

Sha Tin District Council
Minutes of the 1st Meeting of
the Health and Environment Committee in 2017

Date : 12 January 2017 (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	6:55 pm
Ms YUE Shin-man (Vice-Chairman)	"	3:58 pm	6:53 pm
Mr HO Hau-cheung, BBS, MH	DC Chairman	2:30 pm	6:48 pm
Mr PANG Cheung-wai, Thomas, SBS, JP	DC Vice-Chairman	2:30 pm	4:51 pm
Mr CHAN Billy Shiu-yeung	DC Member	2:30 pm	5:13 pm
Mr CHAN Kwok-keung, James	"	3:39 pm	5:14 pm
Ms CHAN Man-kuen	"	2:30 pm	6:33 pm
Mr CHAN Nok-hang	"	2:30 pm	5:13 pm
Mr CHIU Chu-pong, Sunny	"	2:30 pm	5:13 pm
Mr CHIU Man-leong	"	2:30 pm	6:12 pm
Mr LAI Tsz-yan	"	3:32 pm	6:55 pm
Ms LAM Chung-yan	"	2:30 pm	4:51 pm
Mr LI Sai-hung	"	2:30 pm	4:33 pm
Mr LI Sai-wing	"	3:00 pm	5:50 pm
Mr LI Wing-shing, Wilson	"	2:30 pm	6:16 pm
Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS	"	2:39 pm	3:45 pm
Mr NG Kam-hung	"	2:43 pm	5:27 pm
Ms PONG Scarlett Oi-lan, BBS, JP	"	2:32 pm	5:01 pm
Mr PUN Kwok-shan, MH	"	2:33 pm	6:55 pm
Mr SIU Hin-hong	"	2:30 pm	6:07 pm
Mr TING Tsz-yuen	"	2:44 pm	5:27 pm
Mr TONG Hok-leung	"	2:30 pm	6:33 pm
Ms TUNG Kin-lei	"	2:30 pm	6:36 pm
Mr WAI Hing-cheung	"	2:30 pm	6:29 pm
Mr WONG Fu-sang, Tiger	"	2:30 pm	6:29 pm
Mr WONG Hok-lai	"	2:45 pm	5:42 pm
Mr WONG Ka-wing, MH	"	2:30 pm	6:32 pm
Ms WONG Ping-fan, Iris	"	2:30 pm	6:37 pm
Mr YAU Man-chun	"	2:30 pm	3:30 pm
Mr YIP Wing	"	2:30 pm	5:48 pm
Mr YIU Ka-chun	"	2:30 pm	6:31 pm
Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael	"	2:30 pm	6:55 pm
Mr MOK Man-lok, Mannix (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)
Mr TSAI Yu-sing, Eric	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sha Tin) / Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mrs TANG FUNG Shuk-yin	Senior Housing Manager (Tai Po, North and Sha Tin) 1 / Housing Department

In Attendance

Mr CHAU Wai

Ms CHUI Mei-chun, Flora

Mr YUEN Chun-kit, Derek

TitleSenior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional North) 4 /
Environmental Protection DepartmentDeputy District Leisure Manager (Sha Tin) 2 /
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Senior Executive Officer (District Council) / Sha Tin District Office

In Attendance by Invitation

Mr CHAN Tak-yeung

Mr LEUNG Siu-kau

Mr MAN Ka-leung

Mr LEE Chi-kin

Mr CHAN Wan-yam

Mr FUNG Ka-tsun, Simon

Mr TSE Ying-wai

Mr NG Ping-tong, Gordon

Dr CHEUNG Nai-kwong

Ms Christine K.Y. CHENG

Mr LEUNG Wing-yuen, Walter

Mr CHAN Ying-kin

Mr YIP Kin-chor

Title

Chief Engineer / Consultants Management / Water Supplies Department

Senior Engineer / Consultants Management 5 / Water Supplies Department

Mechanical Engineer / Consultants Management /
Water Supplies Department

Chemist / Treatment 9 / Water Supplies Department

Assistant Engineer / Ove Arup and Partners Hong Kong Limited

District Engineer / Sha Tin (2) / Highways Department

Field Officer I (Acting) / Avian Influenza Surveillance /
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Senior Land Executive / Land Management / District Lands Office, Sha Tin

Medical Service Coordinator / Prince of Wales Hospital

Manager (Communications and Community Relations) / Prince of Wales Hospital

Senior Engineer / Sewerage Projects 5 / Drainage Services Department

Executive Director / AECOM Asia Company Limited

Director / AECOM Asia Company Limited

Absent

Mr CHENG Tsuk-man

Mr CHING Cheung-ying, MH

Mr LEE Chi-wing, Alvin

Mr LEUNG Ka-fai, Victor

Mr MAK Yun-pui

Ms TSANG So-lai

Mr HUI Yui-yu, Rick

Title

DC Member

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(Application for leave of absence received)

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(No application for leave of absence received)

Action**Welcoming Speech**

The Chairman welcomed all members and representatives of government departments to the 1st meeting of the Health and Environment Committee (HEC) this year.

Applications 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 CHING Cheung-ying	Attendance at meetings/activities of the Hong Kong Government
Mr CHENG Tsuk-man	Official commitment
Mr Alvin LEE	"
Mr Victor LEUNG	"
Mr MAK Yun-pui	"
Ms TSANG So-lai	"

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

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 10 November 2016

(HEC Minutes 6/2016)

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 1/2017)

5. Regarding the sanitation problem at village-type refuse collection points, Mr Thomas PANG said the situation in Sha Tin was special. Many garbage cans were turned over by monkeys to search for food, especially those in the vicinity of reservoirs and country parks. In addition, there was a lot of trash on the streets, in planters and on highways in Sha Tin recently. The situation was grave. As it was near the year end, he hoped the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) would pay attention and follow up.

6. Mr Michael YUNG said that the FEHD and the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) had respectively installed a mobile surveillance system for trial. He asked about the effectiveness. After installation of the system, situations in some fly-tipping blackspots were improved. He asked whether the FEHD would consider division of labour with the EPD after the trial was completed and establish mobile surveillance systems in other districts.

7. The Chairman said that in some places where surveillance systems had been installed, people were found to dispose trash but could not prosecuted. He asked why there was such a situation, whether there was any room for improvement, and when there were trial results for public reference.

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

- (a) the FEHD noticed that monkeys had turned over garbage cans to search for food. The FEHD had replaced the garbage cans with pedal bins and tried to clean the trash inside every day. The FEHD also noticed the hygienic conditions of planters, roadsides and highways. Cleaning duties of some highways were undertaken by the Highways Department (HyD) and the HyD would take note and strengthen efforts for cleaning; and
- (b) the FEHD was experimenting online surveillance systems in Central and Western District, Sham Shui Po District and Yuen Long District. The FEHD launched a six-month trial at the end of last year. As the trial was at the initial stage, its effectiveness was still unknown and effectiveness report would not be available until May this year after the trial was completed. After the FEHD obtained the report, it would submit the report to members for reference.

9. Members noted the above paper.

Discussion Items

Upgrading of Disinfection Facilities in Water Treatment Works
(Paper No. HE 2/2017)

10. The Chairman welcomed the representatives of the Water Supplies Department (WSD) to the meeting.

11. Mr CHAN Tak-yeung, Chief Engineer/Consultants Management of the WSD gave a brief introduction of the contents of the paper.

12. Ms Scarlett PONG said she supported the works project from a safety point of view. She asked about the amount of investment and the cost-effectiveness and whether the new facilities could meet the social needs in case of population growth.

13. Ms LAM Chung-yan worried that the works project might overlap with the relocation plan of Sha Tin Water Treatment Works. As many works projects were being implemented in Sha Tin, she was worried that it would increase traffic pressure during peak hours. In addition, she wanted to know whether it was necessary to transport chlorine from the Sha Tin Water Treatment Works to two other small-scale water treatment works and whether the vehicles transporting chlorine would travel through Che Kung Miu Road as she was concerned about safety.

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

- (a) he would like to know since when the chlorine manufactured in the Mainland had been used, and whether any problems in quality and transport had arisen;
- (b) he held that this works project was implemented more hastily than other works projects and wondered if there were any special reasons, such as the problem of chlorine from the Mainland;
- (c) he asked if any accident had happened to Sha Tin Water Treatment Works, and if so, how severe the injuries and impacts were; and
- (d) he asked about the distance between residential areas and places where chlorine was produced or stored according to laws of Hong Kong and international standards.

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

- (a) regarding risk assessment, the department only consulted the Hong Kong Fire Services Department, the EPD and the Labour Department, etc. He asked if it would consult the Department of Health. Now that chlorine was produced by the water treatment works on its own, the department said it would not have any impact on external environment. He asked whether specific data could be provided such as the safe distance from the water treatment plants, and whether the wind direction factor was calculated; and
- (b) Sha Tin Water Treatment Works produced 1.18 kg of chlorine per minute and now it needed to supply chlorine to two other small-scale water treatment

works. He asked how much chlorine production had been increased because of this.

16. Mr WONG Ka-wing expressed his support for the project. He would like to know about the service life of the new facility and the time for its replacement. He asked if there were any problems with chlorine production facilities, whether there were contingency measures to ensure that there was sufficient supply of safe drinking water.

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

- (a) he asked the Secretariat when the paper about the project would be issued;
- (b) it was not mentioned in the paper what by-products would be produced. He just learnt that the by-products contained chlorine, hydrogen, sodium hypochlorite and so on. As Sha Tin Water Treatment Works produced 1.18 kg of chlorine per minute, he would like to know if chlorine was stored in the works, how much water was needed for production of chlorine, and how much sodium hypochlorite was stored. It was mentioned in the paper that hydrogen would be diluted. He asked how it would be diluted, and whether it would cause sparks and danger if a blower was used;
- (c) bleaching water contained corrosive substances and the transport vehicles would pass through the Eastern Harbor Crossing. He asked whether it would be transported during peak hours and whether consideration would be given to shipping it by waterborne transport so as not to affect traffic in the event of an accident in the Crossing;
- (d) the works project involved dangerous goods. He asked why no representative from Hong Kong Fire Services Department attended the meeting. He would like to know whether Hong Kong Fire Services Department had any contingency mechanism in case of an accident in Sha Tin Water Treatment Works or leakage of materials such as sodium hypochlorite. He asked whether the department had conducted a quantitative risk assessment and environmental impact assessment; and
- (e) technically, he asked whether the procurement standard was ISO26722 or GB12176. If the latter was adopted, he asked if it meant that only systems produced in the Mainland were allowed to be purchased. If so, he wanted to know how safe it was.

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

- (a) he asked about the cost saved every year after completion, one-time cost involved and cost of liquid chlorine purchased from Guangdong Province every year in the past;
- (b) he asked how much liquid chlorine was stored before and after the project, and if the system went wrong, whether there were backup systems to prevent disruption of public water supply caused by interrupted production of liquid chlorine, and if so, how many backup systems there were; and

- (c) he would like to know about the process for dealing with hydrogen, that is, whether it was directly discharged and whether the process was dangerous.

19. The Chairman hoped that after the meeting, the WSD could inform the members of the cost of liquid chlorine purchased from Guangdong Province every year in the past, availability of emergency response mechanism and the standard distance between residents and chlorine production facilities for reference.

20. Mr CHAN Tak-yeung gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) in terms of costs, the WSD needed to apply to the Legislative Council for a funding of \$880 million to install chlorine production facilities for 11 water treatment works. As to the operation of chlorine production machines, the production cost of chlorine was \$19,000 per tonne. The current purchase cost of liquid chlorine was \$39,000 per tonne. After the investment and operating costs were included, the production cost was almost the same as the purchase cost of liquid chlorine. However, the level of safety could be enhanced and it was unnecessary to transport and store liquid chlorine. Therefore, it was worthwhile to make the investment;
- (b) the filtered water would be transported to service reservoirs, which had adequate water to supply to the public. There was a backup system and power supply system in the water treatment works to ensure stable water supply in case of failure of chlorine production machines;
- (c) the reprovisioning plan of Sha Tin Water Treatment Works did not contain chlorine storage facilities and therefore did not overlap or conflict with this works project;
- (d) in respect of transport, since it was not a large project, materials would only be delivered to the water treatment works four times a month during the construction period or could be delivered during off-peak hours, so no pressure would be exerted on traffic in the vicinity;
- (e) small water treatment works required sodium hypochlorite produced by large water treatment works for disinfection purposes. Sha Tin Water Treatment Works was the closest to Tai Po Road Water Treatment Works and Hong Kong Island Red Hill Water Treatment Works. The disinfection efficiency of sodium hypochlorite decreased over time. Therefore, it was required to be delivered once a week, but only about 5 m³ was delivered every time, including 3 m³ to Tai Po Road Water Treatment Works first and about 1.5 m³ to Red Hill Water Treatment Works on South Hong Kong Island. Sodium hypochlorite belonged to Category 4 dangerous goods, similar to bleaching water in terms of safety level and required no special vehicles for transport;
- (f) with respect to the risk level of hydrogen, 3 portions of hydrogen were generated when 100 portions of chlorine were produced. The water treatment works would dilute hydrogen to a concentration of less than 1% before it was discharged. Since hydrogen was lighter than air, it quickly rose into the sky after it was discharged and did not pose any danger. The WSD would also set up a surveillance system to prevent the leakage of sodium hypochlorite;

- (g) the chlorine produced would be used directly for disinfection and would not be stored. During the electrolysis process, 1.85 kg of salt and 3L of water were required for production of one kilogram of chlorine;
- (h) the WSD had consulted the EPD and the Hong Kong Fire Services Department. Both departments supported this works project;
- (i) the WSD and the Hong Kong Fire Services Department would conduct regular drills to mitigate the environmental impact of chlorine leaks;
- (j) a chlorine production system could be used for at least 15 years;
- (k) the WSD had dispatched officers to conduct field studies about “thin-film technology” in foreign countries and introduced the technology into Hong Kong because it thought the technology was mature. Introduction of this system would help reduce the risk borne by communities. Therefore, he hoped that it would be put into operation as soon as possible;
- (l) as to the distance between water treatment works and residential buildings, there was no international standard at present. The water treatment works had a chlorine absorption system that took in chlorine and neutralised it in case of leakage;
- (m) as to procurement, there was no related production technology in the Mainland and it was expected that companies from all over the world would be invited to submit tender; and
- (n) as to carbon emissions, the chlorine production facility used in the future would be more or less the same as the existing one.

21. Mr LEE Chi-kin, Chemist/Treatment 9 of the WSD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) large-scale chlorine accidents had seldom occurred in Hong Kong. In 1991, a major chlorine accident occurred at Sha Tin Water Treatment Works. A chlorine neutralization system was introduced after the accident and no major chlorine incident occurred afterwards;
- (b) the WSD had been in close contact with the Department of Health, which had no objection to the project;
- (c) ISO26722 applied to medical-related water, and was not directly related to drinking water. The WSD adopted the standard GB19106 in terms of sodium hypochlorite production. Quality of drinking water in Hong Kong met the requirements of the World Health Organization. The WSD’s website provided information about water quality and members of the public were welcome to browse the webpage; and
- (d) Hong Kong had been purchasing chlorine from the Mainland for more than 30 years. The contracts had set forth the quality requirements. Chemists from

Hong Kong were sent to the Mainland for taking samples to ensure the quality was up to standard. Chlorine produced in the Mainland would be transported by land to Nansha Port and then to Lantau Island for further processing. The Mainland was very concerned about the possible dangers of transporting dangerous goods. The Mainland departments had just conducted a large-scale drill at Nansha Port.

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

23. The Chairman announced the above paper was endorsed by 24 affirmative votes, 0 negative vote and 2 abstention votes (the Chairman did not vote).

Questions

Question to be Raised by Ms CHAN Man-kuen on the Handling of Tree Trimming
(Paper No. HE 3/2017)

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

- (a) it was mentioned in the paper that trimmed tree branches would be cleaned up on the day when they were trimmed or on the following day. However, it was found in the past that the withered branches on the roads had not been cleaned up for more than a week. She asked whether the department had supervised the contractors. She asked the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) whether it would ask the contractors to clean up immediately after receiving complaints from the public about the withered branches on the roadside;
- (b) there was neither enclosure around the withered branches on the roadside nor notice to remind the public. Some passers-by had once been tripped over by them; and
- (c) she asked whether the department had taken punitive actions against the contractors in the past. If not, she opined that the department had not made enough efforts for supervision.

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

- (a) after trimming the trees, the contractors placed the branches on the roadside which obstructed passer-by. The branches were not cleaned up more than a week or even a month after a complaint was made by calling 1823. He asked the department whether it had a mechanism or an indicator to require the contractors to clean up the trimmed branches within a specified time and how to prevent recurrence of the above situation if there was no indicator; and
- (b) the HyD said patrol teams of the contractors would conduct inspections. He inquired if the department had asked the contractors to submit inspection reports and if it was possible to require the contractors to submit inspection records and pictures to the department in due course.

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

- (a) similar situations had also occurred on Tai Wai section of Tai Po Road. In October 2016, some trees were blown down by typhoon. She and Manager Lo of the LCSD then inspected the abandoned branches and planters along the roadside. However, the abovementioned branches had not been cleaned up till now. Manager Lo said that the LCSD had sent warning letters to the contractors. She asked if there was any other way for follow-up in addition to issuing warning letters and in respect of supervision, whether the department had no way to know when the contractors would clean up those withered branches and leaves;
- (b) in November, branches had also been left abandoned by the roadside of Hin Hong Street in Tai Wai for more than a month and had not been cleaned up yet;
- (c) she asked why branches could not be cleaned up immediately after trimming, whether the contracts had stipulated when clean-up should be conducted, and whether branches must be trimmed by a team of staff first and then cleaned up by another team of staff rather than trimmed and cleaned up immediately afterwards by the same team of staff; and
- (d) she asked why trees were trimmed by different departments but there was no monitoring system and who should be held responsible if some pedestrians tripped over since no clean-up of trimmed branches was conducted and no enclosure was provided after citizens made complaints by calling 1823.

27. The Chairman pointed out that the department had said it would require the contractors to clean up the branches as soon as possible and he would like to know what it meant by saying as soon as possible. He asked if the department had stipulated when the contractors should clean up the trimmed branches, and if so, what the indicators were, and if not, how the performance of the contractors was monitored. He hoped the department would contact relevant members to follow up particular cases after the meeting.

28. Mr Simon FUNG, District Engineer / Sha Tin (2) of the HyD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) after typhoons, the contractors would inspect the road situation. If any road-obstructing branches were found, the contractors would be required to clean up such branches as soon as possible to ensure that roads were not blocked. The contractors would submit photos and report the situation to the HyD. The case would be closed only after the branches were completely cleaned up;
- (b) after typhoons, there would be many branches obstructing roads. The HyD would require the contractors to move the branches to roadside and then enclose them so as not to affect pedestrians. Although there was no standard for the time for cleaning up trimmed branches, the contractors would be required to clean up trimmed branches in due course; and
- (c) as to whether the contractors were punished in the past, he had no information at the moment.

29. Ms Flora CHUI, Deputy District Leisure Manager (Sha Tin) 2 of the LCSD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) according to the records, it was unlikely that trees were not cleaned up. Maybe it was because the contractors did not thoroughly clear horticultural wastes such as withered branches and leaves;
- (b) as to the case mentioned by Ms TUNG Kin-lei, she had no information on hand and would later get further information from Ms TUNG;
- (c) as to penalties, the contractors must provide services as required by the contract. The total area of greening sites cleaned by the LCSD contractors was about 800,000 m², including recreation venues and roadside greenbelts managed by LCSD. If the work performance of the contractors was not satisfactory, the LCSD would issue a “Notice of Record of Service Inspection to Contractors” to inform them of the sites that were not up to standard or require them to follow up within a reasonable time. After that, the LCSD would conduct a review. If the contractors failed to complete the work before the deadline, the LCSD would issue a “Letter of Advice”. If the performance was still not satisfactory, a “Notice of Default” would be issued and the penalty would be deduction of service fees;
- (d) in the past, the LCSD had issued 52 “Notices of Record of Service Inspection to Contractors” and a “Letter of Advice”, but issued no “Notice of Default”;
- (e) as to trimming, the contractors were required to clean up the plants such as shrubs and arbors on the day when they were trimmed due to their larger size. In general, contractors would transport them with appropriate means of transport. Due to the strain on transportation resources after typhoons, the contractors would be required to deal with the trees affecting road safety first. Regarding disposal of horticultural wastes left after dangerous trees were dealt with, the contractors would place such wastes on the roadside and deal with them later because they did not affect road safety; and
- (f) the contracts stipulated that the contractors were required to dispose of horticultural wastes as soon as possible and assume the responsibility if any pedestrian was injured as a result of the contractors’ failure to clean up. The contracts also stipulated that the contractors should purchase liability insurance to protect the public.

Question to be Raised by Mr CHIU Chu-pong, Sunny on the Wild Pigeon Problem
(Paper No. HE 4/2017)

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

- (a) there were many wild pigeons at Sha Kok Street which caused nuisance. He hoped that the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), the FEHD and the Housing Department (HD) would face up to the problem. He said that there were often wild pigeons pecking food provided by the public;

- (b) the FEHD said that surprise inspections had been made in the past two years, but they turned out to be fruitless. He asked whether it was because insufficient surprise inspections had been made or the prosecution actions were not taken at appropriate times. He asked if efforts could be stepped up for prosecutions to achieve a deterrent effect. He was pleased to work with the FEHD staff to monitor those who fed the birds;
- (c) he asked whether the HD could install closed-circuit televisions at the locations of “Dai Pai Dong” (cooked food stalls) to enhance the deterrent effect;
- (d) the AFCD said that it would control the number of wild pigeons with contraceptives. He would like to know how contraceptives were actually used;
- (e) the AFCD said it had regularly taken samples of bird droppings for testing. He asked whether it had tested for cryptococcus in addition to avian influenza virus. In the past, there had been media reports that cryptococcus could be transmitted through bird droppings. He asked how to reduce the chance of spreading of these viruses; and
- (f) the HD said that prosecutions could be made against bird-feeders. He asked whether there were any prosecution figures for reference and would like to know where the CDs used by the department to expel wild pigeons were located at Sha Kok Estate.

31. The views of Mr SIU Hin-hong were summarised below:

- (a) wild pigeons gathered mainly because some people fed them and they were clever. It was difficult to put an end to the problem. He asked if glue traps could be placed on the ground and cereals could be sprinkled nearby. The AFCD could take the pigeons away after they were stuck on the ground. He advised the department to try this method. In the past, there were many wild pigeons near Star Ferry Pier in Tsim Sha Tsui, but now the number of pigeons thereat was substantially reduced;
- (b) he opined that it was also important to clean up birds’ nests in addition to preventing people from feeding. As eagles were natural predators of wild pigeons, he asked the AFCD whether wild pigeons were protected animals and whether it would consider using eagles or dummy eagles to drive wild pigeons away; and
- (c) the AFCD said female wild pigeons would die after taking contraceptives. He inquired whether male wild pigeons would die as well after taking contraceptives. The department said that wild pigeons were not protected animals. He asked if members of the public could capture wild pigeons on their own.

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

- (a) the AFCD said in its reply that from 2014 to November 2016, the department received a total of 49 complaints about nuisances caused by wild pigeons in

Sha Tin, and the locations involved included the neighbourhood of Tin Sum Village. He inquired whether the neighbourhood of Tin Sum Village referred to the recreation park on Che Kung Miu Road, and if so, whether it would refer the case to the LCSD for follow-up action;

- (b) the AFCD said it would control the number of wild pigeons with contraceptives. He asked about the effectiveness and whether there was any data for reference;
- (c) wild pigeons gathered mainly because some people fed them. He asked whether the department would enhance public education;
- (d) wild pigeons might carry avian influenza virus or other viruses. He wondered whether it could reflect the actual situation if the testing was done based on sampling;
- (e) he asked the department how to deal with the captured wild pigeons; and
- (f) after the department conducted publicity and education programmes, the situation had not been improved, which showed that publicity and education were not effective. The crux of the problem was that people were feeding them. He asked whether the department could step up prosecution. Although feeding birds would not contravene the law, birds would excrete after being fed, affecting the environmental hygiene. He hoped that the FEHD would study how to deal with that.

33. The Chairman said there was no mention of prosecution figure in the paper. He asked if no prosecution had been made. Similar problems had occurred in many housing estates. He asked whether the HD had taken any measures to reduce nuisance caused by wild pigeons to residents, what measures the HD would take if anyone fed birds in areas under its jurisdiction and whether the department would consider enacting laws on feeding of wild animals.

34. Mr TSE Ying-wai, Field Officer I (Acting) / Avian Influenza Surveillance of the AFCD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) wild pigeons gathered mainly because some people fed them, so the most effective solution was to address this issue. After pigeon cages were used or glue traps were applied on the ground, if some people still fed the pigeons, these methods could only cure the symptoms;
- (b) regarding Tin Sum Village, complaints were received at the end of 2015 that some elders fed wild pigeons, resulting in gathering of wild pigeons;
- (c) controlling the number of wild pigeons with contraceptives was still at the research stage. Other countries were also trying this method. The main purpose was to make it difficult for female birds to spawn. However, contraceptives would not be taken by wild pigeons unless they were fed with the medicine. So, if they were fed, the effectiveness would be affected;

- (d) in 2014-2016, the AFCD took about 200 samples of bird droppings for testing and the testing results were all negative. If the public informed the AFCD of any dead bird, the AFCD would remove the carcasses within 24 hours and conduct virus tests. AFCD took samples of bird droppings mainly for detection of avian influenza virus and would not test for cryptococcus as most birds carried cryptococcus and members of the public rarely got infected after exposure to cryptococcus. The AFCD had kept making efforts for publicity to remind the public to wear masks and gloves when they contacted birds and to clean their hands thoroughly afterwards;
- (e) the captured wild pigeons would be sent to New Territories North Animal Management Centre for treatment in humane means. If released, they might affect the ecology;
- (f) if any citizen complained about any wild pigeon's nesting outside their homes, the AFCD would make appropriate recommendations. For example, if pigeons nested at the top of air-conditioners, the AFCD would recommend installation of fences at the top of the machines; and
- (g) wild pigeons were defined as poultry and were not covered by the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170 of the Laws of Hong Kong). However, the AFCD did not advise members of the public to catch wild pigeons on their own because they might contravene the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance. The AFCD had lent two pigeon cages to Sha Kok Estate. However, according to foreign experience, the most effective solution was not to catch but to avoid feeding them.

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

- (a) feeding birds in public places did not contravene the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap. 570 of the Laws of Hong Kong). However, under the Ordinance, anyone who fed birds and littered public places shall be guilty of an offence and therefore the FEHD could issue a \$1,500 Fixed Penalty Notice to the offenders. The FEHD officers were required to adduce evidence to those prosecuted to explain why they had contravened the law and it was difficult to prosecute them because the wild pigeons they fed might excrete; and
- (b) as to the situation at the neighbourhood of Sha Kok Street, the FEHD often sent staff to conduct inspections. If anyone was found feeding birds in public places and littering public places, a prosecution would be initiated. The FEHD cleaned the aforesaid place twice a week on average.

36. Mrs TANG FUNG Shuk-yin, Senior Housing Manager (Tai Po, North District and Sha Tin) 1 of the HD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the estate offices had posted notices and hung banners at prominent places in the estates and often reminded and educated the residents not to feed wild birds in the "estate newsletters";

- (b) the estate offices had instructed the cleansing contractors to pay special attention to the places where wild birds gathered and to enhance efforts for cleansing. They also made efforts to drive wild pigeons away, for example, they installed CDs at the top of Sha Kok Community Hall to drive wild pigeons away;
- (c) last year, the HD had received a complaint that someone deliberately drove to Wo Che Estate to feed wild pigeons. The HD had stepped up patrolling after learning about the incident;
- (d) regarding installation of closed-circuit televisions, a further study needed to be made with the estate offices; and
- (e) the staff would step up patrolling efforts and prosecution could be made if anyone was found feeding birds within areas under the jurisdiction of the HD. If people who fed birds were residents, a demerit point system would be practised.

37. Mr Sunny CHIU proposed the following provisional motion:

“The Health and Environment Committee of Sha Tin District Council strongly requests the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to step up prosecution of persons feeding wild pigeons and birds in the district so as to maintain environmental hygiene and reduce the chance of transmission of bird-related infectious diseases.”

Mr Billy CHAN seconded the motion.

38. Mr LI Sai-wing said that since the FEHD could initiate prosecutions only after the feeders had littered the places, he advised making slight changes to the wording of the above provisional motion.

39. Mr Sunny CHIU revised his provisional motion as follows:

“The Health and Environment Committee of Sha Tin District Council strongly requests the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to step up prosecution of persons feeding wild pigeons and birds and in turn affecting hygiene in the district so as to maintain environmental hygiene and reduce the chance of transmission of bird-related infectious diseases.”

Mr Billy CHAN seconded the motion.

40. Members unanimously endorsed the provisional motion in paragraph 39.

Question to be Raised by Mr LI Sai-wing on Illegal Felling of Trees and Unlawful Occupation of Government Land
(Paper No. HE 5/2017)

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

- (a) a month ago, together with officers of the Sha Tin District Lands Office, he and members of the public visited a mountain and found that there were some

people illegally cultivating in some places and there were signs of illegal felling of trees. He asked the office why he had not received any response after a month and urged the office to respond promptly to let him know the progress of the follow-up work. Illegal cultivation would cause mosquito breeding and other environmental hygiene problems. He asked whether the office had received any complaint and if so, how it would follow up; and

- (b) he was dissatisfied with the AFCD's failure to send representatives to attend the meeting and respond to the members' follow-up questions.

42. The views of Mr SIU Hin-hong were summarised below:

- (a) regarding the felling of trees, AFCD said there would be law enforcement actions. He asked if the AFCD had the power of law enforcement and prosecution, and what evidence was required for prosecution; and
- (b) this question was mainly related to the AFCD but the AFCD did not send representatives to attend the meeting, which was unacceptable. He suggested that the Chairman should relay members' dissatisfaction to the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation.

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

- (a) the paper did not mention the number of arrests and he therefore assumed that no one had been arrested. He asked whether the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department could intercept people who intended to transport incense trees to the Mainland at border control points in addition to arresting them on mountains and would like to know whether the export of incense trees was restricted and whether publicity could be stepped up to encourage the public to report the felling of incense trees on mountains. He hoped that the Secretariat would make enquiries with the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department after the meeting;
- (b) he asked where, apart from Sha Tin, incense trees could be found, and what the price was; if the price was high, whether the existing legislation was sufficient to curb illegal felling; and
- (c) the AFCD had installed protective fences around incense trees. He was worried that this would be counterproductive as those who were interested in tree felling would be told where they could find incense trees.

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

- (a) he hoped that the AFCD would provide the number of prosecutions against illegal felling of incense trees in recent years;
- (b) he had reservations about installing protective fences, as this would help those who were looking for incense trees to find them. He asked whether the AFCD knew clearly the quantity and location of incense trees and whether it had increased patrolling efforts in these areas in collaboration with other departments such as the Hong Kong Police Force to prevent illegal felling;

and

- (c) he asked whether the Secretariat had contacted the AFCD and asked it to explain why it did not send representative to attend the meeting knowing that this question was related to it. He asked the Chairman to consider relaying members' dissatisfaction to the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation.

45. The Chairman said the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation would attend the meeting of Sha Tin District Council on 26 January and he would report the above issues to the Director in due course. He hoped that the Secretariat would liaise with the departments that did not send representatives to the meeting and urge them to submit supplementary information on members' follow-up questions.

46. Mr Mannix MOK, Executive Officer (District Council) 1 / Sha Tin District Office responded that the Secretariat had inquired in December last year and January this year whether the AFCD would send representatives to attend the meeting to make responses to members' follow-up questions. The AFCD said it was unable to send representatives to attend the meeting on both occasions.

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

- (a) the STDLO inspected illegal cultivation together with Mr LI Sai-wing at the end of 2016 and would complete the investigation as soon as possible;
- (b) regarding the problems of illegal cultivation or occupation of land, the STDLO would conduct investigations after receiving reports, and if necessary, take appropriate land control actions. At present, no inspections were conducted in the suburbs due to the resource limitations; and
- (c) in February 2015, the Government amended the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 28 of the Laws of Hong Kong) to impose heavier penalties on illegal occupation of government land, including a maximum fine of \$500,000 for the first conviction and an imprisonment of six months for deterrence.

Question to be Raised by Mr WAI Hing-cheung on the Intensive Care Service
(Paper No. HE 6/2017)

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

- (a) he recently received a complaint from a member of the public that the Prince of Wales Hospital (PWH) refused to provide intensive care service for the citizen's father and would not operate on the citizen's father unless other hospitals agreed to provide intensive care service. In the end the citizen found a private hospital and PWH operated on his father eventually. The charges of private hospitals were high and ordinary citizens could hardly afford them. He asked how the hospital could help if citizens encountered similar situations. He would not disclose the information of the above citizen and believed that the hospital knew which case he was referring to. He wondered if the hospital

could disclose how it followed up the case in the end if the hospital knew which case he was referring to; and

- (b) he had always been proud of doctors in Hong Kong. However, the hospital's indifference to the patient in this incident broke his heart. The hospital said that if no intensive care beds could be provided to patients of categories I and II, they would refer them to other hospitals. He asked how the hospital would handle this and help these patients if other hospitals refused their admission.

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

- (a) he wanted to know the operation of PWH's intensive care service. As far as he knew, babies born in private hospitals were often referred to the Intensive Care Unit of PWH in case of any health problems. What happened in this incident was quite the opposite, which seemed a bit unusual to him; he asked whether the hospital could provide more information;
- (b) he asked how many wards and beds could be provided by the Intensive Care Unit and Pediatric Intensive Care Unit of PWH, what special care facilities were available and how the staff establishment was. If no information was available on hand, he hoped it could be provided after the meeting;
- (c) during the festive seasons, there was often a need to add extra beds at PWH. He asked if the number of beds increased had exceeded the upper limit set by the hospital, and if so, how the hospital would deal with it, and whether it had affected the quality of service;
- (d) regarding the Phase Two expansion project for PWH, he asked whether intensive care beds and other facilities and manpower would be increased to solve the problems of insufficient beds and the excessively long waiting time for accident and emergency services;
- (e) if the hospital could not provide intensive care service but would operate on patients from other hospitals, whether the hospital would require patients to register at the "Electronic Health Record Sharing System" first; and
- (f) there were 70 intensive care beds in the New Territories East Cluster including 50 in PWH. If PWH could not provide beds for the patients, there was little chance that the other two hospitals could receive them. Under such a situation, he asked the hospital what it could do to divert patients to other hospitals.

50. The Chairman hoped that the hospital would immediately inform members of the latest news on the Phase Two expansion project for PWH

51. Dr CHEUNG Nai-kwong, Medical Service Coordinator of the PWH gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) in general, PWH often received patients of categories I and II. Patients of category I were in critical and unstable conditions, requiring treatment and close monitoring in the intensive care unit so as to effectively ensure that patients in critical conditions might take favourable turns. Common intensive

care services included the use of breathing machines and infusion of cardiotonics. Patients of category II mainly received close monitoring and, if necessary, intensive care in due course;

- (b) doctors of the accident and emergency department and Intensive Care Unit would decide after clinical evaluation when to accept patients by the intensive care unit. A number of factors were considered in the assessment, including the patient's medical history, state of illness, chances of recovery, family status, etc.;
- (c) PWH knew which case member was referring to but could not disclose too much details without the consent of the patient. He could only tell members that the Intensive Care Unit considered the patient not suitable to be admitted to the Intensive Care Wards after evaluation conducted according to the mechanism;
- (d) he stressed that those patients in need would surely receive the most appropriate treatment. If a patient was in critical condition and was classified as category I patient but there was no bed available, there must be other hospitals in the system of the Hospital Authority (HA) that could receive the patient. If the patients did not belong to category III or IV, it would be difficult from them to be provided with intensive care beds under the existing mechanism because the recovery chance of such patients was relatively low;
- (e) if patients needed to receive intensive care but PWH could not provide beds, doctors of the Intensive Care Unit would surely refer them to other hospitals in the HA cluster that could provide intensive care beds. The attending doctors would accompany the patients to other hospitals;
- (f) there were three hospitals in the New Territories East Cluster, including PWH, Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital and North District Hospital with a total of 70 intensive care beds. There was a total of 50 intensive care beds in PWH, including 23 beds for adults, 22 beds for newborn infants and 5 beds for children;
- (g) PWH would make deployments two to three months in advance of the winter influenza peak season in accordance with the head office's instructions. After entering the winter influenza peak season this year, PWH added more extra beds in response to the population growth and aging. Nonetheless, PWH had provided evaluations for patients according to a series of mechanisms and was able to keep the average number of patients admitted to hospital under about 60 per day. PWH had over 10 measures to help patients to be monitored and treated in the communities after discharge. After entering the winter influenza peak season, PWH, in addition to increasing the number of beds, had also issued allowances to encourage medical staff to try their best to serve patients in the hospital during their free time. In addition, the hospital had stepped up its efforts in the implementation of vaccination programme, with a view to helping the public through various measures;
- (h) during the influenza peak season, PWH implemented two programmes, one of which was that geriatric doctors were stationed at the accident and emergency

department. Geriatric specialists and nurses would be stationed at the accident and emergency department every day to help evaluate the condition of elderly patients and to help elderly patients in stable condition to receive treatment in the communities without hospitalization. The other programme was to set up a discharge waiting room for patients waiting for drug collection or their family members so as to vacate their beds for patients in need;

- (i) the Phase Two expansion project for PWH was still under planning. After the expansion, the floor area would be increased. The hospital planned to increase the number of beds and medical staff. At present, there were about 1 500 beds in PWH and the number was expected to exceed 2 000 in the future; and
- (j) two to three years ago, some patients of PWH had waited for two to three days before being admitted to the hospital. This would not happen again. Now patients would wait for a dozen hours at most before admission, which was much better than before.

Question to be Raised by Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael on Relocation of Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works to Caverns
(Paper No. HE 7/2017)

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

- (a) Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works (STSTW), which was currently located at an outdoor site, adopted the same set of contingency plans as the sewage treatment works to be established inside caverns. He asked whether the Drainage Services Department (DSD) would conduct a review and formulate a practicable contingency plan for the new sewage treatment works inside caverns. He wanted to know if an accident occurred in the sewage treatment works in the caverns, what the evacuation methods and routes were, and how to evacuate nearby residents. He understood that there was still some time before the construction date and perhaps there was no detailed information for now. Nevertheless, he would like to know when the department would review the contingency plan;
- (b) according to the paper, rivers and streams in Nui Po Shan area were inland waters. The corresponding water control zones were generally divided into “SM (E)”, “SM (F)” subzones and “other watercourses”. Although the above subzones were elaborated in Table 5.1, he considered that different subzones had different requirements and asked whether the maps in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report clearly showed different subzones and whether the department could provide the information in a clearer manner after the meeting;
- (c) the department said in its reply that according to the on-site inspection result of the Environmental Impact Assessment, STSTW needed to store some materials for routine operation and maintenance arrangements, and the substances contained in these materials were all chemicals of concern listed in “Guidance Manual for Use of Risk-based Remediation Goals for Contaminated Land Management”. He asked if the on-site inspection was conducted by visual inspection or other means and would like to know when

further tests and studies on the sewage treatment works inside the caverns would be conducted after they were put into operation;

- (d) according to the paper, the formula for calculating the probability of aircraft crash accidents was based on “The Calculation of Aircraft Crash Risk in the UK” compiled by the Health and Safety Executive of the United Kingdom; he asked whether the above formula was applicable to Hong Kong, and whether adjustments were needed in the calculation to arrive at reasonable data; and
- (e) in respect of explosives transport, the department chose a less populous route and therefore the risk of it was relatively low as shown in the report. However, since blasting was conducted on a 24-hour basis, he asked when the explosives would be transported. He said that A Kung Kok Street that the transport vehicles passed through was a two-lane road, and traffic would be affected if an accident happened.

53. Mr CHIU Man-leong said that during the construction of the sewage treatment works in caverns, it was necessary to transport and use explosives. He asked whether the authority had any emergency response mechanism or reporting mechanism to cope with unexpected incidents. He also asked whether the authority would enhance communication with neighboring housing estates or courts during the blasting period, such as providing enquiry hotline to residents in advance so that residents could report to the authority when noise or vibration was experienced. He hoped that a community liaison group could be set up during the construction period, which consisted of DC Members and members of the public, so that the public could be informed of the works progress and voice their opinions.

54. Mr Walter LEUNG, Senior Engineer / Sewerage Projects 5 of the DSD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the existing contingency plan not only applied to STSTW but also to other treatment works under the DSD. It was a reporting mechanism that operated at times of emergencies. After the opening of the sewage treatment works in the caverns, the discharge point of the existing sewage treatment works would continue to be used. Therefore, the current contingency plan also applied to the sewage treatment works in the caverns. After the design of the sewage treatment works in the caverns was completed, a contingency plan would be drawn up only for this sewage treatment works;
- (b) in respect of land pollution, the existing sewage treatment works was still in operation. After the completion of the sewage treatment works in the caverns, materials such as soil would be taken for testing. The problem of pollution would also be solved before rezoning of the land for other purposes;
- (c) the DSD planned to set up a community liaison group and was now studying the composition of the working group and its scope of work. The details would be explained later; and
- (d) regarding the use of explosives, the DSD would follow established procedures, including formulating contingency plans and carrying out drills.

55. Mr CHAN Ying-kin, Executive Director of AECOM Asia Company Limited gave a

consolidated response as follows:

- (a) in general, community liaison groups would be set up in the first six months after the commencement of the works to keep in touch with stakeholders, incorporated owners and local DC Members;
- (b) information related to fairways was relatively complicated. He suggested providing it to Mr Michael YUNG after the meeting; and
- (c) no schedule had been set for the delivery of explosives at this moment and the DSD would communicate with stakeholders in this regard later on. In general, there would not be a definite time for the transportation of explosives for safety reasons.

Information Item

Report of Working Group
(Paper No. HE 8/2017)

56. Members noted the above paper.

Information Papers

Trial of Low Noise Road Surfacing Materials in Sha Tin District
(Paper No. HE 9/2017)

57. Mr WAI Hing-cheung asked why only one location was chosen for the trial, whether those places subject to more serious noise nuisance were considered when choosing the trial sites, and whether the trial could be conducted elsewhere in Sha Tin. He would like to know when the review would be conducted after completion of the trial and whether laying of low noise materials would bring any harm.

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

- (a) he agreed to the use of recycled tires to make low-noise materials. The Government considered laying low noise materials at road sections with noise levels of over 70 dB but could only reduce traffic noise by about 2 dB. He asked whether the main purpose of the trial was to reduce noise or to use recycled materials;
- (b) he asked if rubber used on the road would release noxious substances. Also, he asked if the materials needed to be dug up during road repair, how the department would deal with them;
- (c) he asked about the current number of scrap tires in Hong Kong, the recycling procedures and how the Government would obtain scrap tires if they were extensively used for making low noise materials in the future; and
- (d) he asked about the cost of new materials used and whether materials that were more capable of reducing noise would not be used after using these new materials.

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

- (a) he asked how the department would assess the effectiveness of the new materials, how much time would be required for the study, and whether it would choose some road sections to be repaired in Sha Tin or other road sections (such as those in front of or behind traffic lights) for the trial;
- (b) according to his understanding, asphalt was required to be heated when paving roads. He asked if tires mixed with asphalt, would the mixture emit toxic gas when being heated. If so, what measures were in place to protect workers from inhaling toxic gases;
- (c) the department said it would use the latest technology to effectively control and reduce the temperature and smell of asphalt paving. He would like to know how to use these technologies to achieve the expected results. He asked about the temperature of asphalt paved with existing technologies, and whether reduced temperature would result in ineffective asphalt paving and thus shorten the service life of the pavement; and
- (d) as the HyD did not send representatives to attend the meeting, he asked whether the EPD and the HyD could jointly make a reply to members after the meeting on some issues, including how the EPD monitored noise and whether the HyD could provide technical information such as the temperature of asphalt paved and material durability.

60. Mr LAI Tsz-yan asked when the trial would start. Fo Tan Road adjacent to Belair Gardens has been suffering from traffic noise. Road surfacing works had been carried out on the road section earlier. He asked if any material trial was conducted and whether low noise materials would be laid elsewhere after the trial.

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

- (a) she asked how the department would assess the usefulness of the new materials, how long would the trial take, and whether they would be compared with the currently used materials in terms of the emission of toxic gas;
- (b) she hoped that the department would inform members after paving the materials so that members could drive to the site for testing; and
- (c) she would like to know whether the rubber asphalt was produced in Hong Kong or in the Mainland.

62. Mr PUN Kwok-shan asked about the length of the road section for trial. The proposal of building a noise barrier on Tin Sum Street was rejected earlier. He asked if low noise materials could be laid on that road section.

63. Mr CHAU Wai, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional North) 4 of the EPD gave a consolidated response as follows :

- (a) the EPD had conducted a test in the EcoPark managed by it and the test results

were satisfactory. However, traffic around the EcoPark was relatively less busy and it's hoped that a test could be conducted elsewhere. As one section of Fo Tan Road needed to be repaired, this road section was chosen for the test and tests would also be conducted elsewhere;

- (b) after tires were cut into pieces and mixed with asphalt pavement, the mixture could absorb the noise because of the elasticity of tires;
- (c) as to tire recycling, due to the limited use of tires, the number of recycled tires was small. If the pilot scheme was successful, tires could be used in one more way;
- (d) low noise materials were now widely used on highways. As to low-speed road sections, such as sections in front of and behind traffic lights, the use of low noise materials should be considered in light of road conditions; and
- (e) the EPD would, with the assistance of the HyD, test the noise of wheels rolling over the road surfaces along with the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. The HyD was concerned about the durability of materials while the EPD focused on their sound reduction function.

64. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to refer members' questions to the EPD and HyD and urge them to submit information to members for reference at the next meeting.

65. Members noted the above information paper.

Statistical Overview of Sha Tin District Environmental Hygiene Service (as at 30 November 2016)

(Paper No. HE 10/2017)

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

- (a) there were altogether 61 prosecutions against unlicensed food establishments. He asked if it meant that the problem of unlicensed food establishments in Sha Tin was still serious; and
- (b) as there were a lot of bird droppings at the location outside Man Lai Court and near Shing Mun River, he hoped FEHD to enhance cleaning work. There were also other places that became hygiene blackspots because people fed wild birds there. He would like to know how many times these blackspots had been cleaned.

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

- (a) earlier on, the department joined officers from Sha Tin District Office and DC Members to inspect the situation of illegal shop extension in public places and distributed leaflets. The paper showed that there were fewer prosecutions than before. He asked whether this meant the situation had been improved and under what circumstances a fixed penalty would be imposed on offenders; and
- (b) in Yan On Estate, a man suspected of having mental problems liked to collect

rubbish on streets and considered rubbish and garbage cans as toys, which caused disturbance to residents and cleaners in the estate. He asked whether the FEHD, the HD and the Social Welfare Department could take joint actions after the meeting, such as issuing a penalty ticket against or counselling the man.

68. Mr LAI Tsz-yan asked whether the prosecutions against “illegal shop extensions” in the paper included prosecutions against shop-front obstruction and non-food premises hygiene problems last year. If not, he asked if they should be listed.

69. The Chairman asked if the FEHD could make prosecutions for hygiene problems brought by sundries piled up on the streets in private places, such as areas under the management of Link Real Estate Investment Trust (Link REIT).

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

- (a) operators of food premises were required to apply for licenses. However, some operators rushed to start their business after submitting applications and fitting out the restaurants; and the FEHD made prosecutions every week; so the number of prosecutions against unlicensed food establishments was driven up. Prosecutions against hygiene problems in non-food premises were set out under “garbage disposal” in the reference paper;
- (b) after entering winter, the FEHD would more frequently clean the roads near Man Lai Court where migratory birds were often seen;
- (c) when any serious shop-front obstruction was found during inspections, the FEHD officers would make prosecutions or issue penalty tickets. Fixed penalty was another way to deal with shop front obstruction;
- (d) as to the man who like to collect garbage in Yan On Estate, he said he would join hands with other departments to deal with it; and
- (e) in the areas under the management of Link REIT, if the sundries piled up on the streets caused hygiene problems, the FEHD could issue “Nuisance Notices” and initiate prosecutions if the sundries were not cleaned up before the deadline.

71. Members noted the above information paper.

Sha Tin District Anti-mosquito Campaign 2017 (First Phase)
(Paper No. HE 11/2017)

72. Members noted the above information paper.

Sha Tin District Anti-rodent Campaign 2017 (First Phase)
(Paper No. HE 12/2017)

73. Mr Michael YUNG said that near the year end, the rodent problems at Yan On Estate and Chevalier Garden were serious, and dead rats were found there. He hoped that the FEHD would communicate with the estates before placing rat poison so as to prevent the

rats from running from areas with poisonous rat baits to areas where rat poison was not placed.

74. Mr Eric TSAI said the FEHD would inform the HD, DSD and HyD and other departments before any anti-rodent or anti-mosquito campaigns were launched and advise the housing estates in Sha Tin on anti-rodent issues.

75. Members noted the above information paper.

Sha Tin District Year-end Clean Up 2017
(Paper No. HE 13/2017)

76. Members noted the above information paper.

Other Items

77. The Chairman said that the Working Group on Healthy City and International Day of Disabled Persons under the HEC would organize a “Join Hands for a Dream Home” programme at Shatin Pui Ying College on 14 January (Saturday). Members who were interested in participating in the above activity could make enquiries with the Secretariat.

Date of Next Meeting

78. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 9 March 2017 (Thursday).

79. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat
STDC 13/15/40

January 2017