

Sha Tin District Council
Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of
the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee in 2024

Date : 29 February 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	3:41 pm
Mr DENG Kairong, BBS, MH, JP (Vice Chairman)	2:30 pm	3:41 pm
Mr WONG Wai-shing	2:30 pm	3:41 pm
Mr KU Wai-ping	2:30 pm	3:41 pm
Mr CHU Wun-chiu	2:30 pm	3:41 pm
Miss LEE Ching-yee, Janet	2:30 pm	3:41 pm
Mr NG Kai-tai	2:30 pm	3:41 pm
Ms LAM Siu-man	2:30 pm	3:41 pm
Ms LAM Yuk-wa	2:30 pm	3:41 pm
Mr YIU Ka-chun, MH	2:30 pm	3:41 pm
Mr HA Kim-kwan	2:30 pm	3:41 pm
Mr AU Chi-on, Paul	2:30 pm	3:41 pm
Mr LEUNG Chun-pong, Maverick	2:30 pm	3:41 pm
Mr LEUNG Ka-fai, MH	2:30 pm	3:41 pm
Ms CHAN Sin-ming	2:30 pm	3:41 pm
Mr CHAN Tan-tan	2:30 pm	3:41 pm
Miss MOK Hei-man	2:30 pm	3:41 pm
Mr WONG Yue-hon	2:30 pm	3:41 pm
Ms WONG Po-yee	2:30 pm	3:41 pm
Mr YEUNG Ying-hon, Ronald	2:30 pm	3:41 pm
Miss TUNG Kin-lei	2:30 pm	3:41 pm
Mr TSOI Ming-yang	2:30 pm	3:41 pm
Mr PUN Kwok-shan, BBS, MH, JP	2:30 pm	3:41 pm
Mr CHOI Wai-shing	2:30 pm	3:41 pm
Mr LAU Tak-wing	2:30 pm	3:41 pm
Ms LAW Yi-lam	2:30 pm	3:41 pm
Miss LAW Yuen-pui	2:30 pm	2:34 pm
Ms LO Tai-suen, Ada	2:30 pm	3:41 pm
Ms KUNG Mei-chi	2:30 pm	3:41 pm
Ms CHOW Man-kwan, Mandy (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council)3, Sha Tin District Office	

In Attendance

Mr LEE Man-fai, Dave

Mr HO Kin-nam, David

Mr LEUNG Wai-yuen, Tommy

Mr LEUNG Man-lung

Mr CHAN Ka-kui

Mr WONG Kin-wing

Title

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

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

Executive Officer I (District-led Actions Scheme),
Sha Tin District Office

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

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

Chief Health Inspector (Sha Tin)2,
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

The Chairman welcomed members and representatives of government departments to the second 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 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 5 January 2024
(FEHC Minutes 1/2024)

4. Members unanimously endorsed the above minutes.

Information Papers

Achievements of Sha Tin District Year-end Clean-up Campaign 2024
(Paper No. FEHC 3/2024)

Statistical Overview of Sha Tin District Environmental Hygiene Services (as at 31 January 2024)
(Paper No. FEHC 4/2024)

5. The Chairman suggested a combined discussion on Achievements of Sha Tin District Year-end Clean-up Campaign 2024 and Statistical Overview of Sha Tin District Environmental Hygiene Services (as at 31 January 2024).

6. Members unanimously agreed to the above suggestion.

7. Members' views were as follows:

- (a) gratitude was extended to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) for conducting various cleaning work in Sha Tin District with other relevant departments and the Care Teams, which improved environmental hygiene;
- (b) as different departments and stakeholders might be involved in tackling environmental hygiene problems, it was necessary to identify the responsibilities of different parties in order to handle relating issues more effectively. Mosquito and rodent infestations as well as feral pigeon nuisance often affected environmental hygiene of some locations in the district; and
- (c) some illegal squatter structures in the rural area were left vacant after a fire. The repair process might result in hygiene problems.

8. Members enquired about the following matters:

- (a) a recycling light van was often parked near Shatin Industrial Centre on Chap Wai Kon Street with miscellaneous articles placed around the planters. The FEHD was asked whether it would step up joint enforcement actions with relevant departments to minimise the nuisance caused to the neighbourhood and the environment;
- (b) what specific measures the FEHD would implement in connection with the Charging for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW charging), and amongst these measures, what arrangements to fit in with MSW charging would be made for the skip located near Tin Sam Tsuen Public Toilet;
- (c) how relevant departments would follow up on the hygiene within the area of public housing estates, including the problems of feeding feral pigeons and rodent infestation; and
- (d) a member observed that various types of miscellaneous articles had been accumulated at the intersection of Shan Mei Street and Ngau Wu Tok Street from time to time, and outsourced workers of the FEHD often cleared the garbage at the location. The member would like to know whether the location was already deemed to be a place for disposal of garbage, and how the FEHD would take enforcement actions against such situation.

9. Members' suggestions were as follows:

- (a) relevant departments should continue to step up cleaning work in the district in order to sustain the achievements of the "Year-end Clean-up Campaign". Furthermore, they should enhance cleaning of the roadside planters and the sides of ditches in villages and conduct inspections at hygiene black spots in the district;
- (b) the FEHD could enhance communication with members regarding cleaning operations for members to reflect local views, so that the effects of its work on hygiene could be further boosted. The FEHD could arrange site visits with members if needed to study issues such as dog excretion at the area near Chap Wai Kon Village under the viaduct of Sha Lek Highway, the arrangement for setting rodent baits at Tai Chung Kiu Road Sitting-out Area, the appropriate location for building public toilets at Ha Wo Che Village, and the hygiene problems at Pak Tin Village;

- (c) it was hoped that the FEHD could step up cleaning of Lok King Street in Fo Tan, the streets in Wu Kai Sha, and the subways in Ma On Shan in order to eliminate the odour left behind by dog excretion;
- (d) the FEHD was asked to take follow-up actions on the Smart Waste Bin located near Chap Wai Kon Village, which had been damaged in a fire;
- (e) litter, construction waste and cigarette butts were often dumped in the surrounding of Chik Fu Street in Tai Wai, the Refuse Collection Point at Tai Wai New Village and Exit C of Fo Tan MTR Station. The FEHD could consider installing internet protocol cameras, large waste bins or cigarette butt containers at the locations in order to improve the situation;
- (f) there was illegal parking of bicycles at some locations in Yiu On Estate and Sha Kok Estate, resulting in obstruction of walkways. Relevant departments were asked to step up follow-up actions; and
- (g) miscellaneous articles were placed on the roadside near the construction site on Yiu Sha Road. It was hoped that the FEHD could pay more attention to the situation and take enforcement actions when appropriate.

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

- (a) the FEHD was thankful for members' compliments on the Department's work and appreciated their active participation in the "Year-end Clean-up Campaign". The FEHD would maintain close communication with members regarding environmental hygiene issues in the district and welcomed their feedback;
- (b) the FEHD would, as far as practicable, assist in cleaning up litter on the roadside planters and the sides of ditches;
- (c) the FEHD noted the views and suggestions raised by members and would take follow-up actions after the meeting;
- (d) any person who allowed dog excretion to affect the hygiene condition of the street would contravene the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap. 570) (the Ordinance). The FEHD would step up inspections in the area around Chap Wai Kon Village;
- (e) the contractor was responsible for the maintenance of the Smart Waste Bin near Chap Wai Kon Village. The FEHD would assess the geographical locations, resource allocation and actual needs to install additional waste bins, internet protocol cameras or cigarette butt containers at suitable locations;
- (f) the FEHD conducted large-scale cleaning operations every year to prevent and control mosquito and rodent infestations, and would get well prepared for the monsoon season. Furthermore, warning notices would be posted at prominent places around the areas with rodent baits to remind citizens that rodent baits had been set at the location;
- (g) after the legislation on MSW charging came into effect, the FEHD would process garbage in accordance with relevant procedures within its purview, which included checking whether the garbage/waste received had been packed properly in designated bags and whether

oversized waste had been attached with designated labels. Furthermore, relevant departments would continue the publicity and educational work regarding MSW charging to enhance public understanding of the measures. The skip at Tin Sam Tsuen Public Toilet aimed to improve the hygiene conditions there for more efficient refuse clearance. After MSW charging was formally implemented, the FEHD would set water-filled barriers at suitable locations to allow disposal of furniture attached with designated labels within the approved area;

- (h) the FEHD currently issued a fixed penalty notice to any individual who fouled public place by feeding feral pigeons according to the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap. 570). The Wild Animals Protection (Amendment) Bill 2023 was gazetted in November 2023, and the Legislative Council would discuss relating issues this year. The FEHD would take enforcement actions in accordance with the procedures once the law of the bill came into effect; and
- (i) regarding the disposal of miscellaneous articles in public places on Shan Mei Street and Ngau Wu Tok Street in Fo Tan, the FEHD would step up patrols and take enforcement actions if anyone was found contravening the legislation on public cleanliness.

11. Members further enquired about the following matters:

- (a) who would be responsible for the disposal of fallen leaves around village houses after the implementation of MSW charging; and
- (b) the noise barriers along Sai Sha Road and the weeds in the vicinity of the Chinese YMCA College were prone to mosquito and pest infestation. The FEHD was asked how it would coordinate with relevant departments to improve the situation.

12. Members' further suggestions were as follows:

- (a) there was illegal hawking on the footbridge near Fu Fai Garden and Bayshore Towers on weekends. It was hoped that the FEHD could continue to follow up to improve the situation; and
- (b) the FEHD could consider providing additional covered waste bins or refuse collection points near village houses to prevent littering.

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

- (a) the FEHD would deploy officers to conduct site visits at the locations mentioned by members, and would refer the case to corresponding departments for follow-up when necessary;
- (b) the FEHD was concerned about the environmental problems at the hygiene black spots in the district. The Department noted members' views and would step up cleaning work in these locations. Plain-clothes officers would be arranged to conduct inspections and issue a fixed penalty notice as necessary to any person in breach of the Ordinance. Moreover, the FEHD would clean streets with high-pressure jet cleaner to target specific areas so that the odour left behind by dog excretion could be eliminated more effectively. Clearance of refuse and miscellaneous articles at public places would also be arranged;

- (c) the FEHD Hawker Control Team would continue to review the situations of gathering or illegal hawking by domestic helpers at the locations concerned, and take follow-up actions on relating issues;
- (d) the FEHD would identify suitable locations and consider the provision of covered waste bins when necessary;
- (e) the FEHD would follow up on the hygiene conditions at areas around the squatter structures concerned in prevention and control of mosquito and rodent infestations in the area. Furthermore, the FEHD would coordinate with relevant stakeholders to improve the problems of rodent infestation in public housing estates and mosquito infestation around construction sites; and
- (f) the FEHD noted members' suggestions and would continue to follow up on relating issues after the meeting. Site visits would be arranged when necessary.

14. A representative of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) said that the Department would make corresponding arrangements for clearing fallen leaves in villages to align with the implementation of MSW charging. Specific measures would be announced in due course.

15. Members further enquired about the following matters:

- (a) whether relevant departments would consider installing internet protocol cameras at suitable locations to monitor the disposal of oversized waste in response to MSW charging;
- (b) whether the FEHD could provide assistance to step up cleaning within the area of private shopping malls to address problems arising from rodent infestation, accumulation of miscellaneous articles and stagnant water on the floor at the locations; and
- (c) illegal parking and dumping of bicycles were serious in the area around Heung Fan Liu Street and Pik Tin Street in Chung Tin. The FEHD was asked whether it would conduct joint operations with other relevant departments.

16. Members' further suggestions were as follows:

- (a) it was hoped that relevant departments could take follow-up actions on the leakage of sewage from a refuse collection vehicle while in operation on Yiu Sha Road;
- (b) the FEHD was asked whether it was responsible for cleaning the minibus stops outside Tai Wai MTR Station. If so, it was hoped that the Department could step up cleaning at the location. If not, it was hoped that the FEHD could urge relevant management to improve the hygiene conditions;
- (c) it was hoped that the FEHD could collaborate with other relevant departments to conduct joint cleaning operations in the district to boost efficiency. Furthermore, the FEHD and relevant departments could arrange separate meetings with members to discuss environmental hygiene issues in the district;
- (d) rodent infestation at Wong Uk Village and Sha Kok Estate was particularly severe during the evening hours due to the high concentration of catering outlets in these areas. It was hoped

that corresponding departments could follow up on the locations of food waste recycling bins to prevent attracting rodents. Furthermore, no covered waste bins were placed next to the food waste recycling bins in some public housing estates. It was suggested that relevant departments consider more widespread installation of covered waste bins in public housing estates for the convenience of citizens, and review the issue of odour emission from food waste recycling bins;

- (e) it was suggested that cleaning services at Tsang Tai Uk should be enhanced to ensure environmental hygiene at the location;
- (f) there were accumulations of fallen banyan leaves and miscellaneous articles around the slope near Chui Tin Street in San Tin Village, as well as illegal parking in the vicinity of Che Kung Temple. It was hoped that relevant departments could follow up on the matters;
- (g) it was hoped that relevant departments could step up follow-up actions against gambling activities and fouling public places by urinating or defecating in the vicinity of Pok Ngar Villa; and
- (h) there was accumulation of refuse in the area around the recycling vehicle on On Ping Street in Shek Mun, providing a favourable environment for rodent infestation. It was hoped that the FEHD could follow up on the situation.

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

- (a) the FEHD noted members' views on environmental hygiene issues at different locations in the district. The Department would continue to follow up on and review the effectiveness and arrangements of its work timely. The FEHD welcomed members to conduct site visits together and directly communicate with the Department regarding environmental hygiene problems in the district. If certain locations or issues involved other departments, the FEHD would make referrals for follow-up by relevant departments;
- (b) the FEHD would assess the effectiveness of setting water-filled barriers near Tin Sam Tsuen Public Toilet to prevent illegal disposal of oversized waste. It would evaluate resource allocation in a timely manner and consider installing internet protocol cameras to support enforcement actions if necessary;
- (c) citizens could prevent rodent infestation in respect of three basic survival conditions, namely food, harbourage and passages. The FEHD would continue to collaborate with other relevant stakeholders to address rodent infestation. Furthermore, the Department would enhance publicity of rodent prevention in order to raise the awareness among citizens and relevant stakeholders. The FEHD would also set rodent baits or cage traps at suitable locations, or consider other methods to exterminate rodents;
- (d) the FEHD would take follow-up actions after the meeting to address sewage leakage from the refuse collection vehicle on Yiu Sha Road mentioned by the member;
- (e) the FEHD front-line cleaners would clean the streets regularly. The Department would deploy officers to inspect the hygiene conditions at the minibus stops outside Tai Wai MTR Station after the meeting, and take follow-up actions;

- (f) the FEHD would handle cases of feeding feral pigeons following established procedures in accordance with the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap. 570). Amongst these cases, Sha Kok Estate was one of the key monitoring spots in the district, and the FEHD would regularly arrange for plain-clothes officers to inspect the spot and take enforcement actions;
- (g) the FEHD would conduct joint operations with the Working Group on Tackling Illegal Bicycle Parking formed by the Sha Tin District Office and other relevant departments. The Department would remove the bicycles concerned following established guidelines and procedures;
- (h) the FEHD had conducted a site visit at Pok Ngar Villa in 2021. However, the gate tower inside Pok Ngar Villa fell outside the management area of the FEHD. The Department could only provide basic cleaning services in Pok Ngar Villa; and
- (i) if recycling vehicles were found to impact the environmental hygiene of their surroundings, the FEHD would communicate with relevant stakeholders and take follow-up and enforcement actions depending on the situation.

18. A representative of the EPD said that the food waste smart recycling bins were equipped with odour abatement devices and the Department would continue to monitor their operation in the district. Furthermore, the EPD noted members' views regarding additional covered waste bins, and would request the Estate Management Division to replace food waste recycling bins when they were full or contact the Department's contractor.

19. Members noted the above papers.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

20. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 2 May 2024 (Thursday).

21. The meeting was closed at 3:41 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat
STDC 13/15/70

May 2024