

## **Summary of Minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Commerce, Industry and Housing Committee (2014-2015)**

### **Meeting**

The Commerce, Industry and Housing Committee (“CIHC”) held its 9<sup>th</sup> meeting on 13 April 2015.

### **Provision of Services by the On Ting Post Office**

2. Members raised the following views and enquiries on the above issue: (a) Members expressed dissatisfaction with the Post Office, which had indicated at the previous meeting that the On Ting Post Office would be closed in September 2014 but sent no representative to the current meeting. It was opined that the Post Office showed no respect for the Tuen Mun District Council (“TMDC”); (b) Members reckoned that the On Ting Post Office should be retained, given the large number of elderly people and the great demand for post services in On Ting Estate; (c) they worried that the Post Office would phase out other post offices if the On Ting Post Office was closed; (d) Members opposed replacing post offices with postal vehicles; (e) Members said that the On Ting Post Office should not be closed as it was conveniently located and provided parking space for vehicles; (f) it was suggested that the scope of post services should be expanded; for example, goods collection points should be provided to meet the boom in online shopping; and (g) Members reckoned that the On Ting Post Office should not be closed on the ground of operating deficits because a public organisation, as opposed to a private organisation, should pay heed to residents’ needs.

3. The CIHC resolved to write to Postmaster General raising its objection to the closure of the On Ting Post Office.

### **Enquiry on the Progress of the Revitalisation of Factory Buildings in Tuen Mun District**

4. Members raised the following views and enquiries on the above issue: (a) an enquiry was made on what was meant by the so-called “toleration fee”; (b) Members asked about the details of four approved planning applications for factory building revitalisation and stated that if any of the applications involved the depot of the Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited, the TMDC would take serious follow-up actions; (c) Members opined that the Lands Department should clearly specify the uses of the factory buildings and the criteria for change of use; (d) an enquiry was made as to whether the Planning Department had tried to find out why some planning applications for factory building revitalisation had been withdrawn; and (e) Members hoped that factory building revitalisation could complement the overall development of Tuen Mun.

### **Calling for the Expeditious Legislation on Standard Working Hours**

5. Members raised the following views and enquiries on the above issue: (a) it was believed that standard working hours could protect the rights and benefits of employees; (b) Members called for expeditious legislation on standard working hours; and (c) it was reckoned that legislated standard working hours should be subject to annual review.

6. Members put forward a motion and an amendment to motion. After a vote, the CIHC endorsed the amended motion, which read: “The Commerce, Industry and Housing Committee of the Tuen Mun District Council requests that the HKSAR Government should expedite the legislation on standard working hours for the benefits of employees at large.”

### **Work Reports by the Working Groups under the CIHC**

(a) **Working Group on Occupational Safety and Health**

7. A Member suggested more labour organisations be invited to co-organise activities in the carnival on occupational safety and health. The Chairman responded that according to the funding guidelines for the TMDC, working groups were not allowed to partner with trade unions in organising activities.

(b) **Working Group on Economic Development in Tuen Mun**

8. A Member suggested following up on the Study Report on the Future Directions of Industry and Commerce in Tuen Mun prepared by the working group of the previous term. The Member also suggested partnering with the Labour Department in organising activities in order to avoid overlap of resources and expand the scale of the job fair. The Convenor of the working group responded that Members' comments on the previous working group had been put on record. In addition, new contents, such as collaborations with schools and more training talks, had been added to the job fair.

(c) **Working Group on Building Management**

9. The quotation procedure for the production of building management souvenirs had been completed and the working group would further follow up on this matter.

(d) **Working Group on Monitoring of Alteration Works of The Link**

10. On the re-provisioning of the covered passageway, Members asked the Lands Department about the result of the matter concerning exemption from floor area requirements, saying that the matter should be handled without delay. Moreover, the Housing Department said it planned to arrange for underground investigation to be conducted outside On Ting Commercial Complex in May with the use of electronic scanning equipment.

11. Members called for prompt rectification of the problem with the smoke lobby in On Ting Commercial Complex, and requested the Independent Checking Unit of the Housing Department and The Link to tackle the problem actively. Separately, Members were concerned about the alteration works to Butterfly Market, and expressed disappointment at The Link's failure to consult the working group before the commencement of the works.

**Mobile Applications Produced by the Working Groups**

12. The CIHC agreed that the two mobile applications respectively developed by the Working Group on Economic Development in Tuen Mun and the Working Group on Building Management, namely "Eco Shopping & Cultural Tour in Tuen Mun" and "TuenMun BM", be uploaded on websites of GovHK Apps and GovHK for publicity and promotion.

Secretariat, Tuen Mun District Council

Date: 24 April 2015

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