Time of leaving

the meeting

Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the Sha Tin District Council in 2023

Time of joining

the meeting

Date: 28 September 2023 (Thursday)

Time : 2:30 pm

Ms CHEUNG Hong-lam

Present

Venue: Sha Tin District Office Conference Room 441

4/F, Sha Tin Government Offices

		the meeting	tne meeting
Chairman:	Mr MAK Yun-pui, Chris	2:30 pm	4:41 pm
Vice-Chairman:	Mr SIN Cheuk-nam	2:30 pm	4:41 pm
Members:	Mr CHENG Chung-hang	2:30 pm	4:41 pm
	Mr CHOW Hiu-laam, Felix	2:30 pm	4:41 pm
	Mr CHUNG Lai-him, Johnny	2:30 pm	4:41 pm
	Mr HUI Lap-san	2:30 pm	4:41 pm
	Dr LAM Kong-kwan	2:48 pm	4:41 pm
	Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS	2:48 pm	4:41 pm
	Mr WAI Hing-cheung	2:30 pm	4:41 pm
Secretary:	Mr LEE Man-fai, Dave	Senior Executive Officer (District Council),	
		Sha Tin District Office	
In Attendance		<u>Title</u>	
Mr YU Wai-shing, Frederick, JP		District Officer (Sha Tin)	
Mr NG Wing-keung, Henry		Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)1 (Atg)	
Mr NG wing-ke	ung, Henry	Assistant District Officer (Sha	a Tin)1 (Atg)
_	•	Assistant District Officer (Sha Assistant District Officer (Sha	
Ms TSANG Ka-	yi, Carmen	Assistant District Officer (Sha	a Tin)2
_	yi, Carmen		a Tin)2
Ms TSANG Ka- Mr HUI Kin-fan	yi, Carmen , Frankie	Assistant District Officer (Sha Senior Executive Officer (Dis Sha Tin District Office	a Tin)2 strict Management),
Ms TSANG Ka-	yi, Carmen , Frankie	Assistant District Officer (Sha Senior Executive Officer (Dis Sha Tin District Office District Commander (Shatin),	a Tin)2 strict Management),
Ms TSANG Ka- Mr HUI Kin-fan, Mr LEUNG Tsz-	yi, Carmen , Frankie -kin, Percy	Assistant District Officer (Sha Senior Executive Officer (Dis Sha Tin District Office District Commander (Shatin), Hong Kong Police Force	a Tin)2 strict Management),
Ms TSANG Ka- Mr HUI Kin-fan	yi, Carmen , Frankie -kin, Percy	Assistant District Officer (Sha Senior Executive Officer (Dis Sha Tin District Office District Commander (Shatin),	a Tin)2 strict Management),

(Shatin District), Hong Kong Police Force

Mr CHAN Ka-kui District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sha Tin),

bistict Environmental Trygicile Superintendent (Sha Tin

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Officer-in-charge of District Intelligence Section

Ms FUNG Shuk-man, Wendy District Social Welfare Officer (Sha Tin),

Social Welfare Department

Ms WONG Kam-wah Chief Manager/Management (Tai Po, North and Shatin),

Housing Department

Mr FU Pak-shun, Jason District Lands Officer/Sha Tin,

Lands Department

Mr YEUNG Wai-dor Administrative Assistant/Lands

(District Lands Office, Sha Tin), Lands Department

Ms CHAN Hau-yin, Margaret District Planning Officer/Sha Tin, Tai Po and North,

Planning Department

Mr POON Kwok-chung, Peter Chief Engineer/North 2,

Civil Engineering and Development Department

In Attendance

Ms HUI Yee-mei, Maria

Mr CHOW Tik-sang, Dickson

Mr YIP Kam-ming, Dick

Mr NG Hon-lai, Patrick

Title

Chief School Development Officer (Shatin),

Education Bureau

District Leisure Manager (Sha Tin),

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

Action

<u>The Chairman</u> welcomed Members and representatives of government departments to the fifth meeting of the Sha Tin District Council (STDC) in 2023.

- 2. <u>The Chairman</u> informed the meeting that some members of the public observing the meeting were taking photographs, and making video and audio recordings.
- 3. <u>The Chairman</u> said that he would invite Members to give their views on the reports of the committees under the STDC shortly. If necessary, the Chairman of the committees could provide supplementary information and share their vision on the future of Sha Tin District.

Application for Leave of Absence

4. <u>The Chairman</u> 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 27 July 2023

(STDC Minutes 4/2023)

5. The Council unanimously endorsed the above minutes.

Information Items

Reports of Committees under the STDC

Traffic and Transport Committee

(Paper No. STDC 30/2023)

- 6. The views of Mr WAI Hing-cheung were summarised below:
 - (a) he said that he raised the question on the "Improvements to Walkways in Sha Tin District" at the previous meeting of the Traffic and Transport Committee (TTC). As the officials of the Highways Department (HyD) and the Transport Department (TD) responsible for following up the second-round initiative of Provision of Cover to Walkway (the walkway initiative) did not attend the meeting concerned, the regular representatives of the relevant departments at the TTC were not able to adequately respond to his question; and

- (b) he opined that the agenda issues of the committees should be resolved at the committee level. He reminded the representatives of various government departments that the information required for meetings should be prepared prior to the meetings, and the responsible government officials also had the responsibility to attend the meetings to answer questions from Members.
- 7. <u>The Vice-Chairman</u> said that according to the Bus Route Planning Programme 2023-2024 of Sha Tin District, the TD proposed extending the service hours of KMB Route No. 274P, and the proposal was expected to be implemented in the third quarter of this year. He wished to know the actual implementation time of the proposal.
- 8. The views of Mr Johnny CHUNG were summarised below:
 - (a) he was concerned about the arrangement of the rationalisation of airport bus routes in Sha Tin District. He said that an en-route stop was not provided by Long Win Bus (LWB) Route No. A41P in Yan On Estate currently, and surrounding residents had to walk to Kam On Court to get on board;
 - (b) he said that the newly introduced LWB Route No. A42 would operate via Lion Rock Tunnel Road, and en-route stops would be provided at World-Wide Gardens and Sun Tin Wai. He opined that the two bus stops were far away from World-Wide Gardens and Sun Tin Wai Estate, and it would be inconvenient for residents carrying luggage. Besides, traffic congestion was frequent at the locations during peak hours, which affected the journey time. He said that he had written to the TD to convey his views, and he learnt that the concern group "Shatin Transport" had similarly conveyed the relevant views to the Department. He hoped that the Department could reconsider the routing of LWB Route No. A42. Moreover, he asked the TD to consider providing an en-route stop at the Public Transport Interchange at the Hong Kong Port of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB); and
 - (c) he said that there would be intake of residents in a large-scale housing estate in Nai Chung, while Nai Chung was not currently covered by airport bus routes in the district. He asked the TD to consider providing airport bus routes to facilitate the access of residents of Nai Chung, Pak Shek and Villa Athena to and from the airport.
- 9. The views of Mr HUI Lap-san were summarised below:
 - (a) he hoped that the department concerned could implement the lift retrofitting works at the footbridge across Sai Sha Road near Chung On Estate (Structure No. NF299) under the third phase of the Universal Accessibility Programme as early as possible. As the location was close to the en-route stop of airport buses, the retrofitting of lift could make it easier for residents carrying luggage to get on board;
 - (b) some members of the public had relayed to him that since the provision of an enroute stop for LWB Route No. A41P at the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities Island of the HZMB, the return trips of the buses were often full when departing from the terminal. As a result, passengers awaiting the buses at the HZMB were

- unable to get on board or had to stand on buses until arriving at Ma On Shan. He hoped that the TD and the bus company would follow up the relevant matters;
- (c) he said that there were frequent lost trips for KMB Route No. 87K during morning peak hours (about 8:30 am), so that members of the public could not get on board at Chung On Bus Terminus. He relayed the issue to the TD and the bus company, but the situation showed no improvement. He hoped that the TD would actively follow up the issue;
- (d) he said that quite a number of Ma On Shan residents were working in the Hong Kong Science Park (Science Park), but whole-day direct bus service plying to and from the Science Park was not yet available in the area. While members of the public could choose to take the buses of KMB Route No. 274P during peak hours to travel between Ma On Shan and the Science Park, the fare of the route was high. He asked the TD to consider expanding the scope of the interchange concession; and
- (e) he thanked all members for their support, and appealed to members' understanding for any inadequacies in his handling of traffic-related matters.

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

- (a) he said that quite a number of Ma On Shan residents had relayed that it was inconvenient to get to the airport from Ma On Shan, and many residents had to travel to Tai Wai before interchanging to buses of "E" routes to reach the airport. He hoped that the TD would consider introducing buses of "E" routes between Ma On Shan and the airport;
- (b) he said that residents currently living in the area to the north of MTR Tai Shui Hang Station had to make a detour before getting to Tai Shui Hang Station. With the completion of new housing estates such as Kam Chun Court, the population of Tai Shui Hang would increase. He asked the TD to closely monitor the pedestrian flow at Tai Shui Hang Station and the population growth in surrounding areas, and consider providing a northern exit at Tai Shui Hang Station; and
- (c) he learnt that Yan On Shopping Centre (Phase 2) and a shopping mall near Kam Chun Court would soon be completed, and bus stops would be provided in their vicinity by the TD. He hoped that the TD would maintain communication with him, so that he could know which bus routes would operate via the new bus stops.

11. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) he noted that some representatives of government departments had not prepared sufficient information prior to the meetings. He asked the representatives of various departments to take note of the situation;
- (b) he said that the TD drawn up the Bus Route Planning Programme of Sha Tin District for this year as early as in last year. He opined that the Department should

- implement the extension of service hours of KMB Route No. 274P as scheduled in the programme; and
- (c) he considered that the current transport planning for Ma On Shan failed to cater for the ever-increasing population of the area. As a result, traffic congestion frequently occurred, while lost trips and long journey time were frequently involved for bus routes plying from MTR University Station to Ma On Shan during peak hours. He asked the TD to keep in view the long-term transport planning for Ma On Shan.

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

- (a) regarding Mr WAI Hing-cheung's question, he learnt that while the officer of the section responsible for the walkway initiative in TD was unable to attend the meeting, a line-to-take had been provided for the TD's representative attending the previous TTC meeting. Nevertheless, he understood that there was room for improvement in the representative's presentation at the meeting;
- (b) according to his understanding, the first round of the walkway initiative covered various districts across Hong Kong. At present, more than half of the projects were still in planning, design or construction stages, including the project on Lok King Street, Sha Tin. The TD and the HyD were pressing ahead with the projects under the first round of the walkway initiative. Moreover, subject to factors such as the projects' progress and allocation of resources available, and after implementing the projects under the first-round initiative properly and orderly, the work on the second-round walkway initiative would be commenced and relevant consultation would be launched in a timely manner;
- (c) with regard to the implementation date of extended service hours of KMB Route No. 274P, he said that the TD was discussing the operational details with the bus company, and relevant arrangements were expected to be implemented within 2023;
- (d) the TD earlier provided TTC members with the revised proposal on rationalisation of airport bus routes of Sha Tin District through the Secretariat. The revised proposal covered two existing LWB routes (i.e. Route Nos. A41 and A41P) and two new bus routes (i.e. Route Nos. A42 and A46). The two new bus routes were expected to come into service in the fourth quarter of 2023;
- (e) with regard to the proposed additional en-route stops for LWB Route Nos. A41P and A42, he said that relevant views would be conveyed to the TD staff responsible for the airport bus routes of Islands District;
- (f) in relation to the introduction of a bus route plying between Nai Chung and the airport, the TD would timely review the feasibility of introducing an airport bus route in the vicinity of Sai Sha Road in light of the demographic changes in the district and demand from residents;

- (g) given the gradual resumption of normalcy in people's livelihood with increasing demand for services plying to the HZMB and the airport, the TD requested bus companies to allocate more resources to provide franchised bus services, thereby facilitating access of the public to and from the HZMB and the airport;
- (h) he learnt that there were lost trips of KMB Route No. 87K at Chung On Bus Terminus during morning peak hours, and also requested the bus company to tackle the issue proactively;
- (i) on expanding the interchange concessions to cover bus routes plying between Ma On Shan and the Science Park, the TD would convey Mr HUI Lap-san's views to the bus company concerned, while continuing to encourage bus companies to offer more bus-bus interchange concessions having regard to the operational and financial situation for the benefits of passengers;
- (j) as for the provision of a northern exit at MTR Tai Shui Hang Station, the TD would study the feasibility of the proposal with the MTR Corporation Limited;
- (k) he said that with the completion of the bus stop in Yan On Estate, the TD was conducting a study with the bus companies on adjusting the bus routes to operate via the new bus stop. He would provide Mr CHENG Chung-hang with the relevant information in a timely manner; and
- (l) on the long-term transport planning for Ma On Shan, the TD would, in light of the actual situation of traffic condition and supporting transport facilities following the residential development in the area, timely formulate the long-term transport planning for the area with the relevant departments.

<u>Culture, Recreation and Sports and Community Facilities Management Committee</u> (Paper No. STDC 31/2023)

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

- (a) he learnt that Sha Tin Sports Ground would be temporarily closed in early October this year for refurbishment works. By then, schools in the district could only choose to hold sports days at Ma On Shan Sports Ground. He believed that the relevant departments would proactively coordinate the utilisation of the venue;
- (b) he said that quite a number of people had improperly used loudspeakers at Ma On Shan Sports Ground, which caused significant noise nuisance to the nearby residents. He thanked the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) for assisting in dealing with the noise issue at Ma On Shan Sports Ground; and
- (c) he considered that instead of merely sending e-mail notification, the LCSD should have informed members of the temporary closure of Sha Tin Sports Ground at the previous meeting of the Culture, Recreation and Sports and Community Facilities Management Committee (CSCMC). He suggested that the LCSD should inform members of any temporary closure of major recreational facilities in future as early as possible.

14. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:

- (a) he said that despite the ever-increasing population in Ma On Shan, there had always been a lack of public market in the area. He said that since taking office, he had been looking into the market-related issues in the area with different social welfare organisations and community stakeholders. Given that the operating and management rights of markets were contracted out by the Housing Department (HD) to private companies, high rental costs of markets were involved. The operating cost of shop operators could only be shifted to members of the public, leading to high costs in grocery shopping. He was of the view that developing a public market in the area would help lower the market rental level and the costs of grocery shopping by the public; and
- (b) private markets were unevenly distributed in the area at present. Some members of the public had to go to the markets far away from home for grocery shopping.

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

- (a) he said that an absence of public market had led to high rental level and high costs of grocery shopping in private markets, and it was also the root cause of illegal extension of business by shops (commonly known as "shop front extension"). He hoped to invite the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and Sha Tin District Office (STDO) to conduct a site inspection at the markets in the area so as to understand the operation mode of shop operators and the needs of the community;
- (b) he hoped that the LCSD and FEHD would strengthen collaboration and proactively tackle mosquito infestation in parks;
- (c) he hoped that the LCSD would step up the publicity efforts for the scheme of Inclusive Park for Pets to further promote the pet-inclusive message;
- (d) he opined that the LCSD should inform members as early as possible of any temporary closure of sports grounds in Sha Tin District for refurbishment works;
- (e) he hoped to continue to maintain close liaison with the LCSD in the remaining few months of his term of office:
- (f) he learnt that the LCSD was pressing ahead with the transformation of public play spaces, and hoped that children's playgrounds after transformation would attract more children; and
- (g) he learnt that Mr WAI Hing-cheung was always concerned about the issue of obstruction caused by bicycle parking in Sha Tin Park, and urged the LCSD to tackle the issue proactively.

- 16. <u>Mr Dickson CHOW, District Leisure Manager (Sha Tin) of the LCSD,</u> gave a consolidated response as follows:
 - (a) he said that Sha Tin Sports Ground had been in use for years and some of its facilities required major repairs and hence had to be closed for a relatively long period of time. Since the "Report and Plan by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department on Organisation of Recreation and Sports Activities and Management of Facilities in Sha Tin District (2nd to 3rd Quarters of 2023)" under discussion at the previous CSCMC meeting only covered the reports on improvement works of venues during the period from June to September this year, the LCSD did not inform members of the issue regarding the temporary closure of Sha Tin Sports Ground in October at the meeting. The LCSD noted Members' views and would timely brief them on any temporary closure of major recreational facilities in future;
 - (b) the LCSD was always concerned about mosquito infestation. It would not only carry out mosquito control work in parks regularly, but would also consult the FEHD in a timely manner. Upon receiving the views of the public, the LCSD would, having regard to individual circumstances, strengthen mosquito control work, such as providing mosquito trapping devices and conducting in-depth fogging operations. He said that the mosquito infestation indices of this year were lower than those of last year, which were satisfactory; and
 - (c) he thanked members for their support to the scheme of Inclusive Park for Pets. The number of pet gardens and Inclusive Parks for Pets in the district increased from 8 to 14 over the past year. He hoped that with increasing receptiveness to the concept of Inclusive Parks for Pets among the public and further implementation of petfriendly measures, the LCSD could identify more suitable venues in the district for Inclusive Parks for Pets.
- 17. Mr CHAN Ka-kui, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sha Tin) of the FEHD, said that the FEHD had responded to the proposed public market in Ma On Shan on different occasions. He would further convey Members' views to the headquarters.
- 18. Mr Henry NG, Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)1 (Atg), said that he noted the Chairman's views on the development of a public market in Ma On Shan. The STDO would continue to maintain communication with the relevant departments.

Education and Welfare Committee (Paper No. STDC 32/2023)

- 19. The views of Mr Felix CHOW were summarised below:
 - (a) he wished to follow up his question on the "After School Care Programme and Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project in Sha Tin District" raised at the previous meeting of the Education and Welfare Committee (EWC). He said that the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project (NSCCP) in Sha Tin District was currently run by one single service operator, and he was concerned that the homebased child carers recruited by the operator were concentrated in certain areas and the service areas would not cover the entire Sha Tin District; and

- (b) he said that in view of the keen demand for child care services from the residents in Sha Tin District, it was proposed that the Social Welfare Department (SWD) should engage more operators in future to provide child care services in various subdistricts.
- 20. Mr CHENG Chung-hang said that the population of Ma On Shan grew rapidly and he would like to know if the SWD had any long-term plan to increase welfare facilities and planned to provide more day respite and care services for the elderly.
- 21. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:
 - (a) he thanked the SWD for its concern and input for the welfare needs of the district all along and its regular briefings given to the STDC on relevant work progress and plans;
 - (b) he said that he had received a follow-up telephone call before the meeting from the SWD regarding his request made to the SWD at the previous EWC meeting for providing supplementary information on the distribution of home-based child carers. However, he did not answer the call due to work commitment;
 - (c) he opined that despite SWD's allocation of substantial resources to support carers, carers of the elderly encountered various challenges in their daily lives. He hoped that in the long run, the SWD could allocate resources to the District Elderly Community Centres so that immediate and appropriate assistance could be rendered to carers;
 - (d) he hoped that the District Services and Community Care Teams could work closely with Members to provide appropriate support for those in need, such as the hidden elderly;
 - (e) he said that one in every four citizens in Hong Kong population would be an elderly person by 2030. During its earlier duty visit to Seoul, the STDC gained an understanding of the well-established elderly welfare policies and elderly services in the local community. He was of the opinion that the greatest difficulty in developing elderly services in Hong Kong was the scarcity of land resources. He said that with a dense population and an increasing number of senior citizens in Sha Tin District, there was a pressing need to improve elderly services;
 - (f) he suggested that the SWD should further promote the Community Care Service Voucher Scheme for the Elderly (CCSV Scheme) and provide existing participating organisations under the CCSV Scheme with more resources for employing additional manpower, including such professionals as physiotherapists, nurses and social workers so as to provide more robust and quality care services. He opined that the CCSV services currently offered by private organisations were not regulated; and

(g) he commended the Education Bureau (EDB), the FEHD and the SWD for being well prepared for each meeting. He also thanked Ms Wendy FUNG, District Social Welfare Officer (Sha Tin) of the SWD, for her assistance all along.

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

- (a) he expressed thanks to the regular representatives of departments at the EWC, including those from the EDB, the SWD and the HD for working with the members and exchanging their views over the past four years or so;
- (b) he opined that the EDB and the SWD were highly effective in implementing policies at district level. Nevertheless, he hoped that the relevant departments would convey the views raised by the members at the EWC meetings to the headquarters;
- (c) he said that the EDB shared with the members the measures taken for addressing discipline issues in schools of Sha Tin District during an EWC meeting held in July this year. He considered that students were the future pillars of society, and schools should attach great importance to their personal growth experience. While he understood that the EDB adopted a school-based approach, he hoped that when problems about discipline practices were found in a school, the EDB could remind the school concerned as appropriate; and
- (d) he thanked all members for their efforts over the past four years. He said that the EWC had discussions on issues which were less discussed in mainstream society, such as mental health, discipline in schools, insufficient space for welfare facilities, and support for ethnic minorities. He hoped that the members would continue to uphold the spirit of people-oriented services in future and enable the views of those without power and influence to be respected in society.

23. <u>Ms Wendy FUNG, District Social Welfare Officer (Sha Tin) of the SWD,</u> gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she said that the NSCCP in Sha Tin District was currently run by a service operator, and its service area covered the entire Sha Tin District. At present, the home-based child carers recruited by the operator were in various sub-districts, such as Siu Lek Yuen, Ma On Shan, Tai Wai and Sha Tin Town Centre. Apart from centre-based care groups, the operator would also provide home-based day child care services for families in need on a flexible basis;
- (b) currently, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) were also operating the After School Care Programme (ASCP) and the Enhanced ASCP on a self-financing and fee-charging basis in various areas of Sha Tin to provide care/support and Extended Hours Service (EHS) for children attending primary schools. Among them, 20 NGOs provided full fee-waiving, half fee-reduction or one-third fee-reduction subsidies for the low-income families in need through the SWD's Fee Waiving Subsidy Scheme for After School Care Programme;

- [Post-meeting note: Care service providers of NGOs participating in SWD's Fee Waiving Subsidy Scheme for After School Care Programme in Sha Tin District would be increased to 21 in November 2023.]
- (c) as for children under six years old, some standalone child care centres and kindergartens-cum-child care centres in the district also provided Occasional Child Care Service and/or EHS on full-day, half-day or two-hour sessional basis for needy children to assist parents or carers who had to deal with emergencies or other matters and to cater for the families and working parents in need. The services were provided from Mondays to Saturdays;
- (d) to address the keen demand for day child care services in the community, the Government would, as announced in the 2022-23 Budget, review the implementation mode of the NSCCP and its effectiveness, and announce the recommendations of the review in a timely manner;
- (e) the SWD would formulate suitable welfare policies in light of the population growth in Ma On Shan, and continue to increase the provision of relevant welfare facilities by adopting a multi-pronged approach;
- (f) the SWD would continue to step up the publicity on the CCSV Scheme and encourage more stakeholders to become service providers. The SWD would continue to monitor the participating organisations according to the established mechanism to ensure the service quality;
- (g) the SWD was progressively enhancing the CCSV Scheme, which included allowing CCSV holders to purchase services from two recognised service providers at the same time, thus increasing the flexibility of using the CCSV, as well as expanding the applicable scope of the CCSV to the rental of assistive technology products to enhance the quality of life of the elderly persons and alleviate the pressure on their carers;
- (h) she said that supporting carers would be the focal point of development for the SWD in the next three years. To support the carers, the Sha Tin District Social Welfare Office was also actively taking forward various community events and launching a number of partnership programmes through subsidising welfare service providers in the district. Meanwhile, the SWD also strived to work with different stakeholders, including social welfare organisations and government departments (such as the HD), to identify and support the hidden elderly; and
- (i) she thanked Members for their recognition and appreciation of the SWD's work at district level and its efforts in serving the community, and said that the views of Members would be conveyed to the headquarters. The SWD would continue to work with various stakeholders in the district.

- 24. <u>Ms Margaret CHAN, District Planning Officer/Sha Tin, Tai Po and North of the Planning Department,</u> gave a consolidated response as follows:
 - (a) in view of the ageing population in Hong Kong, the Planning Department (PlanD) would set aside land for developing social welfare facilities as far as practicable when planning for land development, which included the provision of not less than 5% of the domestic floor area in a public housing development for developing social welfare facilities;
 - (b) the PlanD proposed amendments to the Approved Sha Tin Outline Zoning Plan No. S/ST/36 at the previous meeting of the Development, Housing, Environment and Health Committee (DHEHC). The proposed amendments included various projects of social welfare facilities, with quite a number of facilities providing elderly services. For example, social welfare facilities would be provided when rezoning the site at ex-Fo Tan Cottage Area for public housing development and rezoning the two sites in Shek Mun Business Area for commercial developments. When rezoning a site on Chap Wai Kon Street, Siu Lek Yuen for private housing development, a day care centre for the elderly would also be provided; and
 - (c) the PlanD would work with the HD and the SWD to provide suitable space for developing social welfare facilities.
- 25. <u>Ms Maria HUI, Chief School Development Officer (Shatin) of the EDB,</u> thanked Members for their compliments. She said that the EDB would continue to maintain close communication with schools, and emphasised that the EDB would put the interests of students as the main consideration.

<u>Development, Housing, Environment and Health Committee</u> (Paper No. STDC 33/2023)

- 26. The views of Mr CHENG Chung-hang were summarised below:
 - (a) he thanked the PlanD for elaborating on the planning and development in the district at the DHEHC meetings;
 - (b) he hoped that the consultation on outline zoning plans could be conducted in a more comprehensive manner in future. Apart from consulting the STDC, the PlanD should also publicise planning-related matters among the residents in the district. He was of the view that the consultation on Ma Liu Shui reclamation project was inadequate;
 - (c) he restated that he would like to conduct site inspection at the markets in the district with the relevant departments, so as to learn about the mode of operation of shop operators and the needs of the community; and
 - (d) he thanked the FEHD for its assistance all along.

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

- (a) he was concerned about the revitalisation of Fo Tan Nullah and Tai Wai Nullah. He said that Hong Kong experienced extreme weather in early September, and Tai Wai Nullah was severely damaged. He conducted a site inspection at Tai Wai Nullah the day before and found that while the engineering personnel of the Water Supplies Department were repairing the damaged parts, signs of damage after the disaster were still shown at the nullah;
- (b) he said that during the earlier duty visit to Seoul, he learnt that the revitalisation works of Cheonggyecheon River had achieved remarkable results and noted that the Korean government spent over HK\$6 billion on such revitalisation works in 2003; and
- (c) he wished to learn about the vision of the Drainage Services Department (DSD) on the revitalisation of nullahs. He asked the relevant departments to note that there was a cable bridge of the CLP Power Hong Kong Limited in the vicinity of Tai Wai Nullah, and an accident had taken place at a similar cable bridge over a river channel in Yuen Long, leading to a major power outage incident in Northwest New Territories. At present, while sitting-out facilities were yet to be constructed, flooding already occurred at Tai Wai Nullah during rainstorms. He was worried that completion of enhancement facilities might pose safety risks. He asked the DSD to re-plan or suspend the revitalisation projects of Tai Wai Nullah and Fo Tan Nullah lest safety risks would be posed after completion of the projects.

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

- (a) he wished to know the expected commencement date of the project on construction of a joint-user complex on Shan Mei Street, Fo Tan. As the project would have a significant impact on residents and stall owners in the area, he hoped that the relevant departments could provide a more definite schedule of completion;
- (b) he learnt that the Government intended to carry out large-scale planning in Fo Tan to accommodate a larger population. He asked relevant departments to note that the external traffic of Fo Tan mainly relied on Fo Tan Road, and if its transport planning was not improved, the traffic problem of Fo Tan might get worse. He opined that transport planning must be forward-looking;
- (c) he agreed that the revitalisation of Fo Tan Nullah and Tai Wai Nullah was conducive to beautifying the community. However, he considered that the main function of a nullah was to discharge flood water. As global warming intensified, there was frequent occurrence of extreme weather conditions. Enhancing Hong Kong's overall flood discharge capacity had to be the prime concern. He said that a series of rainstorms in Hong Kong in September led to flooding in numerous areas in Sha Tin District and loss of lives and property, which showed the importance of flood discharge. He hoped that the DSD would reconsider the need to proceed with the development of the revitalisation projects of Tai Wai Nullah and Fo Tan Nullah;

- (d) he said that the DHEHC had discussed such issues as environmental cleanliness, hygiene, healthcare, planning of housing and community development in the district, while striving to facilitate collaboration among various departments and exchanges of district views on community affairs. He opined that a bottom-up approach could help departments formulate policies according to public needs;
- (e) he commended that the FEHD had been actively coping with mosquito and rodent infestations in the district. He hoped that the FEHD would continue to maintain communication with various stakeholders;
- (f) he said that the implementation of the Municipal Solid Waste Charging starting from next year would affect the daily lives of the public. Therefore, the implementation of relevant measures required support on various fronts, such as promoting recycling for environmental protection and strengthening enforcement. He hoped that relevant departments would step up collaboration and maintain communication with members of the public;
- (g) he said that the DHEHC had discussed the demolition works of part of the existing covered footbridge, the escalator and stairs on the northern side of the "octopus" bridge at the junction of Che Kung Miu Road and Mei Tin Road. He said that despite the opposing views of many people in the community, the works were eventually taken forward. The said incident showed the importance of initial consultation, and he opined that a lesson should be learnt from it; and
- (h) he said that with the reorganisation of the Lands Department (LandsD) in recent years, it was hoped that the LandsD could respond to public needs more swiftly in future. He opined that it took a longer time for the LandsD to handle such matters as management of government land and tree trimming, and there was room for improvement in the performance of contractors in case management. He hoped that the LandsD could proactively improve the situation.

29. Mr CHAN Ka-kui gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he thanked Members for their compliments. He said that Members had offered many valuable views to the FEHD over the past few years, and the FEHD would continue to keep up its efforts. Moreover, he said that if there was a need to conduct site inspection at the markets with Members, the Department could make relevant arrangements after the meeting;
- (b) he said that the FEHD had been maintaining liaison with Mr Felix CHOW in respect of the construction of the joint-user complex on Shan Mei Street, Fo Tan. Members would be timely informed of a more definite schedule if available;
- (c) he thanked the LCSD and relevant departments for their assistance in tackling mosquito infestation in the district, which helped achieve improvements in mosquito infestation indices for this year;

- (d) on tackling rodent infestation in the district, the FEHD would proactively handle the relevant issues by continuing to maintain communication with the stakeholders and provide technical support; and
- (e) on implementing Municipal Solid Waste Charging, the FEHD was conducting improvement works for refuse collection points to support the implementation of the relevant measures. The FEHD would timely brief the STDC if further information from the headquarters was available.
- 30. <u>Ms Margaret CHAN</u> gave a consolidated response as follows:
 - (a) she thanked the members for offering valuable views on the amendments to the Approved Sha Tin Outline Zoning Plan No. S/ST/36 at the previous DHEHC meeting. The PlanD submitted the supplementary information after the meeting;
 - (b) in respect of the concern of Mr Felix CHOW about the species of conservation importance in the area of the proposed Fo Tan housing development, the PlanD set out relevant information in the supplementary information;
 - (c) regarding parking spaces for heavy goods vehicles in Shek Mun and Siu Lek Yuen, the PlanD enquired from the TD about the survey conducted by its consulting firm on the relevant issues. It was confirmed that adequate parking spaces were provided for heavy goods vehicles at the location;
 - (d) the Government always attached great importance to the provision of parking spaces for commercial vehicles, while actively pursuing a series of short- and medium-to-long-term measures to strive to meet the parking demand of commercial vehicles;
 - (e) she learnt that the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) was conducting a study on Ma Liu Shui reclamation project. The study was expected to be completed in 2024. The CEDD would give an account on the study findings in a timely manner;
 - (f) regarding the project on the construction of the joint-user complex on Shan Mei Street, Fo Tan, the Government Property Agency noted the members' concerns about the completion time of the project. As the Department was carrying out relevant planning and approval procedures, the specific implementation time of the project was to be provided; and
 - (g) in respect of the transport planning for Fo Tan, she said that the authority would assess the traffic conditions in the district before changing of land use zoning, and would make appropriate proposals to improve the relevant situation.
- 31. Mr Frederick YU, District Officer (Sha Tin), said that regarding the revitalisation of Tai Wai Nullah and Fo Tan Nullah, the Secretariat would convey the views of Members to the DSD, and the relevant matters would be further handled by the next-term STDC.

[Post-meeting note: The Secretariat conveyed the views of Members to the DSD.]

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

Information Paper

<u>District Management Committee</u> (Paper No. STDC 34/2023)

- 33. Mr Felix CHOW said that the STDO managed to swiftly handle tree collapse cases in the district during the recent onslaught of typhoon in Hong Kong. He commended the supporting work of the STDO. He pointed out that quite a number of infrastructural facilities in Sha Tin District had been seriously damaged after the occurrence of a series of flooding incidents early this month. He asked the STDO to play a co-ordinating role in collaborating with the DSD, the District Lands Office, Sha Tin (DLO/ST) and relevant departments to conduct site inspections and meetings with the public for discussing matters on relief work in housing estates of the district in the wake of the disaster.
- 34. The views of Mr CHENG Chung-hang were summarised below:
 - (a) he found that with the approaching of the District Council election, quite a number of vertical banners, banners and flags were hung at locations not designated by the LandsD in the district. Locations of some of the vertical banners even obscured the sight lines of bicycle users. He asked the STDO to assist in handling the relevant matters to ensure the safety of road users; and
 - (b) he said that during the celebrations of the National Day and Hong Kong's return to the Motherland, he found that some festive decorations in the district were damaged and fell off to the ground, which might have caused injuries to members of the public. He asked the STDO to supervise the contractors in carrying out timely repair works of the damaged decorations. He said that the situation was often found on the footbridge near the MTR Wu Kai Sha Station.
- 35. Mr Frederick YU said that regarding the handling of the post-typhoon situation, the STDO had been maintaining close liaison with the relevant departments, and he emphasised that the safety of the public was the prime concern of the Government. He urged Members to refer any relevant cases with details to the STDO for its follow-up according to the established mechanism as appropriate.
- 36. <u>Mr Jason FU, District Lands Officer/Sha Tin of the LandsD,</u> gave a consolidated response as follows:
 - (a) he said that while the DLO/ST was not a works department, it would co-ordinate with other departments and strive to provide assistance when there was any damage to the infrastructure in the district;
 - (b) regarding known cases of fallen trees, the DLO/ST handled such cases as soon as possible after receiving relevant complaints, while those cases with potential risks had been referred to the task force under the LandsD for assessment. The task force would adopt a risk-based principle in handling the cases according to priorities; and

(c) according to the prevailing guidelines, election-related publicity materials were required to be hung at designated locations. If vertical banners were hung at locations managed by other government departments, the DLO/ST would refer the cases to the relevant department for follow-up. In respect of vertical banners hung on general government land, the DLO/ST would refer the cases to the FEHD for follow-up. Regarding the handling of non-compliant national flags being flown, the responsible departments would normally collect the relevant flags before referring the cases to the STDO for follow-up.

37. Mr Frankie HUI, Senior Executive Officer (District Management) of the STDO, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) according to the prevailing guidelines on election-related activities in respect of the District Council election, election-related vertical banners were not allowed to be hung on roadside railings. Any complaint received by the STDO would be referred to the relevant departments for removal of the vertical banners concerned as early as possible. If the names of candidates were printed on such vertical banners, the STDO would also contact the relevant persons and remind them to comply with the election-related legislation and guidelines on relevant activities; and
- (b) as for the safety issues about decorations hung for celebrating the National Day and Hong Kong's return to the Motherland, the STDO attached great importance to the safety of festive decorations, and would examine the suitability of a location for putting up decorations and assess the risk of falling incidents involving such decorations. Regarding the festive decorations hung in Wu Kai Sha as mentioned and observed by Mr CHENG Chung-hang, the STDO would send staff members to conduct site inspection and risk assessment. He emphasised that the STDO would ensure the safety of the display items while promoting the festive atmosphere.
- 38. Mr CHAN Ka-kui said the FEHD would, in accordance with the established practice, handle non-compliant vertical banners and banners being hung. As the locations where the publicity materials were placed were managed by different departments, the Department would take follow-up actions with relevant departments when such publicity materials were confirmed to be non-compliant. If necessary, Members might provide the FEHD with the details of such cases for its follow-up.
- 39. The views of the Chairman were summarised below:
 - (a) he said that even though the nomination period of the District Council election had not yet commenced, publicity banners were often displayed at unauthorised locations all over Ma On Shan; and
 - (b) he asked Members to provide the STDO, LandsD and FEHD with the information about the locations with non-compliant vertical banners for their follow-up.

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

- (a) he said that villagers of Sha Tin Tau Village and Kwai Tei Village had recently relayed to him that it had been three weeks since Super Typhoon Saola hit Hong Kong in early September, but the DLO/ST had not removed the collapsed trees in the villages. He would like to know the reasons for that and whether the work had been outsourced to contractors for follow-up. He said he had already explained to villagers that the Fire Services Department (FSD) would handle the cases if there was urgency to do so, but the removal of collapsed trees was not the FSD's responsibility. He wished to learn about the delineation of responsibilities between the FEHD and DLO/ST in handling collapsed trees;
- (b) he said that the aforesaid villagers had lodged complaints via the hotline 1823, and he had given the case numbers of the complaints to the DLO/ST for follow-up. However, he learnt that the cases were eventually referred to the contractor for follow-up. He opined that the DLO/ST should expedite the handling of collapsed trees;
- (c) he said some villagers of To Shek Village had recently relayed to him that their homes had been burgled. He wished to learn from the Police about whether the situation of burglary cases in Sha Tin District had deteriorated since the full resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and the Mainland;
- (d) he said that the former District Commander (Shatin) of the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) proactively handled traffic matters in the district and met with different stakeholders from time to time. He considered that the Police slacked off in its work currently;
- (e) he said that shop thefts had frequently occurred in New Town Plaza, Sha Tin. He inquired whether the new shopping mall, The Wai, had the same situation; and
- (f) he said that villagers of To Shek Village had earlier relayed to him that the Internet Protocol (IP) camera installed at the refuse collection point in the village had no recording function. He would like to learn from the FEHD about whether any video footage on cases involving illegal dumping of refuse had been recorded by the IP cameras installed at the 17 black spots of illegal refuse dumping in Sha Tin District, and whether the Department had successfully instituted prosecution through the footage recorded.

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

(a) he said that various types of robbery and burglary cases had been on the rise in the district recently. The larger size and dimmer lighting of On Luk Street Park made it easier for thieves to commit crimes, and he learnt from members of the public from time to time that their property had been stolen in the park. However, he was also told that some members of the public had successfully intercepted attempted theft cases on their own. Nonetheless, when they reported the cases at police stations, the police officers said that they were unable to open a case file as no actual loss of property was incurred. He asked whether the Police would process the

- cases only when property loss was involved, and whether the Police had any measures to improve the situation; and
- (b) he commended the STDO for organising the clean-up activity at Starfish Bay to help enhance the awareness of protecting the natural environment among the residents. However, he drew the attention of the relevant departments to the various instances of unlawful occupation of land in the vicinity of Wu Kai Sha and Starfish Bay. Such instances involved erection of illegal structures, storing of water sports equipment such as canoes, unlawful excavation of woodland, operation of unlawful barbecue sites, and use of squatters for other purposes, etc. He would like to learn about the measures taken by the DLO/ST to improve the situation, and the specific schedule of implementing the measures.

42. <u>Mr CHAN Ka-kui</u> gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said that the FEHD would collaborate with the relevant departments in removing collapsed trees according to the established guidelines. Generally speaking, if any situation involving collapsed trees was found, the department responsible for managing the location concerned would take follow-up actions;
- (b) after the onslaught of Super Typhoon Saola in Hong Kong in early September, the FEHD received requests for assistance from the LCSD in removing broken tree branches in the district. The FEHD took follow-up actions on most cases, but it was not able to conduct clearance work for the remaining two locations at the moment because refuse collection vehicles were unable to get close to the locations; and
 - [Post-meeting note: The tree branches piled up at the remaining two locations were removed.]
- (c) he said that a telephone enquiry was earlier received from Mr WAI Hing-cheung about the IP camera at To Shek Village Refuse Collection Point, and the FEHD responded that the camera was operating normally. If necessary, the relevant department could obtain the video recordings from the FEHD in accordance with the established procedures.

43. Mr Jason FU gave a consolidated response as follows:

- upon receiving Mr WAI Hing-cheung's letter on 20 September this year requesting the handling of the collapsed trees, the DLO/ST immediately referred the case to the department responsible for slope management. It was expected that the clearance work could be completed in October this year;
- (b) the DLO/ST handled most of the collapsed trees in the district. He stressed that the cases with potential risks had been referred to the task force under the LandsD and it would handle such cases by adopting the risk-based approach according to priorities;

- (c) with regard to the unlawful occupation of government land in the vicinity of Wu Kai Sha, the LandsD could only take enforcement actions by invoking the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 28) at present. Under the Ordinance, the LandsD shall post a notice on the unlawfully occupied government land, requiring the occupier to remove the miscellaneous articles occupying government land as soon as possible within a period of not less than a whole day. If the persons concerned had removed the miscellaneous articles before the expiry of the deadline and subsequently placed such articles back to the government land, the LandsD had to issue a notice again. Therefore, the Ordinance was mainly to handle the buildings and structures illegally occupying government land, but not high-mobility articles (such as tents and refuse). Consequently, it was of considerable difficulty to invoke the Ordinance to tackle the unlawful occupation of beaches; and
- (d) he asked Members to provide the details if squatters were found to be used for other purposes, so that the DLO/ST could handle such cases.

44. <u>Mr Percy LEUNG, District Commander (Shatin) of the HKPF,</u> gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) a total of 30 cases of burglary were recorded by the Shatin Police District in the first half of 2023, representing an increase of 7 cases as compared with the second half of 2022. The locations involved included private housing estates (15 cases), village houses (7 cases), public housing estates (4 cases), villas (3 cases) and shop (1 case). Two of such cases were detected by the Police;
- (b) the Shatin Police District combatted cases of burglary through law enforcement and publicity. On enforcement, the Shatin Police District carried out a total of 22 joint operations code-named "SPRINGLEAP" with the relevant departments in the first two quarters of this year. In the operations, the uniformed officers of the Shatin Police District conducted high-profile and high-rise patrols along with the helicopters of the Government Flying Service over burglary blackspots in the district. Meanwhile, road blocks were set up by the officers on the ground while raids were also carried out in villages and hillside areas to track down and arrest suspects;
- (c) on publicity, crime prevention leaflets on anti-burglary were distributed to members of the public by the Shatin Police District along with its two meticulously designed anti-burglary devices against domestic burglaries. Besides, officers of the Police Community Relations Office would conduct anti-burglary publicity at locations involved in burglaries for the relevant property management companies, village representatives and residents, thereby raising the public awareness of crime prevention;
- (d) he said that the statistics on burglary cases in Sha Tin District since the full resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and Mainland were not available. However, he said that the number of burglary cases in Sha Tin District was on the rise in the first half of 2023;

- (e) he said that he would remind the incumbent Divisional Commander of Shatin Division Ms Jani Srimurjani to maintain communication with stakeholders in the community on traffic-related matters in the district;
 - [Post-meeting note: Ms Jani Srimurjani and Mr WAI Hing-cheung had met with each other and discussed district matters on a public occasion. A meeting between them was scheduled on 19 October 2023 as requested by Mr WAI Hing-cheung, and it was postponed due to other commitments.]
- (f) regarding complaints against illegal parking in Sha Tin Town Centre, the Shatin Police District received a total of 455 complaints in 2022, a decrease of 35% as compared with 702 cases in 2021. He was of the view that the decreased number of illegal parking cases in 2022 was due to the fifth wave of epidemic early last year, during which members of the public went out less. A total of 485 cases of complaints against illegal parking were recorded by the Shatin Police District in the first eight months of this year. The Shatin Police District issued a total of 4 541 fixed penalty tickets on Sha Tin Centre Street in 2021, while 4 563 penalty tickets were issued in 2022;
- (g) regarding shop thefts, the Shatin Police District received a total of 249 shop theft cases in the first half of 2023, representing an increase of 34% as compared with the second half of 2022. Among them, 134 cases were successfully detected, with 130 people arrested in total and nearly 40% of those arrested aged 60 above. Stealing of food accounted for 57% of all shop theft cases. Locations where shop thefts occurred included supermarkets (114 cases), shops (49 cases), personal care stores (48 cases), convenience stores and department stores, etc. The Police noted that food products and goods would be placed at some supermarkets at locations close to the exits, making it easier for the thieves to steal them. Whenever there were theft cases in supermarkets, the Shatin Police District and officers from the Regional Crime Prevention Unit would make improvement recommendations to the shop operators concerned. However, the Police's recommendations were not yet adopted as the shop operators had their respective considerations;
- (h) he said that with the opening of The Wai on 22 July this year, there was no shop theft in the shopping mall in July, while four and two cases of shop thefts were recorded in August and September respectively. The Shatin Police District would combat shop thefts through stepping up patrols, targeted publicity and intelligence led-operations;
- (i) he said that five months before the opening of The Wai, the Shatin Police District had discussion with the management of The Wai and The Pavilia Farm on the traffic management matters following the opening of The Wai and the intake of residents at The Pavilia Farm. The surrounding areas of the shopping mall were at the onset of traffic congestion two weeks before the opening of The Wai. The Police also found from time to time that many goods vehicles would enter nearby areas concurrently, and goods vehicles were also illegally parked on Che Kung Miu Road for loading and unloading of goods. The Police would cope with the relevant matters through law enforcement and transport planning; and

- (j) he asked Mr Johnny CHUNG to provide the details of the robbery cases in which members of the public were not able to successfully report the cases to the Police, so as to facilitate the follow-up actions by the Police.
 - [Post-meeting note: The Police enquired about the cases from Mr Johnny CHUNG after the meeting and requested the relevant persons to provide the details of such cases. However, Mr Johnny CHUNG said that the persons concerned had refused to provide any information for follow-up by the Police.]
- 45. Mr Johnny CHUNG further explained that most of the miscellaneous articles found in Wu Kai Sha area were not items of high mobility, but were large electronic equipment such as refrigerators and freezers. He asked the DLO/ST to make reference to the practices of other district lands offices, so as to improve the situation of illegal occupation of government land.
- 46. Mr Frederick YU said that the DLO/ST had to tackle cases involving illegal occupation of land according to the prevailing legislation. He said that the STDO would assist the DLO/ST in taking enforcement actions. For example, the STDO carried out two inter-departmental enforcement actions over the past few months. The STDO would continue to keep in view the relevant matters, and if necessary, it would improve the problem of the aforementioned illegal occupation of land through inter-departmental actions and other measures.
- 47. <u>Mr Jason FU</u> noted the views of Mr Johnny CHUNG. He would send staff members to conduct inspection in Wu Kai Sha area in due course to strive to tackle the non-compliant cases.
- 48. The views of Mr HUI Lap-san were summarised below:
 - (a) he was concerned about the illegal bicycle parking in the district. He said that there were incidents of abuse involving the public bicycle parking spaces under the footbridge in Chung On Estate, where "dead bicycles" were parked at the location on a long-term basis. Similar situation was also found in the bicycle parking spaces in Yiu On Estate. He asked relevant departments to take joint enforcement actions;
 - (b) he asked the TD to note his views on the provision of interchange concession for transport services between Ma On Shan and the Science Park; and
 - (c) he said that the Citybus Limited (Citybus) would undertake the operation of the five bus routes plying between Shap Sze Heung and Ma On Shan. As no depot was provided by the Citybus in the vicinity of Sha Tin, the traffic between Shap Sze Heung and Ma On Shan would be severely affected in case of breakdowns of the relevant buses. While the Citybus pledged to arrange new buses for the said five new routes to reduce breakdowns and lost trips, he asked the TD and the Police to keep in view the situation.
- 49. The views of the Vice-Chairman were summarised below:
 - (a) he said that a courier company recently commenced operation on Ngau Wu Tok Street near Wah Lok Industrial Centre in Fo Tan. He wished to know whether the

- Police had carried out other enforcement actions in addition to issuing penalty tickets to illegally parked vehicles at the location;
- (b) he thanked various government departments and Members for their collaboration over the past few years. He appreciated the FEHD's efforts in proactively tackling rodent and mosquito infestations in the district, the SWD's assistance rendered to him over the past few years, the LCSD's prompt responses to the views of Members and improvement measures, and the HKPF's active follow-up on the views put forward by Members at the STDC meetings;
- (c) he said that Members chose to convey their views to the departments at the STDC meetings in order to retain relevant records. He opined that some departments were not fully prepared for the meetings and hence valuable meeting time was wasted. He urged various government departments to be fully prepared before a STDC meeting, and to clarify with Members their matters of concern prior to the meetings when necessary, so as to save meeting time; and
- (d) he said that the current-term Members had discussed matters relating to bus routes amicably. He opined that the next-term STDC had to strike a balance between the need to strive for the benefits of residents in the district and the need to streamline the meeting time.
- 50. Mr Frankie HUI said that the views of Mr HUI Lap-san on illegal bicycle parking in Chung On Estate and Yiu On Estate would be conveyed to the Working Group on Tackling Illegal Bicycle Parking in Sha Tin District for the working group to make arrangements for joint clearance operation.
- 51. Mr Patrick NG thanked Mr HUI Lap-san for being concerned about the new franchised bus routes in Shap Sze Heung. He said that the TD had discussed with the bus company the operational arrangements for the relevant routes, including the required facilities and depots as well as deployment of drivers, so as to ensure that the bus company could provide appropriate bus services for residents in Sha Tin, Ma On Shan and Tai Po.
- 52. Mr Percy LEUNG said that the Shatin Police District had issued a total of 63 fixed penalty tickets on Ngau Wu Tok Street over the past three months. The illegal parking situation at the said location was mainly due to the design of narrow road. The Police would actively discuss solutions with relevant stakeholders.
- 53. The Chairman said that the meeting was expected to be the last meeting of the current-term STDC. He asked the Secretariat to inform Members of any other meeting arrangements in future. He opined that he had made every effort to liaise with government departments on different matters since his assumption of office as the Chairman of the STDC. He thanked all Members for offering their views on district matters all along. The Chairman declared the meeting closed.
- 54. The meeting was closed at 4:41 pm.

<u>Action</u>

[Post-meeting note: The Government declared on 28 September this year that the operation of District Councils in Hong Kong would be suspended from 17 October this year.]

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

December 2023