

**Minutes of the 4th Meeting of
the Sha Tin District Council in 2022**

Date : 29 September 2022 (Thursday)
Time : 2:30 pm
Venue : Sha Tin District Office Conference Room 441
 4/F, Sha Tin Government Offices

<u>Present</u>	<u>Time of joining the meeting</u>	<u>Time of leaving the meeting</u>
Chairman : Mr MAK Yun-pui, Chris	2:39 pm	3:42 pm
Vice-Chairman : Mr SIN Cheuk-nam	2:30 pm	3:42 pm
Members : Mr CHENG Chung-hang	2:30 pm	3:42 pm
Mr CHOW Hiu-laam, Felix	2:30 pm	3:42 pm
Mr CHUNG Lai-him, Johnny	2:30 pm	3:42 pm
Mr HUI Lap-san	2:30 pm	3:42 pm
Dr LAM Kong-kwan	2:51 pm	3:42 pm
Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS	2:51 pm	3:42 pm
Mr WAI Hing-cheung	2:30 pm	3:42 pm
Secretary : Mr SHIU Kan-yun, Roy	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Sha Tin District Office	

<u>In Attendance</u>	<u>Title</u>
Ms OR Kar-lok, Carol, JP	District Officer (Sha Tin)
Ms LEE Ching-yee, Patty	Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)1 (Atg)
Mr LEUNG Wai-yuen, Tommy	Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)2 (Atg)
Mr LIU Wai-man, Raymond	Senior Executive Officer (District Management), Sha Tin District Office
Mr LEUNG Tsz-kin, Percy	District Commander (Shatin), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr TAM Kwan-yi, Wilson	Police Community Relations Officer (Shatin), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr CHAN Ka-kui	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sha Tin), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Ms WONG Kam-wah	Chief Manager/Management (Tai Po, North and Shatin), Housing Department
Ms FUNG Shuk-man, Wendy	District Social Welfare Officer (Sha Tin), Social Welfare Department
Mr WONG Kwok-wai, Wilson	District Lands Officer/Shatin, Lands Department
Mr YEUNG Wai-dor	Administrative Assistant/Lands (Atg), District Lands Office, Sha Tin, Lands Department
Ms YICK Hong-nien, Hannah	District Planning Officer/Shatin, Tai Po and North (Atg), Planning Department
Mr LAU Tin-lap, Daniel	Senior Engineer/9 (North), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Ms WONG Kam-lai	Chief School Development Officer (Sha Tin), Education Bureau
Mr CHOW Tik-sang, Dickson	District Leisure Manager (Sha Tin), Leisure and Cultural Services Department

In Attendance

Mr YIP Kam-ming, Dick

Mr NG Hon-lai, Patrick

Title

Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Sha Tin,
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Principal Transport Officer/New Territories 1,
Transport Department

Action

The Vice-Chairman welcomed Members and representatives of government departments to the fourth meeting of the Sha Tin District Council (STDC) in 2022.

Application for Leave of Absence

2. The Vice-Chairman said that the STDC Secretariat had received the application for leave of absence in writing from the following Member:

Mr Chris MAK Sickness
(Note: Mr Chris MAK arrived to join the meeting at 2:39 pm.)

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

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 28 July 2022

(STDC Minutes 3/2022)

4. The Council unanimously endorsed the above minutes.

(The discussion of the remaining agenda items was chaired by Mr Chris MAK, the Chairman.)

Discussion Item**Schedule of Meetings of the STDC for 2023**

(Paper No. STDC 33/2022)

5. The Council unanimously endorsed the above paper.

Information Items**Reports of Committees under the STDC****Traffic and Transport Committee**

(Paper No. STDC 34/2022)

6. Mr Felix CHOW said that he had, on several occasions, relayed the problem of illegal parking on Lai Ping Road, Kau To Shan at the Traffic and Transport Committee (TTC) meetings. He learnt that the Police had proactively followed up the issue. Nevertheless, he hoped that the Transport Department (TD) could expedite the implementation of the road improvement works, which had been put forward for consultation at the TTC meetings, to address illegal parking on Lai Ping road.

7. Mr Patrick NG, Principal Transport Officer/New Territories 1 of the TD, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that the Traffic Engineering Divisions of the TD would implement various traffic management measures having regard to the traffic situation, including designation of “No-stopping” restriction zones on carriageways. Upon formulation of proposed traffic management measures, the traffic engineering division concerned would conduct consultation through the Sha Tin District Office (STDO) or the TTC and collect views from various stakeholders on the proposals concerned. Upon completion of the consultation and after categorising, consolidating and summarising the views received, the TD would respond to the relevant stakeholders if necessary before issuing a works order to the Highways Department for implementation of the traffic management measures concerned; and
- (b) he said that he would relay the views of Mr Felix CHOW to the engineering division concerned. It was hoped that the road improvement works of the road section involved would be implemented as early as practicable.

8. Mr Percy LEUNG, District Commander (Shatin) of the Hong Kong Police Force, said he noted the views of Mr Felix CHOW, and would proactively work with the TD to follow up the illegal parking issue on Lai Ping Road.

9. The Chairman said that the STDC was prepared to exchange views with various departments to relay the demands of the public to relevant departments for follow-up actions. He asked the STDO to help convey the message to relevant departments that the STDC was prepared to collaborate with them in handling district affairs.

Culture, Recreation and Sports and Community Facilities Management Committee
(Paper No. STDC 35/2022)

Development, Housing, Environment and Health Committee
(Paper No. STDC 36/2022)

10. The Council noted the above three reports of the committees.

Information Paper

Crime Brief of Sha Tin District for the First Half of 2022
(Paper No. STDC 37/2022)

11. Mr Percy LEUNG briefly introduced the paper as highlighted below:

- (a) the overall crime figure recorded in Sha Tin District for the first half of 2022 was 1 906 cases, a decrease of 182 cases when compared with the second half of 2021. The top five types of crime were deception, criminal damage, miscellaneous theft, shop theft as well as wounding and serious assault;
- (b) when compared with the second half of 2021, the top three types of crime with a raising trend were deception, wounding and serious assault, as well as triad-related crimes. The top three types of crime with a downward trend were shop theft, miscellaneous theft, and bicycle theft;

- (c) there were a total of 873 cases of deception in the first half of 2022, among which computer fraud (683 cases), telephone deception (61 cases), low-interest-rate loan fraud (58 cases), and other scams (71 cases) were included;
- (d) computer fraud mainly included 277 cases of online shopping scams, 46 cases of online romance scams, 187 cases of social media deception, 126 cases of online employment fraud, and 47 cases of other scams;
- (e) on telephone deception, the most common modus operandi was “Pretend Officials”, with a total of 37 cases, and others included “Guess Who” with a total of 24 cases;
- (f) other scams mainly consisted of buying and selling of goods, vehicle rental services, outstanding payment, and obtaining loans and government subsidies by deception using false personal data, etc;
- (g) there were a total of 98 cases of wounding and serious assault in the first half of 2022, an increase of 15 cases when compared with the second half of 2021. Among such cases, 22 involved domestic violence, while 69 and 7 cases were related to miscellaneous issues and triad societies respectively. The Police had detected 70 cases, with a crime detection rate of over 71.4%;
- (h) there were a total of 36 cases of triad-related crimes in the first half of 2022, among which serious drug offences (9 cases), wounding and serious assault (7 cases), criminal damage (2 cases), crime relating to unlawful society (2 cases), and miscellaneous offences (16 cases) were involved. The Police had arrested a total of 47 persons, with a crime detection rate of 100%;
- (i) the cases of shop theft had shown a downward trend. There were a total of 144 cases of shop theft in the first half of 2022, a decrease of 63 cases or 30.4% when compared with the second half of 2021. The Police arrested a total of 99 persons, of whom about 45% (i.e. 46 persons) were aged 60 above and mainly involved in stealing of food;
- (j) there were a total of 171 cases of miscellaneous thefts in the first half of 2022, a decrease of 47 cases or about 22% when compared with the second half of 2021. Generally speaking, victims suffered losses after leaving behind their belongings negligently in such cases;
- (k) there were a total of 61 cases of bicycle theft in the first half of 2022, a decrease of 21 cases or about 26% when compared with the second half of 2021. The locations involved were mainly private housing estates and streets. The Police would combat the crime concerned through arranging patrols by police officers in plain-clothes, encouraging property management personnel to step up patrols and installing closed-circuit televisions (CCTVs);
- (l) there were a total of 536 cases of street gambling in the first half of 2022, an increase of 42 cases or about 8.5% when compared with the second half of 2021. The Police issued a total of 138 penalty notices to persons who breached the “No-gathering Order” at gambling black spots, among which 28 and 26 penalty notices were issued at Lee On Estate and Chung On Estate respectively. He said that the prioritised locations of the

Police's enforcement actions included Lee On Estate, Chung On Estate, Kwong Yuen Estate, Wo Che Estate and Shing Mun River Promenade Garden No.1;

- (m) there were a total of 14 cases of indecent assault in the first half of 2022, a decrease of 13 cases or 48% when compared with the second half of 2021. Among these cases, the suspects were the victims' family members (3 cases) or strangers (11 cases). The locations involved included housing estates (5 cases), transport carriers (3 cases) and streets (6 cases). Seven cases were detected by the Police;
- (n) there were a total of 4 rape cases in the first half of 2022. All suspects were acquaintances of the victims. All of the cases were detected by the Police;
- (o) he introduced the latest anti-deception promotional leaflets of the Sha Tin Police District (STPD) with the aid of a promotional video. He said that the design of the leaflets was similar to that of tax demand notes issued by the Inland Revenue Department. The STPD hoped that the innovative design would enable the anti-deception publicity materials to stay longer in the hands of members of the public and concurrently convey the message that "one should not judge by appearances" and trust others lightly. The public was urged to stay vigilant against deception for not falling victim to scams easily. In addition, the STPD specially invited Senior Police Call members to be featured in the promotional video, with a view to getting the anti-deception message across to all quarters of society in the Sha Tin District in an interesting manner;
- (p) the STPD launched the "Project AngelCare", which was targeted at the healthcare sector, with a view to promoting the anti-deception message in various sectors of society. Given the job nature and working hours of the healthcare personnel, conventional and common publicity approaches could not effectively disseminate anti-deception information to them. Therefore, the STPD worked with various hospitals in the district to set up booths in the hospitals to disseminate the anti-deception information in the hospitals directly for enhancing the anti-deception awareness among healthcare personnel;
- (q) the STPD adopted different promotion methods, such as working with property management companies of housing estates in the Sha Tin District to distribute anti-deception leaflets to the residents, with a view to getting the anti-deception message across to the community;
- (r) regarding "Guess Who" telephone deception cases, deception syndicates would make random calls to the victims, pretending to be their relatives and friends and asking for large sums of cash for emergency purpose with different excuses, before instructing the victims to hand in the cash to a fraudster at a designated location. Most victims were elderly persons who were instructed to take a taxi to a designated location. To prevent the elderly persons from falling victim to deception, the STPD therefore urged taxi drivers at such locations as taxi stands and taxi filling stations to contact the Police immediately or seek help from the patrolling officers nearby if they, when carrying elderly passengers, found that these passengers were obviously unfamiliar with the destination or kept changing destinations while using mobile phones all the time and looking nervous during the trip; and

- (s) the STPD also worked with various schools in the district to promote anti-deception messages. As the mainland students studying in Hong Kong were not familiar with local deception cases, the STPD had organised, in collaboration with the Chinese University of Hong Kong, a range of anti-deception publicity activities for enhancing the anti-deception awareness among these mainland students.

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

- (a) he said that victims of deception cases were from different age groups. The existing publicity approaches adopted by the Police might not be appealing to the young people;
- (b) he understood that some victims refused to seek assistance from the Police as they were worried that they had violated the law at the time when being deceived. He wished to learn more about whether the Police could provide guidance for the victims to be aware of the circumstances under which assistance should be sought from the Police; and
- (c) he wished to know what actions would be taken by the Police for assisting relevant departments in combatting illegal shopfront extension.

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

- (a) he thanked the Police for their earlier assistance in handling a case of noise nuisance in the district and prompt arrest of suspected sex offender(s) in a sex crime;
- (b) he said that a total of four burglary cases occurred in the area of Kau To Shan between August and September this year, with pecuniary losses exceeding \$10 million. All of the housing estates involved in these burglaries were newly completed with innovative security systems. Therefore, he did not understand why these housing estates were targeted by burglars;
- (c) he learnt that the Police had carried out anti-burglary operations in the area of Kau To Shan, including deployment of helicopters for aerial surveillance. He worried that the high-profile anti-burglary operation might alert the burglars to take precautions. Furthermore, as the aerial surveillance would be conducted in the air above dense woods, he wished to know whether it would be difficult for the Police to detect the hideouts of burglars, and the effectiveness of the operations concerned;
- (d) he wished to know whether the Police had, when conducting surveillance, found any security loopholes in the housing estates involved in the burglaries, and the enhanced security measures proposed by the Police for these housing estates. In addition, as the stolen property were usually valuables, he wished to know if the Police would work with relevant departments to prevent burglars from illegally selling the stolen property; and
- (e) he wished to know if the multiple burglary cases which occurred recently in the district were related to the conflicts among different triad societies due to economic downturn.

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

- (a) he learnt that the Police and the Housing Department (HD) had conducted several joint operations to combat illegal gambling in the district. However, he noted that after the enforcement actions taken by relevant departments, the gambling issue in the vicinity of Chung On Estate had not been improved. Gamblers even gathered until late night hours and left only when the streetlights at the pitch nearby were turned off. He hoped that the Police and the HD would conduct large-scale law enforcement actions to combat illegal gambling; and
- (b) he said that cases of bicycle theft would take place occasionally at the public parking spaces for bicycles under the footbridge (NF299) at Chung On Estate. He wished to learn more about the number of joint enforcement operations on clearance of illegally parked bicycles conducted by relevant departments, and how would relevant departments assist the Police in taking enforcement action.

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

- (a) he was concerned about the traffic congestion in Ma On Shan area arising from the fact that parents of the Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) schools and private schools would drive their children to and from schools in private cars in the area. He hoped that the Police would follow up the issue with the Education Bureau (EDB);
- (b) he considered that the EDB should draw up regulatory terms for schools to ensure that public places would not be occupied by parents when picking up and dropping off their children before and after school;
- (c) he praised the STPD for their latest anti-deception promotional leaflets, and opined that the Police could consider promoting anti-deception information on platforms other than Facebook; and
- (d) he said he noticed that some domestic helpers were recently involved in loan service scams, in which the victims failed to receive the payment after asking for a loan, but the finance companies kept recovering debts from them. He hoped that the Police would follow up the issues.

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

- (a) he said that before and after school, Sai Sha Road outside the Renaissance College Hong Kong (RCHK) was fully parked with private cars escorting children to and from schools as if the road section turned into a single-way carriageway from a three-lane carriageway. In addition, as taxi drivers might queue up for refilling at the liquefied petroleum gas filling station nearby, serious traffic congestion often took place on Sai Sha Road, which might pose danger to the pedestrians and drivers. He hoped that the Police could strengthen inspection on Sai Sha Road and police vehicles could be deployed to the location outside the RCHK to alert the parents concerned; and
- (b) a large number of stray cattle showed up suddenly in Ma On Shan Town Centre in mid-April this year. He learnt that the police officers handling the issue had arrived at the site promptly to divert traffic lest the cattle might get hurt. The police officers were

also willing to listen to the views of an organisation established by residents on their own initiative. In his opinion, the “service-oriented” working attitude of the police officers was conducive to improving the relationship between the Police and the general public.

17. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) he said that traffic congestion before and after school was quite common in Ma On Shan area because parents drove their children to and from schools in private cars. The locations with the above situation included Sha On Street in the vicinity of ESF International Kindergarten (Wu Kai Sha), Wu Kai Sha Station Public Transport Interchange and the roundabout at Lee On Bus Terminus;
- (b) he said that parents would illegally park their cars outside the entrances of schools for about 5 to 30 minutes during the periods before and after school, which would not only obstruct traffic flow, but also affect the access of buses and pose danger to the safety of pedestrians. The situation warranted attention;
- (c) he considered that such a situation was caused by irresponsible parents. He hoped that the Police would assist in following up the issues;
- (d) he said that the above issues had been discussed at the STDC for years, but no remarkable improvement had been observed. He was of the view that the schools might draw up terms to impose restrictions on parents parking their cars illegally before and after school outside the schools’ entrances. He also urged the EDB to actively liaise with the schools for addressing the issues as early as possible;
- (e) he said he had recently received a request for assistance from a member of the public. It was alleged that the member of the public failed to receive the frozen meat purchased online and suffered from monetary losses. He said the fraudster pretended to be a frozen meat company on the social media and sold frozen meat at a lower price, which was about 30% to 40% less expensive than the market price. Given the affordable prices of the frozen meat and the real address and telephone number of the company provided by the fraudster, the member of the public fell victim to the fraudulent company. Online payment facilities including “Faster Payment System” and “PayMe” were then used to make payment to the fraudster. The victim only realised that it was a scam when the meat purchased had not been received;
- (f) as the victim used online payment facilities to make payment to the fraudster, it should be easier to trace the identity of the fraudster. However, the victim alleged that relevant banks and the Police were unable to provide assistance. He would like to know the reasons involved; and
- (g) he said that he had assisted the victim in writing to all banks, Hong Kong Monetary Authority and the Police. He hoped that relevant departments and organisations could assist in following up the case.

18. Mr Percy LEUNG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that deception cases accounted for about 40% of the overall crime figures in the Sha Tin District. The STPD would review the deception cases in the district over the past 24 hours on a daily basis, in the hope of combatting the crimes through various means. For example, posters were earlier posted at different locations to remind the public that one in every 12 deception cases would take place in Sha Tin;
- (b) he said that upon receiving requests for assistance involving victims being defrauded after making payment via online payment facilities, he would immediately inform relevant financial institutions of the cases for follow-up and decisions would be made on whether to cease the operation of such transfers. The victims might also recover the payments from the banks concerned through civil proceedings, or leave it to the Police to handle the payments through the Department of Justice. He thanked the Chairman for providing the information concerned;
- (c) he understood that the victims might be worried about inadvertently breaching the law at the time of being deceived and hence declined to seek assistance from the Police. That said, he was of the view that the victims might not have sufficient legal knowledge to judge if they had committed an offence. He suggested that they should seek assistance from the Police, so that fraudsters could be brought to justice;
- (d) he said that the Police would join inter-departmental operations from time to time to combat shopfront extension activities. The Police would, upon receiving complaints about shopfront extension, send officers to conduct site inspection and deal with illegal acts such as illegal parking;
- (e) as for burglaries, he said that major burglaries would be referred to the Crime Squad in the district for following up. He said that starting from mid-September this year, the STPD had, in collaboration with the officers in the New Territories South Region and the Government Flying Service, conducted joint anti-burglary operation in the vicinity of Kau To Shan, Lai Ping Road, Sui Wo Road and Tung Lo Wan Hill Road. Such operations included patrols in mountain areas and conducting search at secluded locations and possible hideouts of burglars in the mountains. Meanwhile, aerial reconnaissance by helicopters and road blocks intercepting suspected vehicles were arranged. There had been no burglaries at the above locations since mid-September, which showed that the enforcement actions of the Police were remarkably effective. He said that the Police would review the existing anti-burglary operations from time to time;
- (f) the STPD also shared information about crimes with the security sector from time to time. Security measures had been proposed to the security sector at the special meeting convened after the repeated occurrence of burglaries in the period from August to September this year;
- (g) the Police would, if finding out that stolen goods were sold by people through illegal means, arrest the people concerned according to the established procedures;
- (h) the Police would combat illegal gambling through inter-department enforcement action from time to time, and police officers would be arranged to conduct two enforcement

actions at the same location within the same day. It was believed that such actions would have certain deterrent effect on the gamblers. He said that the Police would first advise gamblers by means of education. If the gamblers continued their acts despite repeated advice, the Police would take enforcement actions. He said that he would learn more from Mr HUI Lap-san about the exact location(s) of illegal gambling after the meeting;

- (i) he said that he would conduct a study with relevant departments on installation of CCTVs at the public parking spaces of bicycles under the footbridge (NF299) at Chung On Estate;
- (j) he said that the Police was very concerned about illegal parking and traffic congestion in Ma On Shan area, which occurred on many roads in the area because parents drove their children to and from schools. The Police had discussed the plan to address the problem with the schools concerned before the first school day. Besides, police officers were deployed to the areas around the schools on the first school day for strict enforcement action. The Police would continue to liaise with the EDB, relevant schools and the Parent-Teacher Associations with a view to mitigating the above problems through various approaches. He said that he would follow up the issue of traffic congestion on Sai Sha Road outside the RCHK;
- (k) he said when the Police found out that stray cattle showed up on the roads of Ma On Shan Town Centre, police officers were deployed to the site immediately lest pedestrians and cattle would get hurt;
- (l) the New Territories South Police Districts were currently actively implementing the Animal Watchers Programme to pool together the efforts of animal lovers at the community level. He appealed to the Members to be aware of relevant activities; and
- (m) in respect of the loan service deception cases involving domestic helpers, he said that the Police earlier conducted a range of anti-deception publicity activities at the quarantine hotel(s). He noted the views of Mr CHENG Chung-hang and would consider distributing anti-deception leaflets at the gathering places of domestic helpers.

19. Ms WONG Kam-lai, Chief School Development Officer (Sha Tin) of the EDB, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she said that the EDB was concerned about the traffic congestion in the district which occurred because parents of DSS schools and private schools driving their children to and from schools in private cars. The EDB had been maintaining liaison with relevant schools. It urged the schools to encourage parents to arrange the use of public transport for their children and requested the schools to allow those private cars to temporarily park in school premises before and after school and send staff to assist students in entering and leaving school at the school entrance. Besides, staggering school hours should be arranged for primary and secondary sections; and
- (b) she noted the views of the Members on the issue and pledged that she would continue to maintain close liaison with the schools concerned. The schools were urged to actively respond to and address the traffic issues in the vicinity of their schools.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

20. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 24 November 2022 (Thursday).
21. The meeting was adjourned at 3:42 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat
STDC 13/15/15/1

November 2022