

Sha Tin District Council
Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of
the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee in 2025

Date : 26 February 2025 (Wednesday)
Time : 10:00 am
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)	10:00 am	10:55 am
Mr DENG Kairong, BBS, MH, JP (Vice Chairman)	10:00 am	10:55 am
Mr WONG Wai-shing	10:00 am	10:55 am
Mr KU Wai-ping	10:00 am	10:55 am
Mr CHU Wun-chiu	10:11 am	10:55 am
Miss LEE Ching-yee, Janet	10:00 am	10:55 am
Mr NG Kai-tai	10:00 am	10:55 am
Ms LAM Siu-man	10:00 am	10:55 am
Ms LAM Yuk-wa	10:00 am	10:55 am
Ms LAM Chung-yan, Nancy, MH	10:00 am	10:55 am
Mr YIU Ka-chun, MH	10:00 am	10:55 am
Mr HA Kim-kwan	10:00 am	10:55 am
Mr AU Chi-on, Paul	10:00 am	10:55 am
Mr LEUNG Chun-pong, Maverick	10:00 am	10:55 am
Mr LEUNG Ka-fai, MH	10:00 am	10:55 am
Ms CHAN Sin-ming	10:00 am	10:55 am
Mr CHAN Tan-tan	10:00 am	10:55 am
Miss MOK Hei-man	10:00 am	10:55 am
Mr WONG Yue-hon	10:00 am	10:55 am
Ms WONG Po-yee	10:00 am	10:55 am
Mr YEUNG Ying-hon, Ronald	10:00 am	10:55 am
Miss TUNG Kin-lei	10:00 am	10:55 am
Mr TSOI Ming-yang	10:00 am	10:55 am
Mr PUN Kwok-shan, BBS, MH, JP	10:00 am	10:55 am
Mr CHOI Wai-shing	10:00 am	10:55 am
Mr LAU Tak-wing	10:00 am	10:55 am
Ms LAW Yi-lam	10:00 am	10:55 am
Miss LAW Yuen-pui	10:00 am	10:55 am
Ms LO Tai-suen, Ada	10:00 am	10:55 am
Ms KUNG Mei-chi	10:00 am	10:55 am
Ms WONG Lok-yi	10:00 am	10:55 am
Ms SUN Wan	10:00 am	10:55 am
Mr TANG Hoi-chung	10:24 am	10:55 am
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 Tsz-ming, Jaco

Ms NGAN Wai-yee

Ms MAK Kit-man

Mr LAU Kwok-yee

Title

Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)²
Senior Executive Officer (District Council),
Sha Tin District Office
Executive Officer I (District Council)¹,
Sha Tin District Office
Acting District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sha Tin),
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing and Pest Control) Sha Tin 2,
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional North)⁴,
Environmental Protection Department

In Attendance by Invitation

Mr CHAN King-tung, Tony

Mr LIU Hung-wai, Philip

Mr LAM Yat-hang

Dr. LEUNG Kwan-wa, Maria

Ms CHAN Shi-na, Sara

Mr WONG Tsz-tik, Andy

Mr WONG Yuk-man, Patrick

Miss SUM Wai-ching, Tammy

Title

Fauna Conservation Officer (Enforcement),
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Senior Field Officer (Avian Influenza),
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Engineer/Shatin,
Drainage Services Department
Chief of Service (Family Medicine),
New Territories East Cluster, Hospital Authority
Deputising Senior Manager (Communications and Community
Relations), New Territories East Cluster, Hospital Authority
Manager (Communications & Community Relations),
Prince of Wales Hospital, Hospital Authority
Housing Manager/TNS³,
Housing Department
Deputy District Leisure Manager (Sha Tin)²,
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

The Chairman welcomed members as well as representatives of government departments and organisations 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 (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 8 January 2025
(FEHC Minutes 1/2025)

4. Members unanimously endorsed the above minutes.

Questions

Question Raised by Mr YIU Ka-chun on the Services of and Appointment Making for General Out-patient Clinics in Sha Tin District (Paper No. FEHC 7/2025)

5. The Chairman asked members whether they had any supplementary questions.
6. Members' supplementary questions and views were as follows:
 - (a) regarding the general out-patient service provided by the four general out-patient clinics (GOPCs) in Sha Tin District, members enquired how the average number of consultation quotas for the preceding four weeks could be checked on the webpage of the Hospital Authority (HA);
 - (b) it was pointed out that at present, it was difficult to make appointments for general out-patient service provided by the GOPCs in the district either through the HA's mobile application "HA Go" or the telephone appointment system;
 - (c) it was pointed out that although it was convenient to use the "HA Go", elderly persons might not know how to use it;
 - (d) the HA's efforts in improving the out-patient service, including improving the facilities of waiting rooms and increasing the consultation quotas, were recognised;
 - (e) it was suggested that users making appointments for out-patient service should be provided with the information on the real-time waiting status or the consultation quotas for the day concerned in a bid to enhance the transparency of the appointment process and let users have a better understanding of the status of their appointments;
 - (f) members enquired whether there was any way to optimise the use of the out-patient consultation quotas released upon cancellation of appointments to avoid wastage;
 - (g) it was suggested that the way of making appointment for out-patient service should be changed to accepting appointments at fixed time slots every day, followed by allocation of consultation quotas through balloting, and setting up a waiting arrangement whereby members of the public on the waiting list would be notified of any consultation quotas released upon cancellation of appointments, so as to avoid the inconvenience of having to use the mobile phone or make phone calls for a long time;
 - (h) it was suggested that the HA should optimise the security requirements of the "HA Go" by reducing the frequency of automatic logouts, as it was more difficult for elderly users to enter their account name and password frequently. They would find it difficult to check the dates of follow-up consultations or the appointment information, and would need further assistance if their "HA Go" accounts was frequently logged out; and
 - (i) members wished to know the Primary Healthcare Commission (PHC Commission)'s information on public-private partnership in delivering healthcare services.
7. A representative of the HA gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) there were currently four GOPCs in Sha Tin District with an overall annual attendance of over 480 000 and the current utilisation rate was nearly 100%;
- (b) the main target patients served by GOPCs were patients with chronic diseases, elderly persons and low-income earners. An appointment for the follow-up consultation would automatically be made for patients with chronic diseases after their consultation at the clinic, while other patients with episodic diseases could make an appointment through the telephone appointment system or the “HA Go”. The telephone appointment system would update the service quotas for the next 24 hours and release the unused quotas every hour;
- (c) after a member of the public cancelled an appointment, the system would release the quota for other people to make an appointment. Therefore, the HA encouraged members of the public to cancel their medical appointments as early as possible if they were unable to attend the appointment;
- (d) the telephone numbers of the four GOPCs in Sha Tin District had been linked up to facilitate appointment making by members of the public, and the allocation of consultation quotas would be adjusted in the future as the usage of the “HA Go” increased;
- (e) in addressing the difficulties faced by elderly persons in using smartphones, the “Carer” mode had been put in place in the “HA Go”, whereby elderly persons’ children could register themselves as carers and make appointments for out-patient service for elderly persons;
- (f) at present, more than 70% of the consultation quotas were allocated to the telephone appointment system, while some 20% were allocated to the “HA Go”. The HA would regularly review the allocation of service capacity to avoid wastage;
- (g) as regards future planning, the PHC Commission, which was established in July 2024, the Department of Health and the HA were all under the Health Bureau. The PHC Commission planned for primary healthcare service in the community, and the PHC Commission and the HA closely monitored the demographic changes in various districts, in particular the age distribution and service patterns, and made assessments on the service capacity in each district to make plans for clinics and manpower deployment in the future;
- (h) the HA understood that there was a great demand for primary healthcare service in the community and had formulated short, medium and long-term plans for the future;
- (i) in the previous year, the PHC Commission had promoted the “Chronic Disease Co-Care Pilot Scheme”, under which persons aged 45 or above with no known medical history of chronic diseases were encouraged to undergo assessments at District Health Centres and arrangements would be made for checking on blood pressure, diabetes mellitus and cholesterol levels at a price which was more affordable than that charged by private healthcare organisations. If abnormalities were found, family doctors could be paired with the persons concerned for further follow-up. It was hoped that the demand for public healthcare could be reduced through public-private partnership; and
- (j) as regards planning in the long run, the service capacity of the four GOPCs in Sha Tin District had reached saturation. The HA and the Health Bureau were planning to set up a new

GOPC in the joint-user complex at Tsuen Nam Road, Tai Wai with a view to increasing the service capacity in the district in the long run.

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

Question Raised by Mr CHAN Tan-tan on the Discharge of Sewage from Fo Tan Nullah
(Paper No. FEHC 8/2025)

9. The Chairman asked members whether they had any supplementary questions.

10. Members' supplementary questions and views were as follows:

- (a) the discharge of sewage from Fo Tan Nullah caused nuisance to nearby residents, and complaints had been lodged by residents of Fo Tan Village, The Arles, etc.;
- (b) it was pointed out that there were many cases of discharge of sewage from Fo Tan Nullah in the past. Although the situation significantly improved during the epidemic, the number of complaints on sewage discharge in 2024 increased as a result of the concurrent construction works in Fo Tan District after the epidemic, e.g. the redevelopment of Sui Fai Factory Estate and the construction of a new building by a telecommunications services provider;
- (c) members noted that the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) had mentioned in its reply that the number of complaints in 2024 was 20 but the number of warnings issued was only 15, and wished to know the correlation between the two figures;
- (d) it was suggested that the EPD should increase the number of proactive inspections in a bid to increase the chances of prosecution and imposition of fines, thereby enhancing the deterrent effect;
- (e) it was suggested that the EPD should increase the number of surprise inspections at night to tackle the sewage discharge problem at source by identifying the sources of pollution;
- (f) regarding the revitalisation of Fo Tan Nullah, members enquired when the detailed design work would be completed and whether consideration would be given to the construction of pedestrian walkway covers connecting MTR Fo Tan Station and Kwei Tei Street in a bid to make it convenient for the residents of Chun Yeung Estate and nearby residents to travel by rail, thereby alleviating the traffic congestion in Fo Tan District;
- (g) members wished to know the specific timetable for the Drainage Services Department (DSD) to submit the funding application for the revitalisation of Fo Tan Nullah project to the Legislative Council (LegCo);
- (h) members wished to know the causes of the recent red tide incidents at Shing Mun River; and
- (i) members wished to know whether the relevant departments had put in place any mechanisms to deal with red tide incidents, including monitoring on water quality and measures for making alerts.

11. A representative of the DSD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the DSD discovered that floating materials in brownish yellow colour drifted to certain areas of Shing Mun River and Sha Tin Hoi on 16 February 2025, and the DSD immediately deployed its staff to inspect the nearby drainage facilities and no abnormality was found. At that time, no discharge of oil or yellow muddy water into Sha Tin Hoi was found in the vicinity of Ma Liu Shui and the Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works;
- (b) the DSD assisted the EPD in collecting water samples on site for testing. According to the EPD's information, those pollutants were related to the red tide recently discovered in Tolo Harbour; and
- (c) as representatives from the revitalisation of Fo Tan Nullah project were unable to attend the meeting, the questions raised by members would be forwarded to the project team concerned and replies would be provided after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The revitalisation of and enhancements to the surrounding area of Fo Tan Nullah would be taken into account in the design of the revitalisation of Fo Tan Nullah project. In line with the river revitalisation concept, quality green open space would be provided for members of the public through provision of additional sitting-out facilities. As the detailed design of the project was underway at present, the DSD would submit the funding application for the project to the LegCo in due course, taking into account the progress of the design work and the relevant preparatory work. Subject to approval of the Finance Committee, the DSD would commence the relevant works as soon as possible.)

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

- (a) if industrial buildings in Fo Tan District, being an industrial area, did not properly treat their sewage or discharged untreated sewage into storm water drains, the nullah would be polluted;
- (b) the EPD conducted inspections and took law enforcement actions at construction sites. While irregularities at construction sites were more obvious, it would be difficult to immediately discover one-off or sporadic sewage discharges. The EPD would step up its inspections and law enforcement actions;
- (c) in response to complaints lodged by members of the public and during routine monitoring on water quality, the EPD conducted a total of 51 inspections in 2024, including 18 inspections of storm water drains or storm water manholes, and signs of sewage discharge, such as residual sewage in white colour and residual sediments, were found at certain locations. The EPD had taken follow-up actions to deal with the incidents;
- (d) the EPD had stepped up its inspections and law enforcement actions in Fo Tan District, including such locations as the industrial buildings at Shan Mei Street. On the other hand, the water in the vicinity of Sha Tin Cold Storage Co. Ltd. No. 1 was found to have been contaminated with a higher level of *Escherichia coli*, and investigations had been conducted. As regards prosecution actions, apart from confirming the discharge of sewage, it was also necessary to collect water samples as further evidence, and the EPD would step up its law enforcement actions in this direction;
- (e) the inconsistency between the number of complaint cases and the number of warnings issued was due to the fact that certain complaints were lodged on the same day. For example, after receiving a number of complaints in respect of a single pollution incident on the same day,

the EPD, after conducting investigations, issued verbal or written warnings to nearby industrial building management offices, commercial operators or construction sites, which led to difference in the figures;

- (f) upon receipt of the notification of suspected oil pollution at Sha Tin Hoi on 16 February 2025, the EPD immediately conducted a joint inspection with the DSD. Nearby drainage facilities were inspected and water samples were collected for testing by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD). It was confirmed that the suspected oil pollution was related to the red tide; and
- (g) the red tide notification mechanism was mainly under the purview of the AFCD and the relevant information was provided on the Hong Kong Red Tide Information Network.

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

Question Raised by Ms LAM Yuk-wa on the Implementation of the Wild Animals Protection (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 in Sha Tin District
(Paper No. FEHC 9/2025)

14. The Chairman asked members whether they had any supplementary questions.

15. Members' supplementary questions and views were as follows:

- (a) the AFCD was requested to provide the monthly statistical figures on prosecutions against illegal feeding so that changes in the trend could be observed;
- (b) members wished to know whether the AFCD would liaise with other departments or conduct joint operations in the housing estates with serious problems after having a clear picture of the prosecution figures;
- (c) members were concerned about irregularities in specific situations, e.g. illegal feeding of animals by residents who threw food out of windows from a height onto the park on the ground level, and wished to know how the departments would deal with such cases;
- (d) members thanked the AFCD for inviting District Council members to participate in publicity and education activities earlier, and hoped that the AFCD would increase the number of such activities and reach out to housing estates to carry out education work;
- (e) members were concerned whether the relevant law enforcement mechanism had been rationalised upon the implementation of the Wild Animals Protection (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 (the Amendment Ordinance), e.g. whether the Housing Department (HD) was required to refer cases of illegal feeding in housing estates to the AFCD for its investigation before the issuance of fixed penalty notices (FPNs);
- (f) it was noted that additional large foot-pedal type litter containers had been provided by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) at the entrance of Ma Niu Village, Fo Tan;

- (g) some residents had reflected that objects could not be completely put in the recycling bins in the vicinity of Ma Niu Village because an excessive amount of cardboard had been put in them, and monkeys and wild boars were attracted to rummage through the bins; and
- (h) members wished to conduct a joint inspection with the EPD and the FEHD to examine the provision of litter containers and recycling bins in the vicinity of Ma Niu Village, Kau To Shan Road and Ma Lok Path with a view to solving the problem of wild animals rummaging through the garbage.

16. A representative of the AFCD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the monthly statistical figures on the FPNs issued would be compiled and submitted to the Secretariat after the meeting;

(Post-meeting note: The AFCD submitted supplementary information to members on 25 March 2025.)

- (b) members might inform the AFCD if they discovered illegal feeding locations so that joint operations with relevant departments could be arranged to combat illegal feeding; and
- (c) assistance from nearby residents or property management offices was needed in tackling the problem of feeding from upper floors. Requests would be made for making observations in nearby residential flats or checking the video footage taken by the property management offices. After organising the information, the AFCD would take action to investigate whether anyone had thrown food from upper floors or placed food near the windows. The AFCD would maintain close liaison with property management offices and residents of estates to enhance the efficiency of the operations to combat the said problem.

17. A representative of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) said that for the time being, no cases of throwing food from a height to feed animals in parks had been detected, and that if relevant views or information were received, the Department would carry out investigation in collaboration with relevant departments such as the AFCD or the FEHD and would take follow-up actions.

18. A representative of the HD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) upon receipt of frequent complaints about residents feeding feral pigeons on the ground from a height in a particular direction of a building, the HD would install mobile camcorders at the location for monitoring. If evidence was obtained to confirm the feeding behavior, the HD would allot seven penalty points under the Marking Scheme for Estate Management Enforcement in respect of “throwing objects from height that jeopardise environmental hygiene” to the offending tenant;
- (b) the Amendment Ordinance empowers the HD to designate public officers to take enforcement action independently by issuing a \$5,000 FPN without warning if any person is found to be feeding feral pigeons or other animals within the estate boundaries;
- (c) with effect from 1 December 2024, a new provision had been added to the Marking Scheme for Estate Management Enforcement, under which if a resident is found to have engaged in illegal feeding within the boundaries of the estate in which he/she resides, in addition to the

issuance of a \$5,000 FPN directly, the household will also be allotted seven penalty points; and

- (d) the HD would join hands with relevant departments and stakeholders to combat the problem of feeding of feral pigeons outside the estates or in areas managed by other stakeholders, e.g. The Link Asset Management Limited.

19. A representative of the FEHD said that enforcement against illegal feeding of wild animals or feral pigeons was the responsibility of the venue managers. The FEHD mainly dealt with venues under its management, including refuse collection points, public toilets, public markets and cemeteries. The FEHD had also conducted joint operations with the AFCD to combat illegal feeding of wild birds or feral pigeons in public places, with a view to minimising the environmental hygiene problems caused by feeding of wild birds.

20. A representative of the EPD noted members' views on the review of the provision of recycling bins in the vicinity of Ma Niu Village, and would reflect them to the Waste Reduction and Community Recycling Group after the meeting to discuss the arrangements for joint inspections in the future.

(Post-meeting note: The FEHD and the EPD staff visited Ma Niu Village and Ma Ling Path with members on 24 March 2025.)

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

Question Raised by Mr HA Kim-kwan on the Congregation of Feral Pigeons in the Vicinity of Sha Kok Street

(Paper No. FEHC 10/2025)

22. The Chairman asked members if they had any supplementary questions.

23. Members' supplementary questions and views were as follows:

- (a) it was hoped that the AFCD would continue to explore other scientific methods to control the number of feral pigeons;
- (b) members said that the AFCD mentioned that feeding was the main reason for the gathering of feral pigeons, but the FEHD had only issued one FPN since August last year, which was a significant decrease compared with the previous figure. It was asked whether the FEHD would consider changing its mode of inspection;
- (c) although the FEHD had stated in the paper that cleansing was conducted at Sha Kok Street once a day, it was obvious from the photos shown by members that feral pigeon droppings had accumulated for more than a day; and
- (d) dried bird droppings might not spread viruses but they did not look good. It was hoped that the FEHD could deal with the traces of bird droppings on pedestrian walkways.

24. A representative of the AFCD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) as the Trial Programme of Using Contraceptive Drug on Feral Pigeons had not led to any significant reduction in the number of feral pigeons, it would not be further pursued for the

time being. Nevertheless, the AFCD would continue its efforts in enforcement, publicity and education, and explore other feasible options to address the nuisance caused by feral pigeons; and

- (b) the City University of Hong Kong had been commissioned to conduct a survey on the number of feral pigeons in all feral pigeon congregation sites in Hong Kong. It would analyse the number of feral pigeons and the number of complaints related to feral pigeon nuisance, and consider in a timely manner the need to enhance or adjust the relevant feral pigeon management measures.

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

- (a) the number of FPNs in the reply was different because this question was targeted at FPNs issued for feeding feral pigeons after the Amendment Ordinance came into effect, while the number of FPNs provided previously was mainly for offences related to fouling of public places and affecting the cityscape; and
- (b) regarding street cleansing at the above site, in addition to daily cleansing, staff of the FEHD's cleansing service contractors also used diluted bleach to enhance localised cleansing when feral pigeon droppings or dirt were detected.

26. Members' supplementary questions and views were as follows:

- (a) it was asked whether the AFCD would conduct avian influenza tests on bird droppings on a regular or ad hoc basis in response to feedback from the public; and
- (b) members noted that some staff of the FEHD would regard feeding as littering and issue FPNs, and requested the FEHD to provide the relevant data after the meeting.

27. A representative of the AFCD said that upon receiving a report of feral pigeon nuisance, they would immediately send staff to the site for inspection and collect bird droppings for testing of avian influenza viruses. So far, none of the samples had shown any evidence of avian influenza viruses.

28. A representative of the FEHD said that the relevant data would be supplemented after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: According to records, during the period from 1 August 2024 to 28 February 2025, the FEHD staff issued 51 FPNs under the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap. 570) to offenders in the vicinity of Sha Kok Street for fouling public places and affecting the cityscape, including one FPN for fouling public places by feeding wild birds. During the same period, the FEHD staff also issued one FPN under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) to an illegal wild bird feeder in Sha Tin District.

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

Information Papers

Achievements of Sha Tin District Year-end Clean-up 2025
(Paper No. FEHC 11/2025)

30. A representative of the FEHD thanked the Sha Tin District Council and the Sha Tin District Office

for their support to the Year-end Clean-up campaign, and thanked all District Council members for their participation, which had made the campaign a success.

31. Members noted the above paper.

Sha Tin District Anti-mosquito Campaign 2025 (First Phase)
(Paper No. FEHC 12/2025)

32. Members noted the above paper.

Statistical Overview of Sha Tin District Environmental Hygiene Services (as at 31 January 2025)
(Paper No. FEHC 13/2025)

33. Members noted the above paper.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

34. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 23 April 2025 (Wednesday).

35. The meeting was closed at 10:55 am.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat
STDC 13/15/70

April 2025