

Sha Tin District Council
Minutes of the 4th Meeting of
the Development, Housing, Environment and Health Committee in 2023

Date : 18 July 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	6:27 pm
Mr SIN Cheuk-nam	DC Vice-Chairman	2:30 pm	6:27 pm
Mr CHENG Chung-hang	DC Member	2:42 pm	5:43 pm
Mr CHUNG Lai-him, Johnny	”	2:30 pm	6:27 pm
Mr HUI Lap-san	”	2:45 pm	6:27 pm
Mr WAI Hing-cheung	”	2:32 pm	6:27 pm
Ms CHOW Man-kwan, Mandy (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council)3, Sha Tin District Office		

<u>In Attendance</u>	<u>Title</u>
Mr HO Kin-nam, David	Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)2 (Atg)
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, Lands Department
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
Mr FAN Chin-hung, Antony	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional North)4 (Atg), 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 TSUI Wing-kim	Senior Engineer/Design 1, Water Supplies Department
Mr SIU Ho-kit	Assistant Engineer/Design 3, Water Supplies Department
Ms CHOW Oi-tung	Civil Engineering Graduate/Design 3, Water Supplies Department

In Attendance by Invitation

Mr TING Po-chung

Mr LOK Wai-shing, Edward

Mr YEUNG Chi-him, Humphrey

Dr LEE Yiu-yiu

Dr CHEUNG Chin-wa, Sunny

Mr TSANG Wai-lik, Nick

Dr CHEUNG Hoi-yan, Heidi

Dr NG Wai-yin, Jackie

Mr LAM Sin-yam

Mr LAM Kai-man

Mr YIM Tak-yiu

Mr SIN Ka-ki

Mr CHAN Cho-keung

Mr WAI Wah-kei

Mr YAN Kay-chi, Joseph

Mr LEUNG Ka-yin, Tommy

Mr HUNG Ching-yeung, Stanley

Title

Director,
Umwelt Consulting Limited

Senior Agricultural Officer (Agricultural Park & Land),
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Agricultural Officer (Agricultural Park & Land),
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Agricultural Management Officer (Farm Modernization),
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Air Policy),
Environment and Ecology Bureau

Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Air Policy)2,
Environment and Ecology Bureau

Environmental Protection Officer (Air Policy)23,
Environment and Ecology Bureau

Senior Environmental Protection Officer
(Air Science & Modelling)4,
Environmental Protection Department

Senior Land Executive/Land Enforcement 2,
Lands Department

Chief Highway Engineer/New Territories East,
Highways Department

Senior Maintenance Engineer/Southeast,
Highways Department

Senior Landscape Architect/D (New Territories),
Highways Department

Chief Technical Officer/Shia Tin (1),
Highways Department

District Engineer/Shia Tin (1),
Highways Department

Senior Engineer/5 (North),
Civil Engineering and Development Department

Engineer/Ma On Shan,
Drainage Services Department

Engineer/Cavern Projects 1,
Drainage Services Department

Absent

Mr MAK Yun-pui, Chris

Dr LAM Kong-kwan

Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS

Title

DC Chairman (Application for leave of absence received)

DC Member (")

" (")

Welcoming Remarks

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

2. The Chairman informed all attendees that some persons in the public gallery observing the meeting were taking photographs and making video or audio recordings.

Applications for Leave of Absence

3. The Chairman said that the Sha Tin District Council (STDC) Secretariat (Secretariat) 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, BBS	”

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

Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Meeting Held on 16 May 2023
(DHEH Minutes 3/2023)

6. Members unanimously endorsed the above minutes.

Matters Arising

Responses of Government Departments to Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting
(Paper No. DHEH 30/2023)

7. Members unanimously noted the above paper.

Discussion Items

Minor Improvement of Water Supply to Sha Tin Tau New Village, Sha Tin
(Paper No. DHEH 31/2023)

8. Mr TSUI Wing-kim, Senior Engineer/Design 1 of the Water Supplies Department, and Mr SIU Ho-kit, Assistant Engineer/Design 3 of the Water Supplies Department, briefly introduced the paper.

9. The views of Mr WAI Hing-cheung were summarised below:
- (a) he was pleased to note that the Water Supplies Department (WSD) improved the water supply systems at the relevant location for the benefits of the residents there. He would like to know whether other locations in the district faced similar problem, if so, he wished to learn about how the WSD would help the residents concerned;
 - (b) he hoped the Department could share the presentation slides with members;
 - (c) he would like to know the impact of the works on villagers. Besides, he hoped that the Department could attend to all villagers when implementing the works as Mutual Aid Committee (MAC) was not established at the relevant location, and would like to know whether the Department had communicated with villagers; and
 - (d) he supported the works project and hoped that the Department could provide fresh water for villagers as early as possible. He would like to know why it was expected to take three years to complete the project, and whether it was feasible for the project duration to be shortened.
10. The views of Mr SIN Cheuk-nam were summarised below:
- (a) he wished to learn about how villagers at the relevant location currently obtained fresh water, and whether water would be supplied to villagers in phases during the works period; and
 - (b) he would like to know whether the facilities at the fresh water pump house would generate noise and cause nuisance to the nearby residents, and what the mitigating measures were.
11. Mr HUI Lap-san would like to know whether the minor improvement of water supply to the relevant area would affect the improvement of Lion Rock Tunnel.
12. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:
- (a) he said the briefing materials prepared by the Department for the meeting had already been provided to members earlier;
 - (b) he was concerned that the proposed fresh water pump house might cause noise nuisance to the nearby villagers. He wished to learn about the operating hours of the pump house after construction and the noise level produced by other existing, similar pump houses managed by the Department when they were in operation;
 - (c) he inquired whether the area of the site was open space. Besides, he opined that the works should commence as soon as possible so as to benefit residents in the district. He would like to know how long the application for planning permission would take, and whether the works could commence only after the

application had been approved. He also asked the Department what the anticipated difficulties were in making the application; and

- (d) he said that as some village roads were relatively narrow and might be fitted with other public facilities, he would like to know how the Department would overcome these challenges so as to implement the works.

13. Ms Mandy CHOW, Executive Officer (District Council)³ of the Sha Tin District Office, said the briefing materials prepared by the WSD on the works had already been uploaded onto the STDC webpage before the meeting for reference.

14. Mr TSUI Wing-kim gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said the WSD would proactively improve water supply systems for the benefit of the public, and provide supplementary information about the coverage of the water supply network of Sha Tin District after the meeting;
- (b) he said the proposed fresh water main would be 40 to 100 millimetres in diameter. Fresh water would be transported from the pump house along the water main to the fresh water tank for storage and then supplied to villagers for daily use. As the water tank would serve as buffer, the pump did not need to be turned on when villagers were using water under normal circumstances. Only when fresh water in the water tank dropped to a particular level would the pump activate, which would usually happen when demand for water was at its peak (such as during dinner time). Water usage would normally be lower in the late night hours. The ventilation opening of the proposed fresh water pump house would not be facing the villagers to minimise the impact of its operation on them. Moreover, as the pump house was in the form of a reinforced concrete structure and was smaller than the usual ones in other villages, he believed that the impact of the works and pump house operation after construction would be minimal. He would also provide supplementary information regarding the noise level generated by similar fresh water pump houses in the course of operation after the meeting for members' reference;
- (c) he said the Department had been maintaining constant communication with the former MAC Chairman of Sha Tin Tau New Village to understand villagers' needs. The Department had also engaged villagers who could not receive fresh water supply service as well as those living near the proposed pump house via the former MAC Chairman. The Department would proactively maintain contact with villagers in the hope that the works could commence as soon as possible to supply fresh water to villagers;
- (d) he said the works were at the design stage. Based on a conservative estimate, the entire project would take three years to complete, but the actual time needed depended on the environment of the construction site. As the relevant location was a pedestrian walkway in the village, the works needed to be carried out in phases to minimise the impact on villagers' daily access. The Department would continue to review the progress and strive for the early completion of the works;

- (e) he said application for planning permission for works projects normally took two to three months. The consultant had finished preparing application documents for the works. It was preliminarily estimated that the works would commence by the end of 2023 the earliest; and
- (f) he said the WSD had been coordinating with the Highways Department (HyD) on the implementation of the works, and had not received any report on conflicts arising from the works thus far.

15. The Chairman announced the end of the agenda item.

Proposal on Implementing a “Pilot Project on Urban Farming” in Ma On Shan Sai Sha Road Garden in Sha Tin District
(Paper No. DHEH 32/2023)

16. Mr Humphrey YEUNG, Agricultural Officer (Agricultural Park & Land) of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, briefly introduced the paper.

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

- (a) he would like to know whether the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) had consulted the residents of the nearby housing estates on the Project, and what the consultation outcomes were;
- (b) he wished to learn about the difference between the “modernised urban crop farm” (urban farm) as proposed under the Project and “Community Garden”; and
- (c) he was concerned that soil-based farming might lead to rodent infestation in the neighbouring areas. He would like to know whether the farming method practised under the Project would be restricted to hydroponics and whether the Department had assessed the environmental impact of the Project.

18. Mr HUI Lap-san said members of the public had reflected to him that the opening up of Ma On Shan Sai Sha Road Garden (Garden) for use as an Inclusive Park for Pets had affected the environmental hygiene of the nearby areas. He had already relayed the issue to the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and the LCSD had accordingly stepped up monitoring measures. However, he was concerned whether setting up urban farming at the location would further affect the environment and landscape, or even make the park more crowded. Besides, he was concerned that nuisance might be caused to the nearby residents if ultraviolet light was used round the clock in the urban farm. He therefore suggested the AFCD study the feasibility of implementing the Project on the unallocated government land adjacent to Vista Paradiso and Ma On Shan Sai Sha Road Sitting-out area.

19. Mr Johnny CHUNG raised concern about the effectiveness of the Project in encouraging citizens to learn about agriculture by organising activities in the urban farm and whether the effectiveness would be undermined by the scale of the Project. Besides, he opined that the public would have difficulty adapting to the Garden as both an Inclusive Park for Pets and an urban farm in a short period of time. He was of the view that there were other places in Hong

Kong which were suitable for agricultural development but had not been supported by the appropriate policy measures. Some farmland was even damaged as a result of social development. He hoped that the relevant departments could be more visionary in planning for the long-term development of local agriculture.

20. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) he was concerned that the educational purpose of the Project was unlikely to be achieved due to its limited scale. He wished to learn about the anticipated production and types of farm produce to be grown in the farm under the Project, and whether the farm produce would be provided to the public free of charge;
- (b) he would like to know whether the operation and transportation of the farm would affect the surrounding environment;
- (c) he wished to learn about the pre-application procedures for launching the Project in the Garden, and whether the AFCD would consider other sites, if not, the reasons for that; and
- (d) he would like to know whether the Project would be subsidised by the relevant funds.

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

- (a) he opined that the AFCD should give thorough consideration to the location of the Project and its impact on environmental hygiene. Besides, he was of the opinion that if organic farming was practised under the Project, it was possible that odour would be emitted from the fertilisers, causing nuisance to nearby residents; and
- (b) he said the current site was close to the market and wished to learn about how the operation mode of the farm could be made more competitive in the future.

22. Mr Edward LOK, Senior Agricultural Officer (Agricultural Park & Land) of the AFCD, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said the AFCD had previously sought District Council Members' comments on the Project. Local consultation was also conducted with the assistance of the Sha Tin District Office (STDO) by distributing information leaflets about the Project and questionnaires to stakeholders. Of all the respondents, most were supportive of the Project, while one opposing view expressed concern about the location and the impact on the environment, suggesting that the Project be launched at the open space at Sai Sha Road in Ma On Shan. The Department stood ready to have extensive discussion with all sectors of the community, listen to their views, and introduce the Project to the public;
- (b) he said the AFCD had consulted the relevant departments. Having visited the site, it was of the view that the site enjoyed the advantages of sitting on a flat land with water and electricity supply. Its proximity to many housing estates and the

Ma On Shan Town Centre also made it highly accessible. The AFCD had also studied the feasibility of launching the Project at the open space at Sai Sha Road in Ma On Shan. Having examined the infrastructure support therein, it was of the opinion that the objective of the Project would be better served by the current location. During the five-year short term tenancy period, the AFCD would make efforts to blend the urban farm into the surrounding green space so that members of the public could get used to the Garden being both an Inclusive Park for Pets as well as a place for urban farming development;

- (c) he said the Government had formulated relevant policy measures to protect rural farmland. Over the years, the Department had made efforts to nurture young talents in agriculture. Experience of international cities overseas showed that implementing modernised farming in urban area drove the commercial production of farm produce and promoted sustainable development of the local agriculture in a more effective manner. At the same time, community education on agriculture enabled members of the public to learn about agricultural technologies and raised their awareness on treasuring food;
- (d) he said a high hygiene standard had to be maintained in the farm. Popular farm produce would be grown indoor using hydroponics. As hydroponic farming did not require the use of soil, the risks of pest infestation or odour generation could be reduced, and the produce could also be sold fresh. Besides, multi-layered crop cultivation optimised land use and increased production. He said if members were interested, arrangements could be made for them to visit the AFCD's Controlled Environmental Hydroponic Research and Development Centre;
- (e) he said the farm was designed in a way that prevented light pollution caused by glass refraction affecting nearby residents at night; and
- (f) he said the agriculture industry had had many years of experience in practising the farming method as required under the Project. He believed that applicants could effectively run the farm and keep costs under control. The AFCD's Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund could be of assistance where necessary.

23. Ms Erica MAN, Deputy District Leisure Manager (Sha Tin)² of the LCSD, said the LCSD had started liaising with the leading department of the Project (AFCD) since late 2022. The LCSD might consider handing over the land to the AFCD for starting and managing the urban farm by way of temporary land transfer after the AFCD had confirmed the location of the farm and made an application for land use to the LCSD. The LCSD had on many occasions shared its management experience with the AFCD and given various advice on the integration of the urban farm into the Garden, which included whether glare and noise would be emitted from the farm, and matters about wastewater discharge, transportation, mosquito and pest control, tobacco control, and Inclusive Park for Pets for the AFCD's attention and consideration. It also assisted the AFCD in preparing for the future implementation and management of urban farming at the site. With regard to the suggestion of locating the urban farm at the open space adjacent to Vista Paradiso and Ma On Shan Sai Sha Road Sitting-out

Area, she said that the open space was not government-allocated land. If necessary, the AFCD could make enquiries of the Lands Department about land use arrangements.

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

- (a) he was pleased to see that hydroponics was practised to reduce the impact on the environment, and hoped that the farm produce would be grown organically. He made further enquiries as to whether the ventilation system of the farm would generate noise; and
- (b) he hoped that the AFCD would maintain communication with members, and study how innovative approaches to urban farm operation could be adopted and how community engagement could be encouraged. Besides, he asked whether pet-friendly policies would be put in place in the urban farm.

25. Mr HUI Lap-san made further enquiries as to the details of the AFCD's consultation exercise regarding the Project.

26. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) he was concerned that the implementation of the Project would consume a large amount of energy, which went against the original purpose of promoting environmental protection. He would like to know whether the AFCD had assessed the carbon emission of the Project. Besides, he asked whether additional electric cables had to be laid in the Garden to support the operation of the farm; and
- (b) he would like to know if future activities of the farm would occupy other areas of the Garden.

27. Mr David HO, Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)2 (Atg), said if departments sought the STDO's assistance in conducting local consultation, the department concerned would provide the STDO with the relevant documents and information such as target parties to be consulted. The STDO would pass all data collected to the department for further action after the close of the consultation period.

28. Mr Edward LOK gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said the growing of fruits and vegetables required alternating light and darkness. Therefore, the lights in the farm would not be turned on for 24 hours a day. With the use of technology, natural daylight would be captured while indoor lighting would be prevented from leaking to the outside. Besides, domestic air conditioners could be used in the farm to keep the noise level to a minimum. Insulation boards installed on the curtain wall could help adjust indoor temperature, reducing reliance on air-conditioners. Water used for growing crops in the farm could also be reused to achieve the objective of enhancing energy efficiency;

- (b) he said the Department would tie in with the Government's pet-friendly policies. It welcomed the public to visit the greenery area in the vicinity of the farm with their pets and enjoy the facilities in the Garden;
- (c) he said the AFCD would oversee the activities held in the farm by the operators to ensure that the farm could integrate into the community; and
- (d) he said the AFCD had already consulted residents living near the Garden and the relevant stakeholders on the Project, while the present meeting also served the purpose of interacting with members. The Department would continue to publicise the Project among members of the public so as to feel the public pulse with a view to further enhancing the Project.

29. The Chairman asked the AFCD to take note of members' views and maintain open communication with members on the Project. He announced the end of the agenda item.

Streetscape Enhancement Works for Tai Wai – the Pedestrian Walkway along Tsuen Nam Road and the Footbridge at the Junction of Mei Tin Road and Che Kung Miu Road
(Paper No. DHEH 33/2023)

30. Mr LAM Kai-man, Chief Highway Engineer/New Territories East of the HyD, and Mr SIN Ka-ki, Senior Landscape Architect/D (New Territories) of the HyD, briefly introduced the paper.

31. Mr WAI Hing-cheung supported the Department's streetscape enhancement concept. He said that there was room for enhancement for some streets in Tai Wai. He suggested the HyD review the environment of Tai Wai from a broader perspective and coordinate with other relevant departments when necessary to further enhance the landscape of other locations in the district.

32. Mr HUI Lap-san suggested the HyD consider adopting animals that were more creative and representative of the character of Sha Tin District as the theme of streetscape enhancement. Besides, he appreciated the aesthetic design of the window pane of the lift and would like to learn about the light penetration of the pane when the design was put in place in the future.

33. Mr CHENG Chung-hang supported road improvement and beautification. He wished to learn about the maintenance work of the facilities after beautification and the materials used.

34. Mr Johnny CHUNG appreciated and supported the HyD's efforts in enhancing the aesthetic quality of the relevant facilities. He suggested that public participation be encouraged when the Department took forward other beautification projects in the future by inviting the public to give their views on the design.

35. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) he asked whether streetscape enhancement would strengthen the sense of belonging of residents in the district, and inquired whether the Department would consider carrying out further beautification works in other locations of Sha Tin District. Besides, he suggested the HyD make reference to other streetscape

enhancement works and consider collecting the views of the community on the design or inviting design entries from local artists. He hoped that the HyD would further refine the face lifting works in the light of members' views expressed at the meeting;

- (b) he was concerned about the durability of the graphics presented by way of sticker or painting on the refurbished facilities. He would also like to learn about the materials used and the measures adopted by the Department in preventing damage to facilities by graffiti in the future; and
- (c) he was concerned whether the relevant designs could fit in with the surrounding environment and landscape, and would like to learn about the factors that were taken into account in determining the design of the face lifting works.

36. Mr LAM Kai-man said the HyD kept an open mind on working with other relevant departments on landscape enhancement. Tai Wai was taken as a pilot area in this instance to allow the Department to gauge the views of members and the local community, which would serve as a reference for other minor streetscape enhancement works in the future.

37. Mr SIN Ka-ki gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said the Department would look into increasing public involvement in its future beautification works to balance the interests of all parties and provide an opportunity for members of the public to contribute design on the enhancement of street furniture in the district; and
- (b) he said the Department would use the appropriate materials and form of beautification based on the location where the works would be carried out to improve durability. Besides, he said that semi-transparent stickers would be used for enhancement of the window pane of the lift. This would safeguard the privacy of passengers and help adjust the interior temperature of the lift.

38. The Chairman asked the HyD to take note of members' views regarding the need to strike a balance between streetscape enhancement and maintenance of materials, and announced the end of the agenda item.

Lifting of the Restriction on Use of Liquid Fuel and Solid Fuel in Sha Tin Fuel Restriction Area

(Paper No. DHEH 34/2023)

39. Dr Sunny CHEUNG, Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Air Policy) of the Environment and Ecology Bureau, and Mr Nick TSANG, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Air Policy)2 of the Environment and Ecology Bureau, briefly introduced the paper.

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

- (a) he hoped the Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB) would clarify whether engaging in activities such as barbecuing or heating food with gelled alcohol fuel in Sha Tin District currently contravened the restriction. He would also like to

further learn about the factors that were taken into consideration by the EEB in proposing the lifting of the restriction; and

- (b) he would like to know the reasons for the EEB to compare the air quality of Sha Tin District with that of Tuen Mun and Tseung Kwan O, and the details of the computer model simulation results as referred to in the paper.

41. Mr CHENG Chung-hang said barbecuing and the use of gelled alcohol fuel by restaurants for food warming purpose were commonplace in the district. He would like to know whether these activities had in fact contravened the restriction. Besides, he said that some areas in Sha Tin District were of mixed commercial and residential uses, and was concerned about whether the relaxation of the restriction would aggravate air pollution in the district and affect residents living near restaurants. He would like to know the reasons for the EEB to propose lifting the restriction, and whether there were alternative means to regulate the use of the relevant fuels in the district.

42. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) he was concerned that the restriction would create inequality between districts. He would like to know whether the relevant department had ever prosecuted trades or members of the public in Sha Tin District for contravening the restriction. Besides, he would like to learn about the details of the computer model simulation run by the EEB to assess the air quality of the district upon the lifting of restriction, and the assessment results; and
- (b) he said the intensity of odour emitted from the burning of the fuels as permitted by the law might not match the actual perception of members of the public. He hoped that the relevant departments would strengthen collaboration and step up inspection to ensure residents in the district would not be affected.

43. Mr Johnny CHUNG asked whether the relevant departments had instituted prosecution against any person for contravening the restriction.

44. Dr Sunny CHEUNG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said the relevant restriction was imposed by the Government in the 1980s in view of the air pollution problem in Sha Tin District and its geographical conditions. As Sha Tin District had been developed into a residential area in recent years with electricity and gaseous fuels being the major sources of energy, air quality in the district had significantly improved. There had not been any prosecution in relation to the restriction over the past several years. The lifting of the restriction was proposed to avoid causing unnecessary restrictions to some trades and public activities;
- (b) he said Sha Tin shared similar topographical features and air pollutant dispersion conditions with Tuen Mun and Tseung Kwan O. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) ran computer model to simulate the situation where industries using non-gaseous fuel were established in the district upon lifting the restriction. The results showed that the lifting of the restriction would not worsen the air

pollution problem in the district. He would supplement the relevant data after the meeting; and

- (c) he said if any large scale works projects using non-gaseous fuel were to be carried out in Sha Tin District in the future after the restriction was lifted, they must comply with the requirements under the existing environmental legislation to ensure their operation would not cause air pollution. He said that anyone running a general restaurant business was also required to comply with the Air Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 311). If a furnace or cooking appliance with total fuel consumption rate exceeding the statutory limits, such as more than 35 kilograms of solid fuel per hour, was installed, the operator shall make a prior application to the EPD. If any restaurant was suspected to have caused nuisance to the nearby citizens in the course of business operation, the EPD would investigate the cases in accordance with the established standards, and when necessary, serve the “Air Pollution Abatement Notice” requiring the persons concerned to take remedial actions to cut down or eliminate the emission of pollutants such as oil fume and odour. Besides, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), where necessary, would also seek the EPD’s views when considering the issuance of a restaurant license.

(Post-meeting note: The EEB had already provided supplementary information on the computer modelling data after the meeting.)

45. Mr Antony FAN, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional North)4 (Atg) of the EPD, said even though some cases might not constitute a nuisance as defined under the law after investigation, the Department would negotiate with the restaurant concerned and offer advice to help reduce the emission of oil fume and improve ventilation facilities.

46. The Chairman announced the end of the agenda item.

2023/2024 Work Plan Outline for Sha Tin District
(Paper No. DHEH 35/2023)

47. Ms Jess CHAN, Housing Manager/Tai Po, North and Shatin 3 of the Housing Department, briefly introduced the paper.

48. The Chairman would like to know how cleansing service contracts of public housing estates were to be drawn up and coordinated after the implementation of Municipal Solid Waste Charging.

49. Ms Jess CHAN said that to dovetail with the implementation of Municipal Solid Waste Charging, the Housing Department (HD) would cordon off the junk collection points in housing estates. It would also post notices to remind the public to refrain from dumping refuse illegally, and consider installing Internet Protocol cameras at the black spots of illegal refuse dumping to step up monitoring. Besides, the HD implemented the Estate Ambassadors of Environmental Protection Scheme and recruited residents to assist in disseminating the messages of waste reduction at source, clean recycling and proper disposal of waste in public housing estates. Visits and seminars were arranged for residents to learn more about waste reduction and recycling. The HD was now coordinating with cleansing service contractors

over the work arrangements relating to the waste charging scheme. She would provide supplementary information after the meeting.

50. The Chairman announced the end of the agenda item.

Questions

Question to be Raised by Mr CHENG Chung-hang on Development at the Area Around Kam Chun Court
(Paper No. DHEH 37/2023)

51. The Chairman said member(s) had expressed to him the wish to change the order of agenda items so that the question raised by Mr CHENG Chung-hang would be discussed first.

52. Members unanimously agreed to the above arrangement.

53. Mr CHENG Chung-hang asked about the future regular maintenance work of the location concerned. He also thanked the Drainage Services Department (DSD) for approaching him earlier on the issue and hoped that the relevant departments would continue to follow up on the management of environmental hygiene at the area around the slope and communicate with District Council Members in a timely manner.

54. Mr LAM Sin-yam, Senior Land Executive/Land Enforcement 2 of the LandsD, noted member's views on the maintenance of the location concerned and would relay the views to the relevant departments after the meeting for follow-up.

55. The Chairman asked the relevant departments to note member's view. He announced the end of the agenda item and adjourned the meeting for five minutes.

(After adjournment)

Question to be Raised by Mr CHOW Hiu-laam, Felix on Stormwater Drainage Systems of Major Roads and Carriageways in Sha Tin District
(Paper No. DHEH 36/2023)

56. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) he wished to know the flood discharge capacity of the stormwater drainage system at Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section) during its road widening works;
- (b) he asked what immediate coping measures were taken by the relevant departments for the traffic congestion at the Tai Po-bound section of Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section) caused by flooding on 26 June 2023; and
- (c) he would like to know the details of how the relevant department dealt with blockage of the public stormwater drainage systems under its management.

57. Mr Joseph YAN, Senior Engineer/5 (North) of the Civil Engineering and Development Department, said the Department had formulated a temporary stormwater discharge plan for

the works and conducted regular inspection and clearance. He also said the Department would step up inspection and monitoring of the relevant section of the highway and arrange Emergency Response Team to handle sudden rainstorm in the district by clearing the stormwater drainage systems and draining excessive water.

58. Mr Tommy LEUNG, Engineer/Ma On Shan of the DSD, said the DSD was responsible for managing main stormwater drainage systems, and no blockage was found in the drainage systems under the DSD's management in the district at the moment.

59. Mr CHAN Cho-keung, Chief Technical Officer/Shan Tin (1) of the HyD, said the Department would, having regard to the locations of the drainage systems in the district easily blocked by foreign objects, request the contractor to conduct clearance work once a month in the rainy season from March to October every year and once a season for the remaining months.

60. The Chairman was glad to see that the relevant departments were enhancing the management of stormwater drainage systems. He announced the end of the agenda item.

Question to be Raised by Mr WAI Hing-cheung on Installation of Internet Protocol Cameras at Illegal Refuse Dumping Blackspots in Sha Tin District
(Paper No. DHEH 38/2023)

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

- (a) he would like to know whether the locations of the Internet Protocol (IP) cameras currently installed by the FEHD in Sha Tin District as shown in the paper included those locations proposed by the Department in 2019 to the then Health and Environment Committee;
- (b) he said the relevant departments had installed IP cameras at the blackspots of illegal refuse dumping in the district, but residents near some of those spots were still disturbed by the problem. He would like to know the effectiveness of IP camera installation at the locations concerned in combating illegal dumping of refuse/waste and the respective numbers of prosecutions instituted by the FEHD for illegal dumping in the past three years;
- (c) he would like to know whether it would be more cost-effective in combating illegal refuse dumping by installing IP cameras in the vicinity of Mei Tin Road;
- (d) he asked about the exact location of the camera system installed by the EPD at To Fung Shan Road in Sha Tin, and suggested that the relevant department should consider removing the signage there about waste disposal to avoid misunderstanding. He would also like to know whether the EPD had identified any other blackspots of illegal waste dumping in the district; and
- (e) he would like to know more about the reasons for the upward trend in the number of successful prosecutions by the EPD for illegal dumping in the past three years and whether there had been any improvement in the situation since 2023.

62. Mr CHAN Ka-kui, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sha Tin) of the FEHD, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said the IP cameras currently installed by the Department in Sha Tin District covered most of the suitable locations proposed in 2019 with an aim to collect information on the relevant blackspots for identifying target offenders and analysing their unlawful behaviour patterns and motives, so as to facilitate targeted publicity and education as well as formulation of enforcement strategies. Since the installation of IP cameras, the number of prosecutions at the relevant locations had dropped, reflecting the deterrent effect of the installation;
- (b) he said the FEHD had arranged staff to prosecute against illegal refuse dumping in the vicinity of Mei Tin Road and Chik Fai Street, and had issued 21, 44 and 108 fixed penalty notices in 2020, 2021 and 2022 respectively, and 82 in 2023 as at 20 June. In addition, the fines for the cases concerned in the past three years ranged from \$500 to \$3,500, \$500 to \$3,000 and \$1,500 to \$3,000 respectively; and
- (c) he said the Department would consider the suggestion proposed by member concerning the location of the signage about waste disposal at To Fung Shan Road.

63. Mr Antony FAN gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he advised that the EPD had currently installed camera systems at seven locations in Sha Tin District, including the location at lamp post V8213 at To Fung Shan Road as enquired by member. The EPD would make use of the information obtained from the surveillance camera systems to facilitate enforcement against suspected illegal refuse dumping and would step up inspection of the sites;
- (b) he said the EPD would continue to monitor illegal dumping of construction waste in the district and welcomed members' suggestions; and
- (c) he said the outbreak of the epidemic over the past three years might have an impact on the trend in the number of prosecution for illegal waste dumping in the district, and the Department would continue to keep in view the situation.

64. The Chairman announced the end of the agenda item.

Question to be Raised by Mr SIN Cheuk-nam on Management of Units of Estates under Tenants Purchase Scheme
(Paper No. DHEH 39/2023)

65. Mr SIN Cheuk-nam would like to know the details of maintenance of Tenants Purchase Scheme (TPS) estates in Sha Tin District. He considered that the HD had not responded to his question clearly in the paper. He said if necessary, he could provide further explanation to the HD on his written question before the meeting to facilitate the Department's follow-up.

66. Mr Johnny CHUNG enquired about the scope of the final maintenance carried out by the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) for TPS flats before their sale. He also said some of the facilities requiring maintenance might be located inside flats which had been sold, and would like to know how the Department would handle such situation.

67. The Chairman said tenants might have disputes over ownership issue when dealing with maintenance of pipes for flats. He would like to know how the HD would address the problem arising from the design of flats.

68. Ms Mandy CHOW said the Secretariat forwarded member's written question to the HD and asked the Department to provide a reply. The HD submitted to the Secretariat a consolidated reply to the question concerned before the meeting.

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

- (a) she said the HA reviewed the actual conditions of TPS flats to ensure that they were sold in good conditions. In addition, she said the provision of pipes would depend on the design of the flat or storey, and the HA would take corresponding follow-up actions on individual circumstances for households in need. If purchasers found the pipes of their flats defective, they could also notify the HA in writing within seven days after taking over the flats for follow-up; and
- (b) she said she would convey members' enquiries on maintenance of pipes of TPS flats in Sha Tin District to the works section and provide supplementary information after the meeting.

70. The Chairman asked the HD to provide written reply on members' enquiries after the meeting and announced the end of the agenda item.

Information Papers

Statistical Overview of Sha Tin District Environmental Hygiene Service (as at 31 May 2023)
(Paper No. DHEH 40/2023)

Sha Tin District Anti-rodent Campaign 2023 (Second Phase)
(Paper No. DHEH 41/2023)

Population of Public Housing Estates and Private Sector Participation Scheme Courts in Sha Tin District
(Paper No. DHEH 42/2023)

71. The Chairman suggested the "Statistical Overview of Sha Tin District Environmental Hygiene Service (as at 31 May 2023)", "Sha Tin District Anti-rodent Campaign 2023 (Second Phase)" and "Population of Public Housing Estates and Private Sector Participation Scheme Courts in Sha Tin District" be discussed together.

72. Members unanimously agreed with the above suggestion.

73. The Chairman would like to know whether there was any improvement in the rodent infestation problem at the area around Pok Hong Estate.

74. Mr SIN Cheuk-nam would like to know whether the FEHD could set out the information on Rodent Infestation Rate in the DHEHC paper for reference.

75. Mr CHAN Ka-kui said since the discussion at the last DHEHC meeting, the FEHD had conducted site inspections with relevant stakeholders and provided technical support on the rodent infestation problem in Pok Hong Estate. The situation had improved and the Department would continue to review and follow up on the issue. In addition, he said the FEHD conducted Rodent Infestation Survey twice a year to monitor rodent infestation, and published the results on the Department's website. He noted members' views and would provide relevant information on Sha Tin District for members' reference in the paper for the next DHEHC meeting.

76. Members noted the above paper.

Date of Next Meeting

77. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 19 September 2023 (Tuesday).

78. The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat
STDC 13/15/60

September 2023