

Sha Tin District Council
Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of
the Health and Environment Committee in 2017

Date : 11 May 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	7:46 pm
Ms YUE Shin-man (Vice-Chairman)	"	2:30 pm	7:46 pm
Mr HO Hau-cheung, BBS, MH	DC Chairman	2:34 pm	5:49 pm
Mr PANG Cheung-wai, Thomas, SBS, JP	DC Vice-Chairman	2:30 pm	6:42 pm
Mr CHAN Billy Shiu-yeung	DC Member	2:34 pm	4:31 pm
Ms CHAN Man-kuen	"	2:30 pm	4:15 pm
Mr CHENG Tsuk-man	"	2:45 pm	4:00 pm
Mr CHING Cheung-ying, MH	"	2:30 pm	4:25 pm
Mr CHIU Chu-pong, Sunny	"	2:34 pm	4:31 pm
Mr CHIU Man-leong	"	2:30 pm	7:46 pm
Mr HUI Yui-yu, Rick	"	2:40 pm	7:46 pm
Mr LAI Tsz-yan	"	2:49 pm	7:46 pm
Ms LAM Chung-yan	"	2:38 pm	4:54 pm
Mr LEE Chi-wing, Alvin	"	5:15 pm	6:47 pm
Mr LEUNG Ka-fai, Victor	"	2:30 pm	4:12 pm
Mr LI Sai-hung	"	2:30 pm	6:48 pm
Mr LI Sai-wing	"	2:44 pm	7:46 pm
Mr LI Wing-shing, Wilson	"	2:30 pm	7:40 pm
Mr MAK Yun-pui	"	6:07 pm	7:40 pm
Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS	"	2:36 pm	3:40 pm
Mr NG Kam-hung	"	2:44 pm	7:35 pm
Ms PONG Scarlett Oi-lan, BBS, JP	"	2:30 pm	7:46 pm
Mr PUN Kwok-shan, MH	"	2:30 pm	7:46 pm
Mr SIU Hin-hong	"	2:52 pm	7:04 pm
Mr TONG Hok-leung	"	2:30 pm	6:25 pm
Ms TUNG Kin-lei	"	2:30 pm	7:46 pm
Mr WAI Hing-cheung	"	2:30 pm	7:46 pm
Mr WONG Fu-sang, Tiger	"	2:30 pm	7:46 pm
Mr WONG Hok-lai	"	2:49 pm	6:16 pm
Mr WONG Ka-wing, MH	"	2:30 pm	5:46 pm
Ms WONG Ping-fan, Iris	"	2:30 pm	7:46 pm
Mr YAU Man-chun	"	2:34 pm	4:27 pm
Mr YIP Wing	"	2:30 pm	5:17 pm
Mr YIU Ka-chun	"	2:30 pm	5:11 pm
Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael	"	2:30 pm	7:46 pm
Mr MOK Man-lok, Mannix (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council) 1 / Sha Tin District Office		

In Attendance

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

Mrs TANG FUNG Shuk-yin

Mr CHAU Wai

Ms HUNG Yik-man, Fiona

Title

Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)
District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sha Tin) /
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Senior Housing Manager (Tai Po, North and Sha Tin) 1 /
Housing Department
Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional North) 4 /
Environmental Protection Department
Assistant Leisure Manager 3 (Sha Tin) /
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

In Attendance by Invitation

Mrs MA CHOW Pui-fun, Dorothy
Ms CHEUNG Ngan-ling, Fanny
Dr LOH Lai-ting, Taron

Title

Principal Assistant Secretary (Energy) / Environment Bureau
Assistant Secretary (Energy) 1 / Environment Bureau
Senior Medical and Health Officer (Community Liaison) 1 /
Department of Health

Absent

Mr TING Tsz-yuen
Ms TSANG So-lai
Mr CHAN Kwok-keung, James
Mr CHAN Nok-hang

Title

DC Member	(Application for leave of absence received)
”	(”)
”	(No application for leave of absence received)
”	(”)

Action**Welcoming Message**

The Chairman welcomed all members and representatives of government departments to the 3rd meeting of the Health and Environment Committee (HEC) this year.

Application for Leave of Absence

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

Mr Alvin LEE	Official commitment
Ms TSANG So-lai	”
Mr TING Tsz-yuen	Sickness

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

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 9 March 2017
(HEC Minutes 2/2017)

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

Matters Arising

Responses of Government Departments to Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting
(Paper No. HE 23/2017)

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

- (a) regarding the Phase II Redevelopment Plan of Prince of Wales Hospital (PWH), the hospital replied that in order to meet the needs of demolition works and operation, the hospital would construct a building at the soccer pitch of Sha Tin Hospital for relocation of various buildings of PWH at present. He said at the last meeting that he hoped to obtain more information on the construction of the decanting building. He hoped the hospital could provide such information as the relevant plans and height of the building; and
- (b) as required by the redevelopment project, Refine Home must be moved out. He knew that the Education and Welfare Committee was aware of the situation but still hoped that the relevant departments could report the situation at various stages. He asked what measures could be taken if the relocation was not completed by 30 June.

6. Mr YIU Ka-chun said that the villagers had been waiting for a long time for building of sewerage systems at Kwun Yam Shan Village and Mui Tsz Lam Village. In reply to his question in March, the department said that the sewerage system works plans had not been implemented yet in less populated and remote villages such as Kwun Yam Shan Village and Mui Tsz Lam Village. However, in the paper of the meeting, it was proposed to build sewerage systems by stages in the future for all of the 28 villages including Kwun Yam Shan Village and Mui Tsz Lam Village in Sha Tin, which had not been proposed to be included in the public works programme. He asked the department whether it meant that the reply made at the last meeting was revised and sewerage systems could be built in Kwun Yam Shan Village and Mui Tsz Lam Village in the future. If not, he hoped the department would give an explanation.

7. Mr MOK Kam-kwai said that both Kwun Yam Shan Village and Mui Tsz Lam Village were located at catchment areas and sewers were needed most in the catchment areas. He asked why the department did not give priority to the building of sewerage systems for the villages in the catchment areas and he hoped that the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) would advise on how the priority of building a sewerage system was determined.

8. Mr CHAU Wai, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional North) 4 of the EPD responded that according to the review report of 2002, 28 less populated or remote villages in Sha Tin were not proposed to be included in the public works programme at that time for various reasons. In 2014, a further study was completed and it was proposed to build sewerage systems by stages in the future for the 28 villages including Kwun Yam Shan Village and Mui Tsz Lam Village in Sha Tin, which had not been proposed to be included in the public works programme. As far as he knew, it was necessary to complete seven ongoing works and four planned works in other villages before the works in Kwun Yam Shan Village and Mui Tsz Lam Village were carried out. As for the phased details, he said that it was necessary to ask the group responsible for planning the sewage collection.

9. The Chairman said that as no representatives from the Hospital Authority attended the meeting, he would ask the Secretariat to relay the question raised by Mr Michael YUNG to the relevant departments so that they could provide information at the next meeting. It would be desirable if they could provide both pictures and illustrations. Regarding building of the sewerage systems by stages and how the priority for building the sewerage systems

was determined, he advised Mr CHAU Wai to reply to the HEC after consulting the relevant group after the meeting.

10. Members noted the above paper.

Discussion Items

2017-2018 Work Plans and Funding Applications of Working Groups under the Committee
(Paper No. HE 24/2017)

11. The Chairman pointed out that according to Order 40 (6) of the Sha Tin District Council Standing Orders, the “Standing Working Groups” should formulate the work plans for the current financial year in the first quarter of each financial year and submit them to the committees they belonged to for approval. Any amendment to the work plans must also be submitted to the committees they belonged to for approval. If necessary, the “Standing Working Groups” should submit their work plans to the DC for approval. To enable the working groups under the Committees to prepare for the activities as soon as possible, all working groups had approved the 2017-2018 work plans and related funding applications.

12. Members endorsed the above paper unanimously.

Strategy and Work for Improvement of Environmental Hygiene in Hong Kong
(Paper No. HE 25/2017)

13. The Chairman welcomed Mr Eric TSAI, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sha Tin) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to the meeting.

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

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

- (a) she extended thanks to the FEHD team for its work and considered it necessary to strengthen public education in support of the work of FEHD. She was concerned about the problem of rubbish clearance in the back alleys of the tenement buildings and the increasingly serious rodent problem in Tai Wai District. The team of Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong staged a petition at the government headquarters for relevant issues yesterday, hoping that the department would proactively deal with the rodent blackspots. The District Office was implementing the District-led Actions Scheme and a joint action of mosquito control and lawn-mowing was also being carried out in Sha Tin District. She proposed that a joint campaign of interdepartmental rodent elimination be included in the actions scheme;
- (b) she hoped that the FEHD would actively deal with the rubbish blackspots. For example, there were large waste items accumulated at the Shan Mei Street Refuse Collection Point. She suggested that the FEHD should install mobile CCTV to control the problem;

- (c) installation of air-conditioners in Tai Wai Market progressed slowly and design had been delayed for a period of time. No design drawing was provided two years after support of 85% of stall owners was obtained. Funding applications also needed to be approved by the Public Works Subcommittee of Legislative Council later on and the Market Management Consultative Committee was concerned about the progress. She hoped the department would actively follow up on that; and
- (d) she hoped the FEHD would strengthen publicity and education so as to foster civic-mindedness.

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

- (a) the work of the FEHD was generally satisfactory. The illegal expansion of shops in Tai Wai Market was a serious problem and blocked the road, which should not be tolerated. The FEHD should warn and enforce the law more strictly. In respect of fixed penalties, he wondered why there were less penalty cases in Sha Tin than in other districts. In addition, he believed that the Sha Tin Market and Tai Wai Market were too slippery and the hygiene conditions were not as good as Lung Hang Market. He hoped that the FEHD would follow up on that;
- (b) there were fewer narrow streets and alleys in Sha Tin District, therefore the environmental hygiene had to be maintained via effective mosquito elimination and anti-rodent measures by the housing estates. It had also been reported by the media that rodent problems in the areas under the jurisdiction of the Housing Department were rampant. He hoped there could be more frequent and effective cross-departmental coordination and supervision; and
- (c) he was concerned about the environmental hygiene of restaurants. He advised the FEHD to intensify efforts for inspection and punishment since rats had been found in chain restaurants in New Town Plaza.

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

- (a) he extended his thanks to the Superintendent for his team's work. In his opinion, the department's documents contained far-sighted suggestions, such as the introduction of garbage levy scheme in 2019 and the pilot scheme for installing webcams;
- (b) the cases of feeding wild animals had been increasing recently. The department had a series of measures for dealing with wild birds. He asked whether the department could adopt the relevant measures for dealing with wild pigs, wild monkeys, wild cats and wild dogs in Sha Tin;
- (c) piled furniture and wastes had been found in many large housing estates. He did not know whether it was because of a lack of resources for collection or procedural problem. He hoped that the department would follow up on that;

- (d) the public toilet at Tin Sam Street had been used for many years and needed renovation. He hoped that the department would consider including it in the renovation plan; and
- (e) he appreciated the department for handling of vacant market stalls through temporary tenancy, which turned out effective. He hoped that the department would attract more distinctive stalls in the same way and with favorable rents to boost the prosperity of the markets.

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

- (a) the ovitrap index suddenly rose last year. He asked the department whether it could provide relevant information and whether it had made preparations for mosquito control in advance; and
- (b) with regard to handling of illegal parking of bicycles, the problem persisted even though the government had made a lot efforts. Citizens would lock their bicycles at fences; the problem was even more serious after bicycle-sharing service emerged nowadays, affecting pedestrians and city appearance. He saw more than ten shared bicycles parking on the roadside when he was passing by Pai Tau Village before the meeting. The Chairman of the HEC had raised questions on shared bicycles at a meeting of the Traffic and Transport Committee (TTC), but no department gave a response at that time. Therefore, he would like to take this opportunity to ask the department about the ways to cope with illegal parking of bicycles.

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

- (a) he said that what was discussed at that meeting of the TTC was a motion rather than a question. He believed that this problem required long-term follow-up by different departments;
- (b) in the areas governed by the FEHD, proper work might have been done in mosquito control and rodent control. However, some housing estates or courts might have not followed FEHD's guidelines, so the result was counter-productive. He asked if the FEHD would work with housing estates or courts, such as placing rat poison at the same time. In addition, there was no ovitrap (commonly known as "mosquito cup") in the area around Chevalier Garden in the past. After coordination, mosquito cups were placed in the area around Mui Tsz Lam Village. He asked whether there were mosquito cups for measurement in Yan On Estate and Ma On Shan Tsuen; if not, how the FEHD knew if there were mosquito problems there and how it could work out anti-mosquito measures;
- (c) with regard to the pilot program of installing webcams, the EPD also had a similar plan previously. He did not understand why it was mentioned in the Director of Audit's Report that the concerned plan was ineffective. He believed that obvious effect had been achieved after installing webcams. For example, after the webcam at Tai Shui Hang Refuse Collection Point was removed, construction wastes appeared again, which needed clean-up by several departments. He also urged the EPD to strengthen inspection;

- (d) with regard to avian flu, he asked the department whether it would immediately cleanse the site after taking away the dead birds; and
- (e) problems arose after the department reduced the size of openings of trash cans. As there was no designated site for collection of village garbage in Tai Shui Hang Village, trash cans in his constituency were often full, causing hygiene problems. In addition, although the size of openings of trash cans were reduced, the department still placed 660 trash cans. He asked whether it worked against the policy intention.

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

- (a) he appreciated the Superintendent and FEHD staff for their active efforts for following up the hygiene problems in the estates and villages in his constituency;
- (b) he was concerned about the pilot scheme for installing webcams. He remembered that questions had been raised earlier regarding the massive mud piled up near the refuse collection point in Siu Lek Yuen Village, which had been cleaned up after arrangement by the department. However, the situation appeared again, indicating that the department failed to solve the problem in the long run. He asked the department whether it could accept the previous proposal of Ms Iris WONG to change the site into a motorcycle parking lot; and
- (c) different types of rubbish often appeared in the garbage room in To Shek Village, such as mud and construction wastes. A garbage truck of the FEHD contractor had been parked nearby on a long-term basis, leaving a negative impression on the FEHD among the citizens. After the rubbish piled near the garbage room was cleared, rubbish appeared again shortly afterwards. He believed that if different measures were adopted there, such as planting flowers, the incentives for littering could be reduced. He hoped that the Sha Tin District Office (STDO) could join hands with various departments to search for hygiene black spots in villages or the frequently complained places and conduct inter-departmental follow-up, so as to find out the appropriate places for installation of webcams. He asked whether rodent elimination work could be covered by the inter-departmental anti-mosquito and grass-cutting working group.

21. The views of Mr NG Kam-hung were summarised below:

- (a) he said that the FEHD had taken swift actions in clearing easy-mount frames. He asked the department how to handle the abandoned bicycles. Some cases had not been followed up on until half a year after he had reported them in letters;
- (b) various types of wastes such as foam boxes and tattered bicycles were often discarded at some roadside planters, resulting in problems such as mosquito and rodent infestation. He hoped that the department would follow up on this matter;

- (c) discarded cigarette ashes at the ashtrays on the top of some trash cans generated a large amount of smoke, affecting people passing by or waiting for buses in the vicinity. He hoped that the department would conduct a study on design of the trash cans;
- (d) he asked whether the problem of illegal parking of bicycles should be handled by the FEHD. The FEHD previously said that it could not follow up the illegal parking of bicycles that lasted for less than 24 hours. This would result in massive discarded rubbish. For example, the department could not take prosecution action against spitting for it was an act lasting for less than 24 hours; and
- (e) foaming containers were often discarded in Tai Wai Market. Form particles were seen everywhere after foam containers were broken. He hoped that the department would follow up on this issue. The FEHD had a wide range of responsibilities. He asked the Superintendent to strive for more resources from the top management after discussion with the DC. Otherwise, representatives of the FEHD would be questioned each time at the HEC. He felt pity for the frontline staff of the FEHD.

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

- (a) the paper mentioned that the FEHD contractors cleansed the streets every day, but she noticed some streets were not cleansed throughout the year. She asked whether all streets were cleansed or cleansed occasionally. Kwong Sin Street and Siu Lek Yuen Road were paved with eco-friendly bricks and were easy to get stained. She hoped that the department would step up cleansing;
- (b) some citizens bundled wastes such as cardboards and trolleys on the railings, affecting hygiene and city appearance. However, the FEHD contractors did not take the initiative to clean them up. She did not know whether the FEHD contractors did not clean the wastes because they were defined as personal belongings. She had repeatedly reflected that it was an act of condoning the public disposing wastes on the streets and hoped that the department would deal with this problem; and
- (c) as summer was approaching, midge problems would appear. Many parents worried that their children might be bitten by mosquitoes, affecting health and appearance. She asked the FEHD if there was any method to prevent the spreading of midge problems.

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

- (a) the FEHD had a wide scope of work. It could be seen from the paper that the department had done a comprehensive job. She was concerned about the higher levels of mosquito and rodent infestation in May. For example, in Shek Mun Estate, rats had been disturbed in many sites during construction recently, leading to rodent problem. Construction had been successively started in many sites of Sha Tin. She hoped that the department would take measures to resolve the problem;

- (b) she reported that people fed wild birds in several places. There was often a lot of rice on the ground outside the bus stop at Exit B of Shek Mun MTR Station. However, no law enforcement action was seen and the cleaning workers only cleaned the trash but ignored rice. She understood that it was difficult to enforce law. Moreover, she had been scolded for advising the feeders not to feed birds at that place. Even so, she still hoped that the department would strengthen law enforcement; and
- (c) discarded bulky furniture had also been found in Shek Mun Estate. The frequency of garbage collection by garbage trucks was low. Even if the Estate Management Office was required to report to the FEHD, they would not arrange refuse collection vehicles to clear the scene until the next day, resulting in mosquito infestation and other hygiene problems. She wanted to know if it was attributed to the problem of resources or the problem of routing arrangements of garbage trucks.

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

- (a) many members gave positive comments on the work of the FEHD just now. The work of the FEHD covered a wide range of areas. However, as its work was most closely associated with people's livelihood, it was easy for the public to note the effectiveness and to reflect their opinions. As an elected member, he had received many opinions from residents on the work of the FEHD. Later, the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene would attend the general meeting of the DC and the members could discuss the work of the FEHD more comprehensively;
- (b) regarding shop front extension, the department issued 2 090 fixed penalty notices in Hong Kong with only 15 issued in Sha Tin. He asked whether the number of notices issued in Sha Tin was relatively small. He had reported to the Superintendent on different occasions that after implementation of relevant laws, the situation in Tai Wai had not been improved but even worsened. With this regard, he asked the department about the future plans for law enforcement;
- (c) the department had corresponding measures to deal with the easy-mount frames, but failed to deal with illegal display of posters effectively. He often received complaints from the public. The posters contained the merchants' names, telephone numbers and addresses. He asked why the department did not call the merchants to warn them. He hoped that the department could strengthen efforts in dealing with the problem;
- (d) many estates complained that the FEHD had acted slowly in collection of garbage and often asked the FEHD whether it could send more garbage trucks to clean up wastes. During economic boom, many residents would renovate their homes or replace old furniture. If the wastes were not cleaned up in a timely manner, it would cause hygiene problem. Moreover, as the FEHD did not collect construction wastes, he believed that the FEHD should educate the public on how to deal with the construction wastes;

- (e) with regard to indiscriminate urination and defecation of animals, the laws did not have provisions for handling of such problems. Without support of laws, it was very hard to resolve the hygiene problem of emission of odours on streets. In addition, he had always paid attention to the problems of hygiene and odour on footbridges and in subways. It seemed that the situation had not been improved; and
- (f) he was pleased that installation of air-conditioners in Tai Wai Market could really see a ray of hope. However, Tai Wai Market was located at the busy town centre of Tai Wai. If the hygiene conditions in the market were not improved, the town appearance would be affected. In the long run, he hoped that the FEHD would actively study the construction of a municipal service complex.

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

- (a) yesterday, a hotel complained to him that there were many rats in the planter at the bus station of New Town Plaza Phase III opposite the hotel. The rats usually scampered to Sha Tin Park. He wondered why rats had appeared even though there were no restaurants or food wastes there. He said that he had reported to the Superintendent of FEHD a few years ago that the FEHD should figure out why more rats had suddenly appeared there while conducting rodent elimination work;
- (b) when he had late night snacks with several other members in Sha Kok Estate at 12:00 midnight after a meeting previously, he saw more than a dozen rats scampering from Sha Kok Estate to the roadside food stalls. He did not know whether he should reflect this problem to the FEHD or the Housing Department. He hoped that the two departments would strengthen cooperation. In addition, Lek Yuen Estate was also confronted with the rat problem that had attracted attention from parents. He hoped that the department would follow up on that;
- (c) there were weeds on both sides of the exit of Man Lai Court, leading to mosquito problems. The area was under the purview of MTR Corporation Limited (MTR). He asked whether the FEHD would coordinate with MTR and ask MTR to clear the weeds on a regular basis. The weeds on both sides of Shing Mun River and the stagnant water in many building sites had resulted in mosquito problems. He hoped the FEHD would follow up on that;
- (d) under the footbridge from Man Lai Court to Tai Wai, many people fed stray cats and dogs, affecting environmental hygiene. He hoped the FEHD would follow up on that;
- (e) the refuse collection points at Chek Nai Ping Village, Fo Tan and Man Lam Road were black spots of discarded construction wastes. He hoped that the FEHD would consider installing webcams in these places;
- (f) regarding disposal of publicity materials on the streets, he asked the FEHD whether prosecutions could be made if there was an address on the publicity materials and prosecutions could not be made if there was no address. He and

many other members had also been prosecuted. Most of the time, there was only a telephone number without address on the publicity materials. He asked if no prosecution should be made against these publicity materials; and

- (g) every autumn and winter, itinerant hawkers selling fried chestnuts could be seen at the MTR exits and the smoke generated affected the pedestrians. If these hawkers were licensed, he asked the FEHD whether it had any measures for prohibiting them from hawking at the MTR exits.

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

- (a) some people often scrawled in Tai Wai to publicise repair service for induction cookers, for which public funds would be needed for cleaning. He hoped all departments would actively follow up and warn or prosecute the graffiti offenders. He asked the department about the criteria to be used in deciding whether or not to prosecute those who put up bills and whether the prosecution was made based on the phone number or address on the bills. The department sometimes accused the members of displaying bills. However, he asked how the department knew if the bills were printed and posted by members themselves or posted by others;
- (b) the police said that prosecution could only be made against those who were found scrawling or putting up bills on the spot. He knew that the procedures for application by the FEHD for duty performance by plain-clothes officers were complicated. He hoped that the FEHD would review and simplify the procedures; and
- (c) as it was getting hot, wild boars' excrement on the mountain behind King Tin Court gave out odour. He hoped that the FEHD would clear the excrement as soon as possible.

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

- (a) many shared bicycles had been parked at the pedestrian access in Hin Tin Village near Hin Keng Street. She would like to know what role the FEHD played in the issue of bicycle sharing;
- (b) summer was approaching. Although drainage pipes could be installed for air-conditioners in private housing estates, the drainage pipes might be clogged. Drainage pipes had been installed for air-conditioners in Ka Tin Court and Hin Keng Estate in Hin Ka constituency. However, she often received quite a number of complaints about dripping water from air-conditioners in summer. She would like to know whether the FEHD could provide figures on the cases of dripping water from air-conditioners and whether the FEHD had issued penalty tickets or given warnings;
- (c) there were a large number of private housing estates in Sha Tin District. In some places, the environmental hygiene was rather poor. She asked whether the FEHD had conducted surprise inspections, issued penalty tickets or given warnings. These figures were important because they could help residents in the estates and others know which aspects of the environmental hygiene of the

estates needed to be improved; and

- (d) she appreciated the FEHD for prosecuting the citizens who fed wild boars in the district. It could help reduce the occurrence of wild boars in the district. She had recently received a complaint that bird droppings were found outside the units on above 30th floor in private housing estates. She asked if the FEHD could follow up on that.

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

- (a) he was concerned about mosquito and midge problems. Midge problem was serious at the bus stops in his constituency. Even though the FEHD had stuck anti-midge patches nearby, some of them had lost effectiveness. He hoped the FEHD would follow up. Construction was underway in a site on Po Tai Street. He hoped that the FEHD would step up patrolling efforts to ensure that there was no stagnant water that could cause mosquito problems;
- (b) with regard to the pilot plan of installation of webcams, there was a refuse collection point next to Tai Shui Hang Village where construction wastes were illegally dumped from time to time. A webcam had been installed previously and satisfactory results had been achieved, but later it was removed for various reasons. He hoped that the FEHD would increase resources to install webcams at the places similar to the refuse collection point in Tai Shui Hang Village to prevent such a behaviour;
- (c) with regard to illegal parking of bicycles, even if the FEHD and other departments made concerted efforts and spent quite a long time, they could only deal with the bicycles in only several places. However, there were many illegally parked bicycles in the entire Sha Tin District and many of them were broken, which affected the environmental hygiene. He hoped that the FEHD would increase manpower and resources to follow up on that;
- (d) the FEHD had a wide scope of work and its work was closely related to the life of the public. He hoped that the Superintendent could continue to strive for more manpower and resources to cope with the environmental hygiene problems in Sha Tin, such as removing illegally parked bicycles; and
- (e) matters requiring cooperation between different departments still had room for improvement. For example, the pedestrian subways and footbridges under the jurisdiction of the Highways Department were cleaned by the outsourced cleaning contractors. However, they were not professional enough, so that the environmental hygiene of the pedestrian subways and footbridges was poor. He hoped that the FEHD would help follow up.

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

- (a) he was concerned about the rodent problem. The FEHD and private housing estates dealt with this problem on their own ways, and rats would flee to private housing estates. He asked whether the FEHD could work together with the community parties such as DC Members and mutual aid committees to jointly resolve the problem;

- (b) since the rainy season was approaching, he was concerned about the mosquito problem. The mosquito problem in Ma On Shan continued to be serious. He asked the department what measures it could take to resolve the problem and whether it could work closely with the estates to jointly inspect the places where stagnant water was easily accumulated; and
- (c) many members were dissatisfied with the public markets managed by the FEHD. The authorities proposed to increase rents for public market tenants at the Legislative Council but the management quality did not improve after rent increase. He had personally asked the political assistant of the Food and Health Bureau whether reference could be made to markets run by private operators, such as payment by using Octopus cards.

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

- (a) the rodent problem in Mei Tin Estate was getting worse. Some residents reported that rats had entered the homes of residents living at lower floors in Mei Ting House and Mei Chuen House. He hoped that the FEHD and the Housing Department would work together to address the problem;
- (b) the mosquito and midge problems in Mei Tin Estate, Park View Garden and Granville Garden were serious since these places were adjacent to the hillsides. He hoped that the FEHD would step up its anti-mosquito efforts;
- (c) the problem of cleansing at Heung Fan Liu Street, Mei Tin Road and Pik Tin Street had been reported to the FEHD for many times. He asked if the FEHD could provide the time of street cleansing by the contractors so that members could monitor the cleansing services;
- (d) installation of air conditioners in Tai Wai Market had been planned for a period of time. Residents and merchants were really looking forward to that. He hoped that the FEHD could speed up the progress;
- (e) as residents gradually moved into Mei Tin Estate, the volume of household refuse increased and the number of garbage trucks arranged by the FEHD currently were insufficient to cope with that. He hoped that more garbage trucks would be deployed by the FEHD; and
- (f) illegal parking of shared bicycles appeared in Mei Tin Estate and its vicinity. The bicycles were parked orderly, which showed the operators' intentional violations of the law. Moreover, such phenomenon had continuously spread to other housing estates. He hoped that the FEHD and other departments would face this problem squarely.

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

- (a) she said that before serving as a DC Member, she had already reported that construction wastes constantly appeared at the refuse collection point at Shan Mei Street in the Fo Tan area. Although the FEHD had stepped up efforts for issuing penalty tickets, no improvement had been seen. She hoped that the FEHD would consider installing webcams there to resolve the problem;

- (b) at present, dogs' excrement had been found on Lok King Street and other streets, giving out odour when the weather was hot. She knew that the FEHD could not prosecute the dog owners for indiscriminate urination and defecation of their dogs. Therefore, she asked if there were any more effective detergents for cleansing the streets and whether penalty tickets could be issued. In her opinion, the BBQ site behind Ficus Garden was not suitable for dog walking. The FEHD should often educate the public to be civic-minded;
- (c) she had striven to improve the BBQ site behind Ficus Garden five years ago. Relevant improvement work would be implemented this year. However, there were mosquito problems on slopes beside the BBQ site. She hoped the FEHD could make improvements;
- (d) a tributary of Shing Mun River from Fo Tan MTR Station Exit B to Fo Tan Village was full of sludge and rubbish. She asked how often the FEHD would clean it and whether the FEHD could arrange cleaning as soon as possible; and
- (e) some residents reported that they had seen staff of the FEHD's contractors take the items for recycling in the recycling bins on Lok King Street as their own. She asked how the FEHD would prevent the contractors' staff from selling the items for recycling.

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

- (a) he appreciated the Superintendent and his team for their efficient work. For example, he previously reported that there were dead rats in his constituency, which were followed up on immediately. He particularly praised the officers of Group 7 for he had recently seen them take the initiative to clean the rubbish in the ditches and on the slopes; and
- (b) many residents discarded large-sized furniture and refuses, increasing the workload of the FEHD and affecting the environmental hygiene. Therefore, he held that the FEHD should strengthen public education and publicity. He opined that Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) was operated with public funds and was therefore a government department. He hoped that the Superintendent could consider discussing with RTHK to educate the public to reduce wastes from sources by making use of its platform.

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

- (a) he appreciated the Superintendent and his team for their cleansing work in Ma On Shan. The work of the FEHD was important and tedious. He still hoped to keep close cooperation with the Superintendent and his team, especially in prevention of mosquito and rodent problems. Mosquito problems were rampant at Double Cove recently. He hoped the FEHD would strengthen efforts to deal with that;
- (b) pet keeping was allowed in Wu Kai Sha Village, Double Cove and Lake Silver in his constituency. During humid months in the spring, the pets' excrement gave out an unpleasant odour, especially in the pedestrian subways and the place adjacent to Exit B at Wu Kai Sha MTR Station. He hoped that the

FEHD would strengthen efforts for cleansing of these places. He knew that pet owners could not be prosecuted for public urination of pets and prosecutions could only be made against pet owners for their pets' open defecation. He hoped that the FEHD would strengthen publicity, education and law enforcement. With regard to publicity and education, he suggested that the FEHD should print and put up more posters;

- (c) the problem of smoking in the surrounding area of Lake Silver was more serious than before. Sometimes, staff needed to use water to put out the cigarette butts in the ashtrays on the top of trash cans. He hoped that the Tobacco Control Office, the FEHD and other departments could strengthen efforts for law enforcement and handling; and
- (d) he was pleased that the FEHD would increase the number of street washing vehicles and manpower for cleansings in July. He hoped that the FEHD could step up the cleaning of Lake Silver, Wu Kai Sha Beach and the natural coastline.

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

- (a) he appreciated the FEHD for its active handling of the installation of air-conditioners in Tai Wai Market. However, this project had been delayed for some time. The residents had been waiting for it for a long time. He hoped that the FEHD could speed up dealing with that. The merchants hoped that the FEHD could provide some rent concessionary measures when the installation of air-conditioners commenced;
- (b) there were a large number of tenement buildings in Tai Wai. Many people piled up sundries in the back alleys without permission, causing stagnant water and mosquito problems. He hoped that the FEHD would speed up dealing with that;
- (c) the trash cans in some places with heavier pedestrian flows in Tai Wai, such as Sun Chui Estate, Hung Mui Kuk Road and the section of road opposite Standard Chartered Bank on Tai Wai Road, were often full. He hoped that the FEHD would speed up clearing work;
- (d) some members mentioned that people often scrawled to publicise repair service of induction cookers in Tai Wai. He said that he had previously cooperated with the Highways Department and the police and arrested a graffiti offender. The FEHD could contact the police if it needed more information;
- (e) some friends told him that he/she had smelt a strong odour when driving by the junction between Yuen Wo Road and Fo Tan Road and the junction between Tai Chung Kiu Road and Fo Tan Road over the years. He hoped that the FEHD would investigate it and follow up;
- (f) some residents had complained that FEHD's contractors did not use a shield when cleansing with water cannon and the situation persisted. He hoped the FEHD would follow up;

- (g) dogs often urinated and defecated anywhere on the footbridge of Tai Wai MTR Station near Festival City. Although the FEHD had provided more dog excreta collection bins and mounted signages, the situation had not improved; and
- (h) many residents in Sun Chui Estate reported that rats had entered the low-rise flats and lift shafts. He hoped that the FEHD would handle the problem.

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

- (a) he appreciated the Superintendent for efficient work. Regarding feeding of wild animals, he understood that it could be solved only through prosecution by the FEHD based on charge of littering. However, he seldom saw the staff of the FEHD enforce the law. As a result, the wildlife problem became more and more serious in Tai Wai. He asked whether the FEHD had enforced the law and initiated prosecutions;
- (b) there was a strong demand for installation of air-conditioners in Tai Wai Market. He hoped that the FEHD would follow up as soon as possible;
- (c) as summer was approaching, mosquito problems became rampant in Mei Tin Estate, Mei Lam Estate, Mei Chung Court, May Shing Court, Mei Ying Court and Mei Pak Court since these places were near the mountains. Last year, he sent a letter to the FEHD to ask about the location of ovitraps installed in Tai Wai. The FEHD's reply showed that the ovitraps were concentrated in Tai Wai town centre. There were fewer mosquito cups in the hillside, such as the neighboring area of Mei Chung Court. He hoped that the FEHD could install more mosquito cups to make the index more objective;
- (d) in the vicinity of Pik Tin Street and Heung Fan Liu Street, people often discarded sundries on the streets and there were quite a lot of excrement of wild animals and pets. He hoped the FEHD would pay attention to this problem; and
- (e) a complaint was just received from a resident that there was a lot of rubbish at No.B01 water pipe at the junction of Mei Tin Road and Tung Lo Wan Hill Road. He hoped that the FEHD would clear the rubbish as soon as possible.

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

- (a) citizens who took their dogs for a walk at Lok King Street recently were not civic-minded, therefore there was lots of dog excrement on the streets. A lady complained to him about stepping on the excrement on her way to work. He hoped that the FEHD would step up prosecutions against dog owners regardless of defecation or urination of dogs. He suggested that the FEHD should change the BBQ site behind Ficus Garden into a place for dog walking. In addition, there was a lot of rubbish on the slope next to the BBQ site. He asked the FEHD to clean up immediately; and
- (b) wild pigeon and boar problems could not be ignored as they might cause germs. The problem of wild pigeon was serious in his constituency. He asked

if the FEHD would consider enacting legislation to deal with the problem of wild pigeons. The wild pigeons were terrified of light. He asked if the FEHD could make a study on expelling them by using strong light, such as flashbang used for seeking help.

37. The views of Mr WONG Ka-wing were summarised below:

- (a) there had been various drainage projects in Sha Tin in recent years. When the soil was stirred up, many rats came out. Recently, complaints had been received about rats entering low-rise residential units. He knew that the problems of rats in private housing estates or public housing estates were handled by different departments, respectively. However, no significant results would be achieved if different departments worked in their own way. He advised the STDO or the FEHD to take the lead to take joint actions with other departments and estates;
- (b) in respect of the problem of water dripping from air-conditioners, there was a demerit point system for public housing estates. However, in respect of private housing estates, since the management companies could not enter the houses in general and the FEHD needed to enter the houses to take photos as evidence, it took a rather long time to deal with that. He asked whether it was legally permissible that the FEHD could initiate prosecution immediately after the management offices had taken some photos and submitted them to the FEHD as evidence. If the department could simplify the procedures, disputes arising from many similar cases could be solved; and
- (c) it was found recently that a large itinerant hawker stall near PWH had obstructed the road. He suggested that the FEHD should arrange a place that would not block the road for these itinerant hawkers to set up stalls, in order to reduce disputes and nuisances.

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

- (a) he appreciated the FEHD staff for their close cooperation and active follow-up so far;
- (b) with regard to the pilot scheme for installing webcams, he and FEHD officers had previously visited the refuse collection point in Sha Tin Wai New Village. Although a fence had been added currently, construction wastes and furniture trash were discarded next to the fence. He asked whether the FEHD would consider installing webcams in this place;
- (c) the problem of wild pigeons at the place opposite the roadside food stalls on Sha Kok Street was serious. The FEHD said it would not tolerate such cases and would prosecute the offenders based on the charge of littering. He asked whether the FEHD would first advise them before making a prosecution or directly prosecute them;
- (d) as summer was approaching, mosquito and midge problems were rampant. Previously, he and the Superintendent had made a visit to a few black spots at Sha Kok Street. He hoped that the FEHD would coordinate with the Housing

Department and Link Asset Management Limited (Link) to tackle the problem. The problem of rats along the roadside food stalls of Sha Kok Estate was serious. He hoped that the FEHD would step up efforts to cleanse the streets; and

- (e) many bicycles had been illegally parked for many days on the footbridge from Sha Kok Estate to Garden Rivera, obstructing the roads, but no clearing action by the department was seen. He asked how the department would deal with illegal parking of shared bicycles and hoped that the department would join hands with the STDO and District Lands Office/Shia Tin (DLO/ST) to take joint actions to tackle it.

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

- (a) stagnant water could often be seen in a swimming pool in the scout camp at Shui Chuen Au Street, which became a black spot of mosquito problems. He hoped that the department could obtain a understanding and provide advice to relevant agencies;
- (b) it was a good idea to carry out a pilot program for installing webcams. Construction wastes and large furniture wastes had always been dumped at Sha Tin Wai New Village Refuse Collection Point. Sometimes, a garbage truck could not load them all at one time. Those who were not civic-minded discarded mud and a thousand cans of expired coffee at Tsang Tai Uk Refuse Collection Point from time to time. He hoped the department would consider installing webcams at these two black spots; and
- (c) last week, the departments took joint actions to inspect the mosquito and rodent situation and found that the entire Sha Kok Street was full of bicycles, large sundries, canvas and second-hand refrigerators. They would notify the FEHD or call 1823 when they saw that scenario, but the progress was slow. He hoped that departments could enhance efforts to take joint actions to clean up the streets so as to improve mosquito and rodent problems.

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

- (a) many parks such as Yuen Chau Kok Park around Belair Gardens in his constituency were mosquito breeding black spots. There were many schools near Kong Pui Street Rest Garden. Many parents said that they had been bitten by mosquitoes when they were waiting for school buses or passing by the park. In addition, he wondered why the rodent problem this year was particularly serious. Since the beginning of the year, he had received more than 10 complaints about rodent infestation. He hoped that the FEHD would pay attention to this;
- (b) pedestrian subways were poor ventilated and odour could be smelt all the time. He hoped that the FEHD would step up cleansing;
- (c) many bicycles were parked on ramps of the footbridge from Greenfield Court to Sha Kok Estate. He hoped that the FEHD would carry out clearing action; and

- (d) large household wastes were often discarded on the streets of Garden Rivera. He hoped that the FEHD would pay attention to this.

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

- (a) he had previously reported to the Superintendent about the garbage collection time of the garbage trucks in Pok Hong Estate. Some residents complained that the refuse collection time was too early and the low-rise households were woken up by garbage trucks. He hoped that the FEHD could ask the contractor to postpone the garbage collection time until 7:30 am, so as not to disturb residents' sleep;
- (b) there was a refuse collection point in Pok Hong Estate, but it could not meet the needs most of the time. Now, the FEHD sent garbage trucks for clearing about once every ten days, which was not enough. He asked if the FEHD could increase resources to send more garbage trucks to clean up the garbage; and
- (c) the rodent problems in Pok Hong Estate and Sha Kok Estate were serious. He knew that the management company and the Housing Department were responsible for anti-rodent works in the estates. However, he hoped that the FEHD would step up cleansing the peripheral facilities of the estates, such as ditches and planters.

42. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) in response to the question raised by Mr LI Sai-hung about emission of odour on Yuen Wo Road and Fo Tan Road, he said that the odour came from the drainage works opposite Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education;
- (b) construction wastes were subject to follow-up by the EPD. Prosecutions would be instituted if a webcam recorded dumping of construction wastes by vehicles. He heard some frontline officers said that if the vehicle owners pleaded not guilty, it would be difficult for the EPD to enforce the law;
- (c) the FEHD would institute prosecutions against illegal posting of posters. The FEHD would issue penalty tickets to members after it removed the posters of the members. He asked about the prosecution standards, and whether prosecution was made against the poster owner or the person who posted the posters. If the prosecution was made against the poster owner, how to prove that the poster belonged to the poster owner whom the FEHD intended to initiate prosecution against; if the prosecution was made against the person who posted the posters, how to prove who had posted the posters;
- (d) he had learned from FEHD staff that the FEHD's webcams were only an auxiliary tool serving as a deterrent and to obtain evidence. Prosecutions could not be made unless there were human testimony and material evidence. He was very worried that after installation of webcams by FEHD, whether the laws could allow immediate prosecutions against those who disposed wastes as recorded by the webcams; and

- (e) the garbage levy scheme was led by the EPD and supported by the FEHD. He also heard that the Housing Department might become a force of resistance to the introduction of the garbage levy scheme because problems related to tenancy and others were involved. He hoped that several departments would jointly discuss relevant work before implementation of the garbage levy scheme.

43. Mr Simon WONG, Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin) responded that the promotion and collaboration group under the District-led Actions Scheme mainly used the provisions under the financial plan of the past year for enhancing mosquito elimination work in the district. He would bring the views of members back to the group for discussion, consider extending the scope of work where resources permitted, and also explore implementation of some works needing no resources, such as coordination.

44. The views of Mr Eric TSAI were summarised below:

- (a) he appreciated the members for their comments. He had already recorded the problems of individual areas and places and would follow up after the meeting;
- (b) regarding mosquito problem, both the STDO and the FEHD had now set up a collaborative group which held a meeting once a month and gathered relevant departments to discuss anti-mosquito work;
- (c) regarding publicity and education, the department concentrated its resources on primary and secondary schools in Sha Tin in 2015 and 2016, explained the anti-mosquito activities to responsible teachers and workers, and conducted field inspections with them in the schools to point out the places which were more vulnerable to mosquito breeding and remind them to pay attention. This year, the department was inviting estate managers and some kindergartens adjacent to hillsides and green belts to explain anti-mosquito work and make field visits;
- (d) some members mentioned that ovitraps were needed in some places. He had also been reporting members' opinions to the FEHD's Pest Control Advisory Section, which conducted annual reviews to provide additional ovitraps in different regions of Hong Kong based on resources and demands. In the past two years, extra ovitraps had also been provided in Sha Tin;
- (e) regarding rodent problems, the Pest Control Teams of the FEHD would work with the Housing Department to organise seminars with estate managers, Link staff and their cleaning workers, and conduct field inspections in the estates to teach them how to control rodents. He would arrange for colleagues of the Teams to visit the regions with more serious rodent problems mentioned by the members first to carry out relevant work;
- (f) recently, a community anti-rodent campaign had been launched, covering areas such as back alleys of tenement buildings in Tai Wai and Tai Wai Market as mentioned by members just now, to strengthen the anti-rodent work;

- (g) the department was now installing webcams in Yuen Long, Sham Shui Po and Central and Western District on a trial basis. He would report the views of the members and make a further review after the test was completed in June;
- (h) with regard to putting up posters and leaflets, under the existing laws, the department could make prosecutions against the beneficiaries of the leaflets. After removing the leaflets, the department's officers would try to track relevant beneficiaries to warn them and take statements from them. However, it was difficult to track the beneficiaries as there was only a mobile phone number on the leaflets in most cases. On the other hand, if anyone was found posting leaflets, the department could issue a fixed penalty notice with a fine of \$1,500 to the poster on the spot. The method for dealing with the publicity materials of members was different from that for dealing with ordinary posters. That was, officers of the DLO/ST would first go to the site and identify and verify the publicity materials displayed without permission or out of compliance with the implementation guidelines, and then the FEHD officers would remove them and send letters to the members;
- (i) in respect of street cleansing, the department would increase the number of street washing vehicles and water cannon teams in July. As for the planters on the roadside or in the middle of the road, the new contract would require contractors to take safety measures such as arrangement of street command vehicles to facilitate workers' clean-up work;
- (j) in respect of installation of air-conditioners in Tai Wai Market, it was expected that funding application for this project would be examined and approved by the Legislative Council in 2018. If the funding application was approved, the project was expected to be commenced at the end of 2018;
- (k) the Highways Department was responsible for cleansing of footbridges and subways. However, if animal feces or vomitus were found on the footbridges and in the subways, the FEHD would clear them in specific sites;
- (l) the FEHD collected trash from estates in Sha Tin every day. As for collection of large-scaled wastes, the FEHD and the estates would make arrangements according to actual needs;
- (m) the FEHD mainly provided manpower and vehicles to assist the DLO/ST in clearing illegally parked bicycles on the streets;
- (n) the FEHD often arranged for plain-clothes officers to make inspections on feeding of wild animals in different locations. Prosecutions could be successfully made in certain locations. However, after a period of time, people feeding wild animals could identify the plain-clothes officers;
- (o) in respect of publicity and education, the FEHD appointed "Keep Clean Ambassador Ah Tak" as a clean ambassador of Hong Kong and also printed a variety of leaflets and posters regarding mosquito and rodent control. He welcomed the members to contact the FEHD for relevant leaflets and posters when necessary;

- (p) the trash cans on the streets were not originally provided for merchants or citizens to discard commercial or domestic wastes. The FEHD would continue to strengthen publicity and education. The Bill on Municipal Solid Waste Charging had just been submitted by the Environment Bureau to the Legislative Council for discussion. The FEHD would continue to discuss with relevant departments about relevant arrangements; and
- (q) the department would continue to follow up on the problem of shop front extensions in Tai Wai. After implementation of the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance, a total of 15 fixed penalty notices were issued in Sha Tin. The number was almost the same as that in other districts which had similar situation to Sha Tin. In some districts, the situation was particularly serious. For example, a larger number of fixed penalty notices were issued in Yuen Long District, Sham Shui Po District and North District.

45. Members noted the above paper.

Proposal for Refurbishing Shek Kwu Lung Village Public Toilet
(Paper No. HE 26/2017)

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

47. Mr Tiger WONG said he was concerned about the temporary toilet arrangements during the renovation of Shek Kwu Lung Village Public Toilet and hoped that the department could pay attention to the hygiene of the temporary toilets.

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

- (a) the paper stated that priority would be given to renovation of public toilets with high daily usage rate or locating at tourist spots. He remembered that the public toilet in Mui Tsz Lam Village had been once renovated and was subsequently proposed to be demolished. This renovation project would cost over \$1.7 million and he was worried that it would waste money if the public toilet was demolished after renovation. He asked how daily usage rate was calculated, whether it was based on emissions or the number of users, and where the tourist spots were;
- (b) he asked whether the village had sewers. If not, there should be a septic tank. He would like to know if the renovation project aimed to renovate the appearance only or refurbish the aqua privy into a toilet with sewers; and
- (c) Leisure and Cultural Services Department had set up barrier-free accesses in certain places, but they could only be used after passing the bottom stair and performed no function actually. He asked whether the barrier-free access to this public toilet could really enable the public to use the toilet without barriers.

49. Mr Eric TSAI responded that the department would pay attention to the cleanliness of temporary toilets. The department would renovate some dilapidated public toilets, and the usage rate was calculated based on the number of users. There would be no step outside the barrier-free access to the Shek Kwu Lung Village Public Toilet. However, before entering

the village, people needed to go up a ramp first. This was the natural terrain of this village. However, the department had tried its best to facilitate the public in design. Shek Kwu Lung Village Public Toilet had connected to sewage drains.

50. The Chairman said that Mr Alvin LEE had returned to the meeting room. Members unanimously endorsed the cancellation of Mr Alvin LEE's application for leave of absence.

Charter on External Lighting
(Paper No. HE 27/2017)

51. The Chairman welcomed Mrs Dorothy MA CHOW, Principal Assistant Secretary (Energy) and Ms Fanny CHEUNG, Assistant Secretary (Energy) 1 of Environment Bureau to the meeting.

52. Mrs Dorothy MA CHOW gave brief introduction to the paper.

53. The views of Mr WONG Ka-wing were summarised below:

- (a) he agreed with the concept of Charter. It was the general trend to reduce light pollution, but he did not think the contents of the Chapter were sufficient. Under the existing Charter, merchants were required to turn off their lights between 11:00 pm and 7:00 am and would be granted the platinum award if they did so. If they turned off their lights after 12:00 am, they would be granted the gold award. He learned that there were currently about 277 participating merchants in Sha Tin. Most of them were large chain stores, most of which closed business from 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm;
- (b) in the light of technological advancements, most signage lights of large chain stores were LED lights, which were brighter and more colourful and cost-effective as compared with those used before. Three industrial buildings in Shek Mun had installed LED lights on their outer walls, causing nuisance to residents of City One Sha Tin. One of the industrial buildings received had been complained against many times but still insisted on turning off the lights until midnight. They could still be granted the gold award even if they turned off the lights after 12.00 am. He doubted the influence of the Charter on energy saving and light pollution reduction. He hoped the bureau would bring forward the time for turning off the lights; and
- (c) he asked the bureau how to measure the effectiveness of the Charter, whether it had calculated how much energy was saved by the merchants after participating in the Charter, how many merchants that had been complained of light pollution took part in the Charter, and how the merchants being complained against would be punished.

54. The views of Mr Alvin LEE were summarised below:

- (a) regarding light pollution problem, he had already strongly required introducing legislative control three to four years ago. He hoped the government would review the effectiveness of the Charter and the new government would actively consider introducing legislative control over light pollution as soon as possible so as to benefit the public. He would like to

know how many complaints had been received one year after the Charter was implemented. He asked about the effectiveness of the Charter, especially in terms of energy conservation; and

- (b) there were lots of on-street shops in Sha Tin District. Some of the shops located at the crossroads in his constituency had emitted intense lights. No improvement had been made even though the Legislative Council members helped follow up. He asked how the situation should be dealt with if the merchants refused to accept the advice.

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

- (a) he said that Hong Kong was the Pearl of the Orient and lighting could enhance its popularity. A suitable level of lighting could reflect the prosperity of the city. LED lights currently used featured high lux and were very dazzling when flashing. He believed that the use of flashing lights should be banned, but it was unnecessary to enact laws for everything and rectification and adjustment should be made based on the market demand. He asked whether any assessment had been made regarding the impact of implementation of the Charter on the tourism industry; and
- (b) he said that if a resident living in Sceneway Garden thought that the lights emitted at Victoria Harbour were dazzling, whether the entire Victoria Harbour should participate in the Charter. He believed that a study should be made to identify which levels of luminosity would be glaring to people, so as to regulate the lights with such luminosity.

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

- (a) he had received a complaint that the billboard light on the outer wall of the 30th floor of Topsail Plaza in Shek Mun was turned off at about midnight, affecting nearby residents. This company was not included in the Charter. He asked whether the plaza or the company responsible for the advertisement should sign the Charter in such cases; and
- (b) at present, LED lights could save energy but had adverse effect on eyes. He asked whether these lighting advertisements could really help promote the brand of the companies and whether the Bureau could require concerned companies to turn off the lights earlier. It would be desirable if the lights could be turned off before 10:00 pm.

57. Mr LI Sai-hung said that it was a good idea for the bureau to propose the Charter but it was not legally binding and could do nothing to those who did not comply with it. The paper indicated that some shops, such as clinics, were exempted. The bureau believed that the clinics would not produce bright lights. However, in fact, many clinics were open 24 hours a day. He received a complaint that the Town Health Integrated Medical Centre on the ground floor of Tin Po Building, 98 Tai Wai Road, was open for business in the early morning and used spotlights and glaring signboards. Although the clinic was on the ground floor, it had really caused much disturbance to residents on the upstairs. He asked if the department could follow up.

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

- (a) the merchants participating in the Charter were all large corporations, and small and medium-sized enterprises were not included. The bureau should encourage them to participate in the Charter. The awards under the Charter could not provide incentives for the merchants. Moreover, it set out no penalty and had no binding force; and
- (b) some citizens had complained about the light pollution in Tai Wai Industrial Estate. However, the department replied that it had advised the relevant merchants and there was no other procedure for follow-up. When driving by the New Town Plaza at night, she saw strong lights from the display screen of the footbridge, affecting the safety of drivers. She asked the bureau how to encourage merchants to use more eco-friendly light bulbs or dim lights. She hoped that the Bureau would actively study how to regulate it.

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

- (a) he did not know how many merchants participating in the Charter turned off the lights very late before their participation in the Charter. If they had originally turned off the lights before 10:00 pm, they would certainly join the Charter. The members' offices would certainly join the Charter because they were already closed before midnight. In this case, the Charter made little sense. The problem did not lie in whether a participating company was large corporation or not but in how to advise some of the companies that had originally turned off lights very late to participate in the Charter. The bureau might also consider how to encourage companies to replace glaring lighting with soft lighting; and
- (b) Sha Tin was a unique and quiet community. There were railways in the middle of Sha Tin and dwellings were located on both sides of the railways. Residents would close windows to prevent noise. If the curtains were drawn to prevent lighting, the quality of life would be affected. Some residents in Man Lai Court complained that the industrial building on the opposite side hanged flashing advertisement lights, and no improvement was made after lodging complaints. Even worse, the lighting was stronger than before. He hoped that the bureau could consider inviting DC Members to submit the names of merchants and organisations that affected residents in the district, and then inviting these organisations to participate in the Charter and even disclosing the list of the organisations which refused to participate in the Charter, so as to let the public know about the organisations which ignored the public interest for personal gains.

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

- (a) he was very concerned about light pollution in Sha Tin. Sha Tin District was a residential area. He understood that the intention of the Charter was good. The gold award was given to the merchants turning off lights from midnight to 7:00 am and the platinum award was given to those turning off lights from 11:00 pm to 7:00 am. The requirement was rather low. The bureau should consider conducting a review. He found that many merchants and restaurants

in Wu Kai Sha had participated in the Charter, but he knew many of these merchants closed business before 10:00 pm. He had also advised some merchants to reduce light pollution in response to the complaints of residents and they were all very cooperative;

- (b) he had once received requests for assistance, saying that Wu Kwai Sha Youth Village was run by public funds, but sometimes even if the ball court was not in use, the spotlight was not turned off. He agreed with the member's suggestion that the bureau should invite DC Members to provide a name list for the bureau to encourage these organisations, especially public organisations operated by public funds, to participate in the Charter. Since strong light would affect the safety of drivers, the bureau should consider imposing heavier penalties; and
- (c) in his view, the incentives provided by the Charter were too limited and penalties should be established. Otherwise, it would only help the merchants to gain reputation.

61. The views of Mr NG Kam-hung were summarised below:

- (a) he found many merchants participating in the Charter were located in shopping malls, and generally the merchants turned off the lights when the malls closed operation. These merchants did not cause any light pollution. He asked whether the Charter was focused on the light emitted by the business signs in malls or the light pollution caused by the shining signs on streets. He held that the public was concerned about the light pollution caused by the signs on the external walls of the buildings. Previously, Sogo Department Store received complaints about light pollution. It would only be effective when these merchants had participated in the Charter; and
- (b) in his opinion, sparkling light caused serious light pollution and the bureau should deal with it specifically. He asked whether A Symphony of Lights held at Victoria Harbour every night was a kind of light pollution.

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

- (a) before the enactment of legislation, it was better to have a Charter. However, he would like to know when the bureau would enact a law for regulation of light pollution. Some elements could be added to the Charter: First, in terms of time, turning off lights at 11:00 pm and 12:00 pm would still affect residents. He asked if the lights could be turned off earlier. In addition, he asked whether there were any award-winning merchants still being complained about, resulting in self-contradictory;
- (b) the second element that could be added was the effect on drivers. There was a merchant named Mighty Taste Cuisine in Ma On Shan, which was located at the junction of Sai Sha Road and On Yuen Street. He hoped that the bureau would invite the shop to take part in the Charter to reduce the light emissions as the shop was located at a crossroad, affecting many drivers; and

- (c) the third element was to examine whether the lights emitted by the merchants directly radiated to residential buildings. If so, he considered it an infringement affecting residents' health and mental conditions. He asked how the merchants should compensate the residents. In addition, a new mall would be open on Po Tai Street, Ocean View, and there were large LED lamps. He hoped that the bureau could invite the mall to participate in the Charter.

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

- (a) she strongly supported the promotion of environmental protection and the reduction of energy use. It was the responsibility of citizens all over the world. She supported the Charter and was concerned about outdoor lighting issues, but the time for turning off lights could be further reviewed. She asked if the gold award-winning merchants did not turn off the lights on time, how the bureau would handle it. The bureau said that it would conduct a review three years later. She asked whether the Charter could be continuously improved while it was implemented. Enactment of legislation should be considered if no effect was achieved three years later;
- (b) light pollution was caused by large companies most of the time. Currently, there were no incentives for these companies to save energy. She asked whether power companies could be encouraged to adopt progressive tariffs on large merchants without affecting the residents and SMEs, that was, the more electricity they used, the higher the tariff would be; and
- (c) it was good for the public to develop the habit of turning off lights. However, it took a long time to enact a law and she believed that preparations could be made as early as possible.

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

- (a) she supported the Charter but believed that legislative control should be introduced in the long run. After all, the Charter had no binding force. A new policy needed people's support. She believed that positive affirmation should be given to more than 200 merchants participating in the Charter. She believed that targeted actions should be made against those enterprises that had not improved after being complained by citizens; and
- (b) she held that enterprises willing to sign the Charter were conscientious, and the government should provide more assistance for them so as to encourage merchants to participate in the Charter. In her constituency, three merchants had been complained for producing light pollution. One of the merchants was included in the list of the Charter. After the meeting, she would provide the bureau with the names of the remaining two merchants. She hoped that the bureau would follow up.

65. The views of Mr MAK Yun-pui were summarised below:

- (a) the Charter completely had no binding force and deterrent effect. The Charter could make some merchants aware of light pollution, but it was ineffective without tough penalties. He believed that what was important was to consider

how to prevent merchants installing lightboxes producing strong lights in indoor areas. He did not see the bureau had worked out any measures to restrain such merchants;

- (b) this was exactly the case for a merchant named Mighty Taste Cuisine in Ma On Shan. He and the Legislative Council Members had followed up on the case for a long time, but different departments said that there was no way to deal with that. The lights were installed indoors, but those outside the store and drivers were affected. The department responded that it would advise the management company to deal with that. He asked if the case would only be handled after a traffic accident took place, and whether it was because the government worried that many large enterprises having installed light signs outdoors would cease their investment. He hoped that the government would not only implement the Charter, but also enforce the law; and
- (c) he believed that there was room for the bureau to mediate regarding whether it was legal or illegal. What was important was how the bureau would deal with the problem directly and expeditiously. The bureau could work with other departments to find out the negative impact of the lights emitted by Mighty Taste Cuisine on the public and then deal with it. In his opinion, it was a waste of time and money for the bureau to implement the non-binding Charter. He hoped that this was the last time for the bureau to promote the Charter and he hoped that lighting control ordinance could be seen next time.

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

- (a) the Charter was introduced because many merchants emitted a lot of glaring lights currently. Merchants might have participated in the Charter out of consideration of commercial or promotional purposes. At present, it seemed that apart from introduction of legislative control, there was no other method. Therefore, the government should actively consider enacting a law immediately; and
- (b) he had also received many complaints from the public about the restaurant mentioned by the members. He asked if the restaurant would participate in the Charter. The only way to help the public was legislation. He advised that all the merchants should seek the approval of the government before installation of lighting signs indoors. He believed that this would achieve better results.

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

- (a) he was a DC Member serving Ma On Shan. He believed that if Mrs Dorothy MA CHOW was invited to have dinner in Mighty Taste Cuisine, she would understand why members reacted so agitatedly. The light box of Mighty Taste Cuisine was placed inside the restaurant and there were a lot of colored LED light bulbs in the light box, emitting strong light. The restaurant was located on the roadside and adjacent to the traffic lights, which could easily distract the drivers and therefore could cause traffic accidents;
- (b) large companies participating in the Charter closed operation at 11:00 pm and they took part in the Charter for publicity. The Charter could not deal with

some stubborn merchants. Although the bureau had consulted 18 districts, it still failed to handle the existing problems. He questioned the effectiveness of the Charter; and

- (c) the bureau only indicated that it would refer the issue to other departments such as Transport Department for follow-up rather than making coordination, which was disappointing. The bureau said that if the light had a negative impact on road users, it could apply for a court order for removal. However, the department could not find any objective data to prove that the light emitted by Mighty Taste Cuisine affected road safety. He asked the bureau to give detailed measures. He asked whether he and several other members should invite the Secretary for the Environment for a meeting to discuss the handling measures if the bureau failed to solve the problem.

68. Mr Rick HUI believed that the Charter seemed to bring more losses than gains. He did not believe that stubborn merchants would be willing to participate in the Charter. Merchants turning off lights at 12:00 midnight could still be awarded. If merchants were awarded for turning off the lights before 11:00 pm, but in fact the light emitted before the lights were turned off was very disturbing to the public, the Charter seemed to be ineffective.

69. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) the focus did not lie in whether the lights were installed indoors or outdoors, but how they would affect the public. The paper mentioned that it would take about two to three years for assessment. He asked how to assess the effectiveness and under what circumstances laws would be enacted after assessment;
- (b) he agreed with Mr WAI Hing-cheung's proposal to ask DC Members to provide a name list of the merchants who had been complained about, and then the bureau should take a look at how many of these merchants were being invited to participate in the Charter, so as to carry out assessment effectively. What was important was how to attract the merchants who originally were not willing to turn off the lights early to participate in the Charter by use of rewards;
- (c) he hoped that the bureau would improve the Charter after listening to the views of the members. DC Members could help effectively promote the Charter only when they recognised the Charter;
- (d) the bureau mentioned that divergent opinions had been collected. Sha Tin was a residential area. For example, Sha Tin Town Centre was densely populated. Merchants on ground floors of Lucky Plaza and Shatin Centre affected residents on the higher floors. If the bureau interviewed the residents in these places, he believed that it would obtain more consistent views;
- (e) the bureau said that it had a solution to the problem of Mighty Taste Cuisine. He asked Mrs Dorothy MA CHOW whether she could undertake to the HEC that the bureau would help the DC Members follow up on the matter; and

- (f) in his capacity as Chairman of the HEC, he hoped the Bureau would coordinate with other departments in addressing members' concerns over the problem of Mighty Taste Cuisine. After the meeting, he would contact the bureau and hoped that there would be good news later.

70. The responses of Mrs Dorothy MA CHOW were summarised below:

- (a) the former Environment Bureau had consulted the DC about outdoor lighting issues and the Task Force on External Lighting (the Task Force) had conducted in-depth studies including measuring the brightness of lights on the streets and studying the turn-off time. The Task Force also invited stakeholders to express their views, including collecting opinions from the DC;
- (b) the Task Force had received different opinions. Some people believed that laws should be enacted immediately, and most people believed that lighting could promote urban economic development and security. Given divergent opinions, the Task Force recommended that the government should take multi-pronged measures, including the implementation of a voluntary "Charter" plan to encourage all sectors to switch off decorative, promotional or advertising lighting devices that had an impact on the outdoor environment at a preset time. Measures should help enhance public awareness of the issue and gradually bring about changes to all sectors of the society;
- (c) as it took time for the Charter to produce impact, the government also had to accumulate implementation experiences to improve the Charter. The government would assess the effectiveness of the Charter about two to three years after the Charter was introduced, including evaluation on the public opinions on the light nuisance and the reaction to the Charter including the number of participating merchants and the responses of merchants to public complaints. As mentioned just now, some light boxes were located indoors, but their light could radiate to outdoor areas. In fact, the paper mentioned that the Charter could be focused on tackling lighting that had an impact on the outdoor environment;
- (d) the bureau hoped to further promote the Charter and encourage more organisations or merchants to sign the Charter, including introducing the Charter to the DCs, and hoped to enhance local publicity through the network of DC Members. The bureau would follow up on the sites mentioned by the members such as industrial buildings in Tai Wai and certain individual merchants. The bureau also welcomed the members to provide information on other merchants in order to send letters to invite these merchants to sign the Charter;
- (e) the Task Force had made consultations on the turn-off time and set the time at 11:00 pm with reference to the Noise Control Ordinance. Even so, the Task Force had received divergent opinions. Therefore, the bureau hoped to try first and then study earlier turn-off time after everyone had developed the habit. The Charter was not a law and was relatively flexible and could be further reviewed and improved. The primary objective of the bureau was to let all merchants who had outdoor lighting devices know about the Charter. The government would also continue to study overseas legislation experiences for

reference;

- (f) members mentioned that some lights might affect the drivers. Under the existing laws, if any light had a negative impact on the road users, the court might issue an order to remove the light. Members could report to the bureau and the bureau would refer the cases to the Transport Department and the police for follow-up action;
- (g) the Task Force had conducted field studies on the measurement of luminosity. However, due to technical difficulties in testing and reading, divergent degrees were obtained when testing with different colours and angles, and it was difficult to obtain objective and accurate figures;
- (h) the bureau had made a study on whether encouragement of turning off lights would have an impact on economy and it was hard to obtain objective data. If the organisations that had signed the Charter needed to provide information on electricity costs, many merchants might be reluctant to sign. Out of consideration of privacy, the power companies would not provide the bureau with electricity bills of the merchants, and she understood that the merchants would not calculate the electricity costs of the lights separately; and
- (i) prior to the awards ceremony, the bureau would conduct an investigation on the turn-off time of organisations that had signed the Charter to confirm whether the participating organisations had fulfilled the requirements of the Charter. If it was found that any organisations failed to fulfill the Charter, the bureau would remind the relevant organisations to turn off the outdoor lighting at the promised preset time and conduct further field investigations. If any participating organisation failed to fulfill the Charter after it was reminded and advised, the Environment Bureau would remove its name from the list of participants in the Charter programme.

71. Mr LI Sai-wing and Mr MAK Yun-pui proposed the following suggestions:

“A restaurant called Mighty Taste Cuisine Chicken Pot in Ma On Shan had installed a very glaring large light box facing the road outside its door, seriously affecting residents and even posing a threat to drivers.

The Health and Environment Committee of the Sha Tin District Council strongly urges the government to deal with the above case and immediately enact laws to regulate outdoor lighting at the same time.”

Questions

Question to be Raised by Ms PONG Scarlett Oi-lan on Sale of Liquor
(Paper No. HE 28/2017)

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

- (a) the World Health Organization defined alcohol as a carcinogen. As a pharmacist, she was always concerned about underage drinking and monitored whether retail stores in the industry had strictly complied with relevant codes

to protect young people from the harms of alcohol. In March and April this year, in cooperation with Fortune REIT, she interviewed more than 1 000 citizens. Nearly 50% of the respondents had consumed alcohol before the age of 18. Juvenile respondents with drinking habits said they consumed alcohol every day in the past month while more than 80% of them used much alcoholic drinks in the past month, reflecting the fact that minors drunk more often than adults and were more affected by alcohol;

- (b) this year, she dispatched three underage voluntary investigators (one was 15 years old and two were six years old) to buy alcoholic beverages at convenience stores and supermarkets in Sha Tin. The success rate was 89.3%, which was doubled as compared with that in 2015 and was also higher than that (82%) in 2016. The 15-year-old investigator was rather tall. It was understandable that she was mistaken for an adult. However, 80% success rate of liquor purchase by two six-year-old children reflected the unsatisfactory performance of merchants in complying with the code and staff training;
- (c) last year, she proposed law enactment to Mr KO Wing-man, Secretary for Food and Health at the Steering Committee on Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases. The government finally put forward this issue at the Legislative Council in April this year. She hoped that the government would set up a panel or committee to monitor the sale of alcoholic beverages by Hong Kong merchants, especially alcoholic beverages with juice tastes; and
- (d) she added that at that time, the Octopus cards carried by the aforesaid young volunteers had no remaining value. The purpose of the investigation was mainly to make them aware of the loopholes in the system, and had nothing to do with abetting children to drink.

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

- (a) he asked whether the Department of Health could provide information on alcohol treatment work or centre and alcohol abuse; and
- (b) it was often discussed in the community that drinking red wine was good for health. If the Department of Health could strengthen publicity to redress any misunderstanding, better effect might be achieved.

74. Mr MAK Yun-pui said drinking itself was not illegal. However, he believed that it was arguable to ask two 6-year-old volunteers to buy wines for investigation and such a move might encourage underage people to buy liquor in disguise. He believed that if any members conducted similar investigations, they should inform the DC in advance. Drinking was hazardous to health and he called on everyone to drink less.

75. The responses of Dr Taron LOH, Senior Medical and Health Officer (Community Liaison) 1 of Department of Health were summarised below:

- (a) the government had always been concerned about the effects of drinking alcohol on health of Hong Kong people. In October 2011, the Working Group on Alcohol and Health in which the Department of Health served as

Secretariat launched the Action Plan to Reduce Alcohol-related Harm in Hong Kong, which included priority areas, specific recommendations and measures. Priority areas included building partnerships, and fostering and strengthening the public's ability to prevent and control alcohol-related harms, as well as formulating and supporting the laws to promote health. To enhance young people's awareness of the harms of alcohol, the Department of Health launched a publicity and education campaign entitled "Young and Alcohol Free" in December 2016 for young people, parents and teachers in the hope that they would understand the harm of alcohol to the body. In respect of publicity and education, the Department of Health cooperated with various stakeholders through various channels such as social media, holding workshops of "Young and Alcohol Free" with universities, distribution of health education pamphlets to schools and parent-teacher associations, to make the public further understand the hazards of alcohol. Moreover, it set up a health education hotline and create thematic webpages. The government's promotional video of "Young and Alcohol Free" was displayed in estates, community halls and clinics of the Department of Health in Hong Kong. In addition, teachers, students and healthy cities in 18 districts were also invited to participate in various activities, such as opening ceremony of the "Young and Alcohol Free" publicity and education campaign and Animated GIF Design Contest Hong Kong, which had gained positive response;

- (b) as for legislative amendments, Hong Kong had implemented the statutory liquor licensing system since 2000, but surveys showed that it was not difficult for young people to buy alcoholic drinks. With reference to the relevant figures, the government would propose to amend relevant laws to regulate sale of alcoholic beverages to persons under the age of 18. It was expected that proposals on amendment of relevant laws would be submitted to the Legislative Council this year. The Department of Health would continue to step up publicity and education work before the new law was implemented;
- (c) the Department of Health also noted that more and more "carbonated alcoholic drinks" had appeared in the market recently. The Department of Health would step up publicity and education so that the public could be aware of and understand these marketing tactics and publicity traps. On 9 June 2017, the Department of Health would organise a health promotion and exchange meeting themed "Be Aware of Publicity Traps", which also included identifying ad traps for alcoholic beverages; and
- (d) through its 2017-2018 "I'm So Smart" community health promotion programme, the Department of Health worked with healthy city partners and local organisations in various districts to promote "non-alcoholic healthy diet" with a focus on alcohol related hazards. The plan was supported by the healthy cities of many districts.

76. Ms Scarlett PONG and Mr PUN Kwok-shan proposed the following suggestions:

"The Health and Environment Committee of Sha Tin District Council supports the government's proposal to amend the laws on alcohol sale: prohibiting commercial sale and supply of alcoholic beverages to persons under the age of 18, including vending machines and retail outlets; warnings to be placed in conspicuous locations

of the publicity activities and retail outlets; proposals for imposing penalties on offenders. It also requests that a dedicated team/committee be set up to follow up on alcohol-related work. The amended legislation will help prevent children and adolescents from prematurely drinking alcohol, plug policy loopholes and optimise Hong Kong's alcohol control policy.”

77. Mr LI Sai-wing said that it seemed that a quorum was not present at the meeting and requested a headcount.

78. As the number of attendees still fell short of the quorum after 15 minutes, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm and decided to postpone the questions that were not discussed at this meeting to the next meeting for discussion. The information items and information papers would be circulated for consideration by the members.

Date of Next Meeting

79. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 13 July 2017 (Thursday).

80. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat
STDC 13/15/40

June 2017