

**Summary of Minutes of the 12th Meeting of
the Environment, Hygiene and District Development Committee (2012-2013)**

Meeting

The Environment, Hygiene and District Development Committee (“EHDDC”) held its twelfth meeting on 15 November 2013.

Retrofitting of Noise barriers on Tuen Mun Road (Fu Tei Section)

2. While not opposed in principle to the project, EHDDC expressed concerns over the followings: (i) project supervision; (ii) problems arising from the project (e.g. whether reflective materials would be used and whether the semi-enclosed barrier would be effective); and (iii) the consultation arrangement for the affected areas. EHDDC opined that the department concerned should exercise flexibility when considering the uncertain factors, such as whether the future project would clash with the noise barrier. It should also consult members of the public on problems arising from the project, address their views properly and report to EHDDC in a timely manner. As the item of noise barriers on Wong Chu Road had been referred to the working group concerned for follow-up action, the Chairman proposed that the department concerned should respond at relevant meetings.

PWP Item 7259RS Cycle Tracks Connecting North West New Territories with North East New Territories - Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui Section Progress Report
PWP Item No. 268RS - Cycle Track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun (Stage 2 Works)

3. EHDDC had conducted a site visit to the Tuen Mun-Sheung Shui cycle track section on 13 November 2013 and had reached a general consensus on the technical problems relating to the connection of cycle tracks and provision of bicycle parking spaces. It also indicated that any proposals from departments concerned on the provision of bicycle parking spaces would be welcomed. For the cycle track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun, EHDDC opined that the Civil Engineering and Development Department should consult Tuen Mun District Council (“TMDC”) once further information was available and then seek public views subject to TMDC’s consensus.

Condemning the EPD for Failure in Monitoring and Protest Against the Frequent Occurrence of Landfill Incidents
West New Territories Landfill - Study of Road Access (Upgrading of Nim Wan Road and Deep Bay Road)

4. The Environmental Protection Department (“EPD”) had arranged a site visit for Members to inspect the Refuse Transfer Station at Shun Tat Street and the West New Territories (“WENT”) Landfill on 12 November 2013. Briefings had also been given on site. EPD tabled a paper on the study of road access to the WENT Landfill at the meeting

5. EHDDC made no comments on the setting up of a committee on monitoring sludge incineration facilities. The issue would be followed up once further information on the composition of the committee was provided by EPD. Regarding the upgrading of Nim Wan Road and Deep Bay Road, EHDDC expressed no support for the project due to the following major reasons:

- (i) the position of EHDDC to oppose the extension of the WENT Landfill would be maintained until EPD clarified whether the upgrading of the roads was related to the extension of the WENT Landfill;
- (ii) road sections involved in the widening works mainly fell within Yuen Long District, it was inappropriate for TMDC to make decision on behalf of Yuen Long District Council; and
- (iii) there was a great difference between the proposals set out in the paper and those put forth by TMDC. What TMDC had asked for was improvement to Lung Kwu Tan Road rather than Nim Wan Road and Deep Bay Road. Traffic flow would not be much improved by upgrading Nim Wan Road and Deep Bay Road. To resolve the problem of waste disposal and for future development, EPD and the consultant should study the feasibility of linking up the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor with Nim Wan Road with a section of tunnel.

Having regard to the above reasons and the rejection of the proposed extension of the WENT Landfill by TMDC less than six months ago, EHDDC did not support the paper. EHDDC would reopen the discussion after new explanations on the aforesaid questions were offered by EPD.

Issues related to the crossing facilities at Tsing Lun Road in Area 54

6. EHDDC expressed concerns over the crossing facilities at Tsing Lun Road in Area 54 and worried that the existing zebra crossing could not meet the demand after the completion of new housing estates. EHDDC opined that pedestrian flow was just one of the factors which should be considered when planning the complementary facilities, not the only parameter. The department concerned should also take into account the pedestrian safety and the availability of other supporting public facilities nearby. EHDDC requested the department concerned to consolidate the views and concerns of Members and report to the Working Group.

Concerns over the sale of alcoholic beverages in Tuen Mun District

7. EHDDC opined that the illegal sale of alcoholic beverages had become more common in Tuen Mun and expressed disappointment about the Liquor Licensing Board (“LLB”)’s refusal to send any representative to the meeting for the discussion of liquor licensing after repeated requests from TMDC. EHDDC resolved to write to the Chief Secretary for Administration's Office, putting forward their views that when considering applications for liquor licences, LLB should take into account the community and environmental factors and consult TMDC if necessary.

Optimal use of public spaces under footbridges/flyovers for district greening work

8. The Member who submitted the paper opined that though the Highways Department had carried out greening projects in public spaces under some footbridges/flyovers, the plants had not been protected from damage. He suggested that fences should be erected around the plants. Moreover, in view of the dirtiness of and piles of miscellaneous articles in public spaces under footbridges/flyovers and given that the problem of illegal shop extension had become more serious in recent years, EHDDC urged the relevant departments to address its request, and report and provide prosecution statistics to Members at the next meeting. It also proposed that coordination and monitoring should be made by the next term of the Working Group on Markets and Illegal Hawking Activities.

Improvement of sewage problem resulting from the cleaning of refuse areas

9. The Member who submitted the paper said that the discharge of untreated sewage into the stormwater drainage system by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”) after cleaning the refuse collection point (“RCP”) was against the requirements of EPD and FEHD. Moreover, the facilities near the RCP were not satisfactory as only channels in the RCP were connected to the sewer system while others were connected to the stormwater drainage system. He opined that the facilities near the RCP must be rectified. He also pointed out that as there were not any sewage treatment facilities in the rural area, sewage was discharged directly into roads and footpaths which was not appropriate, and urged FEHD to review the situation. EHDDC asked FEHD to submit a progress report at the next meeting and if necessary, would write to FEHD again, asking it to rectify the problem.

Tuen Mun Beach Water Quality Grading

10. At the last meeting, a Member proposed that supplementary information should be provided to indicate whether the “Fair” grading is close to the “Good” or “Poor” grading. Such information had already been incorporated in the report by EPD.

Report of Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

11. In response to a Member’s enquiry on the inspection of market stalls, the representative of FEHD said that the number of inspection was calculated on the basis of market stalls rather than the whole market. Moreover, FEHD was concerned about the sale of defrosted frozen meat as chilled meat by stall operators. It pointed out that the act of such operators was a deception of customers as the sale of frozen meat and chilled meat had to adhere to different regulations. Members could refer complaints received to FEHD’s investigation team to follow-up. If convicted, the operators concerned would be liable to cancellation of licences.

Working Group on Markets and Illegal Hawking Activities

12. At its recent meetings, the Working Group had focused its discussions on urging FEHD to set up a permanent task force to carry out duties at late night hours so as to strengthen the enforcement action. If the problem of illegal shop extension persisted, EHDDC would consider asking the law enforcement agencies including FEHD, the Lands Department and the Police to convene an inter-departmental meeting to follow-up the issue. EHDDC requested FEHD to report the progress to the Working Group with a view to deciding on the next course of action.

Secretariat, Tuen Mun District Council

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