

Sha Tin District Council
Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of
the Health and Environment Committee in 2020

Date : 10 March 2020 (Tuesday)
Time : 2:36 pm
Venue : Sha Tin District Council Conference Room
 4/F, Sha Tin Government Offices

<u>Present</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Time of joining the meeting</u>	<u>Time of leaving the meeting</u>
Mr TING Tsz-yuen (Chairman)	DC Member	2:36 pm	6:53 pm
Mr CHAN Pui-ming (Vice-Chairman)	"	2:36 pm	7:41 pm
Mr CHING Cheung-ying, MH	DC Chairman	2:36 pm	7:41 pm
Mr WONG Hok-lai, George	DC Vice-Chairman	2:36 pm	7:02 pm
Mr CHAN Billy Shiu-yeung	DC Member	2:36 pm	4:52 pm
Mr CHAN Nok-hang	"	2:50 pm	5:33 pm
Mr CHAN Wan-tung	"	2:36 pm	7:41 pm
Mr CHENG Chung-hang	"	3:14 pm	7:41 pm
Mr CHENG Tsuk-man	"	2:39 pm	4:32 pm
Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa	"	2:36 pm	7:41 pm
Mr CHIU Chu-pong	"	2:36 pm	4:52 pm
Mr CHOW Hiu-laam, Felix	"	2:36 pm	7:39 pm
Mr CHUNG Lai-him, Johnny	"	2:48 pm	7:00 pm
Mr HUI Lap-san	"	2:42 pm	7:41 pm
Mr HUI Yui-yu	"	2:41 pm	3:00 pm
Mr LAI Tsz-yan	"	3:43 pm	7:35 pm
Dr LAM Kong-kwan	"	2:36 pm	3:24 pm
Mr LI Chi-wang, Raymond	"	2:36 pm	7:41 pm
Mr LI Sai-hung	"	2:36 pm	7:41 pm
Mr LI Wing-shing, Wilson	"	2:36 pm	6:31 pm
Mr LIAO Pak-hong, Ricardo	"	2:36 pm	7:41 pm
Mr LO Tak-ming	"	2:36 pm	4:52 pm
Mr LO Yuet-chau	"	2:36 pm	7:36 pm
Mr LUI Kai-wing	"	2:36 pm	7:41 pm
Ms LUK Tsz-tung	"	2:53 pm	7:41 pm
Mr MAK Tsz-kin	"	2:36 pm	7:41 pm
Mr MAK Yun-pui, Chris	"	2:42 pm	7:00 pm
Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS	"	2:36 pm	3:24 pm
Mr NG Kam-hung	"	2:36 pm	4:58 pm
Ms NG Ting-lam	"	2:43 pm	4:31 pm
Mr SHAM Tsz-kit, Jimmy	"	2:36 pm	7:41 pm
Mr SHEK William	"	2:36 pm	7:41 pm
Mr SIN Cheuk-nam	"	2:36 pm	5:38 pm
Mr TSANG Kit	"	2:36 pm	3:00 pm
Ms TSANG So-lai	"	2:42 pm	4:20 pm
Mr WAI Hing-cheung	"	2:36 pm	7:09 pm

<u>Present</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Time of joining the meeting</u>	<u>Time of leaving the meeting</u>
Mr WONG Ho-fung	DC Member	2:50 pm	6:55 pm
Ms WONG Man-huen	”	2:53 pm	7:41 pm
Mr YAU Man-chun	”	2:36 pm	3:27 pm
Mr YEUNG Sze-kin	”	5:22 pm	7:41 pm
Mr YIP Wing	”	2:36 pm	7:03 pm
Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael	”	2:36 pm	7:41 pm
Ms LEE Yin-ching, Karen (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council) 3, Sha Tin District Office		

<u>In Attendance</u>	<u>Title</u>
Mr WONG Shek-hay, Sebastian	Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin) (2)
Mr LAI Wing-chi	Director of Environmental Hygiene, Sha Tin District, Food & Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr WU Tak-tong	Housing Manager (Tai Po, North and Sha Tin 3), Housing Department
Mr NG Raymond Tjeng	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional North) 4, Environmental Protection Department
Mr LI Ho-yin	Deputy Leisure Manager 2 (Sha Tin), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr YUEN Chun-kit, Derek	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Sha Tin District Office
Mr CHOY Cho-hei, Saki	Executive Assistant (District Council)5, Sha Tin District Office

<u>In Attendance by Invitation</u>	<u>Title</u>
Mr WU Sit-hung	Assistant Chief Ambulance Officer (Community Emergency Preparedness), Fire Services Department
Mr WONG Wing-chi	Senior Ambulance Officer (Community Emergency Preparedness) 2, Fire Services Department

Action

Welcome Speech

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

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 6 February 2020 (Paper No. HE 1/2020)

2.The proposal of Mr LAI Wing-chi, the Director of Environmental Hygiene, Sha Tin District, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) was as follows:

- 45(e) when notified by the Department of Health (DH) of a confirmed case, in addition to arranging home disinfection, the Department would also use 1:99 diluted bleach to clean the pavement outside the residential estate every day for 14 consecutive days;

3. The committee members unanimously approved the revised minutes of the meeting.

Matters Arising

Responses of the Relevant Government Departments to Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

(Paper No. HE 6/2020)

4. Committee members were informed of the above document.

Discussion Item

Nomination of Representatives for Market Management Consultative Committees

(Paper No. HE 7/2020)

5. The Chairman invited Mr LAI Wing-chi to introduce the contents of the document.

6. Mr LAI Wing-chi gave a brief introduction as follows:

- (a) if the market had more than 150 stalls, please nominate 2 members to join the Market Management Consultative Committee (MMCC); if the market had less than 150 stalls, please nominate one member to join the MMCC. There were three markets in Sha Tin District, namely Sha Tin Market, Tai Wai Market and Fo Tan (East and West) Cooked Food Market. Two members were required for Sha Tin Market and Tai Wai Market respectively, and one member for Fo Tan (East and West) Cooked Food Market;
- (b) at present, we only received the nomination of Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa, the candidate for Tai Wai Market, but no nomination of Sha Tin Market and Fo Tan (East and West) Cooked Food Market;
- (c) the District Council Members of Sha Tin Market, Tai Wai Market and Fo Tan (East and West) Cooked Food Market were Mr WAI Hing-cheung, Mr LI Sai-hung and Mr MAK Tsz-kin respectively; and
- (d) members were invited to join the MMCC to advise the FEHD on improving market management and operating environment. Members would also be responsible for preparing market promotion plans and providing advice on increasing or improving market facilities.

7. The Chairman added that the District Council Members automatically become ex officio members of the MMCC. By the end of the nomination period, only Mr LI Sai-hung had nominated Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa for Tai Wai Market. Mr CHAN Wan-tung seconded the nomination.

8. Mr WAI Hing-cheung asked if Members could serve on more than one committee.

9. Mr LAI Wing-chi responded that there was no express provision, but because of the heavy work of the MMCC, it was suggested that different members should be appointed.

Action

10. The Chairman said that since nominations had to be made immediately after the closing of the nomination period at the meeting, members were invited to make nominations for Sha Tin Market. The results were as follows:

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Nominator</u>	<u>Seconders</u>
(1) Mr Jimmy SHAM	Mr Billy CHAN	Mr SHEK William Mr George WONG

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Nominator</u>	<u>Seconders</u>
(2) Mr Raymond LI	Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa	Mr Jimmy SHAM Mr George WONG Mr TSANG Kit

11. The committee members unanimously endorsed the above nominations.

12. The Chairman said that there was still one vacancy in Tai Wai Market. Members were invited to make nominations for Tai Wai Market. The results were as follows:

<u>Candidates</u>	<u>Nominators</u>	<u>Seconders</u>
(1) Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa	Mr LI Sai-hung	Mr CHAN Wan-tung
(2) Ms NG Ting-lam	Mr CHING Cheung-ying	Mr SIN Cheuk-nam Mr George WONG

13. The committee members unanimously endorsed the above nominations.

14. The Chairman invited members to make nominations for Fo Tan (East and West) Cooked Food Market as follows:

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Nominator</u>	<u>Seconders</u>
Mr Felix CHOW	Mr MAK Tsz-kin	Mr CHENG Tsuk-man Mr YAU Man-chun Mr CHING Cheung-ying Ms TSANG So-lai

15. The committee members unanimously endorsed the above nomination.

16. The Chairman declared the conclusion of this agenda.

Questions

Question to be Raised by Mr YIP Wing on Ma On Shan Family Medicine Centre as a “Designated Clinic for Wuhan Pneumonia”
(Paper No. HE 8/2020)

17. The Chairman asked members to note that the Secretariat had made every effort to invite the DH to attend, but the Department had not been represented.

18. Mr YIP Wing was angry that the DH had not been present, and deemed that the reply of the DH failed to respond to the question. The reply did not mention how to separate suspected cases and general patients, how to identify infected patients, the arrangements for quarantine measures, and when Ma On Shan Family Medicine Centre would be used as a designated clinic.

19. Mr Raymond LI pointed out that the situation in previous years was not of the same nature as the present situation, which was more widespread than in previous years, and member wished to have a better understanding of the existing schemes and facilities to assess the appropriateness of the measures and to make recommendations for improvement. The document failed to provide valid information.

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

- (a) he asked about the departments responsible for handling the Government's consolidated replies;
- (b) the District Council Members of the constituencies in Ma On Shan considered that there was a lack of consultation on the arrangement, as the proximity of the Ma On Shan Family Medicine Centre to residential areas and the high transmission rate of the virus had led to concerns about a community outbreak, and that there was a need for transparent consultation and reconsideration of the suitability of the site; and
- (c) the Ma On Shan Family Medicine Centre had a Maternal and Child Health Centre (MCHC) and there was a concern about the increased risk of transmission in the same premises. It was doubtful that the Government would take measures to protect patients, staff and residents as mentioned in the reply.

21. The views of Mr Jimmy SHAM were summarised below:

- (a) he hoped that the DH or the Hospital Authority (HA) would send a reply as soon as possible on how to arrange for patients who were receiving medical treatment at general out-patient clinics to collect medicines;
- (b) he asked whether designated clinics had negative pressure facilities to ensure that no one else was infected during the collection of samples, and what the entire process of testing was and how it was ensured that the virus did not leak;
- (c) he asked whether the Sha Tin District Council (STDC) would be informed of the admission of confirmed patients to designated clinics and when and how often it would be informed, so that it could monitor the Government's epidemic prevention efforts;
- (d) he would like to know whether the streets in the vicinity of the designated clinics would be cleaned more frequently and whether there would be more facilities, such as garbage bins, for the disposal of masks; and

- (e) he believed that hospitals had better preventive measures, such as cleaning, disinfection, etc., and was worried about the lack of preventive measures in designated clinics.

22. Mr George WONG said that the HA and the DH had been absent from many meetings and he asked the Secretariat why the HA and the DH were absent and whether consideration would be given to including the relevant departments as permanent representatives.

23. The view of Ms TSANG So-lai were summarised below:

- (a) she would like the Secretariat to convey the question to the DH and request a reply;
- (b) on 13 February this year, the Department announced the suspension of the MCHC service in Ma On Shan and the referral of pregnant women and infants to the Lek Yuen MCHC. She asked whether consideration had been given to the fact that pregnant women and infants in Ma On Shan would be more susceptible to infection when travelling on public transport;
- (c) she would like to know whether the Lek Yuen MCHC had sufficient resources and manpower to cope with the additional cases, whether the Department provided figures on the nurse-to-patient ratio, whether the waiting time (queuing time) had been extended, and if so, the average extension; and
- (d) a member of the public advised that some police cars were parked outside the Ma On Shan Family Medicine Centre and wondered whether this was related to the centre being listed as a designated clinic.

24. The Chairman said that most of members' questions were about the DH, but no representative of the Department was present at the meeting. The Chairman would like to invite the representative of the FEHD to reply to Mr Jimmy SHAM's enquiry.

25. Mr LAI Wing-chi responded that if a designated clinic was set up, the Department would step up cleansing of public places in the vicinity of the clinic. He said that if large-scale demonstrations were likely to take place in those areas, rubbish bins would be temporarily removed and replaced by plastic bags to avoid danger and damage to the bins. The Department would resume the installation of the bins in phases.

26. Mr Johnny CHUNG pointed out that the Government's reply to the Central and Western District Council was the same, but it did not answer the questions on the practical operation of the Ma On Shan Family Medicine Centre and the logistical arrangements for emergency matters. He therefore expressed great dissatisfaction that no real reply was given to the questions.

27. The view of Mr Michael YUNG were summarised below:

- (a) there was no way of knowing the number of departments involved in giving the response and whether the referrals were made as requested by the questioner;
- (b) he requested the Secretariat and the Assistant District Officer to explain how the relevant documents were approved;

- (c) the HA was not a government department but its reply was included in the Government's consolidated reply, which was confusing;
- (d) he asked about the departments invited by the Secretariat to attend the meeting and their replies and whether the District Officer invited the relevant departments to attend the meeting; and
- (e) he wondered if there were confirmed cases in designated clinics, whether the DH required doctors to self-quarantine and whether accommodation would be arranged.

28. The Chairman said that he was notified by the Secretariat prior to the meeting that the HA and the DH had been invited to attend the meeting, but had declined to do so.

29. Mr Sebastian WONG, the Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin) (2) gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the Secretariat forwarded the questions to the relevant departments in accordance with the guidelines, which were then consolidated into a comprehensive reply by the Home Affairs Department (HAD); and
- (b) on several occasions, the Secretariat requested the departments concerned to attend meetings and they had provided reasons for their absence. The Secretariat could provide relevant supplementary information.

30. The Chairman said that he would raise questions on the dissatisfaction with the absence of some departments, to request departments to send permanent representatives to attend meetings and on the arrangements for the collection of medicines from general outpatient clinics, and ask whether the taking of samples would increase the risk of infection. He would request the Secretariat to relay them to the DH or the departments concerned for follow-up in writing.

31. Ms Karen LEE, Executive Officer (District Council) 3 of the Sha Tin District Office (STDO), responded that upon receipt of Mr YIP Wing's question, it had been forwarded to the relevant departments, including the Food and Health Bureau (FHB), the DH, the HA and the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF), which all replied in writing and indicated that they were unable to send officers to attend the meeting as the FHB, the DH and the HA were fully committed to handling the novel coronavirus. The HKPF said that they were unable to send officers to attend the meeting, but did not provide a reason.

32. The Chairman said that the questions of the members would be followed up in writing, and he declared the agenda closed.

Question to be Raised by Mr CHAN Pui-ming on Wuhan Pneumonia Assessment and Quarantine Measures

(Paper No. HE 9/2020)

33. The views of Mr CHAN Pui-ming were summarised below:

- (a) he said that medicine to inhibit the growth of virus infection were provided at the

designated clinics in the past, but no specified medicine was provided for the novel coronavirus in Hong Kong now. He wished to ask the DH and the FHB follow-up questions on the arrangements for the withdrawal of Chun Yeung Estate, the scheme to support private laboratories and the \$30 billion epidemic prevention and control fund, etc., but representatives of the relevant departments were not present;

- (b) he wished to defer his questions to the next meeting of the HEC and to continue to invite relevant departments such as the DH, the HA and the FHB to attend the meeting; and
- (c) he hoped that the delineation between the responsibilities of departments could be well-defined and that questions received individual responses instead of a consolidated response.

34. The Chairman said that according to the Sha Tin District Council Standing Orders, the same subject could not be considered more than once within six months. He considered that the questions were important and therefore opened the discussion until the epidemic subsided.

35. The views of Mr MAK Tsz-kin were summarised below:

- (a) he strongly condemned the DH and the FHB for their absence from multiple District Council meetings. He opined that they did not respect Members;
- (b) in his provisional motion proposed on 7 February, he requested that the FHB and the DH give a detailed reply on the arrangements for the use of Chun Yeung Estate as a quarantine centre, including the number of units to be requisitioned, the security staffing establishment and the disposal of medical waste. Recently, he received complaints from prospective residents of Chun Yeung Estate, who were worried that their flats were being used as for quarantine purposes. He pointed out that the DH had indicated that it would not requisition flats near residential buildings, but during his visit to Kwei Tei New Village, he found that one side of the flats faced Kwei Tei New Village. He hoped that the DH could provide an explanation; and
- (c) a member of the public found a litter bin bearing the name "Chun Yeung Estate" on Cheung Lek Mei Street, Fo Tan one morning and sent a letter to FEHD for follow-up, but had not yet received a reply. He hoped the FEHD representative present would provide a response.

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

- (a) as the departments concerned had been absent from meetings on a number of occasions, he suggested that departments should reply to the Secretariat by email if they were absent from future meetings and attach the matters concerned to the relevant papers or minutes of the meetings. He considered that the departments concerned did not respect the STDC and suggested that the Chairman request the HA and the DH to submit reports on issues relating to the meetings and to establish permanent representatives; and

- (b) he asked the Secretariat and the District Officer about the criteria used to decide if questions would be answered by consolidated responses or individual responses from departments.

37. Mr Wilson LI said that the HEC was concerned about the questions raised by Mr YIP Wing and Mr CHAN Pui-ming. He understood that the departments concerned were busy in the fight against the epidemic, but a representative should be appointed to update the STDC on the latest situation so that members could convey the message to the community. He believed that civil servants should focus on serving the public, and that some departments were absent from meetings, ignoring the views of the STDC. He believed that the Government had double standards and was selective in attending meetings. He suggested that the HEC issue a letter to the relevant departments to explain the reasons for their absence and requested them to send representatives to attend the meetings.

38. The Chairman said that he would write to the department concerned in his capacity as Chairman of the HEC later to ask for an explanation for their absence and to request each department to answer questions separately instead of giving a consolidated reply in future.

39. Mr LAI Wing-chi gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he responded to Mr MAK Tsz-kin's enquiry about the litter bins found in Chun Yeung Estate at Cheung Lek Mei Street, Fo Tan. The preparatory work for the commissioning of Chun Yeung Estate generated waste and refuse. Our Department assisted in the collection of refuse from Chun Yeung Estate in mid-February this year. As the estate was not yet in use, the bins were used to transport the waste to the refuse collection point, except for one bin which was left at the refuse collection point at Cheung Lek Mei Street, Fo Tan. The bin was found on 5 March and was returned to Chun Yeung Estate immediately; and
- (b) in the control area of Chun Yeung Estate, where the quarantine personnel lived, the refuse generated by the quarantine personnel should be regarded as medical waste and handled by the DH. Refuse generated by the staff should be regarded as domestic waste and collected by the FEHD, and the FEHD's refuse collection vehicles would haul away the entire refuse compactor, so that relevant refuse would be contained within Chun Yeung Estate.

40. Mr MAK Tsz-kin pointed out that the FEHD said that it was responsible for the disposal of staff-generated waste, and asked about the definition of staff and the difference between the disposal of medical waste and staff-generated waste.

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

- (a) he asked whether the trailer mentioned by the FEHD was a compactor in a Housing Department (HD) refuse collection point. He was told that estates with over 2 500 households would have a centralised refuse disposal system with a compactor for transporting refuse by special vehicles, and wondered whether the situation was the same in Chun Yeung Estate;

- (b) taking the example of his constituency, where it took two days to fill the compactor, he asked when the compactor would be emptied; and
- (c) if the refuse was disposed of by compactors, it should be contained within Chun Yeung Estate. He inquired about the reasons why refuse bins were found outside Chun Yeung Estate.

42. Mr CHAN Pui-ming said that as far as he knew, Chun Yeung Estate was now taken over by the DH and the collection of refuse from the estate was normally handled by the cleaning company appointed by the HD. He enquired about the organisation responsible for the current refuse collection arrangement in Chun Yeung Estate.

43. Mr LAI Wing-chi gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) staff, including the Civil Aid Service, security guards, police officers and management contractors who did not work at the quarantine centre, produced general refuse such as lunch boxes and meal waste. Due to the large capacity of the compactor, it should be emptied about once every two to three days;
- (b) garbage generated within the quarantine control area was treated as medical waste and was collected and disposed of by the designated staff appointed by the DH; and
- (c) responding to questions on refuse bins found outside Chun Yeung Estate, He reiterated that prior to the commissioning of the quarantine centre at Chun Yeung Estate, the FEHD had assisted in clearing the refuse generated from the preparatory work for the use of Chun Yeung Estate as a quarantine centre, e.g. domestic waste from installation of beds and renovation works. He said that the same situation would not happen again after the quarantine centre had been opened.

44. Mr WU Tak-tong, Housing Manager (Tai Po, North and Sha Tin 3) of the HD had nothing to add.

45. The Chairman declared this agenda closed.

Question to be Raised by Mr TING Tsz-yuen on Automated External Defibrillator
(Paper No. HE 10/2020)

46. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) his assistant found a member of the public who was suspected to have had a heart attack on the pavement near On Lok Street Park. Some members of the public at the scene attempted to borrow an automated external defibrillator (AED) from a shopping centre managed by the Link in Yiu On Estate, which could not provide one. In the end, a doctor from the clinic of Union Hospital performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on the patient;

- (b) the Fire Services Department (FSD) mentioned that there was no legislation requiring the installation of defibrillators in shopping malls or institutions, and he asked whether consideration would be given to amending the relevant legislation;
- (c) he would like to know whether defibrillators were available in the shopping malls of the HD; and
- (d) he asked whether the facilities and services in question would be reviewed, and whether they would consider providing the equipment in question.

47. Mr WU Sit-hung, Assistant Chief Ambulance Officer (Community Emergency Preparedness) of the FSD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the FSD replied to the Chairman's question in writing. The FSD encouraged owners of different premises or buildings, property management companies, etc. to install defibrillators. The existing legislation did not require the installation of defibrillators in premises. The FSD also did not have information on the number and locations of defibrillators. Regarding Taiwan's "National Geographic Information System Inquiry on the Installation of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in Public Places", the FSD did not have relevant information. Our department was actively exploring the use of an electronic platform for the public to enquire about the locations of AEDs, and was now promoting emergency preparedness methods and skills to the community through education and promotion activities. The Department had been promoting CPR and defibrillator courses to the public to enhance their confidence and skills in the use of the equipment; and
- (b) the FSD was a policy enforcement department and it was not under the FSD's purview to amend the relevant legislation.

48. Mr WU Tak-tong replied that most major shopping malls were equipped with AEDs at present.

49. The Chairman suggested that the HD make public the number of shopping centres that were equipped with AEDs in the future.

50. The views of Mr Billy CHAN were summarised as follows:

- (a) he thanked the FSD for sending a representative to attend the meeting;
- (b) defibrillators could help save people's lives in times of emergency and he suggested that the relevant bureaux amend the legislation;
- (c) the FSD indicated that it was actively exploring the use of an electronic platform for the public to look up the location of the equipment. He asked whether there was a timetable for implementation;
- (d) he wanted to know the number of people who had attended defibrillator training courses in the past;

- (e) he asked whether the shopping malls in Pok Hong Estate and Shui Chuen O Estate managed by the HD were equipped with such equipment, and requested the HD to provide additional information after the meeting; and
- (f) he regretted the absence of representatives from the Link at the meeting and hoped that, after the meeting, the Link would provide additional information on why they had not installed the equipment in their shopping malls and whether they would consider providing it.

51. The views of Mr CHAN Pui-ming were summarised as below:

- (a) he thanked the FSD for attending the meeting;
- (b) it was understood that some of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) venues or HD shopping malls were equipped with defibrillators. He asked whether the staff responsible were trained to operate the equipment;
- (c) the HD said there were defibrillators in major shopping malls and only 3 to 4 shopping malls in Sha Tin were under the jurisdiction of the HD. He asked whether it would consider placing a defibrillator in the management office of the premises in case of need; and
- (d) there was no existing legislation governing the possession or import of defibrillators, but the DH had a voluntary “Medical Device Administrative Control System”. He asked whether the DH had information on the location of defibrillators and the relevant administrative system for their maintenance.

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

- (a) he thanked the FSD for attending the meeting;
- (b) he asked whether defibrillators needed to be adjusted regularly. He was concerned that defibrillators might not work if they were not used for a long period of time;
- (c) he cited his own constituency as an example, where shopping malls managed by the Link were not equipped with defibrillators;
- (d) he opined that few people knew how to operate a defibrillator and that the FSD’s “Press to shock - Save a life” programme was a good one, and suggested that consideration be given to stepping up publicity. He hoped that the Chairman would urge the departments concerned to install defibrillators, especially on display; and
- (e) he indicated that defibrillators were small and difficult for staff to find in a short time.

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

- (a) he said that he recommended providing the equipment over 10 years ago and different government departments had installed the equipment since. He asked

which government department recommended the installation;

- (b) he wished to know why firemen used CPR rather than defibrillators in rescue operations, whether it was because not every fire service vehicle was equipped with a defibrillator or because there was a difference between the two, and he wished to know the role of defibrillators in rescue operations;
- (c) he would like to know the type of people that the FSD targeted for training and whether defibrillator suppliers provided corresponding training;
- (d) he asked about the government departments whose premises were not equipped defibrillators to the knowledge of the FSD, and which government departments or institutions were recommended to install defibrillators;
- (e) he asked why the HD had only provided defibrillators in some of the large shopping malls and suggested that defibrillators be provided in all shopping malls under the purview of the HD; and
- (f) he would like to hear from the Link on why defibrillators had not been installed, and suggested the Link to install defibrillators in all shopping malls under its management, if the Link could not do so, please explain the reasons.

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

- (a) he asked whether only those with training were allowed to use defibrillators;
- (b) whether the FSD provided training courses for staff of estate management or security companies;
- (c) if the FSD opined that the installation of defibrillators was beneficial to the community, whether it would recommend the Buildings Department to install defibrillators in future shopping malls or large residential projects and arrange for the personnel responsible for the installation;
- (d) in view of the reference to On Lok Street Park, he would like to know which LCSD venues were equipped with defibrillators and, if so, whether staff would be trained to use them;
- (e) as it was understood that defibrillators were available in the Sha Tin Government Offices, he enquired about the circumstances under which new government facilities would be equipped with defibrillators and operators; and
- (f) defibrillators and CPR were both useful and he would like to know whether the former could increase the survival rate of heart attack patients by applying electricity to restore heart rhythm.

55. Mr Wilson LI said that it was understood that defibrillators were not difficult to use but could save lives. He asked whether consideration would be given to collaborating with other departments, such as the Buildings Department, to organise further programmes to promote,

publicise and educate the public on the use of defibrillators, with a view to expanding the scale of promotion so that more people could be protected.

56. The views of Mr Raymond LI were summarised below:

- (a) according to information, there were about 5 000 to 6 000 cases of sudden cardiac arrest outside hospitals last year and the survival rate of patients after sudden cardiac arrest in 2012/2013 was only 2.3%. According to overseas data, the survival rate of patients before the installation of defibrillators in public places was 5%. The rate shot up to 49% after the installation of defibrillators;
- (b) he was of the view that defibrillators could be installed in government premises and wondered whether the HD could install defibrillators in the management offices of public housing estates. He said that in response to questions raised by other district councils, the HD had indicated that defibrillator operators needed to be trained and there was a shortage of manpower to deal with the problem, and the existing procedures suggested calling the emergency hotline. He would like to know the difficulties in training operators and suggested that the LCSD provide assistance to the HD; and
- (c) the Community Emergency Preparedness Unit of the FSD provided training in CPR and the use of defibrillators, and he asked whether there would be collaboration with the HD to provide relevant training to its staff. Noting that the Transport Department had indicated that it would consider installing defibrillators in places such as car parks, he suggested that government departments consider installing defibrillators in their premises.

57. The Chairman amended that when he mentioned On Lok Street Park in the question, he was referring to a footpath next to the park .

58. Mr LI Ho-yin, Deputy Leisure Manager 2 (Sha Tin) of the LCSD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) a total of 28 defibrillators were provided at recreational venues in the Sha Tin District, including all sports centres, all swimming pools, two sports grounds and larger parks such as Ma On Shan Park, Sha Tin Park, Ma On Shan Promenade and Pak Shek Kok Promenade;
- (b) for aquatic facilities such as beaches and swimming pools where lifeguards were on duty, the Department's guideline was that defibrillator operators had to receive training in the use of defibrillators or first aid training; the Department would also provide the training in the use of defibrillators to personnel at land-based venues and encourage their participation; and
- (c) for premises with defibrillators that did not have resident staff but only security guards, the Department would require the security contractor to provide relevant training and certification to the staff concerned as part of the contract.

59. Mr WU Sit-hung gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the FSD was the policy implementation arm and was not responsible for amending the relevant legislation;
- (b) in view of the increasing popularity of defibrillators and the concerns of STDC Members, the Department was actively pursuing the use of an electronic platform for data collection. The detailed timetable was not available at present;
- (c) the data on CPR and defibrillator training courses was available but it was not feasible to read it all out. The data would be collated and forwarded to members via the Secretariat later. The FSD started to provide community CPR training courses in 1999 and as at 31 December 2019, 32 414 persons had received training free of charge. The “Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Training in Campus” was launched in April 2017 at various institutions to provide relevant training to over 12 000 participants. In August 2017, the Department started to actively implement the “Press to shock - Save a life” CPR & AED Course and the “Anyone” programme. Between 2017 and 2019, over 15 000 people participated in the programme. The most recent scheme, the “Press to shock - Save a life” scheme, was rolled out to major organisations, government departments and the Legislative Council, involving over 7 000 participants. The Heart Saver Scheme was launched in collaboration with public stakeholders in 2007 with over 10 000 participants;
- (d) regarding the enactment of legislation requiring the installation of defibrillators in premises, the FSD could not issue a response. The current policy did not require the installation of defibrillators in any premises;
- (e) regarding the Good Samaritan law, there was currently no legislation in the territory that exempted rescuers from legal liability for the consequences of their rescuing acts. Whether it was appropriate to introduce the relevant legislation was subject to detailed discussion among bureaux, departments and stakeholders, and factors to be considered and conditions to be met included the public’s knowledge of sudden cardiac arrest and its treatment, as well as the training level of the rescuers, etc. The Government would continue to participate, through various channels and in collaboration with other public and private organisations, in the promotion, education and training of first-aid skills;
- (f) participation of institutions and members of the public in the “Press to shock - Save a life” training programme was voluntary. Although defibrillators were classified as medical devices, their usage was not restricted to health care personnel and it was up to the manufacturers to decide how to design the devices to suit their target users. The Department advocated that anyone could save lives and even for those without relevant training, the Fire Services Communication Centre would guide them to handle cases according to guidelines;
- (g) defibrillators were recommended to be kept within easy reach of the public for use in emergency situations. The manufacturer would provide clear operating guidelines and organisations could maintain and check equipment regularly according to the guidelines;

- (h) he indicated that data on the activities to promote the Community Emergency Preparedness Unit were not available at present. The Community Emergency Preparedness Unit organised major publicity campaigns in the past and would continue to do so in the coming year. It was also responsible for developing community emergency preparedness strategies, including disaster response, counter-terrorism preparedness, fire safety and community life support;
- (i) the Department equipped all fire stations, ambulance depots, ambulances and Emergency Medical Assistant Motor Cycles with AEDs;
- (j) all were welcome to participate in the Community Emergency Preparedness Course training courses. The FSD also took the initiative to provide education to schools and organisations, and had provided CPR and defibrillator courses to various government departments, including the HD, the FEHD and the Architectural Services Department. If Members were interested in CPR and defibrillator courses, they could contact the FSD via the Secretariat and relevant training could be provided to them; and
- (k) after promotion, education and publicity, the survival rate of patients after sudden cardiac arrest rose to 2.5% this year. It was hoped that the rate could meet international standards in the future.

60. The views of Mr CHAN Pui-ming were summarised as follows:

- (a) he hoped that the Chairman and the Secretariat would later liaise with the FSD to arrange defibrillator training courses for Members; and
- (b) he wished to know which department was responsible for the maintenance of defibrillators on government premises.

61. Mr WU Sit-hung responded that the department had been encouraging government departments, organisations, etc. to install defibrillators and hoped that they would discuss with the equipment suppliers on the maintenance service. The FSD would not be involved in the procurement process and hence the relevant repair and maintenance would have to be negotiated between the equipment owners and the suppliers.

62. Mr Chan Pui-ming would like to know more about the use of defibrillators in shopping malls, estate management offices, etc. under the HD and the training of staff concerned.

63. Mr WU Tak-tong replied that he understood that DC Members had requested HD to install defibrillators in its shopping malls, estate management offices and offices, and as the proposal involved all shopping malls and estates in the territory, he would relay it to the Headquarters.

64. The view of Mr Wilson LI were summarised as follows:

- (a) he hoped that the Chairman and the FSD could assist in arranging defibrillator training courses for STDC Members and Secretariat staff; and

- (b) he suggested that the STDO and the FSD help encourage the installation of defibrillators in private buildings and shopping malls.

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

- (a) he would like to know the differences in the style and operation of defibrillators currently available on the market;
- (b) as the Security Bureau was responsible for policy formulation, he asked whether the Bureau attached importance to the executive branch but neglected policy formulation; and
- (c) he asked the HD whether it needed to go through the Office of the Ombudsman in order for the department to respond to the request.

66. The view of Mr LO Yuet-chau were summarised as below:

- (a) he thanked the FSD for their presence and for reintroducing the concept of "Anyone"; and
- (b) he considered that while the equipment was important, the operator was more important. He suggested that the FSD propose to the relevant authorities the establishment of the "Good Samaritan law", which would complement the use of AEDs and the exemption would increase public awareness of the use of AEDs.

67. The views of Mr Raymond LI were summarised below:

- (a) the survival rate of patients after sudden cardiac arrest had only increased by 0.2% from 2012/2013 to 2019/2020, reflecting that the legislation was not closely aligned with the needs. He suggested that the Government discuss the relevant policy; and
- (b) as the Community Emergency Preparedness Section of the FSD provided different courses to relevant government departments and promoted the concept of "Anyone", he opined that the Government should take the lead in promoting the concept by gradually providing more AEDs.

68. The Chairman put forward the following provisional motion:

"The Health and Environment Committee of the Sha Tin District Council urges the authorities to review the existing legislation as soon as possible and consider comprehensively requiring all shopping malls, estate managers and government premises to install automated external defibrillators as a lifesaving measure in case of emergency, so as to increase the survival rate of people suffering from heart attacks."

Mr CHING Cheung-ying seconded the motion.

69. The provisional motion in paragraph 68 was unanimously passed.

Reporting Item

Report of Working Group
(Paper No. HE 11/2020)

70. Mr Billy CHAN pointed out that Mr George WONG was listed as both present and in attendance, and asked the Secretariat to amend it.

71. Mr WAI Hing-cheung said that he was in attendance at the meeting on that day; however, his name was not recorded on the "In Attendance" list. He asked that the Secretariat make the amendment.

72. Members were noted the paper.

Information Papers

Sha Tin District Anti-rodent Campaign 2020 (First Phase)
(Paper No. HE 12/2020)

73. The Chairman invited the representative of the FEHD to briefly introduce the relevant paper.

74. Mr LAI Wing-chi gave a brief introduction as follows:

- (a) he apologised for amending the information paper by replacing "2020" with "2019" in lines 8 and 9 of paragraph 5. He would inform the Secretariat of the amendment in writing after the meeting; and
- (b) he added that the Department conducted two anti-rodent campaigns each year: the first one from 6 January to 13 March this year and the second one from 6 July to 11 September this year. The Department adopted a multi-pronged approach in rodent eradication work, which included improving environmental hygiene, strengthening targeted rodent eradication and enforcing the law, with a view to eliminating the "food", "housing" and "transportation" problems of rats and mice. We were strengthening the effectiveness of our anti-rodent campaign by tackling the basic living conditions of the rodent population. In order to deepen the rodent control work, we would carry out rodent eradication work in rear lanes at suitable locations, and then extend the work to other areas after producing results. The most important approach to rodent control was to improve environmental hygiene.

75. Mr Wilson LI said that with more new construction projects and population intake in the Wu Kai Sha area, rodent infestation was inevitable and there was a particular need for the FEHD's assistance in working with the management offices of housing estates. He asked the FEHD to continue to work with local stakeholders to eliminate rodent infestation.

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

- (a) he would like to know the schedule of the second phase of the anti-rodent campaign so that members can inform the stakeholders concerned;

- (b) he asked about the division of labour between the pest control team and the contractor's mobile team, whether it was based on the area or the division of responsibilities; and
- (c) he considered that the most important aspect of rodent control work was communication with local stakeholders so as not to reduce the effectiveness of the rodent control work. He enquired whether local stakeholders such as owners' corporations (OCs), management companies, residents' organisations, etc. could be invited to participate in the rodent eradication work. Apart from arranging health talks, he asked whether the Department could arrange for rodent control experts to visit housing estates to give advice on rodent control upon request, or inform local stakeholders of the relevant details before the rodent control work was carried out.

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

- (a) he thanked the FEHD's pest control team for its prompt response in the past and for handling public complaints of rodent infestation;
- (b) it was noted that the FEHD had placed poison bait in the Tai Wai Market in early March to deal with rodent infestation. He asked whether more anti-rodent work would be carried out in Tai Wai Market to prevent rodent infestation;
- (c) as it was mentioned in Annex I of the information paper that the number of live and dead rats caught was lower than the number of rat cages and bait placed, he wondered whether the Department had reviewed the effectiveness of rodent control, and whether the ratio reflected that the cages and bait were not placed in places with serious rodent infestation, resulting in ineffectiveness; and
- (d) he would like to know whether the scope of the first phase of the rodent control campaign overlapped with the "Community Rodent Control Action".

78.Mr HUI Lap-sun asked about the differences and effectiveness of the pest control teams and the contractor's mobile teams, and whether the Department monitored the contractor's mobile teams. According to the schedule provided in the paper, on 29 February this year, only the mobile pest control teams of the contractors in the area of Kam Fung Court and Chung On Estate in his constituency carried out rodent control operations, and some residents had recently expressed that the Chung On Market and Kam Fung Court were still infested with rodents. He would like to know more about the work and effectiveness of the mobile anti-rodent teams of the contractors in the operation. Besides, the anti-rodent campaign also spanned a number of housing estates, and he asked how the Department monitored the situation.

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

- (a) he asked how the pest control teams worked closely with the stakeholders of the housing estates. Taking Kam Tai Court, his constituency, as an example, the rodents would move from public places to private places and he would like to know how the Department worked with the estate or private groups to alleviate the problem of rodent infestation; and

- (b) he noted the efforts made by the pest control teams in rodent control but the results were not satisfactory. With reference to overseas methods of rodent control, the use of drugs to sterilise rats was effective due to their high breeding rate. He suggested that the Department refer to those methods and change the methods of rodent control.

80.The views of Mr CHAN Pui-ming were summarised below:

- (a) the opening of the Kam Tai Market had aggravated the rodent problem in the district. He thanked the FEHD for its anti-rodent efforts, but he hoped that the FEHD would study the feasibility of cooperation as some of the locations involved private areas and were difficult to work with; and
- (b) the information indicated that the number of cages placed by the Department was high, but only 3% of the rodents were actually caught. Some opined that rodents were not attracted to eat the bait in the cages and he asked whether new methods of rodent repellent, such as ultrasonic rodent repeller, would be considered.

81.The views of Mr Raymond LI were summarised below:

- (a) he thanked the FEHD for visiting Wo Che Estate;
- (b) he stated that the persistence of the rodent problem was evidence of inadequate rodent control. The ratio between the number of rat cages, traps and bait placed and the number of rats caught was low. He enquired about the effectiveness of placing rat cages, traps and bait, taking Wo Che Estate as an example, where there were many restaurants in the vicinity and the measures did not attract rodents. He suggested that the FEHD should study how to effectively tackle the rodent problem at source;
- (c) he asked whether the pest control team and the contractor's mobile team were responsible for the same duties, such as placing rat cages and bait. He said that the rodent problem in Wo Che Estate was serious and he would like to know whether the area around Shing Mun River was included in the anti-rodent operation in the estate; and
- (d) residents relayed to him that rodents entered their building. He found that rodents could enter the building through two drains, but the HD had only installed rodent shields on one of the drains. He hoped that the Department would assist different departments and organisations to improve rodent control.

82.Mr WONG Ho-fung asked how the frequency and dates of anti-rodent campaigns were determined and whether the Department would consider increasing the frequency. Citing Mei Tin Estate as an example, he said that even though there were fewer restaurants in the vicinity, there were still complaints about the presence of rats in the lobbies of various blocks. He said that the second phase of the anti-rodent campaign in 2019 was not effective in Mei Tin Estate and suggested that the frequency of the campaign be increased and other methods of rodent control be considered.

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

- (a) he said that the Assistant District Officer had led “anti-rodent operations” in the previous term and considered that the STDO had done less substantive work in the current term. He asked whether “anti-rodent operations” would be held in the current term and whether such operations would contravene Section 61(a) of the District Councils Ordinance;
- (b) he said that Members and residents who considered the HD’s work inadequate suggested lodging complaints with the Office of The Ombudsman. He said that the door of the garbage room of the Yan Yuet House was destroyed when typhoon Mangkhut hit the territory, and that the repairs had not been completed for six months;
- (c) he was dissatisfied that the manager of Yan On Estate, with whom he had made an appointment to patrol the district, was unable to attend at short notice;
- (d) he asked the FEHD whether the rodent control practices and standards of the outsourced contractors were consistent with those of the staff of the HD; and
- (e) he asked whether the FEHD currently provided protective gear, such as masks, to cleaning staff who had to handle cleaning for suspected cases of the novel coronavirus for their protection.

84.The views of Mr LO Yuet-chau were summarised as below:

- (a) he thanked the FEHD for its efforts in district cleaning and rodent eradication, and requested the FEHD to continue to strengthen its work in this regard; and
- (b) he and the Director had witnessed what happened to the rats after they took poison bait and said that the rats did not die at once. He asked whether it was possible to introduce baits containing sterilant to slow down the reproduction rate of rodents. It was noted that the bait containing Warfarin did not kill rodents instantly and was not infectious to the population.

85.Mr YIP Wing said that after the renovation of Chung On Market in 2016, the rodent problem in Chung On Estate remained serious, except for the improvement during the anti-rodent campaign. He suggested including in the paper the number of rodent carcasses collected per month and improvement measures. In addition, some residents of Chung On Estate enquired about the solutions to the rodent infestation problem, apart from rat glue boards and poison bait.

86.The views of Mr Jimmy SHAM were summarised below:

- (a) he would like to learn about the effectiveness and division of work between the pest control team and the contractor’s mobile team, as well as the scope of the anti-rodent operation in private housing estates. He said that in his constituency, rats were still found within a month after the anti-rodent campaign and it was obvious that the rat holes were not blocked. There was a restaurant on the ground floor of Fu Yu House in Lek Yuen Estate but no rodent screen was installed in the drainage

system. He asked when the Department would install such a screen;

- (b) he considered that the Rodent Infestation Index (RIR) did not accurately reflect the rodent problem because the bait was not appealing. He would like to know why the rodent problem had worsened as the eradication effort had progressed; and
- (c) he enquired about the role of the STDO in the anti-rodent campaign. As different stakeholders were involved in the vicinity of the Lek Yuen Estate, he asked if there was an integrated approach to coordinate the anti-rodent efforts of the stakeholders in the area and suggested that the Government amend the legislation to enhance the effectiveness of anti-rodent efforts.

87.The views of Ms WONG Man-huen were summarised below:

- (a) she would like to know how the areas of responsibility were defined between the pest control teams and the contractor's mobile teams; and
- (b) it was understood that the FEHD seldom communicated with the management companies of private housing estates. She asked whether the FEHD would inform the management companies of nearby housing estates when it carried out rodent control work, improve cooperation with the management companies in rodent control, and optimise the mechanism for monitoring the effectiveness of rodent control in private housing estates and the relevant follow-up measures.

88.The view of Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa were summarised below:

- (a) he thanked FEHD for its efforts in community rodent control;
- (b) as rodent control was related to the surrounding environment, he asked if the Department had collaborated with other departments to inspect the hygiene conditions of restaurants to make the environment less liveable to rodents; and
- (c) noting that in his constituency, rodents were more active in the evening, he wondered about the timing of the rodent control operations and whether the Department would review the effectiveness of the existing rodent control methods.

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

- (a) recently, he received a complaint from a resident about rodent infestation in a planter at Garden Rivera, and enquired about the rodent control measures taken by the Department at that location. As the planter was managed by the LCSD, he would like to know which department was responsible for the rodent infestation problem and how the departments communicated with each other; and
- (b) he asked whether the FEHD communicated with housing estates on a regular basis on the rodent infestation problem. He said that there had been cases where housing estates indicated that they did not understand the FEHD's rodent control work or the scopes of responsibilities of both parties.

90. Mr LAI Wing-chi gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the Department held two phases of the rodent control campaign each year at the same time. The venue and time of the second phase of the rodent control campaign would be presented to the members for their information;
- (b) the main objective of the anti-rodent campaign was to eliminate the conditions of “food”, “housing” and “transportation” of rodents, and to adopt a multi-pronged strategy to eradicate rodents, including improving environmental hygiene, strengthening targeted rodent control measures and law enforcement actions and strengthening the management of the environment. The Department would also liaise with relevant government departments and stakeholders to enhance rodent prevention and eradication work at rodent-infested areas and conduct relevant publicity and education programmes to enhance public awareness of and participation in rodent prevention and eradication work. Continuously effective rodent control required the cooperation of all parties concerned to enhance public awareness of pest control through the “anti-rodent operations”;
- (c) there were 23 pest control teams and contractor’s mobile teams in the the Sha Tin District. While the pest control teams were under the Department, the contractor’s mobile teams were outsourced and the work of the teams was divided according to districts. Both teams carried out rodent control work at the same time at different locations, except on Saturdays when only the contractor’s mobile teams were deployed. In addition, the FEHD only conducted rodent control operations in public areas outside housing estates and would liaise with relevant stakeholders and provide technical support if necessary;
- (d) the Department took into account the RIR in planning rodent control campaigns. The RIR was calculated based on the bite marks of sweet potatoes, which were used as bait. In the past decade, the RIR of the territory was in the single digits, indicating that the existing methods of rodent control could continue;
- (e) no poison bait would be placed near markets, crowds or animals to prevent the bait from being eaten or destroyed by mistake, and cages would be placed in such places;
- (f) Tai Wai Market stepped up its anti-rodent efforts and the Department would continue to carry out anti-rodent work despite the suspension of the market’s opening due to the installation of air-conditioning facilities;
- (g) regarding questions concerning the monitoring of estate management offices and questions from stakeholders, he said if relevant organisations did not comply with the advice and breached the relevant legislation, the FEHD could take enforcement actions, such as issuing Nuisance Notices and instituting prosecution when evidences were available;
- (h) the rodent control work was mainly carried out in three aspects: (1) improving environmental hygiene; (2) targeted anti-rodent and rodent control work, such as recommending and educating people on the installation of rat traps and blocking

canal pipes after field visits; and (3) strengthening law enforcement, such as prosecuting people who littered and stored rubbish improperly;

- (i) rat cages were being used to capture live rats and chronic poison bait was used to kill rats at present. Since it was less dangerous for people or animals to be in contact with chronic poison bait than cyanide, it was more appropriate to use chronic poison bait;
- (j) the Pest Control Advisory Section would review the rodent control methods currently adopted from time to time. After the twice-yearly anti-rodent campaigns, “anti-rodent operation in designated target areas” was conducted in areas with a high concentration of restaurants, markets and pedestrian flow, so as to enhance the effectiveness of rodent control;
- (k) in respect of Kam Tai Market, Chung On Market, Chung On Estate, Wo Che Estate, Lek Yuen Estate, etc. mentioned by Members, the Department would step up inspections and liaise with the HD on the rodent control situation; and
- (l) in response to Mr LAI Tsz-yan’s reference to the LCSD planters, the Department would liaise with the LCSD and continue to liaise with the management office of Shatin Park, and advise the management office concerned to follow the approach suggested by the Department in order to achieve results.

91. In response to Mr Raymond LI’s enquiry about the lack of rodent barriers in the drainage pipes in Wo Che Estate, Mr WU Tak-tong said that he would relay the problem to the estate manager and follow up. In response to Mr Michael YUNG’s question about the breach of contract by the manager of Yan On Estate, he said he would find out the reasons and inform the staff concerned to follow up on the maintenance of the gate of the refuse storage room. In response to Mr YIP Wing’s request for information on the number of live rats caught and rodent carcasses collected in Chung On Estate, he said he would relay the situation to the estate manager and suggested reporting the figures to Mr YIP Wing on a regular basis. Lastly, in response to Mr Jimmy SHAM’s concern about the lack of rodent barriers in the drainage pipes of the restaurant at Fu Yu House in Lek Yuen Estate and the rodent infestation in Fung Wo Estate, he said that he would also relay the problem to the estate manager and follow up on the issue.

92. The Chairman asked the HD to submit regular cleaning or rodent control reports at future meetings.

93. The responses of Mr Sebastian WONG were summarised below:

- (a) the STDO, in collaboration with the FEHD and relevant departments, launched a community anti-rodent campaign in the previous year to eradicate rats in selected pockets of Sha Tin with relevant stakeholders as part of the District-led Action Scheme. The Department was responsible for liaising with the FEHD, relevant departments and local stakeholders, including schools, shopping malls, management companies and residents’ organisations, to discuss the rodent control strategy. The District-led Action Scheme would continue this year but details of this year’s plan had yet to be finalised;

- (b) the Department was responsible for liaising with different stakeholders in the district for the anti-rodent operation and had accumulated experiences in liaising with various departments, management companies and residents' organisations in the past years. In Chung On Estate, for example, more than 100 rats had been caught and picked up in two months, not counting the work of the FEHD. During the operation, the FEHD instructed estate management companies and cleaning companies on carrying out anti-rodent strategies. A few months later, the Member of the area reflected that there were still signs of rodent infestation in the area, so the Department, together with the FEHD, visited the area again and found that there was a lot of garbage in the planters and flowerbeds, and the management company's method of handling the rodent holes was not satisfactory. The Department also immediately put forward recommendations for improvement. During the operation, the management company followed the FEHD's advice to replace broken rubbish bins. The FEHD and relevant stakeholders accumulated experiences in rodent eradication in a number of community rodent eradication operations, which helped improve the environmental hygiene of the community; and
- (c) he said that in order to carry out a comprehensive community rodent control strategy, besides the efforts of government departments, it was also crucial that residents had environmental awareness and management companies effectively implemented rodent control strategy.

94. The views of Mr CHAN Wan-tung were summarised below:

- (a) he said that rodent eradication work required the cooperation of other parties. Taking the hillside near Hin Tin Street as an example, the site was managed by the Lands Department, the HD and the FEHD respectively, and as the area behind railings did not fall within the jurisdiction of the FEHD, the FEHD had not been able to clear the rubbish. He considered that there should be coordination among government departments. He said that the overflowing of rubbish bins at Hin Tin Street and the cleaning staff cleaning the bins on the slope had caused hygiene problems;
- (b) he opined that the timing of the inspection would affect the value of the RIR because there were more rats in the evening; and
- (c) he was of the view that rodent eradication work required the cooperation of the surrounding stakeholders and government departments, and the Government should also improve environmental hygiene in response to the suggestions made by the local community in order to enhance the effectiveness of rodent eradication.

95. The views of Mr Raymond LI were summarised below:

- (a) he said that the RIR was low because rodent bait was not attractive. According to information, the first case of human infection of hepatitis E from rodents in the territory last year reflected the seriousness of the rodent problem. He said that many professionals had pointed out that the current method of calculating the RIR was not satisfactory and that the bait placed in plastic bags did not attract rodents

to eat. Even though the current RIR was 5%, he considered that the RIR did not accurately reflect the rodent problem in the territory. According to information, the RIR had remained below 5% since 2010. He asked why the rodent problem did not improve over the years;

- (b) he asked whether the HD had communicated with the Link on rodent infestation;
- (c) he suggested that the STDO coordinate different departments to deal with rodent problems; and
- (d) he asked whether the HD and other departments would consider methods other than those suggested by the FEHD.

96. The views of Mr Jimmy SHAM were summarised below:

- (a) he thanked the HD for following up on the rodent infestation problems in Lek Yuen Estate and Fung Wo Estate;
- (b) in the audit report of 2014, the use of sweet potatoes as rodent bait was found to be problematic. In 2007-2009, the FEHD switched to using lump bait in calculating the RIR which rose from 3.3% in 2006 to 8.5% in 2009. The FEHD then said as lump bait was susceptible to environmental influences and it was hard to discern bite marks on lump bait, sweet potato was used instead as bait. Since 2010, sweet potatoes had been used as bait and he considered that the RIR could not reflect the territory-wide rodent problem; and
- (c) he was of the view that the rodent carcasses collected during the annual anti-rodent operations reflected the ineffectiveness of the operations. He asked how the FEHD and the STDO would review the inadequacy of the operation.

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

- (a) he had visited his constituency with a pest control team to inspect the rodent problem. The team understood the rodents' habits and said that they were intelligence. He opined that the continued use of sweet potatoes as bait was only to reduce the RIR;
- (b) the use of rat cages and bait had been ineffective, and he suggested consulting the methods of rodent control used in foreign countries. In New York, the most heavily infested city, for example, a new approach to rodent control was used every year. He questioned whether rat cages were an effective means of rodent control; and
- (c) if the management company's rodent control efforts were inadequate, he asked how the FEHD would pressure it.

98. Mr YEUNG Sze-kin said that the information paper did not record the number of warnings issued and prosecutions instituted against offenders. He enquired about the specific actions taken by the FEHD to issue warnings and prosecute offenders. He also said that there had been complaints about the placing of rubbish bins at locations other than refuse collection points and

obstructing emergency access, thus causing rodent and mosquito infestation.

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

- (a) he understood that rodent eradication required the cooperation of many parties and that the feeding of wild birds by the public also provided food for rodents. He suggested that the Department carry out education and prosecution work to alert the public so as to enhance the effectiveness of rodent control; and
- (b) he opined that the RIR did not reflect the real problem of rodent infestation as rodent bait would never be as attractive as food in restaurants. He said that an increase in the number of complaints about rodent infestation in the community, or even new cases of rodent infestation, reflected the seriousness of the problem.

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

- (a) he was concerned that the RIR of the FEHD underestimated the rodent situation; and
- (b) he considered that the case of Chung On Estate reflected the management problems arising from the sale of the shopping mall by the HD.

101.The views of Mr YIP Wing were summarised below:

- (a) he pointed out that many rats were captured during “anti-rodent operations”; however, rodent infestation remained serious before and after the operations;
- (b) he hoped that the number of live rats caught and rodent carcasses recovered, the measures taken and the effectiveness of the campaign could be included in the documents of the anti-rodent campaign and that, in addition to the HD, the Link would also be required to submit the relevant figures for each housing estate to facilitate monitoring by Members; and
- (c) he said that the rodent infestation problem in Chung On Estate had not improved over the past four years, but had worsened instead, and hoped that new technology could be used to combat the problem.

102.Mr Johnny CHUNG pointed out that the rodent control operation was less likely to be carried out in his constituency because the infested area that had suffered from rodent infestation was not a public space. He said he understood that in the legal and administrative procedures, the locations concerned were not within the jurisdiction of the FEHD or government departments. Taking Fok On Garden as an example, due to the poor management, the rodent infestation problem was serious, and the FEHD could only provide rodent control advice to the management company and the OC to carry out rodent control. As the behaviour of private owners affected the hygienic environment, he asked whether government departments could provide more legal and land administration support to OC and management companies.

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

- (a) the management companies of public housing estates and Home Ownership Scheme estates were only responsible for rodent infestation problems within their jurisdiction; however, rodents were mobile. He opined it necessary for the Government to coordinate the efforts of different stakeholders in rodent control. He thanked the staff of the property management companies of the HD and the FEHD for their ability to accurately identify rodent nests and active areas of the rodents. He suggested that the Department collaborate with relevant government departments and stakeholders in the district to carry out rodent control work;
- (b) taking Sha On Street as an example, the FEHD had placed packaged poisonous baits, but no sign of rodent ingestion could be seen after a week, reflecting the ineffectiveness of the relevant measures, and there were different anti-rodent technologies available in the community for reference. He considered that the government departments had all along failed to cooperate with relevant stakeholders, management companies, cleaning companies and outsourcing contractors, resulting in the persistent rodent infestation problem. He enquired whether the Department had new anti-rodent methods; and
- (c) he asked the Chairman about the funding issue of the Working group on Enhancing the Public Health in Sha Tin District (Ad Hoc).

104. The Chairman said that, as the agenda for the Working Group's report had already passed, he would respond to Mr Chris MAK's enquiry at a later date.

105. The Chairman asked whether the FEHD would assist other departments in anti-rodent operations, or whether it would carry out rodent control operations jointly with other departments.

106. Mr LAI Wing-chi gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the RIR was a scientific and objective method to assess the level of rodent infestation in an area. Apart from the RIR, rodent tracks, complaint figures and public opinion were also taken into account for targeted rodent control operations. The RIR was for reference only and did not reflect the full extent of rodent infestation in an area;
- (b) in response to the problem of refuse inside the fence of the hillside at Hin Tin Street, the Department would refer the case to the relevant departments for follow-up. The Department would continue to follow up on the sewage problem caused by the cleaning of rubbish bins;
- (c) the rat poison in pill form was now packaged in perforated plastic bags, and rodents would catch the scent and eat the pills. Another type of rat poison was mixed with rice and placed in the rat's hole. The powdered rat poison would stick to the rodents and when the rodents licked their bodies, they would die from the poison. In response to Members' suggestions on rodent control methods, he would raise them with the Pest Control Advisory Section for active research into other rodent control

methods;

- (d) in carrying out rodent control work, the Department would contact and invite relevant government departments and stakeholders to participate in it; however, it might not be possible for all parties to carry out rodent control work at the same time;
- (e) he said that he would follow up on the issue of rodent infestation in private car parks raised by Mr Johnny CHUNG. Apart from providing advice on rodent control techniques, the Department would take appropriate enforcement action if the management company was found to have failed to address environmental hygienic problems;
- (f) in response to Mr LI Sai-hung's question on the hygienic problems caused by feeding wild animals, he said that the Department would monitor and take enforcement action, and advised the public not to feed wild animals; and
- (g) in response to Mr YEUNG Sze-kin's question on the Link's illegal placement of litter bins, he said that the Department had requested that the Link place litter bins at appropriate locations and the situation had improved. If the problem was found again, the Department would discuss with the estate manager for a solution.

107. The Chairman expressed the hope that, at the next meeting, the HD would be able to provide a timetable for rodent control and cleaning.

108. The committee members noted the above paper.

Sha Tin District Anti-mosquito Campaign 2020 (First Phase)
(Paper No. HE 13/2020)

109. The Chairman invited the representative of the FEHD to briefly introduce the relevant paper.

110. Mr LAI Wing-chi briefly introduced the schedule of the three phases of the Anti-mosquito Campaign this year, and he said that the anti-mosquito work was mainly carried out in accordance with the plan, which included removal of stagnant water and litter, placement of mosquito repellents at potential mosquito breeding sites and spraying to kill adult mosquitoes. As in previous years, the Department would spray and kill mosquitoes in forests.

111. The views of Mr Felix CHOW were summarised below:

- (a) there was often the accumulation of construction waste in the vicinity of the car park of Lok Lo Ha Village, causing mosquito and rodent infestation, but due to the restrictions imposed by the Ordinance, the FEHD had indicated that it was difficult to assist in the clean-up. Finally, the FEHD was asked to assist in the removal of construction waste for hygienic reasons. However, this was not a long-term practice. He asked the Department about the methods and standards for handling construction waste in rural areas;

- (b) as the stagnant water in some nullahs of the rural area was a breeding ground for mosquitoes, he asked whether, apart from spraying mosquito oil, the FEHD would consider working with other departments to drain the blocked outfalls; and
- (c) he would like to know whether the Department had placed ovitraps in the vicinity of Ma Liu Shui or the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and the data on the mosquito infestation rate.

112. Mr Wilson LI hoped that the FEHD would continue to follow up and respond to the mosquito problems on both sides of Wu Kai Sha Station, Lok Wo Sha Lane in Whitehead, Villa Athena and Wu Kai Sha Village, as well as the garbage and construction waste problems involved.

113. The Chairman said that he had official business to attend to, and Mr CHAN Pui-ming, the Vice-Chairman presided at the meeting.

114. The Vice-Chairman, in response to a query from Mr Chris MAK, said that the report of the working group on item 5 of the agenda was the minutes of the first meeting of the working group, and asked members to note that. He also asked members to note that the allocation of \$2 million for the purchase of anti-epidemic materials had been dealt with at the special meeting.

115. Mr Chris MAK asked the Secretariat to respond to the current progress of the working group.

116. The Vice-Chairman agreed to suspend the discussion on the anti-mosquito campaign and take 10 minutes to deal with the issues of the working group concerned at first. He added that at the present stage, there was a good chance that the co-organisers would not be able to provide the required materials for distribution by the STDC on or before March 17 this year. As a result, it might not be possible to use the funding reserved by the last term of the STDC for holding activities; however, the current term of the STDC could reserve funding for the handling of relevant procurement activities.

117. Mr Saki CHOY, Executive Assistant (District Councils) 5 of the STDO gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) after the the HEC endorsed the decision to select two co-organisers at the special meeting on 3 March, the Secretariat expeditiously issued a Letter of Undertaking to the related agencies, and asked the agencies to provide masks and alcohol-based handrubs on or before 10 March in accordance with the specifications and in the quantities quoted. On 6 March, the Secretariat contacted the co-organiser of Event 1, “Yee Health Company Limited”, which said that it was liaising with the mask supplier and it was not optimistic that the masks would be available by 10 March. In the afternoon, the agency replied that the mask supplier could only supply the products by mid to late April and therefore could not arrange the site for acceptance test on 10 March;
- (b) the supporting documents provided by the agency also failed to demonstrate that the mask procured was in accordance with the specifications of the co-organised activity; and

- (c) activity 1 was linked to activity 2. The progress on activity 2 was hampered by the uncertainty surrounding the procurement of epidemic prevention materials for activity 1.

118.The Vice-Chairman added that, at the special meeting, all agencies had expressed the view that they could only try to meet the deadlines, rather than ensuring that activities could be completed by the deadline. He indicated that if activities could not meet the funding procedures of the last term of the STDC, the current term of the STDC could allocate funding accordingly.

119.Mr Chris MAK asked the Secretariat whether it could be understood that if the previous year's funding could not be used and the current year's funding was used instead, the previous year's appropriation of \$2 million would be returned to the Treasury.

120.The Vice-Chairman said that as long as the agencies concerned could provide the relevant materials and documents on or before 17 March, they could still use the appropriation in the previous session. However, if none of the agencies could deliver by the deadline when members cast their votes, the HEC would select the co-organisers through a process and inform members at the meeting. Even if the agencies could not meet the deadline, the HEC still had to handle other funding procedures.

121.Mr Derek YUEN, Senior Executive Officer (District Council) of the STDO, responded that the current co-organisers of the Working Group had indicated that the masks could only be provided in April this year, but the STDO needed the masks from the agencies concerned before it could carry out the payment process. At present, the relevant agencies could only provide documents to prove the hygienic condition of the masks and indicated that they were working with overseas agencies to check the filtering capability of the masks but could not provide documentary proof yet. If the masks were provided by the related agency in April this year, the relevant appropriation would be expended in the next financial year, but it would have to be processed through a separate funding process.

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

- (a) the Chairman of the HEC called for a special meeting to understand the background of the agencies. Except for the four members of the MOS Guardians, all members supported "Yee Health Company Limited" because of the attractive offer. Based on his capacity as convenor of the Working Group, he did not participate in the voting; and
- (b) after Agency 1 and 2 had submitted their applications, Agency 3 and 4 had submitted their applications more than 10 hours after the deadline. He asked whether, at the second meeting of the working group, the documents submitted by Agency 1 and 2 had been presented to the working group and whether there had been any procedural errors or bid rigging in the case of the additional documents submitted by Agency 3 and 4.

123.The Vice-Chairman said that, as many members had indicated that they were not aware of the decisions of the Working Group and the background of the agencies, a special meeting had been convened to acquaint members with the background of the agencies, after enquiring with the Secretariat and the Convenor of the Working Group, then knew that there were agencies had

not been interviewed. He reiterated that no agency had been able to meet the deadline that day for the delivery of the materials.

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

- (a) the \$2 million appropriation could still be used until 17 March in this year, and he asked which activities could be funded by this appropriation before that date. He thought that if the appropriation was not used, the STDC would have to return the \$2 million to the Government; and
- (b) he understood that there might not be an agency that could ensure the supply of masks at the present, but he could not accept that the supply would only be available in mid to late April. He said that there were other agencies that could also supply masks from mid to late April and suggested that the cooperation with that agency be reviewed.

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

- (a) he opined that members were concerned about anti-epidemic packages and that it would be difficult to deal with the matter in a short time. He suggested that the Chairman convene a special meeting to discuss the matter further;
- (b) as far as he could remember, no agency on that day indicated that it could supply goods on or before March 10; and
- (c) he stated that the STDO and the Secretariat had failed to provide a venue and secretarial services during the first meeting of the working group, and that under the “District Councils Ordinance”, only the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had the power to cancel the meeting.

126. Mr Chris MAK asked the Secretariat whether the “Yee Health Company Limited” had signed the undertaking.

127. In response, Mr Saki CHOY said that the “Yee Health Company Limited” had signed the relevant documents and would provide the materials and receipts on or before 17 March as instructed in the documents.

128. The Chairman decided to convene a special meeting of the HEC on 12 March at 10:00 am in the STDC Conference Room to consider the activities and funding arrangements under the Working Group.

129. The Chairman said that the discussion on the information paper “Sha Tin District Anti-mosquito Campaign 2020 (First Phase)” would continue.

130. The views of Mr YEUNG Sze-kin were summarised below:

- (a) he would like to know the number of prosecutions and warning letters issued to offenders in the information paper; and

- (b) he considered that midges were a more serious nuisance than mosquitoes, but no midges patch was provided by the FEHD. He enquired about ways to stop the spread of midge infestation in the community.

131. Mr LI Sai-hung said that the blockage of drains and the sweeping of leaves into flowerbeds by cleaners had caused waterlogging problems and he would like to know whether regular inspections of blocked drains and removal of fallen leaves from flowerbeds would be arranged to reduce the waterlogging problem.

132. The views of Mr CHEUNG Hing-wa were summarised below:

- (a) he opined that the mosquito eradication work of the FEHD had been well recognised and that it was affected by the surrounding environment, such as the accumulation of stagnant water in channels, construction waste, leaves, etc. He asked whether the Department would collaborate with other departments in the anti-mosquito campaign to address the source of mosquito problems;
- (b) as mosquito problems were aggravated by the accumulation of water during the rainy season, he asked whether the Department would step up mosquito control efforts during the rainy season; and
- (c) he said that at the same time, attention should be paid to midge infestation. He would like to know the measures to combat midges and whether midge control could be carried out at the same time as mosquito control.

133. The views of Mr Raymond LI were summarised below:

- (a) as more members of the public had complained about the serious mosquito problem in the park along Yuen Wo Road, which was even worse during the rainy season, he would like to know whether the Department had strengthened the anti-mosquito measures in response to the situation in the park or the stagnant water;
- (b) recently, he received a complaint that rubbish was dumped in public places in Ha Wo Che Tsuen, causing the accumulation of stagnant water and the breeding of mosquitoes. He asked the Department how it would deal with the situation; and
- (c) he requested the STDO and the FEHD to contact other government departments to carry out mosquito control work to safeguard public health.

134. Mr YIP Wing would like to know whether the Department would increase the frequency of mosquito control work in the rainy season and use the new technology or techniques to combat mosquitoes. He conveyed that the existing solar-powered mosquito traps of the LCSD were effective and suggested that mosquito cups be placed in areas under the jurisdiction of the Department.

135. The views of Mr Ricardo LIAO were summarised below:

- (a) he said that residents in the Sha Tin District were concerned about the anti-mosquito campaign. According to the Gravidtrap Index for *Aedes albopictus* of the

New Territories in December 2019, the Sha Tin District was divided into Tai Wai, Sha Tin town centre and Fo Tan, Ma On Shan and Sha Tin East, and the related index was zero; however, the places under surveillance were in the town centre instead of the rural areas. The area around Siu Lek Yuen was not included in the statistics. He hoped that the FEHD would study the possibility of placing ovitraps in rural areas; and

- (b) he would like to know whether new technology was available for mosquito control and the effectiveness of the trial of mosquito traps.

136. Mr LAI Tsz-yan noted that the information paper showed that the rodent and mosquito control teams were responsible for both rodent and mosquito control, and would like to know the information on the establishment.

137. The views of Mr Jimmy SHAM were summarised below:

- (a) the HD installed the mosquito traps at the planters in Lek Yuen Estate, he asked if the mosquito traps were functioning properly and suggested that the HD inspect the mosquito traps in the Sha Tin District Estate to ensure that they were functioning properly; and
- (b) the planter in Fung Wo Estate was surrounded by children's play equipment and he would like the HD to install additional mosquito traps in Fung Wo Estate.

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

- (a) he said that in the case of rural areas, where different departments were responsible, for example, the mosquito problem could not be tackled if the FEHD alone conducted anti-mosquito campaigns. As stagnant water was a breeding ground for mosquitoes, cooperation among different departments was required to tackle the mosquito problem;
- (b) he pointed out that the sprinklers of the HD's greening works were frequently damaged and leaky and caused stagnant water problems; and
- (c) he would like to know whether FEHD would issue warnings if the HD's anti-mosquito efforts were inadequate, particularly in estates under its jurisdiction.

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

- (a) a Member of the last term of the STDC indicated that large mosquito traps had been installed at the Ma On Shan Promenade by the LCSD, but were not effective, and he hoped that the mosquito problem in the area could be improved by the related department; and
- (b) he opined that whether it was rodent or mosquito control, rodent or mosquito infestation should not be judged solely on the basis of the number of rodents or mosquitoes and that the Department should visit the areas concerned in the evening to inspect the mosquito problem. He asked the Department whether there was any

formation for visits to districts during non-office hours.

140. Mr LO Yuet-chau noticed that mosquito traps were installed in the planters at the Pai Tau Village playground to catch mosquito larvae and adult mosquitoes. This technology was recommended by the World Health Organisation and popularly used overseas. He enquired about the number of mosquito traps placed in Sha Tin by the FEHD. He also enquired whether the Department would consider increasing the number of such equipment in line with the Government's policy on innovation and technology.

141. Mr CHAN Pui-ming hoped that when the cleaning effort of the environment involved different government departments, they could cooperate with each other.

142. Mr Sebastian WONG responded that the Department was mainly responsible for grass cutting in the countryside regarding mosquito control work. Under the Rural Public Works Programme, grass cutting was carried out nine times a year to reduce the number of weeds in the countryside, thereby improving the mosquito problem.

143. Mr LI Ho-yin gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) prior to the onset of the rainy season, the Department would step up cleaning of the site to address the problems of drains, stagnant water and litter. Leaf sweeping would also be stepped up to reduce the accumulation of water. In addition, planters with dense vegetation would be pruned before the rainy season. In addition, the Department had found that the fallen leaves of trees in the family Palmae stored a lot of water and timely pruning would be carried out to reduce water storage;
- (b) the Department installed the mosquito traps, mosquito extinguishers and mosquito snares at venues under the management of the Department. Last year, about 160 mosquito traps, "In2Care", were placed at various venues in the Sha Tin District, the effectiveness of which would not be known until more data were collected. However, according to site users, the situation had improved;
- (c) responding to Mr Raymond LI, he said that the above measures would be implemented at Yuen Wo Playground; and
- (d) in response to Mr CHENG Chung-hang, the Department expressed concern about the mosquito problem along the Ma On Shan promenade. Last year, six mosquito traps and three solar-powered mosquito traps had been placed and the Department would review the situation and install additional equipment as necessary. He said the basic clearing of fallen leaves and stagnant water would continue, mosquito oil and mosquito sand would be applied if necessary, and contractors would be arranged to carry out fogging services for mosquito control.

144. The responses of Mr WU Tak-tong were summarised below:

- (a) in response to Mr Jimmy SHAM's suggestion, he said that he would conduct a comprehensive check on the operation of the mosquito traps in estates to ensure that they were effective. Regarding the installation of mosquito traps in Fung Wo Estate, he said that he would relay the matter to the estate manager and follow up

on it; and

- (b) in response to Mr Michael YUNG's comment on the greening works in Yan On Estate, he said that he would relay the comment to its estate manager for follow-up.

145. Mr LAI Wing-chi gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) at present, the FEHD did not dispose of construction waste but transferred construction waste on government land to the Lands Department for disposal. Construction waste on the roads was handled by the Highways Department; however, if other rubbish was piling up on top of such construction waste, the FEHD would provide assistance in handling the rubbish first;
- (b) mosquito oil or mosquito sand was applied to roadside gullies and drains on a weekly basis and blocked drains were cleared regularly by the Department. Blocked drains that were difficult to clear were referred to the Drainage Services Department for assistance;
- (c) he said that under the law, if mosquitoes were found in private places such as construction sites, the person in charge could be prosecuted at once, and hence the number of prosecutions was shown in the information paper;
- (d) mosquito management work, such as clearing stagnant water and placing mosquito sand, etc., could also tackle midges ; however, there was no midges index at present;
- (e) the mosquito infestation index was calculated by monitoring the activity of *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes through ovitraps by placing 60 to 70 mosquito cups in each district, with the Pest Control Advisory Section being responsible for selecting densely populated areas for placing mosquito cups and counting the number of cups containing mosquito eggs in the whole district;
- (f) he said that the cleaners would not sweep the leaves into flowerbeds but would treat them as rubbish. If the cleaners were found to have swept the leaves into flowerbeds or at the roadside, the Department would follow up on the situation;
- (g) the new type of mosquito control device "In2Care" contained the parasitic *Beauveria bassiana*. Mosquitoes would carry it to other water bodies, infecting other mosquitoes and killing the larvae. The device would be installed in the Sha Tin District on a trial basis. However, anti-mosquito efforts would continue to focus on improving environmental hygiene, including clearing stagnant water and litter, placing mosquito oil and mosquito sand, and spraying to eliminate adult mosquitoes. Relevant measures would be stepped up during the rainy season;
- (h) the Department aimed to inform Members of the anti-mosquito operations through information papers to remind the public to pay attention to the anti-mosquito efforts. Public education would also be conducted through press releases, television and radio announcements. The Pest Control Steering Committee also

communicated and cooperated with relevant departments on the implementation of anti-mosquito measures; and

- (i) pest control teams would also provide technical support to housing estates and property management offices in mosquito control.

146. Mr NG Raymond Tjeng, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional North) 4 of the Environmental Protection Department, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the Department would investigate the illegal disposal of construction waste through inspections and ambush operations and take enforcement actions and, if necessary, institute prosecution. The Department would inform the relevant departments of the location of construction waste as soon as possible; and
- (b) in response to Mr Felix CHOW's question about the construction waste at Lok Lo Ha Village, the Department, together with other departments, visited the site last year. He said that he would step up patrols and ambushes, and invited information from the local community to facilitate investigation, follow-up and enforcement actions against illegal dumping of construction waste.

147. Mr Ricardo LIAO asked the LCSD about the operation principle and effectiveness of the ultrasonic mosquito killer in Wong Nai Tau Garden.

148. The Vice-Chairman said that the LCSD had indicated that palm trees tended to accumulate water easily, and asked whether plants with fewer fallen leaves or less likely to caused water accumulation would be planted in future. He also said that the green driveway in Yan On Estate was prone to mosquito breeding and asked whether this would be taken into account in future greening projects in housing estates.

149. Mr LI Ho-yin gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) Wong Nai Tau Garden was granted minor works funding by the STDC last year to install solar-powered electronic mosquito repellent wands to drive mosquitoes away from the area by electromagnetic waves, which were mainly effective in repelling mosquitoes. Some members of the public had reported a decrease in mosquito bites but more data needed to be collected for further assessment; and
- (b) he said that the Department always focused on the selection of plant species for landscaping purposes. However, palm trees had landscape and ecological benefits, and the Department would balance the needs of different parties in choosing the right species to be planted in the right place.

150. The Vice-Chairman said that the FEHD and the LCSD would provide more information on the effectiveness of the new mosquito repellent and anti-mosquito equipment mentioned by the FEHD and the LCSD at a later meeting.

151. Members noted the above paper.

Action

Statistical Overview of Sha Tin District Environmental Hygiene Service (as at 31 January 2020)
(Paper No. HE 14/2020)

152. Members noted the above paper.

Date of Next Meeting

153. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 5 May 2020 (Tuesday).

154. The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat
STDC 13/15/40

April 2020