

Sha Tin District Council
Minutes of the 4th Meeting of
the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee in 2025

Date : 25 June 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	4:01 pm
Mr DENG Kairong, BBS, MH, JP (Vice Chairman)	2:30 pm	4:01 pm
Mr WONG Wai-shing	2:30 pm	4:01 pm
Mr KU Wai-ping	2:30 pm	4:01 pm
Mr CHU Wun-chiu	2:30 pm	4:01 pm
Miss LEE Ching-yee, Janet	2:31 pm	4:01 pm
Mr NG Kai-tai	2:30 pm	4:01 pm
Ms LAM Siu-man	2:30 pm	4:01 pm
Ms LAM Yuk-wa	2:30 pm	4:01 pm
Ms LAM Chung-yan, Nancy, MH	2:30 pm	4:01 pm
Mr YIU Ka-chun, MH	2:30 pm	4:01 pm
Mr HA Kim-kwan	2:30 pm	4:01 pm
Mr AU Chi-on, Paul	2:30 pm	4:01 pm
Mr LEUNG Chun-pong, Maverick	2:30 pm	4:01 pm
Mr LEUNG Ka-fai, MH	2:30 pm	4:01 pm
Ms CHAN Man-kuen, MH	2:30 pm	4:01 pm
Ms CHAN Sin-ming	2:30 pm	4:01 pm
Mr CHAN Tan-tan	2:31 pm	4:01 pm
Miss MOK Hei-man	2:30 pm	4:01 pm
Mr WONG Yue-hon	2:32 pm	4:01 pm
Ms WONG Po-yee	2:30 pm	4:01 pm
Mr YEUNG Ying-hon, Ronald	2:30 pm	4:01 pm
Miss TUNG Kin-lei	2:30 pm	4:01 pm
Mr TSOI Ming-yang	2:30 pm	4:01 pm
Mr PUN Kwok-shan, BBS, MH, JP	2:30 pm	4:01 pm
Mr CHOI Wai-shing	2:30 pm	4:01 pm
Mr LAU Tak-wing	2:30 pm	4:01 pm
Ms LAW Yi-lam	2:30 pm	4:01 pm
Miss LAW Yuen-pui	2:31 pm	4:01 pm
Ms LO Tai-suen, Ada	2:30 pm	4:01 pm
Ms KUNG Mei-chi	2:30 pm	4:01 pm
Ms WONG Lok-yi	2:30 pm	4:01 pm
Ms SUN Wan	2:30 pm	4:01 pm
Mr TANG Hoi-chung	2:30 pm	4:01 pm
Mr WONG Chiu-kwan, Andy (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council)3, Sha Tin District Office	

In Attendance

Ms ZHONG Shek-wa, Sophia
Mr LEE Man-fai, Dave

Mr HUI Tsz-ming, Jaco

Ms YIP King

Ms NGAN Wai-yee

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
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

Ms SUM Wai-ching, Tammy

Mr SHEK Wai-ming

Ms KWAN Hoi-ling, Kelly

Mr HO Wing-cheong

Mr LO Hok-wing, Joe

Mr WONG Yuk-man, Patrick

Mr WAI Kam-fat, Danny

Dr LEUNG Wing-kit

Ms CHAN Shi-na, Sara

Mr WONG Tsz-tik, Andy

Title

Deputy District Leisure Manager (Sha Tin)²,
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Leisure Manager (Tree) New Territories East,
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Landscape Architect/⁵,
Highways Department
Chief Technical Officer/Shatin (1) (Atg),
Highways Department
Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Sha Tin),
Lands Department
Housing Manager/Tai Po, North and Shatin 3,
Housing Department
Chief Health Inspector (Regional Joint Office) New Territories East,
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Deputy Chief of Service (Family Medicine),
New Territories East Cluster, Hospital Authority
Manager (Communications and Community Relations),
Prince of Wales Hospital, Hospital Authority
Manager (Communications and Community Relations),
Prince of Wales Hospital, Hospital Authority

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

Application for Leave of Absence

2. The Chairman said that the Sha Tin District Council (STDC) 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 23 April 2025
(FEHC Minutes 3/2025)

3. Members unanimously endorsed the above minutes.

Discussion Item

Responses of Government Departments to Matters Regarding the “Strategy and Work for Improvement of Environmental Hygiene in Hong Kong” Arising from the Previous Meeting (Paper No. FEHC 21/2025)

4. A representative of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) briefly introduced the paper.
5. Members noted the paper. The Chairman announced the end of discussion on the agenda item.

Questions

Question Raised by Mr HA Kim-kwan on Night Out-patient Service in Sha Tin District (Paper No. FEHC 22/2025)

6. The Chairman asked members whether they had any further enquiries.
7. Members’ further enquiries and views were as follows:
 - (a) it was pointed out that members of the public might lack basic health knowledge, making it difficult for them to assess the severity of their conditions. As a result, they often chose to visit the accident and emergency (A&E) departments when symptoms arose at night or in early morning hours;
 - (b) it was suggested that before reforming public healthcare fees, health education should be strengthened by collaborating with community stakeholders to enrich the public’s health knowledge, so as to enable them to determine when it was necessary to attend the A&E departments;
 - (c) it was suggested that the Department of Health maintain a list of private clinics offering overnight out-patient services;
 - (d) it was suggested that night out-patient services be enhanced in the district;
 - (e) at the time, the Hospital Authority (HA) provided evening general out-patient (GOP) services in Lek Yuen and Ma On Shan only, without expanding to other areas in response to the population growth in Sha Tin District. Although a shortage of medical staff might limit the expansion of evening GOP services, corresponding measures should be introduced alongside the reform on public healthcare fees, such as increasing the quotas for GOP services. This would enable people who might have otherwise attended the A&E departments to visit GOP clinics instead;
 - (f) it was hoped that the HA would promptly address the difficulty in making appointments for GOP services and enhance evening GOP services. Only by doing so could patients be diverted from A&E departments to GOP clinics and public confidence in the reform on public healthcare fees be built;
 - (g) since the grassroots had limited options for seeking medical care at night, it was suggested that the operating hours of evening GOP services be extended; and

- (h) concerns were expressed about the impact of the reform on public healthcare fees on the pricing of private clinics. It was worried that private clinics might raise their consultation fees in the light of the reform. It was asked whether there was any mechanism at present to regulate the pricing of private clinics.

8. A representative of the HA gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) it was agreed that members of the public needed to be educated on distinguishing between conditions required attendance to A&E departments and conditions under which visit to GOP clinics would suffice. The HA would consider holding public education activities and providing relevant information to GOP patients;
- (b) under the new arrangement of A&E fee adjustment, patients categorised as Triage I and II (i.e. critical and emergency) under the existing triage system were exempt from payment. For Triage III, IV and V (i.e. urgent, semi-urgent and non-urgent), the patients did not face immediate life-threatening conditions. It was believed that the general public could, in most circumstances, judge whether a condition was life-threatening so as to decide whether to use A&E services;
- (c) the HA New Territories East Cluster had launched the mobile application “NTEC AE Aid”, providing information on private hospitals and clinics in the district, including addresses, telephone numbers and consultation hours. It was hoped that STDC members would promote this application in the community so that residents could use it to find suitable medical services in non-emergency situations;
- (d) the Government’s GOP clinics were positioned to provide comprehensive medical services for the grassroots, serving as a safety net. It was hoped that those with better financial means would make use of private healthcare services in non-emergency situations, leaving the resources for patients with serious or emergency conditions;
- (e) there were currently two private hospitals in Sha Tin District, namely CUHK Medical Centre and Union Hospital, both of which provided 24-hour emergency services. Members of the public with financial capability could consider using their services. As for the suggestion of enhancing evening GOP services, the representative of the HA had already responded in a previous meeting;
- (f) emergency services and GOP services had entirely different target groups as well as allocations of resources and manpower, thereby not being direct substitutes of each other. GOP clinics primarily served the elderly, the underprivileged, and chronic disease patients with stable conditions;
- (g) enhancing evening GOP services or extending its operating hours was not the most effective way to utilise GOP resources;
- (h) it was added that the evening GOP services provided by the HA in Lek Yuen and Ma On Shan were available until 10 pm; and

- (i) regarding the impact of the increase in A&E fee on private healthcare pricing, the HA would keep in view the effects on the healthcare market, and would conduct regular reviews and make adjustment as necessary.

9. Members' further views were as follows:

- (a) people tended to take elderly family members and children to A&E departments out of the concern for their conditions. It was hoped that the HA would take the members' suggestions seriously and step up the promotion of basic health knowledge during the healthcare reform; and
- (b) for over two decades, there had been requests for the provision of evening services in more GOP clinics or extending the operating hours, but these requests remained unaddressed. The HA should make use of the opportunity of the healthcare fee reform to review and optimise GOP services, and improve the appointment system for GOP services and other supporting measures while increasing the A&E fee.

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

- (a) it took time for members of the public to learn and adapt to new changes, just as the transition from queuing for discs to telephone booking for GOP appointments. In spite of some inconvenience at first, public acceptance gradually increased with educational efforts. It was believed that the adjustment to healthcare fees presented an opportunity to strengthen education, helping the public progressively understand how to choose the appropriate medical service in different situations. It was hoped that this would ultimately promote their health knowledge and change their behaviour on seeking medical care;
- (b) with an ageing population and rising demand for chronic disease management, GOP services evolved with the times to strengthen disease prevention, proactively screening for early-stage conditions and providing appropriate treatments to prevent complications. In the long term, the likelihood of chronic disease patients using A&E services or being hospitalised due to severe complications would be reduced, thereby improving the overall health of Hong Kong people; and
- (c) the HA headquarters had been reviewing evening GOP services in various districts. Through resource reallocation, the quotas of evening GOP services would increase in areas with insufficient private medical services at night.

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

Question Raised by Ms CHAN Man-kuen on the Collapse of an Old Tree at Kwong Sin Street, Sha Tin Causing Injuries to a Passer-by
(Paper No. FEHC 23/2025)

12. A representative of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) gave a presentation on tree inspection equipment.

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

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

- (a) members appreciated the LCSD for its active handling and follow-up after the tree collapse incident on Kwong Sin Street on 28 April as well as the site visit with members to assess health conditions of the trees in the vicinity of Kwong Sin Street;
- (b) the LCSD had inspected the tree in question on 29 March. However, after the heavy rain on 25 April, the tree collapsed on 28 April and injured a passer-by, suggesting potential issues with the tree inspection. The Department should review the tree inspection methods and determine when to use visual inspection or professional equipment;
- (c) there were plenty of trees near Kwong Sin Street, and nearby residents were deeply concerned about the tree collapse incident;
- (d) members enquired about the progress, future plans and completion timeline of the enhancement programme of vegetation undertaken by the LCSD and the Highways Department (HyD) in Sha Tin District;
- (e) members would like to know the handling procedures of the Lands Department (LandsD) after receiving complaints about trees and plants. The LandsD had not been able to immediately address the past complaints by members, which might be due to manpower or resource constraints. It was suggested that the Department allocate more resources to handle this kind of complaints;
- (f) it was pointed out that the growing roots of many roadside trees had caused uneven road surfaces, affecting residents' daily commutes. When complaints were lodged to the relevant departments, they did not want to disturb the tree roots, resulting in the problem unresolved. Members would like to know how the departments would address uneven road surfaces caused by tree roots;
- (g) regarding the tree inspections on Kwong Sin Street by the LCSD, members would like to know whether the inspections were conducted visually or with the use of equipment, the inspection frequency and whether every tree was inspected;
- (h) the LCSD was recognised for its efficiency in re-inspecting the site and promptly removing five trees with poor growth conditions after the tree collapse incident;
- (i) members sought to understand why the LCSD failed to discover the problem and remove the tree concerned during the inspection at the venue in March, and would like to know the tree assessment mechanism of the LCSD;
- (j) the HyD took a long time to repair the crushed railings and restore the paving blocks. It was hoped that the HyD could enhance its repair arrangements to expedite the repair to minimise the impact on pedestrians;
- (k) members enquired whether the LandsD was equipped with the tree inspection equipment mentioned in the LCSD's presentation, and asked about the tree inspection methods and manpower deployment;

- (l) members asked about the inspection status of the several large trees at the entrance of Siu Lek Yuen Village on Kwong Sin Street adjacent to the Route No. 808 minibus stop and a bus stop;
- (m) the LCSD's written response stated that the tree collapse incident was caused by water accumulation at the tree root following the heavy rain, leading to root rot. Members enquired whether the Department had the equipment to inspect tree roots to assess the health conditions of trees;
- (n) members asked about the process of obtaining the qualification as an arborist;
- (o) members enquired about the criteria for removing trees growing at unsuitable locations; and
- (p) members asked how to determine whether to replant a tree at the site of the tree collapse.

15. A representative of the LCSD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the tree in question was a Flame Tree which the LCSD had inspected in March. The photos showed that the tree was in normal health with luxuriant branches even on the day it collapsed;
- (b) there had been continuous rainfall during the two to three days before the collapse and the Hong Kong Observatory had issued the Amber Rainstorm Signal. While rainwater was discharged through the soil beneath the tree pit under normal circumstances, the tree concerned was in a special geographical environment that prevented the soil from discharging water, causing water accumulation and reducing root anchorage;
- (c) with the tree in question tilting towards the road, roots should be more developed on the side near the cycling track to support the tree's weight. However, according to the photos taken on site, the roots of the tree concerned grew in restricted conditions and had been disturbed, affecting its stability;
- (d) the LCSD conducted tree inspections before the rain and tropical cyclone season every year. The 28 Flame Trees planted along Kwong Sin Street were found to be in normal health during the visual inspection this year;
- (e) considering that other Flame Trees on Kwong Sin Street grew in the same climate and terrain, when one of them collapsed, the LCSD would adopt a more conservative approach to handle other trees on the same street. As a result, the Department arranged for the removal of five trees in relatively poor health at the location in June. The removal of trees with potential risks was usually completed within one month;
- (f) the enhancement programme for vegetation launched two years ago primarily targeted Acacia confusa planted in large numbers 40 to 50 years ago with a lifespan of about 50 years. The LCSD would remove trees in poor health in phases;
- (g) the LCSD removed older Acacia confusa in poor condition from Chui Tin Street and Shing Mun Riverside in 2023 and 2024 respectively. Following that, it would remove trees from Sha Tin Park and Che Kung Miu Road Playground, and would later inspect roadside Acacia

confusa along Ngan Shing Street and in Heng On Estate. It was expected that further follow-up on trees in poor health would be conducted in 2026;

- (h) the LCSD adopted a dual-track mode for tree removal. If any *Acacia confusa* was identified as dangerous due to its health condition during routine inspections, the LCSD would arrange for removal as soon as possible without waiting for the enhancement programme for vegetation;
- (i) the LCSD generally replanted trees after removal to sustain community greening. In the case of replanting trees in narrow road sections or removing trees for road widening, the Department would work in coordination with the HyD and the Transport Department;
- (j) in recent years, the LCSD had no longer opted to plant tree species with extensive root systems like Chinese Banyan and Tree Cotton in public areas;
- (k) after the removal of six Flame Trees from Kwong Sin Street, Golden Penda would be planted at three locations. Upon discussion with STDC members based on the actual on-site conditions, the LCSD agreed not to replant trees at the other three locations due to the impact on pedestrian access, and had coordinated with the HyD to directly fill the tree pits;
- (l) the LCSD would replace tree species unsuitable for planting on the roadside with flowering trees or species with less extensive root systems; and
- (m) the Development Bureau (DEVB) was devising a plan to proactively remove trees that did not present obvious health problems but affected the community or pedestrians. Various departments were currently collating relevant information and would consult the STDC afterwards.

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

- (a) the Enhancement Programme of Vegetated Slopes of the HyD primarily targeted pioneer species, namely *Acacia confusa*, and would prioritise the phased replacement of *Acacia confusa* according to the number of trees on slopes and the risk levels of trees;
- (b) the HyD also adopted a dual-track mode for tree removal. The Department would arrange for the prompt removal of any trees that were identified as dangerous or high-risk during routine inspections without waiting for the Enhancement Programme of Vegetated Slopes;
- (c) as growth conditions of trees changed over time, the HyD had not set a specific completion timeline for the Enhancement Programme of Vegetated Slopes, but would conduct an annual review on the programme; and
- (d) the collapsed tree on Kwong Sin Street had caused damage to the railings, paving blocks and surface of the cycling track. Repairing works of the railings were completed at present, with the paving blocks and surface of the cycling track expected to be repaired by mid to late July.

17. A representative of the District Lands Office, Sha Tin (DLO/ST) gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the LandsD was primarily responsible for the non-routine maintenance of trees on unleased or unallocated government land with no designated departments for daily management, and handling complaints and referrals regarding trees and plants;
- (b) owing to the vast amount of unleased or unallocated government land at locations not frequented by the public, the LandsD did not have a tree inspection mechanism;
- (c) if time was required for case processing, the LandsD would cordon off potentially dangerous trees so that the public could be kept at a safe distance to prevent accidents;
- (d) contractors of the LandsD employed different technologies and equipment when handling cases, including telescopes, mallets, cameras, inclinometers, resistograph and sonic tomograph;
- (e) the LandsD had been utilising technology in tree management for data collection and analysis to grasp the growth of trees and assess the risks they posed; and
- (f) according to records, the tree in question and roadside trees in the vicinity of Kwong Sin Street were not maintained by the LandsD. Members could provide specific locations after the meeting for further confirmation.

(Post-meeting note from the DLO/ST: The trees mentioned by members were located within 10 metres of Kwong Sin Street. According to the relevant works technical circular of the DEVB, these trees were maintained by the LCSD.

Post-meeting note from the LCSD: In respect of members' enquiries about the inspection status of two large trees at the entrance of Siu Lek Yuen Village on Kwong Sin Street near the Route No. 808 minibus stop and a bus stop, the two trees were Flame Trees maintained by the LCSD and the Department conducted a tree risk assessment on them on 29 March 2025. After the tree collapse incident on Kwong Sin Street, the LCSD further conducted a comprehensive tree risk assessment on 6 May and 21 May on nearby trees including the aforementioned two trees, and the trees involved had normal growth and health conditions at present. The LCSD would conduct tree maintenance and pruning on these trees in mid-July to mitigate the risks they posed to the public.)

18. A representative of the Housing Department (HD) gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the HD had been implementing a plan to replace ageing *Acacia confusa* in an orderly manner since 2023, and had arranged for the replanting of suitable plants of other species at the original locations;
- (b) the HD prioritised the inspection of large trees with restricted growth conditions for risk assessment. When conditions of trees and the environment permitted, it would attempt to expand tree pit space to reduce the risk of collapse resulting from insufficient space for root growth; and

- (c) regarding uneven road surface caused by tree roots, if the tree was not at risk of collapse and was in good health, the HD would try its best to preserve it. If the road surface was paved with Besser blocks, the HD would smooth out the road as far as possible by removing the blocks, filling uneven areas with silt and repaving the blocks to prevent pedestrian trips.

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

- (a) members thanked the LCSD for accepting local views on tree replanting and avoiding replanting trees at unsuitable locations to maintain the width of pavements;
- (b) members suggested that the LCSD allocate additional resources to increase the manpower for tree management and the amount of tree inspection equipment, given that current resources might be insufficient;
- (c) members suggested that the LCSD enhance training to enable more tree management staff to acquire the skills in using tree inspection equipment; and
- (d) members enquired about the progress of handling dangerous trees in Sha Tin District, asking whether there would be any delay in the removal of dangerous trees as a result of insufficient manpower, and whether additional staff would be deployed to expedite removal before the rain and tropical cyclone season.

20. A representative of the LCSD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) the LCSD currently had sufficient amount of tree inspection equipment and enough professional staff with the knowledge of equipment operation;
- (b) during tree inspection, the LCSD staff typically tapped the tree trunk with a wooden hammer to determine whether there were any hollow parts before deciding to use equipment for further inspection. In the application of tree inspection equipment, as some equipment was invasive and might affect tree health, the staff would select suitable tools to assess tree condition depending on the situation; and
- (c) the LCSD would hire contractors to assist in tree inspection if necessary.

21. A representative of the HyD said that the Department would continue to address the uneven road surface caused by the growth of tree roots on Kwong Sin Street.

22. A representative of the DLO/ST noted members' concerns about the manpower for tree management and the amount of tree inspection equipment. Contractors would conduct tree management using professional knowledge in accordance with relevant guidelines. No issues regarding the use of equipment had been reported to date.

23. A representative of the HD gave a consolidated response as follows:
- (a) the HD's contractors for tree maintenance conducted monthly inspections in housing estates. Once a potentially dangerous tree was identified, the site would be cordoned off immediately and risk mitigation would be completed within two weeks;
 - (b) the HD would continue to pay attention to trees planted in roadside planters with insufficient space for growth, and would conduct timely risk mitigation depending on the situation; and
 - (c) in the case of Sun Chui Estate, the HD had planned to arrange for the removal of six to seven Paper-bark Trees planted along the roadside with insufficient space for growth and structural issues within this year.
24. The Chairman announced the end of discussion on the agenda item.

Question Raised by Mr YIU Ka-chun on Matters Relating to the Columbarium at On Hing Lane, Shek Mun, Sha Tin
(Paper No. FEHC 24/2025)

25. Members' further enquiries and views were as follows:
- (a) it was mentioned in previous STDC documents that the works for Shek Mun Columbarium in Sha Tin commenced in 2020 and were scheduled for completion in 2023. Members wished to know the reason for the two-year delay in the project;
 - (b) members observed that many cranes were still in operation when passing by Shek Mun Columbarium. They enquired whether the columbarium could be commissioned in the third quarter as scheduled;
 - (c) members enquired why the public had not been informed about the delay in the Shek Mun Columbarium project;
 - (d) members wished to know the impact of Shek Mun Columbarium on the environment and traffic in its vicinity upon commissioning as well as the relevant support measures. Members hoped that departments could enhance communication with each other and regularly report the situation to the STDC;
 - (e) members expressed concerns about the traffic arrangements after the completion of Shek Mun Columbarium. Given that the traffic in Shek Mun had long been congested with insufficient parking spaces, members wished to know the details of the special traffic arrangements mentioned in the paper;
 - (f) there was often a long queue of vehicles waiting at the entrance of the hourly car park in Shek Mun Estate. Members suggested implementing special arrangements during Ching Ming and Chung Yeung Festivals, for example, opening the gate of the monthly car park for drivers to enter Shek Mun Estate so as to prevent traffic jamming at the roundabout on On Muk Street;
 - (g) members wished to know whether the project delay had led to cost overrun, and if so, the amount of overrun; and

- (h) having received the public's report about the long waiting time for green burial services, members enquired about the usage of the Gardens of Remembrance (GoRs) and hoped that the FEHD could shorten the waiting time.

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

- (a) the Shek Mun Columbarium project commenced in the fourth quarter of 2020, but was delayed due to unforeseen factors during the course of works, including inclement weather as well as additional rock breaking and slope works;

(Post-meeting note from the FEHD and the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD): In the DEVB's Quarterly Report on Public Works Programme in the fourth quarter of 2022, the ArchSD announced that the project completion was expected to be delayed to the second quarter of 2025. The FEHD had also updated the expected completion date timely on its website for the public's information.)

- (b) the main building works of Shek Mun Columbarium and the GoR had been largely completed, with external and greening works still ongoing at the moment. The FEHD would continue to work with the ArchSD, aiming to open the columbarium in the third quarter this year;
- (c) during the peak periods of Ching Ming and Chung Yeung Festivals, the FEHD would implement crowd control measures to divert the flow of visitors entering and leaving the columbarium, and would set up signs at prominent locations to give pedestrians directions;
- (d) public parking spaces would not be provided at the columbarium;
- (e) vehicles would be prohibited from entering the columbarium on the days of Ching Ming and Chung Yeung Festivals as well as the four weekends before and after;
- (f) the FEHD would coordinate with the Police, the Transport Department and public transport operators, and would implement relevant traffic arrangements;
- (g) the FEHD would provide supplementary information on the project's financial situation after the meeting; and

(Post-meeting note from the FEHD and the ArchSD: The current building cost of the Shek Mun Columbarium project did not exceed the approved budget.)

- (h) in the matter of green burial, apart from Shek Mun Columbarium, the FEHD had set up 13 GoRs at nine columbaria located in Cape Collinson, Diamond Hill, Fu Shan, Kwai Chung, Tsang Tsui, Wo Hop Shek, Cheung Chau, Lamma Island and Peng Chau. The public could apply online or on paper for scattering of cremains in these GoRs or at sea.

(Post-meeting note: To apply for scattering of cremains in a GoR, the applicant could submit an application at least 14 days prior to the proposed date for scattering via the following means:

- (i) submit the application online via the Platform for Cemeteries and Crematoria Services (<https://app.fehd.gov.hk/ccsp/>);
- (ii) submit the application in person or authorise another person in writing to submit the application at the Cemeteries and Crematoria Office of the FEHD (Office);
- (iii) fax or post the completed application form to the Office, or complete and submit the electronic application form online.

After submitting the application form and the required documents, the applicant had to make a declaration in person at the Office. Upon completion of the above procedures, the FEHD would complete the vetting of the application within 10 working days under normal circumstances.)

27. The Chairman asked the FEHD to elaborate on the impact of Shek Mun Columbarium on the environment and traffic in its surroundings.

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

- (a) in terms of the environment, the design of Shek Mun Columbarium had incorporated extensive greening to align with the Government's environmental protection measures and sustainable development goals;
- (b) the burning of incense would be strictly prohibited at Shek Mun Columbarium. The FEHD had announced the relevant information to the public at the press conference on 14 May and required allocatees of public niches to sign an undertaking that they would comply with the regulations. There would be large banners, notices, regular broadcasts and patrol staff in the columbarium to remind users to follow the relevant regulations; and
- (c) in connection with traffic control, the FEHD encouraged the public to travel to the columbarium by public transport so as to minimise the impact on the traffic network. It would also release information on traffic arrangements via the internet and Government's press releases to remind the public to plan their journeys in advance.

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

Information Papers

Sha Tin District Anti-rodent Campaign 2025 (Second Phase)
(Paper No. FEHC 25/2025)

30. Members noted the above paper.

Statistical Overview of Sha Tin District Environmental Hygiene Services (as at 31 May 2025)
(Paper No. FEHC 26/2025)

31. Members noted the above paper.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

32. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 27 August 2025 (Wednesday).
33. The meeting was closed at 4:01 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat
STDC 13/15/70

August 2025