

**Summary of Minutes of the 19th Meeting
of Tuen Mun District Council (2012-2015)**

Meeting

The Tuen Mun District Council (“TMDC”) held its 19th meeting on 4 November 2014.

Meeting between Director of the Hong Kong Observatory and Tuen Mun District Councillors

2. The Director of the Hong Kong Observatory (D of HKO) attended the meeting of TMDC and briefed Members on the services of HKO and the work related to Tuen Mun District. A number of Members put forward their views and questions which included: (a) HKO should notify public transport operators of the lowering of all typhoon signals in advance and inform the District Offices of the temperature change for their preparation for the opening of various cold/heat shelters; (b) HKO should examine the provision of seasonal average temperature forecast; (c) enquiry on the level of light pollution in Hong Kong as well as the method of measurement and the assessment criteria; (d) HKO should consider including information on air pressure and wind force in the SMS messages sent under the “Early Storm Surge Alert System”; (e) hoping that HKO could continue to enhance the accuracy on weather forecast; (f) HKO could set up a weather notification platform jointly with organisations providing services to the elderly as well as street sleepers, and provide weather information to them in a timely manner; and (g) hoping that HKO could make concerted efforts with the Environmental Protection Department to provide more information on air and wind direction for Tuen Mun residents so as to bring about synergy. D of HKO responded accordingly.

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

3. In respect of the Planning Department (PlanD)’s earlier commitment that consideration would be given to the installation of a lift on the ramp next to San Hui Market to spare space for parking or implementation of road improvement works, its representative remarked that the Department had liaised with other departments concerned and learnt that the Transport Department (TD) had to conduct a pedestrian flow survey on site in this regard to assess the feasibility of replacing the ramp with a lift. It would report to TMDC later.

4. The representative of TD added that the Department was conducting a survey on pedestrian flow as well as traffic condition of the site and examining the feasibility of replacing the ramp with a lift. If the option was found feasible, it would liaise with the Highway Department to follow-up. For the parking space problem raised by Members previously, it might be resulted from illegal parking. To solve the problem, the Department would seek assistance from the Police, and if necessary, consider setting up a restricted zone at the location concerned.

5. The first submitter of the paper said 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 and the car parks nearby, TMDC should follow-up on the comprehensive planning of the OTMTC area as soon as possible and resolve the issue of relocation of Tuen Mun Methadone Clinic as well. A number of Members put forward their views which included: (a) the Administration should re-plan the OTMTC area, seriously study how the site should be developed (e.g. construction of commercial complexes with offices and car parks) and optimise the use of the space over the Tuen Mun River; (b) the Administration should not decide whether to make improvement according to the data only. Rather, it should study Members’ proposals and consider increasing the number of parking space as soon as possible; and (c) the department should conduct a comprehensive planning study on the development of OTMTC, including the opening up of road network of the western area and solutions to the overcrowding of San Hui Market.

6. In response, the representative of PlanD 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. While opined that there was no need to conduct an overall planning at present, the Department agreed that further consideration could be given in respect of improvement works of individual items. The representative of TD also remarked that the traffic demand of the OTMTC area could still be met. 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 of the reports and views of Members.

7. After discussion, TMDC resolved that the issue would be followed-up by the Working Group on Development and Planning of Tuen Mun District.

Project Plan and Concept Layout of Construction of Columbarium Facilities at Tsang Tsui in Tuen Mun District by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

8. The representatives of the Food and Health Bureau (FHB), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, Architectural Services Department, Simon Kwan & Associates Ltd. as well as MVA Hong Kong Limited attended the meeting and briefed Members on the revised project plan and concept layout of the construction of columbarium facilities at Tsang Tsui, Tuen Mun and the traffic impact assessment report.

9. While being supportive of the Government's proposal to increase the supply of columbarium niches, the majority of Members voiced their concerns about the improvement of the overall planning and the transportation arrangement of the columbarium facilities at Tsang Tsui. A number of members put forth their views which included: (a) the Administration should increase the annual supply of new niches; (b) a first-come-first-served approach should be adopted for the allocation of niches instead; and (c) the existing design option should be enhanced. Representatives of the departments concerned responded accordingly.

10. The Chairman said that an informal meeting would be held on 11 November 2014 to discuss the issue with the representatives of the four policy bureaux concerned (i.e. the Secretary for Food and Health, the Secretary for the Environment, the Under Secretary for Development as well as the Under Secretary for Transport and Housing). He hoped that participating Members could discuss the issue with the representatives of all policy bureaux concerned. For fairness and openness, he also hoped that a formal meeting could be held afterwards at which representatives of all policy bureaux concerned would be invited to further discuss the issue with Members who were unable to attend the informal meeting. A number of Members expressed support for the arrangement made by the Chairman. The representative of FHB indicated that the Bureau would be pleased to act in line with the Chairman's arrangement.

Request for Strengthening the Role of the SAR Government in Examining and Approving Applications for Entry to Hong Kong from Mainland China

11. The first submitter of the paper was discontented with the Security Bureau (SB)'s failure to send representative to attend the meeting. She also clarified that the paper did not propose that the Government should decide whether to approve Mainlanders' applications for entry to Hong Kong based on asset tests. Rather, it suggested that the Government should consider requesting Mainlanders applying for entry to Hong Kong to declare their assets.

12. A Member suspected that the aforesaid Member intended to make use of the paper to stir up conflicts between the Mainland and Hong Kong. He also pointed out that the political party with whom the aforesaid Member was affiliated had all along been supportive of the entry of Mainlanders for family reunion, and that the other submitter of the paper had even offered assistance to the victim of the *Chong Fung Yuen* case ten-odd years ago, therefore the contents of the paper contradicted their usual practice.

13. The other submitter of the paper said that immigrants from the Mainland had constituted a portion of the Hong Kong population over the years. Moreover, there was room for improvement as well as review in respect of the key social policies concerned (including the quota system). He urged the Administration to make concerted efforts with the Mainland expeditiously for a better arrangement on social policies regarding the areas of education and social welfare.

14. A number of Members opined that as the requirement of Article 22 of the Basic Law had been clearly set out in the written reply of SB, there was no need for TMDC to continue the discussion on the issue. Moreover, to avoid drawing unnecessary public comments on human rights, the Government should not ask the new arrivals to declare their assets unless they needed to apply for social welfare.

15. After discussion, TMDC resolved to write to SB to reflect its views.

Secretariat, Tuen Mun District Council

1 December 2014