Tin District had been completed. If the RC had not been scrapped, he believed all of the project would have been completed and in operation. As the Government had a surplus of over $100 billion, he believed the Chief Executive would ask the departments how the surplus was used to benefit the public. The facilities mentioned above were necessary to meet daily needs. He asked if the LCSD questioned the Government if the projects that were neglected for 18 years should be handled altogether;

(b) the paper pointed out that the existing air-conditioning and electricity supply systems of the STPL Expansion would not be able to support the services of the STPL after the expansion and that the library could face complete closure and suspension of services. As the relevant project was entirely unfeasible, he asked why it was still listed as the first priority. Even though the number of library users had been dropping, it did not mean the public did not need libraries anymore. He thought projects in other areas should be completed first, such as those in Tai Wai, Area 4C, Area 103, etc., so that the facilities there could continue to provide services for Sha Tin residents when the STPL was closed. He said the Government should strategically plan the order of the projects or for them to proceed concurrently;

(c) he said that the number of public housing and private housing and the population in Fo Tan had been increasing and asked why "Redevelopment of Fo Tan Cooked Food Market, Sha Tin" ranked last in order. He said for the past decade or so members' opinions were not taken into consideration for prioritising the projects. He did not understand why the LCSD did not report to the Government priority handling of the projects when all of them complied with the planning. He hoped that the LCSD would pass on the needs of the Sha Tin District at meetings with members and bureau secretaries; and

(d) he said he would like to propose a provisional motion to avoid widely publicising projects yet to be implemented, to give priority to projects catering for the rapidly increasing Fo Tan population and to submit it to the CSCDC meetings for discussion as soon as possible.

23. The views of Mr Billy CHAN were summarised below:

(a) the STPL Expansion, an outstanding project the RC left behind 18 years ago, was all of a sudden given first priority. He asked why the feasibility of the expansion was not studied for years until recently. The STPL had close to 3 000 daily users in the past 6 months, and since a complete closure would have a huge impact, he asked the LCSD to consider carefully before making a decision. He thought the LCSD did not provide a solution to cater for the 3 000 library users if the STPL faced complete closure. Besides, he asked if other projects could be implemented first in the event that the relevant project was not to commence presently;

(b) he asked if project numbers 9 and 10, including the setting up of a professional cycling training venue in Whitehead, Ma On Shan, would be completed sooner than the 6 remaining RC projects. He was worried that the Bureau and the LCSD would continue to postpone the completion dates of those projects; and

(c) he said he could not understand why the Government said it had to allocate resources to complete the projects when it had a surplus of $100 billion.

24. The views of Mr CHENG Tsuk-man were summarised below:

(a) he was concerned about number 17, "Conversion of the site by the pumping station in Area 86 under the purview of the Lands Department into a park". It was raised 8 years ago that the plantation of trees and accumulation of rubbish at the above site led to the breeding of mosquitoes and midges, affecting the health of residents. Therefore, requests had been made for the above site to be managed as part of the park in Area 86. He said that the item had once been deleted from the project list and had only been added back recently. He asked if the Government planned to leave a site of almost 10 000 square feet vacant, allowing mosquito breeding. He thought it could be opened for public use after site formation or a certain government department could take up the task to improve the hygiene there; and

(b) he said he had recently visited the location with Mr YIU Ka-chun and Mr Michael YUNG. The District Lands Office / Sha Tin (DLO) promised to remove dead branches from the site and to deal with the problem of mosquitoes and midges. However, they still had not agreed on a date to handle the situation on site together up till now. He thought the DLO was incapable of handling the situation at the above site and thus hoped that the site could be opened as soon as possible and be managed by the LCSD. He said the LCSD claimed that there was no road at the site for work vehicles to enter or exit from. But to his understanding, past projects used the emergency road on Ma On Shan Road to enter and exit from sites for works including the paving of cycle tracks, the project in Area 86 and the construction of shading panels for cycle tracks in Heng On Estate. Therefore, he thought it would not be an issue and disagreed that vehicles entering or exiting from the said roads would affect underground facilities. Besides, he said he did not know when the preliminary study of the project would be completed and hoped the LCSD would respond.

25. The views of Mr Michael YUNG were summarised below:

(a) as he had to handle official duties, he could only arrange for the site inspection mentioned in paragraph 24 to take place on that Friday with relevant departments and apologised to Mr CHENG Tsuk-man;

(b) he said (g) the district open space of Area 11 Sha Tin (RC project number 036LS) had gradually been divided and allocated for erecting buildings. The LCSD often mentioned that it had complied with the requirement for area of recreational open space as advised in the HKPSG because reserved spaces and spaces not yet opened were also included. He thought the LCSD was waiting for other departments to claim relevant plots of land for development so that it would not need to start the works;

(c) he said even though the utilisation rate of the Sha Tin Marriage Registry (STMR) had dropped due to the popularity of the civil celebrant services, the STMR services might be suspended due to the STPL Expansion. It would be

a pity that there would be no space to relocate the STMR in the beautiful Sha Tin Park, and even the services of the STPL would be temporarily suspended. A great impact would be inevitable. He asked the LCSD why it did not communicate with members before the meeting, who were only informed of the situation through the media. He thought it was necessary for the LCSD to give a clear explanation; and

(d) he said the LCSD proceeded with the outstanding RC projects slowly and without commitment, so that the projects on the list had yet to be completed after 18 years, while the projects proposed in the Budget commenced sooner than the RC projects. He said the LCSD should fulfil the Government's promise to provide the facilities for Sha Tin residents as soon as possible, or else the Government should not arrange for people to move into the Sha Tin District, as its capacity had already been exceeded.

26. The views of Mr WONG Yue-hon were summarised below:

(a) he said the projects mentioned in the paper had been submitted for the CSCDC's discussion for years and thought that the financially abundant Government could allocate resources to complete the overdue projects before launching policies to return wealth to the people. If financial resources were not an issue, he asked why the Government could not complete the outstanding RC projects altogether;

(b) he said the utilisation rate of the STMR was in fact very high. It would not be ideal if its services were to be affected by the suspension of STPL services; and

(c) he said the paper did not contain details regarding the expansion of the facility and the comparison of the facility before and after the expansion. The current proposed project could lead to temporary suspension of STPL services and he would like to know the length of the suspension. He asked whether the plans would be amended to lessen the impact if a major problem was discovered during the feasibility study. He said that a large-scale STPL expansion was necessary since there was no other library previously; however, as there were currently other projects in progress, they should be completed as soon as possible so as to divert the users of the STPL. The Government should also adjust the expansion scale according to actual circumstances, so that members of the public could use newer and better library facilities as soon as possible.

27. The views of Mr WONG Hok-lai were summarised below:

(a) he said he had learnt from the media that the expansion works for the STPL would commence soon and that the STPL would face a complete closure. However, the paper did not indicate the length of the closure, the scale of the expansion and if the public activity space between the STMR and the STPL would be erased. Besides, many of the residents in Sha Tin used the STPL, while the public library to be constructed in Tai Wai soon was only a small-scale one. He thought it would inconvenience residents if the STPL was closed and the public activity space erased without careful consideration. He hoped the LCSD would give an explanation; and

(b) he said it had been almost 20 years since the RC left behind the projects and asked when they would be completed.

28. The views of Ms Scarlett PONG were summarised below:

(a) she asked about the estimated suspension period of the STPL services, how the Government would divert the users of the STPL services, the scale of the expansion and the details of the library enhancement;

(b) she said if the CSCDC had not yet reached a consensus regarding the STPL Expansion, the construction of the Fo Tan Complex should commence first; and

(c) she supported completing the outstanding RC projects all at the same time, as members of the public had already waited for 18 years. She said a few years ago when public rental housing (PRH) and the Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) were confirmed to be realised in Fo Tan industrial area, the population there was expected to increase by a few tens of thousands based on the changing circumstances of the community. Now that the construction of PRH and HOS units would be completed soon and the population in the area had further increased. She thought the projects should be reprioritised according to the actual circumstances in each area or the Government could consider completing them altogether at the same time. She said the Government was very unfair to the residents in Fo Tan, as they supported the implementation of the housing projects in the hopes of simultaneously improving the quality of life of the existing residents. However, now that the anticipated facilities had not yet been realised, the quality of life not improved, even other community problems were bound to arise, such as transport, education, etc., she strongly demanded that the Government complete the remaining projects as soon as possible.

29. The views of Mr LAI Tsz-yan were summarised below:

(a) he said the paper did not specify the details of the STPL Expansion, including the works schedule, details, length of suspension period, arrangements during suspension of services, etc.;

(b) the RC projects had already been delayed for 18 years. The Government currently had a substantial surplus, but it was still unable to complete the outstanding projects. He hoped that the Government could provide the timeframe needed for completing the projects and explain how it deployed its resources; and

(c) he did not understand the reason for the departments' resource constraints. He said the Government allocated resources for various projects, but the provision of district livelihood facilities had been delayed for over a decade. The outstanding facilities of the RC had yet to be completed, while more people were arranged to move into the Sha Tin District. He asked how community facilities could catch up with the population growth.

30. Mr WAI Hing-cheung said even though the STPL was located in the Sha Tin town centre, its users came from all parts of Sha Tin, and thus the suspension of its services would affect residents in the whole Sha Tin District. He said the STPL should not be closed for any development purpose before the STDC reached a consensus or expressed support. He asked the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) and the LCSD how much time they needed to review the feasibility of the STPL Expansion project before submitting detailed and specific information to the CSCDC. He believed that the project would not gain members' support if it would take as long as 8 or 10 years to complete, during which the Sha Tin District would be deprived of an ideal library and its services.

31. The views of Mr Wilson LI were summarised below:

(a) he said the Sha Tin residents were very concerned about the complete closure of the STPL and that he wished to learn more details about the issue. The complete closure of the STPL would have a serious impact, so he suggested that it be handled with prudence. He also agreed that the STPL should not be closed before the STDC was informed and thoroughly discussed it;

(b) the paper mentioned that the space among the STPL, the Sha Tin Town Hall (STTH) and the STMR would be altered for the STPL Expansion. He wanted to learn about the scale of the project and the area involved. He thought a lot of newlyweds-to-be still chose to use the STMR services and that its services could be enhanced, such as to lengthen each session for members of the public to hold solemn and sacred wedding ceremonies;

(c) he expressed concerns over item number 10 in respect of the project in Whitehead and its feasibility study. Since land was a precious resource in Hong Kong, the Government should conduct a territory-wide consultation about the Whitehead sports park project to decide if the sports park should be planned from a macro perspective as a training venue for professional elite sports players or a sports venue for the public. There was a velodrome park in Tseung Kwan O. If the curved one in Whitehead was retained, their services could be better divided. He thought the planning of the sports facilities should be considered holistically and that the Government should make good use of the site to turn it into a place for long-term sports development in Hong Kong. Besides, the designation of Starfish Bay and To Tau Wan as conservation areas should also be included in the territory-wide consultation. He hoped the Government would keep in view the needs of conservation areas, comprehensive development areas and residential areas during its design and planning process; and

(d) since the Government had an ample surplus, he hoped the sports centre in Area 103 Ma On Shan and number 16, the sports centre in Area 111 Ma On Shan, could be completed as soon as possible.

32. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

(a) he said the issue of the RC projects had been mentioned during the meeting between DC Members and LegCo Members. Due to resource constraints, not all of the projects had been completed. Members could propose to Mr LAU Kong-wah, Secretary for Home Affairs, on the next day for additional

resources to complete the outstanding RC projects as soon as possible;

(b) the paper mentioned that the STPL could face complete closure during the expansion works, while the services of the STTH and the STMR would also be affected. He thought this would have a huge impact and asked the LCSD to report to the CSCDC in a timely manner if it received any further information. He hoped that the Government would consult the STDC before it proceeded with any project;

(c) he said that according to the paper, the number of books borrowed from the STPL reduced from around 4 500 items daily on average in 2016 to around 3 500 in 2018, while the number of visitors reduced from around 3 500 visits in 2016 to around 2 800 in 2018. The decline might be related to the launch of the Yuen Chau Kok Public Library (YCKPL). After the YCKPL had started operating and the suggestion to build public libraries in Tai Wai and Fo Tan had been made, he asked if the LCSD reviewed the need to expand the STPL and if it would enhance the facilities in the STPL, so as to lessen the necessity of closing the STPL and the impact on the STTH and the STMR;

(d) he said members hoped the sports centre in Area 103 Ma On Shan would be completed and opened as soon as possible and hoped that the LCSD would report to the CSCDC expeditiously once it had any latest information. Also, he hoped the LCSD would communicate more with members as well as accepting and including the opinions provided by members earlier;

(e) he hoped the LCSD would report the progress of the district open space in Area 90 Ma On Shan to the CSCDC in a timely manner;

(f) Whitehead sports park was a large-scale project which both members and members of the public were concerned about. He wished that the LCSD would consult the STDC whenever it had any latest information; and

(g) the paper mentioned the development of large-scale cultural, recreational and community facilities in Area 73. Regarding the specific circumstances of the Sha Tin District and the Ma On Shan District, the Government had already provided or set aside land for supplying sufficient cultural, recreational and leisure facilities according to the population proportion. He said that the HKPSG were outdated and that the facilities in Ma On Shan were mostly clustered in the town centre. He hoped the Government could carefully study the situation again to see if the projects could be more widely distributed among different locations in Ma On Shan to benefit residents thereof.

33. Ms Selina LEUNG gave a consolidated response as follows:

(a) she thanked members for their opinions. As the LCSD had to strive for resources for project implementation, the outstanding RC projects had been on the list for some time. Yet, the LCSD would explore ways to implement each project and relay members' opinions to the bureau concerned. Besides, since each project was unique on its own, the LCSD currently could not provide a comprehensive timetable of all projects;

(b) in respect of project implementation, the LCSD would, on the one hand, fight for resources and, on the other hand, explore other possibilities. For instance, the projects concerning the open spaces in Area 4C Sha Tin and Area 90 Sha Tin commenced as district minor works with the support of the STDC. The LCSD would continue to explore other ways to speed up implementation of all projects;

(c) she had noticed the discussion among the general public and media reports about the STPL Expansion. She said the project had always been one of the 8 outstanding RC projects and was the fourth priority, which was mentioned in the LCSD's annual report on the progress of capital works projects related to leisure and cultural services facilities. The proposed development parameters mentioned in the paper were a preliminary proposal set down by the RC. The LCSD would review the existing development and needs during its studies before amending the parameters and would certainly consult members before actual project implementation. With respect to the alteration of the space among the STPL, the STTH and the STMR, as the STMR did not fall within the project boundary, she believed that its services would not be affected. She said the LCSD was very concerned about the closure of the STPL and was in the process of reviewing the parameters and extent of development with the ArchSD and exploring ways to reduce the impact on the STPL services and the inconvenience to members of the public. She would discuss the details of the project implementation with the departments concerned and consult the STDC in due course. After consultation with the CSCDC, the preparatory work for the sports centre in Area 103 Ma On Shan had commenced;

(d) she said she learnt about members' views on the sports centre in Area 103 Ma On Shan when she consulted the CSCDC in October 2017 and replied with the departments concerned with regard to the relevant provisional motion. The LCSD later on asked the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and gave a written reply to the CSCDC in March to confirm that the FEHD currently had no plans to build a public market and a cooked food market/centre at the site of the sports centre in Area 103 Ma On Shan. The LCSD and the ArchSD were further reviewing the overall proposed project scope and following up on members' opinions, hoping to submit the issue to the CSCDC for discussion as soon as possible, so that the works would commence expeditiously;

(e) in respect of the priority of building the sports centre in Fo Tan, the LCSD would start the preparatory work for each priority project in the order accorded by the STDC for the capital works projects. The LCSD would be glad to take into consideration members' comments on the order of priority. She had also noted members' concern over the growing need for leisure facilities due to the rising population in the district and would relay their concern to relevant bodies;

(f) she said the Government announced in the 2017 Policy Address that a feasibility study would be conducted for 15 sports and recreational facilities projects, with Whitehead sports park being one of them. In the Sha Tin District, the LCSD wished to commence the sports centre project in Area 103 Ma On Shan within 5 years and to conduct a feasibility study on the

Whitehead sports park. As the Whitehead sports park was relatively huge and in the vicinity of the conservation zone, it had to be given more careful consideration and the preparation time would take longer. The bureau concerned had to on one hand consider district opinions and on the other hand make optimal use of the land for larger-scale facilities, such as a cricket ground, a baseball pitch, an ice-skating rink, etc. The Government wanted to engage consultants for the comprehensive study, planning and layout design of the project and would consult the STDC on the preparation for the Whitehead sports park project in due course;

(g) in respect of the proposal to convert the site under the purview of the Lands Department located next to the pumping station in Area 86 into a park, the LCSD had conducted an on-site inspection earlier with the members concerned. She said there were different objective factors to consider. The LCSD would first consult relevant departments on matters such as the entrance and exit routes for vehicles, its impact on park users, etc. The LCSD would continue to follow up on the matter with the members concerned;

(h) she noted member's opinions on the sports centre in Area 111 Ma On Shan and said that the preparatory work for each priority project would commence in the order accorded by the STDC for the Capital Works Projects;

(i) in respect of the development of large-scale cultural, recreational and community facilities in Area 73 Sha Tin, she said that the site had been returned to the DLO for now. The long-term development planning of the site should be followed up on by relevant departments. She also noted members' opinions on the provision of leisure facilities in Area 73 Sha Tin; and

(j) she would relay members' opinions to the department regarding the follow-up on the STPL Expansion and the development of the sports centre in Fo Tan.

34. The Chairman enquired if members agreed to proceed with the provisional motion proposed by Mr Thomas PANG.

35. Members agreed to discuss the provisional motion proposed by Mr Thomas PANG

36. Mr Thomas PANG proposed the following provisional motion:

" Background:

In order to optimise public library services in the Sha Tin District, the Government had been planning to expand the Sha Tin Public Library. However, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department said that more time was still needed to study the feasibility of expanding the library. To expeditiously complete the works left by the former Regional Council, and in particular to speed up the works on building a complex in the Fo Tan area, this Committee proposes the following motion:

Motion:

The Culture, Sports and Community Development Committee of the Sha Tin District

Council requests the Government to deploy resources properly to prioritise the works project of building a complex in the Fo Tan area. The project is required to include a public library, an indoor sports centre, a community hall, a cooked food market, a car park, etc. so as to synchronise with the development of the Fo Tan area and the population growth in the future, and to solve the problem of insufficient community facilities in the area."

Ms Scarlett PONG seconded the motion.

37. Mr Thomas PANG hoped that the LCSD would cross out completed items and items handled by other projects in full swing when drafting project lists in the future. He suggested changing the name of the project "(h) Redevelopment of Fo Tan Cooked Food Market, Sha Tin", since it meant differently from the idea of the Fo Tan Complex to be built. Also, the project should be given priority.

38. The Chairman enquired if members gave consent to the provisional motion stated in paragraph 36.

39. Members unanimously passed the provisional motion stated in paragraph 36.

40. The Chairman asked the LCSD to note and follow up on the relevant matters, as the motion mentioned priority processing of the Fo Tan Complex project, and requested the LCSD to give the project priority.

2018-2019 Work Plans and Funding Applications of Working Groups under the Committee
(Paper No. CSCD 23/2018)

41. Members unanimously passed the above work plans and funding applications.

Nomination of Member of the 7th Hong Kong Games Organising Committee
(Paper No. CSCD 33/2018)

42. The Chairman said the Secretariat only received one nomination within the nomination period:

Candidate	Nominator	Seconder
Mr WONG Ka-wing	Mr HO Hau-cheung	Mr TONG Hok-leung

43. The Chairman announced that, since there was only one nominee, members unanimously endorsed Mr WONG Ka-wing to represent the STDC as a member of the 7th Hong Kong Games Organising Committee.

Funding Applications

44. The Chairman asked relevant members to declare interests in relation to the funding applications. They could attend the meeting but did not have voting rights on the funding applications.

Funding Application of the Sha Tin Celebration Committee
(Paper No. CSCD 24/2018)

45. The Chairman welcomed the representatives of the Sha Tin Celebration Committee to the meeting and for answering members' questions.

46. Ms TUNG Kin-lei declared her interests.

47. Members unanimously endorsed the above funding application.

Funding Application of the Sha Tin Arts and Culture Promotion Committee
(Paper No. CSCD 25/2018)

48. Mr CHIU Man-leung and Ms CHAN Man-kuen declared interests that they were members of the applying organisation, the Sha Tin Arts and Culture Promotion Committee.

49. Members unanimously endorsed the above funding application.

Information Item

Reports of Working Groups
(Paper No. CSCD 26/2018)

50. Members noted the minutes submitted by the Working Group on Festive Celebrations and the Working Group on Recreation and Sports Development.

Information Papers

Report and Plan by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department on Organisation of Cultural Activities and Utilisation of Facilities in Sha Tin District (1st and 2nd Quarters of 2018)
(Paper No. CSCD 27/2018)

Report and Plan by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department on Organisation of Recreation and Sports Activities and Management of Facilities in Sha Tin District (1st and 2nd Quarters of 2018)
(Paper No. CSCD 28/2018)

Report and Plan on Public Libraries Promotion Activities Organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in Sha Tin District (1st and 2nd Quarters of 2018)
(Paper No. CSCD 29/2018)

Progress Report of the Sha Tin Arts Association
(Paper No. CSCD 30/2018)

Progress Report of the Sha Tin Sports Association
(Paper No. CSCD 31/2018)

Action

2018-2019 Approved Estimates of Expenditure Heads under the Committee
(Paper No. CSCD 32/2018)

51. Members noted the above 6 information papers.

Date of Next Meeting

52. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 10:00 am on 5 July 2018 (Thursday).

53. The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat
STDC 13/15/50

April 2018