

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of
the Environment, Hygiene and District Development Committee (2018-2019) of
the Tuen Mun District Council

Date: 19 January 2018 (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	9:40 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	9:33 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr KWU Hon-keung	TMDC Member	9:34 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr TO Shek-yuen, MH	TMDC Member	9:33 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms KONG Fung-yi	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms WONG Lai-sheung, Catherine	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms HO Hang-mui	TMDC Member	9:32 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr LAM Chung-hoi	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr TSUI Fan, MH	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr CHAN Man-wah, MH	TMDC Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr CHAN Manwell, Leo	TMDC Member	10:07 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 YIP Man-pan	TMDC Member	9:33 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
Ms KWAN Diana Ho-yin	Co-opted Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr CHAN Tsim-heng	Co-opted Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr TSOI Shing-hin	Co-opted Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Mr LEUNG Kin-shing	Co-opted Member	9:30 a.m.	End of meeting
Ms HO Chui-wan, Ida (Secretary)	Executive Officer I (District Council) ² (Acting), Tuen Mun District Office, Home Affairs Department		

By Invitation

Mr FUNG Ka-wai	Senior Engineer/Project Management 4, Drainage Services Department
Mr CHEN Ka-yin	Engineer/Project Management 12, Drainage Services Department
Mr Tony LAU	Deputy Project Manager, Black & Veatch Hong Kong Limited
Ms Fion NG	Project Engineer, Black & Veatch Hong Kong Limited

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
Miss LAM Woon-tim	Assistant Housing Manager/Yau Oi 2, Housing Department
Mr YEUNG Mo-man	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West)1, 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 TAM Kwok-leung	Administrative Assistant/Lands (Acting) (District Lands Office, Tuen Mun), Lands Department
Mr CHOW Hing-yu	Project Coordinator/Design 3, Water Supplies Department

Absent with Apologies

Mr CHU Yiu-wah	TMDC Member
Mr NG Koon-hung	TMDC Member
Ms CHING Chi-hung	TMDC Member
Mr MO Shing-fung	TMDC Member
Mr KEUNG Kai-pong	Co-opted Member

I. Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed all participants and government department representatives in attendance to the 2nd meeting of the Environment, Hygiene and District Development Committee (“EHDDC”). A particular welcome was extended to Mr YEUNG Mo-man, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West)1 of the Environmental Protection Department (“EPD”), Mr TAM Kwok-leung, Administrative Assistant/Lands (Acting) (District Lands Office, Tuen Mun) of the Lands Department (“LandsD”), Mr CHOW Hing-yu, Project Coordinator/Design 3 of the Water Supplies Department (“WSD”), and Ms Ida HO, the EHDDC Secretary, who attended an EHDDC meeting for the first time. Besides, the Chairman took this opportunity to thank Mr POON Tsz-ming, the former Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West)1 of the EPD, Mr MOK Hing-cheung, the former Administrative Assistant/Lands of the LandsD, and Ms CHU Kit-wa, Tracy, the former EHDDC Secretary, for the contribution they had made to the EHDDC.

2. The Chairman reminded Members that Members who were aware of their personal interests in any matters discussed at the meeting should declare the interests before the discussion. The Chairman would, in accordance with Order 39(12) of the Tuen Mun District Council (“TMDC”) Standing Orders, decide whether the Members who had declared interests might speak or vote on the matters, might remain at the meeting as observers, 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 Secretary reported that an application for sick leave had been received from Mr MO Shing-fung.

(Post-meeting note: Mr MO Shing-fung submitted a medical certificate on 20 January 2018. Pursuant to Order 42(1) of the TMDC Standing Order, the EHDDC gave consent to his absence from this meeting.)

III. Confirmation of Minutes of the 12th Meeting of EHDDC (2016-2017) and the 1st Meeting of EHDDC (2018-2019)

4. As Members proposed no amendments to the minutes, the Chairman announced that the minutes of the above meetings were confirmed.

IV. Discussion Items

(A) Terms of Reference for EHDDC (2018-2019) of TMDC
(EHDDC Paper No. 1/2018)

5. The Chairman said the terms of reference for the EHDDC of the current term had been endorsed by the TMDC on 7 November 2017. As there were no proposed amendments, the Chairman would like Members to note the above terms of reference.

(B) Formation of Working Groups under EHDDC (2018-2019)
(EHDDC Paper No. 2/2018)

6. The Chairman invited Members' comments on whether to keep the working groups set out in the paper.

7. Members had no objection. The EHDDC decided to form the Working Group on Tuen Mun Environmental Protection Activities, the Working Group on Markets and Illegal Hawking Activities, and the Working Group on the Development and Complementary Facilities in Area 54 again.

8. The Chairman invited Members' nominations for convenors of the working groups.

9. Mr TSUI Fan nominated Mr CHAN Man-wah as the Convenor of the Working Group on Tuen Mun Environmental Protection Activities. The nomination was seconded by Mr YIP Man-pan and accepted by Mr CHAN Man-wah. As there was no other nomination, the Chairman announced that Mr CHAN Man-wah was elected the Convenor of the above working group.

10. Ms Catherine WONG nominated Mr LAM Chung-hoi as the Convenor of the Working Group on Markets and Illegal Hawking Activities. The nomination was seconded by Mr CHAN Man-wah and accepted by Mr LAM Chung-hoi. As there was no other nomination, the Chairman announced that Mr LAM Chung-hoi was elected the Convenor of the above working group.

11. Mr Lothar LEE nominated Mr TO Sheck-yuen as the Convenor of the Working Group on the Development and Complementary Facilities in Area 54. The nomination was seconded by Ms SO Ka-man, Mr SO Shiu-shing and Mr CHAN Tsim-heng, and was accepted by Mr TO Sheck-yuen. As there was no other nomination, the Chairman announced that Mr TO Sheck-yuen was elected the

Convenor of the above working group.

12. The Convenor of the Working Group on the Development and Complementary Facilities in Area 54 said traffic arrangements was the biggest challenge in provision of ancillary facilities. While many public housing estates would be occupied one after another in Area 54, the Transport Department had not yet carried out any study on related road sections, nor had it sent any senior officials to the meetings of the working group. He would like the EHDDC to note the above matter. The Chairman said the EHDDC had discussed the ancillary arrangements for Area 54 before. She would like the Working Group on the Development and Complementary Facilities in Area 54 to further follow up on the matter concerned.

13. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to write to all Members after the meeting inviting them to join the above three working groups. Secretariat

(Post-meeting note: On 19 January 2018, the Secretariat wrote to all Members inviting them to join the above three working groups)

(C) Condition Survey and Rehabilitation of Underground Sewers and Stormwater Drains - Stage 1
(EHDDC Paper No. 3/2018)

14. The Chairman welcomed Mr FUNG Ka-wai, Senior Engineer/Project Management 4, and Mr CHEN Ka-yin, Engineer/Project Management 12, of the Drainage Services Department (“DSD”), and Mr Tony LAU, Deputy Project Manager, and Ms Fion NG, Project Engineer, of Black & Veatch Hong Kong Limited to the meeting.

15. Mr FUNG Ka-wai of the DSD said the department currently managed more than 4 100 kilometres of underground sewers and stormwater drains in Hong Kong. To ensure the smooth operation of drains, the department regularly carried out investigations and, where necessary, rehabilitation works to drains. Drains in many districts had worn out and become aged after years of use, so it was believed that there would be more and more drains requiring rehabilitation. In view of this, the department implemented a rehabilitation programme for aged sewers and stormwater drains using a risk-based approach, under which condition survey would be carried out in phases for timely identification of sewers and stormwater drains with a higher risk of structural failure, so that appropriate rehabilitation work could be planned out. The department expected that the programme could boost the reliability of

sewage and stormwater collection systems and reduce the costs required for maintenance in the future. After that, Mr Tony LAU of Black & Veatch Hong Kong Limited gave a PowerPoint presentation (Annex 1)* to briefly introduce the captioned works to Members.

*Only available in Chinese version

16. Members made different comments and enquiries on the brief introduction to the works, which are summarised as follows:

- (i) A Member enquired whether works vehicles equipped with flashing signs would be placed near the sites during the works and whether prior notice would be given to nearby residents. Besides, the Member requested the DSD to give prior notice to the TMDC Members of the constituencies concerned before the works and provide the contact information of the persons in charge of the works to facilitate TMDC Members' follow up;
- (ii) A Member worried that cave-ins of aged pipes could result in water seepage, because some land in Tuen Mun was created by reclamation. The Member asked how the WSD would repair such drains. Besides, the Members pointed out that the drawings of many underground water mains were outdated and asked how the DSD would ensure all sewers and stormwater drains in Tuen Mun were covered in the investigations;
- (iii) A Member requested the DSD to provide the drawings of the works and enquired about the commencement dates of the works;
- (iv) A Member was concerned about the condition of branch drains on Lam Tei Main Street, saying that blockage might occur during heavy rains. The Member hoped the DSD would pay more attention to this;
- (v) A Member worried that residents would be affected by the noise of the works as the scope of works covered busy roads and was close to dwellings. Therefore, the Member suggested the DSD not only pay attention to traffic arrangements and noise control, but also release the details of the works on its website so that residents could make early preparations;
- (vi) A Member enquired about the criteria on which the DSD assessed the need

for pipe rehabilitation;

- (vii) A Member said one-lane two-way traffic was in operation on Castle Peak Road - Castle Peak Bay and hoped the DSD could minimise impacts on traffic there during the works;
- (viii) Noting that various works had long been carried out on Tuen Mun Road, a Member asked whether the DSD's works would be affected as a result;
- (ix) A Member said the DSD should pay attention to changes in water pressure after the rehabilitation works, so as to reduce the possibility of pipe bursts or water overflow; and
- (x) A Member enquired how the DSD would monitor the progress of the works and how it would ensure the on-time completion of the works.

17. Mr FUNG Ka-wai of the DSD gave responses to Members' comments and enquiries, which are summarised as follows:

- (i) The drawings of the works were attached to the paper and the department could provide them separately if necessary;
- (ii) All the 18 districts in Hong Kong were covered in Stage 1 of the works, which was expected to be carried out from late 2018 to 2022. The exact periods of the works in Tuen Mun could be confirmed only after the department applied for funding and completed the tender process. By then, the department could contact the TMDC Members of the constituencies concerned and the affected people for an account of the related arrangements;
- (iii) The department would appoint a resident site public relations liaison officer for the works and give the contact information of the officer to the TMDC Members of the constituencies concerned for assistance when necessary;
- (iv) The department had earlier conducted survey and identified drains with structural defects for rehabilitation works. Besides, some 250 kilometres of drains were rated as high-risk and the department would plan rehabilitation work in accordance with the situations revealed by the drain condition survey; and

(v) The works would be carried out only at existing manholes and no road opening would be required, so impacts on road traffic would be limited.

18. Mr Tony LAU of Black & Veatch Hong Kong Limited gave the following supplementary responses to Members' comments and enquiries:

(i) He would be glad to discuss the arrangements for the works with the TMDC Members of the constituencies concerned before the works, and Members were welcome to offer views on matters concerning traffic arrangements and noise control;

(ii) Traffic safety was one of the major considerations in the works and any road closure, if necessary, would be put into operation only when the requirements of the relevant departments were met;

(iii) To minimise impacts on road traffic, some works had to be scheduled for the evening, during which noise might be produced when lifting facilities were moved into or out of the sites and when generators were in operation. Yet, impacts on nearby residents could be mitigated through different arrangements (e.g. carrying out the works earlier at dusk instead of mid-night or using mobile noise barriers); and

(iv) Cave-ins of or seepages from pipes would not affect the condition survey and rehabilitation works, and water pressure would have no impacts on the drains as both stormwater drains and sewers were non-pressure water mains.

19. The Chairman concluded by saying that Members expressed support for the works, and she would like the DSD to consider their views.

DSD

(D) Issue of Tradesman Licence
(EHDDC Paper No. 4/2018)

20. Mr Edwin LEE, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Tuen Mun) of the Food and Environment Hygiene Department ("FEHD"), said the hawker control policies adopted by the Government had been changed to keep abreast of the times. The Government implemented the issuance of licences to unlicensed street tradesmen in 2015. According to the department's survey, there were currently eight tradesmen in Tuen Mun, comprising five Chinese facial cosmeticians and three

cobblers. Three of the Chinese facial cosmeticians had obtained the relevant licences after the department had consulted with the EHDDC and secured support in 2016. Moreover, after consultation with the relevant departments, support had also been secured for the issuance of licences to the remaining five tradesmen, by which they were allowed to operate in situ. The department hoped Members would endorse the proposal in the paper to issue fixed pitch (tradesman) hawkers licences to the five tradesmen, so as to preserve local cultures.

21. Members had no objection. The Chairman announced that the EHDDC endorsed the proposal in the paper.

V. Reporting Items

(A) Water Quality of Tuen Mun Beaches
(EHDDC Paper No. 5/2018)

22. Members noted the contents of the report by the EPD.

23. A Member asked why the report did not provide data on the water quality grading for the five temporarily-closed beaches in November to December 2017. Besides, noting that there were often many vessels sailing across Castle Peak Bay, the Member asked why the monthly geometric mean of E. coli counts at Castle Peak Bay Beach was smaller than that at Cafeteria Old Beach in December 2017. Another Member enquired about the cause for the rise in the mean E. coli levels at Cafeteria Old Beach and Cafeteria New Beach in October to December 2017.

24. Mr YEUNG Mo-man of the EPD responded that among the six beaches covered by the report, Golden Beach was the only one that remained open in November and December 2017; therefore, the department had changed the interval between water quality sampling exercises at the five temporarily-closed beaches from one week to one month. The data for these five beaches in November and December 2017 were not the monthly geometric means but merely the values of individual samples. While the mean E. coli levels at Cafeteria Old Beach and Cafeteria New Beach in December 2017 were higher than those in October of the same year, the water quality samples showed that the E. coli counts per 100 millilitres were still below 100 at the two beaches, and their water quality was ranked as “Fair”, the same as that of Castle Peak Bay Beach.

25. A Member reiterated that there were often many vessels sailing across Castle Peak Bay and the water quality of that area was supposed to be lower than that of

Cafeteria Old Beach. The Member requested the EPD to ensure the accuracy of the water quality test results.

26. Mr YEUNG Mo-man of the EPD responded that the department conducted only one water quality sampling exercise per month in November to December 2017, so its test results were generally quite different from the monthly geometric means.

27. Believing that the time of water quality sampling exercises might have some bearing on the test results, a Member requested the EPD to specify the time of the water quality sampling exercises in the report for Members' reference.

28. Mr YEUNG Mo-man of the EPD responded that the department would provide the information concerned for Members' reference at the next meeting. EPD

(B) Report by FEHD
(EHDDC Paper No. 6/2018)

29. Members noted the contents of the report.

30. A Member enquired about the progress of the works for converting village toilets in Siu Hang Tsuen to flushing toilets. Noting that the site was still at an early stage, the Member worried that the works could not be completed at the time specified in the report.

31. Mr Edwin LEE of the FEHD said he would visit the site with the above Member to get a picture of the progress of the works.

(C) Anti-mosquito Campaign 2018 in Tuen Mun (Phase I)
(EHDDC Paper No. 7/2018)

32. Members noted the contents of the report.

(D) Anti-rodent Campaign 2018 in Tuen Mun (Phase I)
(EHDDC Paper No. 8/2018)

33. Members noted the contents of the report.

34. A Member said a restaurant had been opened recently at Hung Kiu near the youth path and was suspected to be the cause for the increasingly serious rodent problem there. She had made complaints to the FEHD for many times but there had been no improvement in the situation so far. She therefore enquired whether

the department had any effective measures to solve the rodent problem in the area.

35. Mr Edwin LEE of the FEHD responded that the department planned to carry out the anti-rodent campaign in two phases and, if resources permitted, the department would carry out an anti-rodent campaign at small targeted areas to focus efforts against the rodent problem there.

36. A Member opined that rat baits could hardly be a permanent cure for the rodent problem and suggested the FEHD communicate with restaurants there and request them to dispose of food waste properly, so as to minimise the chance of rodents breeding at that place.

37. Mr Edwin LEE of the FEHD responded that the department had carried out two anti-rodent campaigns at small targeted areas in Tuen Mun, and restaurants were among the targets of the department. In addition, the department had assigned hygiene inspectors to inspect all restaurants there in a bid to improve environmental hygiene.

38. A Member said rodents were often found in Leung King Estate and it was mentioned in the report submitted by the department that dead rodents had been found there in September to November 2017. Therefore, the Member hoped the department could step up its anti-rodent efforts in Leung King Estate. Besides, he noted that scavengers gathered near Light Rail Leung King Stop and requested the department to step up patrol. Another Member enquired whether the FEHD had increased its manpower for anti-mosquito and anti-rodent campaigns. Besides, the Member noted that the rodent problem was equally rampant in Fu Tai Estate and asked whether the department could offer assistance to the Housing Department (“HD”) in this regard.

39. Mr Edwin LEE of the FEHD responded that the department would clean the areas near Light Rail Leung King Stop regularly and put baits there to ameliorate the rodent problem. Moreover, the department met with the HD regularly and offer advice on anti-rodent matters. If necessary, the department would enhance communication with the HD to make concerted efforts against the rodent problem. On manpower arrangements, in response to the anti-mosquito campaign, the department had deployed more special task forces to various districts in New Territories for anti-mosquito work. If there were any manpower deployments for the anti-rodent campaign, the department would further report to the EHDDC about

them.

(E) Progress Report of Local Public Works and Rural Public Works as at December 2017

(EHDDC Paper No. 9/2018)

40. Members noted the contents of the report.

41. A Member enquired about the progress of the works for building “pai lau” at Siu Hang Tsuen and Po Tong Ha Village, and requested the department to provide the timetables for the actual completion of the works.

42. Mr LEUNG Kam-wai, Senior Inspector of Works of the Tuen Mun District Office, responded that the tile laying works to the roofs of the “pai lau” were underway and the entire works were due for completion within two months.

43. A Member said the works had been resumed after being delayed for a while because there were underground facilities at Siu Hang Tsuen and Po Tong Ha Village. Besides, he said the “pai lau” works at Tsing Shan Tsuen and Lung Kwu Tan had also started one after another. He thanked the Works Section for its follow up.

(F) Other Government Departments’ Progress Reports as at 24 December 2017

(EHDDC Paper No. 10/2018)

(i) Progress Report by DSD about Works in Tuen Mun District

44. Members noted the contents of the report.

(ii) Report on Environmental Monitoring of Mud Pit V

45. Members noted the contents of the report.

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

46. Members noted the contents of the report.

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

47. Members noted the contents of the report.

48. Members made different comments on the contents of the reports, which are summarised as follows:

- (i) A Member said the WSD had submitted a report to the EHDDC in November 2017, which indicated that the replacement and rehabilitation works to water mains on Wu Chui Road (near Melody Garden) were due for completion in early December 2017, but the current report said that the works were expected to be complete in early February 2018. The Member therefore enquired about the exact expected completion date of the works;
- (ii) A Member said that at an earlier discussion on the details of the works, both the WSD and the consultant had confirmed that the necessary improvement works would come to an end after the stage 3 of the replacement and rehabilitation works to water mains on Lung Mun Road and Wu Chui Road was complete. But following a water main burst at the junction of Lung Mun Road and Wu Chui Road in the previous month, he had again made enquiries to the WSD about this, and the department had said all the linear water mains had been replaced in the works and only the water mains at bends had not yet been replaced. However, the burst water main was located exactly at a bend. Opining that the information provided by the WSD was confusing, he urged the department to provide the relevant drawings of the works;
- (iii) A Member said the earlier water main burst at the junction of Lung Mun Road and Wu Chui Road had happened in the early morning, but the WSD's staff had called him only at 9:00 a.m. on that day to inform him about the incident. The Member therefore suspected that the notification mechanism was ineffective and reckoned that the department should inform the TMDC Members of the constituencies concerned as soon as possible after an incident broke out;
- (iv) A Member said fresh water supply to the district had been suspended earlier, and according to the WSD's information, the areas affected included Tuen Mun Town Plaza, Tuen Hing Road, Tsing Hoi Circuit, Tsing Ho Square, Tsing Wu Square, Tsing Sin Street, Tuen Yan Street and so forth. Yet, the WSD had said the impacts had been limited to localised areas, so the TMDC Members of the constituencies concerned had not been informed in accordance with the notification mechanism. He reckoned that if an incident affected a large number of people, the department should inform the TMDC Members of the constituencies concerned about the situation too; and

- (v) A Member said fresh and flushing water supply to King Fung Path had been suspended in 2017 with a large number of housing estates affected, but the WSD had not informed the TMDC Members of the constituencies concerned about this.

49. Mr CHOW Hing-yu of the WSD responded that he would relay Members' views to the relevant section for improvement to the notification mechanism. The replacement and rehabilitation works to water mains on Lung Mun Road would be complete in February 2018. The department was studying the next phase of rehabilitation works to water mains there.

50. Members made the second round of comments and enquiries on the matter, which are summarised as follows:

- (i) A Member pointed out that the EHDDC had discussed with the WSD the specific arrangements for the notification mechanism. The Member opined that the department was out of touch with realities in assessing whether notification was required, and improvements were thus necessary. The Member requested the WSD to give a response in this regard;
- (ii) A Member enquired whether the replacement and rehabilitation works to water mains on Wu Chui Road (near Melody Garden) would be complete in February 2018;
- (iii) A Member enquired whether the WSD had replaced all the linear water mains in the area of Wu Chui Road and Lung Mun Road (except Mei Lok Lane);
- (iv) A Member asked whether the WSD had any plan to replace the pipes involved in the most recent water main burst incident (i.e. the pipes at the corner of Lung Mun Road and Wu Chui Road); and
- (v) A Member opined that it was unacceptable for the WSD to consider an incident that affected as many as several thousand people to be non-urgent and hence, give no notification. The Member urged the department to review the notification mechanism as soon as possible.

51. Mr CHOW Hing-yu of the WSD responded that he would invite the section in charge of the notification mechanism to the next EHDDC meeting to discuss with Members the arrangements for the mechanism. Moreover, the department planned to carry out water main rehabilitation works in the area of Lung Mun Road and Wu Chui Road, which were due for completion within a year.

52. The Chairman said a relevant representative from the WSD had joined Members at an EHDDC meeting in the previous year to discuss the arrangements for the notification mechanism, and Members had provided contact information for the department after the meeting. She requested the department to follow up on Members' views and make improvements, rather than to attend a meeting again for repetitive discussion.

53. A Member requested the WSD to give a written account of the progress of the replacement and rehabilitation works to water mains on Lung Mun Road and Wu Chui Road and to provide the relevant drawings.

54. Mr CHOW Hing-yu of the WSD responded that he would prepare the relevant information for Members' reference.

55. The Vice-chairman said he hoped government department representatives in attendance at EHDDC meetings could serve as a bridge between Members and government departments and handle Members' enquiries as soon as possible rather than defer their responses to next meetings.

56. The Chairman would like the WSD to provide, through the Secretariat, information related to the works for EHDDC Members' reference. Moreover, in case a large number of people were affected by an incident, the department should inform the TMDC Members of the constituencies concerned as soon as possible in accordance with the notification mechanism.

WSD

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat received supplementary information on the above matter from the WSD on 13 March 2018 and sent the information by email to EHDDC Members for reference on the same day.)

**(G) Air Quality Health Index of Tuen Mun Air Quality Monitoring Station
(EHDDC Paper No. 11/2018)**

57. Members noted the contents of the report.

58. Members made the following comments on the report:
- (i) A Member said the report indicated that air quality in Tuen Mun was deteriorating, and suggested the authority step up monitoring of vehicle emissions to mitigate impacts on children and people with chronic diseases;
 - (ii) A Member said it was reported that air pollution in Tuen Mun mainly came from the Pearl River Delta (“PRD”) region, and gas-emitting ferries and cargo vessels sailed across the region frequently. The Member suggested the authority step up enforcement; and
 - (iii) A Member suggested discussing how to reduce pollutants from the PRD region with relevant authorities in the Mainland.
59. Mr YEUNG Mo-man of the EPD responded that currently all vehicles imported to Hong Kong had to meet the strictest European Union emission standards, and the Government had taken measures to phase out old vehicles and provide financial assistance for owners of old diesel vehicles to install devices, with a view to mitigating the impacts of vehicle emissions on air quality. Furthermore, the Environment Bureau (“ENB”) and the Guangdong Provincial Government met regularly and made joint efforts to mitigate pollution at source. The authority and the Mainland government were planning to designate a Domestic Marine Emission Control Area in PRD to further improve regional air quality. He added that when northerly wind blew, pollutants from the PRD regions were more likely to flow towards Hong Kong and affect air quality in Hong Kong.
60. Members made the second round of comments on this matter, which are summarised as follows:
- (i) A Member suggested a letter be written to the ENB to express Members’ concerns and another letter be written to deputies of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to the National People’s Congress (“NPC Hong Kong deputies”) or members of the Guangdong Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (“CPPCC”) to solicit their assistance in raising the matter with relevant authorities; and
 - (ii) A Member suggested the EPD strengthen the management of typhoon

shelters, carry out spot checks on vessel emissions and set up checking devices at checkpoints to monitor emissions from cross-boundary vehicles.

61. Mr YEUNG Mo-man of the EPD responded that the department would assign its staff to carry out spot checks at different locations across the territory to monitor whether vehicles complied with emission standards and request owners of vehicles that failed to comply with the standards to arrange maintenance. The department not only implemented various measures in Hong Kong but also worked together with relevant Mainland authorities to improve air quality.

62. The Chairman said the EHDDC was always concerned about air quality in Tuen Mun and pollutants were more difficult to disperse due to natural geographical constraints in Tuen Mun. She would like Members to write a letter to NPC Hong Kong deputies to express their views for further follow up.

63. A Member suggested the EHDDC write to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department requesting it to grow more trees on hillsides in the district in a bid to reduce air pollution. Another Member said that in Hong Kong there were a total of 36 deputies to the NPC, but none of them had an office in Hong Kong; whereas the ENB had been keeping in touch with the Guangdong Provincial Government for air pollution matters. Therefore, the Member suggested the EPD provide information in this regard for the EHDDC's discussion.

64. Mr YEUNG Mo-man of the EPD responded that the ENB and the Guangdong Provincial Government met regularly to discuss and set emission reduction targets. He agreed to provide the Secretariat with information about the cooperation between Guangdong and Hong Kong on improvement to regional air quality after the meeting.

65. A Member requested the EPD to provide data on spot checks on vessel and vehicle emissions.

66. Mr YEUNG Mo-man of the EPD said he would provide the relevant data and information for the EHDDC's reference at the next meeting.

EPD

67. A Member held the view that pollutants from the PRD region were the main source affecting air quality in Tuen Mun. The Member suggested the EHDDC write to the permanent establishments of NPC Hong Kong deputies or Guangdong

CPPCC members to explain the air quality situation in Tuen Mun.

68. The Chairman concluded by saying that given that there was a long-established mechanism for cooperation between the ENB and the Guangdong Provincial Government, the EHDDC might consider further follow-up action after the EPD provided the relevant information.

EPD

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat received supplementary information on the above matter from the EPD on 5 February 2018 and sent the information by email to EHDDC Members for reference on the same day.)

VI. Any Other Business and Date of Next Meeting

69. There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 11:27 a.m. The next meeting would be held at 9:30 a.m. on 23 March 2018 (Friday).

Tuen Mun District Council Secretariat

Date: 15 March 2018

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