

Sha Tin District Council
Minutes of the 5th Meeting of
the Health and Environment Committee in 2016

Date : 8 September 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	6:06 pm
Ms YUE Shin-man (Vice-Chairman)	"	2:30 pm	6:04 pm
Mr HO Hau-cheung, BBS, MH	DC Chairman	2:30 pm	5:08 pm
Mr CHAN Billy Shiu-yeung	DC Member	2:30 pm	4:09 pm
Mr CHAN Kwok-keung, James	"	3:02 pm	3:47 pm
Ms CHAN Man-kuen	"	2:30 pm	6:06 pm
Mr CHAN Nok-hang	"	2:43 pm	4:12 pm
Mr CHENG Tsuk-man	"	2:57 pm	4:29 pm
Mr CHING Cheung-ying, MH	"	2:37 pm	6:06 pm
Mr CHIU Chu-pong, Sunny	"	2:30 pm	4:09 pm
Mr CHIU Man-leong	"	2:30 pm	6:06 pm
Mr HUI Yui-yu, Rick	"	2:33 pm	4:38 pm
Mr LAI Tsz-yan	"	3:00 pm	6:06 pm
Ms LAM Chung-yan	"	2:30 pm	6:06 pm
Mr LEE Chi-wing, Alvin	"	4:58 pm	5:14 pm
Mr LI Sai-hung	"	2:30 pm	4:36 pm
Mr LI Sai-wing	"	2:30 pm	4:02 pm
Mr LI Wing-shing, Wilson	"	2:30 pm	5:29 pm
Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS	"	2:41 pm	5:23 pm
Mr NG Kam-hung	"	2:42 pm	4:29 pm
Ms PONG Scarlett Oi-lan, BBS, JP	"	2:30 pm	6:06 pm
Mr PUN Kwok-shan, MH	"	2:30 pm	6:02 pm
Mr TING Tsz-yuen	"	2:30 pm	5:45 pm
Mr TONG Hok-leung	"	2:30 pm	6:06 pm
Ms TUNG Kin-lei	"	2:30 pm	5:58 pm
Mr WAI Hing-cheung	"	4:31 pm	6:06 pm
Mr WONG Fu-sang, Tiger	"	2:30 pm	6:06 pm
Mr WONG Hok-lai	"	2:45 pm	6:06 pm
Mr WONG Ka-wing, MH	"	2:47 pm	5:35 pm
Ms WONG Ping-fan, Iris	"	2:30 pm	6:06 pm
Mr YAU Man-chun	"	2:30 pm	4:09 pm
Mr YIP Wing	"	2:30 pm	6:02 pm
Mr YIU Ka-chun	"	2:30 pm	4:18 pm
Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael	"	2:30 pm	6:06 pm
Mr CHU Ho-fai, Kelvin (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council)1 / Sha Tin District Office		

<u>In Attendance</u>	<u>Title</u>
Mr WONG Tin-pui, Simon	Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)

In Attendance

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 CHAN Ho-fung, Leo

Dr HUI Ming-tung, Eric

Mr CHENG Sau-kong, Kelvin

Ms TUNG Kit-yan

Mr SHEK Chung-tong

Mr NG Ping-tong, Gordon

Ms LEE Kit-ling

Ms SHEK Nga-wing, Irene

Ms WONG Shuk-man

Mr KWOK Ka-chun, Gordon

Absent

Mr MAK Yun-pui

Mr PANG Cheung-wai, Thomas, SBS, JP

Mr LEUNG Ka-fai, Victor

Mr SIU Hin-hong

Ms TSANG So-lai

Title

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

Senior Administration Manager (Transformation Projects) /

Hospital Authority

Chief of Service / Department of Family Medicine /

New Territories East Cluster

Administration Manager (Transformation Projects) /

Hospital Authority

Manager (Communications and Community Relations) /

Prince of Wales Hospital

Wetland and Fauna Conservation Officer (Enforcement) /

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Senior Land Executive / Land Management (District Lands Office,

Sha Tin) / District Lands Office, Sha Tin

Liaison Officer-in-Charge (West) 3 / Sha Tin District Office

Liaison Officer (West) 3a / Sha Tin District Office

Maintenance Engineer / Structure (Southeast) /

Highways Department

District Engineer / Sha Tin (1) / Highways Department

Title

DC Member (Application for leave of absence received)

” (”)

” (”)

” (”)

” (No application for leave of absence received)

Action**Welcome Message**

The Chairman welcomed all members and representatives of government departments to the 5th meeting of the Health and Environment Committee (HEC) of this year.

Application for Leave of Absence

2. The Chairman said that the Sha Tin District Council 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 Thomas PANG

”

Mr WAI Hing-cheung

”

Mr Victor LEUNG
Mr SIU Hin-hong

Overseas duty visit
”

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

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 7 July 2016
(HEC Minutes 4/2016)

4. Members unanimously confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting.

Matters Arising

Response of Government Departments to Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting
(Paper No. HE 36/2016)

5. Members noted the above paper.

Discussion Items

General Outpatient Clinic Public-Private Partnership Programme
(Paper No. HE 37/2016)

6. The Chairman welcomed representatives of the Hospital Authority (HA) to the meeting.

7. Dr Leo CHAN, Senior Administration Manager (Transformation Projects) of Hospital Authority gave a brief introduction of the contents of the paper.

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

- (a) he held that the General Outpatient Clinic Public-Private Partnership Programme (the Partnership Programme) was well-intentioned, but worried that the doctors might charge extra fees or prescribe poor-quality drugs because of cost consideration. He asked whether the HA had set up a regulatory system; and
- (b) he asked how many doctors in Sha Tin District participated in the Partnership Programme in 2016-2017 and wanted to know about the number of the participating doctors in each district, so as to assess whether the services were adequate. He asked how the HA would encourage the doctors to participate and whether the patients could seek medical consultation across districts if there were insufficient doctors in Sha Tin.

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

- (a) the community had proposed the public-private partnership for a long time. When the incident of excessive lead in drinking water happened, it was proposed to speed up blood test by means of public-private partnership. The HA had launched the Partnership Programme in several districts. He asked about the supervision methods and effectiveness;

- (b) he asked about the amount of subsidies the government had granted after the Programme was launched in three districts. Only 90 doctors in the three districts participated in the Programme, which was on the low side. He wanted to know what methods the HA had to attract more doctors to participate in the Programme and what the participation rate of qualified doctors was at present. The HA should review why the participation rate was low, for example, whether insufficient efforts had been made for publicity. He suggested that the nurses promote the Programme to the patients when they sought follow-up consultations or the Programme be publicised in the hospital; and
- (c) launch of the Partnership Programme without financial review might indicate a lack of planning. If there was a precise list of doctors in Sha Tin District, he hoped the members could be informed of the list.

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

- (a) she asked why the Programme was launched in three districts but less than 100 doctors had participated. The Partnership Programme could effectively relieve the manpower pressure of the HA. But, if only a few doctors participated, inconvenience might be caused to the patients. It was learned that some private doctors wanted to know whether the charges under the Partnership Programme was appropriate and about the details of services provided for the patients. She asked how the HA would improve the doctors' participation rate and how many doctors in Sha Tin District would be ultimately invited to participate. As the number of population in each district was different, she held that the ratio of patients to doctors in each district should be different;
- (b) in respect of regulation, she asked how to ensure the patients could get proper services. Besides, she asked what items the risk study was focused on and whether the HA would include other diseases into the Partnership Programme apart from hypertension and diabetes; and
- (c) she asked what percentage of hypertension or diabetes patients in the hospitals under the HA would benefit from the Partnership Programme after the Programme was launched in 18 districts.

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

- (a) she hoped more doctors could participate. There were only about 90 doctors participating in the Programme, which was far below the demand. She wanted to know about the reason. She held that private doctors might be deterred by low level of subsidies;
- (b) she asked whether the drugs prescribed to the patients were under supervision, how many types of chronic diseases were covered by the Partnership Programme and whether the private doctors ordered drugs according to the provisions of the Partnership Programme, the patients' needs or the needs of the private clinics; and

- (c) she asked whether the subsidies were used like health care vouchers based on the model of “money follows user”, whether the balances would be accumulated if the subsidies were used for less than 10 times and whether the subsidies for the Partnership Programme could be used for the services covered by the health care vouchers.

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

- (a) he wanted to know about the date of launch of the Partnership Programme in Sha Tin District, how many doctors in Sha Tin District had promised to participate and how many doctors were expected to participate in the future. At present, very few of doctors in the three districts participated. He asked whether the HA would assess the Partnership Programme and study how to attract more doctors to participate;
- (b) he believed sound regulation was necessary. The subsidies for ten medical consultations totalled \$3,012, which would be raised up to \$3,034 per patient annually in the future, and eight more types of drugs would be covered. He asked which eight types of drugs were and how many drugs in total were covered;
- (c) he wanted to know what difficulties the Partnership Programme had encountered since its trial implementation and how to expand the service scope to benefit more residents in the district. Moreover, he wanted to know what beneficial and harmful effects cholesterol had on human body; and
- (d) some doctors were visited by many people due to their good services and therefore did not participate in the Partnership Programme. He hoped the HA could improve the quality of doctors participating in the Partnership Programme.

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

- (a) regarding concerns over the security of electronic platforms of medical records, he wanted to know how to prevent hacker intrusion to avoid leakage of the patients’ information;
- (b) the targets of the Partnership Programme were hypertension and diabetes patients. He asked whether the patients could change their doctors after selection of doctors. The doctors might use their own drugs or order drugs through the HA. He asked whether the HA had granted subsidies for drugs, and if so, whether there was requirement for doctors to use the drugs for patients participating in the Programme and how to prevent doctors prescribing alternative drugs or poor-quality drugs. Moreover, he also asked whether the dosage of drugs prescribed by the private doctors participating in the Programme was the same as that provided by the outpatient clinics of the HA and how the HA would prevent the doctors prescribing unnecessary drugs. Besides, he wanted to know whether the HA had suggested using any drugs, and if it had suggested so but in the event that any doctor did not use the suggested drugs, how the HA would supervise the efficacy of the alternative drugs; and

- (c) he asked when the HA would review the Partnership Programme, and what measures it would take to encourage more doctors to participate, for example, allowing the patients to visit different doctors across districts. He wanted to know whether the patients could change their doctors in the course of treatment.

14. The views of Mr Tiger WONG were summarised below:

- (a) generally, it would take a long time for chronic disease patients to wait for follow-up consultations in public hospitals. However, if they participated in the Partnership Programme, the waiting time for follow-up consultations would be shortened. Ten subsidized medical consultations might not be sufficient for elders, so he asked the HA whether it would give consideration to combining the subsidies for ten medical consultations or increasing the number of subsidized medical consultations for elders;
- (b) he asked at present how many doctors who had already joined the “Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme” (Health Care Voucher Scheme) participated in the Partnership Programme; and
- (c) he asked which party would handle the patients’ complaints about private doctors.

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

- (a) as service approaches of different private clinics varied, he asked whether the HA had set up any system to supervise the quality of their services or drugs; and
- (b) he asked whether patients needed to seek medical consultations from public hospitals again if they had fully used the quota of ten subsidized services per year. Private doctors might have little interest in the Partnership Programme if their charges were higher than the subsidy rate. He asked whether the HA had any method to encourage private doctors to participate in the Programme.

16. The views of Mr TONG Hok-leung were summarised below:

- (a) doctors whose service quality was unsatisfactory might participate in the Partnership Programme to attract more patients. He asked whether this would lead to a decline in service quality and whether the HA established any regulatory system; and
- (b) he asked whether the HA would set some limits on doctors, including upper limit of patients.

17. Mr Rick HUI said that there were rumours that medical charges of private clinics had risen somewhat since the implementation of Health Care Voucher Scheme. If the Partnership Programme was well received or extended to more districts, the number of patients visiting private doctors would increase, thus leading to a rise in medical charges. He asked whether

there was any regulation mechanism for the Partnership Programme to deal with the rise of medical charges.

18. The views of Mr LI Sai-hung were summarised below:

- (a) the average fees charged by private doctors were currently served as a standard. He asked whether previous charging information of doctors could be provided to members for reference;
- (b) patients could pay extra expenses with health care vouchers. He asked whether doctors participating in the Partnership Programme in the three districts had joined the Health Care Voucher Scheme, and whether health care vouchers could be used in clinics participating in the Partnership Programme in the future. If not, patients might be unable to pay extra fees; and
- (c) regarding security and patient privacy, he asked whether the HA would assist clinics in improving their network security to prevent information leakage.

19. The Chairman said that most of elders visited doctors with their family members (such as children), and asked whether the HA would give consideration to allowing elders to select doctors across districts for convenience of their children.

20. Dr Leo CHAN gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) currently, a total of 90 doctors had participated in the Partnership Programme in the three districts, which was higher than the number of 60 private doctors expected to be invited at the initial stage of implementation to promote the Programme (6 000 patients). The HA respected the decisions of individual private doctors, but doctors could not participate in the Partnership Programme for different reasons, including their clinics were too busy to accommodate more patients or failed to use the Electronic Health Record Sharing System (eHRSS) due to a lack of computers. Besides, some doctors in the districts were medical specialists, so they chose not to participate in the Partnership Programme;
- (b) at present, private doctors participating in the Programme could receive a maximum total service fee of \$3,012 from every patient per annum, and the fee would further rise to \$3,034 from 1 October onwards when 8 drugs were added to solve patients' "relevant health problems". To determine the service fees charged by private doctors participating in the Programme, the HA commissioned an independent agency before implementation of the Programme to investigate private doctors' charges in the three pilot districts, and the service fees would be determined after consideration of relevant investigation results. Since implementation of the Programme, the HA had made two adjustments to the service fees charged by private doctors according to the Composite Consumer Price Index (for medical care services) published in the Monthly Report on the Consumer Price Index issued by the Census and Statistics Department of the HKSAR Government;

- (c) private doctors participating in the Programme must accept the “Framework and Terms and Conditions” of the Programme, and according to which, provide service to patients participating in the Programme. Private doctors should also from time to time make reference to the Reference Frameworks issued by the Primary Care Office under the Department of Health, and pay attention to the treatment protocols for relevant diseases, including monitoring the needs of follow-up consultations and proposing referral based on patients’ conditions. Besides, private doctors should notice such treatment protocols as required routine checks and tests;
 - (d) as the HA had no special limitations, private doctors could set the upper limit for number of patients receiving treatment under the Programme. For instance, in Tuen Mun District, there was a doctor who currently took care of over 300 patients. At present, there was a total of over 7 000 patients participating in the Partnership Programme in the three districts, accounting for about 15% of total patients invited. Some patients did not participate in the Programme because they got used to using the general out-patient clinic services of the HA for years;
 - (e) patients invited to participate in the Programme were selected by computers. Private doctors participating in the Programme would, according to individual patients’ clinical conditions, prescribe drugs included in the “specific drug list” of the Programme, and/or provide drugs of three-day dosage at most for treatment of episodic diseases, for which the patients did not need to pay extra expenses. Patients with hypertension and/or diabetes (or with hyperlipidemia) who were medically stable under the current Programme could continue to get drugs for chronic diseases they were presently taking. Private doctors participating in the Programme could use their own drugs or purchase drugs on the drug list under the Programme at the designated price from the pharmaceutical suppliers of the HA;
 - (f) after the meeting, the HA would supplement the number of doctors who participated in both the Partnership Programme and the Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme;
- (Supplementary information after the meeting: The list of private doctors participating in the Programme, which had been uploaded to the webpage of the Partnership Programme, set out the information of private doctors participating in the Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme.)
- (g) cross-district consultation under the Programme was allowed to provide patients with more convenient primary medical services. Patients could, based on their personal needs, freely select a doctor participating in the Programme from the 12 districts where the Programme was implemented as their family doctors. Each patient sought no more than 7 subsidized medical consultations every year on average. If the quota of ten subsidized medical consultations was fully used, patients could pay the charges required at their own expenses or with Health Care Vouchers, or seek medical consultations in general out-patient clinics of the HA until the quota was reset annually. The quota of ten subsidized medical consultations could not be saved up for use in the following year. Patients who wanted to switch to another doctor could submit

HA

a written application to the Programme Office and choose another private doctor, and the Programme Office would provide the necessary assistance on a case-by-case basis;

- (h) regarding regulation, private doctors participating in the Programme must accept the “Framework and Terms and Conditions” of the Programme, and according to which, provide services to patients participating in the Programme. Private doctors should also from time to time make reference to the Reference Frameworks issued by the Primary Care Office under the Department of Health, and pay attention to the treatment protocols for relevant diseases, including monitoring the needs of follow-up consultations and proposing referral based on patients’ conditions. The HA would also perform random sampling survey on the patients’ satisfaction levels of private doctors’ services and the Programme on a regular basis. So far, most of the patients were satisfied in general;
- (i) the HA had invited private doctors in relevant districts to participate in the Programme since August. At present, the Programme was still at the initial stage, so there was no specific data for the moment. After preparation of list of private doctors participating in the Programme in relevant districts, it was expected that the HA would invite qualified patients to participate in batches commencing from October. Estimated expenditure of the Partnership Programme in 2016-17 was about \$58 million. It was estimated that the annual expenditure budget would exceed \$100 million in 2020-21 after the Programme was extended to 18 districts; and
- (j) as there was no information technology expert present, the HA would supplement the information relating to the security of electronic system of the Programme after the meeting. After the implementation of the Partnership Program, the HA would upload the list of private doctors participating in the Programme to the webpage of the Partnership Programme and could also mail the list for members’ references as required.

21. Mr Kelvin CHENG, Administration Manager (Transformation Projects) of the HA gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) risk consultants had conducted a study on establishing a risk management framework to cope with the expanding and increasingly complex Public-Private Partnership Programme and a comprehensive review on various aspects, including information technology system, financial arrangement and operational matters;
- (b) doctors participating in the Programme were required to participate in and use the “eHRSS” at the same time. This system was protected by proper security measures. For instance, health care providers could only check patients’ electronic health records after obtaining patients’ sharing consents, and patients could also receive notifications whenever their electronic health records were accessed. Any patients who were in doubt could make enquiries by calling the Programme hotline at any time;

- (c) estimated expenditure of the Partnership Programme in 2016-17 was about \$58 million. It was estimated that the annual expenditure budget would exceed \$100 million in 2020-21 after the Programme was extended to 18 districts;
- (d) patients' initial responses to the Programme were found to be positive. Staff of the HA would call patients to explain details of the Programme and invite them to attend the briefing session for the Programme. Over 70% of patients attending the briefing session submitted on site the application forms for participating in the Programme. The HA would also set up roving promotional counters in general out-patient clinics in relevant districts to facilitate patients to check details and submit applications on site; and
- (e) private doctors participating in the Programme could use their own drugs or purchase drugs on the "specific drug list" under the Programme at the designated price from the pharmaceutical suppliers of the HA. Patients with hypertension and/or diabetes (or with hyperlipidemia) who were medically stable under the current Programme could continue to get drugs for chronic diseases they were presently taking. If both parties agreed, private doctors could also prescribe other medicines or provide further services according to individual patients' clinical conditions, and charge relevant extra fees. Patients could choose to receive drugs and services not covered by the Programme at their own expenses. People aged 70 or above and participated in the Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme could pay extra charges with their Health Care Voucher Accounts.

22. Dr Eric HUI, Chief of Service of Department of Family Medicine of the New Territories East Cluster gave a consolidated response as follows::

- (a) cholesterol could be divided into two categories, namely high density (so-called good ones) and low density (so-called bad ones). Drug control was required if there was excessive low-density cholesterol, while high-density cholesterol could protect cardiac function;
- (b) the Cluster hoped that after patients participated in the Partnership Programme, the services they received from private doctors should be similar to those they received in general out-patient clinics. Generally, patients would attend follow-up consultations once every three to four months, but the interval could be altered if patients' conditions changed. In addition to follow-up consultation of chronic diseases, the subsidies for ten medical consultations could also be used for other episodic diseases;
- (c) meanwhile, the list of private doctors participating in the Partnership Programme would be published on the webpage of the HA's Public-Private Partnership Programme, and the Cluster could also submit the list to members for reference after the meeting. Patients who wanted to switch to another doctor during the treatment could contact the Partnership Programme Office for arrangements; and
- (d) since patients could freely select doctors in various districts, the Cluster would not set a ratio for Sha Tin District. The more private doctors participating in the Programme, the more attractive the Programme would be, as patients

would have more choices. The Cluster had actively invited private doctors in Sha Tin District to participate in the Programme.

2016-2017 Work Plans and Funding Applications of Working Groups under the Committee
(Paper No. HE 38/2016)

23. Members endorsed the above paper unanimously.

Meeting Schedule of the Committee for 2017
(Paper No. HE 39/2016)

24. Members endorsed the above paper unanimously.

Updated Member Lists of Working Groups under the Committee
(Paper No. HE 40/2016)

25. Members endorsed the above paper unanimously.

Questions

Question to be Raised by Mr HUI Yui-yu, Rick on the Wild Pig Problem in Burial Areas
(Paper No. HE 41/2016)

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

- (a) regarding online comments, he clarified that Neo Democrats agreed that animals should be respected and protected, so wild pigs or other animals were not the victims of the party's defeat in elections;
- (b) the wild pigs appeared at the mountain behind King Tin Court seriously affected the residents, but it could be solved effectively if feeding of wild animals could be put to an end and cleaning could be carried out properly. However, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) failed to institute prosecution against people who fed wild animals, and areas along the mountain behind King Tin Court were not included into the routine cleaning areas of any government department. As occasional cleaning and sterilization did not help solve the problem, he had once requested replacing the polluted mountain soil, but did not get any positive response from relevant authorities;
- (c) at present, it was unclear that which department was responsible for dealing with the problem in the burial areas, so he requested the Government to hold an inter-departmental meeting. He also hoped that the Government could include the mountain behind the Court into routine cleaning areas, and replace all polluted soil to solve the problem of odour; and
- (d) the Housing Department said that it would step up patrols and educate residents. He hoped that the Housing Department could provide patrol time and other details.

27. The views of Mr PUN Kwok-shan were summarised below:

- (a) the wild pig problem started from 2014, and the odour generated from food residues left after feeding wild pigs and excrements of wild pigs gave rise to environmental hygiene issues. He had once requested the Housing Department to extend wire fences to prevent wild pigs from intruding into residential areas or install metal gates to protect niches;
- (b) he praised the coordination and collaboration works of Sha Tin District Office (STDO), and discussion and decision on the issue had already been conducted and made at the meeting of the District Management Committee dated 5 July of this year;
- (c) he hoped that the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) could explain the details of its wild pig relocation plan, including the number of wild pigs to be relocated, the site for relocation and the places frequented by wild pigs. As infrared cameras could be used to stealthily watch the feeding of wild pigs, he asked whether information could be exchanged with the FEHD to help the Department prosecute the offenders;
- (d) he hoped that the FEHD could include the mountain behind the Court into routine cleaning areas and conduct further reviews after obvious improvements were found in the environmental hygiene; and
- (e) there was lots of demolition waste in the burial area. He asked whether the District Lands Office, Sha Tin (DLO) would perform cleaning or surfacing works, e.g. spraying slurries to improve environmental hygiene. There was a storm water drain in the mountain behind the Court. He asked the DLO whether it could carry out desilting work to improve the situation.

28. The views of Mr LI Sai-hung were summarised below:

- (a) he clarified that this question involved mainly the hygiene problem, but the wild pig problem had already existed before Mr Rick HUI took up his post;
- (b) he wanted to know why the FEHD had not initiated any prosecution so far. Besides the mountain behind King Tin Court, there were also people feeding wild pigs in Kak Tin Village, but the FEHD said that no prosecution could be initiated because only cats and dogs were fed. He requested the FEHD to send staff at different time slots, e.g. after dinner time, to prosecute people who fed wild pigs with food wastes. Wild pigs would no longer be afraid of human beings because of feeding behaviours and would infest places closer to residential areas; and
- (c) Kak Tin Village was outside the boundary of burial areas. He asked whether the FEHD would step up prosecution to prevent people from feeding wild pigs and in turn luring these pigs to places near residential areas. Wild pigs appeared on pedestrian walkways near the Kak Tin Playground and Kak Tin Public Toilet in Kak Tin Village. If wild pigs were too close to residential areas, they might cause panics among people and wild pigs might attack people, so he hoped that the FEHD could handle it.

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

- (a) he wanted to know the number of wild pig groups in burial areas. Moreover, installation of metal gates was mentioned on the webpage of the Hong Kong Wild Boar Concern Group to prevent wild pigs from intruding into the cemetery of our ancestors. However, metal gates were not allowed to be installed on government lands without permission. So, he wanted to know the specific situations;
- (b) he asked which department was responsible for prosecuting people feeding wild pigs. Prosecutions initiated by plain clothes officers were effective in deterring feeders, and the Housing Department could provide assistance in the prosecution if the feeders were public rental housing tenants. He hoped that the issue could be dealt with by an inter-departmental approach. He asked whether anyone who fed wild pigs in country parks could be prosecuted under the law; and
- (c) he asked how the FEHD could prosecute feeders for illegal dumping of rubbish if they did not pollute the environment; If the number of feeders was reduced, wild pigs might hunt for food in burial areas due to lack of food, but the FEHD had no long-term solutions to the problem. He asked how many relocations of wild pigs it would take to improve the situation.

30. Mr SHEK Chung-tong, Wetland and Fauna Conservation Officer (Enforcement) of the AFCD gave a consolidated response as follows::

- (a) there were some people feeding wild pigs, which was the main reason for their appearance, and the food left caused environmental hygiene problems. The AFCD once gave advice to property management agencies and residents, and hung large-scale banners at proper sites to remind citizens of not feeding stray or wild animals;
- (b) according to the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance, no one shall feed the protected wild animals at specific sites, mostly country parks, to protect the wild monkeys and other animals. This was the reason why the AFCD could not prosecute people feeding wild pigs in regions outside the boundary of country parks;
- (c) the AFCD had arranged a relocation exercise for wild pigs, which was still at the experimental stage. Wild pigs were anesthetized by veterinarians in a safe way, e.g. using anesthetic rifle. After that, they were relocated to country parks far away from residential areas. The AFCD captured a wild pig and released it to a country park in a capturing operation on 5 August of this year. In addition to trapping, the FEHD had installed infrared automatic cameras at two sites on the mountain behind the Court, mainly for taking photo records for the situation within the boundary of burial areas. If necessary, the AFCD could consider installing additional cameras at feeding blackspots to record the time and situation of feeding and other data, which would be submitted to the FEHD for follow-ups. Data recorded by infrared automatic cameras showed that more than 10 wild pigs were haunting burial areas. It was found that wild pigs were less seen than before after the operation. The AFCD would continue to monitor the situation and arrange the next capturing operation as required;

- (d) the AFCD was comprehensively reviewing the plan for management of wild pigs, and in addition to relocation plan, it would also study new methods such as sterilization. Over the past year, the AFCD had once tracked the whereabouts of wild pigs after relocation, and found that some of them did not approach residential areas anymore. Therefore, it was believed that the relocation plan had proved to be effective for the moment. Lung Hang Estate could be set up as one of the trial points. The AFCD would sterilize the captured wild pigs, observe the breeding situation of wild pigs and track their conditions in country parks; and
- (e) wild pigs were relatively large in size, and male wild pigs had tusks. They were aggressive when they were scared, but most of them would run away when they met human beings. There were only three cases of wild pig attacks on humans in Hong Kong over the past five years, and the wild pigs involved attacked people for self-defense because someone attempted to trap or expel them with objects.

31. Mr Gordon NG, Senior Land Executive / Land Management (District Lands Office, Sha Tin) / District Lands Office / Sha Tin gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the DLO, mainly responsible for land management, had referred the received complaints to relevant departments for follow-ups. Staff of Slope Maintenance Section of the Lands Department (Slope Maintenance Section) and Mr Rick HUI had paid a site visit on 23 August of this year, and would conduct slope maintenance works. In addition, the Slope Maintenance Section would also clean up the storm water drains in areas under its jurisdiction to prevent the occurrence of siltation; and
- (b) replacing soil or doing routine cleaning works on government lands was outside the scope of work of DLO. The DLO would give some advice on the installation of additional fences and other matters. As for members' suggestions on laying floor tiles or spraying slurries on relevant government lands, the DLO held that no consideration would be given to solving the problem by laying floor tiles or spraying slurries as the case was considered as an environmental hygiene issue.

32. Mr Eric TSAI, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sha Tin) of the FEHD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) burial areas in Hong Kong were managed by the Home Affairs Department and Lands Department, but the FEHD would carry out one-off cleaning work when necessary and as required. The FEHD had carried out five cleaning operations at the burial area on the mountain behind Lung Hang Estate this year as required. The major problem was that the involved site was a hummock surrounded by buildings and roads. On the hummock, there were over 10 trapped wild pigs, which destroyed the cemetery of indigenous inhabitants and caused environmental hygiene problems. The FEHD had once sent staff in uniforms and plain clothes there to take deterrent measures or take prosecution actions to address environmental hygiene problems caused by the feeding of wild pigs. The Housing Department would also send more guards to expel and prosecute people feeding wild pigs;

- (b) people who polluted public places by feeding wild pigs would be prosecuted for illegal dumping of rubbish and imposed with a fixed penalty, and law enforcement could be conducted by multiple departments, including the FEHD, one of the authorized departments. Law enforcement officers could only initiate prosecutions after they had collected sufficient evidence on site. The FEHD had conducted on-site inspections for many times but failed to initiate any prosecution successfully. It would strengthen its cooperation with the Housing Department in the future; and
- (c) regarding the problem occurred in Kak Tin Village, the FEHD would investigate the situation of the village and make relevant follow-ups.

33. Mrs TANG FUNG Shuk-yin, Senior Housing Manager (Sha Tin) of Housing Department said the Housing Department would step up its education efforts, advising the residents of Lung Hang Estate not to feed wild pigs, and would consider installing fences in appropriate locations, increase manpower for patrol duties and work closely with the FEHD.

34. Ms LEE Kit-ling, Liaison Officer-in-Charge (West) 3 of STDO gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) in the past two years, the STDO maintained liaison with the AFCD, DLO, FEHD and Housing Department, and would contact them whenever their services were needed. The STDO had been holding meetings with various departments on the wild pig issue. Relevant solutions were discussed at the meeting of area committee held on 16 August this year, e.g. replacing the soil or extending the wire fence. The STDO held an inter-departmental meeting on 2 September this year and would consider further discussing with the Housing Department and the DLO on the feasibility of extending the wire fence. The STDO would also inspect the situation with DC Members and the village chiefs; and
- (b) the STDO would not provide services for replacing the soil in the burial area and would only examine and approve the certificate of order authorizing burial/cremation of body for indigenous inhabitants. The STDO would continue to play a coordinating role and would discuss solutions with relevant departments when necessary.

35. Mr Rick HUI proposed the provisional motion below:

“The Health and Environment Committee of the Sha Tin District Council urges the authorities to include the burial area on the hill behind King Tin Court into the scope of routine cleaning service, and convene inter-departmental meetings to address the hygiene problem caused by wild pigs.”

Mr LI Sai-hung seconded the motion.

36. Members unanimously endorsed the provisional motion in paragraph 35.

37. As Mr WAI Hing-cheung had arrived, the Chairman suggested cancelling his application for leave of absence.

38. Members unanimously endorsed cancellation of Mr WAI Hing-cheung's application for leave of absence.

Question to be Raised by Mr WAI Hing-cheung on Subway Cleanliness
(Paper No. HE 42/2016)

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

- (a) the cleanliness of subways was under the charge of two departments. He inquired whether incoordination would appear. Since cleaning was carried out at very long intervals, he wanted to know whether the cleanliness of subways would be found unsatisfactory. Both departments said no odour was found. He said the odour would not stay there for a long time;
- (b) one department cleaned the subways once every three months and the other one cleaned the subways once every two months. He inquired about how to decide the time for cleaning, and whether the arrangements for cleaning of subways in different places were the same, or whether the above arrangement applied only to the subways beside the Lucky Plaza. He asked how the two departments supervised the contractors' works, and whether there were any unannounced inspections; if so, whether the statistics could be provided. The contractors would submit photos after cleaning. He doubted whether the photos could reflect the sanitary condition of the entire subway. If there was a cleaning schedule, he wondered if it could be made public to members for references and monitoring;
- (c) in his opinion, the cleaning service contractor might fail to complete the cleaning work due to manpower shortage. It was because he had also received complaints that the floor cleanliness was not satisfactory; and
- (d) hygiene problems of subways mainly involved smells, stains and mosses. The cleanliness of walkways outside the stores in Wong Uk District were also unsatisfactory, for there were stains left behind. He wanted to know the cleaning requirements and indicators of the two departments.

40. The views of Mr HO Hau-cheung were summarised below:

- (a) the departments did not provide details about cleanliness of all the subways in Sha Tin. In November 2014, he had raised the cleaning problems of footbridges and subways, and proposed a provisional motion, urging all departments to strengthen coordination, set up unified indicators for cleaning work, increase cleaning frequency and prosecute offenders, so as to ensure that the hygiene environment of footbridges and subways in the district was always maintained in good condition. Cleaning work included washing and sweeping. The FEHD was generally responsible for sweeping and the Highways Department (HyD) was responsible for washing. He asked after he had proposed the motion, whether the above two departments had conducted formal consultations and reached any conclusion, and whether they had increased the frequency of cleaning and strengthened prosecutions. Citizens said that the cleanliness of Tai Wai had deteriorated in the past decade. He

asked whether the departments had sought means to improve the situation upon members' requests. He hoped that the departments could provide the relevant data after the meeting; and

- (b) streets were connected with subways but were cleaned more frequently. For subways, the current frequency of cleaning did not help solve the problem and sweeping could also hardly remove the odour from dogs' excrements. He asked why streets and subways were treated differently.

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

- (a) the department did not provide a cleaning schedule for all the subways in Sha Tin. He hoped that the FEHD could make this information public; and
- (b) there were also many subways in Ma On Shan. Dogs often urinated and defecated there, and their excrements were merely washed off with water by their owners, which was not sufficient. The HyD also cleaned the subways once in a few months, which was not satisfactory. He hoped that the two departments could coordinate with each other, e.g. assigning the FEHD to take up the full responsibility of cleaning works.

42. The Chairman said that cats and dogs urinated and defecated in the subways, creating odour. In respect of cleaning, he wanted to know the requirements of the HyD's washing work and the FEHD's sweeping work, and whether only rubbish, not odour, would be dealt with. Mr WAI Hing-cheung asked during his question time the details about the sweeping and washing works of subways in Sha Tin. He hoped the department would make a response to it. He inquired whether the long-term growth of plants such as mosses in subways would jeopardize the structural safety of subways. As mosses would cause slips of passers-by, he hoped the frequency of cleaning could be increased. He hoped that the two departments would conduct a review on how to deal with the cleanliness problems of subways after the meeting and provide supplementary information to the relevant members.

43. Ms WONG Shuk-man, Maintenance Engineer / Structure (Southeast) of HyD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the HyD was a works department which was mainly responsible for the structural repair and maintenance of public roads, footbridges and subways. The HyD conducted comprehensive cleaning works for subways and footbridges at least once every three months, e.g. removing graffiti, stains and so on, so as to ensure that the subways' structures were maintained in good condition. The HyD would, as the case may be, increase the frequency of one-time cleaning work if necessary;
- (b) regarding supervision of contractors, the HyD would require the contractors to submit cleaning schedules three months in advance, so that the HyD could arrange staff to conduct surprise inspections and supervise the cleaning works. After completion of each cleaning work, the contractors were required to submit photos for verification and recording purposes;
- (c) the HyD had maintained liaison with the FEHD after 2014 and discussed the division of labor with it this year. The HyD was responsible for the repair and

maintenance of footbridges and subways to keep their structures in good condition. As a result, graffiti and stains would be removed to prevent the structures from being affected by corrosive substances. After removal of graffiti and stains by the contractors, if no corrosive substance was found on the surface, then the HyD's requirements were fulfilled; and

- (d) the HyD would clear mosses at the same time during the cleaning work carried out once every three months. If the mosses were left uncleared for a long time, they would affect the structure. The cleaning works at three-monthly intervals could effectively prevent the structure from being affected.

44. Mr Eric TSAI gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the FEHD was responsible for sweeping the subways and clearing the rubbish in the litter boxes. In the case of dogs' excrement or vomit, targeted cleaning would be conducted. Since the question mentioned the subway beside the Lucky Plaza, the data of the subway was provided;

(Supplementary information after the meeting: The number of targeted cleanings conducted by the HyD for subways in the districts over the last year (from August 2015 to July 2016) was 102 in Tai Wai, 26 in Sha Tin and 51 in Ma On Shan.)

FEHD

- (b) the FEHD and HyD had kept in close contact with each other after 2014 and would increase the frequency of additional cleanings if necessary. He could supplement the prosecution figures after the meeting and conduct an on-site inspection of the stores in Wong Uk with the relevant members;

(Supplementary information after the meeting: The breakdown figures on fixed penalty notices issued by the HyD to offenders in connection with footbridges and subways were unavailable. Over the past year (from August 2015 to July 2016), the HyD issued 1 007 fixed penalty notices in Sha Tin.)

- (c) the FEHD dispatched supervisors and health inspectors to make irregular inspections on the contractors' works in the district. The Headquarters also set up a Quality Assurance Section to conduct random checks on the works of all contractors in Hong Kong, so as to ensure compliance with the FEHD's requirements; and

- (d) cleaning of footbridges and subways was beyond the scope of routine work of the FEHD. The FEHD would conduct targeted cleanings when necessary. The frequency of additional cleanings for footbridges and subways in Sha Tin District had increased.

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

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

Question to be Raised by Mr WONG Hok-lai on the Wild Monkey Problem in Tai Wai
(Paper No. HE 43/2016)

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

- (a) according to the data provided by AFCD, there was an upward trend in the number of complaints concerning nuisance to residents caused by wild monkeys in Mei Chung Court, Mei Tin Estate and their vicinities. He wanted to know whether the complaints were directly made by the estate residents or referred by the government hotline 1823. There were four wild monkey capturing operations in 2014, three in 2015 and six in 2016. 18 monkeys were captured in the two operations in 2014 and only 26 were captured in the six operations in 2016. He asked whether the AFCD used the same tactics for capturing monkeys, so that the monkeys knew how to evade being captured, leading to a decrease in number of monkeys captured;
- (b) he wanted to know why the number of monkey groups was on the rise. He asked whether the AFCD would consider using infrared cameras to take photos of people feeding wild monkeys, and whether the FEHD had prosecuted people illegally feeding wild monkeys in the district, or changed the design of rubbish bins to avoid the bins being tipped over by wild monkeys. Since 2007, the AFCD had been implementing a large scale contraceptive/neutering programme for local wild monkeys. He asked whether the contraceptive and neutering treatments were conducted under two programmes and how to conduct contraceptive treatments for wild monkeys;
- (c) he hoped that the FEHD could change the rubbish bins on Pik Tin Street and Heung Fan Liu Street into step-open ones. If the AFCD failed to prosecute the feeders, he wanted to know whether the FEHD could initiate prosecutions by other means; and
- (d) he advised the HEC to request the FEHD to step up prosecution against people illegally feeding wild monkeys by way of summons and the AFCD to step up efforts in sterilisation and release, so as to control the population of wild monkeys and reduce nuisance to residents.

48. The views of Ms LAM Chung-yan were summarised below:

- (a) sterilization would not help solve the problem because monkeys migrated frequently. Therefore, the AFCD should review the effectiveness of the policy. She hoped that after the meeting, the AFCD could provide the members with the data of monkeys throughout Sha Tin District, including whether the situation had improved after the capture of adult monkeys in Hin Keng Estate and its vicinity and whether more baby monkeys appeared during the Ching Ming Festival and Chung Yeung Festival, so as to study more effective solutions, e.g. relocating monkeys to more remoted places; and
- (b) she wanted to know whether monkeys causing nuisance to residents and staying on the mountains belonged to the same group, and whether all the rubbish bins set up in various villages near Hin Keng Estate needed to be changed into step-open ones due to the monkey issue.

49. The views of Ms TUNG Kin-lei were summarised below:

- (a) she said that on one occasion, after the typhoon warning signal No. 8 was canceled, there were a large number of monkeys in Mei Lam Estate before 7:30 am on the next few days, and they even appeared in parks within “the area of tenement buildings”. The AFCD should formulate policies to deal with the problem of monkeys foraging from their native habitats to residential areas. Capture or sterilization would not help solve the problem. In her view, monkeys intruded into residential areas probably because they could not find adequate food on the mountains. As such, she advised to plant fruit trees in the mountain forests to address their food problems; and
- (b) currently, due to the impact of *mikania micrantha*, trees in the mountain forests in Sha Tin had withered. She asked about the measures to be taken by the AFCD. There were many dead fruit trees. If this problem could be solved, it would also help solve the monkey problem.

50. The views of Mr TONG Hok-leung were summarised below:

- (a) the monkey problem in places such as Keng Hau Road, Tai Wai New Village and Mei Tin Estate was particularly serious. The number of wild monkey nuisance cases mentioned in the paper was lower than the actual number. In the long run, sterilization should be conducted for monkeys but the AFCD did not provide the data on sterilization, so he hoped that the AFCD could make a supplement. Although the AFCD had captured monkeys, the number of monkeys captured was insufficient to change the situation. He hoped that the AFCD could step up patrol before and after school hours of children in the mornings and afternoons and drive away monkeys, so as to prevent children from being hurt by monkeys. He also hoped that the Housing Department could properly cover the rubbish bins and large refuse collection stations in the estate and carry out cleaning in the evenings to reduce the number of monkeys foraging in the mornings. He hoped that the Housing Department and management companies could step up efforts to drive away the monkeys; and
- (b) if the feeders could not be prosecuted in the district, he hoped that the Government could deal with this issue. He asked whether there was any simpler contraceptive method, e.g. oral contraceptives, and whether the monkeys could be captured by putting them into a coma apart from the use of cages. He hoped that the Housing Department could apply for resources for changing the rubbish bins at Mei Tin Estate into step-open ones.

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

- (a) he asked whether the AFCD had compiled statistics on the number of monkeys in the country parks near Mei Tin Estate and Mei Chung Court. The birth rate of monkeys had declined by more than 50%. He asked about the actual figures, and the original number of monkey groups and the current number after decline in birth rate. The effectiveness of trapping cages was not satisfactory. He asked about the number of monkeys “being captured, sterilized and released” after trapping cages were placed at multiple places;

- (b) he asked whether it was illegal to feed monkeys outside the boundary of country parks and wanted to know ways to reduce the number of monkeys besides release after sterilization. Unsterilized monkeys accounted for about 20% and he asked about the number of monkey groups to be reduced in the next five to ten years; and
- (c) if neither of the two departments could prosecute the feeders, he asked the AFCD about ways to solve the monkey problem in the long run apart from release after sterilization.

52. The views of Mr PUN Kwok-shan were summarised below:

- (a) he asked about the number of licensed monkey feeders and feeding locations; and
- (b) he asked about the AFCD's functions in respect of the monkey problem, e.g. driving away monkeys and observing monkeys' lives.

53. The Chairman pointed out that the nuisance caused by monkeys to residents was aggravating. He hoped that the AFCD would provide data on monkey groups in Sha Tin for reference by members, including changes in the number of monkeys, changes in monkey groups, number of sterilized monkeys and birth rates within five years, and would develop effective solutions to the monkey problem. He asked the AFCD how many years would be needed to improve the situation and what were the new methods.

54. Mr SHEK Chung-tong gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) in recent months, the number of monkeys found on Pik Tin Street and in Heung Fan Liu had been on the rise. The AFCD noticed some people feeding monkeys there, which made monkeys get used to foraging there. Currently, the AFCD deployed officers to patrol the sites in Tai Wai every day, and any monkeys found would be driven out or captured;
- (b) the AFCD would use different tools to capture monkeys. Some tools might catch only one monkey at a time, while some might catch more than one. Therefore, the number of monkeys to be caught was dependent on the environment and the tools;
- (c) the AFCD had commissioned the Ocean Park Conservation Foundation to conduct a survey on the groups of local wild monkeys. The result showed that there were about 30 monkey groups in Hong Kong, two of which would come to Tai Wai and cause nuisances to residents there. The number of monkeys in each group ranged from 50 to 100. If the environment permitted, infrared cameras could be used to take photos of the feeders, which however might not necessarily be applicable to feeding blackspots which were more exposed;
- (d) since 2007, contraceptive injections were given to female monkeys for birth control, but the injections only had a short valid period of about two to three years. Given the ineffectiveness of injections, permanent endoscopic sterilization was subsequently introduced. Oral contraceptives were not used

as they needed to be taken every day. About 2 000 monkeys were given contraceptive or neutering treatments in total, among which 1 300 received permanent sterilization. As some of the sterilized monkeys might have died, it was estimated that now about 80% of the wild monkeys had been sterilized. Sterilization operations were conducted twice a month and 30-50 monkeys were caught each time. The AFCD would sterilize more wild monkeys as needed. AFCD would send staff members to feed monkeys every day and, after winning their trust, tempt them into the trapping cages. Therefore, it would take around two weeks to complete a single operation. If no sterilization scheme had been implemented in the past, the number of monkeys would double within six to ten years. After implementation of the sterilization scheme, the number of monkey groups dropped by more than 20%, which indicated the effectiveness of the scheme. Later the AFCD could provide supplementary information about changes in the number of monkey groups in the next five years;

AFCD

- (e) it might not be feasible to relocate the monkeys to deserted islands as there was no isolated island with adequate food and water in Hong Kong. Monkeys mainly fed on leaves and buds. AFCD had planted more than 300 000 trees suitable for monkeys to feed on in country parks inhabited by monkeys. Regarding the concern about *mikania micrantha*, AFCD would refer the issue to personnel in charge of country parks for follow-up;
- (f) conducting a survey on the number of monkeys was also a part of the sterilization scheme. AFCD carried out a review on the changes in the number of monkey groups and their birth rate every year. The provisions of Wild Animals Protection Ordinance prohibiting feeding of animals applied only to no feeding areas and wild animals stipulated by the Ordinance;
- (g) feeding monkeys in urban districts did not contravene the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance. Cases of feeding at places other than designated no feeding areas would be referred to the FEHD or other relevant departments for follow-up;
- (h) the AFCD would deal with trouble-making monkeys in different ways depending on the actual environment of the sites; for example, once the AFCD had caught one of the trouble-making monkeys and placed it in a central position to scare away other monkeys. The AFCD had also placed animal traps inside rubbish bins managed by the FEHD to catch trouble-making monkeys;
- (i) to solve the monkey problem, cooperation from residents, management companies and other government departments was required. Apart from stopping feeding the monkeys, environmental hygiene should be maintained at a desirable level, so as to cut off the sources of food for monkeys. The step-open rubbish bins at Shing Mun Tunnels Bus Interchange were self-developed by the management company; there was still room for improvement in the design of these bins. The AFCD had been studying different types of rubbish bins over the past year;
- (j) the AFCD issued 66 feeding licenses in 1999, mainly to those senior citizens who had fed animals for many years. By contrast, only 6 feeding licenses were

issued this year and only those who had been issued a license were permitted to renew their licenses. The feeding site was located in Kam Shan Country Park; through the above measures, it was hoped that wild monkeys could gradually become less dependent on feedings from human;

- (k) besides catching the monkeys or driving them away, the AFCD would also study why the monkeys were attracted to certain areas and follow up the issue with relevant departments; and
- (l) feeding monkeys with abundant food would make the monkey groups regard urban districts as their sources of food. This would lead to an increasing number of monkey groups intruding into residential areas.

55. Mrs TANG FUNG Shuk-yin said that the AFCD had placed a number of trapping cages in Mei Tin Estate and the Housing Department would patrol relevant areas more frequently. The rubbish bins couldn't be washed until the rubbish inside was collected by rubbish trucks in the mornings; if these rubbish bins were to be washed at nights, there wouldn't be enough bins to collect rubbish. The Housing Department had purchased multiple rubber bands to lock the rubbish bins so as to prevent monkeys from foraging inside the bins.

56. Mr Eric TSAI said a few rubbish bins could be replaced with step-open ones for experimental purposes.

Information Item

Reports of Working Groups
(Paper No. HE 44/2016)

57. Members noted the above paper.

Information Papers

Statistical Overview of Sha Tin District Environmental Hygiene Service (as at 1 August 2016)
(Paper No. HE 45/2016)

58. Mr Eric TSAI added that:

- (a) in regard to the anti-mosquito campaign under the proactive project carried out in Sha Tin District, the FEHD started anti-mosquito work on the hillsides in Yuen Chau Kok in end-July this year. After that, the ovitrap index had dropped to 7.3% in August. The ovitrap index recorded in Ma On Shan and Tai Wai over the same period was 3.3% and 7.4% respectively. The group would continue to pay site visits to other mosquito-breeding blackspots in Sha Tin District and draw up targeted improvement measures; and
- (b) the Legislative Council passed the ordinance on imposing fixed penalty for illegal shopfront extensions on 18 March 2016, and the six months' education and publicity period was about to end. Enforcement action would be taken from 24 September onwards. There were three blackspots of illegal shop

extensions in Sha Tin District, namely Tai Wai, Yi Shing Square and Fok On Garden, Ma On Shan. The FEHD would publicize the ordinance together with the police and STDO. The liaison officer would invite DC Members and members of Area Committees to distribute leaflets in the said three blackspots.

59. Members noted the above information paper.

Sha Tin District Anti-mosquito Campaign 2016 (Third Phase)
(Paper No. HE 46/2016)

60. Ms Iris WONG said that mosquitoes mainly bred in bushes and stagnant water. Bushes in parks managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) or at roadsides were densely grown, and FEHD's mosquito spray could only be sprayed on the surfaces of the bushes. As neither LCSD nor HyD could remove weeds, she hoped that STDO would coordinate interdepartmental works on mosquito elimination.

61. Mr Tiger WONG said that the contractors engaged by FEHD only cleared garbage in the rubbish bins and did not clean up refuse outside the bins. He hoped that FEHD would step up supervision and provide assistance in mosquito control.

62. Mr Eric TSAI replied that contractors were divided into two categories by job nature: one group of contractors was responsible for street cleaning works, while the other group was responsible for pest control works. They were engaged in different tasks according to the proposed work plans. Contractors responsible for pest control would clear rubbish found in bushes and spray larvicidal oil.

63. Members noted the above information paper.

Date of Next Meeting

64. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 10 November 2016 (Thursday).

65. The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat
STDC 13/15/40

November 2016