

Minutes of the 8th Meeting of
the District Facilities Management Committee (2016-2017) of
the Tuen Mun District Council

Date: 7 February 2017 (Tuesday)

Time: 9:34 a.m.

Venue: Tuen Mun District Council (TMDC) Conference

<u>Present</u>		<u>Time of Arrival</u>	<u>Time of Departure</u>
Mr TO Shek-yuen, MH (Chairman)	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr TSUI Fan, MH (Vice-chairman)	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr LEUNG Kin-man, BBS, MH, JP	TMDC Chairman	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr LEE Hung-sham, Lothar, MH	TMDC Vice Chairman	9:34 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr SO Shiu-shing	TMDC Member	9:50 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr KWU Hon-keung	TMDC Member	9:36 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr CHU Yiu-wah	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms KONG Fung-yi	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr CHAN Yau-hoi, BBS, MH, JP	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms HO Hang-mui	TMDC Member	9:32 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr LAM Chung-hoi	TMDC Member	9:58 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms CHING Chi-hung	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr CHAN Man-wah, MH	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr CHEUNG Hang-fai	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
The Hon HO Kwan-yiu, JP	TMDC Member	9:38 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms CHU Shun-nga, Beatrice	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr TSANG Hin-hong	TMDC Member	9:34 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms SO Ka-man	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr KAM Man-fung	TMDC Member	9:46 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr MO Shing-fung	TMDC Member	9:38 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr YIP Man-pan	TMDC Member	9:31 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr YEUNG Chi-hang	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr YAN Siu-nam	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms SHU Pui-ki, Becky (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council) ³ , Tuen Mun District Office, Home Affairs Department		

Absent with Apologies

Mr NG Koon-hung	TMDC Member
Ms WONG Lai-sheung, Catherine	TMDC Member
Ms LUNG Shui-hing, MH	TMDC Member

The Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth, MH, JP TMDC Member
Mr CHAN Manwell, Leo TMDC Member
Mr TAM Chun-yin TMDC Member

By Invitation

Mr CHAN Yip-lun, Alan Senior Engineer 1/Noise Mitigation, Highways Department
Mr SO Kai-cheong, Louis Senior Resident Engineer, Mannings (Asia) Consultants Ltd
Mr CHAN Chun-ho Landscape Architect/2, Architectural Services Department
Mr CHUNG Pui-shun Landscape Architect/4, Architectural Services Department
Ms Gloria SO Architect, Spence Robinson Ltd

In Attendance

Ms FUNG Ngar-wai, Aubrey District Officer (Tuen Mun), Home Affairs Department
Mr LO Chun-hang, Simpson Assistant District Officer (Tuen Mun)1,
Home Affairs Department
Mr CHEUNG Chi-keung, Endy Senior Executive Officer (District Management),
Tuen Mun District Office, Home Affairs Department
Ms SIU Wai-mei, Minnie Liaison Officer i/c (District Facilities), Tuen Mun
District Office, Home Affairs Department
Mr LEUNG Kam-wai Senior Inspector of Works, Tuen Mun District Office,
Home Affairs Department
Mr LEE Wang-yui, Eddie Architect (Works)7, Home Affairs Department
Mr WONG Ying-ming District Leisure Manager (Tuen Mun),
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms LEE Lai-fan, Jenny Deputy District Leisure Manager (Tuen Mun),
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr MA Kam-wing, Anthony Senior Manager (New Territories West) Promotion,
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr TONG Tung-kit, Terry Senior Librarian (Tuen Mun), Leisure and Cultural
Services Department
Ms LAW Lai-chun, Gladys Senior Executive Officer (Planning)2, Leisure and Cultural
Services Department
Mr MOK Hing-cheung Administrative Assistant/Lands, District Lands Office,
Tuen Mun, Lands Department
Mr LI Tak-wan Neighbourhood Police Co-ordinator, Police Community
Relations Office (Tuen Mun District), Hong Kong Police Force

I. Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives of government departments to the 8th meeting of the District Facilities Management Committee (“DFMC”).

2. The Chairman reminded Members that any Member who was aware of a personal interest in a discussion item should declare the interest before the discussion. The Chairman would, in accordance with Order 39(12) of the Tuen Mun District Council (“TMDC”) Standing Orders, decide whether the Member who had declared an interest might speak or vote on the matter, might remain in the meeting as an observer, or should withdraw from the meeting. All cases of declaration of interests would be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

II. Absence from Meeting

3. The Secretariat had received Mr Leo CHAN’s application for sick leave and the related medical certificate. Pursuant to Order 42 (1) of the Standing Orders, the DFMC approved his application for leave from this meeting.

III. Confirmation of Minutes of the 7th Meeting Held on 6 December 2016

4. The above minutes were unanimously confirmed by the DFMC.

IV. Discussion Items

**(A) Retrofitting of Noise Barriers on Tuen Mun Road (Fu Tei Section)
Arrangements for Relocating “Welcome to Tuen Mun” Signage Adjacent to Footbridge on Tuen Fu Road**

(DFMC Paper No. 1/2017)

5. Mr Alan CHAN of the Highways Department (“HyD”) said the works for retrofitting noise barriers to Tuen Mun Road (Fu Tei Section) had been commenced in June 2016 and were expected to be completed in late 2019. After the retrofitting works, noise barriers would block the “Welcome to Tuen Mun” sign (“sign”) currently situated next to a footbridge on Tuen Fu Road. In view of this, and in order to unleash space for the related foundation works, the department proposed the sign be moved to another suitable location.

6. Mr Louis SO of the consulting company gave a PowerPoint presentation to briefly introduce the proposal. He said the HyD proposed the whole sign be moved about 500 metres southwards to a location near Tsing Tin Interchange so that all motorists could clearly see the sign, no matter whether they were on Castle Peak Road, Yuen Long Highway or Tuen Mun West slip-road.

7. Members' comments on the first round of discussion are summarised as follows:

- (i) A Member who had conducted an on-site visit together with staff of the HyD and the consulting company agreed with the reprovisioning location proposed by the department. As the relocation might cause damage to the existing sign, the Member suggested the department produce a new sign in the noise barriers retrofitting works by reference to the design of the dolphin sign put up at Tuen Mun Bus-Bus Interchange ("TM BBI");
- (ii) A Member said words on the old-style sign were too small to be clearly read by motorists;
- (iii) A Member reckoned that the department should move the old sign to the new location first and consider production of a new sign only in case of damage;
- (iv) A Member reckoned that the sign should face Tuen Mun Road, which had a relatively high traffic flow;
- (v) A Member suggested an electronic panel be installed the entrance of the noise barriers to provide information on weather, the traffic condition ahead, greeting messages and so forth. Yet, a Member indicated that there was no space at the entrance suitable for the installation; and
- (vi) A Member suggested the department pay more attention to the sanitation of noise barriers, which were very dusty inside and scarcely cleaned.

8. Mr Alan CHAN of the HyD responded that the department proposed keeping the appearance and structure of the original sign, adding that it would undertake repairs if the sign was damaged during the transportation. He further said that if an electronic panel was to be installed in the noise barriers, it was necessary not only to have adequate funding but to design afresh the whole works for noise barriers. Regarding a Member's proposal to produce a new sign by reference to the design of the dolphin sign at TM BBI, the department had to study the feasibility of the above design with the Transport Department ("TD") because the sign was fit with spotlights, which could impair the vision of motorists

9. The Chairman asked about the feasibility of putting up a new sign at the proposed location for reprovisioning. Besides, he said that the proposal to install an electronic panel should be discussed at the Environment, Hygiene and District Development Committee ("EHDDC"), as the progress of the works for noise barriers was reported to the EHDDC.

10. Mr Alan CHAN of the HyD indicated that the speed limit of that section of Tuen Mun Road was 70km/h and the new-style sign was fit with spotlights, which might impair motorists' vision, so the department had to further seek the TD's advice with safety as the primary consideration. Moreover, the department had signed an agreement with a contractor for the noise barriers retrofitting works, under which the contractor would undertake transportation of the existing sign to the new location. Yet, no funding was earmarked under the agreement for putting up a new sign. Members might consider implementing the proposal for the new sign by means of the District Minor Works Programme.

11. Members' comments on the second round of discussion are summarised as follows:

- (i) A Member said the relocation of the sign was necessitated by the HyD's retrofitting of noise barriers, so the HyD should also put up a new sign for replacement and the costs of the works should be borne by the contractor and the consulting company. Another Member agreed that the HyD should study the feasibility of putting up a new sign for replacement or installing an electronic panel;
- (ii) A Member suggested the new location be moved slightly backwards (the location of two Acacia confusa trees);
- (iii) A Member reckoned that deceleration lines could be drawn on that section of Tuen Mun Road as an early alert; and
- (iv) A Member believed that the TD would not agree with putting up a sign with spotlights.

12. The Chairman said spotlights on the new-style sign might impair motorists' vision and this problem could not be solved by speed reduction. He added that Members might request the installation of an electronic panel when the HyD reported to the EHDDC about the progress of works. The Chairman concluded by saying that the DFMC agreed with the relocation of the old sign, and asked the HyD to study after the meeting the feasibility of putting up a dolphin sign at the new location and further consult with the DFMC.

(B) Leisure and Cultural Services Department's Recreational and Sports Activities Plan for Tuen Mun District from April 2017 to March 2018

(DFMC Paper No. 2/2017)

13. Mr WONG Ying-ming of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD") said the department expected that about 1 293 recreational and sports programmes would be held for participation by 85 207 people during the whole year of

2017-18. The budget for the year 2017-18 was slightly higher than that for the previous financial year due to a larger number of activities, changes in prices, the estimated adjustments to the salary of part-time staff and so forth.

14. The Chairman indicated that the funding applied by the LCSD for implementation of recreational and sports activities in the financial year 2017-18 was \$7,171,114. As the current financial year would end in March, the expenditures on the LCSD's activities in March 2017 would be carried forward to the financial year 2017-18 for settlement and the expenditures on the activities in March 2018 would be carried forward to the financial year 2018-19 for settlement. Such arrangements had been specified in the paper. As the Home Affairs Department had not yet announced the aggregate amount of funding for the financial year 2017-18, it was suggested that to ensure prudent financial management, the past practice be followed whereby a total of \$6,786,644, which was equivalent to the total amount approved in the previous year, be allocated first and, after the announcement of the aggregate amount of funding for the new financial year, the LCSD might make further applications with the DFMC in light of the use of funding.

15. Members' comments and enquiries are summarised as follows:

- (i) A Member asked how the LCSD determined the numbers of training classes on swimming and long distance run;
- (ii) A Member said running was highly prevalent in Hong Kong and opined that merely four long distance run training classes per year were not enough to satisfy the demand of Tuen Mun residents. The Member hoped the department could allocate more resources to this item;
- (iii) A Member asked why the costs per head of activities held at parks and playgrounds were higher than those of activities held at other recreational and sports venues; and
- (iv) A Member hoped the department could invest more resources in training sports elites in Tuen Mun.

16. Mr WONG Ying-ming of the LCSD responded that the department provided residents with more swimming training classes in the summer vacation as these classes were widely popular in Tuen Mun. He added that long distance run was a new activity in Tuen Mun and the department would review and adjust the number of training classes in the future in light of residents' demand. Besides, as the activity programmes held at parks and playgrounds included large competitions in long distance run, badminton, lawn bowl and so forth, their overall expenditures and numbers of participants were different from those of the activities held at other venues.

17. As Members had no objection, the Chairman announced that the DFMC endorsed an allocation of \$6,786,644 to the LCSD for organising the recreational and sports activities concerned from March 2017 to February 2018. The above funding application would be submitted to the Finance, Administration and Publicity Committee for consideration at its meeting on 17 February this year and to the TMDC for endorsement at its meeting on 7 March.

(C) LCSD Beautification Works

(DFMC Paper No. 3/2017)

18. As Members had no objection, the Chairman announced that the works project costing about \$1.2 million was endorsed.

(D) Capital Reserve for Urgent and Minor Improvement Works for Recreation and Leisure Grounds Managed by LCSD

(DFMC Paper No. 4/2017)

19. As Members had no objection, the Chairman announced that the works project costing about \$1 million was endorsed.

(E) Construction of Covered Walkway for Footbridge Connecting Siu Hong Court Phase I and II and Exit C2 of Siu Hong West Rail Station

(DFMC Paper No. 5/2017)

20. The proposer of the paper said residents looked forward to the provision of rain shelters at the above location. He would like Members to support his proposal and launch a project for follow-up.

21. Members' comments and enquiries are summarised as follows:

- (i) A Member enquired whether the site for the proposed works fell within an area of the Housing Department and suggested passing this matter to the Steering Group on Construction of Covered Walkway in Tuen Mun for follow-up;
- (ii) A Member had no objection to the proposal put forward by the proposer of the paper and opined that this matter could be passed to the Working Group on Facilities and Works for follow-up; and
- (iii) A Member suggested a project be launched first in order for government departments' to study in depth the feasibility of the works.

22. Mr MOK Hing-cheung of District Lands Office, Tuen Mun, said the site was partly on government land and partly within a privately-owned area of Siu Hong Court, so it was necessary to study which stakeholder should undertake the construction.

23. Mr Simpson LO, Assistant District Officer (Tuen Mun)¹, indicated that the proposed works covered an area between the covers of two existing walkways and thus involved complicated ownership issues, so the department could further explore with the relevant departments the construction of walkway covers or rain shelters if Members agreed with the launch of the project. The proposer of the paper agreed with this arrangement

24. As Members had no objection, the Chairman asked the Secretariat to keep the above proposal for minor works on file and arrange follow-up in due course. Secretariat

V. Reporting Items

(A) Report of Working Group on Community Involvement

(DFMC Paper No. 6/2017)

25. The DFMC endorsed the report of the working group.

(B) Report of Working Group on Facilities and Works

(DFMC Paper No. 7/2017)

26. The DFMC endorsed the report of the working group.

(C) Report of Working Group on Tuen Mun District Organising Committee for the Sixth Hong Kong Games

(DFMC Paper No. 8/2017)

27. The DFMC endorsed the report of the working group.

(D) Report on LCSD's Cultural Activities in Tuen Mun District and Usage of Tuen Mun Town Hall

(DFMC Paper No. 9/2017)

28. A Member noted that the usage of lecture rooms in Tuen Mun Town Hall was persistently low with their usage rate standing at only 50% during peak season in December; but on the contrary, the usage of other facilities kept growing. In his view, the LCSD should explore ways to boost the usage of lecture rooms, such as altering the facilities of lecture rooms or charging nominal fees for periods of low usage.

29. Mr Anthony MA of the LCSD responded that the lecture rooms of the town hall were multi-purpose venues available for hire by the public or organisations, which

could be used not only for seminars but for training classes, lectures and so forth. For venue hire charges, the department would offer assistance to eligible organisations.

30. Members noted the above paper.

(E) Work Report on Management of Recreation, Sports and Passive Facilities in Tuen Mun District

(DFMC Paper No. 10/2017)

31. Mr CHUNG Pui-shun of the Architectural Services Department (“ArchSD”) gave a PowerPoint presentation on the progress of the works under the enhancement programme for children’s playground facilities in Tuen Mun Park. He said the works were consisted of three parts: the southern and northern playgrounds had been closed for the works on 27 July and 26 September 2016 respectively, while the works for the swing area next to the southern playground had been commenced in December 2016 and were expected to be completed in late 2017. The demolition works in the southern playground had largely been completed and the site formation and related drainage works had started, while the demolition works for the northern playground were underway. In addition, the department had requested the contractor to assign at least two traffic wardens to escort works vehicles entering and leaving the site to ensure the safety of park users.

32. Members’ comments and enquiries are summarised as follows:

- (i) A Member enquired whether the completion dates of the works were postponed;
- (ii) A Member asked the LCSD about the costs of planting 5 195 shrubs from November to December 2016;
- (iii) Opining that it was not ideal for parks in Tuen Mun to have no lawns for public use, a Member suggested the LCSD provide Members with regular reports on lawn care;
- (iv) A Member suggested some iconic plants or trees be grown in Tuen Mun;
- (v) A Member suggested the Working Group on Tuen Mun Greening of the DFMC follow up on the matters concerning the overall greening plan for Tuen Mun.

33. Mr CHUNG Pui-shun of the ArchSD responded that the works for the southern playground and the swing area next to it were expected to be completed in phases starting from the third quarter of this year, while the works for the northern playground were expected to be completed at the end of this year.

34. Mr WONG Ying-ming of the LCSD responded that the department would regularly visit greening areas in the district, such as parks, playgrounds and roadsides, for inspection and maintenance. After the meeting, he would explore measures to improve the lawns with his colleagues. While he did not have information about the costs of shrub planting at the moment, he believed that the costs were not too high. He further said the department grew suitable flowers or trees in light of the environment of facilities and venues. For example, shrubs with longer flowering periods and flame trees were grown in Tuen Mun Park and new facilities would be put up in Yeung Siu Hang Garden in the coming few months to introduce plants in the garden. Furthermore, the department would put proposals to the DFMC after studying the greening master plan with the relevant departments.

[Post-meeting Note: There were few lawns in the parks and playgrounds managed by the LCSD and lawns open to the public were provided in Tuen Mun Park and Wu Shan Recreation Playground. The lawns of the above two venues were well maintained and popular among the public in the district. Where necessary, the progress of lawn care would be reported to the DFMC in the future. Besides, the average cost of the LCSD's shrub planting was about \$28,000 per month.]

35. Members noted the above paper.

(F) **Report on Usage and Extension Activities of LCSD's Public Libraries in Tuen Mun District**

(DFMC Paper No. 11/2017)

36. Members noted the above paper.

37. There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10:52 a.m. The next meeting would be held at 9:30 a.m. on 11 April 2017 (Tuesday).

Tuen Mun District Council Secretariat

Date: 28 February 2017

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