

**Summary of Minutes of the 17th Meeting
of Tuen Mun District Council (2012-2015)**

Meeting

The Tuen Mun District Council (“TMDC”) held its 17th meeting on 8 July 2014.

Meeting between Commissioner for Transport and Tuen Mun District Councillors

2. The Commissioner for Transport (“C for T”) and the representatives of the Transport Department (“TD”) attended the meeting of TMDC to brief Members on the work of the Department with highlights on: (a) TD’s scope of services; (b) A Transport Strategy for the Future; (c) Hong Kong’s public transport policy development strategy; (d) transport improvement projects recently completed; (e) transport improvement projects under planning or construction; (f) improvements to public transport facilities; and (g) items of improvement recently implemented for public transport services.

3. A number of Members put forward their views and questions on the district work of the Department which included: (a) to request for the provision of public light bus routes/bus routes between Tuen Mun and the boundary control points (“BCP”); (b) school buses should be permitted to directly enter the Shenzhen Bay BCP; (c) MTR should be tasked to purchase more Light Rail (“LR”) vehicles and improve services; (d) to request for the resumption of services of LR Route No. 506; (e) to request for the enhancement of the service of the Tuen Mun Road Bus-bus Interchange and the provision of more interchange concessions; (f) no standing passengers should be allowed on buses plying highways; (g) to urge the bus companies to consider increasing the frequency of individual bus routes and improve the services; (h) to request for monitoring the lost trip situation of bus services; (i) to query the illegal parking of buses by a bus company; (j) to request for improvements to the ancillary transport facilities and road network of rural areas; (k) to urge the Government to expeditiously implement the construction of Tuen Mun Western Bypass; (l) re-examining the Route 10 project; (m) alleviating the traffic flow of Tuen Mun Road and Wong Chu Road; (n) to request for the construction of the Tuen Mun to Tsuen Wan Link and the West Rail Northern Link; (o) widening Lung Kwu Tang Road and opening up passages of Pak Nai area; (p) advancing the review of franchise of the Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited; (q) reviewing the relationship

between the Department and TMDC; (r) to request for the provision of fare concessions to elderly persons and persons with disabilities; (s) to request for the provision of green minibus (“GMB”) services at Lung Yat Estate; (t) to request for the provision of GMB services between Po Tin Estate and Sheung Shui; and (u) alleviating the traffic congestion during the commencement of the new school year of the Harrow International School Hong Kong. C for T responded accordingly.

Planning of the Available Land in the Old Tuen Mun Town Centre

4. The first submitter of the paper remarked that the increasingly prosperous development of the Old Tuen Mun Town Centre (“OTMTC”) area had resulted in a busier traffic flow. Since there was insufficient space in the San Hui Market area, the government land at Yan Ching Street currently used as a temporary car park would be put up for auction very soon, and the government land near Choi Yee Bridge would be converted to open space in March 2015, TMDC should expeditiously follow-up the overall planning of the OTMTC area. It should also take the opportunity to resolve the issue of relocating Tuen Mun Clinic.

5. In response, the District Planning Officer/Tuen Mun & Yuen Long West (“DPO/TMYLW”) said that since land uses regarding the overall planning of Tuen Mun had been set out in the Tuen Mun Outline Zoning Plan, development of each plot of land was subject to certain restrictions. Distribution of property ownership and road networks also made rezoning more difficult. The Department would, from time to time, review the development of OTMTC (i.e. Tuen Mun Area 10) mentioned in the paper, taking into account changes in the social and economic environment. In order to identify more land for residential development, the Government was reviewing all “Government, Institution or Community” sites and assessing the density of government buildings, including Tuen Mun Clinic. If necessary, the Government would carry out renovation works to facilities of Tuen Mun Clinic or consider the arrangement of local reprovisioning having regard to the development needs.

6. In respect of the traffic condition of the OTMTC area, the representative of TD pointed out that after assessing the current situation, the Department considered that the demand could still be met. Moreover, the situation mentioned in the paper might be caused by illegal parking. The Department would keep monitoring the issue. If traffic control measures were found insufficient or irregularities were identified, the Department would conduct reviews as necessary. In case of significant planning change or newly completed buildings, the Department would examine the traffic

impact assessment reports submitted by developers concerned and take follow-up actions in response to the contents and recommendations of the reports.

7. The representative of the Department of Health (“DH”) remarked that service units currently accommodated in Tuen Mun Clinic included DH’s Tuen Mun Student Health Service Centre and Tuen Mun Methadone Clinic as well as Hospital Authority (“HA”)’s General Out-patient Clinic. The Architectural Services Department had all along provided assistance to DH in carrying out maintenance works to Tuen Mun Clinic. The external wall maintenance works as well as the improvement works to ingress/egress of the car park and the roof cover of the waiting room had been completed between 2011 and 2012. While phase 1 of the barrier-free facilities had already been completed, phase 2 (including the construction of lifts, accessible toilets, barrier-free accesses, etc.) would be commenced very soon. On the other hand, DH had monitored the maintenance of various clinics with a view to offering a more responsive service to the public. When necessary, DH, together with the Food and Health Bureau and HA, would jointly plan the relocation/reprovision of any aged clinics or identify suitable sites for construction of new clinics.

8. After discussion, the Chairman opined that DPO/TMYLW had to take follow-up action on the planning needs and to reflect the local situation to the Government since he was responsible for the planning of Tuen Mun and Yuen Long. DPO/TMYLW said that while the Department considered it unnecessary to conduct an overall planning for the time being, it agreed to further consider the work of improvement concerning individual items.

Request for Complete Solution for the Problem of Noise Nuisance in Tuen Mun Park

9. The Member who submitted the paper said that the problem of noise nuisance in Tuen Mun Park had lingered on for years and the adverse impact kept spreading and growing. Seven or eight years ago, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (“LCSD”) had indicated that the problem could be resolved by legislative amendments. However, he had learnt from the written reply that the Department was still studying the feasibility of drawing up rules. He opined that residents could not put up with the situation any longer. The reply also stated that while the venues of LCSD were governed by relevant regulations, enforcement actions could be taken only after persuasion, evidence gathering and venue users concerned were willing to testify. He hoped that LCSD could draw up a timetable as soon as possible to

resolve the problem.

10. In response, the representative of LCSD said that the Department had, in co-operation with TMDC, proactively tackled the problem of noise nuisance in Tuen Mun Park. To resolve the problem more effectively, the Department proposed to draw up park rules to prohibit people with loudspeakers from entering Tuen Mun Park during specified hours or to ban the use of loudspeakers with a sound area exceeding the specified limit in the park. To gather views from district organisations and residents nearby, the Department had held four consultation sessions between May to July this year. After co-ordinating the views and aspirations received, the Department would prepare the details of the park rules and seek legal advice. The rules would then be submitted to TMDC for consideration. The Department expected that the rules could be introduced in 2014 if everything went well.

11. A Member suspected that immoral activities had been carried out in Tuen Mun Park and suggested that patrols by plain-clothes police officers should be conducted more often for residents' safety. District Commander (Tuen Mun) responded that the Police had earlier on noted the issue raised by the Member and had already stepped up the patrols. Recently, the Police had taken a number of actions in Tuen Mun Park jointly with the Immigration Department. During the actions, a number of venue users had been intercepted by plain-clothes police officers. The Police would continue to adopt an open mind in tackling the issue. If Members of TMDC or members of the public noticed any illegal acts, they should provide information to the Police immediately so that it could take prompt and serious actions.

12. After discussion, the Chairman proposed to refer the issue to the Working Group on Community Involvement under the District Facilities Management Committee for follow-up actions.

Secretariat, Tuen Mun District Council

7 August 2014