

Sha Tin District Council
Minutes of the 4th Meeting of
the Health and Environment Committee in 2016

Date : 7 July 2016 (Thursday)
Time : 2:30 pm
Venue : Sha Tin District Council Conference Room
 4/F, Sha Tin Government Offices

<u>Present</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Time of joining the meeting</u>	<u>Time of leaving the meeting</u>
Mr WONG Yue-hon (Chairman)	DC Member	2:30 pm	7:36 pm
Ms YUE Shin-man (Vice-Chairman)	"	2:30 pm	7:36 pm
Mr HO Hau-cheung, BBS, MH	DC Chairman	2:30 pm	6:36 pm
Mr PANG Cheung-wai, Thomas, SBS, JP	DC Vice-Chairman	2:30 pm	5:05 pm
Mr CHAN Billy Shiu-yeung	DC Member	2:30 pm	6:45 pm
Mr CHAN Kwok-keung, James	"	2:30 pm	7:35 pm
Ms CHAN Man-kuen	"	2:34 pm	7:36 pm
Mr CHAN Nok-hang	"	2:49 pm	7:36 pm
Mr CHENG Tsuk-man	"	2:30 pm	4:19 pm
Mr CHING Cheung-ying, MH	"	2:30 pm	6:21 pm
Mr CHIU Chu-pong, Sunny	"	2:30 pm	6:45 pm
Mr CHIU Man-leong	"	2:30 pm	6:07 pm
Mr HUI Yui-yu, Rick	"	2:33 pm	4:31 pm
Mr LAI Tsz-yan	"	2:30 pm	7:36 pm
Ms LAM Chung-yan	"	2:35 pm	7:36 pm
Mr LEE Chi-wing, Alvin	"	5:15 pm	7:36 pm
Mr LEUNG Ka-fai, Victor	"	2:33 pm	7:11 pm
Mr LI Sai-hung	"	2:30 pm	4:41 pm
Mr LI Sai-wing	"	3:28 pm	7:27 pm
Mr LI Wing-shing, Wilson	"	2:34 pm	7:34 pm
Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS	"	2:37 pm	4:49 pm
Ms PONG Scarlett Oi-lan, BBS, JP	"	2:30 pm	7:34 pm
Mr PUN Kwok-shan, MH	"	2:53 pm	5:15 pm
Mr SIU Hin-hong	"	2:30 pm	5:01 pm
Mr TING Tsz-yuen	"	2:33 pm	7:02 pm
Mr TONG Hok-leung	"	2:33 pm	7:08 pm
Ms TSANG So-lai	"	2:55 pm	6:50 pm
Ms TUNG Kin-lei	"	2:30 pm	6:07 pm
Mr WAI Hing-cheung	"	2:30 pm	6:55 pm
Mr WONG Fu-sang, Tiger	"	2:30 pm	7:36 pm
Mr WONG Hok-lai	"	2:47 pm	7:36 pm
Mr WONG Ka-wing, MH	"	2:30 pm	4:49 pm
Ms WONG Ping-fan, Iris	"	2:30 pm	7:36 pm
Mr YAU Man-chun	"	2:30 pm	4:41 pm
Mr YIP Wing	"	2:30 pm	7:25 pm
Mr YIU Ka-chun	"	2:33 pm	7:36 pm
Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael	"	2:30 pm	7:36 pm
Mr CHU Ho-fai, Kelvin (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council) 1 / Sha Tin District Office		

In Attendance

Mr WONG Tin-pui, Simon
Mr TSAI Yu-sing, Eric

Mrs TANG FUNG Shuk-yin
Mr CHAU Wai

Ms CHUI Mei-chun, Flora

Mr YUEN Chun-kit, Derek

In Attendance by Invitation

Dr HUNG Chi-tim

Mr CHUI Chi-keung, Edwin

Mr KO Chi-wai
Mr LAW Tak-ye
Mr CHENG Bing-cheung
Mr NG Kwok-cheong

Mr CHEUNG William

Ms WONG Shuk-man

Mr FUNG Ka-tsun, Simon

Absent

Mr MAK Yun-pui
Mr NG Kam-hung

Title

Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)
District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sha Tin) /
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Senior Housing Manager (Sha Tin) / Housing Department
Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional North) 4
/ Environmental Protection Department
Deputy District Leisure Manager (Sha Tin) 2 /
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Senior Executive Officer (District Council) / Sha Tin District Office

Title

Cluster Chief Executive (New Territories East) and Hospital Chief
Executive of Prince of Wales Hospital / Hospital Authority
Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Assessment & Noise) 2
/ Environmental Protection Department
Senior Engineer 2 / Noise Mitigation / Highways Department
AECOM Consulting Services Limited
AECOM Consulting Services Limited
Senior Engineer / 4 (New Territories East) /
Civil Engineering and Development Department
Engineer / 5 (New Territories East) /
Civil Engineering and Development Department
Maintenance Engineer / Structure (Southeast) /
Highways Department
District Engineer / Sha Tin (2) / Highways Department

Title

DC Member (Application for leave of absence received)
" (")

Action**Welcoming Message**

The Chairman welcomed all members and representatives of government departments to the 4th meeting of the Health and Environment Committee (HEC) this year.

Application for Leave of Absence

2. The Chairman said that the Sha Tin District Council Secretariat (Secretariat) had received the applications for leave of absence in writing from the following members:

Mr Alvin LEE	Official commitment
Mr MAK Yun-pui	"
Mr NG Kam-hung	"

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

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 12 May 2016
(HEC Minutes 3/2016)

4. Ms Scarlett PONG recommended adding paragraph 27(f):
“Parking spaces for hearses should be provided by the service provider rather than the Government.”
5. Members confirmed the revised minutes unanimously.

Discussion Items

PWP Item No. 6804TH - Retrofitting of Noise Barriers at Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section)
(Paper No. HE 29/2016)

6. The Chairman welcomed representatives of the Highways Department (HyD), Environmental Protection Department (EPD), Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) and the consulting company to the meeting.
7. Mr KO Chi-wai, Senior Engineer 2 / Noise Mitigation of HyD and Mr CHENG Bing-cheung of AECOM Consulting Services Limited gave a brief introduction of the contents of the paper.
8. The views of Ms YUE Shin-man were summarised below:
 - (a) although noise barriers had been erected at Wo Che Estate, the noise could still be heard. It would be more desirable if the new noise barriers could link up with the existing noise barriers; and
 - (b) she would like to know the exact location of the trees to be removed from the south section. Cajeput trees from Fung Wo Estate to Lek Yuen Estate had a history of more than 50 years and were appreciated by residents, and she hoped that the trees could be retained.
9. The views of Mr MOK Kam-kwai were summarised below:
 - (a) noise barriers at the southbound lane near New Town Plaza were of full enclosure type, but those facing Sheung Wo Che, Ha Wo Che and Tin Liu Tsuen were not, which would make villagers suffer from noise. He believed the scheme should be improved to benefit all parties; and
 - (b) noise mitigation level in some places were lower than those in other places, and he believed that the works should not be carried out at the sacrifice of some people's interests; therefore, he opposed to the works.
10. The views of Mr WAI Hing-cheung were summarised below:
 - (a) the relevant department had consulted the residents of New Town Plaza Phase 3, and he hoped that their opinions would not be ignored;

- (b) he asked how the height of various noise barriers was determined and whether the height of vertical noise barriers could be increased if enclosed noise barriers could not be built; in addition, he also enquired whether taller noise barriers would be better and whether the increased cantilever length of cantilevered noise barriers would affect the effect of sound proofing; and
- (c) he wanted to know the concept and idea or specific details of the works programme to be endorsed at this meeting. If the entire programme was endorsed, he asked whether any improvement could be made to details.

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

- (a) the paper mentioned the number of beneficiary units of the works, and he asked what the definition of beneficiary was and whether Fung Wo Estate would also be benefited in addition to Wo Che Estate and Sui Wo Court; besides, he asked whether any data showed the noise level before and after the installation of the noise barriers as well as the effect of noise mitigation of different types of noise barriers, and would like to know whether any place still suffered from noise that exceed the limit after noise barriers were built. He enquired which materials the sound absorption panels were made of and how the sound was absorbed. He wanted the number of units along the road that would be benefited from the decrease of noise decibels, e.g., the percentages of beneficiary high-rise, mid-rise and low-rise units, to be estimated and hoped that the relevant department could provide detailed data after the meeting and at the next meeting;
- (b) regarding cycling tracks, he asked whether the old subway currently used as the temporary warehouse of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) could be used for route diversion;
- (c) he asked about the time of holding the public consultation as well as the way of publishing or reporting the consultation progress to various stakeholders during the construction period; and
- (d) he would like to obtain the complete contents of the briefing after the meeting.

12. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) Sheung Wo Che, Ha Wo Che and Lek Yuen Estate also sent representatives to the consultation session, and he hoped that their opinions would not be ignored;
- (b) although the noise problem had been taken into account during the building of Fung Wo Estate, residents still experienced noise nuisance, and he hoped that the relevant department could provide data to relevant members for reference after the meeting. He hoped that the relevant department could provide the location map of the trees to be removed and explain in writing why a full-noise enclosure could not be built; and
- (c) he hoped that the relevant department could actively study how to achieve a better effect of sound proofing.

13. The responses of Mr KO Chi-wai were summarised below:

- (a) he reiterated that the current scheme was worked out according to the actual condition of Tai Po Road. No noise barrier could be built along the road outside Wai Wah Centre due to its proximity to the East Rail Line. The above restriction was being considered during the design stage; therefore, sound absorption panels were added to the semi-noise enclosures to minimise the impact of noise;
- (b) he hoped that members could support implementation of the works in principle and the details could be later adjusted. If the works did not get supported, gazettal and other works might be delayed, which might affect the progress of the works; and
- (c) he would supplement data on beneficiary units after the meeting and also follow up with the opinions of various members. He stressed that the works were neither directed against nor did they ignore any residents beside the road; instead, the noise barriers were set up where feasible based on the actual conditions.

14. The responses of Mr CHENG Bing-cheung were summarised below:

- (a) about 170 trees at the north section had to be removed, most of which were located at both sides of Tai Po Road where noise barriers were required to be erected. Cajeput trees outside Wo Che Estate and Fung Wo Estate were involved in the widening works of Tai Po Road of the CEDD, and the details had been explained to the Traffic and Transport Committee last year, and the said trees would be retained to the extent possible;
- (b) as Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section) was relatively narrow, noise barriers could be built only within the existing green space. Building full-noise enclosures would produce tunneling effect and should comply with strict fire-safety regulations, e.g. escape route, ventilation equipment and ventilation building should be provided. Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section) neither had enough space nor met the requirements for building full-noise enclosures. The currently proposed noise barriers and noise enclosures could already block out the noise from southbound and northbound vehicles and mitigate the impact on Tin Liu Tsuen;
- (c) residents of New Town Plaza Phase 3 had attended the consultation session, and he would supplement the information and communicate with residents of Sheung Wo Che and Ha Wo Che after the meeting;
- (d) he hoped that the works could win support from members at this meeting and then be gazetted, the design details of which could be later revised and improved. Beneficiary units referred to the households benefiting from the built noise barriers which helped reduce the noise level by one or more decibels. According to the preliminary result of the noise assessment, the highest noise level recorded around Tin Liu Tsuen was 77 decibels, which was reduced by 8 decibels after completion of the works; the highest noise level recorded along the section between Wai Wah Centre and Scenery Court was 81 decibels, which was reduced by 20 decibels after completion of the works; the

highest noise level recorded around Sui Wo Court was 77 decibels, which was reduced by 18 decibels after completion of the works; the highest noise level recorded around Wo Che Estate was 80 decibels, which was reduced by 20 decibels after completion of the works. Among the about 2 000 affected units in total, less than 50 affected units were near Tin Liu Tsuen, while all the affected units there benefited from the noise barriers; about 1 300 affected units were located at Wai Wah Centre, while about 1 200 or 90% of affected units there were benefitted; about 200 affected units were near Sui Wo Court, while all the affected units there were benefitted; about 500 affected units were near Wo Che Estate, while all the affected units there were benefitted; and

- (e) regarding cycling tracks, he would discuss with the FEHD whether its venue under the bridge at Sha Tin Rural Committee Road could be used for temporary route diversion of cycling track.

15. Mr Eric TSAI, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sha Tin) of the FEHD said that the FEHD would provide cooperation if required during the construction period.

16. The Chairman asked the members to vote on the paper.

17. The Chairman announced the above paper was endorsed by 30 affirmative votes, 1 negative vote and 1 abstention vote (the Chairman did not vote).

2016/17 Work Plan of the New Territories East Cluster
(Paper No. HE 30/2016)

18. The Chairman welcomed the representative of the Hospital Authority (HA) to the meeting.

19. Dr HUNG Chi-tim, Cluster Chief Executive (New Territories East) and Hospital Chief Executive of Prince of Wales Hospital (PWH) of the HA gave a brief introduction of the contents of the paper.

20. Mr Thomas PANG said although more and more citizens chose private hospital services, the pressure on public hospitals remained unrelieved, and the waiting time for services at accident and emergency departments and specialist out-patient clinics was still very long. Besides, additional hospital beds would be provided in public hospitals, and attendances were on a rise while there were insufficient medical personnel. Given the recent spate of medical incidents, the Legislative Council had discussed about whether to increase the number of lay members of the Medical Council of Hong Kong (MCHK) to enhance the transparency of the MCHK or whether to recruit overseas doctors. He hoped that the HA could provide short-term and long-term solutions.

21. The views of Mr CHING Cheung-ying were summarised below:

- (a) citizens were really concerned about the queuing problem at accident and emergency departments. Although more hospital beds were offered, the paper did not mention the problem related to the allocation of doctor manpower of and waiting time at accident and emergency departments; and

- (b) the waiting time for specialist out-patient clinic services and queuing time for specialised surgeries were both long, and he asked about the improvement measures of the HA. He opined that the problem might be caused by insufficient doctor manpower and asked about the HA's solutions.

22. Ms TUNG Kin-lei said the Government rolled out many medical policies but still failed to eradicate the problem. Additional 8 250 places would be provided for general out-patient clinic services, and she asked how many places Sha Tin District had. She hoped that a more accessible place could be identified for the relocation of Sha Tin (Tai Wai) General Out-patient Clinic (Tai Wai Clinic) or expansion of the clinic could be carried out, in order to benefit the residents in Tai Wai.

23. The views of Mr Victor LEUNG were summarised below:

- (a) he asked whether the HA could provide the data concerning manpower shortage and drain; and
- (b) there was a strong demand for accident and emergency services at PWH but the waiting time was too long, and he enquired whether the HA had any targeted measures. He suggested Yuen Chau Kok General Out-patient Clinic (Yuen Chau Kok Clinic) provide additional evening consultation services.

24. The views of Ms YUE Shin-man were summarised below:

- (a) she hoped that the PWH could enhance Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) services or refer patients to Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital (Nethersole Hospital). Given the huge demand for services at the PWH, she hoped that more resources could be allocated in respect of manpower, software and hardware to benefit more residents. PWH received patients from Tuen Mun, and she hoped the HA could explain the triage procedure; and
- (b) many hospital beds were placed at the corridor as there were numerous patients and patients' privacy was undermined. She hoped that folding screens could be set up.

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

- (a) 8 250 places would be offered additionally for general out-patient clinic services, and he asked whether 50 places were dealt with every morning; if yes, he believed this move was of no help to the problem. He would like to know whether the places were increased only for general out-patient clinic services;
- (b) the PWH would add 25 acute beds, and he asked whether consideration would be given to the increase of hospital beds for different specialties and nursing manpower;
- (c) he opined that it was inadvisable if only promotion opportunities were increased but the manpower shortage problem was not solved and asked whether the HA discussed with the two faculties of medicines about increasing the student intake;

- (d) he enquired whether the skills of exchange doctors fell short of standards and whether they were supervised during internship;
- (e) he asked whether any results had been achieved in the promotion of day care service and whether additional resources would continue to be allocated to ease the demand for hospital beds and how the HA would alleviate the problem of long waiting time for the accident and emergency services; and
- (f) he asked when the expansion programmes of PWH Phases 2A and 2B would be implemented. The helipad previously located at PWH was relocated to Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital (PYNEH) at the time of reconstruction of PWH, and he asked whether a helipad would be built again in the future, as he believed that transferring patients to PYNEH might delay rescue.

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

- (a) a large number of cleaners went on strike this January, and he hoped that the HA would review the incident and supervise the contractor to avoid different pays for the same post. He asked the HA about its current relationship with the cleaners and believed improving staff morale was very important for hospital's operation; and
- (b) he asked when the target of 5.5 hospital beds per 1 000 patients could be achieved by PWH. 8 250 places would be offered additionally for general out-patient clinic services, and he asked whether the HA would consider strengthening services provided in afternoon and evening sessions on Saturdays and Sundays. He would like to know whether the HA would consider providing dental out-patient services in Sha Tin District. The hospital launched the mobile application for booking services, and he asked whether the quota of booked appointment for general out-patient clinic services would be increased. As the elders might not know how to use the app, he asked the HA about how to publicise it.

27. The views of Mr Rick HUI were summarised below:

- (a) the paper did not mention what results the strategies to relieve manpower shortage and drain had achieved, and he would like to know about the information such as the anticipated results and the turnover rate of doctors; and
- (b) regarding the strike of cleaners of PWH, he said the contractor's management was ill-mannered and asked whether the HA had convened meetings to discuss the remuneration package with the cleaners on a regular basis after the incident.

28. Mr Sunny CHIU hoped that the HA could continue to increase the places for general out-patient clinic services, given the fact that the elders had a particularly huge demand for general out-patient clinic services. Generally, the elders had difficulty when making appointments over the phone for out-patient clinic services, and he hoped the HA could improve the telephone booking system.

29. Mr CHAN Nok-hang said many residents believed the waiting time for accident and emergency services was too long and increase of consultation sessions met with little success, and he hoped that the HA could make improvement and work out long-term solutions.

30. The Chairman believed there was an enhancement in hardware but the New Territories East Cluster and even Hong Kong as a whole were still troubled by shortage in doctors, nurses and other medical manpower. He hoped that the HA could provide data to inform members of the actual condition. He would also like to know the waiting time for various specialties. He asked whether the HA had sought transportation ancillary facilities for Tai Wai Clinic from the Transport Department (TD).

31. The responses of Dr HUNG Chi-tim were summarised below:

- (a) rising and ageing population gave rise to the increase in the demand for medical services in Hong Kong. Apart from implementation of the public-private partnership programme, private hospitals had enhanced their services, but in respect of in-patient services, private hospitals only accounted for about 8%, a sharp contrast to 92% taken up by the HA. Therefore, the enhanced services at private hospitals might not yield marked results. The 8 250 places were increased specially for general out-patient clinic services;
- (b) at present, there were about 6 000 doctors within the public health care system of Hong Kong and there was a shortage of 300 doctors. The HA could make marked improvements in provision of services only after the supply of doctors increased. There would be 420 interns graduating in 2018; therefore, the manpower shortage pressure might not be alleviated until 2019 or 2020. The HA had informed the two faculties of medicines of the problem, and the Government would also allocate additional resources to the two faculties of medicines to expand the student intake to 470. Currently, there was a shortfall of about 230 nurses in the Cluster and the turnover rate of supporting staff was high, the HA was currently working on the countermeasures. The HA had been supervising the exchange doctors;
- (c) provision of medical services mainly relied on hospital beds at present. Owing to ageing population and increasing number of chronic patients, he hoped that the day service model or community-based care model could be adopted to ease the demand for hospital beds in the future. He said there was a slight decrease in cases of long waiting time for accident and emergency services this year, hoped that the circumstance would be improved further after increasing the quota of doctors for accident and emergency departments. The HA would allocate additional resources every year to cope with the public demand for internal medicine and surgical services. In the previous year, the HA launched the “PWH AE Aid” app, which enabled patients to check the waiting time for accident and emergency services, and also the register and contact number of private doctors in the district;
- (d) the waiting time for all specialist out-patient clinic services had been uploaded to the website of the HA. Currently, patients could choose hospitals at their own will, and some diseases designated under the quaternary services such as orthopaedic treatment for scoliosis could only be handled by two hospitals, so patients from other districts might seek medical consultations across districts.

The “BookHA” app launched by the HA applied only to obstetrics and gynaecology out-patient clinic services in its infancy and would later be extended to other specialties. The app was launched in the hope that the young people could help the elders at home to make appointments. As the booking period for general out-patient clinic services was relatively short, it might not be appropriate to book an appointment for general out-patient clinic services through the app. The waiting time for orthopaedic services was long, for example, the quota for MRI examination had always been in short supply. Last year, the HA had provided additional MRI scanners at Nethersole Hospital to enhance the service. As for the increased hospital beds at PWH, he said each hospital bed would be equipped with folding screens to protect privacy;

- (e) the Government hoped that each district could be provided with a community health centre and was still looking for a suitable site in Sha Tin District at present. Given the limited number of doctors, it was impossible to significantly increase the places for general out-patient clinic services. At present, the evening consultation services were mainly provided by Lek Yuen General Out-patient Clinic. The HA would carry out a study with related departments on the feasibility of providing transportation ancillary facilities for Tai Wai Clinic;
- (f) the HA had always been closely monitoring and managing outsourced services, and workers had received a pay rise offered by the outsourced contractor after the strike event. The HA also held regular meetings with the contractor to supervise its performance;
- (g) the dental services were provided by the Department of Health. He would explain in detail the Clinical Services Plan for the New Territories East Cluster when members visited the hospital; and
- (h) the expansion programme for PWH Phase 2 had been included into the Government’s “10-year Hospital Development Plan”, and the preliminary proposal had been submitted to the Government for consideration. Owing to the height of and noise and safety impact on the adjacent buildings, a helipad might not be built when the phase 2 expansion programme was carried out.

32. Mr Victor LEUNG proposed the provisional motion below:

“The Health and Environment Committee of Sha Tin District Council requires the HA to review the current demand for evening out-patient clinic services and to actively consider providing additional evening consultation services at Yuen Chau Kok Clinic and Ma On Shan Clinic to ease the demand for accident and emergency services at the Prince of Wales Hospital.”

Ms Iris WONG seconded the motion.

33. Members unanimously endorsed the provisional motion in paragraph 32.

Formation of Working Groups under the Committee
(Paper No. HE 18/2016)

34. The Chairman asked members to consider whether they agreed to form the following two standing working groups as proposed in the paper and endorse the terms of reference thereof:

- (a) Working Group on Environmental Protection, Cleanliness and Hygiene in Sha Tin; and
- (b) Working Group on Healthy City and International Day of Disabled Persons.

35. Members unanimously endorsed the formation of the above two working groups and the terms of reference thereof.

36. The Chairman suggested electing convenors of the working groups in accordance with the following criteria and procedures:

- (a) the convenor of each working group must be a District Council Member;
- (b) each candidate must be nominated by one member and seconded by at least two other members;
- (c) if there was only one candidate, the said candidate should be deemed as elected unopposed; and
- (d) if there was more than one candidate, the members present would elect the convenor by a show of hands on the basis of “first nominated, first voted on”, and the candidate who won an absolute majority of votes was elected.

37. Members unanimously endorsed the election of convenors of the working groups in accordance with the above rules and procedures.

38. The Chairman asked members to nominate candidates for the convenor of Working Group on Environmental Protection, Cleanliness and Hygiene in Sha Tin.

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Nominator</u>	<u>Seconders</u>
Mr TONG Hok-leung	Ms Scarlett PONG	Mr PUN Kwok-shan Ms Iris WONG

39. As there were no other nominees at the meeting, the Chairman declared the immediate close of nominations, and Mr TONG Hok-leung was elected unopposed as the convenor of Working Group on Environmental Protection, Cleanliness and Hygiene in Sha Tin.

40. The Chairman asked members to nominate candidates for the convenor of Working Group on Healthy City and International Day of Disabled Persons.

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Nominator</u>	<u>Seconders</u>
Ms Scarlett PONG	Mr WONG Ka-wing	Mr Victor LEUNG Mr Tiger WONG

41. As there were no other nominees at the meeting, the Chairman declared the immediate close of nominations, and Ms Scarlett PONG was elected unopposed as the convenor of Working Group on Healthy City and International Day of Disabled Persons.

42. Members unanimously endorsed that the terms of the said two working groups were from 7 July 2016 to 31 December 2019 the end date for the term of the HEC.

Extension of Opening Hours of Shing Ho Road Refuse Collection Point (Review Report on Effectiveness)

(Paper No. HE 31/2016)

43. Mr Eric TSAI gave a brief introduction of the contents of the paper.

44. Ms TUNG Kin-lei said that as many restaurants in Tai Wai town centre stayed open until 1 am, she held that this arrangement could effectively improve the hygiene of Shing Ho Road Refuse Collection Point. As there was no complaint received from residents or owners' corporations for the moment, she hoped that this measure could be maintained.

Motion

Motion by Mr PANG Cheung-wai, Thomas on the Development of a Recreation and Sports Complex in Fo Tan

(Paper No. HE 19/2016)

45. Mr Thomas PANG said that as there were many public housing development projects near Fo Tan Industrial Area at present and in future, and moreover, given the comprehensive residential development adjacent to Fo Tan Station, the population in the district was expected to surge, which would cause great pressure on recreational and sports and cultural services facilities, as well as restaurants. He held that consideration should be given to incorporating the site of Fo Tan Cooked Food Market (West) into the scope of the Recreation and Sports Complex and a modern cooked food centre with satisfactory hygiene conditions could be set up in the complex. Therefore, he proposed the following motion:

“Many land parcels near Fo Tan, Sha Tin will be used for residential development at present and in future, including the public housing developments at Au Pui Wan Street, Kweilin Street and Man Hang Street, and besides, given the comprehensive residential development adjacent to Fo Tan Station, the population in the district is expected to surge, which will make the existing community facilities and transportation facilities seem extremely inadequate.

The Government must ensure provision of relevant facilities in the district and review the land use of the district at present. The Government of the previous term reserved the land to incorporate the Cooked Food Market in Area 16 into the newly built Complex as a cooked food centre to make room for building a Government Recreation and Sports Complex equipped with standard sports center, community hall, library and car park and thus to provide better service to citizens. This Committee requires relevant departments to submit within this year relevant proposals, designs and feasible schemes to the Sha Tin District Council for discussion.”

Ms Scarlett PONG seconded the motion.

46. Members unanimously endorsed the above motion.

Questions

Question to be Raised by Mr WAI Hing-cheung on the Pollution Problem of Shing Mun River

(Paper No. HE 20/2016)

47. The views of Mr WAI Hing-cheung were summarised below:

- (a) as lots of fishes were found dead in Shing Mun River and produced foul odour last December, he asked whether the odour was related to the frequency of cleaning. As the cleaning work was carried out by the term contractor, which might not be able to cope with the huge amount of rubbish, he asked whether or not the FEHD would allocate more resources in this circumstance. He said that the weight of rubbish described by the FEHD was inconsistent with that mentioned in the paper;
- (b) the EPD said that the odour might result from seepage from ageing pipelines or sewage outflow from outlets arising from illegal discharges, but he held that the sewage discharge would soon be stopped in general. The EPD said it would make investigations and take corresponding follow-up actions as per the legislations. He wanted to know about the EPD's findings and actions and the outcome;
- (c) he asked whether or not the Secretariat invited the representatives of Drainage Services Department (DSD) to this meeting. Regarding clearing up river courses, he wanted to know how the FEHD would coordinate with the DSD and whether their duties would overlap, as well as whether there were any places which were not cleaned by the two departments;
- (d) although the CEDD said that no dredging works were required in the past three years, the EPD and the DSD said the dredging works would be conducted during low tides from April to June 2016. He wanted to know about the reason; and
- (e) he suggested setting up inflatable dams on the river to prevent rubbish, sundries and fish carcasses drifting from the midstream or downstream to the upstream when the tide rose, but the DSD held that it might not be feasible. He hoped that the DSD would give reconsideration.

48. Ms Scarlett PONG pointed out that the Government had said earlier it would clear up the sludge near Man Lai Court. She wanted to know how the sludge around Fo Tan, Wo Che Estate and Yuen Wo Road would be handled. She required the Government to regularly clear up the sludge in Shing Mun River and provide her the timetable and scope of the CEDD's dredging works after the meeting.

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

- (a) he hoped that relevant departments could deal with the oil stains recently emerged near Sha Tin Rowing Centre; and

- (b) about a month ago, sludge was also found around Man Lai Court when the Red Rainstorm Warning Signal (RRWS) was issued. He wanted to know the reason for the emergence of the sludge. He asked how the EPD prevented illegal discharges.

50. The Chairman hoped that relevant departments would explain the arrangement for clearing up the sludge, such as the timetable and scope. As oil stains had been found around Sha Tin Rowing Centre for a while, he asked whether relevant departments knew its source and how the EPD supervised the cleaning of water channels.

51. As Mr Alvin LEE had arrived, the Chairman suggested cancelling his application for leave of absence.

52. Members unanimously endorsed the cancellation of Mr Alvin LEE's application for leave of absence.

53. Mr Kelvin CHU, Executive Officer (District Council) 1 of the Sha Tin District Office (STDO) said various departments were reminded of the date of this meeting after the previous meeting was aborted and the DSD was informed again by email. The DSD informed the Secretariat on the day of the meeting of its failure to send any representative to the meeting. The Chairman suggested that various departments should be reminded earlier.

54. The responses of Mr Eric TSAI were summarised below:

- (a) the FEHD was responsible for clearing up the rubbish floating on Shing Mun River. A total of 15 tons of dead fishes and rubbish had been cleared in this February while the monthly amount of rubbish was generally less than one ton. After the event of dead fishes, the FEHD increased its manpower for clearing and worked with the DSD to jointly clear up the dead fishes near Man Lai Court. In addition, the FEHD informed the Marine Department to send skiffs to help clearing; and
- (b) as a large amount of branches and leaves of trees and muddy water were washed up next to Man Lai Court after the cancellation of RRWS on 10 May, the FEHD increased its manpower to enhance clearing and cooperated with the DSD and about seven tons of rubbish was cleared. The amount referred to in another paper represented the total amount of rubbish cleared up throughout May.

55. The responses of Mr CHAU Wai, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional North) 4 of the EPD were summarised below:

- (a) as the sludge above water would produce odour, the EPD would work with other departments to follow up the treatment. The DSD was responsible for the upper area of Man Lai Court and the CEDD took charge of the lower area. The CEDD said that there was indeed no need for dredging works in the past three years, but the dredging works would be arranged this year due to obstructed waterways. The EPD would help require relevant departments to conduct clearing. The odour found over an extensive area might be caused by seepage from ageing pipelines or sewage outflow from outlets arising from illegal discharges. The EPD might take legal actions and initiate prosecutions

against illegal discharges;

- (b) it was a normal phenomenon that sludge emerged near the outlets of channels after the cancellation of RRWS. The DSD had set up facilities at the outlets to block the sludge so as to facilitate the clearing work of workers. The CEDD would conduct the dredging works between July and October and the EPD would continue to follow up;
- (c) the EPD and the DSD had also taken a series of joint actions including inspecting all industrial buildings in Fo Tan Industrial Area to see whether the sewers were connected inappropriately or broken. Some users had made improvements after receiving warning letters. The EPD also hoped that management companies could take the initiative to make improvements; otherwise prosecution would be stepped up. In addition, the DSD utilised closed-circuit televisions to check whether there was any broken part along the sewers in Fo Tan Industrial Area so as to carry out maintenance as early as possible; and
- (d) the EPD would work with the CEDD to follow up the dredging of river courses and conduct clearing works for areas from The Riverpark to Wo Che Estate. The investigation on oil stains was relatively difficult as intermittent discharges by individual shops or buildings might be involved. The EPD would step up investigation and work on the reduction of sewage flowing into the storm water drains in Fo Tan. The EPD would immediately conduct on-site investigation upon receipt of complaints, but findings were not guaranteed.

56. Ms Scarlett PONG proposed the provisional motion below:

“The Health and Environment Committee of Sha Tin District Council strongly urges the government departments to regularly clear up the sludge in Shing Mun River so as to improve the water quality and safeguard the health of water sportsmen.”

Mr LI Sai-wing seconded the motion.

57. Members unanimously endorsed the provisional motion in paragraph 56.

Question to be Raised by Mr TING Tsz-yuen on the Noise Problem of Ma On Shan Bypass
(Paper No. HE 21/2016)

58. The views of Mr TING Tsz-yuen were summarised below:

- (a) at the owners’ general meeting of Park Belvedere he had attended earlier, some owners said the noise problem arisen from Ma On Shan Bypass was serious. Given the increasing population in Ma On Shan, Ma On Shan Bypass might fail to cope with the vehicular flow in future. No noise barriers were set up for many estates close to Ma On Shan Bypass, but semi-noise enclosures had been installed for more remote estates including Heng On Estate and Yiu On Estate. He wanted to know why only vertical noise barriers were set up; and

- (b) the data provided by the TD failed to completely reflect the situation, as the data from 2015 to 2016 was unavailable. He held that the TD should be visionary, such as planning well ahead for rise in population.

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

- (a) residents of Yiu On Estate said the noise from high-speed vehicles could be heard in early hours on Saturdays and Sundays. Although the police had provided assistance, the problem failed to be solved. He asked the Government why additional noise barriers could not be installed. If they could be installed, he wanted to learn about the details of the plan; and
- (b) he inquired whether or not the members who did not speak could propose provisional motions.

60. The views of Mr CHIU Man-leong were summarised below:

- (a) estates close to Tai Shui Hang Station and nearby places were also disturbed by the noise nuisance created by vehicles at nights. He hoped that the EPD could conduct a study on building noise barriers at the road section of Ma On Shan Bypass from near Tai Shui Hang Station to Yan On Estate so as to alleviate the impact of noise on residents. He asked whether or not the road section of Ma On Shan Bypass from near Tai Shui Hang Station to Yan On Estate were paved with low noise materials. If not, he wanted to know the time for pavement; and
- (b) he inquired whether or not the members who did not speak could propose provisional motions.

61. The responses of Mr CHAU Wai were summarised below:

- (a) according to the environmental impact assessment report, the noise recorded at Park Belvedere met the standard of 70 decibels per hour and the data from TD also showed the stability of the vehicular flow. Speeding and other illegal behaviours should be handled by the police, so it was impractical to install soundproof facilities for such behaviours; and
- (b) dwellings near Kam Tai Court and nearby places adopted unidirectional design and were built later than the road. Therefore, developers were required to deal with the noise problem, for example, as the backside of the buildings faced the road, the residents were supposed to be free from road traffic noise. As the road-facing sides or windows of these buildings might be affected more by the noise, not all noise levels recorded at relevant units could meet the standards. All highways were paved with low noise materials, but due to the structure such materials were not paved on internal streets.

62. The Chairman said that it was not specified in the Sha Tin District Council Standing Orders (Standing Orders) that only members who had spoken publicly could propose provisional motions. Mr Kelvin CHU added that according to the Standing Orders, Members could propose provisional motions related to the meeting issues during the meeting, subject to approval of the Chairman and a majority of Members present, and it was not specified that the Member must have spoken before. Mr Simon WONG, Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)

added that according to Order 13(4) of the Standing Orders, Members could propose provisional motions related to the meeting issues during the meeting, subject to approval of the Chairman and a majority of Members present, and the provisional motions should be related to the meeting issues. The Standing Orders did not specify that only Members who had spoken previously could propose provisional motions.

63. Mr Michael YUNG held that as long as the Standing Orders was complied with, the proposer of the motion and the seconder were not necessarily limited to members who had spoken previously.

64. Mr Wilson LI proposed the provisional motion below:

“The Health and Environment Committee of Sha Tin District Council urges the relevant department to retrofit as soon as possible the enclosed noise barriers at the Park Belvedere section of Ma On Shan Bypass and improve and build additional noise barriers on both sides of the road sections of Ma On Shan Bypass connecting to Sai Sha Road heading for Double Cove and Lake Silver to alleviate the impact of traffic noise on residents nearby.”

Mr TING Tsz-yuen seconded the motion.

65. Mr LI Sai-wing suggested adding “use of sound-absorbing materials” in the provisional motion.

66. Mr Wilson LI revised his provisional motion below:

“The Health and Environment Committee of Sha Tin District Council urges the relevant department to retrofit as soon as possible the enclosed noise barriers at the Park Belvedere section of Ma On Shan Bypass and improve and build additional noise barriers and pave sound-absorbing materials on both sides of the road sections of Ma On Shan Bypass connecting to Sai Sha Road heading for Double Cove and Lake Silver to alleviate the impact of traffic noise on residents nearby.”

Mr TING Tsz-yuen seconded the motion.

67. Members unanimously endorsed the provisional motion in paragraph 66.

68. Mr CHIU Man-leong proposed the provisional motion below:

“The Health and Environment Committee of Sha Tin District Council strongly requests the Government to install additional noise barriers at the road section of Ma On Shan Road Bypass from Tai Shui Hang MTR Station to Yan On Estate so as to alleviate the impact of noise on residents nearby.”

Mr Alvin LEE seconded the motion.

69. Mr Michael YUNG said there was no road named “Ma On Shan Road Bypass”.

70. Mr CHIU Man-leong revised his provisional motion below:

“The Health and Environment Committee of Sha Tin District Council strongly requests the Government to install additional noise barriers at the road section of Ma On Shan Bypass from Tai Shui Hang MTR Station to Yan On Estate so as to alleviate the impact of noise on residents nearby.”

Mr Alvin LEE seconded the motion.

71. Members unanimously endorsed the provisional motion in paragraph 70.

Question to be Raised by Mr CHIU Chu-pong on Issues Related to Pok Hong Wet Market
(Paper No. HE 22/2016)

72. The views of Mr Sunny CHIU were summarised below:

- (a) according to the paper, there was a total of 22 markets under the jurisdiction of the Housing Department, of which 16 old-styled markets had no central air conditioning system installed. He asked whether the above data covered the entire territory of Hong Kong. Among the markets in Sha Tin, only Pok Hong Wet Market was under the management of the Housing Department, which featured poor business environment, low customer flow and absence of air conditioning system. Although installation of air conditioning system was relatively complex, the market area was managed by the Housing Department. If reconstruction was planned, he asked whether air conditioning system could be installed. He hoped to know about the progress and results of the feasibility study work mentioned by the Housing Department;
- (b) if air conditioning system was installed, tenants needed to bear the air conditioning fees. He held that tenants were willing to make payment and were happy to see revitalisation of the market. If air conditioning system could not be installed, he asked whether the existing fans could be repaired or additional fans could be installed. As burglary cases often took place outdoors, he hoped that the Housing Department would install closed-circuit televisions. Given that there were no such facilities as signboards and directory boards in the market and the customer flow of the market was low, he asked whether the Housing Department could offer rental concessions to tenants; and
- (c) he hoped that the Housing Department could clean the market more frequently. He said that the drainage pipes would be silted up after cleaning, resulting in stagnant water. As to the 24 mice caught over the past year, he asked how many of them were already dead when found and whether rodenticide could be added into the mouse cages placed. He held that the frequent appearance of mice in meat stalls might be caused by improper handling by tenants and he asked whether the Housing Department would impose punishment.

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

- (a) as the FEHD lowered the “threshold of required percentage of tenant agreement” for installing air conditioning systems in the markets under its management from 85% to 80%, he asked whether the Housing Department

would make decisions on installation of air conditioning systems based on similar indicators; and

- (b) he held that current efforts were insufficient as only 24 mice were caught in one year and asked whether the FEHD would use other methods to catch mice.

74. The responses of Mrs TANG FUNG Shuk-yin, Senior Housing Manager (Sha Tin) of the Housing Department were summarised below:

- (a) in Sha Tin, apart from Pok Hong Wet Market, Shui Chuen O Estate Market was also under the direct management of the Housing Department. The Housing Department would actively consider members' opinions on setting up signboards. As handling water seepage at markets was within the scope of daily maintenance work, the Housing Department would strengthen examination and conduct regular inspections, and advised tenants not to place too many sundries, so as to maintain environmental hygiene. Management companies would also arrange nightly routine cleaning and monthly major cleaning, and would increase the frequency of cleaning according to actual conditions. Moreover, the Housing Department would also urge management companies to enhance market cleaning and education for tenants, and put rodenticide and mouse cages at rodent infestation black spots so as to reduce and control the rodent problem and improve the hygiene of markets. As to whether the mice caught were alive or dead, the Housing Department did not have the data. In respect of installing closed-circuit televisions to prevent burglary cases, the Housing Department needed to make a detailed study; and
- (b) as Pok Hong Wet Market was built at a relatively early stage, the feasibility study for installing air conditioning system was being conducted from the perspectives of legislative requirements, technical feasibility and financial analysis. If air conditioning system was to be installed, spaces needed to be freed up to build additional power supply facilities and air conditioning plant rooms, and some tenants might need to be relocated. Members would be informed of the study results when available. It was learnt that the tenants preliminarily expressed their willingness to bear the air conditioning fee, and the Housing Department would reexamine the ways to improve the business environment if air conditioning system could not be installed. At present, there were only four vacant shops in Pok Hong Estate, showing a low vacancy rate.

75. Mr Sunny CHIU proposed the provisional motion below:

“The Health and Environment Committee of Sha Tin District Council requires the Housing Department to renovate Pok Hong Wet Market and install air conditioning facilities to improve the business environment and hygiene of Pok Hong Wet Market.”

Mr Billy CHAN seconded the motion.

76. Members unanimously endorsed the provisional motion in paragraph 75.

Question to be Raised by Mr LI Wing-shing on Environmental Hygiene Problems of the Bridge Connecting Wu Kai Sha Station and Double Cove, and the Public Transport Interchange

(Paper No. HE 23/2016)

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

- (a) he extended his thanks to the staff of the FEHD, HyD and STDO. Hygiene of the bridge connected to Double Cove was not desirable as many construction workers, real estate agents and citizens smoked on the bridge recently. He wanted to know the frequency and arrangement of cleaning on the above bridge. He held that the FEHD could consider placing more cigarette butt container and litter bins there. As there was also a lot of rubbish on the bridge and at the public transport interchange, and it was suspected that some people traded old electrical appliances there, he hoped that the FEHD would make improvements, and provide the updated numbers of prosecutions and fixed penalty notices issued; and
- (b) he hoped that the HyD would consider changing the frequency of cleaning from once every three months to once a month, and advised the FEHD to add a litter bins under the bridge. He advised the Government to consider revising the legislation to include bridges as designated no-smoking areas.

78. The responses of Mr Eric TSAI were summarised below:

- (a) the data in the paper was full-year data, so there was no updated figure. He could provide the data of May and June after the meeting. The FEHD had once considered placing on the bridge litter bins that were available for discarding cigarette butts, which was objected by the residents of nearby housing estates. Therefore, three cigarette butt container were placed under the bridge. Consideration could be given to increasing the number of such containers if members deemed necessary. The FEHD had dispatched plainclothes officers to the site to prosecute offenders. If any illegal hawking was found, the Hawker Control Team would be sent to the site for law enforcement; and
- (b) the FEHD could increase the number of cigarette butt container, but due to the environmental constraints, poor natural ventilation at that place made it difficult for the smell of cigarettes to disperse. At the request of residents and members, in 2014, the FEHD advised the TD and the Tobacco Control Office (TCO) to consider including the pedestrian bridge at Wu Kai Sha MTR Station Exit A towards Double Cove as a designated no smoking area. In early 2015, the TD and the TCO informed the FEHD that they would not consider including the pedestrian bridge as a designated no-smoking area for the moment.

79. Ms WONG Shuk-man, Maintenance Engineer / Structure (Southeast) of HyD said the HyD had carried out large-scale cleaning on the early morning of 13 May this year and the next large-scale cleaning would be conducted in mid-August, and cleaning would be done once every three months for the moment. The HyD would adjust the date or frequency of cleaning according to actual conditions and needs.

80. Mr Simon FUNG, District Engineer / Sha Tin (2) of HyD said the HyD was a works department mainly responsible for repair and maintenance of public roads, pedestrian bridges and subways. The proposal on whether to include the pedestrian bridge as a designated no-smoking area was outside the purview of the HyD.

Question to be Raised by Ms CHAN Man-kuen on the Mosquito Problem in Sha Tin
(Paper No. HE 32/2016)

81. The views of Ms CHAN Man-kuen were summarised below:

- (a) the locations of the ovitraps placed in the past three years were not listed in the paper. At present, the FEHD had placed ovitraps in Ma On Shan, Tai Wai and Yuen Chau Kok, but the following places were not found in the map: Lee On Estate, Wu Kai Sha and Yan On Estate in Ma On Shan; Mei Tin Estate, Greenview Garden and Golden Lion Garden Phase I and Phase II in Tai Wai; Kwong Yuen Estate, The Castello and Kwong Lam Court in Yuen Chau Kok. She asked why the map did not include all the places in the district and why the abovementioned places were not included in the map. Many of the aforesaid places were densely populated. She hoped the FEHD could conduct an examination and provide the current locations of ovitraps;
- (b) the population had risen rapidly, but the number of staff or instruments of the FEHD had only increased slightly in the past three years. She hoped the FEHD could explain the criteria for expansion. The FEHD had increased the number of outsourced pest control teams. She asked about the number of members and coverage of each team. She said that the information in the paper could not show whether the manpower was sufficient to deal with the mosquito problem;
- (c) currently, the midge problem was very serious. Nevertheless, the FEHD only provided advice or suggestions, which were found to be ineffective. She asked whether the FEHD had other methods to bring the midge problem under control and how long the midge defense patches could work; and
- (d) she advised the FEHD to increase the number of ovitraps according to the increase of population in Sha Tin and Ma On Shan, enhance efforts in monitoring the trend of mosquito problem in the district to conduct anti-mosquito work when appropriate, and deal with and handle the aggravating midge problem.

82. The views of Mr CHAN Nok-hang were summarised below:

- (a) he hoped the FEHD could consider placing ovitraps in Sun Tin Wai and Chun Fung constituencies. The locations for placing ovitraps were very important. If they were placed beside standpipes, they might be disturbed and the index might be inaccurate. He hoped the FEHD could provide the current locations of ovitraps. During the rainy summer months, the larvicidal oil might be washed away. He asked the FEHD what the countermeasures were and whether there were other methods apart from applying larvicidal oil for relieving the mosquito problem during the peak season in summer. He hoped the Housing Department could enhance efforts in anti-mosquito works in the area of public housing estates under its management; and

- (b) he asked whether midges could be effectively eliminated by mosquito elimination methods. If so, he hoped the Housing Department could enhance the use of these methods and midge defense patches in the area of public housing estates.

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

- (a) there were 60 ovitraps set up in Ma On Shan, 56 ovitraps set up in Tai Wai and 58 ovitraps set up in Yuen Chau Kok, but the data showed that the ovitrap indices in May were 8.5 in Ma On Shan, 8.9 in Tai Wai and 13.8 in Yuen Chau Kok. Yuen Chau Kok recorded the highest index, but it was not the area with the largest number of ovitraps. He asked the FEHD whether it would consider increasing the number of locations for placing ovitraps and whether it could provide the accurate locations of the ovitraps, so that the members could provide suggestions relating to mosquito infestation black spots; and
- (b) although midge was not the major vector of any vector-borne disease, the FEHD had once said that general pesticides could also eliminate midges. He advised the FEHD to eliminate midges while eliminating mosquitoes.

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

- (a) Yan On Estate in Ma On Shan, Mei Tin Estate and Heung Fan Liu in Tai Wai, Sha Kok, Jat Min, Pok Hong, Yi Shing Square, Shui Chuen O, Shek Mun, Lek Yuen and Wo Che Estate were not covered by ovitraps. He asked the FEHD what criteria it had based on for placing ovitraps, whether it was possible that the new ovitraps could not reflect the actual conditions due to index adjustment, and how to effectively eliminate mosquitoes if the actual conditions were not accurately reflected. He wanted to know why ovitraps were not set up in some places, and hoped the FEHD could review the distribution of the ovitraps before making further arrangements and report whether the number of ovitraps could be increased at the next meeting; and
- (b) he asked whether midge infestation index could be set to reflect the severity of midge problem so as to facilitate the midge elimination work. The residents were disturbed by midge problem. He asked how to address the problem at root if no assessment was made.

85. The views of Ms Iris WONG were summarised below:

- (a) Shek Mun and Bik Woo areas were not covered by ovitraps. She asked whether no ovitrap was placed in the aforesaid areas. She also asked how effective the ovitraps were, whether they could be used for dealing with the midge problem, and what criteria the FEHD had adopted for reviewing the locations for placing ovitraps; and
- (b) she asked the FEHD whether it had studied the cause of the midge problem. The parks under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and some roadside shrubs were covered with overgrown weeds. She hoped the FEHD could send staff to deal with that. She asked about the growing period of midges and how the midge elimination actions could match with the growing

period of midges. She wanted to know whether midge defense patches were still effective after raining, and if no, whether they would be replaced immediately. She asked whether the larvicidal oil currently used would dissolve in water and whether it had the same effect on mosquitoes and midges. Although midges did not transmit viruses, their bites would cause redness, swelling and itching. Therefore, midge problem should be taken seriously.

86. Mr TONG Hok-leung said that Mei Tin Estate, Pui Kiu College, Tai Wai New Village, Park View Garden, Granville Garden and Mei Chung Court were not covered by ovitraps. Mosquito problem was serious in the aforesaid areas. He asked why no ovitrap was placed. He hoped such departments as the Housing Department and the FEHD could eliminate mosquitoes in the areas near mountains more frequently.

87. The views of Mr Victor LEUNG were summarised below:

- (a) mosquito and midge problems began to ravage every July, which was especially serious this year. He asked the FEHD whether insufficient efforts had been made for the advance assessment. He considered that insufficient countermeasures and materials had been prepared. There were only less than 200 ovitraps in the entire area of Sha Tin District. He doubted whether it was due to inadequate resources and held that the FEHD should make a review. Besides, he asked whether the FEHD would consider purchasing more materials to eliminate mosquitoes and midges; and
- (b) the mosquito problem had always been a great concern of various parties. However, midge problem was also very serious. He held that the FEHD might consider setting up a midge infestation index. At present, the FEHD had not taken enough measures to deal with the midge problem. He hoped the FEHD could enhance efforts for continuous midge elimination.

88. Mr WONG Hok-lai said that the mosquito problem was very serious in his constituency as it was close to the mountain, but there was no ovitrap in the area. He hoped the FEHD could make public the criteria for placing ovitraps and allocate additional resources to increase the number of ovitraps to improve the situation.

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

- (a) Lee On Estate, Monte Vista, Double Cove, Lake Silver and Wu Kai Sha Village were not covered by ovitraps. He hoped the FEHD could place ovitraps in the aforesaid places to reflect the situation of mosquito problem. The coastal greenbelts made the mosquito problem more serious. He hoped the FEHD could intensify efforts for mosquito elimination. Mosquitoes could transmit a number of viruses, including the latest Zika virus. Other countries attached great importance to Zika virus. He hoped the FEHD could enhance publicity and education; and
- (b) midge problem was also very serious. He hoped the FEHD could take effective mitigation measures.

90. The Chairman said that ovitraps were distributed in three districts at present. The former Yuen Chau Kok area was known as Lek Yuen area. There was no ovitrap at Lek Yuen and Wo Che Estate as well as in the countryside. He asked about the criteria for placing ovitraps. The mosquito problem in the countryside was more serious than that in urban areas. He hoped the FEHD could review the locations of ovitraps and increase the number of ovitraps. He suggested that the ovitraps should not be put in the places that were easily reached by the public.

91. The responses of Mr Eric TSAI were summarised below:

- (a) the Pest Control Advisory Section (Pest Control Section) was responsible for layout of the ovitraps. As recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Section increased or reduced the number of ovitraps in densely populated areas such as schools or places where dengue fever cases had occurred. The FEHD analysed the situation of mosquito infestation in Hong Kong based on annual indices. Some members mentioned that some areas were not covered by ovitraps. He would inform the Pest Control Section to keep in view the aforesaid places and took them into account when conducting a review. He would also ask the Pest Control Section whether the accurate locations of ovitraps could be made public;
- (b) the FEHD made preparations for dealing with the mosquito problem every year. Inadequate preparation would not take place. In respect of mosquito elimination, larvicidal oil was used to cover water sources so as to suffocate mosquito larvae. The FEHD improved the environment from many aspects, for example, clearing rubbish and stagnant water to avoid mosquito breeding and using pesticides according to the environment. This year, education works targeted at schools were carried out, including holding lectures and conducting inspections to schools to point out high-risk places, and the schools had made improvements. Moreover, the FEHD also leveraged television and radio broadcasting platforms, pamphlets and posters to remind the public to remove stagnant water, so as to prevent mosquito breeding;
- (c) about 20 anti-mosquito teams had been assigned for mosquito elimination in different areas in Sha Tin District. Each team consisted of one supervisor and about five colleagues. Generally, fewer mosquito elimination teams were assigned in winter. However, since 2014, the FEHD had allocated additional resources and set up three more anti-mosquito teams in winter to enhance mosquito elimination. The STDO, LCSD, HyD, District Lands Office/Shan Tin, Housing Department and other departments would hold inter-departmental meetings and conduct anti-mosquito works including mowing, gully cleaning and spraying larvicidal oil within their respective purviews; and
- (d) mosquito was a vector and would transmit viruses of serious diseases such as dengue fever, malaria and Japanese encephalitis. Therefore, the FEHD would allocate resources to eliminate mosquitoes. Regarding midge elimination, as midge was not the main vector of any vector-borne disease, midge infestation index was not in place. Mosquito elimination methods always worked on midge problem. The growth environment of midges was slightly different from that of mosquitoes. Midges had a lifecycle of 25 days to one month and did not travel far. Mosquito elimination could also effectively prevent infestation of

Zika virus. The Centre for Health Protection under the Department of Health had also made publicity efforts and reminded the public to pay more attention after leaving Hong Kong.

Statistical Overview of Sha Tin District Environmental Hygiene Service (as at 31 May 2016)
(Paper No. HE 33/2016)

92. The views of Mr CHAN Nok-hang were summarised below:

- (a) according to the paper, the contractor had provided manager services for the public toilets with high usage rates. He asked whether no manager service was provided for the public toilets with low usage rates. The public toilet facilities in Sha Tin Tau Village were often damaged. He hoped the FEHD could note whether they were deliberately damaged or had been in long-term disrepair; and
- (b) as for food hygiene, no test result was available for 115 samples. He asked about the reasons, sample types and the time for the test results.

93. The views of Ms Iris WONG were summarised below:

- (a) there was 0.3 ton and 10 tons of floating rubbish on Shing Mun River in April and May, respectively. She asked about the reasons for the great discrepancy and wanted to know about the types and locations of the increased rubbish;
- (b) nearly 20 000 illegally displayed bills and posters were removed and the bills and posters often bore the telephone numbers and names of the contact persons. She asked whether the FEHD had initiated prosecutions based on such information; and
- (c) as for “improving the services and cleanliness of public toilets”, some residents pointed out that there was a waste of drinking water, for example, having the water taps open for a long time during cleaning. She hoped the FEHD could urge the contractors to save water.

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

- (a) he hoped the FEHD could list the number of live mice captured apart from providing the statistics on mice poisoning, so as to reflect the situation of rodent elimination. The number of mouse cages and mouse clips placed and their effectiveness were not mentioned in the paper;
- (b) as for “improving the services and cleanliness of public toilets”, he asked whether the FEHD provided services for the public toilets not within the purview of the LCSD and whether the details about manager services and list of public toilets with high usage rates could be provided for members’ reference;
- (c) Fo Tan Cooked Food Market (East) and Fo Tan Cooked Food Market (West) were ageing and in outdoor areas. The vendors would place tables and chairs outside their stores. He asked the FEHD whether it had discussed with the

vendors on the aforesaid situation. He hoped the environment of the aforesaid cooked food markets could be improved as soon as possible; and

- (d) regarding water quality, more samples were taken from swimming pools after the start of swimming season. He asked whether the LCSD would redeploy manpower to conduct tests as soon as possible.

95. The responses of Mr Eric TSAI were summarised below:

- (a) public toilets with high usage rates were cleaned by attendants and mobile cleaning teams carried out deep cleaning regularly for public toilets with low usage rates. He would follow up with the situation of individual public toilets after the meeting;
- (b) generally, there was less than 1 ton of floating rubbish on Shing Mun River every month. The amount of rubbish increased significantly within a few days in May because there were many branches and leaves near Man Lai Court after the RRWS;
- (c) as for “removing illegally displayed bills and posters”, most of the telephone numbers were mobile phone numbers. Therefore, the companies/persons in charge could not be found in most cases. However, the FEHD had once found out the persons in charge and initiated prosecutions;
- (d) such data as number of live mice captured and mouse cages and mouse clips placed could be added into the report;
- (e) the FEHD had always been making efforts to improve the environment of Fo Tan Cooked Food Market (East) and Fo Tan Cooked Food Market (West), for example, retrofitting storm water drains, cleaning and replacing ventilation systems and improving firefighting systems. Less vendors placed tables and chairs outside their premises now. The FEHD would conduct surprise inspections from time to time and make prosecutions;
- (f) the FEHD took water samples from swimming pools for bacterial tests every month. Apart from the Government Laboratory, qualified laboratories had also been engaged to conduct tests. The results would be released immediately once available; and
- (g) food test was conducted by the Centre for Food Safety under the FEHD. Nevertheless, it took a long time to test chemical substances. Therefore, the test results of some samples were not yet available. The Centre for Food Safety would release the test results regularly, and immediately announce details of food samples with unsatisfactory testing results and follow up with the suppliers.

96. Members noted the above information paper.

Sha Tin District Anti-rodent Campaign 2016 (Second Phase)
(Paper No. HE 34/2016)

97. Mr CHAN Nok-hang said that according to the paper, the pest control teams would eliminate mice in Sha Tin Tau Village, Chun Shek Estate and the vicinity. He asked whether “the vicinity” included such places as Fung Shing Court or The Riverpark. If not, he hoped that these places could be included.

98. Mr Eric TSAI responded that “the vicinity” referred to the public places nearby and mouse elimination works within the precincts of housing estates should be carried out by the management companies on their own.

99. Members noted the above information paper.

Date of Next Meeting

100. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 8 September 2016 (Thursday).

101. The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat
STDC 13/15/50

August 2016