

Minutes of the 11th Meeting of
the Environment, Hygiene and District Development Committee of
the Tuen Mun District Council

Date : 22 September 2017 (Friday)

Time : 9:33 a.m.

Venue : Tuen Mun District Council (TMDC) Conference Room

<u>Present</u>		<u>Time of Arrival</u>	<u>Time of Departure</u>
Ms LUNG Shui-hing, MH (Chairman)	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr KAM Man-fung (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, BBS, MH	TMDC Vice-Chairman	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr SO Shiu-shing	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr KWU Hon-keung	TMDC Member	9:39 a.m.	11:25 a.m.
Mr TO Sheck-yuen, MH	TMDC Member	9:32 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 NG Koon-hung	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	11:31 a.m.
Ms WONG Lai-sheung, Catherine	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms HO Hang-mui	TMDC Member	9:35 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr TSUI Fan, MH	TMDC Member	9:30 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
Ms CHU Shun-nga, Beatrice	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr TSANG Hin-hong	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms SO Ka-man	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr MO Shing-fung	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr YIP Man-pan	TMDC Member	9:30 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
Mr TAM Chun-yin	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	12:16 p.m.
Mr LEE Wai-lam	Co-opted Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms KWAN Daina Ho-yin	Co-opted Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms CHU Kit-wa, Tracy (Secretary)	Executive Officer I (District Council) ² , Tuen Mun District Office, Home Affairs Department		

Absent with Apologies

Mr LAM Chung-hoi	TMDC Member
Mr CHAN Manwell, Leo	TMDC Member
Mr KEUNG Kai-pong	Co-opted Member
Mr PAK Hon-pan	Co-opted Member
Mr CHAN Chun-bang	Co-opted Member

By Invitation

Mr CHAN Man-kin	Engineer/New Territories West (Distribution 2), Water Supplies Department
Mr WONG Ying-ming	District Leisure Manager (Tuen Mun), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr FOK Chi-man, Richard	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Special Waste & Landfill Restoration) ³ , Environmental Protection Department
Ms TAM Mee-ye, Greta	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Water Policy & Science) ⁵ , Environmental Protection Department
Mr MAK Shui-wing	Marine Manager/Licensing & Port Formalities (2), Marine Department
Mr SZE Pui-sing	Senior Assistant Shipping Master/West, Marine Department
Mr LEE Tin-shing	Senior Assistant Shipping Master/Pollution Control Unit (Acting), Marine Department
Mr LI Hoi-pong	Marine Inspector I/Pollution Control Unit (Acting), Marine Department

In Attendance

The Hon HO Kwan-yiu, JP	TMDC Member
Miss CHAN Hoi-ting, Gillian	Assistant District Officer (Tuen Mun) ¹ (Acting), Home Affairs Department
Mr LEUNG Kam-wai	Senior Inspector of Works, Tuen Mun District Office, Home Affairs Department
Mr LEE Kam-ho, Edwin	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Tuen Mun), Food and Environment Hygiene Department
Ms BOW Lok-sin, Rosaline	Deputy District Leisure Manager (Tuen Mun) ² , Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr CHAN Pui-shing, Michael	Engineer/Tuen Mun 4, Drainage Services Department
Mr CHEUNG Chun-kit	Housing Manager/Tuen Mun 1, Housing Department
Mr POON Tsz-ming	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West) ¹ , Environmental Protection Department

Miss WU Ho-kei, Maggie

Ms CHAM Suet-ying, Cheryl

Mr MOK Hing-cheung

Town Planner/Tuen Mun 4, Planning Department

Engineer/15 (New Territories West), Civil Engineering and
Development Department

Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Tuen
Mun), Lands Department

I. Opening Remarks

The Chairlady extended welcome to all attendees and all departmental representatives attending the 11th meeting of the Environment, Hygiene and District Development Committee (“EHDDC”).

2. The Chairlady reminded Members that any Member who was aware of a personal interest in a discussion item should declare the interest before the discussion. She would, in accordance with Order 39(12) of the 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 not received any application for leave of absence from Members.

III. Confirmation of Minutes of the 10th Meeting on 21 July 2017

4. As Members had not proposed any amendment to the minutes of the 10th meeting of the EHDDC (2016-2017), the Chairlady announced that the minutes were confirmed.

IV. Matters Arising**A. Strong Request for Comprehensive Inspection and Replacement of Underground Water Mains in the Tuen Mun Pier Area
Request for a Full Investigation into the Causes of a Number of Underground Water Main Burst Incidents in Tuen Mun and Improvement to the Notification Mechanism on Emergency Temporary Water Suspension
(EHDDC Paper No. 24/2017)
(EHDDC Paper No. 26/2017)
(Paras. 44-50 of the minutes of the 9th meeting of EHDDC in 2016-2017)
(Paras. 6-12 of the minutes of the 10th meeting of EHDDC in 2016-2017)**

5. The Chairlady welcomed Mr CHAN Man-kin, Engineer/New Territories West (Distribution 2) of the Water Supplies Department (“WSD”) to the meeting. She said this issue had been discussed in the last two meetings of EHDDC, as the representatives of the WSD were unable to fully answer Members’ questions regarding the “one-stop” liaison service and the notification mechanism, the EHDDC resolved to discuss this issue again in this meeting.

6. With respect to Members' enquiries made in the last meeting, Mr CHAN of the WSD replied as follows:

- (i) The department had developed a smart phone mobile app "WSD Mobile App", which sent out emergency water (both drinking and flushing water) suspension notices to all the districts of Hong Kong. The citizens could install this app and select their concerned districts to receive water suspension notices;
- (ii) As to the notification mechanism, the department currently had a 24-hour service hotline (2824 5000) which supplied the latest information on main bursts and serious leaks for all the districts in Hong Kong. When an incident occurred, the staff of the department would directly notify the hotline headquarters, which would then disseminate the information to the public through the hotline, website and mobile phone app. In addition, the responsible officer would directly enquire the engineering staff on site about the latest situation of an incident, in order to upload the updated information to the website and mobile phone app; and
- (iii) In the future, should an ad-hoc incident (like main bursts and serious leaks) happen which required immediate suspension of water supply, the department would strive to inform the District Councillors of the relevant constituencies or their representatives of the latest development of the incident.

7. A Member hoped that in the future, the WSD could inform the District Councillors of the relevant constituencies about emergency water suspensions by telephone. He also said the mains replacement works at the section between Wu Chui Road and Lung Mun Road had been delayed time and time again, he enquired about its completion date.

8. Mr CHAN of the WSD responded that the department needed time to communicate with the staff on site, so it could not guarantee that immediate and complete information of an incident could be supplied to the District Councillors. About the delay of the mains replacement works from Wu Chui Road to Lung Mun Road, he said several major valves there were rotten and needed replacement, the sewage drains there also complicated the works and recently, an industrial casualty

Secretariat
WSD

caused by excavation works had happened there, which resulted in a call for a review on the work safety for all similar projects in Hong Kong. Due to all the above reasons, the said replacement works could not be completed until the end of November this year.

9. The Chairlady requested the Secretariat to provide Members' emergency contacts to the WSD for notification of ad-hoc incidents in the future.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat had distributed the introduction leaflet of the "WSD Mobile App" on 20 October 2017 to all TMDC members by email and also asked Members to provide their emergency contact information. Members' contact information was then passed to the WSD on 1 November.)

V. **Discussion Items**

A. **Support the Implementation of the Construction Works of Leung Tin Village Pai Lau**

(EHDDC Paper No. 44/2017)

(Written reply from Leisure and Cultural Services Department)

(Written reply from Lands Department)

10. The Chairlady welcomed Mr. WONG Ying Ming, Leisure Manager of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD") to the meeting and referred Members to the written replies from the LCSD and Lands Department.

11. The proposer of the paper said the majority of residents of Leung Tin Village supported the construction of Pai Lau and hoped to receive support from the EHDDC in order to implement the project as soon as possible.

12. A Member supported the construction of Leung Tin Village Pai Lau and requested the relevant department to follow up on the site selection matter. Another Member would support this issue on condition that it would not affect the use of the facilities in the San Wai Chai Children's Playground.

13. Miss CHAN Hoi Ting, Gillian, Acting Assistant District Officer (Tuen Mun) 1, responded that Tuen Mun District Office ("TMDO") was constructing Pai Lau for the villages in the district according to the priorities set by the Tuen Mun Rural Committee in 2008. The project of Leung Tin Village Pai Lau had been endorsed by the Rural Public Works Programme Steering Committee in 2011. The TMDO conducted public consultation for this project on 1 June this year, as requested by the

District Lands Office of Tuen Mun (in compliance with the guidelines of the Rural Public Works Programme). As the public consultation received both positive and negative feedbacks, after listening to the opinions of the EHDDC, the department would follow up the matter with the relevant departments and the Home Affairs Department.

TMDO

14. Mr WONG of the LCSD said if the stakeholders could reach consensus about the site selection, the department would be happy to follow through the plan.

15. The Chairlady summarised that Members unanimously supported the construction of the Leung Tin Village Pai Lau. As for its site selection, it would be left for the TMDO to follow up according to the relevant procedures of the Rural Public Works Programme.

B. Enquire about the Development of the Site for Commercial and Residential Project in Tuen Mun Area 54
(EHDDC Paper No. 45/2017)
(Written reply from Planning Department)
(Written reply from Lands Department)

16. In response to the written reply from the Planning Department, the first proposer of the paper enquired if there was other land available in Tuen Mun Area 54 for commercial/residential zoning. He requested the department to provide the comprehensive development plan, including the transport and community ancillary facilities, for that area. In response to the written reply from the Transport Department, he requested the department or other relevant departments to provide more information about the transport assessment report of Area 54.

(Post-meeting note: About the proposer's request for the provision of the consultant's assessment report (about the impact of housing development at Area 54 on the volume of traffic flow), the Secretariat had referred the matter to the department which proposed the project to follow up, as suggested by the Transport Department.)

17. A Member said the Government had changed part of Area 54 to residential use, which would lead to a population increase without the corresponding adjustment in the transport facilities. He/she was worried about future transport problems. Another Member requested for the early construction of Road L7.

18. The Chairlady reminded Members that transport issues were not within

EHDDC's areas of concern.

19. Miss WU, Town Planner/Tuen Mun & Yuen Long West of the Planning Department, said apart from the captioned commercial/residential development site and the existing 5 sites for building public housing estates, the department had not received any other proposal for launching a large-scale residential development at Area 54.

20. Members made various comments about the Planning Department's reply, which are summarised below:

- (i) A Member was dissatisfied about the failure of the Planning Department to provide the comprehensive future planning for Area 54, reckoning that the department only focused on residential development projects but not the corresponding transport and community ancillary facilities;
- (ii) A Member requested the Government to build a multi-storey carpark in Area 54;
- (iii) A Member requested the Transport Department to disclose the details of the consultant's assessment report about the impact of housing development at Area 54 on the volume of traffic flow, and to develop residents' bus or other measures to ease the traffic flow, so as to reduce the negative impact on the public; and
- (iv) A Member suggested to refer the planning and development of Area 54 to the "Working Group on the Development and Complementary Facilities in Area 54" to follow up. In this regard, the convener of the said working group reckoned that the objective of setting up the group was solely to offer suggestions on the coordination of the transport ancillary facilities for Construction Site 2 and therefore, the convener did not concur in the transfer of the present discussion item to the working group. As it was the Planning Department which had changed many proposed schools in Area 54 to residential land use (which was apt to create a large population increase), it was duty-bound to make the corresponding adjustment of the transport facilities.

21. Ms WU of the Planning Department noted Members' concern on the planning and implementation of the community facilities in Area 54. She said when the

Planning
Department

population of an area increased, the department would assess the adequacy of the supply of community facilities relative to the population of the area in accordance with the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines. After the Planning Department had completed the planning, the construction of the facilities would be left to the relevant departments, which would then carry out the work with reference to the resources available and the population changes of the area.

22. A Member responded that the Planning Department should not merely follow the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines, it should also execute planning according to the actual situation of an area.

23. The Chairlady said Members were very concerned with the development of the area and were worried that its residents would suffer from the lack of transport and community facilities if the Government focused on the buildings themselves only, neglecting the ancillary facilities. She requested the Planning Department to produce the paper in respect of the comprehensive and complete planning for the commercial/residential project in Area 54 together with the appropriate ancillary facilities, and to make improvement proposals to alleviate any potential adverse impacts on the residents of the area. In the future, the Chairlady requested the Planning Department to submit the comprehensive planning proposals of new developments to the TMDC for consultation as early as possible, instead of consulting the Council in bits and pieces.

C. Enquire about the Leachate Overflow Problem of the Leachate Treatment Plant at Pillar Point Valley Landfill, Tuen Mun (EHDDC Paper No. 46/2017) (Written reply from Environmental Protection Department)

24. The Chairlady welcomed Mr. FOK Chi Man, Richard, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Special Waste & Landfill Restoration) 3 of the Environmental Protection Department (“EPD”) to the meeting and referred Members to the written reply from the EPD.

25. The first proposer of the paper said he learnt from earlier news reports about the leachate overflow at the Pillar Point Valley Restored Landfill (“PPVRL”). As similar incidents happened last year, he would like to know the causes of the current one; and if similar incidents recur in the future, whether the EPD would have the Chairperson of the EHDDC or the District Councillor of the relevant constituency informed so that they might be able to reply to public enquiries.

26. Mr FOK of the EPD said the contractor was putting great efforts to solve the captioned problem: commissioning a foreign consultant to conduct a hydrogeological examination to find out the source of the massive leakage after heavy rain and devise a solution, assessing the construction of additional leachate storage tanks and considering the amelioration of the functions of the PPVRL. The contractor was currently analysing the underground water changes. As the landfill covered an area as large as 34 hectares, it would take time to locate the source of underground water flowing into the landfill by field investigation. The EPD would continue to closely monitor the work carried out by the contractor and urge it to implement improvement measures as soon as possible.

27. The Chairlady said as the incident was caused by heavy rain, she enquired how the EPD could advance the capability of the contractor in handling similar scenarios so as to prevent the same or a similar incident from recurring.

28. Mr FOK of the EPD responded that in early July this year, Hong Kong experienced persistent heavy rainfall, the volume of leachate collected at the landfill was 70% more than last year, which exceeded the treatment capacity of the PPVRL. The heavy rain resulted in the accumulation of leachate in the storage tanks at the PPVRL to reaching almost their storage limits. To prevent the leachate from overflowing from the storage tanks and causing pollution to the nearby areas, the EPD accepted the contractor's suggestion to use sealed water tanks to deliver some of the leachate to the nearby Pillar Point Sewage Treatment Works of the Drainage Services Department ("DSD") for treatment, to comply with the licence requirements under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance. The incident had not caused any pollution to the environment.

29. A Member said a similar incident occurred last year, why the department did not conduct research and introduce remedial measures last year. He further asked if the contractor had violated the terms of the contract, what the penalty for violation was, and whether the EPD would consider replacing the contractor or even operate the PPVRL itself.

30. Mr FOK of the EPD responded that last year's problem was caused by the serious machine breakdown of the PPVRL, the contractor had already completed its major repair in January this year. The incident this year was caused by the persistent heavy rain of July (this year) and the generation of a large quantity of leachate that

flowed into the PPVRL. The contractor performance in this incident failed to meet the standard and its operating cost was deducted by the EPD. The EPD had stepped up the monitoring of the contractor's work, such as the installation of real time monitor equipment to monitor the operation of the PPVRL round-the-clock and increasing the number of unscheduled sampling of leachate and inspections.

31. Members made various comments about the EPD's reply, which are summarised below:

- (i) A Member considered it necessary to set up a system requiring the contractor to report to the EPD immediately upon occurrence of similar incidents. In addition, the department should set up a point deduction system by which the contractor must be replaced should the total deduction of points had reached a certain limit;
- (ii) A Member viewed that the EPD should not punish the contractor by a mere fine for its contravention of the relevant requirements but by an effective mechanism of punishment;
- (iii) A Member enquired the EPD about the results of investigation on last year's incident of leachate discharge exceeding the limit granted to the contractor, and about the role, authority and scope of monitor of its on-site staff at the PPVRL;
- (iv) A Member referred to some contents of the written reply of the department: "the volume of leachate that was transported to Pillar Point Sewage Treatment Works for treatment only accounted for less than 1% of the total treatment capacity of the sewage treatment works", and asked that if the landfill leachate could be treated directly by the Pillar Point Sewage Treatment Works, then why did the Government spend public money to employ a contractor to do the job.
- (v) A Member said as the Government had engaged a consultant to carry out a feasibility study before building the PPVRL, raining should be included in the study as an anticipated event; thus, he queried why heavy rain would result in the overflow of leachate from the storage tanks at the PPVRL on this occasion. He also queried the effectiveness of engaging another consultant to find out the cause of the problem. In addition, he enquired how long it would take for

the department to find out the cause of the problem and its solution. He also expressed his doubts about the efficacy of the EPD's monitoring measures.

- (vi) A Member enquired about the EPD's established measures of monitoring the contractor and the details of the enhanced monitor as a result of this incident, inclusive of the relevant data. As the EPD knew that the TMDC had been showing concern to this issue, it was duty-bound to release the investigation report on last year's incident to the TMDC once it became available;
- (vii) A Member viewed that the Government should not contract out the operation of the PPVRL to a contractor, but should take over the management of the PPVRL itself;
- (viii) A Member enquired about the duration of the contract entered between the EPD and the contractor, the monitoring and punishment mechanisms specified in the contract, and whether the EPD could add new monitoring clauses to the contract after seeking legal advice;
- (ix) A Member enquired if the contract could be terminated in the event that the contractor had failed certain standards set in the contract or certain incidents occurred during the contractual period;
- (x) A Member requested for a field visit to the PPVRL to see how it operated;
- (xi) A Member requested the EPD to enhance monitoring of the contractor during the rainy season, adjust its working standard for the rainy season and formulate contingency measures; and
- (xii) A Member requested to continue to discuss this issue in the next meeting.

Secretariat
EPD

32. Mr FOK of the EPD responded that the investigation report on the contractor's contravention of the relevant requirements in last year had been published in a news release. The department could provide the relevant report to Members for their perusal as requested. The department had enhanced the monitoring of the contractor. Apart from carrying out inspections at the PPVRL during office hours on weekdays, they also inspected at night time and on holidays (about twice a month) and took leachate samples for analysis, to ensure that the

contractor had fulfilled the obligations specified in the contract. Full restoration of a landfill usually took 30 years, the department awarded a contract to the contractor in 2004 to restore the landfill and carry out its maintenance from 2006 to 2036, and the contractor had to fulfil certain strict standards specified in the contract. Legal proceedings might be instituted against the department if it terminated the contract before it expired, so the matter must be cautiously handled. The department would be glad to arrange a field visit to the PPVRL to see how it operated.

33. The Chairlady summarised that the representative of the EPD had not given a complete reply to Members' enquiries about the monitoring measures against the contractor, the enhancement of monitoring and contingency measures during the rainy season, the details of the contract, etc. Therefore, the EHDDC would continue to discuss this issue in the next meeting and hoped to receive a complete answer from the EPD then. In addition, she requested the Secretariat to arrange with the EPD for a field visit to the PPVRL in which the incident occurred.

(Post-meeting note: the said field visit was arranged on 21 November.)

D. Concern over the Problem of Tide of Refuse at a Number of Beaches in Tuen Mun

Request to Strengthen the Cleaning Up of Refuse at Tuen Mun Beaches and Ensure the Safety of Boats at Sea

(EHDDC Paper No. 47/2017)

(Written reply from Marine Department)

(Written reply from Leisure and Cultural Services Department)

(Written reply from Environmental Protection Department)

34. The Chairlady welcomed Ms. TAM Mee Yee, Greta, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Water Policy & Science) 5 of the EPD; Mr. MAK Shui Wing, Marine Manager/Licensing & Port Formalities (2) of Marine Department; Mr. SZE Pui Sing, Senior Assistant Shipping Master/West; Mr. LEE Tin Shing, Senior Assistant Shipping Master/Pollution Control Unit and Mr LEE Hoi-bong, Acting Marine Inspector 1/Pollution Control Unit of the Marine Department, to the meeting and referred Members to the written replies from the Marine Department, the LCSD and the EPD.

35. The first proposer of the paper said a huge quantity of refuse was found at sea near the Tuen Mun Ferry Pier and Butterfly Beach, many vessels berthed at those locations too. He enquired whether the marine refuse came from the nearby vessels or

just drifted there with the tide. He requested the departments to follow up on the berthing of vessels in those locations, enhance the liaison with the mainland departments and deal with the problem of cross-border floating refuse.

36. Members' comments on the captioned matter are summarised as follows:

- (i) A Member requested the department to step up the cleaning of beach refuse and enquired on the department's routine arrangement in cleaning up the marine refuse, as well as the contingency measures to be taken in ad-hoc situations like typhoons;
- (ii) A Member requested the relevant department to locate the source of the garbage and carry out targeted actions with other departments concerned;
- (iii) A Member requested to have the river vessels berthed at a farther location and to enhance the advocacy of clean harbours and beaches. He/she also commented that the Marine Department had not taken stringent law enforcement actions against illegal marine dumping;
- (iv) A Member reckoned that before the source of the refuse could be located, the department should step up cleaning and impose severer penalty for indiscriminate dumping of garbage;
- (v) A Member said a large quantity of refuse appeared at Lung Kwu Tan, against which the department should step up cleaning and law enforcement actions;
- (vi) A Member commended the LCSD for its improved performance in handling beach refuse this year and viewed that it might apply for more resources to maintain its level of service if need be; and
- (vii) A Member enquired the Marine Department on the details of marine refuse cleaning.

37. Ms TAM of the EPD responded that the department cared very much about marine refuse and the Government had set up an inter-departmental working group consisting of 8 departments (under the lead of the Environment Bureau) in 2012, with the objectives of solving the problem of marine refuse and further improving the cleanliness of the seashore. A study about marine refuse was conducted from 2013 to

2014, the result of which showed that marine refuse accounted for less than 0.5% of all municipal solid waste. It found that marine refuse originated from land-based sources, 70% of which comprised of plastic and foam plastic items. Refuse bearing simplified Chinese character labels accounted for less than 5% of the marine refuse collected. The study also revealed that the main cause of marine refuse was the poor awareness of the community about ocean protection. In view of this, the working group had designed strategies to reduce waste at source, reduce the quantity of refuse entering the marine environment and remove refuse from the marine environment. A series of actions had been taken to improve the cleanliness of Hong Kong's seashore, beaches and surrounding sea areas, such as publicity and educational campaigns, cross-departmental beach cleaning actions and installation of eco facilities at beaches. In addition, the Tuen Mun Lung Kwu Tan was a place prone to refuse accumulation and so, it ranked as a priority location to be dealt with by the working group, which had assisted the relevant department to obtain more resources to remove the marine refuse there.

38. Ms TAM of the EPD said further that in October 2016, under the framework of "Hong Kong-Guangdong Joint Working Group on Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection", Guangdong and Hong Kong set up the "Hong Kong-Guangdong Marine Environmental Management Special Panel" to step up efforts in resolving various issues concerning regional floating marine refuse. The department had sought help from Guangdong regarding the large quantity of refuse found within the Tuen Mun waters in June last year. Guangdong had instituted prosecutions against six cases of illegal marine dumping by vessels and had removed and treated 2200 tonnes of refuse. The department would also improve the notification and alert system between Guangdong and Hong Kong to more efficiently solve the problem of cross-border refuse. For the functioning of the system, Guangdong had provided the department with the rainfall data of more than 10 cities to deduce the correlation between regional heavy rain and the cumulation of large quantities of marine refuse in Hong Kong waters. Through the system, the department could project the Hong Kong locations that might be affected by the floating marine refuse, basing on the rainfall situation of the mainland regions, and was able to promptly notify the relevant departments to do the appropriate preparation work.

39. Mr LEE of the Marine Department responded that apart from the routine patrol of marine areas and monitoring the work of cleaning contractors, the department would also carry out law enforcement actions (including prosecuting law offenders) in each district of Hong Kong (including Tuen Mun District) against marine littering.

According to the relevant laws, offenders might be fined or imprisoned. As it was difficult to collect evidence on illegal marine dumping, the department had especially printed promotional pamphlets for distribution to the public to appeal to their cooperation in anti-dumping of marine refuse and reporting of illegal activities. As for the daily cleaning of marine refuse, currently 8 vessels of different models were responsible for removing the floating refuse within the Tuen Mun waters. After a contingent event had passed, such as a typhoon hitting Hong Kong, the department would mobilise large-size mechanised scavenging vessels and foreshore cleaning teams to step up the removal of the subsequent increased quantity of floating refuse. In addition, the department would clean up the rocky beaches of Tuen Mun jointly with the LCSD every month.

40. Mr SZE of the Marine Department supplemented that the River Trade Terminal near the Tuen Mun Ferry Pier was not a No-Stopping Zone, but if there were too many vessels or if they were too close to the beach, the department would direct them to leave.

41. Mr WONG of the LCSD said there was a lot of marine refuse near the Tuen Mun Ferry Pier. The department would execute cleaning campaigns jointly with the foreshore cleaning teams of Marine Department every month.

42. Members made other comments about the department's reply, which are summarised below:

- (i) A Member viewed that the Marine Department should not outsource the marine-refuse removal work and should increase the number of large-size mechanised vessels to enhance the garbage-removal efficacy;
- (ii) A Member recognised the work of the EPD but at the same time considered it palliative in nature. She reckoned that the main source of the refuse was not Hong Kong;
- (iii) A Member enquired whether it was possible to ask the vessels to moor at locations farther away from the Tuen Mun Ferry Pier;
- (iv) A Member enquired whether it was legal for vessels to moor on the Tuen Mun River at the locations of Lung Mun Oasis and Glorious Garden, and whether there was any ordinance governing such matter at present;

- (v) A Member considered that the dam at the Castle Peak Bay Waterfront Promenade was uneven, which made it difficult to clean the refuse, and suggested the Government to construct stone embankment in the future. He also enquired whether it was possible to relocate the customs clearance at the Tuen Mun River Trade Terminal farther away from the Tuen Mun Ferry Pier; and
- (vi) According to a Member's personal observation, a lot of the refuse on Tuen Mun beaches was printed with simplified Chinese words and hence was non-local refuse; so, he/she requested the departments to strengthen the liaison with the relevant mainland departments to combat illegal marine dumping.

43. The Chairlady said Members' comments about the Castle Peak Bay Waterfront Promenade would be passed to the TMDO as reference for the future handling of district minor works.

44. Ms TAM of the EPD responded that through the Hong Kong-Guangdong Marine Environmental Management Special Panel, the department would continue to follow up with Guangdong on the problem of illegal marine dumping and to improve the notification and alert system between the two parties. She also said the floating marine refuse in Tuen Mun was affected by factors like seasonal wind directions, ocean currents and rainfall.

45. Mr LEE of the Marine Department responded that there were different models of cleaning vessels under the Marine Department, which would make appropriate deployment of them depending on the working environment. Mr SZE of the Marine Department supplemented that the location outside the Tuen Mun Ferry Pier was the legal anchorage area for vessels arriving at Tuen Mun, which must be examined there. Moreover, the legal anchorage area was beside the River Trade Terminal; so, it attracted many vessels to berth there. As the western side of the anchorage area was the River Trade Terminal and the aviation fuel facility base, it was impossible to move the anchorage area to the west. The department would both promote and dissuade the vessels sailing near the ferry pier and beach to leave. Mr MAK supplemented that in the 1990s, the TMDC had discussed about relocating the Tuen Mun anchorage area for arrival vessels; but as there were diverse public facilities in its vicinity, no other location was better than that.

46. With regard to the problem of vessels mooring on Tuen Mun River near Glorious Garden, Mr MAK of the Marine Department responded that Tuen Mun River was not an access channel, so if a vessel was not anchored at the river bank with a rope, it was not against the law, in principle. The department had carried out joint operations with other departments to remove the illegal buoys at sea and other obstacles on land. If the public discovered any vessel breaking the law, they could report to the Marine Department for law enforcement by its officers.

47. A Member enquired again whether it was possible to adjust the location of the Tuen Mun anchorage area a little bit. Mr MAK of the Marine Department said the relevant location had been gazetted and any change to it would require amendment of the pertinent ordinance. The department noted the comments and suggestions of Members and would strive to tie in with them in the future.

48. To summarise, the Chairlady hoped that the departments would take note of Members' comments and strive to solve the problems of marine and beach refuse.

E. Concern over the Poor Air Quality of Tuen Mun District
Request for a thorough investigation of the causes and enhanced
measures of improvement
(EHDDC Paper No. 48/2017)
(Written reply from Environmental Protection Department)

49. The first proposer of the paper enquired whether the department would install air quality monitors in Tuen Mun District to monitor the air quality of the district, and also requested the Government to roll out the appropriate policies and measures, such as installing more charging facilities for electric cars to encourage the public to use electric cars instead of petrol vehicles.

50. A Member queried the effectiveness of the measures taken by the department to improve the air quality. She was worried that when the Western Bypass were open to traffic in the future, the air quality in the district would worsen. She also enquired whether the Government would monitor the emissions sent out from the cross-border vehicles, and what the Government could do to remove the negative impacts of air pollution on the public.

51. A Member said Tuen Mun District had persistently been faced with the problem of air pollution and was worried that when Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macako

Bridge were open to traffic, more vehicles would pass Tuen Mun to aggravate the air pollution problem. He opined that the Transport and Housing Bureau was duty-bound to devise policies and standards for ridding off the air pollution caused by additional transport facilities. He also asked for the installation of roadside air quality monitoring stations in the district in order to have a better understanding of the situation of air pollution of the district.

52. Mr POON of the EPD responded that the department had all along been very supportive of the use of electric cars by the public and had encouraged its use through the provision of subsidies and charging facilities to the public. Regarding the installation of roadside stations, the department would review the air quality monitoring network each year according to a set of guidelines to ensure its representativeness; it would also study the necessity of increasing the number of monitoring stations and the types of pollutants to be monitored. In the coming year, the department would carry out short-term air quality monitor at several roadside locations (including Tuen Mun) in order to review the urgency of adding roadside air quality monitoring stations. The department was now exploring suitable locations for conducting short-term air quality monitoring and would inform the EHDDC once those locations were confirmed.

53. Regarding the situation after Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge were open to traffic, Mr POON of the EPD said vehicles entering Hong Kong from the mainland must comply with the statutory emission standards of Hong Kong, its relevant details would be supplemented after the meeting. The department updated the Air Quality Health Index of all the districts every hour on its official website to enable the public to make preparations and the corresponding arrangements in response to the latest air quality information.

(Post-meeting note: Generally speaking, cross-border vehicles must be registered and licensed in Hong Kong and must meet the prevailing statutory emission standards applicable to newly registered vehicles.)

54. A Member considered it necessary to set up permanent roadside air quality monitoring stations in Tuen Mun District after listening to the reply from the EPD.

55. To summarise, the Chairlady hoped that the department would take note of Members' comments about the air pollution problem. In addition, she reckoned that the Government had not proactively promoted the use of electric cars and should step up its efforts in this regard.

VI. Reporting Items

(A) Tuen Mun River and Beach Water Quality Report
(EHDDC Paper No. 49/2017)

(The Chairlady left the meeting at this juncture and the meeting was chaired by the Vice Chairman.)

56. Members' comments and enquiries on this report are summarised as follows:

- (i) A Member pointed out that the water quality of the lower reaches of Tuen Mun River was graded as "excellent" and queried about its truthfulness. He said if the water quality was excellent, then why the department had erected a sign nearby to warn visitors that the fish in the river was not edible. He also enquired whether the water quality standards for river water and sea water were different;
- (ii) A Member pointed out that the water quality at Lam Tei Interchange was graded as "poor" and enquired about the causes of its poor quality and ways to improve it. She said the Government's plan in improving the sewage treatment system there was stuck without progress, so she enquired when the sewage treatment system from Lam Tei to Nai Wai would be completed;
- (iii) According to the beach grading of Tuen Mun gazetted beaches during June to August 2017, the water quality of the beaches in the district were all rated as grade 2 to grade 3 during the whole swimming season. A Member enquired whether the unsatisfactory water quality was due to excessive beach garbage and the ways to improve the water quality; and
- (iv) A Member said the residents of village houses stored sewage in septic tanks, which would seep underground; so, he reckoned that the sewage at Lam Tei Interchange might not all come from the upper reaches of the river.

57. The replies from Mr POON of the EPD are summarised below:

- (i) The department had always endeavoured to improve the water quality of Tuen Mun River. He confirmed the accuracy of the contents of the report and said the water qualities of river water and beach water were rated with different standards;

- (ii) He explained that the water quality at Lam Tei Interchange was poorer because the sewerage connection works at the upper catchment of Tuen Mun River had not been completed yet. He believed that the DSD would carry out the sewer laying works as planned. Once the works were completed, there should be improvement on the water quality. A flow interceptor had been installed near Siu Hong Station to direct the upstream river water to the public sewers, so the water quality at the lower reaches of Tuen Mun River was not affected;
- (iii) He said the beach grading was mainly based on the amount of E. coli contained in the water. The more frequent rainfall in summer usually had a short impact on the water quality, and in winter, the water quality was usually better and more stable;
- (iv) He knew that the Legislative Council had endorsed the fund application of the DSD to improve the sewer facilities for village houses, the locations concerned included Fu Tei, Kei Lun Wai and Fuk Hang Tsuen. The works were expected to be completed in year 2019; and
- (v) He said Lam Tei had a water quality monitoring station, which deduced that the water quality near Tsing Chuen Wai was stable, and the department had not received any complaints from the residents either.

EPD

58. A Member said many village houses in Tuen Mun rural areas still had not improved their sewerage facilities. He would endeavour to persuade the property owners to carry out improvement works. He requested the department to speed up its search for a suitable location to build a sewage treatment plant. Another Member enquired whether the department had any measure to improve the beach water quality for summer seasons.

59. Mr POON of the EPD responded that the quality of beach water would be temporarily affected by the rainwater flowing from the upper reaches of a river in summer. He knew that the LCSD and the DSD were studying ways to divert the rainwater (that was released from the stormwater drains into the beaches) to other places so as to reduce its impact on the quality of beach water.

60. The Vice-Chairman suggested the EPD to list out the grading systems for both beach and river water in the reports for Members to know their difference. In addition,

he said in the last EHDDC meeting, discussions were held on the notification mechanism for beach water quality, in which the EHDDC had requested the department to take water samples in the morning and publish the results of the analysis of the samples on the same day instead of on the following day. He enquired whether the department had accepted the said suggestion and improved the procedure for water sample analysis.

61. Mr POON of the EPD responded that he had already relayed the suggestions to the relevant team of the department. At present, the water quality samples were taken in the morning; but the incubation of bacteria, and the testing and analysis took at least 18 and 24 hours respectively, so it was impossible for publishing the water analysis results on the same day that the water sample was collected.

62. The Vice-Chairman said he comprehended that due to the existing technical limitations, the EPD could not publish the water analysis results on the same day that the water sample was collected.

(B) Progress Report on Major Public Works Projects in Tuen Mun District
(as at 15 August 2017)
(EHDDC Paper No. 50/2017)

63. Members noted the report.

(C) Report of Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
(EHDDC Paper No. 51/2017)

64. Members noted the report.

65. A Member said in the recent month, a citizen sent an email to her everyday complaining about the numerous unauthorised bills and posters found in Tuen Mun District. She viewed that the department could not root out the problem just by their continuous removal and enquired whether the department could offer a solution to the problem.

66. A Member said a resident complained to her that when the air-conditioner of the flat immediate below his/her flat sent out upward cold air (when the wind blades of the air-conditioner turned upwards), it would condense the moisture on his/her floor to become water droplets. The affected resident could only relay the scenario to the resident of the lower floor through the management company, and she enquired whether the department would entertain this kind of complaint.

67. Mr LEE of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department responded that currently, all the 18 districts of Hong Kong were hit by the issue of unauthorised bills and posters. Apart from the continuous removal of those objects, the staff of the department would immediately issue fixed penalty tickets to the offenders who were caught posting unauthorised bills and posters on the spot. Regarding the cold air from a lower floor condensing the moisture of the upper floor, he would contact the Member after the meeting to understand the details of the case and to give a reply.

(D) Renovation Works for Tsing Yeung Circuit Public Toilet
(EHDDC Paper No. 52/2017)

(The Chairlady returned to the meeting at this point of time and resumed the chair.)

68. Members noted the report.

(E) Anti-mosquito Campaign 2017 (Phase III) in Tuen Mun
(EHDDC Paper No. 53/2017)

69. Members noted the report.

(F) 2018 Tuen Mun Lunar New Year Fair
(EHDDC Paper No. 54/2017)

70. Members noted the report.

(G) Progress Report of Local Public Works and Rural Public Works as at August 2017
(EHDDC Paper No. 55/2017)

71. Members noted the report.

(H) Reports of Working Groups under EHDDC
(EHDDC Paper No. 56/2017)

(i) Working Group on Tuen Mun Environmental Protection Activities

72. Members noted the report.

73. A Member commended the work of the working group. He said many citizens would follow traditions to burn joss paper during the Yue Lan Festival (Festival of the Hungry Ghosts) and he suggested the EPD to provide all housing estates with environmentally friendly joss paper burners next year, and simultaneously boost its publicity, in a bid to alleviate the damage to the environment caused by

joss-paper burning. He also hoped that the working group could help publicise and promote the relevant message.

74. The convener of the above working group thanked Members for their comments and hoped that the EPD could accept the above suggestions.

75. The Chairlady (also a member of the working group) supplemented that this year, the working group had printed posters to remind the residents to keep the environment clean while burning joss paper, the posters were distributed to all housing estates.

EPD

76. Mr POON of the EPD said the department noted Members' comments and would prepare the relevant work for next year's Ghost Festival. The convener of the working group suggested the EPD to improve the design of the joss paper burners and to provide further assistance to the residents.

77. The Chairlady hoped that the EPD would take note of Members' comments.

(ii) Working Group on Markets and Illegal Hawking Activities

78. Members noted the report.

(iii) Working Group on the Development and Complementary Facilities in Area 54

79. Members noted the report.

80. The convener of the above working group said they had been discussing the proposal to build a covered walkway near the Siu Hong Sewage Pumping Station all these years, but the Housing Department replied that it could not affirm the proposal. Hence, the convener asked the EHDDC to assess whether to pass the issue to the relevant working group under the District Facilities Management Committee to follow up or not.

81. Ms CHAN of the Tuen Mun District Office said the working group under the District Facilities Management Committee had been handling the district minor works and had recommended suitable walkways for constructing covers. Due to the limitation of resources, many projects of walkway-cover construction were still pending on the waiting list and the department would proactively follow up. She supplemented that the department was carrying out feasibility studies for three walkways, she would keep watch on it and hoped to implement the works as soon as

possible.

82. As Members did not give other comments, the EHDDC endorsed the captioned three reports.

(I) Progress Report as at 26 August 2017
(EHDDC Paper No. 57/2017)

(i) Drainage Improvement Works in Tuen Mun District by Drainage Services Department

83. Members noted the report.

(ii) Report on Environmental Monitoring of Mud Pit V

84. Members noted the report.

(iii) Report on Water Seepage Problems at Buildings in Tuen Mun District

85. Members noted the report.

(iv) Progress Report of Water Main Laying Works in Tuen Mun District

86. Members noted the report.

87. A Member viewed that the heading of this agenda item “Progress Report as at 26 August 2017” was inconsistent with the contents inside and suggested to rename it.

Secretariat

88. The Chairlady requested the Secretary to take note of the above suggestion.

(J) Air Quality Health Index of Tuen Mun Air Quality Monitoring Station
(EHDDC Paper No. 58/2017)

89. Members noted the report.

VII. Any Other Business and Date of Next Meeting

90. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:40 p.m. The next meeting would be held on 24 November 2017.

Tuen Mun District Council Secretariat

Date: 11 November 2017