

Summary of Minutes of the 9th Meeting of the Environment, Hygiene and District Development Committee (2012-2013)

Meeting

The Environment, Hygiene and District Development Committee (“EHDDC”) held its ninth meeting on 24 May 2013.

Follow-up on the Development of Area 54 in Tuen Mun

2. EHDDC resolved that the proposal of relocating the proposed covered walkway at Siu Hong Road to TWGH Yau Tze Tin Memorial College be followed up by the Working Group. Representatives of the Transport Department were invited to attend the future meetings of the Working Group to follow up the proposals concerning the crossing facilities, relocation of the bus-stop and the planning of LRT stations. For the planning of school sites, the Chairman requested the Education Bureau to consider the proposals made by the Social Services Committee previously as well and report to the Working Group any new revision.

Latest Development of EcoPark

3. The Environmental Protection Department (“EPD”) briefed Members on the latest development of the EcoPark. EHDDC resolved that a site visit be arranged after more environmental industries came into operation in July to get to know the operation of their business so as to facilitate further discussion by Members at future meetings.

Cleaning of Designated Spots with Environmental Hygiene Problems

4. In the light of the possible outbreak of H7N9 influenza, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”) proposed the drawing up of a list of hygiene black spots to prioritise the cleaning arrangements. EHDDC had no comment on the five hygiene black spots proposed by FEHD and requested FEHD to fulfill its responsibility of cleaning of other areas as well.

Enhanced Regulatory Measures Against Food Premises with Illegal Extension of Business Area in the Blackspots in Tuen Mun District

5. EHDDC resolved to write to the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene, pointing out that the problem of illegal hawking in Tuen Mun had worsened, and that the problem of illegal hawking in the area near the V-City was expected to further deteriorate, posing danger to members of the public. EHDDC hoped that a task force could be set up to facilitate the enforcement action, and that collaboration among FEHD, Fire Services Department, Lands Department and the Hong Kong Police Force could be fostered to strengthen the enforcement action. EHDDC also opined that the regulation of the operation of licensed take-away food shops was insufficient. Apart from the above suggestions, EHDDC expressed support for the paper.

Calling for Expeditious Installation of Noise Barrier at Tuen Mun Road Town Centre Section

6. While the Highways Department (“HyD”) had submitted a written reply, EHDDC resolved that the item concerned be discussed at the next meeting under “Matters Arising” as no representative from the department attended the meeting and the item concerned had not been submitted to the Executive Council.

Calling for Improvement of Waterproof Facilities at LRT Town Centre Station and of LRT Carriages

7. Members pointed out the problems concerning the LRT Town Centre Station which included: platform shelters were not extended to the staircases; water was found dripping from the pipes on the ceilings of the landings; and the ceilings of landings of the pedestrian staircases connecting the platforms were in dilapidated condition. As the rainy season was approaching, EHDDC urged the MTR Corporation Limited (“MTRCL”) and HyD to expeditiously consider Members’ proposals of providing permanent facility to improve the situation and beautifying the environment.

8. EHDDC resolved to write to the MTRCL and the Director of Highways to express its regret over their failure to send representatives to the meeting and request them to take follow-up actions and submit detailed replies.

Calling for Improvement of Environmental Hygiene of Public Toilets at Tuen Mun Town Centre

9. Members pointed out the problems concerning the public toilets at Tuen Mun Town Centre which included: wet and slippery floor; emission of odour; and substandard drainage, sewage and lighting systems. They suggested that the Government should accord priority to the improvement of the public toilets at Tuen Mun Town Centre having regard to the actual situation. EHDDC requested the Leisure and Cultural Services Department to relay Members' views to senior officials and Architectural Services Department.

Proper Handling of Problems of Sewage Drains in Rural Areas

10. Members enquired about the cleaning arrangements of sewage drains in rural areas. After discussion, EHDDC requested the Tuen Mun District Office ("TMDO") to respond to the views of Members who submitted the paper and consider coordinating with FEHD, Drainage Services Department ("DSD") and EPD. As the rainy season was approaching, the current division of responsibilities among departments concerned regarding the cleaning of sewage drains in rural areas would continue. In other words, the cleaning of the upstream section of the drain concerned would be taken care of by the Work Section of TMDO with an interval of two weeks, while that of the grilles would be dealt with by DSD. The FEHD would continue to be responsible for mosquito prevention. The Work Section of TMDO would contact Members who submitted the paper and take follow-up action after searching through the information available.

Construction Works of Public Toilets in Lung Kwu Tan, Tuen Mun

11. Members pointed out that the construction works of public toilets in Lung Kwu Tan should commence as soon as possible and that the waiting time of tourists for using the toilets was too long. They also enquired whether the design of the public toilets could still be revised at the moment. EHDDC requested FEHD to relay Members' views to the Planning Section and report to EHDDC once the required information was available.

Working Group on Tuen Mun Environmental Protection Activities

12. The Working Group had drawn up activity programmes for the current financial year. The Secretariat of Tuen Mun District Council (“the Secretariat”) would assist in inviting partnership organisations. The selection of partnership organisations and detailed budget planning would be conducted at the next meeting of the Working Group. In the light of the latest situation on H7N9, the Working Group would organise publicity activities to promote personal and home hygiene to dovetail with the work of the Working Group on Community Crisis Management.

Working Group on Thematic Graphic Design on Noise Enclosure and Footbridges of Tuen Mun Road Town Centre Section

13. The Working Group had discussed the design issue and was waiting for the revision to be made by the consultant having regard to the views of the Working Group. For the maintenance arrangements, HyD undertook to take care of the maintenance of the physical structures. Regarding the maintenance of the graphics, the China Harbour Engineering Company Limited would only offer warranty for the first year and the subsequent maintenance would lie with the Tuen Mun District Council (TMDC).

Report on Problem of Water Seepage in Buildings in Tuen Mun District

14. The Joint Offices for Investigation of Water Seepage Complaints had indicated that the review concerned was still in progress and no further information was available for the time being. Therefore it had only submitted a written report and had not sent any representative to attend the meeting.

“Let's Save Now for a Better Future” Energy Saving Competition

15. The CLP Power Hong Kong Limited had written to the Chairman of Tuen Mun District Council to invite Tuen Mun District to participate in the “Let’s Save Now for a Better Future” Energy Saving Competition as a supporting organisation. After discussion, EHDDC resolved to join the competition as a supporting organisation.

Concerns over Environmental Hygiene of Area near Tuen Mun Clinic

16. A Member pointed out that EHDDC had discussed the item of Concerns over Environmental Hygiene of Area near Tuen Mun Clinic at its meeting on 15 March 2013 and written to the Food and Health Bureau (“FHB”) to reflect the views of Members. As FHB had not provided a written reply on the progress of the follow-up actions, the Chairman requested TMDO and the Secretariat to follow up the issue, urging FHB to report the progress to EHDDC.

Secretariat, Tuen Mun District Council

Date: 3 June 2013

Ref: HAD TM DC/13/30/EHDDC/4