

**Summary of Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of
the Commerce, Industry & Housing Committee (2014-2015)**

Meeting

The Commerce, Industry & Housing Committee (“CIHC”) held its 3rd meeting on 7 April 2014.

Opposition to the Unreasonable Deduction of Subsidies under the Building Maintenance Grant Scheme for Elderly Owners by the Hong Kong Housing Society (“HKHS”)

2. The CIHC opined that the HKHS had addressed the concerns and doubts of Members. The CIHC hoped that the HKHS would continue to process the applications under the subsidy scheme in a proper manner, including the case of Siu Hong Court.

Request for Phased-in Redevelopment of Tai Hing Estate and In-situ Rehousing

3. The CIHC was concerned that some buildings in Tai Hing Estate were low rise and the land was not put to its best use by planning. Moreover, the CIHC believed that the surplus space currently available could facilitate in-situ rehousing, so the authorities should actively consider the redevelopment of Tai Hing Estate. Besides, it was advisable for the authorities to consider redeveloping those aged housing estates in the New Territories.

Occupation of Government Land by the Altered Shopping Centre of The Link REIT?

4. The CIHC was concerned that there might be rough edges in the Government’s vetting and approving processes for the work at the On Ting Commercial Complex Restaurant Building, and the commercial complex might have not provided adequate barrier-free access. In this light, the CIHC would invite representatives of The Link REIT and relevant departments to inspect the On Ting Commercial Complex Restaurant Building together. Moreover, the CIHC would continue the discussion of this item at the next meeting. It would also write to The Link REIT and relevant departments, including the Independent Checking Unit of the Housing Department, inviting their representatives to attend the next meeting and provide written information in response to Members’ views.

To Introduce “AP Easy” Building Management Advisory Service Scheme and Building Management Professional Advisory Service Scheme Phase 2

5. Representatives of the Home Affairs Department (“HAD”) briefly introduced the above two schemes to Members. While giving views on the objectives, eligibility criteria and effectiveness of the scheme, Members hoped the HAD could allocate more resources to the District Offices of various districts for providing more effective assistance in building management.

Work Reports by the Working Groups under the CIHC 2012-2013

(a) Working Group on Occupational Safety and Health

6. A Member hoped that the Working Group would invite more organisations, including those relating to labour affairs, to be partners in organising the activities. The Convenor responded that the Working Group had to comply with the relevant requirements of the Manual on the Use of District Council (“DC”) Funds when inviting organisations to be partners, and the Working Group would make its best endeavor to invite organisations to be partners.

(b) Working Group on Economic Development in Tuen Mun

7. A Member said that the Working Group should be cautious in selecting partner organisations to ensure work was carried out with due care, and that there should not be too many photos of District Councillors published in the Study Report on the Future Directions of Industry and Commerce in Tuen Mun of the previous-term Working Group. Besides, for many terms, the Working Group had produced tourist publications. It was opined that the Internet should be used more in future to promote tourist spots in Tuen Mun.

8. Another Member said institutions providing re-employment training for retirees had usually set performance targets to ensure a certain percentage of trainees were employed. The Working Group should also set the targets if it carried out work of this kind.

(c) Working Group on Building Management

9. Members noted the contents of the report of the Working Group.

Work Report on Private Building Management in the Tuen Mun District

10. Members noted the contents of the report of the Tuen Mun District Office.

Report by the Buildings Department

11. In response to Members’ enquiries, the representative of the Buildings Department said the “Large Scale Operation for Removal of Unauthorised Building Work” (BUC) was commenced in 2005 and the department subsequently carried out the “Large Scale Operation” (Rein-beauty) instead, which was of a similar nature. The department dealt with unauthorised buildings in a prioritised manner and would draw reference from the reports of consultancies. Regarding cases that entailed entry to premises for investigation, the department would make repeated attempts to visit the premises and issue letters to the owners.

Secretariat, Tuen Mun District Council

Date: 7 May 2014

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