

Sha Tin District Council
Minutes of the 1st Meeting of
the Development, Housing, Environment and Health Committee in 2023

Date : 17 January 2023 (Tuesday)
Time : 2:30 pm
Venue : Sha Tin District Office Conference Room 441
 4/F, Sha Tin Government Offices

<u>Present</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Time of joining the meeting</u>	<u>Time of leaving the meeting</u>
Mr CHOW Hiu-laam, Felix (Chairman)	DC Member	2:30 pm	5:31 pm
Mr MAK Yun-pui, Chris	DC Chairman	2:37 pm	4:14 pm
Mr SIN Cheuk-nam	DC Vice-Chairman	2:37 pm	5:31 pm
Mr CHENG Chung-hang	DC Member	2:37 pm	5:31 pm
Mr CHUNG Lai-him, Johnny	"	2:37 pm	5:31 pm
Mr HUI Lap-san	"	2:38 pm	5:31 pm
Mr WAI Hing-cheung	"	2:30 pm	5:31 pm
Ms CHOW Man-kwan, Mandy (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council)3, Sha Tin District Office		

<u>In Attendance</u>	<u>Title</u>
Mr SHIU Kan-yun, Roy	Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)1 (Atg)
Mr HO Kin-nam, David	Executive Officer I (District Council)1, Sha Tin District Office
Ms CHAN Yuen-chi, Jess	Housing Manager/Tai Po, North and Shatin 3, Housing Department
Mr YEUNG Wai-dor	Administrative Assistant/Lands (Atg), District Lands Office, Sha Tin
Ms YICK Hong-nien, Hannah	Senior Town Planner/Shatin, Planning Department
Mr CHAN Ka-kui	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sha Tin), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr KAO Hsi-chiang	Chief Health Inspector (Sha Tin)3, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Ms CHAN Hoi-wing	Engineer/New Territories East (Distribution 1), Water Supplies Department
Ms WONG Pui-wan, Cecilia	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional North)4, Environmental Protection Department
Ms MAN Pui-shan, Erica	Deputy District Leisure Manager (Sha Tin)2, Leisure and Cultural Services Department

<u>In Attendance by Invitation</u>	<u>Title</u>
Mr WONG Tsz-chung	Senior Electrical and Mechanical Engineer/ Nuclear and Utility Safety, Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

In Attendance by Invitation

Mr HO Kin-yip

Ms WONG Yee-ching

Mr FAN Kai-to, Jason

Mr LAM Wing-chung, Cliff

Mr Raymond CHEUNG

Mr Sunny CHAN

Ms LO Chau-ling, Yvonne

Mr CHAN Hok-man, John

Ms SIN Pui-yee, Grace

Mr CHOW Tik-sang, Dickson

Mr NG Chung-man, Desmond

Mr LEUNG Chi-man, Simon

Ms Rysta SO

Mr LEUNG Ka-yin, Tommy

Title

Electrical and Mechanical Engineer/
Nuclear and Utility Safety/2 (Atg),
Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Electrical and Mechanical Engineer/
Nuclear and Utility Safety/4,
Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Director – Corporate Affairs (External Relations),
CLP Power Hong Kong Limited
Senior Manager – Overhead Line/Transmission,
CLP Power Hong Kong Limited
Principal Manager – Asset Utilisation/PSBG,
CLP Power Hong Kong Limited
Senior External Relations Manager – CA(ER),
CLP Power Hong Kong Limited
Senior Engineer/Cavern Projects 1,
Drainage Services Department
Senior Engineer/Cavern Projects 5,
Drainage Services Department
Engineer/Cavern Projects 9,
Drainage Services Department
District Leisure Manager (Sha Tin),
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Executive Director, Water, HK,
AECOM (Consultant)
Chief Resident Engineer,
AECOM (Consultant)
Assistant External Affairs Manager,
MTR Corporation Limited
Engineer/Ma On Shan,
Drainage Services Department

Absent

Dr LAM Kong-kwan

Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS

Title

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

Action**Welcome Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed the members and representatives of government departments to the meeting of the Development, Housing, Environment and Health Committee (DHEHC).

Application for Leave of Absence

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

Dr LAM Kong-kwan

Official commitment

3. Members unanimously approved the application for leave of absence submitted by the member above.
4. In order to facilitate the meeting, the Chairman proposed that after handling the item of Matters Arising, “Question to be Raised by Mr WAI Hing-cheung on Safety of Power Supply in Sha Tin District” (Paper No. DHEH 36/2022) should be dealt with first before proceeding to the remaining agenda items according to the scheduled order of business of the agenda.
5. Members unanimously agreed to the above arrangement for rearranging the agenda items.

Election of Vice-Chairman of the Committee

6. The Chairman said that by the end of the nomination period, the Secretariat had not received any nomination form for the office of Vice-Chairman of the DHEHC. Since there were no candidates, the Chairman announced that the office of Vice-Chairman of the DHEHC would remain vacant.

Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Meeting Held on 15 November 2022
(DHEH Minutes 5/2022)

7. Members unanimously endorsed the above minutes.

Matters Arising

Responses of Government Departments to Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting
(Paper No. DHEH 1/2023)

8. Members unanimously endorsed the above paper.

Question

Question to be Raised by Mr WAI Hing-cheung on Safety of Power Supply in Sha Tin District
(Paper No. DHEH 36/2022)

9. The views of Mr WAI Hing-cheung were summarised below:
 - (a) he said that the question was raised at the DHEHC meeting on 20 September 2022. He wished to know the reason for the non-attendance of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) and CLP Power Hong Kong Limited (CLP) at the meeting;
 - (b) he wished to know the function of the fluorescent lights on the cross beams in the cable bridge and the cause of the fluorescent light fire incident. He also wished to know whether the CLP’s various risk reduction measures could specifically prevent the fluorescent lights in cable bridges from catching fire;

- (c) he would like to know the locations of the other four cable bridges apart from the one in Yuen Long District, and the number of cable bridges in Sha Tin District. He also wondered if the CLP would consider constructing additional cable bridges in the future;
- (d) he wished to know whether the assessment work conducted by relevant departments and organisations on power cables was inadequate, and the criteria adopted for assessing the chances of occurrence of similar incidents at the other four cable bridges;
- (e) he wished to know whether substances or residues harmful to the human body would be emitted from the cable bridge incident; and
- (f) he would like to know whether the EMSD had conducted the electromagnetic fields (EMF) tests at the overhead cable next to Pui Kiu College in Tai Wai after the meeting of Health and Environment Committee in 2012.

10. Mr SIN Cheuk-nam wished to know whether the implementation of additional risk reduction measures for cable bridges by the CLP would increase its assets and profits, or lead to higher electricity tariffs.

11. Mr CHENG Chung-hang wished to know whether the electricity supply in Sha Tin District would be affected if a power cable fire incident took place in the district, and whether relevant response measures were in place.

12. Mr Jason FAN, Director – Corporate Affairs (External Relations) of the CLP, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that the CLP had liaised with relevant District Councillors on the question, and as it took time to implement the follow-up measures, the CLP attended the meeting as suggested;
- (b) he said that the Yuen Long cable bridge incident was very rare. According to the expert evaluation report, it was most likely that the incident concerned was caused by the fire of the fluorescent lights on the cross beams in the cable bridge, with kindling materials dropping to the nearest communication cables underneath before spreading fire to nearby communication cables and high-voltage cables;
- (c) he said that it was inappropriate to provide the locations of the other four cable bridges for security reasons. The CLP would closely assess and monitor the safety of all cable bridges;
- (d) he said that the CLP had conducted a range of risk reduction measures on the other four cable bridges, including painting the power cables with fire-retardant coatings, installing heat detection systems and retrofitting wet-type fire suppression systems, and replacing all fluorescent lights. Therefore, the chances of occurrence of similar incidents at the other four bridges were very low. Furthermore, relevant expenditures were subsumed under the costs

earmarked for the CLP's yearly maintenance and repair work of its electricity facilities, and therefore no additional assets and expenditures would be incurred; and

- (e) he said that under normal circumstances, if a power cable was on fire, electricity supply would be suspended immediately under the relevant circuit protection system, while electricity supply would be restored by the backup circuits within a short period of time. Therefore, a large-scale power failure would not occur.

13. Mr Cliff LAM, Senior Manager – Overhead Line/Transmission of the CLP, said that as the surrounding environment of high-voltage electricity facilities would normally seldom change, and the EMF levels measured during the operation of such facilities were about the same as those at the time of commissioning, it was not necessary to conduct relevant measurement on a regular basis.

14. Mr WONG Tsz-chung, Senior Electrical and Mechanical Engineer/Nuclear and Utility Safety of the EMSD, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that the relevant team of the EMSD was unable to attend the DHEHC meeting on 20 September 2022 due to other official commitments. Besides, it took time for the CLP to follow up recommendations and risk reduction measures set out in the investigation report on the Yuen Long cable bridge incident. Therefore, the EMSD attended the meeting as suggested, so as to respond to the questions from the members in a more comprehensive manner;
- (b) he said that as the CLP had sufficient backup power sources and relevant communication systems in Sha Tin District, it was less likely that a prolonged large-scale power failure would take place; and
- (c) he said that the EMSD, together with the CLP, conducted measurement on the level of power frequency EMF outside the main entrance of Pui Kiu College on 6 June 2022. The result indicated that the EMF data at the location concerned was less than 1% of international standards, which was at a safe level. He also said that power cables would cease operation in case of fire incident. As EMFs were induced by voltages and currents, power cables which had ceased operation would not produce EMFs.

15. The views of Mr Chris MAK were summarised below:

- (a) he expressed discontent over the non-attendance of the EMSD at the DHEHC meeting on 20 September 2022. He hoped that government departments could attend STDC meetings in time for direct communication with the members; and
- (b) he wished to know whether the burning of power cables would emit harmful gases.

16. Mr Johnny CHUNG suggested that the responses from departments and organisations to the question concerned should be conveyed through the wording of document titles more precisely.

17. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:
- (a) he wished to know whether alternative ways of power supply were available to replace cable bridges; and
 - (b) he wished to know whether power cables would, at high temperatures, release substances harmful to the human body.
18. Mr Raymond CHEUNG, Principal Manager – Asset Utilisation/PSBG of the CLP, said that the CLP had been assessing the materials selected for use in the equipment to ensure safety of operation and use.
19. Mr HO Kin-yip, Electrical and Mechanical Engineer/Nuclear and Utility Safety/2 (Atg) of the EMSD, said that the gases emitted from the burning of power cables hinged on the materials used to make the power cables, and power cables made of new materials would not produce dioxin during combustion. He said that the EMSD would provide relevant supplementary information after the meeting.
20. The Chairman requested the EMSD to provide supplementary information in response to members' questions after the meeting and announced the end of the agenda item.

Discussion Item

Relocation of Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works to Caverns – Progress Report (Paper No. DHEH 2/2023)

21. Ms Yvonne LO, Senior Engineer/Cavern Projects 1 of the Drainage Services Department and Mr Simon LEUNG, Chief Resident Engineer of the AECOM (Consultant), briefly introduced the paper.
22. The views of Mr CHENG Chung-hang were summarised below:
- (a) he supported the relocation of Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works (STSTW) to caverns and thanked the Drainage Services Department (DSD) as well as the consulting firm for striving to minimise the impact on the overall surrounding environment during the works. He said he learnt that the works had affected some residents of Fishermen Village and hoped that the firm could cater for residents' needs. Moreover, he opposed future reclamation and planning of the waters off the vacated site of the STSTW. He was also concerned about whether the planning would affect the environment and traffic of Ma On Shan; and
 - (b) he said that some facilities of the STSTW were currently quite dilapidated. He hoped that the DSD could continue to maintain and repair the existing site during the works, while managing the odours produced during operation. He was also concerned about the effectiveness of merely using equipment to detect odours. He was of the view that the sense of smell of human beings was more acute than equipment, and hoped that the department could conduct monitoring

with the aid of the sense of smell.

23. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) he said the paper mentioned that the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) had granted approval to a variation of the environmental permit in August 2022. He wished to know the impact of the works on the local environment and the difference between the part involved in the variation and that in the previous permit;
- (b) he said he noted that piles of rubble were continuously placed under the Tate's Cairn Highway flyover and wished to know whether the rubble at the location was generated from the relocation works. If so, he wished to know the reason for piling the rubble at that location. Moreover, he said that as the rubble was not completely covered while the said location was in an exposed position, he was concerned about whether the mud, sand and rock debris blown off by the wind would affect nearby residents;
- (c) he expressed support for the community liaison group (CLG) meetings of the works and the decorative hoardings concerned;
- (d) he wished to know whether new technologies were adopted in the works to enhance efficiency;
- (e) he wished to know the challenges faced by the relocation of the STSTW and whether such challenges would affect the works progress. He would also like to learn more about the implementation details of the third phase of the works stated in the paper; and
- (f) he was concerned about the impact of land use planning of the original site of STSTW, after its relocation, on the supply and demand of transport services and facilities in the district.

24. Ms Yvonne LO gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she said that the Department had listened to the concerns of the residents of Fishermen Village at a CLG meeting. Subsequently, the works team immediately liaised with the residents to learn about their needs and follow up their concerns;
- (b) she said that the Department would continue the maintenance of the existing STSTW and would adopt odour control measures to reduce the impact of its operation on nearby residents. She also said that the Department would take into account the member's suggestion by further monitoring the odours produced during the operation of the STSTW with the aid of the sense of smell apart from equipment; and
- (c) she said that the works involved caverns of about 14 hectares in area, and therefore sufficient space was required for temporarily storing and processing about five million tonnes of rock materials generated from excavation. She

said that the high-quality granite excavated was useful construction materials, which would be temporarily stored within a construction site alongside Tate's Cairn Highway, and subsequently transported to the two temporary sites in Wok Tai Wan and Ngau Kok Wan in Tsing Yi North. Crushers were also available to process the rock pieces into useful construction materials for local reuse. Therefore, an application for a variation of the environmental permit was submitted to the EPD, and an approval was granted for reusing the rock materials to avoid disposal. She also said that relevant dust control mitigation measures at the temporary storage location alongside Tate's Cairn Highway had been strengthened, including the use of green dust screens and spraying water regularly, in order to reduce the impact of dust on nearby residents.

25. Mr Simon LEUNG said that to enhance productivity and works quality, different innovative technologies were deployed in the works, including the application of "Modular Integrated Construction" in the construction of a Community Liaison Centre, retaining walls on A Kung Kok Shan Road, and applying Multi-trade Integrated Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing for assembling drainage pipes at the roundabout on Mui Tsz Lam Road, thereby reducing manpower and enhancing industrial safety and efficiency. Besides, he said that different artificial intelligence and innovative technologies were adopted in the blasting works for caverns with a view to, among others, expediting works progress and enhancing quality.

26. Mr John CHAN, Senior Engineer/Cavern Projects 5 of the DSD, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that different phases of the entire relocation project were taken forward in accordance with a "highly overlapping" works schedule to shorten the time required for the entire relocation project. He said the DSD was going to invite tenders from contractors and seek funding approval for the third phase of the works, which were expected to commence within 2023. Moreover, he said that as the consulting firm of the entire relocation project, the AECOM Asia Company Limited would continue to work with the DSD to establish good communication and liaison channels in the community; and
- (b) he said that the Ma Liu Shui reclamation project proposed to be revived by the Chief Executive in the 2021 Policy Address and the site vacated after the relocation of the STSTW to caverns would be planned in parallel primarily for innovation and technology development purpose. He said that the DSD was responsible for taking forward the STSTW relocation works as scheduled under the development project. The works were expected to be completed in 2031, so that the current site of the STSTW could be released, while reclamation and the development plan for the site vacated after the STSTW relocation would be handled by other departments. He believed that relevant departments would explain the development arrangements to the stakeholders in a timely manner.

27. The Chairman wished to learn more about when the clearance of the rubble temporarily stored under the Tate's Cairn Highway flyover would be completed, and whether the location concerned in Tsing Yi would be permanently used to process the rock materials for reuse.

28. The views of Mr CHENG Chung-hang were summarised below:

- (a) he said that the site of the sewage rising mains construction works on Yuen Wo Road near Sha Tin Fire Station was located in the proximity of Sha Tin Rowing Centre, at which expansion works were underway. He requested the Department to contact Sha Tin Rowing Centre for discussion of the traffic arrangements and schedule of the works, so as to reduce the impact on the traffic flow on the road and training of athletes; and
- (b) he said that a relatively large area was occupied by the rubble piled alongside Tate's Cairn Highway. He wished to know whether the Department could expedite the transportation of the rock materials to shorten the occupation period of the site.

29. Ms Yvonne LO gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she said that the current sewage rising mains construction works on Yuen Wo Road were mainly conducted at the kerb planters without occupying the roads. The Department would continue to liaise closely and co-ordinate with Sha Tin Rowing Centre; and
- (b) she said the Department expected that the rock pieces excavated under the works could be recycled into useful construction materials as early as practicable, thereby reducing the number of rock pieces temporarily stored at the temporary construction site. Besides, she added that the Department would continue to strengthen dust control and other mitigation measures at the construction site to reduce the impact on nearby residents.

30. Mr Simon LEUNG added that the contractor temporarily stored the rock pieces within the construction site alongside Tate's Cairn Highway. Such rock pieces were not placed at the location permanently, and would be transported to the construction site in Tsing Yi North according to the works progress for further processing. Furthermore, he said that the consulting firm had been monitoring the arrangements of the contractor for piling of rock materials at the said location, under which the maximum height of storage should not over eight metres and the gradient involved should not exceed 40 degrees. Despite the relatively low content of mud and sand in the rock pieces excavated, the works team would urge the contractor to progressively cover the area with green dust screens to reduce the impact on the surrounding environment.

31. The Chairman requested the DSD to note and follow up the views of the members, as well as to provide, after the meeting, information or photos of environmental mitigation measures for the works. The Chairman announced the end of the agenda item.

Questions (Continued)

Question to be Raised by Mr WAI Hing-cheung on Noise from MTR Trains in Sha Tin District (Paper No. DHEH 3/2023)

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

- (a) he said he had received complaints from residents of Blocks 1 and 2 of Grandway Garden in Tai Wai about noises generated by the MTR Tuen Ma Line after its commissioning, and he wished to know the source of the sounds. He also invited the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) to conduct a joint inspection with him at the residential units concerned;
- (b) he expressed his frustration with the written reply from the MTRCL on the question. He wished to know whether there were any differences between the sounds generated by the trains of the Mainland and local railways when in operation. If so, he wished to know the reason for the differences;
- (c) he wished to know why the sound level generated by the trains operating along the rail section from City One to Shek Mun on the Tuen Ma Line was different from that of the trains operating from Shek Mun to City One; and
- (d) he wished to know the reason for louder sounds generated by the trains when passing through a “scissors crossover” and relevant improvement measures.

33. Mr Chris MAK said that the trains on the Tuen Ma Line bound for Wu Kai Sha would generate louder sounds when passing through the rail section along Sai Sha Road and at the time of the replacement work carried out by the staff for the advertising light boxes, causing impact to nearby residents particularly during nighttime. He wished to learn more about the MTRCL’s relevant plans on measurement of the sounds of the Tuen Ma Line and maintenance of rails.

34. Mr CHENG Chung-hang was concerned about whether the sound insulation measures along the rail sections of the Tuen Ma Line were inadequate. He urged the MTRCL to explore the provision of sound insulation facilities at noise black spots along the MTR lines and report the results to the members in due course. He wished to know how long would it take to explore the provision. Moreover, he proposed that intercoms should be provided to maintenance personnel of the MTRCL to facilitate their communication during late night hours.

35. Mr Johnny CHUNG considered that rail grinding and speed limits for trains aiming at reducing the sound level generated by the trains in operation failed to improve the problem effectively. He wished to know whether the MTRCL would consider implementing long-term sound insulation measures, such as installation of noise barriers along the rail section concerned of the Tuen Ma Line.

36. The Chairman said that some engineering trains with diesel locomotives were preheated in the open-air area in Ho Tung Lau Depot in Fo Tan, during which noises, smoke and odours were generated in the process, affecting residents of The Palazzo above the station for years. He opined that as the property development was undertaken by the MTRCL, the MTRCL should specifically adjust the maintenance and property management arrangements to cater for the living conditions of the residents. He hoped that the MTRCL could empathise with the residents affected and continue to follow up relevant matters. Furthermore, he said that the members could assist in arranging site inspections.

37. Ms Rysta SO, Assistant External Affairs Manager of the MTRCL, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she said the MTRCL had been monitoring the operation of trains. To reduce the sounds generated from the interaction between rails and wheels, the MTRCL had formulated a range of measures, including regular grinding of rails and wheels as well as maintenance of trains and rails, etc. Meanwhile, the MTRCL would also ensure the good condition and traffic safety of railways and trains through the stringent system of repair and maintenance;
- (b) she said the MTRCL had deployed staff to inspect the rails of the section mentioned in the question, and confirmed that the rails of the relevant section were in normal condition and the noise from railway operation was in compliance with statutory levels. Moreover, she said that she would relay the members' suggestion on conducting a site inspection in Grandway Garden to relevant departments, and would liaise with the members in a timely manner;
- (c) she said that the number of points along the rail section from City One Station to Shek Mun Station on Tuen Ma Line was different from that in the direction from Shek Mun Station to City One Station, which resulted in varying sound levels generated by the trains for the two directions in the section;
- (d) she said that the continuous operation of the railway lines for over 19 hours a day would inevitably lead to normal wear and tear of the rails and fittings. It was therefore necessary to carry out replacement, repair and maintenance work regularly to ensure smooth operation and safety. To avoid any impact on daily operation of railway services, the maintenance work could only be conducted late at night when train services were suspended. The MTRCL would remind relevant personnel to minimise the sound level as far as possible. She also said that she would relay the members' views on sound insulation measures to relevant departments; and
- (e) she said the MTRCL had earlier provided a written reply to the Chairman on the issue of Ho Tung Lau Depot in Fo Tan. She said that while the preheating procedures of relevant engineering trains were inevitable, the MTRCL would continue to monitor train maintenance work, and would minimise the noise of maintenance work as far as possible without affecting the safe operation of trains by, among others, reducing the frequency of switching on and off engines of engineering trains, reminding staff to be mindful of their voice levels when communicating among themselves, and preheating such trains in covered areas whenever feasible, so as to reduce the impact on nearby residents.

38. Mr WAI Hing-cheung suggested that MTRCL should be allowed a period of a few months for exploring ways to improve the situation in a comprehensive manner before having further discussion with the members.

39. The Chairman said that the issue could be further discussed in detail in the meeting of the Traffic and Transport Committee, and announced the end of the agenda item.

Question to be Raised by Mr CHOW Hiu-laam, Felix on Management of Trees on Government Land in Sha Tin District
(Paper No. DHEH 4/2023)

40. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) he was disheartened by the approach of departments in following up issues on tree management. He said that the Tree Management Office was responsible for co-ordination and providing technical advice. However, there were differences in the number of trees maintained by various departments and staff assigned during actual implementation. He was concerned about the efficiency of the current tree management approaches;
- (b) he said that there was a difference in efficiency in following up cases between the slope section and the Special Duties Task Force (Task Force) under the Lands Department (LandsD), and wished to learn more about the reason involved. Besides, he said he had repeatedly approached LandsD for enquiries about tree-related issues. However, he rarely received replies from LandsD on the progress of the cases, and the problems were not solved even after months. He asked for closer monitoring by LandsD on contractors of outsourced services for their work in handling relevant cases, and suggested that LandsD should take the initiative to contact the complainants in a timely manner; and
- (c) he would like to know if any trees within the areas managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) in the Sha Tin District were required for large-scale removal operations because of their locations which were unsuitable for planting. He also wished to know the criteria for the LCSD to draw up tree management approaches.

41. Mr WAI Hing-cheung said that he had received an enquiry from Man Lai Court in Tai Wai, alleging that a wasps/wild bees nest was discovered on the tree around the housing estate. He would like to know which department should be responsible for follow up similar cases.

42. Mr HUI Lap-san said he noted that trees in Mei Lam Estate, Tai Wai were installed with monitoring devices attached with solar electricity panels. He would like to know whether such installations were arranged by government departments.

43. Mr YEUNG Wai-dor, Administration Assistant/Lands (Atg) of the District Lands Office, Sha Tin, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that LandsD was responsible for the non-routine maintenance of trees, such as pruning and removal of trees, on unallocated and unleased government land that were not maintained by any designated government departments. He said that the Task Force of LandsD would refer the cases of complaints received to qualified arborists or term contractors for professional assessment to determine the maintenance work required. He indicated that upon completion of the tree maintenance work, contractors of outsourced services had to submit reports to arborists of LandsD for auditing. On the other hand, he said that LandsD would normally set the work priority based on public health and safety

considerations as well as the actual circumstances of the cases; and

- (b) he said that the workflow adopted by the Task Force and the slope section of LandsD to follow up cases related to tree matters were broadly the same. Besides, he said that relevant sections of LandsD had earlier conducted a site inspection together on the tree mentioned in the letter of the Chairman, and had explained to the Chairman the constraints of the location in the case and the safety considerations, as well as the follow-up progress. He said that he would learn more about the case from the Task Force of LandsD and provided supplementary information after the meeting.

44. Ms Jess CHAN, Housing Manager/Tai Po, North and Shatin 3 of the Housing Department, said that some of the trees located in the housing estate concerned were installed with Radio Frequency Identification tags to read and monitor the information of the trees. He said that if the members could provide relevant photos of the devices on the trees located in Mei Lam Estate, she could relay the question to relevant colleagues for enquiry, or she could have further communication with the members and provide supplementary information after the meeting.

45. Mr CHAN Ka-kui, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sha Tin) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, said that cases involving discovery of wasps/wild bees nests in public places would normally be referred to the Pest Control Section of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) for follow-up. He said that the FEHD had received the case mentioned by the members which involved the wasps/wild bees nest on the tree in Man Lai Court. However, the FEHD was unable to handle the case immediately as the tree concerned was too tall and located at a cycle track.

46. Mr WAI Hing-cheung was concerned about the efficiency of relevant departments in following up cases relating to tree matters. He said that Mai Lai Court Management Office had informed him that the case was referred to the LCSD for follow-up after investigation by the FEHD. However, Man Lai Court had not yet been contacted by the LCSD. He said that the LCSD might approach the FEHD for enquiry about the location of the wasps/wild bees nest. He also welcomed the LCSD to contact him.

47. Mr Dickson CHOW, District Leisure Manager (Sha Tin) of the LCSD, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that the LCSD would inspect the growing conditions and environment of trees and assess their health. Appropriate risk mitigation measures would be taken according to the results of assessment, including crown pruning and removal of dead branches. He said that if a tree with risks of collapse was identified, it would be removed as soon as possible;
- (b) he said that the LCSD would, according to the Guidelines for Tree Risk Assessment and Management Arrangement drawn up by the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section of the Development Bureau, take forward tree management work, including regular inspection of trees and arranging appropriate tree maintenance work; and

- (c) he said that the trees located within ten metres of LCSD venues and public roads (other than expressways) would normally be maintained by the LCSD. He said that the LCSD received the case relating to discovery of a warps/wild bees' nest on a tree in Man Lai Court referred from the FEHD in late December 2022, and he indicated that the LCSD would contact the FEHD as early as possible to follow up the case and report the progress to the members in a timely manner.

(Post-meeting note: The LCSD, together with the FEHD and Mr WAI Hing-cheung, conducted a site inspection on 19 January 2023 for further assistance and follow-up.)

48. The Chairman asked LandsD to provide supplementary information on the above case after the meeting, and announced the end of the agenda item.

Information Papers

Sha Tin District Year-end Clean-up 2023
(Paper No. DHEH 5/2023)

49. Mr CHAN Ka-kui briefly introduced the paper.

50. Members noted the above paper.

Statistical Overview of Sha Tin District Environmental Hygiene Service (as at 30 November 2022)
(Paper No. DHEH 6/2023)

51. Mr CHAN Ka-kui made amendments to the paper.

52. The Chairman asked the FEHD to submit the amended paper after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The FEHD submitted the amended paper after the meeting.)

53. Mr SIN Cheuk-nam was concerned about the efficiency of the FEHD in handling water seepage issues in collaboration with other government departments and external companies. He would like to learn more about the number of companies providing assistance in following up water seepage tests for buildings in Sha Tin District or Ma On Shan area at present, and the monitoring criteria adopted by the FEHD. He also wished to know the reason for entrusting the work of water seepage tests to surveyor companies.

54. The views of Mr Johnny CHUNG were summarised below:

- (a) he expressed his thanks to the FEHD for following up the situation of rodent black spots in Ma On Shan. However, due to the constraints of its role, the Pest Control Section of the FEHD might not necessarily be able to tackle unauthorised extension of business by shops or littering at source at the locations concerned. He hoped that the FEHD would deploy manpower to take follow-up actions in a more flexible manner; and

- (b) he wished to know the details of the “new mode of joint operations”, as indicated in the paper, against unauthorised extension of business by shops.

55. Mr HUI Lap-san wished to know whether the FEHD and LCSD could conduct joint operations against rodent infestation in Ma On Shan Sai Sha Road Garden.

56. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) he would like to know whether an interim review on the new mode of joint operations against unauthorised extension of business by shops would be conducted, and whether such operations would be conducted on an on-going basis. Furthermore, he was concerned about the feasibility of the Government’s plan to raise the fixed penalty of causing obstructions to passageways by shops to \$6,000. He wondered if the FEHD would consider handling individual non-compliant shops on a progressive basis;
- (b) he was concerned about the backlog of water seepage cases in buildings might lead to closures of cases by the departments in a hasty manner or suggestion might be made to the complainants for engaging professionals in the community to provide services, and costs or even litigation might be incurred and therefore the problems might not be solved properly; and
- (c) he wished to learn more about the mosquito nuisance in Ma On Shan.

57. Mr CHENG Chung-hang said that some management offices of buildings might not be able to address the nuisance caused by water dripping from units of the buildings. He hoped that the FEHD could explore relevant follow-up actions.

58. Mr CHAN Ka-kui gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that the FEHD would follow up the cases through an inter-sectional approach by examining the causes of rodent cases. The FEHD would also conduct inter-departmental joint operations against rodent black spots. He also said that he would contact the members concerned to conduct a site inspection in Ma On Shan Sai Sha Road Garden for the rodent nuisance;
- (b) he said that the new mode of joint operations against unauthorised extension of business by shops had been implemented progressively at two black spots in Sha Tin District and in other districts in 2022. He said that during the operations, the Police would, according to relevant legislation, affix notices on goods or articles causing obstructions to passageways to request their owners to remove the obstruction within the specified time. Otherwise, the FEHD would assist the Police in removing the goods or articles. Moreover, the FEHD would institute prosecutions against relevant persons whenever sufficient evidence was available. He said that relevant operations were launched at Kings Wing Plaza 1, Shek Mun as well as Mei Tin Road and Chik Fai Street in Tai Wai in October and November 2022 respectively in the Sha Tin District. The FEHD would continue to review the effectiveness to improve the problem of unauthorised extension of business. Relevant parties were currently listening

to the views of different sectors on raising the amount of fixed penalties for further review. He also said that the FEHD would issue summons to shops which were repeatedly involved in unauthorised extension of business, and would request the offenders to appear in the court; and

- (c) he said that the New Territories East Regional Joint Office under the Joint Office (JO) of the Buildings Department and the FEHD came into full operation in end-2021 to conduct investigation into water seepage in buildings of the Sha Tin District. He said that the investigation would be conducted in three stages. The first two stages would normally be conducted by JO staff, while the professional investigation in the third stage would be conducted by JO's consultants. He said that if the members had further enquiries about the work details of these consultants, he could make referral to relevant sections for providing supplementary information. Moreover, he said that the JO would conduct investigation according to established procedures. If the cases fell outside the work area of the JO, it would refer the cases to relevant departments for follow-up. On the other hand, he said that upon receiving complaints about water dripping, the FEHD would conduct site investigation and make follow-up actions where appropriate.

(Post-meeting note: The JO made a reply to Mr Felix CHOW and Mr SIN Cheuk-nam in respect of water seepage in buildings.)

- 59. Members noted the above paper.

Sha Tin District Anti-rodent Campaign 2023 (First Phase)
(Paper No. DHEH 7/2023)

- 60. Mr CHAN Ka-kui briefly introduced the paper.
- 61. Mr SIN Cheuk-nam wished to know whether overnight rodent control teams were included under the work plan stated in the paper, and if yes, whether relevant action plans could be indicated by the FEHD in the paper.
- 62. Mr CHENG Chung-hang wished to know whether the rodent infestation rate could be stated by the FEHD in the paper, so as to allow a specific assessment on the rodent infestation problem and the effectiveness of anti-rodent actions. Moreover, he would like to know whether the FEHD could make arrangements for the members to join a site inspection for the work of the overnight rodent control team.
- 63. Mr CHAN Ka-kui gave a consolidated response as follows:
 - (a) he said that the work plan of the anti-rodent campaign included the overnight rodent control team, but the locations for the team to perform its work would be subject to change flexibly in light of the effectiveness of anti-rodent actions, which might not be shown in the paper. Besides, he welcomed the members to join the inspection for the work of the overnight rodent control team, and would contact the members in due course; and

- (b) he said that the FEHD would release online the Rodent Infestation Rates (RIRs) of various districts on a regular basis for gauging the general situation of rodent infestation at individual survey locations. The FEHD would also make appropriate manpower deployment and devise anti-rodent measures based on the RIRs.

(Post-meeting note: The FEHD arranged an inspection on the work of the overnight rodent control team with the members during nighttime on 17 February 2023.)

64. Members noted the above paper.

Population of Public Housing Estates and Private Sector Participation Scheme Courts in Sha Tin

(Paper No. DHEH 8/2023)

65. Members noted the above paper.

Date of Next Meeting

66. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 14 March 2023 (Tuesday).

67. The meeting was adjourned at 5:31 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat
STDC 13/15/60

March 2023