

Minutes of the 5th Meeting of
the Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee (2024-2027) of
the Tuen Mun District Council

Date : 24 September 2024 (Tuesday)
Time : 2:31 p.m.
Venue : Tuen Mun District Council (TMDC) Conference Room

Present

Mr MO Shing-fung (Chairman)	TMDC Member
Mr FUNG Pui-yin (Vice Chairman)	TMDC Member
Mr TSUI Fan, MH	TMDC Member
Mr WAN Tin-chong, MH	TMDC Member
Mr KAM Man-fung	TMDC Member
Mr LI Chiu-hung	TMDC Member
Mr LAM Tik-fai	TMDC Member
Ms CHAN Mang-yi, Vincci	TMDC Member
Mr CHAN Ho-ting, Mac	TMDC Member
Ms MAK Mei-yee, Pamela	TMDC Member
Mr CHUI King-hang	TMDC Member
Mr TSANG Hing-chung	TMDC Member
Mr YIP Kat-kong, Kenneth	TMDC Member
Mr TSOI Shing-hin	TMDC Member
Ms TSE Yuk-ling	TMDC Member
Mr KWONG Man-tik	TMDC Member
Mr CHAN Sik-kwan	Co-opted Member
Mr WONG Cheuk-ngai	Co-opted Member
Miss LAM Hau-yi, Natalie (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council)3, Tuen Mun District Office, Home Affairs Department

By Invitation

Mr WONG Lai-chi	Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West)14, Environmental Protection Department
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In Attendance

Ms CHAN Yin-ling, Cannes	Senior Liaison Officer (3), Tuen Mun District Office, Home Affairs Department
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Mr LAM Lok-hang, Kelvin	Liaison Officer i/c (District Facilities), Tuen Mun District Office, Home Affairs Department
Mr CHENG Hon-fai	Senior School Development Officer (TM)1, Education Bureau
Ms LEUNG Fung-shan, Alice	Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Tuen Mun, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms NG Wing-tung, Chris	Assistant District Leisure Manager (District Support) Tuen Mun, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms CHUNG Kan-hei	Senior Manager (New Territories West) Promotion, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms LEE Wing-yee	Manager (New Territories West) Marketing & District Activities, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Miss CHEUNG Yuet-ming	Senior Librarian (Tuen Mun), Leisure and Cultural Services Department

I. Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed all present to the 5th meeting of the Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee (CICRC) (2024-2027).

2. The Chairman said that Ms YU Cheuk-ling, Katherine, Executive Officer (District Council)³, of the Tuen Mun District Office had been posted out. On behalf of the CICRC, he welcomed Miss LAM Hau-yi, Natalie and thanked Ms Katherine YU for working with the CICRC in the past.

II. Absence from Meeting

3. The Secretary reported that no applications for leave of absence had been received from Members.

III. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Last Meeting

4. As Members proposed no amendments to the minutes of the last meeting, the Chairman announced that the minutes of the 4th meeting of the CICRC (2024-2027) were confirmed.

IV. Discussion Items

(A) Proposal for Enhancing Education on Waste Separation for Recycling in the Tuen Mun District alongside the Construction of Waste-to-energy Facilities (CICRC Paper No. 14/2024) (Written Response from the Environmental Protection Department)

5. The Chairman welcomed Mr WONG Lai-chi, Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West)¹⁴, of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) to the meeting.

6. The first proposer of the paper made the following additional remarks and enquiries:

- (a) He expected that education and promotion regarding waste separation and recycling would be carried out in schools in the district. Noting that the EPD launched the “We-recycle@School” activity in March this year, he pointed out that there were a total of 90 primary and secondary schools in the Tuen Mun District, but only 20 of them had participated in the activity so far, and thus asked how the departments involved would encourage the remaining 70 primary and secondary schools to participate in the future;

- (b) Noting that kindergartens were not included in the activity, he asked if the EPD would consider expanding the activity to include kindergartens to encourage parental participation in environmental protection activities. He also suggested organising parent-child competitions, believing that kindergarten principals would be eager to establish a partnership to promote the activity jointly;
- (c) With the imminent building of the waste-to-energy incinerator I•PARK2 in Tuen Mun, he highlighted the need for more education and promotion to foster public understanding of environmental policies and measures. He suggested that the EPD consider setting up exhibitions or galleries at places with heavy foot traffic, such as the Tuen Mun Town Centre and shopping malls like V city, so that the public had a better understanding of the operation and importance of these facilities; and
- (d) He suggested that the EPD consider working with other government departments to promote the activity by, for example, using venues under the Tuen Mun District Office (TMDO) and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), such as sports centres and community halls.

7. The Chairman responded that the “We-recycle@School” activity was very meaningful given its educational value and ability to promote parental engagement. He suggested that the organiser consider promoting the activity through primary and secondary school heads associations.

8. Members’ comments and enquiries on the captioned matter were as follows:

- (a) Members suggested including kindergarten students and their parents in the activity to have a positive impact on families and boost overall efficiency, since kindergarten students might influence their parents more directly and effectively than secondary students;
- (b) Members suggested promoting in more public places, such as display boards or exhibitions at railway stations in the New Territories to boost the publicity effect;
- (c) Members said that during the “We-recycle@School” activity, the Green Outreach only reached out to 20 primary and secondary schools from March to August, which was deemed insufficient. If necessary, the

Green Outreach might invite Members to join them to open new channels of communication and broaden the scope of the activity;

- (d) To prepare for the upcoming I·PARK2 project, it was necessary to raise public awareness and education about waste-to-energy operations as early as possible. Members suggested referring to overseas experience and classifying refuse as recyclable, incinerable, or landfillable. Members considered that schools were appropriate educational venues for students to acquire the above knowledge and to encourage family members to participate;
- (e) In addition to moving forward with the construction of municipal waste-to-energy incinerators such as I·PARK2, waste separation and recycling publicity and education efforts should be reviewed and intensified to maintain continuity between the two. Furthermore, community education should also be strengthened. Members suggested enhancing publicity on source separation of waste and reduction at the source to highlight the benefits of recycling and turning waste to energy;
- (f) Members considered that public awareness campaigns on waste separation and recycling should be enhanced, and suggested using an incentive-based approach with penalties to create a more comprehensive education concept;
- (g) Members suggested expanding the publicity platform to include not only educational institutions (kindergartens, primary and secondary schools), but also Area Committees and Community Care Teams. The dissemination of information through these channels would serve to encourage participation and raise community awareness; and
- (h) Members suggested that the Department begin by raising community awareness of recycling through school talks and promotions. Members pointed out that this educational mode would help the public understand how I·PARK would play its part in the future, taking into account not only its positive impact on waste reduction, but also its ability to facilitate technological advancement.

9. Mr WONG of the EPD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) He would talk about the feasibility of carrying out appropriate promotional activities in public areas, shopping malls, or MTR stations with the section in charge of integrated waste management facilities;
 - (b) He would talk about the possibility of expanding the “We-recycle@School” activity to include kindergartens alongside primary, secondary and special schools with the Waste Reduction and Community Recycling Group; and
 - (c) As of the end of August 2024, approximately 20 schools in the Tuen Mun District had participated in the “We-recycle@School” activity. The Department would get in touch with the Green Outreach to assess the participation rate. To increase participation in the activity, the Department would consider enlisting CICRC Members to assist the Green Outreach as needed.
10. Members’ second round of comments and enquiries were as follows:
- (a) Members would like to see more detailed data so as to understand the number of schools visited by the Green Outreach within a year;
 - (b) There were 21 schools that promised to participate in the “We-recycle@School” activity. Members asked whether, in addition to the participation rate, the Department had evaluated the overall efficacy of the activity, including the creation of key performance indicators such as the number of publicity booths or the number of visits by promotional vehicles. Members also asked whether there was a reward mechanism in place to motivate schools and students to continue participating;
 - (c) Members expressed worry that 70 schools in the Tuen Mun District had not pledged to participate in the activity. Members asked the Department and the Green Outreach if they had determined why, and if so, whether the reasons were internal (e.g. insufficient manpower of the Green Outreach) or external (e.g. schools’ own concerns or difficulties). Members also asked whether the Department had a timetable for the amount of schools it would visit and how it would deal with the problems moving forward;
 - (d) Members asked how and whether the Green Outreach would collaborate with school-based student green groups to ensure that appropriate

messages were conveyed on campus, especially in light of the policies that the government was currently promoting;

- (e) Members said that certain areas in Tuen Mun lagged behind others in the GREEN@COMMUNITY initiative, and asked if this was due to inadequate promotion efforts or low environmental awareness among residents. Members suggested stepping up publicity in underperforming areas;
- (f) Members suggested investing more resources in education, particularly for the youth and their families, considering that the Tuen Mun District would soon have a number of waste-to-energy facilities;
- (g) Members asked about the scope of the Green Outreach's work, noting that they collaborated with organisations besides schools, such as owners' corporations and management companies. Members also wanted to know how resources for youth education were allocated, as well as the Green Outreach's plans for the second half of 2024 and early 2025;
- (h) Members raised concerns about the environmental friendliness and effectiveness of current recycling initiatives in schools, including distribution of teaching kits, beautification of recycling corners, and student participation in events and contests;
- (i) Members suggested bringing students to exhibitions and public education facilities at I·PARK2 through more innovative and interactive methods, such as experiential learning, to boost efficacy;
- (j) Members asked whether performance indicators were established under GREEN@COMMUNITY to support the Green Outreach's work and promotion;
- (k) Members pointed out that many local residents were still unaware of the upcoming I·PARK2 facilities, and suggested planning more experiential activities for children and other local residents to raise their environmental awareness, such as hands-on activities, short films, or site visits that demonstrated how waste could be turned into energy. Residents would also have a better understanding of how this technology would benefit the community and the world, particularly because it provided a new energy source; and

- (l) Members suggested that the relevant departments consider adjusting promotional strategies and using more participatory and immersive approaches to help residents clearly and fully understand the operation and significance of environmental facilities.

11. Mr WONG of the EPD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) When asked about the Green Outreach's support for the "We-recycle@School" activity, he said that he did not have precise details at this time, such as the number of publicity booths, promotional vehicles and seminars. He would ask the Green Outreach for the above figures after the meeting and provide Members with a report;
- (b) To better understand the collaboration between the Green Outreach and schools, he would need to ask about their actual practices. As far as he knew, more than 300 primary, secondary and special schools in Hong Kong had participated in the "We-recycle@School" activity, which began in March this year. Of the 91 primary and secondary schools in the Tuen Mun District, 23 took part in the activity, accounting for approximately 10% of all participating schools in Hong Kong. As there was still room for the number of participating schools to rise, he would explain the situation to the Green Outreach and relevant colleagues to find out about their plans for the next several months leading up to 2025 and see if there were any ways to boost participation or launch new activities; and
- (c) I·PARK1 was currently scheduled to open in 2025, while I·PARK2 was still in its preliminary stages with no specific data available yet. He would forward the promotional and education proposals for I·PARK2 made during the meeting to colleagues in the relevant project areas for consideration.

12. The Chairman hoped that the Green Outreach would provide further information for Members' reference after the meeting. He then asked about the success of promoting environmental awareness and the number of schools visited thus far.

13. Mr WONG of the EPD added that promotional activities would be carried out through GREEN@COMMUNITY, including setting up publicity booths, deploying recycling vehicles, giving seminars and displaying exhibition panels.

He said that he would contact his colleagues in the Green Outreach to learn about the progress made so far from March to date and their work plan for the months ahead until 2025.

14. To better understand the reasons for the relatively low school participation, the Chairman asked about the Green Outreach's cooperation with schools in detail, such as whether the Green Outreach merely visited schools to carry out activities, or if the schools took the initiative to participate and assume responsibilities. He considered that current demand could be higher and hoped that the Green Outreach would take a more proactive approach. He also asked about the Green Outreach's specific work plan for 2025 and the distribution of resources and labour, particularly the amount of funding provided for school visits. Separately, he questioned the effectiveness of existing teaching materials and proposed reviews and enhancements. He hoped that the Green Outreach would seriously consider adopting the above suggestions and provide a detailed response to the above queries.

15. Members' third round of comments and enquiries were as follows:

- (a) Members suggested inviting the Green Outreach to send a representative to the next CICRC meeting;
- (b) Members suggested incorporating kindergartens into environmental education programmes because of their flexible schedules and curriculum, which facilitated participation, and younger teaching staff might be more willing to support environmental protection activities;
- (c) Members suggested holding environmental protection competitions at schools, with schools providing necessary resources;
- (d) Members hoped that the Green Outreach would improve workflow and expand its scope of work. For example, when engaging with various organisations, the Green Outreach could be more proactive in inviting them and explaining the policy goals;
- (e) Members suggested that the EPD conduct an evaluation and analysis to better understand the perceptions of different target groups, particularly the level of environmental knowledge and awareness among young people and students, to design a more targeted educational strategy;

- (f) Members were concerned about the promotion of the I·PARK2 facility in the Tuen Mun District, and emphasised the need of communicating its value to Tuen Mun residents in order to allay any potential concerns. Members also suggested that the EPD provide more information on waste-to-energy technology, explaining how to minimise the impact on the surrounding environment; and
- (g) Members asked how the EPD intended to address these concerns specifically and what proactive actions it would take, highlighting the need to prioritise not only education but also public perception and understanding, particularly among Tuen Mun residents.

16. Mr WONG of the EPD said that he would talk with his colleagues about the possibility of expanding the “We-recycle@School” activity to kindergartens. Regarding the Green Outreach’s teaching materials, he would consult with relevant colleagues to understand the views and suggestions from various sectors and make timely adjustments. Furthermore, the Department would draw on the experience of T·PARK to improve the use of I·PARK2, and was eager to listen to the opinions of all parties in order to study the future use of the site, such as educational purposes, so that it could benefit a broader spectrum of people.

17. In closing, the Chairman hoped to raise public environmental awareness through various channels and methods, and encourage teachers, parents and students in kindergarten, primary and secondary school to participate in waste recycling education and publicity initiatives. He hoped that the EPD would take on board the views put forward by Members and would continue to discuss the agenda item. He asked the Secretariat to invite the Green Outreach to the next meeting to update Members on their work and future plans, as well as to offer fresh ideas for encouraging children, parents and teachers to participate in recycling activities.

V. Item for Information

(A) Report of the Working Group on Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation (CICRC Paper No. 15/2024)

18. Mr Kelvin LAM of the Tuen Mun District Office (TMDO) outlined the content of the captioned report.

19. Members' comments and enquiries on "Towards the 15th National Games and the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities: 2024 Tuen Mun Sports Festival" were summarised as follows:

- (a) Members suggested introducing team events from the Olympic Games, such as table tennis team tournaments (best of 5 games), as singles and doubles competitions were commonly held in the district;
- (b) Members proposed a study to change competition formats from single elimination to group stage brackets followed by elimination. This would prevent participants from being eliminated in the first round and provide more competition opportunities, thus increasing participation; and
- (c) Members asked what events and activities were finally scheduled for the sports festival.

20. Mr Kelvin LAM of the TMDO gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The current co-organiser suggested in the proposal that the table tennis tournament be played in a single-elimination format, with group matches for men, women and various age groups;
- (b) The elimination game arrangements for the competition were mostly finalised after the co-organiser submitted a proposal. Nonetheless, the TMDO would consider the relevant views and look into the possibility of incorporating relevant elements in future competitions; and
- (c) The sports festival featured events such as badminton, table tennis, basketball, soccer, and an athletics day.

[Post-meeting note: The TMDO, after consulting with the co-organiser, would include team events in table tennis competitions.]

21. The CICRC endorsed the content of the report.

VI. Any Other Business and Date of Next Meeting

22. Miss CHEUNG Yuet-ming of the LCSD presented the Hong Kong Public Libraries' special programme, "The Glorious and Momentous Days – Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China", as well as the Tuen Mun Public Library's "Lingnan Culture Fun Day" Activities Series.

23. Miss CHEUNG of the LCSD said that to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Hong Kong Public Libraries would hold a thematic book exhibition titled "The Glorious and Momentous Days—Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China" at the Hong Kong Central Library, six major libraries (including the Tuen Mun Public Library), and the main lobby of the first floor of the Hong Kong Museum of History from 27 September to 31 October 2024. The book exhibition would focus on the history of the People's Republic of China and its accomplishments over the past 75 years. During the same time period, the public libraries would host talks and workshops on Lingnan culture and traditional crafts to help the public better understand Chinese culture. Furthermore, this year marked the 35th anniversary of the Tuen Mun Public Library's inauguration, and the "Lingnan Culture Fun Day" Activities Series would be held at the end of this year to commemorate the occasion. Workshops on traditional handicrafts such as traditional paper cutting, Chinese knot tying, flower board making would be held in November, followed by a series of activities on 21 December, the Tuen Mun Public Library's anniversary day, including talks on Kung Fu and Big Head Buddha, thematic storytelling for children and handicrafts booths, to allow readers to experience and understand Lingnan culture firsthand. The Department would later distribute promotional materials through the Secretariat, and hoped that Members would help promote the activities.

[Post-meeting note: The LCSD distributed event promotional materials to Members through the Secretariat after the meeting.]

24. A Member asked for extra publicity items, such as posters and brochures, as well as information on the quantity and format of promotional materials that the LCSD would provide for the libraries' numerous programmes and activities.

25. Miss CHEUNG of the LCSD said that the Department would send Members links to relevant websites and electronic posters via email through the Secretariat. Members were also encouraged to promote the activities.

26. The Chairman asked if the Department would provide schools with relevant information, noting that asking schools to print promotional materials provided via email might not be suitable. He suggested that the Department consider producing posters and distributing them through different public relations channels, including schools, District Council members, members of "the three committees", venues under the TMDO, and owners' corporations. He considered

that simply making the electronic version available via email would be insufficient to meet the actual needs of the various parties.

27. Miss CHEUNG of the LCSD said that the organiser of the thematic book exhibition would publicise and promote the event through various channels, including schools. The Tuen Mun Public Library had maintained communication with schools and their librarians and would distribute relevant information through established channels.

28. The Chairman asked Members to download the publicity materials they received via email and distribute them both online and in print to raise public knowledge of the upcoming activities at the Tuen Mun Public Library and the Hong Kong Central Library.

29. There being no other business, the Chairman announced the meeting closed at 3:24 p.m. The next meeting would be held on 26 November 2024 (Tuesday) at 2:30 p.m.

Tuen Mun District Council Secretariat
Date: October 2024
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