

Sha Tin District Council
Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of
the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee in 2025

Date : 23 April 2025 (Wednesday)
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	4:04 pm
Mr DENG Kairong, BBS, MH, JP (Vice Chairman)	2:30 pm	4:04 pm
Mr WONG Wai-shing	2:30 pm	4:04 pm
Mr KU Wai-ping	2:30 pm	4:04 pm
Mr CHU Wun-chiu	2:30 pm	4:04 pm
Miss LEE Ching-yee, Janet	2:30 pm	4:04 pm
Mr NG Kai-tai	2:30 pm	4:04 pm
Ms LAM Siu-man	2:30 pm	4:04 pm
Ms LAM Yuk-wa	2:30 pm	4:04 pm
Ms LAM Chung-yan, Nancy, MH	2:30 pm	4:04 pm
Mr YIU Ka-chun, MH	2:30 pm	4:04 pm
Mr HA Kim-kwan	2:30 pm	4:04 pm
Mr AU Chi-on, Paul	2:30 pm	4:04 pm
Mr LEUNG Chun-pong, Maverick	2:30 pm	4:04 pm
Mr LEUNG Ka-fai, MH	2:30 pm	4:04 pm
Ms CHAN Sin-ming	2:30 pm	4:04 pm
Mr CHAN Tan-tan	2:30 pm	4:04 pm
Miss MOK Hei-man	2:30 pm	4:04 pm
Mr WONG Yue-hon	2:30 pm	4:04 pm
Ms WONG Po-yee	2:30 pm	4:04 pm
Mr YEUNG Ying-hon, Ronald	2:30 pm	4:04 pm
Miss TUNG Kin-lei	2:30 pm	4:04 pm
Mr TSOI Ming-yang	2:30 pm	4:04 pm
Mr PUN Kwok-shan, BBS, MH, JP	2:30 pm	4:04 pm
Mr CHOI Wai-shing	2:30 pm	4:04 pm
Mr LAU Tak-wing	2:30 pm	4:04 pm
Ms LAW Yi-lam	2:30 pm	4:04 pm
Miss LAW Yuen-pui	2:30 pm	4:04 pm
Ms LO Tai-suen, Ada	2:30 pm	4:04 pm
Ms KUNG Mei-chi	2:30 pm	4:04 pm
Ms WONG Lok-yi	2:30 pm	4:04 pm
Ms SUN Wan	2:30 pm	4:04 pm
Mr WONG Chiu-kwan, Andy (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council)3, Sha Tin District Office	

In Attendance

Mr LEE Man-fai, Dave

Ms YIP King

Ms NGAN Wai-yee

Mr LAU Kwok-yee

Title

Senior Executive Officer (District Council),
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,
Environmental Protection Department

In Attendance by Invitation

Dr YU Wai-ling, Linda

Mr TAM Tak-wing, Victor

Mr WONG Tsz-tik, Andy

Dr KWOK Chun-kit, Jacky

Title

Service Director (Quality and Safety),
New Territories East Cluster, Hospital Authority

Cluster Co-ordinator (Health Resource Centre),
New Territories East Cluster, Hospital Authority

Manager (Communications and Community Relations),
Prince of Wales Hospital, Hospital Authority

Fisheries Officer (Aquaculture Environment),
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Absent

Mr TANG Hoi-chung

(Application for leave of absence received)

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

Application for Leave of Absence

2. The Chairman said that the Sha Tin District Council Secretariat (Secretariat) had received an application for leave of absence in writing from the following member prior to the meeting:

Mr TANG Hoi-chung

Sickness

(with medical certificate submitted to the Secretariat)

3. The FEHC unanimously consented to the application for leave of absence submitted by the above member.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting Held on 26 February 2025
(FEHC Minutes 2/2025)

4. Members unanimously endorsed the above minutes.

Discussion Item

Strategy and Work for Improvement of Environmental Hygiene in Hong Kong (Paper No. FEHC 14/2025)

5. Members' views were as follows:

- (a) it was mentioned in the paper that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) had installed 12 solar-powered compacting refuse bins in Tsuen Wan, Islands and Southern Districts in 2020, and would subsequently extend the installation locations to other districts in a progressive manner. Members enquired about the progress of the FEHD's application of robotic and automated cleaning techniques and equipment in Sha Tin District;
- (b) it was asked whether the FEHD had any plans to extend the application of innovative technologies to Sha Tin District in the future for the benefit of local residents;
- (c) it was mentioned in the paper that the FEHD would accord priority to installing new types of enclosed refuse collection facilities, including solar-powered compacting refuse bins and solar-powered/foot-pedal type aluminium refuse collection points, at 500 suitable locations. Members would like to know whether the FEHD would install those new enclosed refuse collection facilities in the villages in Sha Tin District, as well as their distributions, locations and numbers;
- (d) new smart display panels had been installed at Fo Tan Village Public Toilet during its improvement works to indicate the occupancy of toilet cubicles. However, it was not clear whether the multiple suspension from use and the emission of odour were caused by drainage connection problems. Members enquired about the reason for the frequent closure of Fo Tan Village Public Toilet; and
- (e) noting that 110 public toilets would be refurbished progressively in the future, it was hoped that the FEHD would review the connection conditions of drainage and related facilities near public toilets in rural areas. Apart from incorporating smart elements, the FEHD should ensure that the public toilets could operate normally and would not be suspended from use for a long period of time due to clogging of drainage.

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

- (a) on innovation and technology, the FEHD continued to apply robotic and automated cleaning techniques on various fronts and apply advanced technologies, including the trial use of remote monitoring of the operation system of solar-powered compacting refuse bins, the trial use of fully enclosed on-board refuse bin cleaners, and the pilot project on hydrogen fuel cell street washing vehicles. The FEHD also collaborated with the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department to launch a Smart Toilet Pilot Programme, which made use of big data to enhance the effectiveness of cleaning and maintenance of public toilets;
- (b) ten solar cooling kiosks, which were equipped with air coolers, drinking water dispensers and general facilities, had been introduced in Sha Tin District for cleaning workers to rest. In addition, there were currently one solar-powered compacting refuse bin, 17 solar-powered aluminium refuse collection points, six foot-pedal type aluminium refuse collection points and three solar-powered mobile refuse compactors in Sha Tin District. More types of

advanced technologies would be progressively applied to Sha Tin District upon successful implementation of the Department's pilot scheme;

- (c) for pest control, the FEHD utilised large robotic ultra-low volume foggers, which operated robotically in a large-scale manner, for extensive aerosolisation. Compared with manual knapsack sprayers, the former had a wider aerosol coverage and were more effective in killing adult mosquitoes, especially in heavily wooded areas. The FEHD had introduced the robotic foggers in Sha Tin District and applied them to the areas around Ma Kam Street, Kam Ying Road and Lok Wo Sha Lane in Ma On Shan;
- (d) facilities such as solar-powered compacting refuse bins and solar/foot-pedal type aluminium refuse collection points were widely distributed in the district. Supplementary information on their distributions, locations and numbers would be provided after the meeting; and
- (e) when the FEHD received refurbished public toilets from the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD), it would carry out various tests, including checking whether the water pipes, connections and electric switches were in order, and would only take over the toilets after confirming that the facilities were up to standard. As regards the specific conditions of Fo Tan Village Public Toilet, the FEHD staff could conduct a site visit together with members to understand what aspects required follow-up.

(Post-meeting note: The FEHD explained to the members concerned the specific conditions of Fo Tan Village Public Toilet on 12 May 2025.)

7. Members' further views were as follows:

- (a) members would like to know the FEHD's application of thermal imaging cameras in Sha Tin District, including the specific locations and number of thermal imaging cameras installed as well as the effectiveness of rodent control;
- (b) members asked about the locations of the five rodent infestation black spots in Sha Tin District;
- (c) members enquired about what targeted work the FEHD had conducted to tackle the above rodent infestation black spots, and suggested that the FEHD should work in collaboration with the District Council members of the area to cope with the problem;
- (d) the paper mentioned that the FEHD launched the Anti-rodent Charter (the Charter) on 31 December 2024. Members invited the Department to introduce the content of the Charter;
- (e) members asked what assistance the FEHD would provide to organisations signing the Charter;
- (f) members would like to know the situation of signing of the Charter by organisations in Sha Tin District;
- (g) members reflected the public's concern about the problem of illegal bicycle parking and prolonged occupation of public bicycle parking spaces, and would like to know the number of joint operations conducted in the past and the number of bicycles confiscated; and

(Post-meeting note from the Sha Tin District Office: During the period from January 2024 to April 2025, the Working Group on Tackling Illegal Bicycle Parking in Sha Tin District arranged a total of 32 joint clearance operations and seized 3 510 illegally parked bicycles.)

- (h) members reflected public complaints about frequent obstruction by illegally parked bicycles at MTR Stations along Tuen Ma Line and busy pedestrian walkways, and suggested that a regular mechanism should be devised to address the issue of illegal bicycle parking.

8. The Chairman said the Annex mentioned that seized bicycles would be moved to the storage location of the District Lands Office, and asked the FEHD to explain how the practice was different from the past.

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

- (a) regarding the thermal imaging cameras mentioned by members, the FEHD had been using the cameras to track rodent activities since last year. Taking last year's experience as an example, thermal detection tests were conducted in the first half and second half of the year respectively in all districts in Hong Kong, and the Rodent Absence Rates were set out in Paper No. FEHC 18/2025. This year, the FEHD had set up thermal detection points at about 100 locations in Sha Tin District, and the detection lasted for about one week. Officers of the FEHD Headquarters would analyse the data and publish the Rodent Absence Rates;
- (b) the five rodent infestation black spots in Sha Tin District in 2024 were the rear lane of Houses 143 and 150 in Sheung Keng Hau Village, the rear lane of Houses 52A and 81 in Sheung Keng Hau Village, the rear lane of 41 to 69 Tsuen Nam Road, the rear lane of 2 to 24 Chik Shun Street, and the rear lane of 31 to 71 Chik Fu Street, among which the first two black spots had been cleared;
- (c) starting from December 2024, property management companies (PMCs), owners' corporations or residents' organisations of private residential premises, the Hong Kong Housing Society, transitional housing, subsidised sale flats or Tenants Purchase Scheme estates might sign the Charter to become the FEHD's partners. The commitments of the participants included:
 - (i) assigning one to two persons as anti-rodent liaison ambassadors to coordinate anti-rodent efforts in the housing estates/buildings;
 - (ii) carrying out regular inspections and arranging necessary repairs and maintenance of facilities, and arranging suitable cleansing work or refuse removal in the housing estates/buildings;
 - (iii) implementing anti-rodent measures in the housing estates/buildings;
 - (iv) monitoring the quality and performance of the hired anti-rodent service contractors;
 - (v) maintaining proper records of anti-rodent work; and

- (vi) conveying anti-rodent messages to residents through promotion and education in order to encourage them to improve the environmental conditions and cultivate good habits in personal hygiene and in maintaining a clean environment.
- (d) the assistance provided by the FEHD to organisations signing the Charter included:
 - (i) presenting Charter certificates and stickers, which could be displayed in the premises;
 - (ii) inviting the organisations to attend pest control seminars organised by the FEHD;
 - (iii) providing free technical support for anti-rodent work; and
 - (iv) publishing a list of participating organisations and premises on a dedicated webpage of the FEHD to affirm their efforts.
- (e) as at 8 April 2025, a total of 30 housing estates and premises in Sha Tin District had signed the Charter; and
- (f) as regards illegal bicycle parking, the FEHD participated in the inter-departmental working group coordinated by the District Office, and the FEHD was mainly responsible for providing manpower and vehicles. Illegally parked bicycles were removed by the enforcement department and stored at the designated location of the District Lands Office.

10. Members' further views were as follows:

- (a) some members of the public considered that the data on rodent and pest control did not match the actual situation. Members would like to know whether the FEHD staff were willing to conduct site visits with members and follow up on the issue;
- (b) some members of the public reflected that the waiting time for handling water seepage cases in buildings was too long, or that even though water seepage problems were found, the replies from the Department were unsatisfactory. Members asked whether the FEHD had any new measures to follow up water seepage in buildings, such as whether other testing methods would be adopted for persistent water seepage or whether a case would be closed after only one test had been performed;
- (c) members understood that the Department had an established mechanism to clear illegally parked bicycles. For private housing estates with serious illegal bicycle parking problems, members wished to know whether the FEHD would, with the consent of the management, consider providing assistance or tackling the problem through inter-departmental collaboration to address the public's concern;
- (d) members asked about the current situation of water seepage in buildings in Sha Tin District, whether there had been any improvement in the situation and what specific efforts or measures the Department had put in place;
- (e) members had received some special cases seeking assistance, such as water seepage on a number of consecutive floors at the same time, which should have been detected during inspection by the FEHD or the Joint Office (JO). Members asked whether there would be

any special follow-up actions or arrangements for such cases to help the public better deal with water seepage problems;

- (f) it was mentioned in the paper that 94 PMCs had participated in the Scheme of Participation by Property Management Agents in Tackling Water Seepage in Residential Building (the Scheme). Given that there were over 700 PMCs in Hong Kong, members would like to know the reason for the low participation rate;
- (g) members asked the Department to provide specific information on the number of PMCs in Sha Tin District participating in the Scheme or having assisted in the coordination work of tackling water seepage;
- (h) although water seepage problems were the responsibility of property owners, many of them lacked professional knowledge and had to seek assistance from property management offices, the JO and members' ward offices;
- (i) water seepage caused nuisance to the public, particularly those living in old buildings. While some people were willing to take up the responsibility, some were indifferent to the problem. Members hoped that the Department could educate the public and provide assistance in dealing with water seepage;
- (j) at the last meeting, members enquired of the FEHD about the number of prosecutions instigated on Sha Kok Street since the Wild Animals Protection (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 came into effect and requested for supplementary information on other relevant prosecution figures, but no reply had been received so far; and
- (k) members would like to know whether the FEHD had any plans to install Internet Protocol (IP) cameras at the area on Sha Kok Street where feral pigeons congregated.

11. The Chairman said that the FEHD had supplemented the prosecution figures concerning Sha Kok Street in paragraph 28 of FEHC Minutes 2/2025 for members' reference.

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

- (a) the FEHD staff would be pleased to conduct site visits with members for rodent and pest control if necessary;
- (b) the FEHD attached great importance to water seepage in buildings and had set up four JOs dedicated to deal with the issue, among which the New Territories East Regional JO handled water seepage in buildings in Sha Tin District;
- (c) the FEHD Headquarters had formed a task force to actively promote the Scheme to PMCs and invite them to participate. Award presentation ceremonies had also been held in the past to give recognition to participating PMCs;
- (d) the FEHD had created a thematic webpage with illustrated information and news on water seepage and produced a short video to help the public understand the complex problem of water seepage. Members were welcome to visit the webpage for further information;

- (e) the representative of the FEHD regularly discussed with the Headquarters on the specific arrangements for identifying locations to install IP cameras; and
- (f) according to records, between 1 August 2024 and 28 February 2025, the FEHD staff issued 51 fixed penalty notices under the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (Cap. 570) in the vicinity of Sha Kok Street for fouling public places and affecting the cityscape, including one fixed penalty notice for fouling public places by feeding wild birds. During the same period, the FEHD staff also issued one fixed penalty notice under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) in Sha Tin District for illegal feeding of wild birds.

13. Members' further views were as follows:

- (a) among the cases seeking assistance from members' ward offices, problems related to water seepage accounted for a high percentage. While members recognised that water seepage was a complex issue, residents and members had high expectation of the FEHD's involvement;
- (b) the FEHD should shoulder a certain level of responsibilities in dealing with water seepage in buildings and should not overly confine its duties;
- (c) it was hoped that the Department could put forward more targeted measures to tackle water seepage in buildings. The absence of related content in the paper and the fact that the information on the Scheme on the FEHD's webpage was last updated as far back as 2018 however reflected that the Scheme had not been given due attention;
- (d) members would like to know the situation of water seepage in buildings in Sha Tin District and which housing estates faced more serious problems. The Department was asked to provide specific data and reports;
- (e) members had previously reflected that the phone of the JO was hardly reachable, making it difficult to enquire about the progress of cases. Members asked whether the Department could provide more convenient means of contact, such as hotlines or other channels;
- (f) it was mentioned in the paper that the JO would organise seminars for the public and PMCs. Members would like to know how to enrol for those seminars and whether the Department would take the initiative to contact housing estates with serious water seepage problems in order to provide services for them;
- (g) the paper did not mention the Department's work plan on water seepage in buildings for 2025-2026. Members would like to know what the Department's work plan was in this regard;
- (h) the FEHD, the Buildings Department and the Pro-bono Online Mediation Scheme for Water Seepage Disputes jointly organised a seminar on water seepage in March this year, having attracted over 100 participants. Members would like to know the number of users of the mediation service so far; and
- (i) while the rainy season had yet to start, the mosquito infestation in Ma On Shan was already very serious. Members would like to know whether anti-mosquito efforts could be stepped

up in Ma On Shan. As the paper did not mention the frequency of anti-mosquito operations or specific plans, members asked the FEHD to provide relevant information.

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

- (a) noting members' concerns over water seepage, she pointed out that the information in the paper was of a more general nature. Given that the New Territories East Regional JO was responsible for the work on water seepage in buildings in Sha Tin District, she would arrange for the JO to reply to members' enquiries about water seepage;
- (b) she would provide supplementary information on the Pro-bono Online Mediation Scheme for Water Seepage Disputes after the meeting;
- (c) before the rainy season this year, the FEHD had commenced the second phase of Sha Tin District Anti-mosquito Campaign, which took place from 14 April to 13 June 2025 and lasted for nine weeks. As at April 2025, the gravidtrap indices of Sha Tin District remained at a satisfactory level. The FEHD would continue to take forward the anti-mosquito work; and
- (d) regarding anti-mosquito operations targeting specific areas, the FEHD would contact members to follow up on the relevant issue after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The FEHD followed up on the anti-mosquito issue with relevant members on 19 May 2025.)

15. Members' further views were as follows:

- (a) in view of the frequent occurrences of pet urinating and defecating in private residential areas, members wished to know the effectiveness of equipment such as high pressure hot water cleaners and pressure washer surface cleaners in eliminating odour;
- (b) the Annex listed the ten most concerned spots in the district, among which four were located in Wu Kai Sha, making up a high proportion. Members wished to know the reason why these spots were on the list and relevant details;
- (c) in connection with public education, it was mentioned in the paper that the FEHD held 1 391 talks last year. Members enquired about the number of talks held in Sha Tin District among them and the FEHD's work objectives or direction in the future;
- (d) with the issue of dripping air conditioners not mentioned in the Annex "Sha Tin District Action Plan", members would like to know whether the FEHD would include this issue in the Sha Tin District Action Plan, and asked the FEHD to collect from members the black spots of dripping air conditioners in Sha Tin District and take follow-up actions;
- (e) among the 15 spots listed in Appendix III where refuse was frequently dumped, one was located on Fo Tan Road westbound near Tsung Tau Ha Road. Having followed up on the issue in the Area Committee for many years, members asked whether cameras could be installed at the location to address the issue;
- (f) members commended the FEHD for collaborating with members last year to effectively eradicate the problem of pallet disposal on Ngau Wu Tok Street;

- (g) waste often accumulated in Shing Mun River during typhoons, rainstorms or spring tides. Members suggested that apart from regular clean-ups, the Department could conduct clean-up operations targeting special weather conditions and invite green groups as well as district organisations to take part; and
- (h) members suggested the FEHD address the problem arising from feral pigeons with an integrated approach. Beyond enforcement and cleansing, testing of wild bird droppings could be conducted for surveillance on avian influenza to enhance efficiency.

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

- (a) the FEHD adopted high pressure hot water cleaners and pressure washer surface cleaners to clean streets. Compared to cleaning with traditional hosepipes, brushes or bleaching powder, pressure washer surface cleaners could effectively remove stubborn stains on streets, cleaning the road surface without the use of chemicals. In respect of members' enquiry on the effectiveness of street washing equipment in odour elimination, since the existing equipment could not directly remove odour, the FEHD suggested approaching the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) for follow-up if specific odour issue was involved;
- (b) the FEHD had installed IP cameras on Tsung Tau Ha Road to combat illegal disposal of refuse;
- (c) before the occurrence of special weather conditions such as typhoons or the Red or Black Rainstorm signal, the FEHD would, in response to warnings issued by the Hong Kong Observatory, cooperate with the Drainage Services Department to clear the drains at potential flooding black spots in advance. Afterwards, it would mobilise staff to rapidly clean up the waste left in the drains within 24 hours of the rainstorm or typhoon; and
- (d) upon receiving reports from the public on discovery of bird carcasses or feral pigeon droppings, the FEHD was responsible for cleaning and disinfection using 1:49 diluted bleaching agent, whereas the testing of droppings was the duty of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD).

17. Members' further views were as follows:

- (a) members wished to know the number, topics and content of the public education talks held by the FEHD in Sha Tin District;
- (b) while many people hoped to know about green burial, they lacked access to relevant information. Members hoped to collaborate with the FEHD to hold talks and activities to provide information to the public;
- (c) noting that there were still three rodent black spots in Tai Wai Town Centre, members wished to know the FEHD's anti-rodent plan and operation details upon detection of the rodent infestation;
- (d) members asked whether the Department had guidelines on monitoring cleaning contractors and how it could ensure that rodent bait and cage traps were placed properly;

- (e) given the vast number of restaurants in Tai Wai, members enquired about the action plans of the Department for the management of refuse bins at the rear lanes of restaurants;
- (f) though dog owners in private housing estates would clean up the urine and faeces of their dogs with water, the odour was difficult to remove. Members wished to know how the FEHD advised pet owners to properly handle urine and faeces through education or other means;
- (g) members asked the FEHD to provide street washing schedules so that they could follow up on the hygiene condition of streets;
- (h) members thanked the FEHD staff for their previous visit to Yiu On Estate to understand the views of people in the estate;
- (i) many bicycles were occupying bicycle parking spaces for prolonged periods in Ma On Shan, resulting in hygienic problems. Members suggested regularly clearing the bicycles and miscellaneous objects to free up bicycle parking spaces and keep the environment hygienic;
- (j) members hoped that the FEHD could provide the anti-mosquito and anti-rodent action plans for housing estates so that they could monitor the work; and
- (k) at the entrance of Yiu On Estate on Hang Hong Street, plants were luxuriant in the flower bed on the right whereas the one on the left was rather messy. Members hoped that the Department could follow up on the beautification of the flower beds.

(Post-meeting note from the Housing Department: Yiu On Estate was a Tenants Purchase Scheme estate where the responsibility to manage and maintain public places within the estate fell upon the owners' corporation (OC) and the management company hired by the OC. After deploying staff to conduct a site visit in Yiu On Estate on 13 May, the Housing Department confirmed that the flower beds mentioned by members were located within the public area managed by the OC. Therefore, the Department had referred the case to the management company of the OC for follow-up.)

18. The Chairman wished to know the FEHD's study progress on the installation of a passenger lift at the main entrance of Sha Tin Market.

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

- (a) the FEHD operated the Health Education Exhibition and Resource Centre in Tsim Sha Tsui, promoting food safety as well as personal and environmental hygiene. Information about green burial was included there;
- (b) the number of talks held in Sha Tin District would be provided after the meeting;

(Post-meeting note: The Health Education Exhibition and Resource Centre of the FEHD had organised altogether 51 talks and activities in Sha Tin District for schools, elderly centres, shopping malls and community centres. It had also arranged the Mobile Education Centre to visit housing estates and hospitals in the district to conduct six promotional activities in total for further promotion on the information about food safety, environmental hygiene and green burial to the public.)

- (c) if there was a need to obtain information about green burial, the FEHD could assist in contacting the section involved for the arrangement to organise related educational activities in Sha Tin District;
- (d) in view that the three rodent black spots in Tai Wai Town Centre were mostly located in the rear lanes of restaurants, different sections of the FEHD would take the following actions to step up rodent control:
 - (i) the Environmental Hygiene Section would monitor the rear lanes of restaurants and instigate prosecutions against people having illegally placed objects there;
 - (ii) the Cleansing Section would enhance street washing; and
 - (iii) the Pest Control Section would carry out work including culling, luring and placing cage traps.
- (e) the FEHD addressed the issue of pet urinating and defecating in various aspects. Apart from regular cleaning including cleansing the affected locations with a water jet or a street washing vehicle, the FEHD would step up enforcement and conduct educational activities such as distributing promotional leaflets and hanging banners or signs at black spots of urination and defecation as reminders for the public;
- (f) the FEHD would review from time to time the schedules of street washing, which could not be released as the frequency of street washing varied with locations instead of being fixed;
- (g) regarding illegally parked bicycles, the FEHD participated in the inter-departmental joint operations coordinated by the District Office involving the Highways Department, the Police and the District Lands Office, etc. During the clearance operations conducted twice a month, the FEHD assisted by providing manpower and vehicles whereas the District Lands Office led the enforcement action to remove illegally parked bicycles and store them at the designated place;
- (h) the FEHD took the leading role in anti-mosquito and anti-rodent work. In addition to requiring property management departments to monitor premises under their purview, the FEHD would take the initiative to provide technical support and advice, as well as inviting relevant departments to take part in joint operations;
- (i) the FEHD regularly cleaned planters located in the middle of roads with a speed limit below 70 km/h, and had already installed IP cameras at certain black spots for surveillance; and
- (j) as indicated in the feasibility report of the ArchSD, the proposal for installing a lift under the footbridge at the main entrance of Sha Tin Market was unfeasible. The FEHD was studying other feasible plans with the ArchSD to improve the market environment.

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

Questions

Question Raised by Mr HA Kim-kwan on the Mobile Application “HA Go” of the Hospital Authority (Paper No. FEHC 15/2025)

21. The Chairman asked members whether they had any further enquiries.
22. Members’ further enquiries and views were as follows:
- (a) some members of the public reported that their medical examination reports had not been uploaded to the “My Record” page of the “HA Go” application. Upon verification, it was found that the reason was the examinations in question had been performed before the function was introduced, but a few individuals reported that their examination reports had not been shown in the “My Record” page. Members suggested that the Hospital Authority (HA) confirm whether all examination records had been uploaded and follow up on omissions;
 - (b) while members understood that medical records were primarily written in English, the “HA Go” application was launched with a view to facilitating the public to manage their health records. Members suggested that the HA should explore adding Chinese versions to medical records and might consider including a disclaimer. If the public had to enquire of healthcare personnel all the time, this might in fact intensify the pressure on public healthcare;
 - (c) it was a good practice that certain hospitals in Shenzhen gave patients health advice via WeChat mini programs. If the public could care about their own health risks via the “HA Go” application and undergo more examinations for early diagnosis, this could help alleviate the burden on public healthcare;
 - (d) though many elderly people appreciated the thoughtful design of the “HA Go” application, some of them encountered difficulties in login and usage. For example, they often forgot their passwords or usernames. When resetting the password, they could not complete the action in time due to the short time limit for entering the SMS one-time password, making them necessary to seek assistance from others;
 - (e) the “MyHealth – My Measurement” function of the “HA Go” application enabled users to record their health data. Members suggested adding an alert function for abnormal body mass index or blood pressure; and
 - (f) members suggested that the HA promote the use of “iAM Smart” for “HA Go” login, so that elderly people did not have to memorise their passwords and could use the application in a more convenient way.
23. A representative of the HA gave a consolidated response as follows:
- (a) members were appreciated for proposing various suggestions on the “HA Go” application;
 - (b) the suggestions of adding Chinese versions to medical reports and providing health information would be relayed to the Head Office for consideration;

- (c) with regard to providing health information or advice following the release of examination reports, most patients having received their reports would see the doctor in follow-up appointments, during which doctors often provided them with instructions or advice on health management, especially targeting chronic diseases;
- (d) it was understood that the elderly might encounter difficulties when logging in to the “HA Go” application, and agreed that login via “iAM Smart” was a convenient way. The HA would explore promoting “iAM Smart” to the public for “HA Go” login;
- (e) the suggestion of extending the time limit for entering the SMS one-time password would be relayed to the Head Office;
- (f) smartphones could now support biometric verification functions such as face or fingerprint recognition. The HA suggested teaching the elderly to activate biometric verification for “HA Go” login;
- (g) information that patients entered on the “HA Go” application was often reviewed by doctors or nurses during follow-up appointments. Healthcare personnel would provide them with advice on monitoring chronic diseases in aspects such as improving blood pressure, body weight and blood glucose level; and
- (h) as health targets varied among patients (for example, the control targets of elderly and young people were different), it was necessary to further study the possibility of providing personalised advice on the “HA Go” application.

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

Question Raised by Mr YEUNG Ying-hon, Ronald on Concerns over the Impact of the Persisting Red Tides in Tolo Harbour
(Paper No. FEHC 16/2025)

25. The Chairman asked members whether they had any further enquiries.

26. Members’ further enquiries and views were as follows:

- (a) members observed that since the red tide occurred in mid-February, there had still been occasional red tides on the sea surface over the following month. The Department indicated in its reply that it would not carry out clean-ups if a red tide was harmless or non-toxic. This round of red tide lasted for a long time, which did not only affect the appearance of the environment but also gave off an unpleasant odour, impacting residents in the vicinity of Tolo Harbour and Ma On Shan Promenade. Members asked whether the Department would revise the criteria in the future and consider carrying out clean-ups if similar situations occurred again; and
- (b) members noted that there were trials on monitoring water quality with scientific buoys in areas such as Tsuen Wan, Lantau Island and North Point. They wished to know whether the EPD would introduce scientific buoys to Sha Tin District in the future, for example, by placing them in the waters of Tolo Harbour or Shing Mun River to monitor water quality.

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

- (a) he thanked members for their concerns about the red tide incident in question. The Inter-departmental Red Tide Working Group of the Government addressed red tide incidents according to an established mechanism, in which the duties of the AFCD included notifying fishermen via SMS messages and disseminating information to members of the public. Whenever a red tide occurred, the AFCD would issue a press release and update the red tide information on its website and social media page, enabling the public to understand the red tide conditions in different districts;
- (b) red tides were natural phenomena affected by various factors, including natural factors (such as light intensity, water temperature, water flow and the amount of microscopic algae in the sea) and anthropogenic factors. The algae involved, spreading over the entire water body, were considerably difficult to clear. Despite having drawn reference from international experience, the AFCD had yet to find an effective clean-up method; and
- (c) in addition to paying close attention to the technological development of red tide clean-up, the AFCD would contact other departments like the Marine Department to explore whether there was a feasible clean-up method while continuing to follow up on the issue.

28. A representative of the EPD noted members' concern for scientific buoys and would relay their views to the Water Quality Management Group for consideration. The EPD regularly monitored the water quality of Shing Mun River, which was currently at good level.

(Post-meeting note: The EPD had been carrying out regular monitoring of water quality in waters all over Hong Kong including Tolo Harbour. The scientific buoys deployed in Victoria Harbour and main channels of Lantau Island collected hydrodynamic and water quality data for model calibration and validation. There were no plans at the current stage to deploy scientific buoys in other waters.)

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

Information Papers

Sha Tin District Anti-mosquito Campaign 2025 (Second Phase)
(Paper No. FEHC 17/2025)

Statistical Overview of Sha Tin District Environmental Hygiene Services (as at 31 March 2025)
(Paper No. FEHC 18/2025)

Cleaning Pedestrian Walkways to Improve the Cityscape
(Paper No. FEHC 19/2025)

Report on Current Situation and Progress of Resource Recovery in Sha Tin District
(Paper No. FEHC 20/2025)

30. The Chairman suggested a combined discussion on Sha Tin District Anti-mosquito Campaign 2025 (Second Phase), Statistical Overview of Sha Tin District Environmental Hygiene Services (as at 31 March 2025), Cleaning Pedestrian Walkways to Improve the Cityscape and Report on Current Situation and Progress of Resource Recovery in Sha Tin District.

31. Members' views were as follows:

- (a) members were concerned about the cost-effectiveness of GREEN@COMMUNITY. While the recycling situation and statistics of GREEN@COMMUNITY were mentioned in the paper, the annual operating costs of the six service points were not provided. Since it was difficult to evaluate the cost-effectiveness without comprehensive information, members asked the EPD to provide supplementary information after the meeting;
- (b) some housing estates reported the lack of recycling facilities in the neighbourhood. One of them said that it could lend its place for the EPD to set up a smart recycling system, which might cost less than GREEN@COMMUNITY facilities while operating for longer hours. Members wished to know whether the EPD would consider the suggestion, asking the Department to provide contact information for enquiry;
- (c) members suggested that the EPD should assist in addressing the issue of food waste recycling at school. They said that a secondary school in Wo Che Estate, having not signed a contract with a catering service provider, could not have its food waste processed by the provider and had to use external recycling facilities on its own. Members suggested that the EPD take the initiative to contact the school, offering to provide a food waste recycling bin so as to promote education on food waste recycling at the school level. They asked the EPD to provide contact details of the staff involved and take follow-up actions; and
- (d) a member who had previously reported the hygienic problem on a footpath commended the FEHD staff for rapidly arriving at the site for cleaning.

32. A representative of the EPD noted members' enquiries and suggestions on the operating costs of GREEN@COMMUNITY, installation of smart recycling systems in places provided by housing estates, and food waste recycling facilities at school. He would forward the enquiries and suggestions to the Waste Reduction and Community Recycling Group and would report the progress via the Secretariat after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: In connection with the issue about the operating costs of GREEN@COMMUNITY, the EPD would report to members via the Secretariat by providing supplementary information. As regards the installation of smart recycling systems and facilities in places provided by housing estates, members could contact Ms LAM Ka-yee, Project Officer (Waste Reduction and Community Recycling)³¹ of the Waste Reduction and Community Recycling Group of the EPD (Tel.: 3893 4317). For enquiries on promoting food waste recycling at school, members could contact Ms CHAU Choi-mei, Michelle, Environmental Protection Officer (Waste Reduction and Community Recycling)⁹¹ of the same group (Tel.: 3690 7845).)

33. A representative of the FEHD thanked members for recognising the Department's work. She said that the Department had enhanced cleaning since February and would review the demand to carry out strategic cleansing at different locations.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

34. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 25 June 2025 (Wednesday).
35. The meeting was closed at 4:04 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat
STDC 13/15/70

June 2025