

Sha Tin District Council
Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of
the Development, Housing, Environment and Health Committee in 2022

Date : 19 July 2022 (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	6:51 pm
Mr SIN Cheuk-nam	DC Vice-Chairman	2:30 pm	6:25 pm
Mr CHENG Chung-hang	DC Member	2:35 pm	6:51 pm
Mr CHUNG Lai-him, Johnny	”	2:35 pm	6:51 pm
Mr HUI Lap-san	”	2:35 pm	6:51 pm
Mr WAI Hing-cheung	”	2:30 pm	6:51 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), Sha Tin District Office
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 Sha Tin 3, Housing Department
Mr YEUNG Wai-dor	Administrative Assistant/Lands, District Lands Office, Sha Tin
Ms YICK Hong-nien, Hannah	Senior Town Planner/Shah Tin, Planning Department
Mr CHAN Ka-kui	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sha Tin), 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 2 (Sha Tin), Leisure and Cultural Services Department

<u>In Attendance by Invitation</u>	<u>Title</u>
Mr LO Sai-cheong, Michael	Senior Engineer/Drainage Projects 3, Drainage Services Department
Mr LAI Bo-yin, Wilson	Engineer/Drainage Projects 19, Drainage Services Department
Mr CHAN Chi-wai, Stanley	Executive Director (Water, Hong Kong), AECOM Asia Company Limited
Ms WONG Yuen-mei, Bella	Project Engineer (Water, Hong Kong), AECOM Asia Company Limited
Ms YUEN Pui-shan, Priscilla	Senior Engineer/Drainage Projects 1, Drainage Services Department
Mr CHAN Li-ting, Patrick	Senior Engineer/Drainage Projects 5, Drainage Services Department
Mr WONG Tze-ying, Terry	Engineer/Drainage Projects 6, Drainage Services Department
Mr KWAN Ming-yeung, Sunny	Engineer/Drainage Projects 16, Drainage Services Department
Mr Alex WU	Technical Director (Water, Hong Kong), AECOM Asia Company Limited
Mr LI Chung-leung, Ricky	Project Leader/Renewable Energy, Drainage Services Department
Mr DAO Kwan-ming	Project Manager/Renewable Energy 3, Drainage Services Department

In Attendance by Invitation

Mr CHOI Wai-kit

Mr CHU Chi-keung, Paul

Mr CHIM Sai-shing

Ms TANG Yan-sze, Andrea

Mr SO Chi-chung, Alex

Mr KU Siu-ping, Andy

Ms SIN Chui-sze

Mr CHAN Tze-tai

Mr LIU Hung-wai, Philip

Ms CHAN Chui-shan, Kimmi

Mr YIP Sin-hang, Philip

Title

Engineer/Renewable Energy 3/1, Drainage Services Department

Senior Engineer/Flood Control, Drainage Services Department

Engineer/Flood Control 3, Drainage Services Department

Public Relations Manager, Binnies Hong Kong Limited

Project Engineer, Binnies Hong Kong Limited

Senior Maintenance Surveyor/Tai Po, North and Sha Tin,
Housing Department

Maintenance Surveyor/North and Sha Tin South, Housing Department

Building Services Engineer/Tai Po and Sha Tin Central,
Housing DepartmentSenior Field Officer (Avian Influenza),
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSenior Field Officer (Fauna Conservation) (Atg),
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentFauna Conservation Officer (Operation) 2,
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department**Absent**

Mr MAK Yun-pui, Chris

Dr LAM Kong-kwan

Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS

Title

DC Chairman

DC Member

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(Application for leave of absence received)

(”)

(”)

Action**Welcome Remarks**

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

2. The Chairman reminded all attendees to note that some observers in the public gallery were taking photographs, making video or audio recordings.

Application for Leave of Absence

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

Mr Chris MAK

Official commitment

Dr LAM Kong-kwan

”

Mr MOK Kam-kwai

”

4. Members unanimously approved the applications for leave of absence submitted by the members above.

Election of Vice-Chairman of the Committee

5. The Chairman said that the office of Vice-Chairman of the DHEHC of STDC had been vacant since 18 January 2022. According to Orders 34(4) and 4(2) of the Sha Tin District Council Standing Orders (Standing Orders), if the office of Vice-Chairman became vacant, the Chairman of the DHEHC shall preside at the meeting held for the purpose of the election. The election would be conducted in accordance with the procedures set out in paragraphs 5 to 7 and 9 to 14 of Appendix II (Procedure for the Election of District Council Chairman and Vice

Chairman) to the Standing Orders. The nomination form for the office of the DHEHC Vice-Chairman and information on the election procedure were distributed to all members by the STDC Secretariat on 11 July this year. Nominations for the DHEHC Vice-Chairman closed at 1:30 pm today.

6. By the close of the nomination period, the Secretariat had not received any nomination form for the DHEHC Vice-Chairman. Since there were no candidates to run for election, the Chairman announced that the office of the Vice-Chairman of the DHEHC would remain vacant, and the election of the Vice-Chairman would be held at the next DHEHC meeting.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting Held on 17 May 2022
(DHEHC Minutes 2/2022)

7. Members unanimously endorsed the above minutes of the meeting.

Matters Arising

Responses of the Government Departments to Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting
(Paper No. DHEH 24/2022)

8. Mr SIN Cheuk-nam said that a public opinion survey was conducted on issues such as whether the Tai Wai Complex and public housing units should be built. He would like to know the details of the consultations conducted by the departments since the last meeting.

9. Mr WAI Hing-cheung would like to know if the departments had conducted any consultation on the Tai Wai Complex since the last meeting. If so, he would like to know which stakeholders were included in the consultation and the outcome of the consultation. He also wished to know whether the departments would consider and accept the views of those who had not been consulted.

10. Mr CHENG Chung-hang pointed out that an owners' corporation had not yet been formed in the Pavilia Farm. He wished to know how the Sha Tin District Office (STDO) would consult the residents who had not moved in.

11. Mr Roy SHIU, Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)1 (Atg) of the STDO, said the STDO had conducted consultation on the relevant issues and would provide additional information after the meeting.

12. Ms Jess CHAN, Housing Manager/Tai Po, North and Sha Tin 3 of the Housing Department, said that she would provide supplementary information on related issues after the meeting.

13. Ms Hannah YICK, Senior Town Planner/Shan Tin of the Planning Department, said that the proposed development was located in "Residential (Group A)" zone. As pointed out in the paper, there were no height and plot ratio restrictions on the site and it was believed that the relevant departments would develop the site with the objective of "optimisation of land use", while balancing various considerations.

14. Mr SIN Cheuk-nam expressed disappointment that the departments were not able to provide details of the consultation at the meeting.

15. The Chairman said that the residents were concerned about the impact of the development of the Tai Wai Complex on the ventilation, traffic and population in the vicinity of the area, as well as the height restriction of the proposed building. He hoped that the departments would provide members with details of the consultation.

16. Members noted the above paper.

(Post-meeting note: The STDO and the Housing Department (HD) provided the supplementary information to the DHEHC after the meeting.)

Discussion Items

Drainage Improvement Works in Sha Tin - Progress Report (Paper No. DHEH 25/2022)

17. Mr Michael LO, Senior Engineer/Drainage Projects 3 of the Drainage Services Department and Ms Bella WONG, Project Engineer (Water, Hong Kong) of AECOM Asia Company Limited, briefly introduced the content of the paper.

18. The views of Mr SIN Cheuk-nam were summarised below:

- (a) he said that the Drainage Services Department (DSD) intended to carry out different projects in the vicinity of Shing Mun River and wished to know how the responsible teams in the relevant departments would communicate with one another;
- (b) he hoped that the relevant representatives would clarify the meaning of “drainage system”. He would like to know how the proposed system along Hang Hong Street in Ma On Shan would connect to the existing drainage system; and
- (c) he would like to know the reasons for the construction of the system.

19. Mr CHENG Chung-hang pointed out that the proposed drainage system would be connected to Shing Mun River and would like to know if it would increase the chance of flooding in Shing Mun River in the future and the effectiveness of the proposed flood walls along the river. In addition, he would like to know the sequence of implementation of the two works mentioned above.

20. The Chairman said that Jade Villa held the maintenance and management rights of Kau To Path. However, as the proposed drainage system was a government facility, he wished to know if the DSD had checked the lease conditions of the site, sought legal advice and discussed the matter with the owner’s representative.

21. Mr Michael LO gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that he had co-ordinated with the staff responsible for different works of Shing Mun River and believed that the works would not adversely affect each other;

- (b) he said that the proposed drainage system and flood walls were complementary works that would reduce the risk of flooding in the neighbourhood; and
- (c) he said that the Department's consultant had discussed the works project with the Lands Department (LandsD) and the housing estate concerned.

22. Mr Stanley CHAN, Executive Director (Water, Hong Kong) of AECOM Asia Company Limited, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that the drainage system aimed to enhance the flood discharge capacity of the Sha Tin District to meet flood protection standards. The drainage system would collect surface runoff and discharge it to the relevant river channels or to the sea; and
- (b) he said that flood walls had been constructed in phases on both sides of Shing Mun River to prevent flooding caused by the rising water level of the river and there was no conflict with other drainage improvement works in Sha Tin.

23. Ms Bella WONG added that she had explained the works and the maintenance management of the drainage pipes to the representatives of Jade Villa last year and they understood the works and did not make further enquiries at that time.

24. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) he pointed out that a number of conditions had to be met for the surrender of the land and wished to know more about whether the LandsD would provide written documents to the residents on the surrender of Kau To Path upon completion of the relevant works; and
- (b) he was concerned whether the works would affect the revitalisation of the Tai Wai Nullah and the installation of a floating photovoltaic system at Shing Mun River, and wondered if the DSD could provide further information.

25. Mr Johnny CHUNG pointed out that the proposed underground stormwater storage tank would require reprovisioning of nearby facilities and wished to know whether DSD would co-ordinate with the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and the estimated closure time of the relevant facilities during the project.

26. Mr Michael LO gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he pointed out that the area in question at Jade Villa was government land and could be used for underground drainage facilities. The Department would reconfirm with the LandsD on the land title issue and provide supplementary information after the meeting;
- (b) he said that the revitalisation of the nullah would not increase the flood discharge and therefore the associated works would not have any material impact on the Drainage Improvement Works. The Department would co-ordinate the construction periods of the two works to minimise the impact on the public; and
- (c) he added that the proposed floating photovoltaic system would be located on the

river and would not interfere with the land-based drainage improvement works on the shore.

27. Mr Stanley CHAN added that the facilities affected by the construction of the two stormwater pumping stations would be reprovisioned at the park or football pitch and the Department's consultant had been co-ordinating with LCSD on the reprovisioning and maintenance work. He also said that the first and second phases of the Improvement Works would each take about three to four years.

28. The Chairman invited DSD to provide supplementary information on members' questions after the meeting and announced that the discussion of the agenda item was concluded.

Revitalisation of Fo Tan Nullah
(Paper No. DHEH 26/2022)

Revitalisation of Tai Wai Nullah
(Paper No. DHEH 27/2022)

29. The Chairman asked members whether they agreed to discuss the Papers No. DHEH 26/2022 and DHEH 27/2022 together.

30. Members unanimously agreed with the above suggestion.

31. Mr Patrick CHAN, Senior Engineer/Drainage Projects 5 of the DSD, briefly introduced the contents of the Paper No. DHEH 26/2022.

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

- (a) he would like to know whether the proposed facilities would be managed by DSD or LCSD in future; and
- (b) he suggested that the proposed viewing platform at the downstream section of the nullah should be enlarged or an additional viewing platform should be provided on the opposite bank to cope with the flow of people watching the rowing activities.

33. Mr SIN Cheuk-nam said he had no objection to the works, but was concerned that some of the misconnected pipes in Fo Tan might discharge sewage into the nullah and wished to know the timeframe for the department to address with the problem.

34. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) he said that after the revitalisation of the nullahs, different leisure facilities or pedestrian walkways would be provided at the relevant locations. He wished to know which department would be responsible for the management of the facilities after completion of the works;
- (b) he wished to know whether the dry weather flow interception system provided by the works would result in a reduction of water bodies in the river and an increase in silt accumulation, which would aggravate the pollution and odour

problems in the river. He also wished to know the estimated number of dry weather flow interceptors to be installed in the Fo Tan section of the river, how much funding the system would take up for the whole project, whether the interceptors would increase the chance of siltation and flooding of the river during the rainy season, and whether the system would be mechanical or manually operated;

- (c) he wished to know the overall flow level of the Fo Tan River and whether the works could improve the water quality by increasing the amount of net water in the river;
- (d) he said that the pedestrian flow in the area of Yuen Wo Road was not high and that the viewing value of the river near the Jockey Club Ti-I College was not high and he wished to know whether it was appropriate to build a viewing platform there;
- (e) he would like to know whether the Department would invite local artists to participate in the production of murals, as well as the creation of the exhibition galleries and viewing platform, or whether the viewing platform would be open for performances. In addition, he would like to know whether DSD would include the above arrangement in the tender requirements; and
- (f) he would like to know the implementation schedule of the works and whether the funding applications for the revitalisation of Fo Tan and Tai Wai Nullah would be combined.

35. Mr Patrick CHAN gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he pointed out that the original function of the river was for flood control and stormwater discharge, but domestic wastewater from the area around the Fo Tan Nullah (including vehicle repair workshops and restaurants) might be discharged into the river by mistake. He said that DSD had started to conduct tests during the investigation study stage of the project to trace the source of the problem. The Department would continue to follow up the issues with the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) to resolve the problem, and step up the removal of river silt and explore the provision of mitigation facilities to reduce sand and siltation;
- (b) he said the installation of a dry weather interceptor would intercept the erroneous discharge of sewage into the drainage system and divert it to the sewage treatment system. After testing, it was estimated that about a few dozen additional dry weather flow interceptors would be required, the actual number of which would have to be confirmed after detailed design. Based on preliminary assessment, the relevant systems did not represent a significant proportion of the overall project cost;
- (c) he said that the flow of water in the Fo Tan River came mainly from rainwater from the catchment area on the hill;
- (d) he said that upon completion of the project, the facilities originally managed by LCSD would continue to be managed by LCSD. The Department would

discuss with the LCSD and other relevant departments the management arrangements for the new facilities, including exploring whether pets would be allowed in the venues;

- (e) he said that the site of the proposed covered walkway was originally under the management of the Highways Department (HyD) and he would continue to discuss the management arrangements with the relevant departments;
- (f) he said that the Department would invite input from local artists and nearby stakeholders when the project entered the detailed design stage;
- (g) he said that the size of the viewing platform would be designed after taking into account the space available along the river and he hoped that the two proposed platforms would divert the crowds; and
- (h) he said the Department planned to complete the investigation study work by the end of this year before proceeding to the detailed design stage. Upon completion of the detailed design, the Department would consider seeking funding approval from the Legislative Council for the revitalisation of Fo Tan and Tai Wai Nullah together. If all processes proceeded smoothly, it would be expected to commence construction in 2024.

36. Mr Alex WU, Technical Director (Water, Hong Kong) of AECOM Asia Company Limited, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that the dry weather flow interceptors did not require manual operation and could divert sewage to the sewage treatment system, which also had a mechanism for drainage and therefore would not increase the chance of siltation and flooding of the river; and
- (b) he said that the collection of water quality data and measurement of river flows had started in 2018. He said that waterworks connections to the Shing Mun Reservoir were available at the upstream location of Kwei Tei Street and the clean water from the nearby catchment would flow to the Fo Tan River, which would help enhance the ecology of the river.

37. The Chairman said that members had no further views on the revitalisation of the Fo Tan Nullah works and invited DSD to give a briefing on the revitalisation of the Tai Wai Nullah works.

38. Ms Priscilla YUEN, Senior Engineer/Drainage Projects 1 of the DSD, briefly introduced the contents of the Paper No. DHEH 27/2022.

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

- (a) he was concerned about the green design of the relevant works and whether the inadequate flow of river water would give rise to mosquito problems and wished to know whether DSD had any corresponding anti-mosquito proposal;
- (b) he was concerned that the site would attract birds after revitalisation and wished to know if DSD had a plan to address the situation. He also wished to know

whether migratory birds would be affected during the construction period; and

- (c) he was concerned about whether the riverside walkway and water-friendly facilities were accessible to pets and wished to know which department would be responsible for the management of the site in future.

40. The views of Mr HUI Lap-san were summarised below:

- (a) he said that the water level of the river concerned had risen above the footbridge during heavy rainfall or typhoons and wished to know how the DSD would improve the situation;
- (b) he said that additional leisure facilities had been built along the river near the Tai Wai Soccer Pitch last year, but they had all been removed in less than six months and he would like to know the reason(s);
- (c) he pointed out that there was a cable bridge at Pik Tin Street near Mei Pak Court and wished to know whether the DSD had liaised with the power company to discuss the impact of the works on the maintenance of the cable; and
- (d) he was concerned about the increased pedestrian flow after the revitalisation of the nullah and would like to learn more about the flood prevention work of the project.

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

- (a) he would like to learn more about the differences between the wetlands proposed to be developed in the upstream and downstream locations of the river;
- (b) he was concerned that the widening of the footbridge linking the two sides of the river would attract cyclists and wished to know whether cycling was allowed at the relevant locations. He suggested separating pedestrian and cycling access to protect public safety;
- (c) he said that the facilities in the midstream section would attract people and wished to know whether additional toilets would be built in the revitalisation area. In addition, he was concerned about the law and order during night time in the shaded area under the footbridge;
- (d) he would like to know how to ensure that people with different attitudes towards animals could enjoy the proposed open space facilities if pets were allowed to enter the area;
- (e) he wished to know whether trees or shrubs were to be planted on both sides of the river; and
- (f) he wished to know if there would be opening hours for the site upon completion of the works.

42. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) he was concerned about the department that would be responsible for the future management of the proposed water-friendly facilities and wished to learn about the maintenance work and resource arrangements. He was also concerned that the revitalised site might attract skateboarders and affect nearby residents, but the site might not be regulated by the Pleasure Grounds Regulation (Cap. 132BC) and would like to know how DSD would manage the situation;
- (b) he said that the proposed wetland for development might attract birds and mosquitoes and wished to understand how DSD would balance the interest of the natural environment and public health;
- (c) he was concerned about the reliability of the proposed water level warning system in the works;
- (d) he wished to know how the proposed facilities would cope with the risk of river flooding; and
- (e) he was concerned about the suitability of the length of the proposed jogging track.

43. Mr Alex WU gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that the water level of the river had risen by up to about one metre at most during last year's storms and that the proposed revitalisation project, with its mitigation facilities, would not have much impact on the flood discharge capacity of the river;
- (b) he said that the "Water Level Forecast System" of the works would consolidate the real-time data on the rising water level in the river, the real-time rainfall in the catchment area and the information from the Hong Kong Observatory's forecasting system to assess the risk of rising water level in the river and make timely broadcast to alert the public to leave the river. In addition, he said the "AI-based River Management System" could detect the flow of people in the river and track whether any member of the public had not left the designated area, which could prompt the management team to deal with the situation immediately; and
- (c) he said the Department would consider using more durable materials and increasing the distance between the proposed facilities and the river to avoid wear and tear due to prolonged river flooding.

44. Ms Priscilla YUEN gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she said the DSD had conducted studies with ecologists and green groups on the ecology of the river, such as birds and mosquitoes. She said that under the development, the river would continue to flow and the river area would be kept clean to avoid accumulation of water and rubbish that could breed mosquitoes. The Department would also continue to work with the ecology team on the issue of bird congregation. In addition, she said that monitoring would be carried out

during the works through various measures in the environmental assessment to ensure that there would not be too much impact on the environment;

- (b) she said that the DSD had an open mind on river management and would continue to explore with various departments the mode of joint management, and would also continue to study the relevant regulatory legislation;
- (c) she said that the Department would consider providing additional toilets at the relevant locations;
- (d) she said that the Department would consider delineating the layout of the site to allow conditional access by pets;
- (e) she said that according to the preliminary plan, the venues would be supervised by on-site staff in the morning and evening, and additional monitors would be installed in the more secluded areas;
- (f) she pointed out that the works would provide greening in the area around the existing power line near Mei Tin Road and considered that it would not pose too much risk to the operation of the power line and the Department would continue to consult the power companies;
- (g) she said she would consider with the design team the separation of pedestrians and cyclists at footbridges, and would also study the design materials and management arrangements to avoid the use of skateboards by the public at the venues; and
- (h) she said that during the construction of the River Garden at the Tai Wai Nullah earlier this year, the “Water Level Forecast System” and the “AI-based River Management System” were installed in the river and actual operational data was collected. The original plan was to provide simple temporary facilities in the River Garden for public enjoyment, but the epidemic was more serious at the time and the facilities could not be opened for public use.

45. Mr CHENG Chung-hang wished to know if the Department could widen the pavement in the area of Pik Tin Street near Granville Garden. He also hoped that the Department would pay attention to improving the illegal parking problem in the area to cope with the increased pedestrian flow after the revitalisation of Tai Wai Nullah in future.

46. Mr SIN Cheuk-nam said that it was not common in Hong Kong to add leisure facilities to rivers, and that he believed that the effectiveness of the “Water Level Forecast System” and the “AI-based River Management System” would affect the public’s perception of the revitalisation project. He said that if DSD could provide further operational details or open up the testing system to the public, it would ease the public concerns.

47. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) he said that the DSD’s plan to open up the channels for public access was inconsistent with the existing ordinance and wished to know whether the ordinance would be amended or a new ordinance would be enacted; and

- (b) he was concerned about the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of the “Water Level Forecast System” and the “AI-based River Management System” and wished to know whether the relevant data were available in DSD.

48. Ms Priscilla YUEN gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she said that consideration would be given to enhancing the pedestrian walkway on Pik Tin Street;
- (b) she said that investigation would be conducted with the relevant departments on whether DSD could be empowered to enforce the Pleasure Grounds Regulation (Cap. 132BC) in specific places;
- (c) she said that the Department would consider the allocation of management staff in the light of the opening up of the venues;
- (d) she said there would be roundabouts at both ends of the proposed jogging trail, with a distance of about 800 metres for running back and forth; and
- (e) she was open to testing and demonstrating the “Water Level Forecast System” and the “AI-based River Management System” during the public consultation stage.

49. Mr Alex WU added that the above-mentioned tests conducted earlier of the year on the “Water Level Forecast System” and the “AI-based River Management System” had helped collect operational data on the proposed systems, and the simulations showed that the public could safely leave the river in about two to three minutes. The information gathered would help refine the system design.

50. The Chairman invited DSD to note members’ views and continue to consult local stakeholders to enhance the cost-effectiveness of the facilities, and to brief the STDC on the progress of the revitalisation of Fo Tan and Tai Wai Nullah works in a timely manner. He also said that members had no further comments and declared that the discussion of the item was concluded.

51. The Chairman declared that the meeting be adjourned for five minutes.

(After the meeting was adjourned)

Implementation of a Small-scale Pilot Floating Photovoltaic System at a Small Area on the Shing Mun River Near Sha Tin Town Hall
(Paper No. DHEH 28/2022)

52. Mr Ricky LI, Project Leader/Renewable Energy of the DSD, briefly introduced the content of the paper.

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

- (a) he would like to know whether DSD planned to place information display panels for the floating photovoltaic simulation system in the vicinity of the system. He suggested placing more display boards near the system and placing some

directional maps elsewhere along the Shing Mun River to attract the public to visit the location; and

- (b) he expressed support for the project but pointed out that the paper indicated that the pilot floating photovoltaic system would be tested for three years of operation and wondered if the trial period could be shortened so that the full-scale implementation of the floating photovoltaic system could be confirmed as soon as possible.

54. Mr Johnny CHUNG wished to know if the pilot project would supply electricity to suitable installations to demonstrate the effectiveness of the photovoltaic panels.

55. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) he wished to know whether the pilot project had gained the support of the residents' associations and rowing associations in the vicinity of the relevant sites;
- (b) he wished to know whether the pilot project would have display panels to demonstrate its power supply efficiency;
- (c) he wished to know whether the pilot project would hide the power lines under water or use floating balls to support them; and
- (d) he was concerned about the lifespan of the materials used in the system and would like to know whether there was a need for frequent replacement and the mode of replacement. He also wished to know how DSD would arrange for the cleaning and maintenance of the system.

56. Mr Ricky LI gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that electronic display panels were available for the project to demonstrate the power generation and carbon reduction performance of the system in real time, and the Department would discuss with the relevant departments (e.g., LCSD and HyD) on the location of the display panels and information boards. In addition, the system would supply electricity to government facilities in the vicinity, such as those of the LCSD, and the Department would discuss with the relevant departments on the electricity consumption arrangements and had initially discussed the matter with the power companies;
- (b) he said the pilot project was scheduled for a three-year trial period with a 12-month cycle to collect data on the operation of the system installations under different weather conditions. The Department would adjust the operational period as appropriate;
- (c) he said that the relevant sports associations had no objection to the implementation of small-scale pilot projects at the upstream section of Shing Mun River along Lek Yuen Bridge. As the pilot projects would be small-scale facilities, the DSD had not planned to fully consult the residents for the time being and hoped that members could help present the contents of the pilot

projects to the public;

- (d) he said that the components of the pilot projects would have a lifespan of 15 to 20 years and the Department would monitor the frequency of bird droppings and litter contamination at the pilot projects to follow up and arrange for cleaning in a timely manner; and
- (e) he said the design of the pilot project was similar to the floating photovoltaic system at the San Tin Stormwater Storage Pond in Yuen Long, which would use a floating boom-line connection cable. The Department would also consider the aesthetics of the system design.

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

- (a) he considered that the electronic display would help educate the public and suggested that the display could show more specifically the amount of electricity generated and the amount of carbon emissions reduced so that the public would have a clearer understanding of the effectiveness of the system;
- (b) he would like to know the total area occupied by the floating photovoltaic system together with the buoys for the pilot project; and
- (c) he hoped that government departments would consider installing renewable energy systems to their facilities and publicise the schemes.

58. Mr Ricky LI gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said the Department was considering installing electronic displays on the small-scale pilot floating photovoltaic system scheduled for installation next year, so that the public could understand the benefits of the system by displaying easily understandable information, such as the amount of electricity generated for household use. In addition, the shape of the floating photovoltaic system would then help avoid the accumulation of waste;
- (b) he said that the overall surface area of the pilot project enclosed by buoys was about 900 square metres; and
- (c) he said that DSD would be pleased to share its experience on the use of renewable energy with other departments.

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

- (a) he said that together with the buoys, the pilot project would take up one third of the width of the river, which would not be ideal for water sports users. He was concerned whether the requirement to install buoys would affect the scale of DSD's future expansion of the relevant projects; and
- (b) he suggested that the Department should install an information display board at Lek Yuen Bridge to introduce the system to the public.

60. Mr Ricky LI gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that the Department would discuss with the Marine Department the feasibility of reducing the area occupied by the buoys;
- (b) he said there would be discussions with the relevant departments on the location of the information display boards; and
- (c) he hoped that members would assist in communicating with the power companies so as to reduce the constraints on the Government in connecting renewable energy facilities to the power companies' grids.

61. The Chairman announced that the discussion of the agenda item was concluded.

2022/2023 Work Plan Outline for Sha Tin District
(Paper No. DHEH 29/2022)

62. Mr Andy KU, Senior Maintenance Surveyor/Tai Po, North and Sha Tin and Ms Jess CHAN, Housing Manager/Tai Po, North and Sha Tin 3 of the HD, briefly introduced the content of the paper.

63. Mr CHENG Chung-hang said that the HD had stated in the Legislative Council Paper SHC 21/2020 that tenants of public housing estates were allowed to continue to keep small dogs not exceeding 20 kilograms that were already living in the flats on or before 1 August 2003, except for guide dogs and companion dogs which acted as service dogs. He said they had been informed that some residents had been banned from keeping companion dogs and wished to know the reasons for this.

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

- (a) he pointed out that the dissolution of Mutual Aid Committees (MACs) of the housing estates by the Government might affect the composition of Estate Management Advisory Committee and wished to know how the views of residents would be incorporated in future; and
- (b) apart from educating households on the Municipal Solid Waste Charging Scheme, he wished to know how the HD would ensure that households would adopt the scheme.

65. The views of Mr HUI Lap-san were summarised below:

- (a) he wished to know whether all tenants of the housing estates could benefit from HD's Total Maintenance Scheme; and
- (b) he expressed concern about the effectiveness of the Marking Scheme for Estate Management Enforcement in Public Housing Estates in the area of Chung Tak House in Chung On Estate, where gambling, smoking and spitting were frequent problems.

66. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) he said that food waste accounted for a large proportion of municipal solid waste and wished to know if the HD would promote the recycling of food waste and other waste. He also wished to know how the HD would enforce the Municipal Solid Waste Charging Scheme in housing estates and ensure public compliance after its implementation; and
- (b) he would like to know whether the Department had updated the tree database in a timely manner, assessed the condition of trees under the HD and consulted arborists.

67. Ms Jess CHAN gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she said that the HD managed dogs kept by tenants under the Dogs and Cats Ordinance (Cap. 167);
- (b) she said that generally speaking, in dealing with illegal gambling, the Department would take measures such as inspecting black spots where residents of housing estates congregated and issuing warnings to those who did not comply with the rules, and would also consider identifying suitable locations for the installation of closed circuit televisions. In addition, she said the Department could also consider working with local organisations to conduct publicity campaigns on the harmful effects of excessive gambling in the district and liaise with the Police to step up enforcement when necessary. She said she would contact the relevant estate office to handle the issue under the Marking Scheme for Estate Management Enforcement in Public Housing Estates and would ask the relevant staff to contact Mr HUI Lap-san in due course;
- (c) she said that the Estate Management Advisory Committees and MACs would be dissolved at the same time and the HD would invite residents to express their views on different issues in future. In addition, she said that the Department was exploring the use of online communication with tenants;
- (d) she said that the HD would collaborate with the EPD to launch a Municipal Solid Waste Charging Scheme, under which designated rubbish bags and designated labels for the disposal of bulky waste would be distributed to households every month during the pilot phase. She said the Department would simulate the calculation of charges and collect relevant data during the trial period for future review; and
- (e) she said that the HD's contractor would conduct annual tree risk assessments, and registered arborists would restore trees. Besides, the tree information system integrated with global positioning system and radio frequency identification data would be updated annually.

68. Mr Andy KU said that HD's maintenance workers and inspection ambassadors would take the initiative to inspect the condition of flats and arrange maintenance for tenants in public housing estates, covering all estates aged 10 years or above, and the frequency of inspection and maintenance would increase with the age of the buildings. He said the maintenance

scheme covered tenants of Tenants Purchase Scheme (TPS) estates and owners of TPS flats sold were responsible for the maintenance of their flats. In addition, some investigations and maintenance work of the housing estates had been delayed earlier due to the epidemic, but he said the programme had now resumed its normal schedule.

69. Mr CHENG Chung-hang added that adult guide dogs were normally 20kg or above. He asked the HD to check whether service dogs were required to comply with the weight limit after the meeting before giving a response.

70. Mr Johnny CHUNG expressed concern that elderly tenants might not be familiar with expressing their views online after the dissolution of the Estate Management Advisory Committees. He hoped that the HD would consider other means, such as organising residents' meetings or liaising with social welfare organisations to organise estate support teams, so as to provide a good platform for communication between the estate management offices and tenants.

71. Ms Jess CHAN gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she said that the Department would consider members' suggestions on the collection of tenants' views; and
- (b) she said supplementary information on dog keeping in public housing estates would be provided after the meeting.

Question

Question to be Raised by Mr CHUNG Lai-him, Johnny on Feeding Wild Animals in Sha Tin
(Paper No. DHEH 30/2022)

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

- (a) he expressed appreciation for the substantial increase in prosecution work by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in the past year;
- (b) he said that some departments had gradually resumed guided tours and would like to know the timetable and conditions for the resumption of guided tours by AFCD;
- (c) he would like to know whether AFCD staff would wear plain clothes or uniforms when enforcing the law, and what kind of food was commonly fed to the monkeys by those who were prosecuted or warned; and
- (d) he would like to know whether the dedicated team to be set up by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) would be responsible for handling issues in Sha Tin District, as well as its manpower allocation, inspection time and mode of enforcement.

73. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) he pointed out that the Government had proposed legislative amendments to extend the existing ban on feeding wild animals to cover the entire area of Hong

Kong, but the Ordinance did not cover feral pigeons and places such as private land and agricultural land, which he considered should be included in the regulation;

- (b) he would like to know whether AFCD would invite the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society to conduct a data survey on the gathering of feral pigeons in Sha Tin;
- (c) he pointed out that AFCD had mentioned in the paper that publicity had been conducted on the Green Minibus (GMB) Route No. 28K and wished to know the reasons for selecting the route; and
- (d) he suggested that AFCD should make reference to overseas practices in designing pigeon proofing facilities and provide advice and support to other departments and private housing estates.

74. Mr Philip YIP, Fauna Conservation Officer (Operation) 2 of the AFCD, said that the guided tours had been resumed in June 2022 on a limited basis, with the number of participants limited to five to six persons. In addition, he said that the Department would increase the number of guided tours in the future.

75. Mr Philip LIU, Senior Field Officer (Avian Influenza) of the AFCD, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that the Government was exploring amendments to the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) to regulate the feeding of feral pigeons and would seek the advice of the Department of Justice;
- (b) he said that the contractors of “Mission P.” had set up 150 educational booths and organised 36 educational talks in the past year or so. In addition, he said that the Department had conducted relevant education and publicity in all districts in Hong Kong, and the GMB Route No. 28K was specifically mentioned in the paper for this meeting;
- (c) he said the Department had invited the City University of Hong Kong to act as a consultant to launch a two-year contraceptive trial programme for feral pigeons starting from 17 September last year. The contraceptive drug was placed in designated areas where feral pigeons congregated, and the pigeon population was counted during the trial. He said that the Department would consider the suggestion of conducting another “Feral Pigeon Survey at Specific Areas in Hong Kong”; and
- (d) if necessary, he said the Department would be happy to liaise and co-ordinate with other departments on the installation of pigeon proofing facilities.

(Post-meeting note: The AFCD would determine the next step, including but not limited to whether to conduct another “Feral Pigeon Survey at Specific Areas in Hong Kong”, based on the final results of the feral pigeon contraceptive trial programme.)

76. Ms Kimmi CHAN, Senior Field Officer (Fauna Conservation) (Atg) of the AFCD, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she said that law enforcement officers would wear plain clothes when on duty; and
- (b) she said the persons prosecuted would feed the monkeys different types of food, such as fruit, bread, snacks or homemade food.

77. Mr CHAN Ka-kui, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sha Tin) of the FEHD, said the enforcement team could carry out inspections in plain clothes and issue fixed penalty notices for breaches of the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap. 570), including the fouling of public places by feeding wild birds. In addition, he said that the relevant task force would also be responsible for the publicity work and the manpower allocation would depend on the number of people to be recruited.

78. The Chairman announced that the discussion of the agenda item was concluded.

Information Papers

Sha Tin District Anti-rodent Campaign 2022 (Second Phase)
(Paper No. DHEH 31/2022)

Sha Tin District Anti-mosquito Campaign 2022 (Third Phase)
(Paper No. DHEH 32/2022)

Statistical Overview of Sha Tin District Environmental Hygiene Service (as at 31 May 2022)
(Paper No. DHEH 33/2022)

Population of Public Housing Estates and Private Sector Participation Scheme Courts in Sha Tin
(Paper No. DHEH 34/2022)

79. The Chairman suggested that the “Sha Tin District Anti-rodent Campaign 2022 (Second Phase)”, “Sha Tin District Anti-mosquito Campaign 2022 (Third Phase)”, “Statistical Overview of Sha Tin District Environmental Hygiene Service (as at 31 May 2022)”, and “Population of Public Housing Estates and Private Sector Participation Scheme Courts in Sha Tin” be discussed together. He asked if members had any views on the papers.

80. Members unanimously agreed with the above suggestion.

81. The views of Mr HUI Lap-san were summarised below:

- (a) he said that rats were often found on the pavement in the area between On Chun Street near the Horizon Suite Hotel, and he asked the relevant departments to pay attention to the hygiene condition of the grass in the nearby open car park; and
- (b) he said that the mosquito problem in Ma On Shan was serious and the Area Gravidtrap Index continued to be at the highest level 4, and wished to know whether mechanical foggers had been installed in Sha Tin and their effectiveness.

He also wished to know if FEHD had any other improvement or preventive measures to deal with the mosquito problem in the area.

82. Mr CHENG Chung-hang said that the two weeks of rain had led to an increase in the number of mosquitoes in Ma On Shan. He suggested that FEHD should step up co-ordination with departments and relevant stakeholders, and conduct regular inspection and evaluation of anti-mosquito and rodent work at different locations to tackle the problem at root.

83. Mr CHAN Ka-kui said that a large robotics ultra-low volume fogger had been put into service in Sha Tin to further reduce the number of adult mosquitoes in densely wooded areas. In addition, the FEHD would continue to organise mosquito prevention talks for schools and estate management staff, etc. Monthly mosquito prevention meetings would also be held with other departments and private estate management offices to promote mosquito prevention and control knowledge and strengthen liaison with departments and estates.

84. Members noted the above paper.

Date of Next Meeting

85. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 20 September 2022 (Tuesday).

86. The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat
STDC 13/15/60

September 2022