

**Minutes of the 6th Meeting of
the Sha Tin District Council in 2017**

Date : 23 November 2017 (Thursday)
Time : 2:30 pm
Venue : Sha Tin District Council Conference Room
 4/F, Sha Tin Government Offices

<u>Present</u>	<u>Time of joining the meeting</u>	<u>Time of leaving the meeting</u>
Chairman : Mr HO Hau-cheung, SBS, MH	2:30 pm	6:14 pm
Vice-Chairman : Mr PANG Cheung-wai, Thomas, SBS, JP	2:30 pm	5:03 pm
Members :		
Mr CHAN Billy Shiu-yeung	2:48 pm	6:14 pm
Mr CHAN Kwok-keung, James	2:30 pm	6:14 pm
Ms CHAN Man-kuen	2:30 pm	6:14 pm
Mr CHAN Nok-hang	3:38 pm	6:14 pm
Mr CHENG Tsuk-man	2:51 pm	5:52 pm
Mr CHING Cheung-ying, MH	2:30 pm	5:55 pm
Mr CHIU Chu-pong, Sunny	2:30 pm	3:49 pm
Mr CHIU Man-leong	2:30 pm	5:42 pm
Mr HUI Yui-yu, Rick	2:30 pm	3:41 pm
Mr LAI Tsz-yan	3:03 pm	6:14 pm
Ms LAM Chung-yan	2:30 pm	6:14 pm
Mr LEE Chi-wing, Alvin	2:30 pm	3:11 pm
Mr LEUNG Ka-fai, Victor	2:30 pm	6:00 pm
Mr LI Sai-hung	2:30 pm	6:14 pm
Mr LI Sai-wing	2:40 pm	4:58 pm
Mr LI Wing-shing, Wilson	2:30 pm	6:07 pm
Mr MAK Yun-pui	2:53 pm	3:24 pm
Mr NG Kam-hung	2:30 pm	6:14 pm
Ms PONG Scarlett Oi-lan, BBS, JP	2:30 pm	5:00 pm
Mr PUN Kwok-shan, MH	2:30 pm	6:04 pm
Mr SIU Hin-hong	2:30 pm	5:25 pm
Mr TING Tsz-yuen	2:30 pm	6:05 pm
Mr TONG Hok-leung	2:30 pm	6:14 pm
Ms TSANG So-lai	3:02 pm	6:06 pm
Ms TUNG Kin-lei	2:30 pm	6:14 pm
Mr WAI Hing-cheung	2:30 pm	6:14 pm
Mr WONG Fu-sang, Tiger	2:30 pm	6:14 pm
Mr WONG Hok-lai	3:01 pm	6:14 pm
Mr WONG Ka-wing, MH	2:30 pm	6:14 pm
Ms WONG Ping-fan, Iris	2:30 pm	6:14 pm
Mr WONG Yue-hon	2:30 pm	6:14 pm
Mr YAU Man-chun	2:40 pm	6:14 pm
Mr YIP Wing	2:30 pm	2:45 pm
Mr YIU Ka-chun	2:30 pm	6:12 pm

Present

Members : Ms YUE Shin-man
 Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael
 Secretary : Mr YUEN Chun-kit, Derek

**Time of joining
the meeting**

2:30 pm
 2:30 pm
 Senior Executive Officer (District Council) /
 Sha Tin District Office

**Time of leaving
the meeting**

6:14 pm
 6:14 pm

In Attendance

Ms CHAN Yuen-man, Amy, JP
 Mr WONG Tin-pui, Simon

 Ms KWAN Chui-ching, Catherine

 Mr Sean LIN

 Ms HO Yuet-ping, Jolie

 Mr WOO Tim
 Mr NG Kok-hung

 Mr YUEN Tat-yung, Zorro

 Ms CHU Ha-fan, Jessica

 Ms KWOK Wai-ying, Candy

 Ms HEUNG Ching-ye, Alice

 Ms LO Lai-fong, Jackie

 Mrs LEE CHEUNG Yat-wai, Gloria

 Mr TSAI Yu-sing, Eric

 Dr HO Wing-chuen

 Ms NGO Po-ling

 Ms CHENG Yuk-kam, Brenda

 Ms LEUNG Wai-shan, Cecilia

 Mr HO Kin-nam, David

Title

District Officer / Sha Tin District Office
 Assistant District Officer /
 Sha Tin District Office
 District Commander (Shatin) /
 Hong Kong Police Force
 Police Community Relations Officer (Shatin
 District) / Hong Kong Police Force
 DI (District Intelligence Section) (Shatin) /
 Hong Kong Police Force
 District Lands Officer / Sha Tin (Atg)
 Administration Assistant / Lands (District
 Lands Office, Sha Tin) / Lands Department
 Chief Engineer / New Territories East 3 /
 Civil Engineering and Development Department
 District Planning Officer (Sha Tin, Tai Po and
 North) / Planning Department
 Principal Transport Officer / New Territories /
 Transport Department
 Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories East) /
 Leisure and Cultural Services Department
 District Leisure Manager (Shatin) /
 Leisure and Cultural Services Department
 District Social Welfare Officer (Shatin) /
 Social Welfare Department
 District Environmental Hygiene
 Superintendent (Sha Tin) /
 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
 Chief School Development Officer (Shatin) /
 Education Bureau
 Senior Housing Manager (Tai Po, North and
 Shatin 1) / Housing Department
 Senior Liaison Officer (East) /
 Sha Tin District Office
 Senior Liaison Officer (West) /
 Sha Tin District Office
 Executive Officer I (District Council)1 /
 Sha Tin District Office

In Attendance by Invitation

Mr. TONG Ka Hung, Edwin, JP
 Mr. CHAN Chi Ming, Saulomon

Title

Director of Drainage Services
 Chief Engineer (Mainland South) /
 Drainage Services Department

Absent

Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS

(Application for leave of absence received)

Action

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives from government departments and organisations to the sixth meeting of the year.

2. The Chairman informed all attendees that some members of the public, being present as observers, were taking photographs and making video and audio recordings.

3. The Chairman, on behalf of the Sha Tin District Council (STDC), welcomed the following representatives to the meeting: Mr Edwin TONG, Director of Drainage Services and Mr Saulomon CHAN, Chief Engineer (Mainland South) of the Drainage Services Department (DSD); Mr WOO Tim, District Lands Officer / Sha Tin (Acting); and Ms NGO Po-ling, Senior Housing Manager (Tai Po, North and Shatin 1) representing Mr CHAN Kai-lam, Allan, Chief Manager / Management (Tai Po, North and Shatin) of the Housing Department (HD).

Application for Leave of Absence

4. The Chairman said that the STDC Secretariat (Secretariat) had received an application for leave of absence in writing from the following Member:

Mr MOK Kam-kwai

Official commitment

5. The Council approved the application for leave of absence submitted by the Member above.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 28 September 2017

(STDC Minutes 5/2017)

6. The Council confirmed the above minutes unanimously.

Visit of Director of Drainage Services

(Paper No. STDC 81/2017)

7. The Chairman invited Mr Edwin TONG to briefly introduce the work of the DSD. He believed Members would be keen on voicing their views, and he would only arrange one round of opinions if too many Members spoke.

8. Mr Edwin TONG briefly introduced the work of the DSD with the following highlights:

- (a) he was very pleased to introduce the work of the DSD at the STDC meeting, and would like to take the opportunity to get opinions from Members;
- (b) the vision of the DSD was to provide Hong Kong with world-class sewage and stormwater drainage services so as to facilitate the sustainable development of the city;

- (c) on flood prevention, the DSD was affiliated to the Development Bureau; on sewage collection, treatment and drainage, it was affiliated to the Environment Bureau (ENB). The DSD was comprised of its headquarters and four branches, namely the Projects and Development Branch, the Operations and Maintenance Branch, the Electrical and Mechanical Branch and the Sewage Services Branch;
- (d) the DSD set up in September 1989 had the establishment of about 1 900 people currently, managing over 300 drainage facilities (including 67 sewage treatment works (STW) and 3 underground flood storage tanks) and pipes totalling over 4 000 km;
- (e) in 2016-17, the DSD's recurrent expenditure on routine work in the Sha Tin District was approximately over \$250 million. The DSD inspected and cleaned 223 km and 49 km stormwater drains in the district respectively, and inspected and cleaned 80 km and 44 km foul sewers in the district respectively. Besides, the DSD was responsible for the daily operation and maintenance of Sha Tin STW, 20 sewage pumping stations and 3 stormwater pumping stations in the district;
- (f) on flood prevention, the DSD had conducted a review of stormwater drainage master plan in response to the challenges posed by climate change, so as to evaluate the risks of flooding, propose improvement plans and take part in inter-departmental working groups to give opinions;
- (g) the DSD was conducting the "Review of Drainage Master Plan in Sha Tin and Sai Kung - Feasibility Study" which was commenced in 2013 and involved an expenditure of \$12.5 million. The scope of the study was determined according to the topography and contour, and it covered most of the Sha Tin District;
- (h) the DSD was also planning the "Inter-Reservoirs Transfer Scheme" (IRTS) which proposed to build a water tunnel of 2.8 km in length and 3 m in diameter to channel the overflow from the Kowloon Byewash Reservoir into the Lower Shing Mun Reservoir, with a view to reaching the twin targets of protecting water resources and preventing floods;
- (i) in terms of sewage collection, treatment and discharge, the DSD already completed the works of laying sewage pipes in six villages in the Sha Tin District in 2016. Besides, the DSD also completed the works of repairing and constructing sewage pipes at the riverbed of Shing Mun River, Siu Lek Yuen Nullah and Fo Tan Nullah, improving the sewerage system in the district. An expenditure of \$520 million was involved in the works;
- (j) the DSD was currently laying sewage pipes in nine villages in the district so as to improve the sewerage system. The works commenced in 2013 and were expected to be completed in 2018, involving an expenditure of \$364.7 million. Also, the DSD was at present planning to implement the same works in four villages to further improve the sewerage system in the district;

- (k) in addition, the DSD was planning to relocate the Shatin STW to caverns. The first stage of the works would include building a connecting subway to and from the main caverns and implementing site formation works in Nui Po Shan;
- (l) in response to the problem of aging pipes, the DSD was currently planning to inspect and rehabilitate the aged stormwater and sewage pipes on Yuen Wo Road and in the Sha Tin District stage by stage;
- (m) on environmental improvement, the DSD implemented greening works in areas as large as 82 000 m² and 5 700 m² respectively at the Shatin STW and other drainage facilities in the district; and
- (n) the DSD thanked the STDC for giving valuable opinions over the years and hoped to stay closely in touch with the STDC to listen to Members' feedback, improve the sewerage system in the district and consequently optimise the living environment.

9. The Chairman thanked Mr Edwin TONG for briefly introducing the highlights of the DSD's work and asked Members to voice their opinions.

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

- (a) in recent years when the typhoon season collided with the astronomical high tide, Shing Mun River overflowed and swamped the public facilities such as cycle tracks and pedestrian ways along the river, causing inconvenience to the public and posing danger to their safety. He asked about the DSD's work on flood prevention at Shing Mun River, e.g. the provision of levees and dredging works. Besides, he hoped the DSD would provide the record and the figures of flooding at Shing Mun River;
- (b) he hoped the DSD would provide the black list and the relevant figures regarding the bursts in salt water pipes in the district. Besides, he also hoped the DSD would prioritise the rehabilitation of the salt water pipes at the aforementioned black spots in order to further prevent the pipes from bursting; and

[Post-meeting note: The DSD had relayed the opinions to the Water Supplies Department (WSD) for its follow-up.]

- (c) he hoped the DSD would vitalise and beautify Shing Mun River as soon as possible, particularly the section from Tai Wai (the river head to Man Lai Court) to Fo Tan, and plant trees along the river.

11. Mr CHIU Man-leong showed his support for the relocation of the Shatin STW to make the plot of land available for use. As far as he knew, Kam Tai Court was close to the existing Shatin STW and the new site in caverns. There was a site (Area 73) under the purview of the Vehicle Detention Centre of the Customs and Excise Department located between the Shatin STW and Nui Po Shan. He knew that the DSD intended to use the site as a temporary one. He hoped that the DSD would reserve a buffer zone there when it was used as a temporary site so as to prevent it from extending too close to the residential area. Besides, he understood

that the residents in the district would like the site to be developed into large-scale facilities of culture, sports and community. He hoped the DSD would allocate the site for such purposes, e.g. erecting an educational park, to benefit the residents in the district.

12. The views of the Vice-Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) he recognised the DSD's work in the Sha Tin District, especially their provision of the sewerage system in the villages to reduce direct discharge of wastewater into Shing Mun River. However, he opined that there was still room for improvement. Since currently the E. coli count in Shing Mun River was rather high and sludge was piling up in the riverbed, he hoped that the DSD would cooperate with the relevant government departments such as the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) to strengthen the water quality improvement and remove the sludge so as to enhance the flood relief capability in Shing Mun River;
- (b) he hoped the DSD would provide as soon as possible the details of the plans for revitalising Fo Tan Nullah, and simultaneously improve the nullah's water quality and flood relief capability. Besides, he hoped the DSD would also study the feasibility of covering and revitalising the nullah; and
- (c) though the Lower Shing Mun Reservoir was not located within the country parks under the purview of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, the reservoir was still a popular attraction. In view of the mosquito problem in the vicinity, he wished to know how the DSD and other relevant departments implemented anti-mosquito measures without affecting the water quality to safeguard public health.

[Post-meeting note: The DSD had relayed the opinions to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) for its follow-up.]

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

- (a) she lauded the DSD for its work on tackling flooding which was extremely effective in minimising the threat of flooding. Besides, she had spotted that flooding took place at Shing Mun River when the typhoon season met the astronomical high tide in recent years. Public facilities such as cycle tracks and pedestrian ways in the low-lying area along Shing Mun River (e.g. the west of the river) flooded consequently. According to the information provided by the Hong Kong Observatory, flooding was most common one or two days after every first day and fifteenth day monthly on the lunar calendar. When typhoon signal no. 10 was hoisted last time, the relatively higher ground on the east of the river also flooded. She wished to know what measures the DSD had adopted to alleviate the impact made by the flooding of the river;
- (b) there had always been sediments and sludge accumulating in the river bed of Shing Mun River, leading to the breeding of bacteria as well as affecting the flood relief capability of the river. She asked about the relation between the sediments and the flooding of the river in recent years, and whether the DSD

would liaise with the EPD regarding this matter to formulate the corresponding improvement and preventive measures;

- (c) she wished to know if the DSD would formulate flood preventive measures for Shing Mun River in response to weather changes; and
- (d) she had noticed that the street drain pipes newly developed in recent years were rarely equipped with catchpits like those long time ago. Only were the pedestrian ways at Shek Mun Interchange and Tai Chung Kiu Road (the section along Pictorial Garden and Garden Vista) equipped with an extremely deep open drain pipes and catchpits, and so the pedestrian ways became narrower. Besides, since they were open drain pipes and catchpits, all kinds of objects were easily washed in and blocked them. The flood relief capability of the drain pipes and catchpits was affected. She asked the DSD to follow up and improve the situation.

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

- (a) he wished to know if the DSD was monitoring that the existing stormwater pipes in the district had been used for discharging sewage (e.g. they were illegally connected to sewage pipes). The water quality of the river and the drain pipes had been affected, causing environmental problems;
- (b) according to information, the DSD was laying sewage mains in the villages in the district. However, villagers who wanted to connect their residential sewage pipes to the relevant sewage mains would have to lay the connecting pipes at their own cost and arrange the relevant works on their own. This reduced their incentives to improve the sewerage system in the villages. He hoped the DSD would map out measures to help villagers improve the village sewerage system; and
- (c) every time in adverse weather conditions, some areas (e.g. Lei Yue Mun) in Hong Kong still flooded. He asked the DSD to expeditiously map out measures to ease the flooding problem.

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

- (a) he said that the problem of dead fish occurred in Shing Mun River a few times last year without reasons known. He asked the DSD and other relevant departments about the examination procedures and results. He said there had been a change in weather lately and, as he remembered, dead fish was found in Shing Mun River around the same transitional period between the cold and the warm last year. He hoped that the DSD and the FEHD would join forces to minimise the number of dead fish so as to free members of the public from angst;
- (b) he opined that the condition of the main stream of Shing Mun River was still acceptable while the tributaries in such places as Fo Tan and Kwong Yuen were still contaminated. He hoped the DSD and the EPD would try harder to trace

the sources to prevent people from dumping pollutants into the river and contaminating it;

- (c) to his understanding, the hygiene problem of villages or squatter structures probably originated from faulty connection of pipes which led to the discharge of sewage into stormwater pipes. Or it might be due to the flow of sewage into stormwater pipes when cleaning workers were washing the refuse collection points in the rain where the stormwater pipes were located nearby. He asked the DSD and the FEHD if they would first review the conditions internally to prevent sewage from flowing into stormwater pipes and consequently to Shing Mun River. He hoped the DSD would strengthen its cooperation with other departments to make improvements;
- (d) he hoped the DSD would study how to optimise the ecological environment of Shing Mun River when vitalising the river so as to make it more favourable to biodiversity and avoid sudden mass death of species; and
- (e) he said that despite the overflowing of the river into the subways during the astronomical high tide once or twice a year, he did not think it would be a good idea to erect a protection wall too high if water-friendly culture was being promoted. However, it was necessary for the DSD to reinforce the drainage system to ensure swift drainage of river water at every astronomical high tide.

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

- (a) he pointed out that the problem of dead fish occurred spasmodically in Shing Mun River probably because of water pollution or weather change. He opined that all water sources should be safe from pollution. Otherwise, the water quality of not only the downstream river but also the Sha Tin District and even the whole territory of Hong Kong would be affected;
- (b) he said that there was a plot of government land on Sha On Street in Ma On Shan where a flood relief channel, also a water-gathering spot, of the DSD was provided. The flood relief channel had been causing water overflowing or flooding due to typhoons. A few years ago, a big tree stump on a big lawn on Sha On Street obstructed the flood relief channel, leading to severe flooding with the water level higher than a person's waist level. It was extremely dangerous. The frontline officers of the DSD were decisive that they re-laid the flood relief channel and added a water-gathering drainage channel to alleviate the problem. Hence, it had been unable to develop the big lawn for recreational use over the years. He hoped Director of Drainage Services would study if the flood relief channel could be used for diversion and drainage so that the plot of land could be developed; and
- (c) he said that members of the public had been entering the plot of land to get water for laundry purposes for many years, and District Lands Office/Sharing Tin could only set up wire mesh and arrange security guards to monitor the site. Even if the site was enclosed, people could still enter, get water and contaminate the water source. He hoped Director of Drainage Services would follow up on the

origin of the problem and put an end to the delinquent behaviour of trespassing on government land to get water and of unlawfully using the water source for laundry purposes.

[Post-meeting note: The DSD had contacted Mr MAK Yun-pui to inform him of the follow-up results.]

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

- (a) she said that there were still eight new village houses in Tai Wai New Village not connected to sewage pipes. The villagers had to gather funds to not only build a septic tank but also connect the pipes to government sewers. It was a great financial burden for them. Hence, she hoped the DSD would provide a feasible solution to help the villagers;
- (b) she pointed out that sludge and dead fish often accumulated in Shing Mun River at the section from Man Lai Court to Fo Tan Road. She wished to know if the DSD had come up with new methods to tackle the sludge, e.g. adding microorganisms or probiotics to purify the water in order to solve the stench problem;
- (c) she said that both Fo Tan Nullah and Tai Wai Nullah were included in the plans for revitalising nullahs. She asked Director of Drainage Services to provide more information papers for reference purposes. She and Mr TONG Hok-leung had conducted a survey of revitalising nullahs in the district. Residents welcomed the revitalising works, but some were worried and unsure about the idea of fish ladders. She said that the “Six-Mei Area” (i.e. May Shing Court, Mei Chung Court, Mei Park Court, Mei Ying Court, Mei Tin Estate and Mei Lam Estate) in the vicinity of Tai Wai Nullah had been disturbed by wild boars and wild monkeys. She was worried that fish ladders would attract wild birds to gather and hence affect the environmental hygiene. Besides, she was worried that, if fish were grown in Shing Mun River, members of the public might risk their lives to get into the river to fish and cause accidents; and
- (d) she said that the pedestrian ways and the cycle tracks next to Heung Fan Liu Street and Pik Tin Street were damaged in some spots. Shaded benches and open space were insufficient. She suggested the surrounding areas be revitalised at the same time of the revitalisation of the nullahs. She said that a number of residents hoped that, while the upper section of the nullahs was revitalised, the lower section could be sustainably developed so as to release more land for park and carpark uses. She hoped Director of Drainage Services would develop the surrounding areas into better open space when revitalising the river in collaboration with other departments. She pointed out that Tai Wai had been lacking leisure facilities, and many residents wished to voice their opinions on this. She hence asked the DSD to consider setting up a community liaison group for people in the district to express their opinions.

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

- (a) she said that the Green Form Subsidised Home Ownership Scheme in Fo Tan would be for sale starting from the coming year. There would be 30 000 people residing in the vicinity of Fo Tan Industrial Estate. She hoped that more public space would be provided there;
- (b) she hoped that features of particular areas could merge into the revitalisation of Fo Tan and Tai Wai. For instance, given the fact that there were over 300 artists in Fo Tan, the area characteristics could blend in;
- (c) she hoped that the revitalisation of nullahs would not be limited to drainage or greening works, but would allow the participation of members of the public so that the target of cooperation among officials, the public, academia and research organisations could be met. Also, there should be interdepartmental cooperation to bring about innovative ideas for the design proposals;
- (d) she hoped that Director of Drainage Services would consider the preliminary proposals on revitalising Fo Tan Nullah submitted over the past three years by the professional consultants from The Chinese University of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Italy, together with 30 Master's students. If necessary, they would be happy to elaborate on it. They hoped that the design and the works would be confirmed expeditiously so as to proceed to the STDC's consultation;
- (e) she asked the DSD about the methods to reduce river contamination;
- (f) she asked if removing the sludge in Shing Mun River was a routine task, and if there were other methods to attain a more balanced ecological environment;
- (g) she hoped to know about the reasons for the flooding of Shing Mun River and fish death, and how to prevent them in the future; and
- (h) she intended to propose a provisional motion.

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

- (a) she said there were a lot of rats whenever district works commenced. She hoped the DSD would consider taking more preventive measures for the works. Especially when there had been a number of drainage works in the district in recent years, she was worried about the environmental hygiene problem during sewer works and asked the DSD to pay more attention;

[Post-meeting note: The DSD had relayed the opinions to the FEHD simultaneously for its follow-up.]

- (b) she expressed her understanding that the major work of the DSD was to prevent flooding. She asked what development targets or details would be included in future works. Also, she pointed out that since Shing Mun River was one of the

landmarks of the Sha Tin District, she hoped that the DSD, apart from fulfilling its duties of preventing flooding, would consider enhancing the living quality of the residents in the district so that both residents and tourists would be able to familiarise themselves with the river by engaging in water-friendly activities; and

- (c) she said that it was a crucial environmental issue to respond to climate change. She asked the DSD to include environmental education in the duties of the revitalisation plans. She believed that adding such a vital element as environmental education to the works of Shing Mun River would encourage members of the public to love the river and care about the environment. The outcome would be more ideal.

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

- (a) he said that the stormwater pipes on Ngan Shing Street often stank during the dry season over the past few years. Last year, he reported it to the Fire Services Department. When the fire fighters got there, they sprayed water to dilute the concentration of the rather strong biogas in the pipes. After looking into it with the DSD, he found out that some eateries might have unlawfully connected sewage pipes to stormwater pipes and hence the manholes were blocked. During the dry season without stormwater washing down the pipes, it might cause disturbance to members of the public. He pointed out that such a case also occurred in other districts. In his opinion, Hong Kong had a sound drainage system compared to other cities'. However, he asked Director of Drainage Services to handle the issue of eateries unlawfully connecting sewage pipes to stormwater pipes and to step up efforts to prosecute offences committed by garages which let wastewater flow into Shing Mun River. He believed these measures would help improve the water quality of the river; and

[Post-meeting note: The DSD had contacted Mr WONG to inform him of the follow-up results.]

- (b) he said that according to the information provided by the FEHD at the STDC recently, the index of the rodent problem in the Sha Tin District had gone up by 130% between 2013 and 2016. He opined that it was probably because the WSD and the DSD had been carrying out maintenance or drainage renewal works over the past two to three years. He understood that the Sha Tin District was mostly reclaimed from the sea where the underwater flowed rather actively and the hollows were more plagued by the rodent problem. The increase in the index of the rodent problem in the past was probably caused by ground-digging works. He asked the DSD to carry out underground disinfestation and pest control before implementing the works.

[Post-meeting note: The DSD had relayed the opinions to the FEHD simultaneously for its follow-up.]

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

- (a) he complimented the DSD's officers on their swift action to follow up on the drainage issues in the villages. He said that there were 10 villages in his constituency and he often needed to liaise with the DSD regarding drainage issues. The DSD responded swiftly and sent officers to conduct site inspection with him so as to understand the issues more thoroughly;
- (b) he said that the sewerage system was large-scale works under the purview of the EPD, and the DSD would be responsible for the pipe-laying arrangements. The works in Siu Lek Yuen Tsuen and Ngau Pei Sha Village were coming to a close one after another. He pointed out that those relatively remote villages, such as Kwun Yam Shan Tsuen, were listed in the papers as awaiting sewerage works. However, Kwun Yam Shan Tsuen was not listed in the papers this time. He already mentioned it in the past meetings and requested sewerage works for the village, but there had been no progress so far. There were water-gathering grounds set up by the WSD near the village, but some government departments opposed making septic tank arrangements on the water-gathering grounds. If no sewage pipes were laid, villagers would not be able to apply for building small houses there. He asked the DSD and the EPD to provide a schedule for the villages with no implementation of the village sewerage programme yet; and
- (c) he asked if the DSD had some measures to reduce the chances of flooding in Shing Mun River at high tide. He asked the DSD to report to the STDC as soon as possible to solve the flooding problem of the river.

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

- (a) he asked, regarding the "IRTS" the DSD reported at the meeting, whether diverting the overflow from the Kowloon Byewash Reservoir to the Lower Shing Mun Reservoir was the duty of the WSD;
- (b) he said that the large-scale works of the "IRTS" might affect wild animals within the Shing Mun Country Park;

[Post-meeting note: The DSD had contacted Mr NG Kam-hung to inform him of the follow-up results.]

- (c) he asked if the DSD, when implementing large-scale works such as laying sewage pipes, could provide the capacity of the newly built sewage pipes and the information on the outlets of the pipes. He asked if the sewage from these sewage pipes would be discharged from the existing stormwater outlet pipes in the district. He was worried that it would increase the burden of the outlet pipes;
- (d) he asked the DSD if global warming would cause counter-pressure to the outlet pipes when the sea level rose higher than the pipe level, and consequently the sewage could not be discharged; and
- (e) he asked what more macro and forward-looking methods Director of Drainage Services had in order to improve the water quality of Shing Mun River.

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

- (a) he said that upon the completion of the “IRTS”, the overflow from the Kowloon Byewash Reservoir would be diverted to the Lower Shing Mun Reservoir. Since extreme weather was very common now, he was wondering if the “IRTS” would affect the flood prevention capability of Shing Mun River or increase the risks of flooding;
- (b) he asked whether the alignment of the sewage mains in Sha Tin could move after the relocation of the Shatin STW to Nui Po Shan and during the pipe repair programme undergoing currently. He cited the sewage pipes at the junction of Che Kung Miu Road and Mei Tin Road as an example, saying that movable alignment would tremendously help develop underground space in the future;

[Post-meeting note: The DSD had contacted Mr PUN Kwok-shan to explain the details about the alignment of the pipe repair programme.]

- (c) he said that the sewerage works in Tin Sam Village had not been optimised so far because the space and the gradient were insufficient, it was private land or there were other facilities underground, etc. He hoped the DSD would be more eager to carry out comprehensive planning; and

[Post-meeting note: The DSD would review the feasibility of improving the sewerage works in Tin Sam Village mentioned above.]

- (d) he hoped that the DSD would increase manpower to inspect the stormwater pipe on the slope off Sin Sam House in Lung Hang Estate after the heavy rain season.

[Post-meeting note: The DSD had contacted Mr PUN Kwok-shan to inform him of the follow-up results.]

24. Mr Sunny CHIU said he noticed that there had been sewage gushing out of the outlet pipe near Tsang Tai Uk off the wet market in Pok Hong Estate lately. Since the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), HD and the estate management company all denied responsibility for the outlet pipe, the DSD might be the one responsible. He hoped Director of Drainage Services would help follow up on this.

[Post-meeting note: The DSD had contacted Mr Sunny CHIU to inform him of the follow-up results.]

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

- (a) he thanked Director of Drainage Services for his visit and took the opportunity to laud Mr LAI Kwai-cheung, Senior Engineer for his efforts to repair the pipe on Fo Tan Road and handle the bursting of pipes. He understood that traffic jams during the works were inevitable, but it was laudable that Mr LAI Kwai-cheung actively discussed shortening the works with the contractor so as to reduce the impact on the traffic. When discussing traffic arrangements at the Traffic and Transport Committee’s meeting, Mr LAI Kwai-cheung initiated collection of

opinions. Hence, everyone was expecting that the works at the relevant locations would commence expeditiously;

- (b) he pointed out that according to Volume 2 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report on the STW projected on the screen, the location of OM2 was the substation of the cavern STW. The Transport Department (TD) had proposed providing motor cycle parking spaces at the location, but the works site seemed to have occupied part of it. He hoped that consideration could be taken to meet the demand for such parking spaces of the district within the site in Area 13 because there was not enough space to provide new motor cycle parking spaces in On Tai District and Chevalier Garden to solve the problem;
- (c) besides, the location of CM7 shown would become a greening area. He hoped the DSD would consider setting up an information centre for tourists and residents who would visit the STW in the future;
- (d) regarding the relocation and removal of the STW (section 2.8.8.3), the blasting procedures for erecting the STW (section 2.8.2.4) and the noise control (sections 4.7.1 and 4.8.1) of Volume 1 of the EIA Report, residents were worried whether the relevant indexes would exceed the limits and hoped that a real-time monitoring system would be set up to provide information for residents during the construction or operation of the STW; and
- (e) regarding chapter 4.2 of the EIA Report, he opined that even though a temporary steel bridge was built as a passage during the works period, it might still affect the traffic on A Kung Kok Street. Besides, the Phase 2 Redevelopment of Prince of Wales Hospital under the Hospital Authority would carry out building decanting which would further affect the traffic there. He proposed the provision of an extra exit on A Kung Kok Street which led directly to southbound Ma On Shan Road so as to solve the traffic congestion on A Kung Kok Street. He hoped Director of Drainage Services would examine the relevant arrangements to minimise the impact on the traffic during the construction and operation. Since the transportation of sludge would drive past A Kung Kok Street in the future, he hoped the Department would make proper arrangements.

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

- (a) he asked about the general lifespan of the pipes and expressed his support for the pipe repair programme. In particular, he had learnt from various meetings this year that the WSD would set up devices in the manholes in the district to monitor whether the pipes would rupture when pressurised, and accordingly preventive measures would be carried out. He believed the repair works mentioned by the DSD were preventive and essential. He asked the DSD about the priority of the works;
- (b) regarding the water quality of Shing Mun River, he asked the DSD to elaborate specifically on its collaboration plans for improving the water quality of the river with other government departments; and

- (c) he said that typhoons took place a few times this year. In 1962, Typhoon Wanda wreaked havoc and inflicted heavy casualties on Sha Tin. When the district was developing into Sha Tin New Town, the Government came up with design to avoid the recurrence of the tragedy. However, when a typhoon struck nowadays, Shing Mun River would overflow both banks, possibly flooding the subway and leading to accidents. He asked if the design had already gone outdated to cope with today's situation, and what preventive measures the department had when a typhoon was imminent.

27. Mr TING Tsz-yuen thanked Director of Drainage Services for attending the STDC to communicate with Members. In his opinion, under the existing guidance and policy, a property owner was responsible for repairing and maintaining the stormwater drainage system on the slopes that were privately managed, but the property owner might not be willing to put in resources. He cited Kam Ying Court in Ma On Shan as an example. The slope in the vicinity was equipped with a stormwater pipe which was, however, often filled with twigs. In times of torrential rain, rainwater mixed with sewage gushed out to the road. Though it was not under the purview of the DSD, he thanked the DSD officers for immediately helping take care of the site. Hence, he hoped the DSD would consider including such kind of regular cleaning of pipes in its duties.

[Post-meeting note: The DSD had contacted Mr TING Tsz-yuen to inform him of the follow-up results.]

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

- (a) she recognised the work achieved by the government departments on improving the environment of Shing Mun River. However, sewage, rubbish and dead fish occasionally appeared on the surface of the river in recent years. She hoped the DSD would find out why and completely solve the problem;
- (b) besides, she hoped the DSD would work with other departments and discuss with them strategies for sewage work and protection of the environment of Shing Mun River; and
- (c) regarding the Government's intention to revitalise Shing Mun River, she hoped that the problem of water quality would be dealt with first before the commencement of the revitalisation works.

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

- (a) regarding the overall sewage treatment and waterway management in Hong Kong, the pollution problem of the waterways, in particular in the New Territories, was still not yet entirely solved after years of establishment of the sewage system. For instance, a Japanese shared his experience online in fishing clariid catfish in polluted Ng Tung River in 2016. When he himself travelled around the New Territories, he also deemed it necessary for the DSD to solve the waterway management and pollution problem;

- (b) previously, @STpulsation, a district organisation, conducted a survey on the sustainability and planning of the riverside of Shing Mun River. The findings showed that over 65% of the respondents opined that the water quality of the river was undesirable; 40% and 20% respectively opined that the river was smelly and discarded objects were accumulating on the river banks. Though the situation had improved after treatment of more than a decade, there was still room for improvement. It was hoped that the DSD would follow up;
- (c) he welcomed the proposal put forward by the DSD in the consultancy study of “revitalising water bodies” commenced in 2015: the preliminary study outcome picked the five most potential water bodies for revitalisation, one section of which was Tai Wai Nullah. Also, consideration had been taken to grow aquatic plants and set up fish ladders there. Members of the public expressed their concerns during consultation, including flood relief arrangements, the alarm system against playing in the river channel and the impact caused by the works. Hence, it was hoped that the DSD would be more receptive to the opinions of the STDC and the relevant district stakeholders when commencing the works; and
- (d) he intended to propose a provisional motion.

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

- (a) he said he understood that sewage of every housing estate was collected in a terminal manhole before going into the STW via the public sewerage system. According to the *Building (Standards of Sanitary Fitments, Plumbing, Drainage Works and Latrines) Regulations*, “Drains and private sewers, provided for the carriage of foul water, shall, where there is a public sewer provided for the carriage of foul water at a suitable level and position within 30 m of the boundary of the lot on which the building, for which such drains or private sewers are provided, is erected, be connected to such public sewer.” Currently, the Mass Transit Railway Corporation (MTRC) had to convey the sewage of Royal Ascot to the terminal manhole 600 m away near Fo Tan Railway House by detouring round two large housing estates. He opined that the Government was responsible for providing a sewer manhole within the lot of Royal Ascot for its sewage to travel directly to the terminal public sewer via the sewer manhole before going into the STW, in order to replace the current method of transporting the sewage through a 600 m non-Royal Ascot terminal manhole to the public sewer manhole. He hoped that Director of Drainage Services would clarify the ownership and maintenance responsibilities of the sewer measuring over 600 m long;
- (b) he hoped the DSD would improve the aforesaid problem and avoid causing financial burden to residents in the district. He hoped the DSD would consider designing a new sewage collection system which would change the existing route turning left from Royal Ascot to the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Sha Tin) to one turning right to the sewage collection system in Kau To Shan that led to the STW; and

- (c) he had learnt that the DSD had set up stormwater storage tanks to prevent flooding by diverting stormwater. He hoped the DSD would consider setting up such facilities in flooding-prone Sha Tin and Sai Kung.

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

- (a) he thanked Director of Drainage Services for attending the STDC and thanked the DSD for solving the drainage problems efficiently in the “Kwong-Hong Area” (i.e. Kwong Lam Court and Hong Lam Court);
- (b) he said that the catchment channels and the flood relief channels in Wong Nai Tau, Tai Lam Liu, Tai Che Tsuen and the vicinity of Fa Sam Hang Tsuen were often blocked by tree leaves. Stormwater flowed away along the slopes and roads in the rainy season, possibly affecting residents; and

[Post-meeting note: The DSD had contacted Mr Tiger WONG to inform him of the follow-up results.]

- (c) besides, some flood relief channels were built long time ago and hence showed signs of cracks and water leakage. He hoped the DSD would repair and clean the relevant catchment channels and flood relief channels before the rainy season.

32. Mr LAI Tsz-yan said that both banks of Shing Mun River flooded when the tide rose. The pedestrian way off Belair Gardens was particularly affected about twice a year. Though the DSD used a water pump to pump the water in the subway to Tai Chung Kiu Road, he was worried that it would affect pedestrian safety in the long run. Hence, he hoped the DSD would come up with a long-term solution.

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

- (a) he welcomed Director of Drainage Services to the STDC and lauded Mr LAI Kwai Cheung, Senior Engineer, for handling district requests with dedication and efficiency. His performance was worth recognition;
- (b) he asked if the DSD would use the WSD’s Water Intelligent Network as a reference to set up extra devices for sewage pipes or the stormwater drainage system so as to examine the lifespan of the sewers and replace them in a timely manner;
- (c) he was concerned about the upstream water quality of Shing Mun River. There was a relatively small amount of river water in the vicinity of Hong Kong Heritage Museum in Tai Wai. The river thus stank occasionally. There had been oil pollution on the river surface, and industrial wastewater discharged into the river. He hoped that wastewater collection measures would be strengthened to reduce the accumulation of sludge and oil;
- (d) the DSD planned to set up a sewage system in rural areas. He asked if the system was applicable to squatter areas such as Pak Tin Tsuen. He mentioned

that the DSD had said a sewage system would not be set up because the squatter areas were temporary in nature. He opined that despite the temporary nature of the squatter structures, the residents had been living there for decades. Due to the absence of a sewage system, wastewater was generally emitted to river streams directly. He once again asked about the feasibility and schedule of setting up a sewage system; and

- (e) the project on revitalising the watercourses included Tai Wai Nullah. Some residents requested that the footbridge above the nullah be widened. He asked if the DSD could provide some corresponding improvement measures, in addition to revitalising the watercourses. He also hoped the DSD would set up a community liaison group or conduct community consultation for the project.

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

- (a) he said that the trees planted on the slopes on both banks of Shing Mun River were not cleaned up immediately after the typhoon. He asked the DSD to follow up. Besides, he hoped the DSD would work closely with the FEHD to remove the trash on the slopes;
- (b) he said that the roadside drains were blocked during the rainy season, and water could not be removed effectively. He hoped the DSD would step up their efforts to clean the drains at locations Members were concerned about; and
- (c) he pointed out that the small outlets on the manhole covers along the cycle tracks easily clogged by tree leaves could hardly remove water. If it was not within the purview of the DSD, he hoped the DSD would relay the message to the relevant department in order to clean the drains and prevent stagnant water.

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

- (a) he welcomed Director of Drainage Services to the STDC. The sewage works in Wu Kai Sha Village had been completed. Despite occasional hiccups, there had been some improvements. The sewage works in Cheung Kang Village were being planned. He hoped the DSD would provide a schedule;
- (b) he said that both stormwater and sewage pipes were gravely aging. Burst pipes would cause residents inconvenience. For instance, the pipes burst four times within half a month at the end of last year. The connection point at Villa Athena was more damaged. After he had followed up with the DSD, improvements were made. He wished to know the schedule for the drainage rehabilitation works in Ma On Shan, including the dates of commencement and completion. It was expected that the works would remedy the situation; and
- (c) with the completion of new housing estates, the DSD would set up new stormwater and sewage pipes. He asked the DSD to pay heed to the capacity of the pipes and the fact that the shingle beach in Wu Kai Sha was seriously losing sand. He asked the DSD to carefully consider how to alleviate the sand loss during the implementation of the works.

36. The Chairman stated that 26 Members had spoken, and he believed that Members were concerned about the DSD's drainage services, in particular the situation regarding Shing Mun River. The last term of government granted provision of \$100 million for implementing Signature Project Schemes (SPS) in different districts. Given the significance of Shing Mun River in Sha Tin, it did not take long for the STDC to endorse the SPS works to be implemented on both banks of the river, and the works were now being carried out. The DSD, in addition to the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD), also strongly supported the works on Tai Wai Nullah. When the STDC previously discussed the inclusion of Tai Wai Nullah, the DSD remarked on the possible flood relief problems to be caused by the relevant proposals. The department later on showed its support by conducting in-depth studies and providing technical advice when the SPS was implemented. He thanked the DSD for its participation.

37. Mr Edwin TONG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he thanked 27 Members for their comments and was glad to hear various opinions which would help the works proceed smoothly. He also thanked several Members for recognising the work of the department and its officers. He often told his colleagues that it was their duty to give their best and it was a bonus to receive acclaim;
- (b) the DSD had been working with the CEDD to remove the sludge in different parts of Shing Mun River. The DSD removed most of the sludge at Man Lai Court from June to August this year. Since the water level in the downstream areas at Man Lai Court was rather deep, the task was taken care of by the Port Works Division of the CEDD. It was reported that the CEDD would also take action to remove sludge soon. In general, the odour of the river channels would improve after sludge was removed. However, part of the stench originated from unlawful connection of pipes in the midstream or upstream areas. Besides, some garages or eateries would pour wastewater into stormwater pipes which might cause a stench. Hence, the DSD worked closely with the relevant law-enforcing department, i.e. the EPD, so as to readily monitor and solve the problem of unlawful connection of pipes. If someone was caught red-handed when pouring wastewater into stormwater pipes, the relevant department could press charges. The EPD had expressed difficulty in taking enforcement action, so the DSD had strengthened promotion on the message of "Never Discharge Wastewater into a Rainwater System" to educate the young generation about the environmental consequences incurred. If worst came to worst, the department would consider using Dry Weather Flow Interceptors to prevent wastewater from flowing into the river channel lest the hygiene and water quality be affected;
- (c) flooding was another problem of Shing Mun River. In times of torrential rain, stormwater storage tanks would temporarily store the stormwater before releasing it when the rain subsided and the water level dropped to a safety point. Yet, the tanks were not equipped for such situations as elevated water levels and an astronomical high tide. It was essential for the DSD to prevent the water level in low-lying areas from rising so as to avoid flooding, and set up facilities such as levees. However, these methods might lead to unaesthetic effects.

Shing Mun River was situated at a relatively low-lying area with carriageways generally located one step above, and with cycle tracks and pedestrian ways on both banks. Members of the public were inevitably affected by the astronomical high tide or the monsoon season every year, i.e. from October to December, and by flooding resulting from specific wind directions. The DSD was now seeking solutions to the problem arising from the four pedestrian subways on both banks of the river. “Review of Drainage Master Plan in Sha Tin and Sai Kung” was expected to be completed in December this year. The DSD would expeditiously consult the STDC about the improvement proposals recommended by the review. Currently, Shing Mun River was mostly flanked by railings, except for one part with levees, which were set up by different departments at different stages. Initially speaking, the DSD wished to coordinate different departments to optimise the levees in order to prevent flooding at the astronomical high tide. However, when it came to strong monsoon winds such as Typhoon Hato, the height of the levees might not be sufficient to stand the flooding;

- (d) the pedestrian subways on both banks of Shing Mun River were under the purview of the Highways Department (HyD). In the event of flooding, the DSD would contact the HyD to pump water out as soon as possible. Besides, the Government would soon hold an inter-departmental meeting to tackle the flooding problem of Shing Mun River. The DSD would consider issuing a warning to users of the pedestrian subways when flooding was likely to occur so as to remind them of other road-crossing methods;
- (e) the *2015 Policy Address* said that when enhancing the flood relief capacity of drainage channels or constructing drainage channels for new towns, it was necessary for the relevant departments to simultaneously carry out revitalisation which included environmental improvements, biodiversity, landscaping and providing water-friendly activities. The water-friendly activities had to be safe enough. The flood relief capacity of major watercourses such as Kai Tak Nullah and Tsui Ping River was about to be enhanced, so the department would revitalise them at the same time. The *2017 Policy Address* even proposed a new programme of the possible need to revitalise all watercourses. Regarding the revitalisation of 228 watercourses, the department initiated a report of a consultancy study as early as December 2015 to sort out the revitalisation priority based on various aspects including environmental, social and ecological factors. The report was expected to be completed in 2018. Preliminarily speaking, Tai Wai Nullah which measured 1.9 km in length and 35 m in width from the upstream area at Man Lai Court as well as Fo Tan Nullah in the Sha Tin District were both suitable for revitalisation. The consultancy and the DSD would consult the STDC on the preliminary proposals. The DSD would altogether consider revitalising the walking trails along the watercourses, but the post-revitalisation communication and cooperation with other departments had to be taken into account as well. Due to the uniqueness of each environment, the revitalisation of nullahs was often locally-oriented. The DSD would consider the proposals for ideas such as enhancing biodiversity and providing fish ladders;

- (f) the policy on the public village sewerage system formulated by the EPD required residents to build terminal manholes which should be connected to the DSD's main sewers. The policy had been effective all along with lots of village houses included in the sewerage discharge system and the environment had been improved. Remote villages or squatter structures were generally of lower priority, but the DSD had been recording the relevant information. If the relevant squatter structures having existed for a long time and causing relatively severe pollution to the surroundings were not to be demolished shortly, the DSD would further consider their priority which would ultimately be decided by the ENB and the EPD;
- (g) the DSD had been discussing with the WSD the IRTS which was in the end carried out by the DSD with the aim of protecting water resources and preventing flooding. With the efficacy of the West Kowloon drainage tunnel projects and the two reservoir transfer schemes, the pressure of the West Kowloon drainage tunnel would be alleviated and the flood relief capacity enhanced. As the information provided by the WSD showed, four relatively small reservoirs in Kowloon had been overflowing in the past decade. Stormwater had to be discharged into the sea via drainage tunnels. However, since the Lower Shing Mun Reservoir had never overflowed, it should be able to cope even if stormwater was discharged into it. In addition to the relatively large capacity of the Lower Shing Mun Reservoir, the WSD and the DSD would also work together to decide whether water should be discharged into Shatin STW instead of Shing Mun River when the water level of the Lower Shing Mun Reservoir reached a certain point. Hence, the DSD believed the transfer scheme would not leave Shing Mun River subject to flooding;
- (h) it was expected to attain provision at the Legislative Council in mid-2018 for the "Relocation of Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works to Caverns" and to commence the works in early 2019. A community liaison group was now being set up which would convene the first meeting in mid-December 2017. The problem concerning the sites of STW could then be discussed in the relevant meetings of the community liaison group. A consensus was expected to be reached before the commencement of the works;

[Post-meeting note: The DSD already met with Members concerned and followed up on the relevant matters at the briefing session of the "Relocation of Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works to Caverns" and at the meeting of the community liaison group held on 4 and 11 December respectively.]
- (i) extreme weather might cause counter-pressure elevating the water level. In addition to methods such as building levees, the DSD had set up Sheung Wan Stormwater Pumping Station to solve the flooding problem on "dried seafood streets" [i.e. area near Wing Lok Street and Ko Shing Street]. Besides, the DSD would consider using super pumps to get rid of stormwater and seawater; but since such measures might not be sufficient to deal with a plethora of seawater, the DSD was studying long-term solutions;
- (j) of the 4 100 km sewage and stormwater pipes, 1 800 km pipes were aged 30

years or more. Most of the pipes had a lifespan of 40-50 years, so pipes aged 30 years or more would not pose an immediate danger of collapse. The DSD was now preparing an over-a-decade-long plan to sort out the order of priorities for pipe rehabilitation section by section based on a risk-oriented principle of learning the pipe condition via closed circuit television, surveying conducted by experts and machines, etc., along with study of the relevant geographical environment such as road sections that had to be closed. The DSD would first, in the coming couple of years, survey 250 km channels, and then rehabilitate 110 km pipes;

- (k) the DSD understood that residents of Royal Ascot wished the pipes to be connected to the DSD's network as soon as possible. However, the land lease of Royal Ascot stipulated that the estate was responsible for maintaining the relevant pipes which were, however, located within the area of the MTRC. Royal Ascot was now paying the MTRC to maintain the pipes. If the pipes had to be connected to the public sewers, the closest location would be on Lok King Street in Fo Tan which was 150 m away from Royal Ascot. The DSD could provide technical advice if necessary;
- (l) Members' opinions concerning blocked pipes, the large lawn on Sha On Street, etc. would be recorded in writing and followed up on. The feasibility of improvement and optimisation would be studied. The HyD was responsible for removing blockages in gullies and branch pipes; the DSD cleaning and maintaining main pipes; the FEHD taking care of the trash. The DSD's emergency team would immediately handle flooding caused by blockage of large-sized trash or emergencies. The DSD would always clean the main pipes at the black spots before the rainy and windy seasons, and would send teams to remove tree branches and leaves at dozens of "black spots" in Kowloon and the south of the New Territories right after the cancellation of tropical cyclone signals; and
- (m) seawater mains were under the purview of the WSD. The DSD would follow up with Mr Alvin LEE on the relevant locations and relay their comment to the WSD.

38. The Chairman said that Director of Drainage Services had more or less responded to every Member's opinion and would follow up on district opinions after the meeting. Members might further follow up with the DSD according to the minutes penned by the Secretariat. The Chairman also thanked Director of Drainage Services for his candid communication. The water quality of Shing Mun River and the environment on both banks had obviously improved over the past decade, due to the strenuous efforts of the STDC, the DSD and other government departments. However, based on Members' opinions at the meeting today, there was still a lot of room for improvement regarding the water quality and environment. It was hoped that the DSD and other government departments would keep up the improvements.

39. Mr Wilson LI enquired about the sewerage works in Cheung Kang Village being planned as mentioned on pages 11, 13 and 15 of the PowerPoint, and if there was a schedule for the rehabilitation works in Ma On Shan.

40. Mr Edwin TONG responded that the DSD did not have a specific schedule as of now. Government projects required resources and an order of priorities, but the DSD had already commenced detailed planning.

41. Members agreed to discuss the provisional motions proposed by Ms Scarlett PONG and Mr TONG Hok-leung.

42. Ms Scarlett PONG proposed the following provisional motion:

“The Sha Tin District Council strongly requests the Drainage Services Department to expeditiously realise the design proposals and the relevant works to revitalise Fo Tan Nullah, and to submit them in mid-2018 to the Sha Tin District Council for discussion. It would be most ideal to use the design proposals resulting from the concerted efforts of “the Government, the community, academia and research organisations” plus the collaborative design by the Architectural Services Department, the Drainage Services Department and other government departments, instead of merely getting pipe revitalisation and greening works done. The overall development of Sha Tin and the characteristics of individual districts should also be taken into account, and the pollution problem of Shing Mun River has to be eased utterly.”

Mr Thomas PANG seconded the motion.

43. The Chairman suggested that a comma be added within the phrase “the Government, the community, academia and research organisations” in Chinese.

44. Ms Scarlett PONG accepted the Chairman’s suggestion and amended the provisional motion as follows:

“The Sha Tin District Council strongly requests the Drainage Services Department to expeditiously realise the design proposals and the relevant works to revitalise Fo Tan Nullah, and to submit them in mid-2018 to the Sha Tin District Council for discussion. It would be most ideal to use the design proposals resulting from the concerted efforts of “the Government, the community, academia and research organisations” plus the collaborative design by the Architectural Services Department, the Drainage Services Department and other government departments, instead of merely getting pipe revitalisation and greening works done. The overall development of Sha Tin and the characteristics of individual districts should also be taken into account, and the pollution problem of Shing Mun River has to be eased utterly.”

Mr Thomas PANG seconded the motion.

45. The Chairman asked Members whether they agreed to endorse the provisional motion in paragraph 44.

46. Members unanimously endorsed the provisional motion in paragraph 44.

47. Mr TONG Hok-leung proposed the following provisional motion:

“Background:

The Drainage Services Department commenced the ‘consultancy study on revitalising water bodies’ in 2015 which would be completed at the end of next year. Initial decision had now been made to select the five most potential sections of watercourses to be revitalised. Tai Wai Nullah was one of them. The Drainage Services Department stated that the cement river banks of Tai Wai Nullah would be replaced with aquatic plants on soil. Elements of natural ecology such as rocks, soil and ‘fish ladders’ favourable to the breeding of fish would be considered as well.

Motion:

The Sha Tin District Council requests the Government to do the following when designing the ‘revitalisation of Tai Wai Nullah’:

- 1) amply consult the Sha Tin District Council;
- 2) set up a community liaison group, invite district councillors of the relevant constituencies and resident representatives to join and provide opinions so that the works will meet district needs;
- 3) urge the relevant departments to tie in with the water channel works by optimising the riverside walkways and leisure activities.”

Ms TUNG Kin-lei seconded the motion.

48. The Chairman asked Members whether they agreed to endorse the provisional motion in paragraph 47.

49. Members unanimously endorsed the provisional motion in paragraph 47.

[Post-meeting note: The DSD already replied in writing on 18 December 2017 to the STDC on the content of the provisional motion.]

Discussion Items

The Sha Tin District Council (STDC) to Serve as Event Supporter
(Paper No. STDC 82/2017)

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

- (a) he would like to know the approach of the VQ Foundation Limited in respect of social services, and whether it had co-operated with the Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS) or had been given support by the HKCSS;
- (b) he asked whether there were any social workers or professionals among the directors of the VQ Foundation Limited; and
- (c) he pointed out that the Government had launched a number of foundations for application so far. He hoped that these foundations could practically be used for the community and give full play to its role.

51. The Chairman responded to Mr SIU Hin-hong, saying that according to general practice, it was not necessary for the applicant organisation to attend the STDC meetings. However, the Secretariat could inform the applicant organisation of the supplementary information that he needed after the meeting and request the organisation to provide the information required.

52. Mr TING Tsz-yuen said that the VQ Foundation Limited was not an organisation in Sha Tin. The Social Welfare Department did not provide additional information either. He considered that Members were not familiar with the organisation's background information. Therefore, he objected to the STDC's serving as the event supporter of "All-round Social Innovative Services Contest 2018" ("十面埋 '服' 社會創新服務大賽 2018") and its authorisation for exhibition of the STDC logo in the related publicity activities and on the relevant materials. He requested that the persons-in-charge of the applicant organisations should provide more information to the STDC for consideration in the future.

53. The Council rejected the application for having the STDC to serve as the event supporter of "All-round Social Innovative Services Contest 2018" and its authorisation for exhibition of the STDC logo in the related publicity activities and on the relevant materials by a voting result of 12 affirmative votes, 13 negative votes, 2 abstention votes, and 1 Member opting not to vote.

[Post-meeting note: the Secretariat required the VQ Foundation Limited to provide supplementary information to the STDC after the meeting in response to the STDC's comments. The Foundation replied that they had all along co-operated with the HKCSS to nominate organisations to take part in "Caring Company".]

Customer Liaison Group of the Hongkong Post – the STDC's Representative
(Paper No. STDC 83/2017)

54. The Council unanimously endorsed that Mr Tiger WONG would represent the STDC to be a member of the Customer Liaison Group of the Hongkong Post from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2019.

Revised Budget for the STDC
(Paper No. STDC 84/2017)

55. The Council unanimously endorsed the revised budget for the STDC from 2017 to 2018 in the paper.

Question

Question to be Raised by Mr WONG Hok-lai on the Distribution of Souvenirs in Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR
(Paper No. STDC 85/2017)

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

- (a) he said that since mid-2017, he had received a number of public enquires about the registration for obtaining lucky bags. He considered that the message of distribution of souvenirs was very confusing. Thus, he asked the Sha Tin District Office (STDO) whether it had traced how the message about the lucky bags was disseminated;
- (b) he asked whether only the Evangelical Lutheran Church — Hong Kong Radiance Hub and the Shatin Women's Association were invited to distribute the lucky bags for "Celebrations for All" in the Sha Tin District; and
- (c) he spoke on behalf of Mr CHING Cheung-ying, pointing out that it was stated in the paper that no lucky bags of "Celebrations for All" were distributed to either DC Members or their offices to avoid home visits or distribution of lucky bags being associated with any political bodies or political activities. He said that Mr CHING Cheung-ying found in Sun Tin Wai Estate that certain trade unions with strong political awareness had the lucky bags of "Celebrations for All". He asked whether this would be contradictory to the aim of avoiding home visits or distribution of lucky bags being associated with any political bodies or political activities.

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

- (a) he shared his experience and said that at present, for environmental protection purpose, Korea had restricted the amount of paper used for gift packaging. Therefore, he considered that the Government should not inject too many resources into gifts; and
- (b) he said that voluntary organisations had very little experience in quality control. He showed a souvenir recycle bag to Members at the meeting, and pointed out that flaws in printing were found. He asked Members to take note that entrusting voluntary organisations to produce the lucky bags might make the small and medium enterprises lose their business. He gradually did not support social enterprises because they caused the shutdown of many small and medium enterprises.

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

- (a) he said that the Government's total expenses on production of souvenirs were not shown in the reply. He learnt that the average cost per lucky bag was over \$100, and the message about distribution of the lucky bags was disseminated among the public, which made some voluntary organisations and even DC Members' offices quite perplexed. Some members of the public doubted that DC Members might have withheld some of the lucky bags. He considered that it was necessary for the Government to make improvements to publicity, and should at least let the public know the places and method of distribution; and
- (b) he learnt that a member of the public got more than one lucky bag from an organisation, and another member of the public went to the same organisation,

but was unable to get one. According to public opinion, the STDO's arrangement was not satisfactory. He hoped that the STDO would make improvements by considering disseminating a single message in respect of distribution arrangements and criteria for obtaining the souvenirs if similar activities were to be organised next time.

59. Ms Amy CHAN, District Officer (Sha Tin) gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she said that the recycle bag for publicity against illegal bicycle parking shown by Mr SIU Hin-hong was from a batch of substandard goods. Return and exchange of goods had been arranged. However, to protect the environment and avoid any waste and considering that the recycle bags were of good quality and durable, the Steering Group decided to distribute the substandard recycle bags so as to benefit more residents in the Sha Tin District. The STDO would check the goods more carefully when receiving the goods;
- (b) she responded to Mr WONG Hok-lai's opinion, saying that the lucky bags were distributed in a fair and transparent manner. Meanwhile, "Celebrations for All" was held once during the celebration for the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. The event was organised by the Home Affairs Department (HAD) and launched by 18 District Offices in their respective districts. Regarding "Celebrations for All" for celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR, apart from disseminating messages through general channels by the HAD, the Sha Tin District also produced and provided lucky bags through the Evangelical Lutheran Church – Hong Kong Radiance Hub and the Shatin Women's Association. The lucky bags were distributed by all non-governmental organisations in the Sha Tin District. The participant organisations had registered under section 88 of the *Inland Revenue Ordinance*. Qualified organisations might apply to the Evangelical Lutheran Church – Hong Kong Radiance Hub and the Shatin Women's Association for the lucky bags and distribute them during home visits. The STDO was responsible for co-ordination, offering assistance and giving advice to avoid duplicate distribution by the organisations. The Sha Tin District was allocated with more than 22 000 lucky bags. Since it was such a large amount and the activity was of large scale, it was inevitable that the arrangement was not perfect. She said that the STDO would draw experience from this activity and keep a record for future reference;
- (c) she understood that Members were quite busy. A letter had been sent to Members on 17 February this year, inviting them to participate in home visits and distribution of lucky bags. Replies from 14 Members were received, indicating that they would join the event. The wrong message about distribution of lucky bags that had been circulated was not disseminated from Sha Tin. The HAD clarified the matter by a press release as soon as the wrong message was disseminated, but this was not widely reported by the mass media. Besides, the STDO sent a letter to all Members on 13 June to report the latest progress of "Celebrations for All" and clarified the wrong message that was circulated on the Internet. She hoped that these details were sufficient for Members to refer to when they were queried by members of the public;

- (d) she was aware that Mr WONG Yue-hon had opinions on improvement in publicity, and she would mark them down. She said that a dilemma arose in the publicity of distribution of lucky bags this time. The lucky bags were distributed to the target recipients, such as the elderly, singleton elderly, elderly doubletons or families in need, including those families with disabled by means of home visits. Too much publicity might attract a large number of elderly persons to go to the elderly community centres for enquiry. This might brought unnecessary pressure to the centres. As such, it was finally decided that no publicity was required, and the social welfare agencies asked the families one by one carefully before arranging a home visit. She said that the STDO's main focus was not the distribution of lucky bags. It meant to pay home visits to families and share with them the joy of the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to China by means of distribution of lucky bags. The STDO would draw experience from this event and study how to conduct publicity more properly for similar events in the future. In addition, she noticed that during the half a year in which lucky days were distributed, many local organisations also produced and distributed lucky bags on their own to celebrate 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to China. Therefore, members of the public might find it confusing. These organisations had a good intention, and thus it was difficult for the STDO to stop them from doing so. But the STDO would still draw experience from this event and hoped that better arrangements could be made for similar events in the future;
- (e) she responded to the views of Mr CHING Cheung-ying presented by Mr WONG Hok-lai, saying that the complaint had been received in August and follow-up action had been taken. Mr HO, the person-in-charge, said that the lucky bags were printed with the wordings "presented by Celebrations for the Reunion with China" instead of "Celebrations for All". She considered that this was a kind of Ambush Marketing, that is, the organization concerned made use of a title similar to that of an event organised by the STDO to enhance the publicity of its own event. Upon receipt of the complaint, the STDO had immediately requested the person-in-charge to remove the poster. He said at that time that as the event was over, he would remove the poster. Moreover, a complainant pointed out that Mr HO, the person-in-charge, claimed on social media that he was a voluntary worker of the STDO, and the STDO had requested him to delete the relevant information. She reiterated that the STDO dealt with the complaints against this event seriously, and would follow up the complaints as soon as possible. Regarding the use of the title by the local organisation, she would treat the matter from a positive point of view. She considered that the organisation enhanced publicity by making use of the event of the STDO just because the event was popular. She said that the STDO would make a record in the hope that they could do better when they organised similar events in the future; and
- (f) she thanked all Members for participating in and giving assistance to the organisation of the event.

Question to be Raised by Mr CHAN Kwok-keung, James on the Membership of the

Committees under the Sha Tin District Office
(Paper No. STDC 86/2017)

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

- (a) he pointed out that in the paper, the response to the question “Are all DC Members are invited to join these committees? If not, what are the reasons?” stated that several factors were taken into consideration in the process of appointment, including the person’s capability, expertise, experience, integrity and involvement in serving the community; the functions and nature of responsibilities of the committees; and the efficient operation and continuity of the committees. Currently, five Members had not been appointed as members of any committees, including Mr LI Sai-hung, Mr MAK Yun-pui, Mr TING Tsz-yuen, Mr CHENG Tsuk-man and he himself. He queried whether these five Members did not meet the said requirements at all. He was interested in joining the Sha Tin District Fight Crime Committee (DFCC), and asked about the procedure for joining the committee;
- (b) regarding the case of objects being thrown from a height at Chung On Estate, he had repeatedly sent letters to the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) in the hope that they would actively investigate the case. The HKPF had sent five police officers to monitor the car park. As soon as he and his group had learnt about the operation, they played their part by requesting all websites of Ma On Shan to keep it secret. Owing to the co-operation of all parties involved, a suspect was successfully arrested. Moreover, as a shop at Fok On Garden was suspected to be providing obscene service, they kept writing to the HKPF and co-operated with the police. They were also well aware that the police’s “snaking” operation must not be disclosed. In an interview by Oriental Daily News, he just replied that there was not any actual evidence. However, a DC Member was interviewed by Oriental Daily News in a high profile, making the investigation of the HKPF difficult. He believed that he and his group had tried their best to co-operate with the HKPF to fight crime;
- (c) besides, he had set up the “Alliance Against Debt Collection Agencies” to help residents in Man On Shan and Sha Tin to combat debt collection many times. He had also accompanied victims to report cases to the police stations late at night. In addition, he had all along organised anti-gambling activities in Ma On Shan. He and some members of his organisation had also had direct conflicts with the gamblers. He was a double degree holder, and one of the degrees was law. He did not see why he could not join the DFCC even with his knowledge of law. He queried whether members of the DFCC were lawyers or police officers;
- (d) he would like to know more information about parts b, c, e of his question, especially the “great reconciliation” suggested by Mrs Carrie LAM CHENG Yuet-ngor, the new Chief Executive, upon her assumption of duty. She had stressed that extension of political spectrum would be her “new style of administration”. He asked that as even the Chinese Government had introduced people from various parties to the National People’s Congress or other

organisations, why the Sha Tin District did not follow suit;

- (e) he pointed out that 15 members of the DFCC were DC Members. He did not understand why he was not appointed. He said that he had stated many times his intent, and therefore he hoped that the District Officer would consider his appointment as a DFCC member; and
- (f) he said that the District Officer had not responded to the views on why the chairmen of the committees were all from the pro-establishment camp.

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

- (a) he said that he had been appointed as Chairman of the Sha Tin District Youth Programme Committee, and had been appointed to various committees by different District Officers. He pointed out that a number of Members from the non-pro-establishment camp were also working for or guiding the work of various committees, discussing various issues of the Sha Tin District. He opined that there were many occasions for Members to show their involvement in or express their views on local affairs. For example, he and Mr CHING Cheung-ying had worked together in the “Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR Advisory Committee” and the Sha Tin Festival;
- (b) he said that both he and Mr James CHAN were in favour of the DFCC. However, he had never been appointed as a member of that committee during his 14-year term of office as a DC Member. Although he had never studied law, he still wished to know more about fight crime issues in the Sha Tin District. He hoped that the District Officer or the HKPF would explain why he could not join the DFCC, which was a committee that he wished to join; and
- (c) he was aware that the term of office of members of some government committees was six years. It was possible that the term of office was terminated by the District Officer due to low attendance rate or poor performance of members. He asked whether it was possible for Members to openly request for appointment as members of certain committees, and what the outcome would be in case it turned out that Members were not appointed.

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

- (a) he asked whether the staff at the district level had given any advice to the Director of Home Affairs for consideration to facilitate the Director’s appointment of members to the committees;
- (b) he said that he had declined the appointment as a member of the “Planning Committee on Festival Lighting in Sha Tin” and “Sha Tin District Youth Programme Committee”. However, since his constituency included villages such as Tai Shui Hang Village and Ma On Shan Village, he hoped that he could still serve the Sha Tin Rural Public Works District Working Group. As far as he was aware, DC Members were ex-officio members of the Sha Tin East One, East

Two, West One and West Two Area Committees, but they could opt not to join the committees. He would like to confirm whether there was such an arrangement;

- (c) he opined that the Government's principle of appointment was to select a competent person. At the beginning of each new term, each Member was required to fill out a resume. He asked whether the District Officer would be consulted on the appointment of concerned professionals by certain committees upon completion of the resume;
- (d) he asked whether DC Members had the priority to be appointed to the STDO's committees, or whether there were other criteria ;
- (e) he would like to know the method of appointment by the committees, such as when to prepare for the organisation of a new term of committees ; and
- (f) he thanked the District Officer for taking public views into consideration in respect of "Vibrant Sha Tin 2017". He also thanked the Transport Officers and Traffic Engineers of the TD for their assistance in carrying out the event.

63. Ms Amy CHAN gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she reiterated that the committees under the STDO served as a platform for those who were interested in serving the community of the Sha Tin District. Their target members were not DC Members, and members of each committee were selected by appointment. All DC Members being ex-officio members of the area committees was an old arrangement. At present, all members of the area committees had to be selected by appointment, and thus a mechanism of withdrawal of membership was not available. Since appointment was a two-way arrangement, members who were re-appointed might opt not to accept the appointment. The STDO would act according to members' own willingness;
- (b) she said that making appointments was a matter between the appointing authority and the person being appointed. To protect the privacy of individuals, she would not comment on individual cases at the meeting. She appreciated Mr James CHAN's involvement in fight crime, and pointed out that every citizen had the responsibility to fight crime. Although the HKPF had much manpower, effective crime prevention still depended on public co-operation with the police;
- (c) she said that the DFCC was organised by residents in Sha Tin. Its aim was to disseminate fight crime messages in the district. Some areas such as anti-control or anti-debt collection would not be discussed at the DFCC meetings. The committees under the STDO organised many events to publicise fight crime, fire safety, youth programmes, festive lighting, national education, arts and culture, or discussed the local public works. Since the committees under the STDO had a limited number of members, she, to the best of her ability, had created more opportunities other than the platform of committees to work

with DC Members. For example, besides inviting DC Members to be the jurors of the cycling parade of “Vibrant Sha Tin 2017”, Members were also invited to be honorary advisors. She opined that people from different political parties with different backgrounds co-operated with the government departments well in the event, and hoped that every party involved enjoyed this working relationship;

- (d) she was aware that Mr James CHAN was interested in the DFCC. However, since her assumption of office, many people had indicated to her that they were interested in joining the DFCC. Regarding how to respond to such requests, she said that it was inappropriate to select members by priority of request, the occasion on which the request was made, capacity or status of the people concerned, etc. She suggested that if Members were interested in the work of the committees in the Sha Tin District, they might try to join other committees first to explore their interest in other areas;
- (e) in response to Mr Michael YUNG’s opinion, she said the staff of the District Offices would provide opinions to the Director of Home Affairs in respect of appointment of members to the DFCC, Sha Tin District Fire Safety Committee, Sha Tin East One, East Two, West One and West Two Area Committees. She said that the whole process involved much interaction until the appointment was completed. There was not any special appointment method for the committees. Members of the next term were normally appointed before the term of office of the last committee ended. As such, she hoped that Members would indicate their intent as early as possible;
- (f) she said that relatively speaking, the chairmen of the committees were more experienced in individual issues at district level or leadership, and experience had to be accumulated. She also hoped that Members would give positive response when they were invited to join the activities organised by the STDO, and that would be encouraging to her; and
- (g) she said that DC Members were invited to join the activities irrespective of their political parties. In discussion of the affairs in the Sha Tin District, the well-being of residents in the district was considered, instead of their background. Anyone who required help from the STDO might approach her or the STDC staff. She would make arrangements within the limited number of committees as far as possible with reference to Members’ interest and intent. However, she was not able to guarantee that individuals would be appointed to certain committees.

64. The Chairman said that he had accepted the appointment as members of various committees, but had never tried to recommend himself before. He considered that Members should consider whether they would accept the appointment with reference to their own capability and interest. He said that starting from this term of office, the HKSAR Government had openly stated that some self-recommendation mechanisms were available to enter the new consultative structure. The District Officer had also stressed that channels were available for Members at this meeting to reflect their intent and concerns. He asked Members to make a judgement and consideration on their own.

Information Items

Reports of Committees under the STDC

District Facilities Management Committee
(Paper No. STDC 87/2017)

Culture, Sports and Community Development Committee
(Paper No. STDC 88/2017)

Education and Welfare Committee
(Paper No. STDC 89/2017)

Development and Housing Committee
(Paper No. STDC 90/2017)

Traffic and Transport Committee
(Paper No. STDC 91/2017)

Health and Environment Committee
(Paper No. STDC 92/2017)

Finance and General Affairs Committee
(Paper No. STDC 93/2017)

65. The Council noted the above seven reports.

Financial Account of the STDC (as at 14 November 2017)
(Paper No. STDC 94/2017)

66. The Council noted the above paper.

Information Paper

Report of the District Management Committee
(Paper No. STDC 95/2017)

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

- (a) on 28 October this year, a running race was held by a non-profit-making organisation in the Sha Tin District. On that day, he received a few residents' complaint with photos, indicating that the riverside of Shing Mun River was full of rubbish. Moreover, that day was Sunday. Many elderly persons who took a rest beside Shing Mun River had to dodge the runners. Also, some people found that some runners were impolite;
- (b) some members of the public asked him why he had not informed them of the race there. He found it strange because he did not know whether the organiser

had consulted the STDC or the relevant departments in advance. He learnt after enquiry that it was a charitable race organised by a non-profit-making organisation and the TD assisted in road closure; and

- (c) later on, he asked the District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent of the FEHD and learned that more than 10 bags of rubbish were cleared that day. He asked why frontline workers had to be deployed for this kind of events. Moreover, runners who littered should be liable to fine. The organiser was disappointing in respect of both clearance of rubbish and civic awareness. He hoped that the STDO would pay more attention to similar race applications in the future and notify relevant Members so that they could inform the public of the race earlier. Meanwhile, he hoped that the organiser would make improvements in the future.

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

- (a) in respect of the running race held in the Sha Tin District on 28 October this year, as far as he was aware, the organiser was just semi-professional in organising running races. He considered that the problem rested with half closure of the road only. An old lady was run down by a runner, and then a resident helped her lodge a complaint with the voluntary workers. However, not all voluntary workers knew how to deal with these problems;
- (b) at around 12:00 pm that day, a number of residents sent him photos of piles of rubbish along Shing Mun River. After he had uploaded the photos onto the internet, many staff members of the organiser and runners pointed out that he did not know much about long distance running, saying that for the long distance running race in Tokyo, rubbish was also thrown onto the street. He considered that the cause of the problem was that the road was not fully closed. Moreover, the race was held along Shing Mun River, where the road surface was narrow. He asked why the concerned DC Members, local organisations and owners' committees (OCs) were not notified beforehand. If they had been notified in advance, they would have been willing to co-operate with the organiser;
- (c) the event brought about more than ten bags of rubbish. He asked why the event had to be funded by public funds; and
- (d) he opined that Hong Kong was in lack of running venues. However, the Government just supported large organisations to hold running races, without giving full support to small or medium sports organisations. Also, applications were approved casually and DC Members, local organisations and OCs were not notified in advance. This finally led to conflicts between the organiser, runners and residents. He learnt that after this event, the organiser had stated that they were disappointed and might not hold such an event anymore. He hoped that the Government would learn a lesson and give more support to small and medium sports organisations.

69. The Chairman said that before Mr Michael YUNG, made a speech, he would like to state that this agenda item was to discuss the report submitted by the District Management

Committee (DMC), which was an information paper. Members were welcome to raise enquiries and express their views on this report. However, Messrs YAU Man-chun and James CHAN had just mentioned a sport which was not included in the paper. Mr Michael YUNG was welcome to express his views on the paper. But if he was to discuss the sport that had just been mentioned, he had to look for an opportunity to discuss it again.

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

- (a) he would like to talk about waterworks first. He thanked the District Officer for letting the WSD report the progress of replacement and rehabilitation works of the Water Intelligent Network at the DMC meeting. He was aware that a paper summary had been submitted. He would like to know when the Director of Water Supplies would be invited to the meeting;
- (b) in respect of “Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR: Vibrant Sha Tin 2017”, he thanked the District Officer for her participation in the event. He was aware that the department had made a significant contribution, and the running races and cycling events that it held involved more road closure than that on 28 October. He asked how many complaints had been received after the event. He learnt that there were not many complaints. He enquired whether easy co-ordination could be arranged with other departments if an event was co-organised by the STDC and the STDO, so that various departments could assist in publicity, road closure and logistics; and
- (c) he was aware that many local organisations applied for holding events along Shing Mun River. He asked that on condition that the application for holding of running races along Shing Mun River by various organisations could not be excluded, in what way the STDO would deal with publicity, road closure and logistics, and how the nearby stakeholders would be notified in advance through the STDO to enhance communication.

71. The Chairman hoped that the District Officer would take note that this agenda item was an information paper. A few Members had just reflected that these major sports events in the district were worth attention, in particular, Members had reflected that there were a lot of negative comments on the event on 28 October. The comments were worth attention. If the information that the District Officer had in hand at this meeting was not sufficient, she might follow up the matter after the meeting. In addition, he hoped that the District Officer would respond to Mr Michael YUNG’s question about water supplies.

72. Ms Amy CHAN gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) in response to Mr Michael YUNG’s views, she said that the date of visit to the Sha Tin District by the Director of Water Supplies still had not been confirmed yet. However, the STDO was following up the attendance of various department heads at the STDC meetings; and
- (b) she said that she received a message from Mr YAU Man-chun on the day of the running race, that is, 28 October, saying that the situation was not satisfactory.

However, as the event was organised by a private organisation, the organisation should be responsible for co-ordination and arrangements. The STDO did not have the authority to approve the relevant activities, such as road closure and approval of organisation of major events. Therefore, the STDO was unaware that the event was held in the Sha Tin District. She pointed out that the scenery in Sha Tin was beautiful and there were adequate facilities. Sha Tin attracted organisations from other districts to hold events here. She believed that the residents in the Sha Tin District welcomed people from other districts to use the facilities here. She would add an agenda item at the meeting of the DMC in the future to study how to strike a balance between the two. She had to enquired of the concerned government departments about their roles or duties involved in the major events held in Sha Tin by private organisations, and what advice the departments would give to the organisations so as to facilitate the organisation of the events in the Sha Tin District. She would report the progress at the DMC meetings.

73. Mr YAU Man-chun said that the residents just reflected their opinions instead of lodging complaints. They hoped that the concerned organisation would do better in the future. He said that all parties supported this kind of charitable events. However, when problems arose, they all hoped that the same mistake would not be repeated next time to avoid sharp increase in the workload of frontline staff. In addition, he noticed that the individual organisation had applied to the TD for road closure at the same time, while the letter was copied to the STDC. He opined that the Secretariat should transfer the letter to Members for reference.

74. The Chairman said that if the letter that the organisation sent to the TD was really copied to the STDC, the STDC would place importance on it. He said that the STDC as a whole would definitely place importance on residents' concerns. Moreover, he thanked the District Officer's arrangement for allowing Members' to fully discuss their views at the DMC meetings.

75. Mr James CHAN pointed out that the organiser said that they did send a copy of the letter to the STDC. He hoped that the letter could be found. Moreover, he relayed residents' appreciation to the HKPF, thanking them for their recent operations conducted at Chung On Estate and Fok On Garden.

[Post meeting-note: the Secretariat had not received any letter copied to the STDC by the organiser. The Secretariat just received the copies of two letters sent by the TD to the organiser in late May and early June respectively. The Secretariat had enquired of the TD and learnt that no follow-up action on those two letters were required. The Secretariat also noted that in the letter of early June, the TD required the organiser to submit the event brief to the STDO, HKPF, LCSD and the relevant cycling organisations as soon as possible. However, since then, the Secretariat and the STDO had not received any letters from the organiser.]

76. The Council noted the above paper.

77. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 25 January 2018 (Thursday).

78. The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat
STDC 13/15/50

December 2017