

**Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of
the Sha Tin District Council in 2023**

Date : 23 March 2023 (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	2:30 pm	3:34 pm
Vice-Chairman : Mr SIN Cheuk-nam	2:30 pm	3:34 pm
Members : Mr CHENG Chung-hang	2:30 pm	3:34 pm
Mr CHOW Hiu-laam, Felix	2:30 pm	3:34 pm
Mr CHUNG Lai-him, Johnny	2:38 pm	3:34 pm
Mr HUI Lap-san	2:30 pm	3:34 pm
Dr LAM Kong-kwan	2:51 pm	3:34 pm
Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS	2:51 pm	3:34 pm
Mr WAI Hing-cheung	2:30 pm	3:34 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)
Mr NG Wing-keung, Henry	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 HO Kin-nam, David	Executive Officer I (District Council)1, Sha Tin District Office
Mr LEUNG Tsz-kin, Percy	District Commander (Shatin), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms AU Wing-chi	Police Community Relations Officer (Shatin) (Atg), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms CHEUNG Hong-lam	Officer-in-charge of District Intelligence Section (Shatin District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr KAO Hsi-chiang	Chief Health Inspector (Sha Tin)3, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr LEE Chun-wai	Senior Housing Manager/Tai Po, North and Sha Tin 1, 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 CHAN Hau-yin, Margaret	District Planning Officer/Shatin, Tai Po and North, Planning Department

In Attendance

Mr LAU Tin-lap, Daniel

Ms WONG Kam-lai

Mr CHOW Tik-sang, Dickson

Mr CHAU Chun-wing

Mr YIP Kam-ming, Dick

Mr NG Hon-lai, Patrick

Dr TSANG Wai-kong, William

Title

Senior Engineer/9 (North),

Civil Engineering and Development Department

Chief School Development Officer (Sha Tin),

Education Bureau

District Leisure Manager (Sha Tin),

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories East),

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Sha Tin,

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Principal Transport Officer/New Territories 1,

Transport Department

Senior Medical & Health Officer (Emergency Preparedness and

District Relations)1, Department of Health

Action

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives of government departments to the second meeting of the Sha Tin District Council (STDC) in 2023.

Application for Leave of Absence

2. The Chairman said that the STDC Secretariat (Secretariat) had not received any application for leave of absence in writing from Members prior to the meeting.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 31 January 2023

(STDC Minutes 1/2023)

3. The Council unanimously endorsed the above minutes.

Question

Question to be Raised by Mr CHOW Hiu-laam, Felix on the Matters Concerning Primary Healthcare Services and District Health Centre Express in Sha Tin

(Paper No. STDC 5/2023)

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

- (a) he said that due to the uneven geographical distribution of private primary healthcare service providers in Sha Tin District, residents might have to travel away from their neighbourhoods to Sha Tin Town Centre for medical attention, which caused inconvenience. He would like to know the number and distribution of private healthcare service providers in the district, and how the relevant departments would arrange for public-private partnership. He opined that the relevant departments should provide more incentives for residents in the district to opt for private healthcare services, so as to alleviate the pressure of public healthcare services; and
- (b) he said that majority of the registered members of the Sha Tin District Health Centre Express were aged 65 or above. If it could attract more people aged below 65 to register as members and provide them with primary healthcare services such as

health promotion and education, he believed that the services could help younger members develop healthy lifestyle at an early stage and prevent chronic illnesses. The primary healthcare services would then be benefitted in the long run.

5. Dr William TSANG, Senior Medical & Health Officer (Emergency Preparedness and District Relations)¹ of the Department of Health (DH), gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the DH was devoted to delivering services in various aspects such as health promotion, disease prevention, medical treatment and rehabilitation, while the emphasis of its work was placed on preventive care;
- (b) in response to the Primary Healthcare Blueprint promulgated by the Health Bureau in December 2022, the DH would work in line with the policies formulated by the Health Bureau on the development and promotion of primary healthcare, so as to strengthen the development of primary healthcare in Hong Kong;
- (c) the primary healthcare service units of the DH in Sha Tin District included Lek Yuen Maternal and Child Health Centre, Ma On Shan Maternal and Child Health Centre, Lek Yuen Elderly Health Centre, Sha Tin Student Health Service Centre and Pamela Youde School Dental Clinic; and
- (d) the DH launched various disease prevention programmes through public-private partnership, hoping that the general public could better prevent diseases and manage their health. Such programmes included vaccination programmes (e.g. seasonal influenza vaccines and pneumococcal vaccines) and cancer screening programmes (e.g. colorectal cancer screening). The DH also conducted publicity on healthy lifestyle and encouraged eligible members of the public to participate in cancer screening programmes and vaccination programmes.

6. The Chairman agreed to deal with the provisional motion moved by Mr Felix CHOW, and asked Members whether they agreed to do so.

7. The Council agreed to deal with the provisional motion moved by Mr Felix CHOW.

8. Mr Felix CHOW moved the following provisional motion:

“Provisional motion

Due to the uneven geographical distribution of private primary healthcare service providers in Sha Tin District, residents are unable to receive healthcare services in their own neighbourhood, which causes inconvenience and increases the healthcare pressure in the nearby areas. The Sha Tin District Council urges the Health Bureau, Department of Health and relevant government departments to coordinate the distribution of primary healthcare service providers in the community based on population density and geographical locations.”

Mr SIN Cheuk-nam seconded the motion.

9. The Council unanimously passed the provisional motion in paragraph 8.

Information Items

Reports of Committees under the STDC

Traffic and Transport Committee

(Paper No. STDC 6/2023)

10. Regarding the Report on the Flight Paths, Aircraft Noise and Incidents in Sha Tin, Mr Felix CHOW said he observed that residents lodged more complaints about aircraft noise amid the gradual resumption to normalcy. He said that aircraft would fly over Sha Tin District till 2:00 am, and suggested the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) adjust the operating time of flight paths flying over Sha Tin District after taking into consideration factors such as wind direction, so that the impact of aircraft noise on residents at late night could be minimised.

11. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to assist in relaying the views to the CAD.

[Post-meeting note: The Secretariat relayed Mr Felix CHOW's views to the CAD on 27 March 2023.]

Culture, Recreation and Sports and Community Facilities Management Committee

(Paper No. STDC 7/2023)

Education and Welfare Committee

(Paper No. STDC 8/2023)

Development, Housing, Environment and Health Committee

(Paper No. STDC 9/2023)

12. The Chairman said that an appreciation letter would later be presented to the representative of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to commend its ongoing efforts in actively addressing the rodent and mosquito problems in Sha Tin District.

13. The Council noted the above four reports of the committees.

Information Paper

Crime Brief of Sha Tin District for 2022

(Paper No. STDC 10/2023)

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

- (a) he said that during the site visit to the gambling blackspot at the area off Chung Tak House with the Police and Housing Department (HD) on 7 March this year, he witnessed a number of street gamblers surrounding the security guards and swearing at them. The situation could subsequently get under control only after conciliation by the HD staff and the Police. He said that those people had already regarded the

“Roman Square” off Chung Tak House as their gathering place, and sending security guards to the site was of no use in asking them to leave; and

- (b) he said that the HD had cut down the smoking area off Chung Tak House, thus reducing the area that gamblers could gather. He asked what enforcement actions could be taken by the Police to combat crowd gathering and gambling after the Government had lifted all social distancing measures.

15. Mr WAI Hing-cheung wished to know the details about frauds and triad-related crimes, both of which recorded greater increases in 2022.

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

- (a) he appreciated the anti-scam channels adopted by the Police. He however considered that most of those channels were offline, and suggested the Police enhance anti-scam publicity online, which was believed to be conducive to preventing computer frauds (such as online shopping scams). He also recommended that the Police should work with the Police Public Relations Branch or outsource the anti-scam publicity work;
- (b) he was concerned about elderly falling prey to scams. He asked whether the Social Welfare Department (SWD) had stepped up its effort to combat related crimes in cooperation with the Police; and
- (c) he would like to know about the difficulties faced by the Police in enforcing the legislation relating to street gambling.

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

- (a) he said that since the recent full resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and the Mainland, he had received complaints from residents in the district about suspected Mainlanders begging on the street. He was worried that syndicate elements were involved, and asked what coping strategies would be adopted by the Police; and
- (b) he commended the Police for the stylish design of the new anti-scam promotional leaflets, which was effective in attracting elderly’s attention. Nonetheless, he was aware that when reader scanned the two QR codes on the leaflet with smartphone, the browser of the smartphone would first be directed to a website with English words, and the reader could only be re-directed to the correct website after tapping on a number of option buttons. He was worried that elderly would mistakenly think that they had entered fraudulent website as they could not comprehend English. He hoped that the Police would reflect the issue to the relevant party.

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

- (a) he expressed his gratitude to the Police for its consistent efforts in actively combating street gambling in the district, and hoped that the Police could still take

other enforcement actions against crowd gathering and street gambling after the Government had lifted the “no-gathering order”; and

- (b) he opined that as the epidemic was over, street frauds might become more prevalent when compared with the time during the epidemic. Also, it had come to his attention that suspected illegal begging and prostitution were found in the community from time to time since the resumption of normal travel with the Mainland. He asked the Police to pay attention to those issues.

19. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) he said he had recently received complaints from members of the public that some suspected Mainland females appeared frequently in Ma On Shan area, striking up conversation with male strangers on the street and asking for a small amount of cash. If their requests were acceded to, the females might even have further action. He was worried that the situation was controlled by syndicates and would like to know whether the behaviours involved were illegal. He opined that enhancement in education and police patrol could help improve the problem;
- (b) he was of the view that distributing anti-scam promotional leaflets was a passive promotion method. He considered that the Police should encourage more people to download the “Scameter” application and adopt more active approaches to raise anti-scam awareness among the general public. For example, the Police could jointly organise activities with non-governmental organisations and other government departments, or disseminate anti-scam messages to elderly through the Sha Tin Senior Police Call Silver Hawk;
- (c) he suggested the Police add the respective numbers of different types of fraud cases in the Information Paper “Crime Brief of Sha Tin District” in the future for Members’ reference; and
- (d) he said that the STDC would be happy to assist the Police in combating frauds.

20. Mr Percy LEUNG, District Commander (Shatin) of the Hong Kong Police Force, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that the Police would continue to take regular enforcement actions in collaboration with the HD, such as removing gambling devices of gamblers. The Police would also study the feasibility of installing CCTV at gambling blackspots and continue to step up patrols at the blackspots;
- (b) he said that since 2022 to date, the Police had arrested a total of 32 street gamblers at Chung On Estate and issued to the gathering crowds 116 penalty tickets for the “no-gathering order” under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G);
- (c) from January to February this year, the Police had conducted a total of 217 anti-street gambling and arrest operations with 16 gamblers successfully arrested and 26 penalty tickets for the “no-gathering order” issued;

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- (d) he said that apart from issuing penalty tickets for the “no-gathering order” to persons participating in illegal gambling, the Police had taken different anti-gambling actions from time to time to combat illegal gambling. One example was to study with the HD the feasibility of imposing penalty on tenants of public housing estates participating in illegal gambling within the estate area;
- (e) he opined that the possible reason for street gamblers being mostly elderly was lack of activities after retirement, leading them to kill time by gambling. He said that the Police would recommend leisure activities to the elderly in collaboration with voluntary organisations, hoping that the elderly would quit street gambling;
- (f) the Police or security guards of the public housing estates would first give warning to persons being found participating in street gambling. If they still continued the gambling or the case was serious, the Police would directly instigate prosecution;
- (g) the Police would continue to adopt a three-pronged approach, namely law enforcement, education and advice, to combat street gambling;
- (h) the crime figure recorded in Sha Tin Police District in 2022 was 4 323 cases in total, representing a slight increase of 3.3% as compared with 2021. In terms of overall crime rate per 100 000 persons, the figure of Sha Tin District was 624 cases, which was lower than the territory-wide figure of 946 cases;
- (i) there were a total of 2 062 cases of deception in 2022, representing an increase of 585 cases (39.6%) as compared with 2021 and accounting for about half of the overall crime figure. Among which, there were 1 523 cases of computer fraud, 261 cases of telephone deception, 110 cases of low-interest-rate loan fraud and 168 cases of other scams;
- (j) computer fraud mainly included 691 cases of online shopping scams, 616 cases of social media deception, 95 cases of online romance scams and 121 cases of other scams;
- (k) there were a total of 261 cases of telephone deception in 2022, with the most common defrauding tricks being “Pretend Officials” and “Guess Who”;
- (l) other deception cases mainly included dishonestly obtaining loans and government subsidies using false personal information;
- (m) the Police was fighting against fraud mainly through enforcement actions and anti-scam publicity. With regard to enforcement actions, he called for the victims to make report to the Police once discovering the scams. If money was transferred to the fraudster through payment facility or bank, the Police would, immediately after receiving request for assistance from the victim, instruct the relevant financial institution to follow up and determine whether to stop the payment procedure, which could reduce the victim’s monetary loss. In addition, the Police would trace the identity of the fraudster with the information provided by the victim and charge the related persons with money laundering or other deception crimes;

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- (n) citing the examples of the recent deceptions involving “The Club” and “YUU”, he said that new defrauding tricks emerged rapidly so the Police also had to tie in with the deception trend in its publicity work;
- (o) apart from the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre disseminating the latest anti-scam information to the general public, the Sha Tin Police District also promoted anti-scam messages at the “highlighted event” and “widespread coverage” levels;
- (p) at the “highlighted event” level, the Sha Tin Police District, in collaboration with the Sha Tin Senior Police Call and Junior Police Call, invited four local elite athletes (Hong Kong representatives for bowling, badminton, baseball and martial arts) to join a sports meet themed on anti-deception. It was hoped that anti-scam messages could be integrated into sports competition as a soft promotion;
- (q) at the “widespread coverage” level, the Sha Tin Police District distributed promotional leaflets with stylish design, hoping that the general public would keep the anti-scam publicity materials longer. Besides, the Sha Tin Police District had filmed a number of anti-scam promotional video clips and arranged their playing at the lobbies of 198 public housing estates in Sha Tin District;
- (r) the Police had launched a one-stop scam and pitfall search engine “Scameter” to help the public identify frauds and internet pitfalls. If the public encountered suspicious phone calls, online sellers, friend requests, job advertisements or investment websites, they could enter in the “Scameter” the platform user name or number, payment account, phone number, email address, web address, etc. for assessing the risks of fraud and cyber security;
- (s) the Sha Tin Police District would focus its efforts in raising elderly’s awareness of deception and fighting against online romance scams. For example, thematic anti-scam video clips were played at hospitals to alert elderly and healthcare personnel to frauds;
- (t) the Police would continue to actively employ different publicity methods to remind the public to stay vigilant against deception;
- (u) he said that he would provide supplementary information on deception cases;

[Post-meeting note: The Hong Kong Police Force had provided supplementary information after the meeting, which was relayed to the STDC on 9 May 2023.]

- (v) he said that since the full resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and the Mainland, the Police had stepped up patrol at the previous blackspots of illegal begging in the district, including the covered footbridge at the junction of Che Kung Miu Road and Mei Tin Road (i.e. the “octopus bridge”) and the area at Sha Tin Centre Street in the vicinity of Sha Tin Market, but no illegal begging or crowd gathering was found up to that moment;
- (w) if police officer found Mainlanders begging illegally on the street, the police officer would make immediate arrest and repatriate them to the Mainland;

- (x) he said that he would approach the Vice-Chairman after the meeting to learn about the suspected illegal begging and prostitution found in the community; and
- (y) he said that if a member of the public gave money of his/her own free will to a stranger asking for money, the latter might not have acted illegally. Nonetheless, the Police would step up patrol and interception of suspicious persons to prevent the problem of strangers asking for money from passers-by on the street.

21. Ms Wendy FUNG, District Social Welfare Officer (Sha Tin) of the SWD, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) to raise elderly's awareness of deception, elderly service units such as District Elderly Community Centres and Neighbourhood Elderly Centres would arrange anti-scam publicity and talks from time to time; and
- (b) the SWD also proactively approached the Police Community Relations Office to obtain the most updated anti-scam promotional leaflets and video clips for distributing and playing at service units such as elderly centres and Integrated Family Service Centres.

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

- (a) he asked about the details of triad-related crimes in 2022; and
- (b) he said that in early March this year, the Police seized a large amount of dangerous drugs in three housing estates in Sha Tin Town Centre. As crime syndicates used to choose non-residential places away from the town centre for manufacturing and storing drugs, he would like to know whether the cases showed that crime syndicates had changed their mode of drug trafficking and whether the seized drugs were to be supplied to Sha Tin District only.

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

- (a) he opined that to prevent young people from taking dangerous drugs, advice alone was not sufficient but co-operation between different government departments to enhance anti-drugs promotion was required; and
- (b) he hoped that other than exchanging views on STDC meeting, the Police could report its work to Members through other channels and share with Members the latest defrauding tricks, so that Members could bring the most updated information back to the community.

24. The Chairman said that as he recalled, the Police had once invited Members to Ma On Shan Police Station for meal gathering and view exchange. He would like to know whether the Police would arrange activities for Members, the Sha Tin District Office and the Police to exchange the latest crime information together.

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

- (a) there were a total of 112 cases of triad-related crimes in 2022, which included serious drug offences, wounding and serious assault, criminal damage, crimes relating to unlawful society, and miscellaneous offences. The Police had arrested a total of 111 suspects aged between 12 and 59, with a detection rate of 92% (103 cases). He said that the Police would continue to allocate more resources to mount intelligence-led operations against triad-related crimes;
- (b) he said that crime syndicates usually chose warehouses in industrial buildings for storing dangerous drugs in the past, but those drug stores had been repeatedly cracked down by the Police so crime syndicates might attempt to change their usual places of drug storage. As only three cases of drug storage were recently found in housing estates in Sha Tin District, the Police considered that no trend of crime syndicates changing their usual places of drug storage was observed at this stage. He also said that at present there was no information showing where that batch of seized drugs would be supplied to, but the Police would continue to keep an eye on the situation;
- (c) he said that in most cases of drug trading, seller and buyer communicated with secret language or code on social media platform to work out the transaction place. The Police would keep a close watch on the modus operandi of crime syndicates and take intelligence-led actions against drug offences, and continue to combat the crimes by a three-pronged approach, namely prevention, education and enforcement;
- (d) with regard to education, he said that the Police had worked with schools in the district for anti-drugs promotion. From September 2022 to February 2023, the Sha Tin Police District had organised 20 anti-drugs talks at schools in the district, with around 6 600 students participating. Animations and video clips were also uploaded to the website of the Sha Tin Junior Police Call to disseminate anti-drugs messages to the public;
- (e) he said that the Police had produced a micro-movie named “Drug Enticement”, in which real cases were illustrated and a past offender and her family member appeared in front of the camera to talk about the harms brought by drug taking and drug trafficking. The Police had arranged the micro-movie to be played at primary schools, and it was effective in drawing students’ attention to drug abuse and drug trafficking;
- (f) with regard to enforcement, the Police collected intelligence about drug trading and conducted analysis on the crime trend, with an aim to raid warehouses for drug storage. The Sha Tin Police District had detected a total of 11 cases of serious drug offences in 2022, including nine cases of drug trafficking and two cases of drug manufacturing, with 15 persons arrested in total. The seized drugs were comprised of 1 752.7 grams of cannabis, 1.1 grams of methamphetamine, 651 grams of ketamine and 2 083 grams of cocaine, with a total value of HK\$4.26 million; and

(g) he said that activity could be arranged to facilitate exchange with Members.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

26. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 25 May 2023 (Thursday).

27. The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 pm.

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

May 2023