

Sha Tin District Council
Minutes of the 5th Meeting of
the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee in 2025

Date : 27 August 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	3:25 pm
Mr DENG Kairong, BBS, MH, JP (Vice Chairman)	2:30 pm	3:25 pm
Mr WONG Wai-shing	2:30 pm	3:25 pm
Mr KU Wai-ping	2:30 pm	3:25 pm
Mr CHU Wun-chiu	2:30 pm	3:25 pm
Miss LEE Ching-yee, Janet, MH	2:30 pm	3:25 pm
Mr NG Kai-tai	2:30 pm	3:25 pm
Ms LAM Siu-man	2:30 pm	3:25 pm
Ms LAM Yuk-wa	2:30 pm	3:25 pm
Ms LAM Chung-yan, Nancy, MH	2:30 pm	3:25 pm
Mr YIU Ka-chun, MH	2:30 pm	3:25 pm
Mr HA Kim-kwan	2:30 pm	3:25 pm
Mr AU Chi-on, Paul	2:30 pm	3:23 pm
Mr LEUNG Chun-pong, Maverick	2:30 pm	3:25 pm
Mr LEUNG Ka-fai, MH	2:30 pm	3:25 pm
Ms CHAN Man-kuen, MH	2:30 pm	3:25 pm
Ms CHAN Sin-ming	2:30 pm	3:25 pm
Mr CHAN Tan-tan	2:30 pm	3:25 pm
Miss MOK Hei-man	2:30 pm	3:25 pm
Mr WONG Yue-hon	2:30 pm	3:25 pm
Ms WONG Po-yee	2:30 pm	3:24 pm
Mr YEUNG Ying-hon, Ronald	2:30 pm	3:25 pm
Miss TUNG Kin-lei	2:30 pm	3:25 pm
Mr TSOI Ming-yang	2:30 pm	3:25 pm
Mr PUN Kwok-shan, BBS, MH, JP	2:30 pm	3:25 pm
Mr CHOI Wai-shing	2:30 pm	3:25 pm
Mr LAU Tak-wing	2:30 pm	3:25 pm
Ms LAW Yi-lam	2:30 pm	3:25 pm
Miss LAW Yuen-pui	2:30 pm	3:25 pm
Ms LO Tai-suen, Ada	2:30 pm	3:25 pm
Ms KUNG Mei-chi	2:30 pm	3:25 pm
Ms WONG Lok-yi	2:30 pm	3:25 pm
Ms SUN Wan	2:30 pm	3:25 pm
Mr TANG Hoi-chung	2:30 pm	3:25 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-ye

Mr LAU Kwok-ye

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

Dr KWAN Tan-sui, Daisy

Ms TAM Sau-wai

Mr WONG Yuk-man, Patrick

Mr WAI Wah-kei

Mr LING Ka-leung

Mr CHO Man-kin

Title

Medical and Health Officer (Emergency Preparedness and District
Relations)⁴, Department of Health
Registered Nurse (Emergency Preparedness and District Relations),
Department of Health
Housing Manager/Tai Po, North and Shatin 3,
Housing Department
District Engineer/Shatin (1),
Highways Department
Maintenance Engineer/Structures (South East),
Highways Department
Chief Health Inspector (Sha Tin)²,
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

The Chairman welcomed members and representatives of government departments to the fifth 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 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 25 June 2025
(FEHC Minutes 4/2025)

3. Members unanimously endorsed the above minutes.

Questions

Question Raised by Mr CHU Wun-chiu on Preventive Measures and Public Education on Chikungunya Fever in Sha Tin District (Paper No. FEHC 27/2025)

4. Members' further enquiries and views were as follows:
 - (a) members enquired whether the departments would take reference from the experience of the Mainland in anti-mosquito measures, for example, introducing mosquito-eating fish;
 - (b) members wished to know the meeting details of the inter-departmental task force on anti-mosquito work in the district (Task Force), such as the actual implementation progress of anti-mosquito measures and mosquito control work of various departments, the composition of the Task Force, and whether the departments would invite members of local communities to join the Task Force;
 - (c) given the relatively high mosquito infestation index of Ma On Shan as shown in the data, members asked whether the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) would conduct anti-mosquito operations in the area in response to the case of Chikungunya Fever (CF) in Ma On Shan, and whether the FEHD had any strategies to address mosquito infestation in the area;
 - (d) members suggested taking targeted anti-mosquito measures in rural areas and school premises. They wished to know whether the FEHD would visit schools to promote ways to alleviate mosquito infestation in school premises, and whether there would be inter-departmental collaboration to address mosquito infestation in country parks and rural areas in the district; and
 - (e) members enquired whether the FEHD would, with reference to the working groups on grass-trimming and mosquito control, distribute anti-mosquito promotional materials to the owners' corporations of housing estates/courts and District Services and Community Care Teams, and step up anti-mosquito efforts via inter-departmental collaboration.

5. A representative of the Department of Health (DH) gave a consolidated response as follows:
 - (a) as at the past 24 hours from 5:00 pm on 26 August, the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the DH recorded two new imported cases of CF in total. One of the cases involved a 10-year-old boy living in Sha Tin District. Preliminary investigation revealed that he travelled to Foshan on 16 August and was bitten by mosquitos during his stay. He returned to Hong Kong on 20 August and developed symptoms such as fever, rash and joint pain on 24 August. On 25 August, he sought medical attention at Prince of Wales Hospital and was admitted for treatment in a mosquito-free environment. He was currently in stable condition. Since he was in Foshan during the incubation period, the CHP believed that he was infected during travel and the case was classified as imported. The CHP would continue to carry out epidemiological investigation and had reported the case to the health authority of Guangdong Province. In addition, the FEHD would intensify mosquito prevention and control measures at the patient's residence and places he had visited; and

- (b) in view that the new school term was about to begin, the CHP had issued a letter to schools across Hong Kong, urging them to stay vigilant for CF prevention and remind staff members and students to take mosquito control and personal protective measures locally or during travel, so as to prevent mosquito bites and mosquito breeding.

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

- (a) the Task Force was composed of various related departments (such as the Education Bureau, the Housing Department (HD), the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the FEHD) and stakeholders in the district. The FEHD would also invite related persons to take part when necessary;
- (b) as the Area Gravidtrap Index (AGI) of Ma On Shan reached a high level of 24.8% in June this year, the FEHD immediately activated the intensified mosquito control measures. Consequently, the index dropped from 20% (exceeding alert level) in June to 11.3% in August;
- (c) actions taken by the FEHD included conducting risk assessments in the relevant areas to review mosquito infestation, convening meetings of the Task Force, carrying out intensive and targeted mosquito control operations with relevant departments and stakeholders, and immediately contacting relevant housing estates or premises to advise the management companies and residents to stay vigilant and join hands in taking anti-mosquito measures;

(Post-meeting note from the FEHD: In response to a recent imported case of CF involving a patient living in Ma On Shan area, the FEHD had immediately conducted vector investigations and targeted mosquito control operations within 250-metre radius of the patient's residence and the places he had visited during the infectious period, including removing mosquito breeding ground, applying larvicides to stagnant water that could not be cleared, and carrying out ultra-low volume fogging operations in adult mosquito habitats like densely wooded areas, dark and secluded places and abandoned structures to eliminate adult mosquitoes. In order to further reduce the risk of transmission of CF, the FEHD had extended the intensified mosquito control measures, which were originally activated when the AGI reached 20%, to cover areas with AGIs falling between 10% and 20%. Specifically, upon receiving the AGI results of Ma On Shan in August, the FEHD also adopted the aforementioned intensified mosquito control and elimination measures.)

- (d) the FEHD attached great importance to promotion and education. It held a hygiene education and anti-mosquito promotion event at CUHKFAA Chan Chun Ha Secondary School on 22 August, and carried out anti-mosquito promotion at Ma On Shan St. Joseph's Secondary School on 17 September, in hope of promoting concepts and knowledge of mosquito elimination and prevention in schools; and
- (e) the FEHD visited different housing estates or places from time to time to distribute promotional materials.

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

- (a) owing to the aggravated mosquito infestation in summer, the HD had particularly stepped up inspection to thoroughly examine open stormwater drains. Blocked channels, if found, would be cleared to prevent accumulation of water and breeding of mosquitoes;

- (b) in respect of individual housing estates near slopes or with more vegetation, the HD would trim weeds more frequently to reduce the risk of mosquito infestation; and
- (c) the HD had conducted anti-mosquito promotion on different occasions and distributed brochures to enhance public education.

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

Question Raised by Mr HA Kim-kwan on Drainage Issues at the Pedestrian Footbridges near Sha Tin Wai (Paper No. FEHC 28/2025)

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

- (a) the drains on top of the two footbridges in Sha Tin Wai and along their ramps were often blocked by objects like pigeon droppings and fallen leaves, leading to water accumulation;
- (b) members commended the Highways Department (HyD) for having cleared the drains in advance of the onset of typhoons upon receiving reports from members;
- (c) by displaying pictures, members pointed out that there were plants growing from the drain outlets on top of the footbridges, which indicated that some amount of silt had accumulated in the drains. Members believed that such situations would not have occurred if the contractor had cleared the drains regularly, hence reminding the HyD to strictly monitor the work of the contractor;
- (d) last year, the drains at the cover of the footbridge on Sha Kok Street were blocked by pigeon droppings, resulting in "rain curtains" formed by the overflowing of accumulated water on rainy days. The HyD had installed grilles on top of the drains, which were believed to be effective to a certain extent. Members hoped that they could later know the HyD's assessment on the effectiveness; and
- (e) the two footbridges were prone to mosquito breeding owing to the frequent disposal of large amount of refuse there. Members hoped that the HyD could step up inspection on the work of the contractor.

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

- (a) the HyD regularly deployed staff to conduct random inspections on the work of contractors and had a corresponding mechanism to monitor contractors' performance. If the performance did not meet the required standards, the HyD would take appropriate follow-up actions in accordance with the contract requirements and the established mechanism, for example, issuing warning letters to require contractors to adequately perform their duties on maintenance and cleansing;
- (b) in connection with the two footbridges on Sha Tin Wai Road and Sha Kok Street, the HyD contractor conducted cleansing four times a month, mainly targeting locations such as ground surfaces, stairs, railings and handrails, and arranged monthly cleansing of the ceiling, external walls and lift structures;

- (c) the HyD had reminded the contractor to pay extra attention to the condition of drain outlets and drains during cleansing. Clearing would be arranged in case of blockage;
- (d) in response to the drain blockage and the growing of plants from drain outlets at the footbridges, the HyD had arranged for the contractor to make attempts at clearing and unblocking the drains with high pressure water jets, and would continue to follow up on the issue; and
- (e) as a works department, the HyD was primarily responsible for the construction and maintenance of public road facilities. Upon receiving complaints from the public or discovering damage during regular inspections, the HyD would arrange timely repairs, whereas refuse handling and hygiene issues were the responsibilities of another department.

(Post-meeting note from the FEHD and the HyD: According to the current separation of duties, the FEHD was responsible for the routine cleaning of ground surfaces of public footbridges and subways maintained by the HyD as well as their lifts, along with the partial clearing of dirt that would cause immediate hygienic problems, including refuse, vomit, excretion and sputum, to maintain environmental hygiene; the HyD was responsible for the regular cleansing of those public footbridges, subways and their lifts, such as clearing graffiti, chewing gum and stains, to ensure that the structures were in good condition.)

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

- (a) recently, drains at the footbridges were slightly blocked when the Black Rainstorm Signal was in force but returned to normal condition the following day;
- (b) members found it unacceptable that there were plants growing from the drain outlets, and suggested that the HyD should give a verbal warning to the contractor; and
- (c) the HyD was responsible for the maintenance of various footbridges and subways in the district. Members hoped that the HyD could address the issues before they were raised by District Council members.

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

- (a) the HyD had arranged for the contractor to carry out inspections before or after typhoons and rainstorms. Blockage, if found, would be cleared as early as possible;
- (b) alongside the arrangement for the contractor to regularly inspect various major footbridges and other public road facilities in the district, the HyD staff would also conduct regular random inspections on the condition of structures and arrange timely repairs; and
- (c) if the HyD found the drains at footbridges being blocked by refuse or other objects, it would arrange drain clearance as soon as possible.

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

Question Raised by Mr WONG Yue-hon on the Maintenance of Sha Tin Market
(Paper No. FEHC 29/2025)

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

- (a) members hoped that the FEHD could provide specific figures of the maintenance costs for Sha Tin Market in the future. Otherwise, it would be difficult to objectively assess whether there was a need to carry out major renovation or even redevelopment;
- (b) it was mentioned in the paper that as wet goods stalls were located on the first floor at Sha Tin Market, salt water might flow into the liftway while tenants were handling goods, causing lift failures. Members opined that locating wet goods stalls on the first floor instead of the ground floor was a flaw in design, and suggested that the FEHD should adjust the locations of the wet goods area and the dry goods area, so as to prevent wet goods from entering the cargo lift. Members also said that in the event of cargo lift failures, there would be extra costs borne by tenants when they moved goods to the first floor, given that the FEHD did not offer any compensation;
- (c) members expressed their disappointment at the fact that the lift retrofitting proposal for Sha Tin Market had still not finalised despite more than a decade of discussion. They believed that even though Sha Tin Market was at a strategic location in Sha Tin town centre, the facilities had become worn out after over 40 years of operation, which affected its business performance. Many residents hoped that the market could provide more diverse services such as restaurants;
- (d) members wished to know the FEHD's established policies and compassionate arrangements for tenants affected by market redevelopment, and hoped that specific figures could be provided. They also considered it harsh to tenants that the FEHD could terminate the tenancy without compensation provided that it notified the tenant in writing no less than one month in advance;
- (e) there had been local views hoping to modernise Sha Tin Market to attract patronage and improve the current problem of frequent maintenance. Members hoped that the FEHD could conduct a comprehensive review on the condition of Sha Tin Market;
- (f) members suggested that the FEHD take reference from the business practices of private markets, for example, offering discounts or distributing gifts to attract patronage, and adopting an at-a-glance design with clear directional signs to improve shopping experience; and
- (g) seeing that insufficient parking spaces in the car parks near New Town Plaza often caused traffic congestion, members suggested taking reference from the model of Tai Po Complex, which integrated different facilities such as a car park, a market, a cooked food centre and a library, so as to create a suitable venue for families to spend their leisure time on holidays.

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

- (a) as market maintenance involved contracts and different departments, there was no information on the actual maintenance costs for the time being. It was necessary to consider factors of various aspects when determining whether a market required redevelopment,

including its geographical location, current condition of facilities, viability, community needs and readiness of tenants. Moreover, considering that market redevelopment involved immense public resources, the Market Development Division of the FEHD was responsible for conducting comprehensive reviews on the scale, viability and geographical locations of the markets under its purview for appropriate allocation of resources. There was no redevelopment plan for Sha Tin Market at the moment. The FEHD understood members' concern and would relay their views to the relevant division or department;

(Post-meeting note: The FEHD relayed members' views to the relevant division and department on 3 and 12 September 2025 respectively.)

- (b) according to the tenancy conditions and existing policies, tenants would not be compensated in the event of temporary suspension of lift operation;
- (c) the representative of the FEHD noted members' suggestions on market management, and would explore with the Market Development Division of the Department to review the development of markets from the inter-departmental or social development perspective;
- (d) the relocation of wet goods stalls at Sha Tin Market to the ground floor involved complicated technical issues and required negotiation with the stall owners. It would be more appropriate to consider this when major renovation was carried out at the market; and
- (e) the FEHD would review and follow up on the directional signs at the market.

(Post-meeting note: The FEHD conducted a site visit with the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) on 12 September 2025 to follow up on the issue.)

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

- (a) since there were no downward escalators at Sha Tin Market, members hoped that the FEHD could propose a feasible plan for providing a passenger lift as soon as possible and discuss the implementation arrangements with the stall owners;
- (b) when blockage occurred in the drains on the first floor at Sha Tin Market, sewage would leak to the dry goods stalls on the ground floor, causing disturbance to the stall owners. Members hoped that the FEHD had solutions to the issue; and
- (c) in addition to traffic congestion, there were also recycling vehicles occupying parking spaces outside Sha Tin Market. Members enquired whether the FEHD would consider providing a car park on the ground floor or the first floor to improve the traffic condition in the district if there were redevelopment arrangements in the future.

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

- (a) the FEHD had been exploring various options for the retrofitting of escalators or lifts at Sha Tin Market with the ArchSD, but the previous plan could not be implemented due to limitations in factors such as underground facilities, the foundation of the footbridge abutment and the width of the road;

- (b) the most recent plan at present was to retrofit a lift at the location near the meter room at Sha Tin Market. The FEHD was currently studying the feasibility with the ArchSD, and would report to members at the meeting of the Market Management Consultative Committee or on other occasions if progress was made;
- (c) regarding the drain blockage at Sha Tin Market, the FEHD would discuss the prevention or improvement measures with the ArchSD in detail after the meeting; and

(Post-meeting note: The FEHD conducted a site visit with the ArchSD on 12 September 2025, and would report the inspection results to the committee members at the meeting of the Market Management Consultative Committee.)

- (d) the representative of the FEHD noted members' suggestion of providing a car park during market redevelopment, and would relay the suggestion to the relevant section for consideration in parallel with future redevelopment or major renovation plan, if any.

(Post-meeting note: The Sha Tin District Environmental Hygiene Office of the FEHD relayed members' views to the Policies and Enhancements Section of the Department on 3 September 2025.)

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

Information Papers

Report on Current Situation and Progress of Resource Recovery in Sha Tin District (Paper No. FEHC 30/2025)

19. Members' views were as follows:

- (a) it was mentioned in paragraph 12 of the paper that the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) had set up five Food Waste Recycling Spots but the recycling quantity was not specified. Members hoped that the EPD could provide more information so that they could evaluate the effectiveness of the measure;
- (b) according to paragraph 13 of the paper, the EPD would assist village representatives intending to set up food waste recycling bins at refuse collection points in rural areas in exploring the feasibility with the FEHD, who managed refuse collection points. Members wished to know the specific response and the implementation timeline;
- (c) in the vicinity of Hin Keng, there was only one food waste recycling bin in Hin Yiu Estate for food waste collection outside the operating hours of Food Waste Recycling Spots. Members hoped that more food waste recycling facilities could be provided in Hin Keng;
- (d) members hoped that in the future, more specific descriptions and a timeline could be provided in the paper to reflect the work progress;
- (e) members enquired about the EPD's plans to encourage housing estates to carry out self-financed food waste recycling;

- (f) compared with markets or shopping malls, members believed that it would be more effective to set up smart recycling equipment in private housing estates. They wished to know which section of the EPD the private housing estates could contact if they intended to collaborate with the EPD to implement recycling plans;
- (g) members suggested reviewing the allocation of resources for GREEN@COMMUNITY in the district in order to achieve an increase in the recycling quantity;
- (h) members wished to know how the EPD defined the functions of Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores; and
- (i) members reported that the residents of City One Shatin recognised the importance of recycling, and enquired whether Recycling Stations or Recycling Stores would be expanded to private housing estates to boost the recycling quantity.

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

- (a) the GREEN@COMMUNITY project and relevant information were mainly managed and handled by the Waste Reduction and Community Recycling Group of the EPD. He would relay members' views on the paper content to the group;
- (b) in respect of placing smart recycling equipment in private housing estates, he would ask colleagues of the relevant group to contact members to understand the situation; and

(Post-meeting note: On 2 October 2025, the EPD staff followed up on the placing of smart recycling bins in private housing estates with the members concerned. If members had enquiries about (i) smart recycling systems and facilities, please contact Ms TSE Yuet-chuen, Gigi, Environmental Protection Officer (Waste Reduction and Community Recycling)²¹ of the Waste Reduction and Community Recycling Group of the EPD (Tel. No.: 3893 4332); (ii) the implementation of food waste recycling, please contact Ms CHAU Choi-mei, Michelle, Environmental Protection Officer (Waste Reduction and Community Recycling)⁹¹ of the same group (Tel. No.: 3690 7845).)

- (c) for reviewing the allocation of resources for GREEN@COMMUNITY, the EPD would report to members by providing supplementary information after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The EPD would report to members by providing supplementary information via the Secretariat.)

21. Members' further views were as follows:

- (a) members asked whether the recycling quantity of the five Food Waste Recycling Spots in Sha Tin District had increased in the past six months, and whether it was worthwhile to provide more Food Waste Recycling Spots; and
- (b) members enquired which villages had expressed their intention to the EPD to set up food waste recycling bins at refuse collection points in rural areas, and whether the EPD needed members to act as a bridge for communication.

22. A representative of the EPD said that there was no information available for the time being. He would communicate with members after the meeting and forward the views to the Waste Reduction and Community Recycling Group of the EPD.

(Post-meeting note: The EPD would report to members by providing supplementary information via the Secretariat.)

23. Members noted the above paper.

Sha Tin District Anti-mosquito Campaign 2025 (Third Phase)
(Paper No. FEHC 31/2025)

24. Members noted the above paper.

Statistical Overview of Sha Tin District Environmental Hygiene Services (as at 31 July 2025)
(Paper No. FEHC 32/2025)

25. Members noted the above paper.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

26. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 22 October 2025 (Wednesday).

27. The meeting was closed at 3:25 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat
STDC 13/15/70

October 2025