

Sha Tin District Council
Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of
the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee in 2024

Date : 2 May 2024 (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>
Dr LAM Kong-kwan (Chairman)	2:30 pm	3:32 pm
Mr DENG Kairong, BBS, MH, JP (Vice Chairman)	2:30 pm	3:32 pm
Mr WONG Wai-shing	2:30 pm	3:32 pm
Mr KU Wai-ping	2:30 pm	3:32 pm
Mr CHU Wun-chiu	2:30 pm	3:32 pm
Miss LEE Ching-yee, Janet	2:30 pm	3:32 pm
Mr NG Kai-tai	2:30 pm	3:32 pm
Ms LAM Siu-man	2:30 pm	3:32 pm
Ms LAM Yuk-wa	2:30 pm	3:32 pm
Mr YIU Ka-chun, MH	2:30 pm	3:32 pm
Mr HA Kim-kwan	2:30 pm	3:32 pm
Mr AU Chi-on, Paul	2:30 pm	3:32 pm
Mr LEUNG Chun-pong, Maverick	2:30 pm	3:32 pm
Mr LEUNG Ka-fai, MH	2:33 pm	3:32 pm
Ms CHAN Sin-ming	2:30 pm	3:32 pm
Mr CHAN Tan-tan	2:30 pm	3:32 pm
Miss MOK Hei-man	2:30 pm	3:32 pm
Mr WONG Yue-hon	2:30 pm	3:32 pm
Ms WONG Po-yee	2:30 pm	3:32 pm
Mr YEUNG Ying-hon, Ronald	2:30 pm	3:32 pm
Miss TUNG Kin-lei	2:30 pm	3:32 pm
Mr TSOI Ming-yang	2:30 pm	3:32 pm
Mr PUN Kwok-shan, BBS, MH, JP	2:30 pm	3:32 pm
Mr CHOI Wai-shing	2:30 pm	3:32 pm
Mr LAU Tak-wing	2:30 pm	3:32 pm
Ms LAW Yi-lam	2:30 pm	3:32 pm
Miss LAW Yuen-pui	2:30 pm	3:32 pm
Ms LO Tai-suen, Ada	2:30 pm	3:32 pm
Ms KUNG Mei-chi	2:30 pm	3:32 pm
Mr WONG Chiu-kwan, Andy (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council)3, Sha Tin District Office	

In Attendance

Ms TSANG Ka-yi, Carmen

Mr LEE Man-fai, Dave

Mr HUI Kin-fan, Frankie

Mr HO Kin-nam, David

Mr CHAN Ka-kui

Ms NGAN Wai-yee

Mr FAN Chin-hung, Antony

Title

Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)²

Senior Executive Officer (District Council),
Sha Tin District Office

Senior Executive Officer (District Management),
Sha Tin District Office

Executive Officer I (District Council)¹,
Sha Tin District Office

District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sha Tin),
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Chief Health Inspector (Sha Tin)³,

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional North)⁴ (Atg),
Environmental Protection Department

The Chairman welcomed members and representatives of government departments to the third meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee this year.

2. The attendees noted that some persons observing the meeting were taking photographs, or making video or audio recordings in the public gallery.

Application for Leave of Absence

3. The Sha Tin District Council Secretariat (Secretariat) had not received any application for leave of absence in writing from members prior to the meeting.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting Held on 29 February 2024
(FEHC Minutes 2/2024)

4. The Chairman said that the draft of the minutes had been issued earlier, and the Secretariat had received some revisions proposed by a member and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) prior to the meeting. The original and revised versions of the relevant parts had been placed on the meeting table for members' reference. He asked whether any members would like to propose other revisions.

5. Members unanimously endorsed the proposed revisions and the above minutes.

Discussion Item

Follow-up to the Local Concerns about Environmental Hygiene Issues in the District: Illegal Bicycle Parking
(Paper No. FEHC 5/2024)

6. A representative of the Sha Tin District Office (STDO) briefly introduced the paper.

7. Members enquired about the following matters:
- (a) bicycle clearance operations mainly targeted at bicycles illegally parked by members of the public. Nonetheless, bicycles placed on the streets by bicycle rental shops and bicycles illegally parked under the bicycle-sharing service also caused serious obstruction to public places. Members pointed out that the fine for shopfront extension had been raised to \$6,000, and would like to know whether bicycles placed on the streets by bicycle rental shops could be treated as goods obstructing public places;
 - (b) how the FEHD would handle the shared bicycles which were thrown into Shing Mun River or haphazardly placed on the streets; and
 - (c) whether immediate removal of abandoned or worn-out bicycles was possible under the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance without the need to wait for 24 hours before taking law enforcement actions.
8. Members' suggestions were as follows:
- (a) to improve the notification method of joint operations on clearance of illegally-parked bicycles (joint operations), it was suggested that notices in paper form be replaced by emails or WhatsApp messages to facilitate District Council members and Care Teams to inform residents about the joint operations;
 - (b) it was suggested that publicity and educational messages be played on the televisions at lobbies of public rental housing (PRH);
 - (c) as the problem of illegal parking of shared bicycles was more serious than that of general bicycles, it was suggested that the issue be addressed and planning be carried out; and
 - (d) it was suggested that bicycle parking spaces be added at the area adjacent to the lift of the footbridge at the junction of Tin Sam Street and Hung Mui Kuk Road.
9. A representative of the FEHD gave a consolidated response as follows:
- (a) the joint operations were coordinated by the STDO. At the moment, the FEHD conducted clearance operations once to twice a month with departments including the District Lands Office, Sha Tin (DLO/ST) and the Hong Kong Police Force. A total of over 3 000 bicycles had been removed over the past year. If worn-out bicycles were found during routine inspections, the FEHD would handle them in accordance with the law and established procedures;
 - (b) with regard to the bicycles being thrown into the river, the FEHD personnel would dredge up the bicycles as far as possible for handling; and
 - (c) the FEHD said that it was prepared to deploy additional manpower and carry out more clearance operations with other departments if necessary, in order to support the bicycle clearance work.

10. A representative of the STDO gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) joint operations were conducted at different places each time, covering black spots of illegal parking by shared bicycles and bicycle rental shops. If members had concern for or suggestions on the priority of places for joint operations, the STDO could refer the matter to the Working Group on Tackling Illegal Bicycle Parking in Sha Tin District (Working Group) for further assessment and considering the adjustment of priority in joint operations for better response to the concern by District Council members and the general public;
- (b) the suggestion on giving notice in electronic form would be forwarded to the Working Group for consideration;
- (c) the feasibility of conducting promotion through televisions at lobbies of PRH would be explored by the Working Group; and
- (d) as for the place suggested by members for adding bicycle parking spaces, the matter would be referred to the Transport Department (TD) for feasibility study. The progress would be timely reported to members as appropriate.

[Post-meeting note: Since May, the STDO gave notification to District Council members and Care Teams of the corresponding sub-districts about the joint operations by way of email. Regarding the suggestion on addition of bicycle parking spaces at the junction of Hung Mui Kuk Road and Tin Sam Street, the TD asked the STDO in June to hold a local consultation.]

11. Members further enquired about the following matters:

- (a) bicycle rental shops should avoid obstruction to public places and hygiene problems during their operation. Members asked whether the illegally-parked bicycles could be treated as goods or garbage for clearance;
- (b) whether worn-out bicycles in public housing estates (such as Wo Che Estate) could be treated as garbage and immediately dealt with; and
- (c) it came to members' attention that some bicycles were not removed by the relevant departments right after 24 hours of the notice being posted on them. Sometimes the bicycles might not be removed until a few days later. Members hoped that the departments could expedite the clearance work.

12. A representative of the FEHD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the FEHD tackled the issue of illegal parking of bicycles in accordance with the relevant legislation, and the current practice was to work with the DLO/ST. The DLO/ST carried out clearance according to the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 28), while the FEHD provided manpower support to move the seized bicycles to the DLO/ST's storage place for detention; and
- (b) the issue of illegal parking of bicycles in public housing estates had to be referred to the Housing Department (HD).

13. A representative of the STDO gave a consolidated response as follows:
- (a) the STDO would reflect the issue of illegal parking of bicycles in Wo Che Estate to the HD for its appropriate action; and
 - (b) pursuant to the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 28), the DLO/ST had to first post notices on the bicycles that occupied Government land before the commencement of a joint operation. The DLO/ST, FEHD and STDO could carry out a joint operation for clearance only if the bicycles were still not removed after 24 hours of posting of the notices. Generally speaking, the time gap between the posting of notices and a joint operation was around one to two days.

[Post-meeting note: The STDO had reflected to the HD the issue of illegal parking of bicycles in Wo Che Estate after the meeting. The HD indicated that it had taken appropriate action against illegal parking of bicycles on a regular basis, and had cleared the illegally-parked bicycles in Wo Che Estate on 3 May.]

14. The Chairman announced the end of discussion of the agenda item.

Question

Question Raised by Mr KU Wai-ping on the Hygiene Conditions of Tsang Tai Uk Public Toilet (Paper No. FEHC 6/2024)

15. The Chairman asked members if they had any further enquiries.
16. Members' further enquiries and views were as follows:
- (a) members learnt from the village office and residents of Tsang Tai Uk that the utilisation rate of Tsang Tai Uk Public Toilet increased drastically during weekends and holidays due to guided tours and school visits. They reflected that the hygiene condition of the public toilet during weekends and holidays was poor with odour affecting the environmental hygiene of the surrounding area, and hoped that the FEHD could reconsider deploying a toilet attendant to the public toilet;
 - (b) members were concerned about whether the FEHD had set a prescribed standard of quality for the hygiene products (e.g. liquid soap and toilet paper) provided by the contractor. Members pointed out that the toilet paper at Tin Sam Tsuen Public Toilet was often of poor quality and insufficient supply; and
 - (c) the FEHD should properly work on the hygiene of public toilets, and the impact of odour on environmental hygiene and residents in the vicinity should not be neglected by reason of low utilisation rate.
17. A representative of the FEHD gave a consolidated response as follows:
- (a) the FEHD had engaged a contractor to conduct surveys on the numbers of users of public toilets. In response to the member's question, the Department had analysed the statistics for February and made comparison with other public toilets. No irregularity was found. The utilisation rates of Tsang Tai Uk Public Toilet were relatively high on specific dates in

February, such as the 28th day of the last month of the Chinese lunar calendar as well as the 7th day and 15th day of the Chinese New Year. The Department had also monitored and analysed the usage during weekends. The contractor currently carried out regular cleansing on the public toilet three days a week with a weekly deep cleansing. Regarding the increased utilisation rate under special circumstances such as guided tours or school activities, the Department would, depending on the circumstances, cope with the situation by considering increasing the cleansing frequency or deploying additional manpower. For the time being, the FEHD had no plan to deploy a toilet attendant to serve the public toilet in the long term as the public toilet belonged to the category of low utilisation rate; and

- (b) the FEHD would arrange officers to inspect Tin Sam Tsuen Public Toilet to ensure that the quality of the toilet products provided met the required standard, and would take follow-up action.

[Post-meeting note: The FEHD had conducted a site visit with members after the meeting and followed up on the issue.]

18. Members' further enquiries and views were as follows:

- (a) improvement was required for the hygiene condition of Shing Ho Road Public Toilet in Tai Wai; and
- (b) members asked whether the FEHD would provide a hotline for villagers to contact the cleansing contractor when the utilisation rate of Tsang Tai Uk Public Toilet was high on Saturdays and Sundays, so that the contractor could immediately send personnel to clean the toilet to improve its hygiene condition.

19. A representative of the FEHD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the FEHD would follow up on the hygiene condition of Shing Ho Road Public Toilet; and
- (b) the FEHD would adjust the cleansing arrangement for Tsang Tai Uk Public Toilet as appropriate and maintain communication with members.

20. The Chairman announced the end of discussion of the agenda item.

Information Papers

Strategy and Work for Improvement of Environmental Hygiene in Hong Kong
(Paper No. FEHC 7/2024)

21. Members' enquiries and views were as follows:

- (a) in addition to the existing black spots, members asked whether the FEHD would, in light of the municipal solid waste charging (MSW charging), install surveillance equipment in advance at rural area or other common refuse disposal spots to facilitate the future law enforcement actions or precautionary measures to prevent littering;

- (b) rodent infestation was also severe in private housing estates. Members asked whether the Department had any specific measures to encourage private housing estates to collaborate on anti-rodent work;
- (c) the surfaces of some floor tiles at Sha Tin Market were uneven, which could easily trap stagnant water and make the floor slippery, posing safety hazard to both traders and customers. It was hoped that the FEHD would follow up on the issue; and
- (d) members pointed out that the facilities of Sha Tin Market were relatively old. Many traders had to first make substantial investment in preparatory works, such as repair and painting, before the stalls could be open for business. Members also hoped that the FEHD could offer greater support to traders in respect of power supply and strengthen communication with representatives of the market, so as to enhance the service quality of the market and attract more traders to set up business at Sha Tin Market.

22. Members suggested that the Department should step up cooperation with private housing estates in anti-rodent work in the future, as the problem of rodent infestation would persist if anti-rodent work was only carried out at the outer area of housing estates but neglecting the inner area.

23. A representative of the FEHD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the FEHD would install Internet Protocol (IP) cameras at appropriate places in the district subject to availability of resources;
- (b) the FEHD would liaise with the property management companies and management offices when performing anti-rodent work. It also held anti-rodent talks for property management companies and distributed promotional leaflets to raise their awareness of rodent prevention;
- (c) the FEHD would remind the cleaners of Sha Tin Market to remove stagnant water on the floor; and
- (d) according to the terms of the tenancy agreement, tenants of the market should approach the power supply company and Water Supplies Department on their own for the arrangement of electricity and water supplies. The FEHD however would offer assistance and support to renovation needs of new tenants as far as possible.

24. A representative of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) said that at the early stage of the implementation of the MSW charging, the Department would place emphasis on publicity and education for the public to adapt to the MSW charging. After the phasing-in period, the Department would arrange for inspection at black spots of illegal dumping and take enforcement actions as appropriate.

25. Members' further enquiries and suggestions were as follows:

- (a) there was discussion many years ago on the installation of CCTV cameras at Tin Sam Tsuen Public Toilet to crack down on illegal disposal of construction waste. Since the cameras had still not been installed to date, members wished to know the details;
- (b) the problem of rodent infestation was severe in Wong Uk Village. Members wished to know whether mixing contraceptive drugs into rodent bait would be a viable method;

- (c) some traders in the market reflected that there were still many problems with the stalls after the handover, and renovation was required before opening the stalls. Members wished to know the work of the FEHD to oversee and assist the handover of stalls;
- (d) members wished to know the progress of the passenger lift installation works at Sha Tin Market;
- (e) members wished to know whether the vacant stores in Sha Tin Market could be rented by the traders in the market for storage of goods; and
- (f) members opined that the FEHD had recently held a timely promotional activity at Sha Tin Market on improving the issue of dripping air conditioners. It was suggested that the FEHD provide District Council members with relevant promotional leaflets or mini gifts for distribution at their ward offices to enhance promotion.

26. A representative of the FEHD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the FEHD welcomed members to hand out promotional leaflets on its behalf and they could contact the FEHD regarding the collection of leaflets;
- (b) if the result of any IP camera was found to be unsatisfactory at its installation location, the Department would consider reallocating resources to install IP cameras at the black spots on the backup list instead. The FEHD would conduct site visits outside Tin Sam Tsuen Public Toilet and would consider installing IP cameras there depending on the resources available;

[Post-meeting note: The FEHD had put Tin Sam Tsuen Public Toilet on the backup list for the installation of IP cameras.]

- (c) the FEHD had been studying different methods and drugs to deal with rodent infestation. Officers of the Department would use poisonous bait centrally approved by the FEHD to carry out anti-rodent work;
- (d) after the market tenants moved out, the FEHD would reinstate the stalls before handing over them to the new tenants. If the new tenants had special requests, they could contact the FEHD and the Department would try its best to accommodate their requests;
- (e) the FEHD and the Architectural Services Department were currently assessing the possibility of installing a passenger lift at the main entrance of Sha Tin Market. Furthermore, the FEHD would build an accessible unisex toilet near the rear staircase of Sha Tin Market; and
- (f) the FEHD would hold open auctions regularly for members of the public to bid for vacant market stalls.

27. Members' further enquiries and views were as follows:

- (a) members wished to know whether the number of IP cameras in Sha Tin District had changed since the pilot scheme on installation of IP cameras was launched, and how many of those cameras had been connected to the internet for surveillance by the FEHD;

- (b) members wished to know whether the FEHD had a schedule for the refurbishment of the public toilets in markets; and
- (c) many public toilets in markets were squat toilets at present, which were inconvenient for the elderly. Members wished to know whether the FEHD would adjust the proportions of pedestal toilets, squat toilets and accessible unisex toilets to cater for the needs of the elderly.

28. A representative of the FEHD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) IP cameras were installed at 18 locations in Sha Tin District at present, mainly for surveillance, prosecution and deterrence effect. The Department would install more cameras at hygiene black spots subject to the availability of resources; and
- (b) the FEHD would regularly review the refurbishment of public toilets in Hong Kong and replace squat toilets with pedestal toilets as far as possible for the convenience of members of the public.

29. The Chairman announced the end of discussion on the agenda item.

Statistical Overview of Sha Tin District Environmental Hygiene Services (as at 31 March 2024)
(Paper No. FEHC 8/2024)

30. Members' enquiries and views were as follows:

- (a) according to the paper, the test results of 95 food samples were not available yet. Members wished to know whether the FEHD would provide supplementary information upon receiving the test results;
- (b) it was mentioned in the paper that three samples of swimming pool water failed the tests for water quality. Since children and the elderly in the district often used the swimming pools, members wished to know from which swimming pool the samples concerned were taken;
- (c) it was mentioned in the "Statistical Overview of Sha Tin District Environmental Hygiene Services (as at 31 January 2024)" (Paper No. FEHC 4/2024) for the last meeting that the test results of 58 samples were not available yet and a few samples failed the tests. Members wished to know when the test results would be ready and whether the details would be provided for members' reference; and
- (d) members had enquired via the Secretariat about the issue of the accumulation of refuse at the junction of Shan Mei Street and Ngau Wu Tok Street in Fo Tan. They wished to know the frequencies of inspection and law enforcement actions conducted by the FEHD at the location.

31. A representative of the FEHD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the representative of the FEHD said that the test results of the samples for food hygiene and water quality were not available at hand. The relevant supplementary information would be provided upon receiving the test results; and

[Post-meeting note: The FEHD would provide relevant supplementary information in the paper for the next meeting.]

- (b) after the previous meeting, the FEHD deployed officers to conduct inspection and prosecution at the junction of Shan Mei Street and Ngau Wu Tok Street in Fo Tan. The FEHD carried out a prosecution operation in March. At present, the FEHD put up at the location a warning notice, a poster and a location map showing the nearest refuse collection point, in order to remind members of the public to dispose of refuse inside the nearby refuse collection point. The FEHD would continue to deploy plainclothes officers to conduct prosecution at irregular hours at the location in May to effect deterrence.

32. Members added that after the previous meeting they conducted site visits many times at the junction of Shan Mei Street and Ngau Wu Tok Street in Fo Tan mainly between 4 pm and 6 pm, and found that the situation had not been improved. Noting that officers of the FEHD conducted inspection there at noon, members suggested that the FEHD officers should adjust the time for inspection and step up inspection and law enforcement operations in May.

33. A representative of the FEHD said that the Department would allocate more manpower in May to conduct law enforcement actions at the location during the time period suggested by members.

34. Members noted the above paper.

Sha Tin District Anti-mosquito Campaign 2024 (Second Phase)
(Paper No. FEHC 9/2024)

35. Members noted the above paper.

Public Toilet Refurbishment Programme for Ma On Shan Village Hilltop Public Toilet
(Paper No. FEHC 10/2024)

36. Members hoped that the FEHD could consider providing an additional public toilet on the road section at the foot of Ma On Shan mountain heading to the Service Reservoir to provide hikers and residents with one more toilet option.

37. A representative of the FEHD said that the Department would deploy officers to conduct a site visit at the location concerned to see whether there was a suitable place for an additional public toilet and whether there were other toilet facilities in the vicinity.

[Post-meeting note: The FEHD conducted a site visit after the meeting and the preliminary understanding was that there was no suitable place for an additional public toilet.]

38. Members noted the above paper.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

39. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 27 June 2024 (Thursday).
40. The meeting was closed at 3:32 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat
STDC 13/15/70

June 2024