

Minutes of the 12th Meeting of
the Environment, Hygiene and District Development Committee of
the Tuen Mun District Council

Date : 24 November 2017 (Friday)

Time : 9:30 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	9:34 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr KWU Hon-keung	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	10:56 a.m.
Mr TO Shek-yuen, MH	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr CHU Yiu-wah	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
Ms KONG Fung-yi	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr NG Koon-hung	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
Ms WONG Lai-sheung, Catherine	TMDC Member	9:41 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms HO Hang-mui	TMDC Member	9:31 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr LAM Chung-hoi	TMDC Member	9:30 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	9:36 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr MO Shing-fung	TMDC Member	10:04 a.m.	11:54 a.m.
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.	End of meeting
Mr KEUNG Kai-pong	Co-opted Member	9:36 a.m.	11:37 a.m.
Mr PAK Hon-pan	Co-opted Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr LEE Wai-lam	Co-opted Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr CHAN Chun-bang	Co-opted Member	9:43 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 CHAN Manwell, Leo TMDC Member

By Invitation

Mr FONG Kin-wa Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Landfills & Development), Environmental Protection Department

Mr FOK Chi-man, Richard Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Special Waste & Landfill Restoration)³, Environmental Protection Department

Ms CHAK Man-ye, Rene Liaison Officer i/c Building Management & Town Centre, Tuen Mun District Office, Home Affairs Department

Mr LEUNG Allen Engineer/Tuen Mun 5, Drainage Services Department

Ms WONG Mei-chi Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Assessment & Noise) ⁴ (Acting), Environmental Protection Department

Mr LAM Chi-keung, Desmond Chief Engineer/New Territories West 2 (New Territories West), Civil Engineering and Development Department

Mr TSANG Lap-kei, Freddie Senior Engineer/2 (New Territories West), Civil Engineering and Development Department

Mr HO Wing-kuen, Tyler Engineer/1 (New Territories West), Civil Engineering and Development Department

Mr Jeffrey CHAN Project Manager, Atkins China Limited

Mr TANG Wong-ching, Tony Deputy Project Manager, Atkins China Limited

Miss YIP Yee-lam Engineer, Atkins China Limited

Mr LEUNG Wai-man, Ray Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Air Science)¹, Environmental Protection Department

In Attendance

Miss TSUI Man-ye, Joanna Assistant District Officer (Tuen Mun)¹, 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 CHAN Wing-ye, 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 PUN Shui-kit, Ivan Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West)¹³, Environmental Protection Department

Miss WU Ho-kei, Maggie Town Planner/Tuen Mun 4, Planning Department

Ms CHAM Suet-ying, Cheryl

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

Mr MOK Hing-cheung

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 12th meeting of the Environment, Hygiene and District Development Committee (“EHDDC”). On behalf of the EHDDC, she extended welcome to Miss TSUI Man Yee, Joanna, Assistant District Officer (Tuen Mun) 1 of the Home Affairs Department (“HAD”), who attended the meeting for the first time, and also expressed thanks to Mr LO Chun-hang, Simpson, the former Assistant District Officer (Tuen Mun) 1, for his past contributions to the Tuen Mun district.

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 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 not received any application for leave of absence from Members.

III. Confirmation of Minutes of The Last Meeting

4. As Members had not proposed any amendment to the minutes of the 11th meeting of the EHDDC (2016-2017), the Chairlady announced that the minutes were confirmed.

IV. Matters Arising

(A) Enquire about the Leachate Overflow Problem of the Leachate Treatment Plant at Pillar Point Valley Landfill, Tuen Mun
(EHDDC Paper No. 46/2017)
(Paras. 24-33 of the minutes of the 11th meeting of EHDDC in 2016-2017)
(Written reply from Environmental Protection Department)

5. The Chairlady said in the last EHDDC meeting, the representative of the Environmental Protection Department (“EPD”) had not given a complete reply to Members’ enquiries about the monitoring measures against the contractor and the enhancement of monitoring and contingency measures during the rainy season, so the EHDDC resolved to continue discussion on the issue. Besides, the EPD had arranged a field inspection for Members on 21 November 2017 at the Pillar Point Valley Restored Landfill (“PPVRL”) and its leachate treatment plant, as requested by Members. She welcomed Mr FONG Kin-wa, Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Landfills & Dev) and Mr FOK Chi-man, Richard, Senior Environmental Protection Officer

(Special Waste & Landfill Restoration) 3 of the EPD, to the meeting.

6. Mr FONG of the EPD said the department had retrofitted a “pre-processor” at the leachate treatment plant to accelerate the precipitation of impurities of the leachate and had also ceased the transporting of the leachate to the Pillar Point Sewage Treatment Works for treatment. In addition, the contractor had commissioned a foreign consultant to conduct a hydrogeological examination and gather data at the PPVRL, and carried out analysis, in order to obtain a further picture of the underground water conditions and prepare a specific plan for retrofitting underground wells. The department hoped to finish the drilling of 9 to 10 wells of about 100 metres deep each and to install water pumps before the rainy season arrived, so as to pump the underground water away from the landfill, and hence reducing the chance of generating large quantities of leachate during the rainy season.

7. Members’ comments and enquiries on the EPD’s reply are summarised as follows:

- (i) A Member enquired the police about the progress of the investigation on the case referred by the EPD, which was about the flaring temperature of the landfill gas treatment facility failing to reach the contractual requirement of 1,000 degrees Celsius; and that if the party concerned was found involved in the illegal discharge of sewage or the supply of false information, whether the police would take any follow up action;
- (ii) A Member enquired whether the EPD would take targeted measures for monitoring the performance of the contractor in the future, and how the staff stationed at the landfill could effectively discharge their duties to ensure the contractor’s compliance with the contract requirements, so as to avoid the recurrence of similar incidents;
- (iii) A Member enquired whether the newly introduced monitoring system of the EPD could ensure that the flaring temperature reached the contractual requirement, and also suggested that the department should regularly analyse the system data to ensure the normal operation of the leachate treatment plant; and
- (iv) A Member said a similar incident had also occurred at the Siu Lang Shui Landfill, which caused the contamination of the sea water of the Butterfly Beach. He/she reminded the EPD to pay extra attention when drilling wells at the Pillar Point Valley and also suggested the timely scrutiny of the conditions of the three landfills in Tuen Mun district, as well as studying the feasibility of utilising landfill gas to generate electricity.

8. Mr FONG of the EPD responded that the department had not yet received the results of investigation of the above case from the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF). The EPD had

retrofitted real-time monitor equipment to monitor the operation of the PPVRL round-the-clock and record the major operational data of the leachate treatment plant, such as the flaring temperature of the landfill gas treatment facility, the flow rate of the leachate discharge and the temperature of the heat exchanger, in order to ensure the normal operation of the PPVRL. In addition, the department also had staff stationed at the landfill to oversee the work of the contractor and carry out surprise inspections at night and on holidays. Upon the completion of the works for well drilling and installation of water pumps, the department would instruct the contractor to carefully supervise the pumping of underground water in the future, to avoid affecting the geological stability of the place due to the draining away of too much water.

9. Mr FONG of the EPD said further that when the department first designed the plan of the PPVRL, it had already taken the factor of the underground water, but the surveying technology at that time was not as accurate as today's. After the aforesaid foreign consultant had completed the hydrogeology surveying, the direction of the underground water flow became clear, which helped to decide on the locations of the wells to be drilled. The PPVRL had full restoration now, as its restoration works had been completed for over 30 years; the landfill gas produced was decreasing to a level only sufficient for the daily operation of the leachate treatment plant. The department would regularly monitor the water quality of the beaches and rivers in the vicinity of the landfill to ensure that the environment would not be contaminated.

10. A Member said the Working Group on Castle Peak Bay under the TMDC would discuss about the beautification and management of the Castle Peak Bay Waterfront Promenade in its meeting to be held on 29 November 2017, in which the water contamination issue would be discussed. He requested the EPD to send representatives to the above meeting. Mr FONG of the EPD responded that he would pass the message to the relevant team members.

EPD

11. A Member enquired whether the cost of drilling the wells was borne by the EPD or by the contractor, and that if the investigation found that the contractor had provided false information, whether the department would terminate its contract with the contractor. A Member suggested the EPD to arrange a reliable staff to take water samples together with the contractor, and to carry out surprise checks to avoid being cheated by the contractor.

12. Mr FONG of the EPD responded that the contractor had to bear the cost of the well drilling pursuant to the terms of the contract, the EPD would not pay the contractor for such works. The staff of the department were responsible for taking water samples and conducting surprise checks at the landfill, the samples were analysed by an independent laboratory retained by the department. About the question of whether the department would terminate the contract, he said the prime concern at the moment was to strive to complete the various items of the project; if the contractor's performance fell short of the stipulated standard, the department would deduct its

operational fees according to the terms of the contract.

13. In summary, the Chairlady said Members noted that the case of false information was referred to the police for investigation, she requested the EPD to promptly report the results of the police investigation to the EHDDC.

EPD

V. Discussion Items

(A) Prolonged Seepage of Water between Road Shoulder and Carriageway on San Tsing Street in San Hui, Tuen Mun

(EHDDC Paper No. 59/2017)

(Written reply from Drainage Services Department)

(Written reply from Water Supplies Department)

(Written reply from Buildings Department)

14. The Chairlady welcomed Ms CHAK Man-ye, Rene, Liaison Officer In-charge, Building Management & Town Centre, of the Tuen Mun District Office (“TMDO”) and Mr LEUNG Allen, Engineer/Tuen Mun 5 of the Drainage Services Department (“DSD”), to the meeting.

15. The proposer of the paper said the seepage of water in the vicinity of the Mo Boon Building, Tai Hong Building and Yick Lee Building at San Tsing Street had persisted for over half a year. He had contacted different departments about it, but up till now, they all failed to find out the cause of the water seepage. He took the view that the departments had shifted their responsibilities onto one another in tackling the problem, so he urged the relevant department to follow up on the matter as soon as possible; otherwise, he would report it to the Office of The Ombudsman, Hong Kong.

16. Miss TSUI, Assistant District Officer (Tuen Mun) 1, responded that after the TMDO learnt about the water seepage, it had arranged two field inspections with the relevant departments and requested the Buildings Department to carry out drainage testing; however, the source of the water seepage was still not found. For this reason, the TMDO had re-arranged a field inspection with the Highways Department (“HyD”), the DSD, the Water Supplies Department (“WSD”), the Buildings Department, and the EPD on 30 November 2017. The HyD would excavate the land at the location concerned for examining the underground water mains in a bid to find out the source of the water seepage.

17. The Chairlady enquired the proposer of the paper if he agreed to defer the discussion of the issue until the completion of the departments’ inspections.

18. The proposer of the paper said when he contacted the relevant department earlier, he had

already requested it to examine the underground water mains, but no news was heard even after several months. He reckoned that the plan prepared many years ago might not be able to accurately show the current locations of the underground water mains, the department should not refuse to follow up on the case just because the plan did not indicate any underground water mains at the location concerned.

19. Members made various comments on this issue, which are summarised below:

- (i) A Member said when the WSD laid the water pipes at Wu Chui Road, it had also indicated that the relevant plan was missing. He opined that the department should face up to the problem and draw a new plan before any accident took place;
- (ii) A Member said if the departments could not effectively solve the problem of water seepage in public places, it would undermine the confidence of the public on the departments' competence in dealing with water seepage in buildings;
- (iii) A Member hoped that the TMDO would discharge its coordination duty and strive to liaise among the relevant departments to solve the water seepage problem as soon as possible; and
- (iv) A Member suggested the relevant department to investigate whether the old buildings in the vicinity still used underground septic facilities, which caused the seepage of waste water.

20. Mr LEUNG of the DSD responded that the department had assigned its staff to inspect the site several times upon being informed of the case. The inspections revealed that water was seeping out from the roadside. According to the records of the DSD, the pavement and the carriageway outside the Mo Boon Building and Tai Hong Building of San Tsing Street - where water seepage was found, were not installed with any public sewers. At San Tsing Street, there was only one storm water drain around 2 metres deep under the carriageway near the Eldo Court. In addition, the department had checked the nearby manhole and the closed-circuit television records but concluded that the water seepage at San Tsing Street was not related to the public storm water drain or public sewers. The DSD would conduct a field inspection with the other departments on 30 November 2017 again and continue to give drainage opinions in order to find out the source of the water seepage.

21. The proposer of the paper said the location of water seepage was a swamp area before development. The seepage could be caused by the overflow of water, and the DSD had in the past three years used pumping vehicles to pump away the waste water. He also pointed out that

the three buildings mentioned in the paper did not use any underground septic facilities.

22. A Member said malodour was sent out from the back alley between the Yick Lee Building and Mo Boon Building and commented that the DSD should find out the source of the foul water.

23. Mr LEUNG of the DSD responded that an underground storm water drain was fixed at the back alley between the Mo Boon Building and Yick Lee Building, which connected to the Tsing Yin Street. Due to the aging of the drain, the department had installed a water pump there to pump the rain water to the catch pit at Tsing Yin Street to reduce debris deposition inside the drain. He said the department was applying for an excavation permit from the HyD for carrying out drainage improvement works.

24. The Chairlady urged the DSD to completely remove the clogged deposits of the storm water drain located between the Mo Boon Building and Yick Lee Building as soon as possible and hoped to see the discovery of the source of water seepage in the department's coming inspections.

DSD

(Post-meeting note: TMDO conducted a field inspection with the WSD, DSD, EPD and HyD on 30 November 2017. After excavation, it was found that the water seepage originated from the salt water supply route. As the salt water supply was managed by the WSD, the water seepage problem was referred to the WSD to follow up.)

(B) Request for Extension of Noise Barriers along Tuen Mun Road to The Bloomsway Area

(EHDDC Paper No. 60/2017)

(Written reply from Environmental Protection Department)

25. The Chairlady welcomed Ms WONG Mei-chi, Acting Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Assessment & Noise) 4 of the EPD, to the meeting.

26. The first proposer of the paper said the new housing estates and infrastructures along the Castle Peak Road (such as The Bloomsway and Chu Hai College Of Higher Education) were in close proximity with the Tuen Mun Road. He requested the EPD to extend the noise barrier along the Tuen Mun Road to The Bloomsway, to reduce the impacts of traffic noise on the local residents.

27. Ms WONG of the EPD responded that the Government attached great importance on the problem of traffic noise. Therefore, over the years, the department had put efforts to alleviate the impacts of traffic noise on the public by different means, including: requiring new developments (such as new roads or residential buildings) to carry out Noise Impact Assessments in the planning

stage; enacting laws to require all motor vehicles first registered in Hong Kong to meet with stringent noise emission standards; and the use of open-textured road surfacing for existing roads resurface the road with low noise materials and the use of noise barriers and enclosures, if practicable and resource was available. The assessment and prevention of traffic noise were thoroughly explained in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG), for reference by the parties planning new developments.

28. Ms WONG of the EPD said further that when the developer was planning The Bloomsway project, it had complied with a special condition of grant, which was, conducting a traffic noise impact assessment on the residents in accordance with the HKPSG. The developer had also implemented practicable noise mitigation designs and measures, including the provision of non-ventilated windows in the sitting rooms and bed rooms that were affected by the traffic noise of the Tuen Mun Road or directly facing the Tuen Mun Road; the use of architectural fin and acoustic balcony at the appropriate locations; and making use of the external walls of the estate to screen the noise. After adopting the above noise mitigation measures, 90% of the residential units in the project met the traffic noise standards stipulated in the HKPSG. The developer had also complied with the requirements of HKPSG to fix windows that could effectively screen traffic noise for around 100 residential units that were still not up to standard, so that the residents of the flats could enjoy a better indoor environment. Apart from describing the noise mitigation measures in the sales brochure, the developer had also made the Noise Impact Assessment Report available for perusal to all prospective buyers during the opening hours of the sales office. In the premise, the developer had already dealt with the impacts of traffic noise (on the residents) of the roads near The Bloomsway according to the requirements of the HKPSG.

29. A Member enquired whether the HKPSG required a developer to carry out noise mitigation measures corresponding to the age of a building. She pointed out that the department used the noise limit of 70 decibels inside a flat to make decision on the taking of follow-up actions. She considered the procedure controversial. She said in 2012, she assisted some of the residents affected by the noise of the Tuen Mun Road about the measuring of noise levels at different parts inside a flat premise; all the noise readings were over 70 decibels, but the EPD refused to take follow-up action on the ground that the department had recorded measurements below 70 decibels. She suggested the department to review the relevant policy in response to the community needs.

30. The Chairlady said when the developer rolled out the Lung Mun Oasis project over 10 years ago, it did not take the initiative to inform the prospective buyers that some of the units might be affected by the noise of Lung Fu Road, it merely provided free air-conditioners to those units. Such practice was not satisfactory.

31. Ms WONG of the EPD responded that when Hong Kong began to have new developments, the Government had not especially considered the noise impact on the residents in the planning for new roads and residential buildings; but in recent years, if a developer wanted to launch a residential project near busy roads, it had to comply with a condition of grant or undertake in its application for planning permission to the Town Planning Board, to conduct a traffic noise impact assessment on the residents and the provision of noise mitigation designs and measures in accordance with the HKPSG. As to the problem of the traffic noise of Tuen Mun Road, when the HyD carried out the Tuen Mun Road reconstruction and improvement works in 2008, it had installed noise barriers and enclosures at six of the road sections (namely, Tsuen Wan, Yau Kom Tau, Castle Peak Bay, Anglers' Beach, Sham Tseng, and Tsing Lung Tau).

32. A Member enquired whether the present policy of the department was to solely rely on the mitigation measures of a developer to solve the traffic noise problem and considered that the installation of fixed glazing windows was not a good solution to the noise problem. Another Member opined that the Government should take the initiative to achieve perfect planning instead of relying on the developer to tackle the traffic noise problem.

33. Ms WONG of EPD responded that according to the HKPSG, the developer must first consider other feasible noise mitigation measures before using fixed glazing windows to reduce the traffic noise brought to the residents, and the noise standard currently adopted by the department was similar to the one internationally used.

34. The Chairlady summarised that the EHDDC would write to the Environment Bureau to reflect Members' above comments and suggested the bureau to examine if the relevant guidelines were already outdated, simultaneously considering improvements. Secretariat

(C) **Promoting Territory-wide Cleansing to Eliminate Potential Hygiene Hazards**
(EHDDC Paper No. 61/2017)
(Written reply from Food and Environmental Hygiene Department)

35. The first proposer of the paper said the mosquito and rodent problems in Tuen Mun were very serious, he requested the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD") to implement the installation of Internet Protocol cameras in Tuen Mun to strengthen law enforcement. In addition, he suggested to organise regular campaigns in the district for reporting hygiene blackspots by the public to enable the FEHD to have a clearer picture about the hygiene conditions of the district.

36. Mr LEE Kam-ho, Edwin, of the FEHD responded that the department carried out a pilot scheme on the installation of Internet Protocol cameras ("trial scheme") for 6 months from end of December 2016 to end of June 2017. As the trial scheme showed satisfactory results, the FEHD

planned to extend it to all the districts in Hong Kong including Tuen Mun starting from the 2nd quarter of 2018. The public could report the locations with poor hygiene conditions to the FEHD through various channels (such as phone No. 1823, email or the Office of the Ombudsman, Hong Kong). The department would also consider the suggestion of organising regular clean-up activities in different districts. According to the performance pledge given by the department, after it received a complaint, it would carry out investigation within 6 working days. If the problem could not be resolved immediately, it would give an interim reply within 10 calendar days. For a complaint which required more time to investigate, the department would give a reply to the complainant within 30 calendar days on the progress or results of the investigation.

37. Mr LEE of the FEHD said further that the department was keen on learning the experience of “Keep Clean 2015@Hong Kong”. The Government realised that all local residents played an important role in keeping good environmental hygiene in Hong Kong. To enable the department to grasp an overall picture of the hygiene conditions in a district and to implement improvement measures, the Food and Health Bureau (“FHB”) introduced a system to regularly meet with the district councillors of the various districts to exchange opinions and help the Government in making timely reviews and adjustments on the environmental hygiene improvement strategies. For year 2017-18, more resources were allocated to the department for increasing manpower and equipment engaged in street sweeping and cleaning in different districts, carrying out publicity education and setting up task force teams to remove street garbage. Subject to availability of resources, the department would increase the frequency of refuse collection. Following the suggestions made by a consultant regarding the arrangements for municipal solid waste charging, the department had gradually reduced the number of street litter bins since 2014 to reach the target of a 40% reduction by 2019 hopefully, to tally with the implementation of municipal solid waste charging scheme.

38. Ms TSUI, Assistant District Officer (Tuen Mun) 1, supplemented that at present, through the HAD District-led Actions Scheme, the TMDC could use the district environmental hygiene improvement fund to launch environmental hygiene improvement programmes in the district. Members could propose increasing resources on cleaning work according to the actual needs in the coming year. If necessary, the TMDO could help relay the proposal to the HAD.

39. Members’ comments and enquiries on the replies from the FEHD and TMDO are summarised below:

- (i) A Member reckoned that some citizens would still indiscriminately dump refuse even though there were less litter bins than before and suggested the FEHD to place litter bins according to the actual situation of a place.

- (ii) A Member pointed out that in some private estates, after they had changed the sizes of their litter bins to smaller ones, the residents would leave the bulky garbage next to the litter bins instead. He/she suggested the FEHD to strengthen publicity work after the number of litter bins was reduced;
- (iii) A Member indicated that he/she had never received any news about exchanging opinions with the FHB on the environmental hygiene issue and asked when the abovementioned system of meetings with district councillors had started; and
- (iv) A Member suggested the TMDO and the FEHD to hold cleaning competitions jointly with a view to enhance the public's hygiene awareness.

40. Mr LEE of the FEHD responded that the department would add litter bins to a place in line with its pedestrian volume, width of the pavement and the other environmental factors. Any Member who found a place in need of more litter bins could contact him, so that he could assign an officer to attend to the matter. Besides, he would relay Members' suggestions about enhancing publicity work and putting up notices next to the new litter bins to his department, and would inform individual Members after finding out the date of meeting between the FHB and the TMDC.

41. The Chairlady requested the FEHD's representative to relay Members' comments to the the FEHD FEHD, and to report back the updated progress to the EHDDC.

(D) Calling for Government's All-out Effort to Promote Local Recycling of Waste
(EHDDC Paper No. 62/2017)
(Written reply from Environmental Protection Department)

42. The first proposer of the paper said our local waste were mostly exported to the Mainland for processing and rarely recycled locally. This arrangement was vulnerable to changes of policy in the Mainland, she opined that Hong Kong should develop the technology in the recycling of paper and plastic waste, in the first place. In addition, she suggested that after the Government had implemented the municipal solid waste charging scheme, part of the fees collected could be used to subsidise the local recycling companies, one way of promoting the waste recycling business.

43. Members made various comments on this issue, which are summarised below:

- (i) A Member said he learnt from the news reports that starting from February 2018, all the automated vending machines in the offices of government departments would stop selling bottled water. He commended such practice and suggested the departments to

place drinking fountains at suitable locations of their offices;

- (ii) A Member said the plastics recovery rate of was 69% in 2010, but in 2015 it dropped to 10.5%, the remainder was all transported to the landfill. He requested the EPD to account for the sudden drop of the plastics recovery rate;
- (iii) A Member suggested the Government to follow the practices of Germany and Sweden to implement a Producer Responsibility Scheme and request the manufacturers of drinks to establish a sound recycling network;
- (iv) A Member pointed out that not all kinds of plastics could be recycled, the recycle operators had to sort the plastic waste after its collection. Due to the high cost involved, most of the plastic waste was eventually dumped at the landfills; so, he/she suggested the Government to subsidise the sorting work; and
- (v) A Member suggested to implement sustainable development of glass recycling to relieve the workload of landfills.

44. Mr PUN Shui-kit, Ivan, of the EPD responded that the Mainland had earlier announced more stringent requirements on the import of solid waste recyclables. The department would communicate with the recycling operators and assist them in adapting to the new policy with a multi-pronged approach. The Government introduced a recycling fund totalling \$1 billion in 2015 to subsidise the recycling operators in raising the volume and efficiency of local recycling. The department would enhance the publicity work of “clean recycling”, through which to raise the quality and quantity of the recyclables. It would also set up outreach teams to offer assistance and enhance public education in different housing estates, to align with the implementation of the municipal solid waste charging scheme.

45. Mr PUN of the EPD said further that he would provide supplementary information about the sudden drop of the plastics recovery rate after the meeting. In addition, the department had commenced a consultant study to explore the possibility of introducing a Producer Responsibility Scheme for suitable plastic containers (mainly plastic containers for drinks and personal care products). The department would also introduce the centralised collection of used plastic bottles collected in the community recycling centres and if required, the direct source collection of used plastic bottles from all the districts in Hong Kong. The collected waste would be transported to the qualified recycling operators for treatment.

EPD

(Post-meeting note: The EPD commissioned an independent consultant in late 2012 to conduct a detailed study and found out that, there was in general a serious misunderstanding among those

practitioners who were engaged in recovering or handling waste plastics, or were involved in trading of related products, in their interpretation of "domestic export" of plastic recyclables under the Import and Export (Registration) Regulations. Therefore, they might have mixed up the plastic recyclables that should belong to the "re-export" category with those belonging to the "domestic export" category when they lodged the export declarations, thereby affecting the accuracy of the estimated quantity of plastic recyclables recovered in Hong Kong. The consultant's report helped to ensure that the declarants clearly understood the definitions of "domestic export" and "re-export" and enabled the recovery data to accurately reflect the actual situations in Hong Kong after 2012. The recycling of plastic waste was affected by the external economic and environmental factors and the import/export restriction policies of different regions (such as the "Operation Green Fence" of 2013), which caused the transactions and quantities of recyclable plastic waste to fluctuate.)

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

- (i) A Member said the implementation of more stringent requirements on the import of solid waste recyclables by mainland China was beneficial both to itself and Hong Kong, and opined that the EPD should not put the cart before the horse, that is, using the recycling fund to help the local recycling operators improving the quality of the recycled materials to conform with the requirements of the Mainland, rather than focusing on exploring ways to improve our local recycling industry.
- (ii) A Member suggested the Government to favour the recycling trade in its procurement system, such as giving priority to the purchase of recycled paper; and
- (iii) A Member commented that the EPD had not responded to the suggestion of local recycling, it only emphasized on exporting the waste outside Hong Kong for processing.

47. Mr PUN of the EPD responded that the department would study the feasibility of nurturing a local manufacturing industry using recycled materials, and look for more long-term, effective and diversified ways out for the processing of local recyclables, thereby reducing reliance on export to dispose of recyclables. The department would also examine how to leverage on the land and ancillary facilities at the EcoPark, so as to support the development of a local manufacturing industry using recycled materials. As waste paper made up the largest proportion of local recyclables, the development of a recycling industry capable of processing local waste paper was currently accorded priority. In addition, the Advisory Committee on Recycling Fund would hold discussions with the industry participants from time to time and take forward more initiatives to support the recycling industry in its upgrading and transformation.

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

(E) PWP Item No. 268RS - Cycle Track Between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun - Stage 2A Works
(EHDDC Paper No. 63/2017)

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

49. The Vice-Chairman welcomed Mr LAM Chi-keung, Desmond, Chief Engineer/W2, Mr TSANG Lap-kei, Freddie, Senior Engineer/2 (W), and Mr HO Wing-kuen, Tyler, Engineer/1 (W), of the Civil Engineering Development Department ("CEDD"), and Mr CHAN Yu-man, Project Manager, Mr TANG Wong-ching, Deputy Project Manager, and Ms YIP Yi-lam, Engineer, of Atkins, to the meeting.

50. Mr LAM of the CEDD gave a briefing on the captioned project through a Powerpoint presentation (annex 1).

51. Members' comments and enquires on the CEDD's briefing are summarised below:

- (i) A Member enquired about the cycle route from the Castle Peak Beach to Golden Beach and the extent of private land that would be affected;
- (ii) A Member said the cycle route should avoid passing carriageways several times and suggested the CEDD to examine whether it should keep the section of cycle route leaving the Golden Beach then passing the Crossroads Foundation towards the Kwun Tsing Road;
- (iii) A Member suggested the CEDD to consult the residents along the cycle track before applying for the relevant funding;
- (iv) A Member supported the CEDD's easy-to-difficult approach of constructing cycle tracks, but pointed out that from the Hoi Wing Road to the Ki Lun Kong Public Park, the cyclists had to U-turn to the Hoi Wing Road crossing place, which was circuitous; it would be better to directly reach the Ki Lun Kong Public Park by cycling along the Castle Peak Road; and
- (v) A Member enquired about the layout plan of the cycle bridge from the Castle Peak Bay to Golden Beach and if it would ruin the scenery of the beaches.

52. Mr LAM of the CEDD responded that the latest proposed alignment of the cycle track only required to resume part of the private green spaces and road entrances/exits adjacent to the pedestrian walkways on the Castle Peak Road at Spring Seaview Terrace and Hong Kong Gold Coast Phase 1. About a Member's suggestion of cancelling the route towards Kwun Tsing Road after passing the Hong Kong Gold Coast, he said the route was designed to suit the needs of the residents of the major estates near the Hong Kong Gold Coast (such as Aegean Coast and Spring Seaview Terrace); nevertheless, the department would consult the residents again before confirming the project. He said further that the Planning Department needed to reserve sufficient spaces on Hoi Wing Road for its development plans, but the CEDD would explore other improvement methods. All the roads and cycle bridges that passed by the beaches would only occupy the periphery of the beaches so as not to affect the swimmers.

53. Members' comments and enquiries on the CEDD's reply are summarised below:

- (i) A Member said the management office of Hong Kong Gold Coast and Spring Seaview Terrace had contacted him concerning the resumption of land, he requested the CEDD's representative to contact him after the meeting about explaining the land resumption matter to the management office of Hong Kong Gold Coast and Spring Seaview Terrace;
- (ii) A Member reiterated that the cycle track would run smoothly if its route to the Ki Lun Kong Public Park was changed from the circuitous route of Hoi Wing Road to the direct route of Castle Peak Road;
- (iii) A Member enquired about the length of the cycle bridge and requested the CEDD to provide the relevant plans to facilitate the conduct of consultation by the district councillors of the relevant constituency; and

(Post-meeting note: The CEDD distributed the project diagrams to all Members of the EHDDC on 22 December 2017 through the Secretariat.)

- (iv) A Member suggested the CEDD to study the consultation approach of the HyD about a road widening project two years ago, which was consulting all the residents affected by the project.

54. Mr LAM of the CEDD responded that the department would consider Members' comments and welcomed Members' opinions on the mode of consultation. The department hoped to complete the consultation procedure as soon as possible. If general support was secured from the TMDC, the other administrative procedures (such as gazetting) and application

for funding for the construction project could then proceed.

55. Mr CHAN of Atkins supplemented that the cycle bridge was mainly divided into two parts. The part from the Cafeteria Old Beach to Kadoorie Beach was about 200 metres long. The part from the Kadoorie Beach to Castle Peak Bay was about 300 metres long.

56. A Member enquired the CEDD if the administrative procedures would only commence upon the completion of the residents' consultation.

57. Mr LAM of the CEDD responded that the department would follow the opinions of the district councillors of the constituency concerned when it conducted residents' consultation, and would proceed with the gazetting procedure only upon obtaining the support of the TMDC.

58. The Vice-Chairman requested the representative of the CEDD to complete the consultation work as soon as possible and timely report the progress to the EHDDC. CEDD

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

(F) **Preliminary Sampling Locations for the Short-term Roadside Air Quality Monitoring in Tuen Mun District**
(EHDDC Paper No. 71/2017)

59. The Chairlady welcomed Mr LEUNG Wai-man, Ray, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Air Science)¹ of the EPD, to the meeting.

60. Mr LEUNG of the EPD said the department planned to carry out short-term air quality monitor at various roadside locations in Hong Kong in 2018 by using diffusion tubes to measure the level of nitrogen dioxide in the air in order to assess the representativeness of the existing roadside air-quality monitoring network. The department had given a briefing of the said monitoring work in the 9th meeting of the EHDDC on 26 May 2017 and had now completed the tendering procedure. The short-term roadside air-quality monitor would be performed at the 16 locations mentioned in the paper. The selected sites numbered 1 to 10 on the paper were the monitoring points for the previous short-term air-quality monitor in Tuen Mun whereas 11 to 16 were the additional monitoring points in Tuen Mun West selected according to Members suggestions.

61. Mr LEUNG of the EPD said further that if Members concurred in the selections, the department and the consultant would seek approval from the relevant departments about the installation of the sampling equipment at the monitoring sites, and would commence the short-term roadside air-quality monitor in 2018. The chemical analysis of the diffusion tube

samples and the related data processing were expected to be completed by 2019.

62. No Member raised any objection to the site selections suggested by the EPD. The Chairlady thanked the representative of the EPD for the briefing.

VI. Reporting Items

(A) Water Quality of Tuen Mun Beaches

(EHDDC Paper No. 64/2017)

63. Members noted the contents of the above report.

64. A Member pointed out that the paper indicated that the water quality of the Castle Peak Bay was raised from grade 3 to grade 2 starting from 3 October 2017, but he noticed that more and more large vessels berthed in the Castle Peak Bay in recent years, causing pollution to the beach water. He requested the EPD to explain why the paper still indicated an improvement on the water quality of Castle Peak Bay.

65. Mr PUN of the EPD responded that the report indicated an improvement of the water quality at the Castle Peak Beach in the month of October 2017. He learnt that the Working Group on Castle Peak Bay would request the Marine Department to deal with the issue about vessel berthing, the department would offer opinions on the beach water quality if required. He said the department was responsible for monitoring the beach water quality, but the management of the beaches was within the terms of reference of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (“LCSD”). If they discovered abnormality in beach water, they would inform the LCSD.

66. A Member reiterated that the berthing of vessels would worsen the water quality of the Castle Peak Beach, it was the duty of the relevant department to monitor the environmental hygiene of the beach.

67. The Chairlady suggested that the above issue could be left to the Working Group on Castle Peak Bay to follow up and also ask the EPD to attend to it if necessary.

(B) Report of Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

(EHDDC Paper No. 65/2017)

68. Members noted the report.

(C) **Food and Environmental Hygiene Department - Tuen Mun District 2018 Year-end Clean-up**

(EHDDC Paper No. 66/2017)

69. Members noted the report.

(D) **Progress Report of Local Public Works and Rural Public Works as at October 2017**

(EHDDC Paper No. 67/2017)

70. Members noted the report.

(E) **Reports of Working Groups under EHDDC**

(EHDDC Paper No. 68/2017)

(i) **Working Group on Tuen Mun Environmental Protection Activities**

71. Members noted the report.

72. The convener of the above working group said they had resolved to engage a manufacturer to produce double layer cups as souvenirs in the meeting of 6 November 2017, and had selected the supplier in accordance with the relevant government supplies and purchasing guidelines. The working group would prepare 2,564 blue double-layer cups in total. Each DC Member would be allocated 85 cups for distribution to the public.

(ii) **Working Group on Markets and Illegal Hawking Activities**

73. Members noted the report.

74. The convener of the above working group said they would organise an “Anti-illegal Extension of Business Area Carnival” at Tsing Ho Square on 17 December 2017 and looked forward to Members’ participation.

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

75. Members noted the report.

76. The convener of the above working group said the construction works of Area 54 was almost complete, the Housing Department had been issuing notices of flat allocation to the prospective residents. Besides, the working group discussed about the suggestion to build a covered walkway near the Siu Hong sewage pump room earlier. The issue would be referred to the Steering Group on Construction of Covered Walkway in Tuen Mun under the District Facilities Management Committee to follow up.

77. The Chairlady announced that the above three reports were endorsed and reminded the Members concerned to submit papers to the District Facilities Management Committee themselves.

(F) Other Government Departments' Progress Reports as at 29 October 2017
(EHDDC Paper No. 69/2017)

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

78. Members noted the report.

(ii) Report on Environmental Monitoring of Mud Pit V

79. Members noted the report.

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

80. Members noted the report.

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

81. Members noted the report.

82. A Member pointed out that it was unnecessary for the WSD to keep the completed project materials for year 2015, as seen in the paper; it could simply delete it after reporting to the EHDDC. He also commented that the recent burst of water mains near the Lung Mun Oasis had led to traffic congestion. He asked if the WSD would replace the water mains there, and if similar incidents happened, whether the ad hoc direction of traffic was the responsibility of the Transport Department or the HKPF.

83. The Chairlady said as there was no representative from the WSD in the meeting, she requested the Secretariat to write to the WSD to enquire about the aforesaid queries after the meeting. Secretariat

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat had made enquiries to the WSD about the report contents and the replacement of water mains on 1 December 2017. The WSD replied that it would carry out water main repair works at the Lung Mun Road and would delete the information of the completed works in the next report to be submitted to the EHDDC. The Secretariat also made enquiries about ad hoc traffic arrangements in emergency cases to the Transport Department and the HKPF on 6 December 2017, and was awaiting their answers.)

(G) **Air Quality Health Index of Tuen Mun Air Quality Monitoring Station**
(EHDDC Paper No. 70/2017)

84. Members noted the report.

VII. Any Other Business and Date of Next Meeting

85. The Chairman said the first meeting of the coming term of the EHDDC would be held in the morning on 9 January 2018, during which the new Chairperson and new Vice-chairperson would be elected. The discussion for creating the various new working groups would be held in the 2nd meeting of the new term of the EHDDC. During the transition of the current term to the new term of the working groups, businesses had to move on; so, adopting the past practice, the TMDC resolved to having the existing jobs followed up by the conveners of the old working groups until the formation of the new ones in the coming term. The EHDDC noted the said arrangement.

86. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:05 p.m.

Tuen Mun District Council Secretariat

Date: 11 January 2018

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