

Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of  
the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (2024-2027) of  
the Tuen Mun District Council

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Date : 22 August 2024 (Thursday)

Time : 2:31 p.m.

Venue : Tuen Mun District Council (TMDC) Conference Room

**Present**

Mr TSUI Fan, MH (Chairman)	TMDC Member
Mr TSANG Hin-hong, MH (Vice Chairman)	TMDC Member
The Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth, SBS, MH, JP	TMDC Member
Mr CHAN Yau-hoi, BBS, MH, JP	TMDC Member
Mr CHAN Manwell, Leo, MH	TMDC Member
Ms SO Ka-man	TMDC Member
Mr YIP Man-pan, MH	TMDC Member
Ms LAI Ka-man	TMDC Member
Mr HO Jun-hang, Benton	TMDC Member
Mr LAM Tik-fai	TMDC Member
Dr CHAN Kwai-wao	TMDC Member
Mr CHAN Tsim-heng	TMDC Member
Mr CHUI King-hang	TMDC Member
Mr FUNG Yuk-fung, MH	TMDC Member
Mr TSANG Hing-chung	TMDC Member
Mr YIP Kat-kong, Kenneth	TMDC Member
Mr IP Chun-yuen	TMDC Member
Mr CHENG Yin-kwan, Andy	TMDC Member
Mr TSOI Shing-hin	TMDC Member
Mr CHUNG Kin-fung	TMDC Member
Mr NG Ka-chun	Co-opted Member of TMDC Member
Mr YAN Chi-hong	Co-opted Member of TMDC Member
Ms YU Cheuk-ling, Katherine (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council)3, Tuen Mun District Office, Home Affairs Department

**By Invitation**

Ms CHAN Long-kwan, Joyee	Fauna Conservation Officer (Operation)1, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
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Dr WONG Yick-him, Simon

Mr TONG Fu-to

Mr HUNG Kam-yeung

Ms CHAN Pik-shan, Eva

Mr CHAN Tak Ho

Ms WONG Sau-ling, Vicky

Veterinary Officer (Avian Influenza Surveillance),  
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department  
Housing Manager/Tuen Mun 4, Housing Department  
Assistant Housing Manager/Butterfly Estate (1),  
Housing Department  
Senior Land Executive/Land Enforcement 3, District  
Lands Office, Tuen Mun, Lands Department  
Land Executive/Land Enforcement 7, District Lands  
Office, Tuen Mun, Lands Department  
Deputy District Leisure Manager (Tuen Mun) 2,  
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

**In Attendance**

Ms. HUNG Mei, Eunice

Mr TSANG Chun-wang, Roy

Mr FUNG Tze-wing, Jimmy

Mr FUNG Koon-yue

Mr CHAU Man-sang

Mr LEE Chun-kit

Senior Liaison Officer (2), Tuen Mun District Office,  
Home Affairs Department  
Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional  
West)1, Environmental Protection Department  
Project Officer (Waste Reduction and Recycling)101,  
Environmental Protection Department  
District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent  
(Tuen Mun), Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Department  
Chief Health Inspector (Tuen Mun)1,  
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department  
Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing & Pest Control)  
Tuen Mun, Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Department

## **I. Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed all to the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (2024-2027) (FEHC).

2. The Chairman welcomed Ms HUNG Mei, Eunice, Senior Liaison Officer (2), of the Tuen Mun District Office to the meeting for the first time. He continued that in accordance with section 71(2) of the District Councils Ordinance (Cap. 547), the Chairman of the Tuen Mun District Office had appointed Mr NG Ka-chun and Mr YAN Chi-hong as co-opted members of the FEHC for a term ending on 31 December 2025. On behalf of the FEHC, he welcomed the two co-opted members to the FEHC meeting.

## **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 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the FEHC (2024-2027) were endorsed.

## **IV. Matters Arising**

### **(A) Following up on the Issue of Illegal Feeding of Wild Animals**

**(FEHC Paper No. 14/2024)**

### **(B) Installation of Surveillance Cameras and Enhancement of Patrol at Feral Pigeon Feeding Black Spots for Discouraging Feeding of Feral Pigeons**

**(FEHC Paper No. 15/2024)**

**(Written Response from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department)**

5. The Chairman welcomed Ms Joyee CHAN, Fauna Conservation Officer (Operation)<sup>1</sup>, and Dr Simon Wong, Veterinary Officer (Avian Influenza Surveillance), of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) to the meeting. Since discussion items (A) and (B) were related, they would be discussed together.

6. Ms Joyee CHAN of the AFCD said that the newly amended Wild Animals

Protection Ordinance (Ordinance), which officially came into effect on 1 August this year, intended to broaden the scope of the existing feeding ban on wild animals to include feral pigeons. The Ordinance introduced a fixed penalty for the offence and expanded the scope of enforcement officers. In the first quarter of this year, the Department had launched a series of publicity activities with the theme of “All For No Feeding” to reach out to a wider range of the public across different age groups. In addition, in June, the Department set up an educational booth at Leung King Estate in Tuen Mun to promote the relevant legislative amendments to over 260 visitors.

7. Dr Simon WONG of the AFCD said that since the commencement of the Ordinance on 1 August this year, the AFCD’s team had conducted investigations and gathered evidence in response to complaints and reports of illegal feeding of wild animals and feral pigeons. As of 16 August, a total of 52 reports and complaints of illegal feeding of wild animals and feral pigeons had been received across the territory, requiring the AFCD to dispatch its staff 44 times to conduct investigations and collect evidence. So far, no complaints or reports of illegal feeding of wild animals and feral pigeons had been received from the Tuen Mun District. To conduct a successful investigation or prosecution, the Department relied on the public to provide accurate and sufficient intelligence so that it could plan ahead of time and identify the individual feeding wild animals or feral pigeons on the scene.

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

- (i) Members said that implementing the Ordinance aimed to increase deterrence. In this context, Members asked whether the AFCD would deploy additional staff to carry out prosecution work after the grace period in the first month, taking into account the reports received by 1823 and opinions from various areas;
- (ii) Members suggested that the Housing Department (HD) conduct a survey to identify feral pigeon feeding black spots within its jurisdiction to align with the newly amended Marking Scheme for Estate Management Enforcement in Public Housing Estates, which included feeding of feral pigeons as a misdeed;
- (iii) Members suggested that the AFCD and the HD provide the FEHC with a

report on the numbers of persons prosecuted and convicted under the Ordinance in the future;

- (iv) Members asked the AFCD for details of its upcoming district-wide publicity and education campaigns on the Ordinance;
- (v) In addition to the hotline 1823, Members asked whether there were other ways for the public to report feral pigeon feeding black spots. Members also suggested the Department look into tools such as application programmes and QR codes to make reporting more convenient for the public;
- (vi) Members asked about the prosecution process following the one-month grace period; and
- (vii) Members said that the Ordinance helped deter illegal feeding of feral pigeons during times of high disease outbreaks, protecting public health and hygiene.

9. Dr Simon WONG of the AFCD said that the Department would continue to conduct investigations and take enforcement actions after the grace period while stepping up its efforts to combat acts of illegal feeding. The Department would conduct investigations utilising a risk-based enforcement strategy and then take appropriate enforcement actions. Separately, members of the public could report to the AFCD by 1823 or email. The Department had been running educational street booths and would set up two more in the Tuen Mun District in October to continue promoting the Ordinance.

10. Mr TONG Fu-to of the HD said that after the commencement of the Ordinance, the HD was authorised on 1 August to take enforcement actions under the Ordinance within housing estates. If necessary, members of the public could contact the estate management offices to report suspected acts of illegal feeding.

## **V. Discussion Items**

- (A) **Suggestions for System Enhancement of Smart Food Waste Bins under GREEN@COMMUNITY**  
(FEHC Paper No. 18/2024)  
(Written Response from the Environmental Protection Department)

11. The Chairman welcomed Mr Jimmy FUNG, Project Officer (Waste Reduction and Recycling)101, of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) to the meeting.

12. The first proposer of the paper said that at the moment, the EPD had installed smart food waste bins in 185 public rental housing estates across the territory, but this number was insufficient to meet the demand for food waste collection. He was also concerned about the maintenance of the smart food waste bins, namely the problems of malfunctioning and overflowing without prompt replacements. He hoped that the government departments would improve the smart food waste bin system under the GREEN@COMMUNITY community recycling network.

13. A Member asked about the contract provisions on the timeframe for the cleansing contractor to replace the inner bin of smart food waste bins, and hoped that the EPD would enhance the efficiency of repairing faults in smart food waste bins.

14. Mr Jimmy FUNG of the EPD said that the Department had extended the smart food waste recycling service to all public rental housing estates in Hong Kong at the end of June this year. At the moment, over 760 smart food waste bins had been set up in 215 public rental housing estates, meeting the needs of most of the residents living in public rental housing estates. The Department would use the big data platform to monitor the status of all smart food waste bins, including their operation and fill levels. If a smart food waste bin broke down momentarily, the contractor was required by contract to complete repairs within 48 hours. So far, in most cases, the contractor had been able to complete inspections and minor repairs to the smart food waste bin on the same day. Furthermore, the Department had provided the HD with additional resources for hiring more cleansing staff to strengthen cleansing services, address the problem of overflowing smart food waste bins, maintain the cleanliness of the outside bin and its surroundings, promptly replace the inner bin, and move the purple food waste bins fully loaded with food waste to designated locations within the public rental housing estates for temporary storage pending routine collection and delivery to the food waste treatment facilities by the contractor. When a smart food waste bin was full but the inner bin had not been replaced within 30 minutes, the estate management offices, frontline staff of the cleansing contractor and the EPD would be notified, and a message was sent every 30 minutes

thereafter. If the inner bin was still not replaced, the Department would take proactive follow-up actions and contact the cleansing staff to have the inner bin replaced as soon as possible.

15. Members' comments and enquiries on the system enhancement of smart food waste bins under GREEN@COMMUNITY were summarised as follows:

- (i) Members suggested providing hand-washing facilities near smart food waste bins to help the public maintain personal and environmental hygiene;
- (ii) Members suggested that the Department monitor the operation of the facilities on an on-going basis and adjust the support measures based on the feedback from the community;
- (iii) Members said that due to an insufficient supply of purple food waste bins, the HD staff had to collect food waste in green refuse bins after the smart food waste bins were full. Furthermore, bags of food waste were dumped next to overflowing smart food waste bins, causing environmental hygiene problems. Members suggested setting up larger food waste collection stations in public rental housing estates with higher usage;
- (iv) Members were concerned about the maintenance efficiency of smart food waste bins, and asked for statistics on their malfunctions and the notification mechanism;
- (v) Members asked the Department to provide "at least one smart food waste bin for each block" as soon as possible to help the public cultivate a habit of recycling;
- (vi) Members suggested equipping newly installed smart food waste bins with an electronic video system to show bin status, fill level, staff contact information and promotional videos to enhance the appeal of food waste recycling;
- (vii) Members suggested providing more gift redemption units for food waste recycling;

- (viii) Members asked about the effectiveness of the GREEN\$ x “Carbon Wallet” Pilot Collaboration Program, and suggested expanding the redemption options, such as offering cash back, to create more incentives to promote food waste recycling;
  - (ix) Members asked whether the contractor would be penalised if he failed to complete repairs within the prescribed time limit; and
  - (x) Members suggested enhancing the functionality of the Green\$ mobile app by, for example, providing real-time information on the status of the smart food waste bins in the Tuen Mun District to facilitate public participation in food waste recycling.
16. Mr Jimmy FUNG of the EPD gave a consolidated response as follows:
- (i) Regarding the suggestion of installing hand-washing facilities, the Department had gradually placed alcohol-based handrub beside smart food waste bins so that the public could clean their hands. At the moment, among some 760 smart food waste recycling bins in operation in public rental housing estates, 450 of them had been equipped with alcohol-based handrub;
  - (ii) To address the shortage of purple food waste bins, the Department would adjust the supply of purple food waste bins to public rental housing estates;
  - (iii) On increasing the number of smart food waste bins, the Department would gradually install more smart food waste bins in public rental housing estates where the usage and food waste quantities were higher. The Department also planned to install 700 to 800 more smart food waste bins by 2026 in order to reach the goal of providing “at least one smart food waste bin for each block”;
  - (iv) Regarding the malfunctioning of smart food waste bins, the Department would actively follow up on the faulty smart food waste bins in individual housing estates and instructed the contractor to resolve the issue as soon as possible. Furthermore, the Department would maintain close communication with the HD and estate management offices in housing estates, as well as place additional purple food waste bins next to the smart



food waste bins with a higher number of breakdowns and usage to meet emergency needs. The Department would also ask the contractor to replace defective smart food waste bins as needed;

- (v) On monitoring the performance of the contractor, the contractor was subject to deduction of operational fees if he failed to meet the contract requirements. If the contractor's performance was unsatisfactory, the Department would issue a warning;
- (vi) Regarding the suggestions for education and publicity, at the moment, smart food waste bins were equipped with colour display screens that showed a video loop of about 20 seconds explaining to the public how to activate the bins by scanning the QR code on the bins with the GREEN\$ mobile app. The screen would also show the status of the smart food waste bin in real time, with notifications such as "Malfunction" and "Temporarily Full". The Department would continue to review the operation and update the screen interface based on actual needs; and
- (vii) The Department was actively considering displaying the status of smart food waste bins through the GREEN\$ mobile app.

17. To raise the public's environmental awareness, the Chairman hoped that all parties would work together to enhance the operation of smart food waste bins.

- (B) Suggestions for Intensifying Mosquito Preventive and Control Work in Tuen Mun District**  
**(FEHC Paper No. 19/2024)**  
**(Written Response from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department)**  
**(Written Response from the Housing Department)**  
**(Written Response from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department)**  
**(Written Response from the Highways Department)**  
**(Written Response from the Drainage Services Department)**

18. The Chairman welcomed Mr TONG Fu-to, Housing Manager/Tuen Mun 4, and Mr HUNG Kam-yeung, Assistant Housing Manager/Butterfly Estate (1), of the Housing Department, and Ms Vicky WONG, Deputy District Leisure Manager (Tuen Mun) 2, of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) to the meeting.

19. Mr CHAU Man-sang of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) provided an outline of their written response, and added that the Department hosted an introduction to mosquito control in the Tuen Mun District in early August and demonstrated the use of robotics foggers on the spot.

20. Members' comments and enquiries on the mosquito prevention and control work in the Tuen Mun District were summarised as follows:

- (i) Members were concerned about the gravidtrap index and recent dengue fever cases in Hong Kong. Members were also worried that the high gravidtrap index in So Kwun Wat in May and June might affect students from surrounding schools, thus they suggested that relevant government departments step up their mosquito prevention and control work;
- (ii) Members suggested that the FEHD work with the Highways Department (HyD), the Drainage Services Department (DSD) and the District Lands Office, Tuen Mun (DLO) and the LCSD to improve mosquito prevention and control efforts. This included tackling stagnant water in construction sites, mosquito breeding on deserted land in rural areas of Tuen Mun, and clearing overgrown vegetation and blocked drains;
- (iii) Members suggested that the FEHD host a briefing session on mosquito control in the Tuen Mun District at So Kwun Wat in the future;
- (iv) Members pointed out that the gravidtrap index was often higher in May, and suggested that the FEHD and other government departments implement mosquito prevention and control measures before May;
- (v) Apart from using new devices to kill mosquitoes, Members suggested that the FEHD consider deploying new equipment for rodent control and street cleansing work in the future to increase efficacy;
- (vi) Members said that the central reservation of quite a number of carriageways were overgrown with weeds, impeding traffic and the FEHD's work in collecting refuse, and suggested the relevant government departments step up their efforts to clear overgrown vegetation;
- (vii) Members suggested stepping up anti-mosquito efforts at Tuen Mun Tang

Shiu Kin Sports Ground and in the rural areas;

- (viii) Members suggested that the FEHD take the initiative to carry out weeding work in areas with ambiguous ownership or boundaries;
- (ix) Members asked about the Department's plans to address mosquito breeding in areas outside the scope of government control, such as water accumulation in shopping malls and other places due to facility damage;
- (x) Members asked whether the FEHD would introduce a specific index for ongoing surveillance of biting midges and step up publicity and education in this aspect;
- (xi) Members asked whether all departments used the same type of mosquito preventive and control tools, and whether the FEHD would share its experience in using the tools with other departments;
- (xii) Members asked how the HyD would schedule trimming of vegetation across different locations for the contractor;
- (xiii) Members suggested that the FEHD step up communication and cooperation with the housing estates in So Kwun Wat to step up anti-mosquito efforts; and
- (xiv) Members asked about the inter-departmental mosquito prevention and control strategies for the fourth quarter of this year, as well as the arrangements for a mosquito prevention seminar in the same quarter.

21. Mr CHAU of the FEHD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) To safeguard public health and sustain the effectiveness of the mosquito prevention and control efforts, the Department had carried out a number of operations to clear stagnant water and prevent and control mosquito breeding at mosquito breeding grounds and potential breeding places throughout the district. If grass cutting was necessary to prevent mosquitoes from breeding and hiding in certain areas, the Department would refer the lots concerned to the responsible departments for follow-up;

- (ii) As part of its publicity and education efforts on mosquito prevention and control, the Department would hold a roving exhibition at shopping malls in major housing estates and send its staff to give talks to management staff of the housing estates and needy schools to raise their awareness of mosquito prevention and control. Furthermore, the Department would conduct a number of operations to remove stagnant water and prevent and control mosquito breeding at mosquito breeding grounds and potential breeding places throughout the district, with a focus on the areas surrounding schools, construction sites, hospitals and illegal cultivation sites;
- (iii) The pesticides used by the Department for anti-mosquito purposes were registered with the AFCD, and the details of which were available on the AFCD's website. Under the terms of the contract, the Department would conduct surprise checks on the chemicals used by the contractor to make sure they met all relevant requirements. If necessary, the Department was prepared to provide other departments or the management offices of private housing estates with information about the anti-mosquito chemicals and equipment;
- (iv) The Lands Department's website provided public access to relevant information regarding regular grass cutting on government land. In Annex III to FEHC Paper No. 27/2024, the DLO had specified the places that would be subject to monthly grass cutting and larvicidal oil spraying until 15 August 2024. If staff of the Department became aware that vegetation had overgrown on certain government land owing to the rainy season, resulting in mosquito infestation, they would report the situation to the DLO for grass cutting;
- (v) Regarding environmental hygiene and mosquito problems in private housing estates, relevant staff of the Department would follow up on the issues and, depending on the circumstances, provide hygiene education to those concerned, offer advice, issue Nuisance Notices, or consider prosecution. Generally speaking, staff of the Department would first conduct joint inspections with the staff of the management company, providing advice and technical guidance as needed. If the problem was deemed to be serious, follow-up actions such as review would be arranged;

- (vi) Each year, the Department would plan ahead the three-phase anti-mosquito campaign with technical assistance from the Pest Control Advisory Section, including relevant guidelines and timetables for the implementation by the District Environmental Hygiene Offices based on the actual situation; and
  - (vii) The Department would conduct special inter-departmental meetings before the onset of the rainy season and as needed. Meanwhile, letters would be issued to management companies in the district, and anti-mosquito publicity pamphlets and posters would be displayed in public places such as refuse collection points and toilets.
22. Mr FUNG of the FEHD gave a consolidated response as follows:
- (i) To most people, the bites of biting midges would quickly cause discomfort and irritation. Generally speaking, biting midges were not regarded to be important vectors for disease transmission to humans. Nonetheless, the Department would conduct anti-biting midge operations in places inhabited by biting midges and would appeal to the venue management staff to trim densely grown vegetation and apply insecticide at breeding places of biting midges to reduce their breeding;
  - (ii) *Aedes albopictus* was a vector for dengue fever, hence an index was established to monitor the breeding of these mosquitoes and guide the implementation of targeted mosquito prevention and control measures;
  - (iii) The situation of dengue fever, which was transmitted by *Aedes albopictus*, remained under control in Hong Kong, and the Department would continue to implement proper anti-mosquito measures to prevent dengue fever from becoming an endemic disease; and
  - (iv) Phase III of the anti-mosquito campaign, which ran from 5 August to 27 October, covered the remainder of the rainy season. The Department would continue to strengthen its cooperation with other departments and step up its anti-mosquito work.
23. Ms Eva CHAN of the DLO said that in addition to regular grass cutting and larvicidal oil spraying, the Lands Department would actively participate in

inter-departmental joint operations. When the Department received a complaint about government land that was not under its jurisdiction, such as hillsides and remote areas, it would, after confirming that the land in question was not under the control of other government departments, cut the grass and apply larvicidal oil to the land concerned.

24. Ms Vicky WONG of the LCSD said that cleansing of venues under its management by contractors was carried out daily to ensure proper treatment of all refuse, fallen leaves and stagnant water. Special cleansing or anti-mosquito operations, such as the application of larvicidal oil and sand, were carried out weekly. In addition, the Department had employed pest control companies to carry out insecticide fogging at the venues. Since June, the frequency of insecticide fogging had been increased to twice a week due to the severe mosquito problem during the summer. To prevent and control mosquito breeding, the Department had placed over 300 mosquito trapping devices at its venues. The Department would also proactively request that the contractor cut the grass more frequently.

25. The Chairman noted the need of departmental collaboration for mosquito prevention and control work in the Tuen Mun District, and asked the Secretariat to relay Members' concerns to the HyD and the DSD.

[Post-meeting note: The Secretariat emailed the HyD and the DSD on 27 September 2024 to explain the Members' concerns.]

## **VI. Items for Information**

### **(A) Report of Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHC Paper No. 20/2024)**

26. Members noted the content of the paper.

### **(B) Anti-mosquito Campaign 2024 in Tuen Mun District (Phase III) (FEHC Paper No. 21/2024)**

27. Members noted the content of the paper.

### **(C) Improvement Works for To Yuen Wai Public Toilet and Luen On San Tsuen Public Toilet (FEHC Paper No. 22/2024)**

28. Members noted the content of the paper.

29. A Member suggested that the FEHD provide temporary hand-washing facilities during the public toilet improvement works at To Yuen Wai, and asked for the exact location of the public toilet at Luen On San Tsuen.

30. Mr LEE Chun-kit of the FEHD said that to facilitate the public toilet improvement works at To Yuen Wai, the Department would provide another attendant room within the toilet to allow staff to collect water, thus avoiding the need to install water taps outside the public toilet. Separately, the public toilet in Luen On San Tsuen was located near the entrance of the village.

**(D) Report on Current Situation and Progress of Resource Recovery in Tuen Mun District  
(FEHC Paper No. 23/2024)**

31. Members noted the content of the paper.

32. Members' comments and enquiries on the captioned matter were summarised as follows:

- (i) Members asked about the number of smart food waste bins installed at the food waste recycling points at refuse collection points. Given that some single-block residential buildings could not accommodate smart food waste bins, Members suggested installing smart food waste bins with larger compartments and increasing the number of smart food waste bins available for use in order to fully utilise the refuse collection points;
- (ii) Citing the disparity in the amount of recyclables recovered at GREEN@COMMUNITY recycling stores across public rental housing estates, Members asked why there was a difference and how recycling resources were distributed among housing estates; and
- (iii) Members asked when and how food waste from restaurants would be collected under the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection.

33. Mr Jimmy FUNG of the EPD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) The Department subsidised the installation of smart food waste bins in private residential buildings through the Recycling Fund and the Environment and Conservation Fund. In December last year, the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) assisted the EPD in launching the "Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Smart Recycling Bins in

Private Housing Estates” through the Environment and Conservation Fund. Private housing estates with at least 1 000 households could apply to the ECC to participate in the pilot scheme. As of July this year, the Department had received 230 applications, 90 of which were preliminary approved. So far, the Department had received 29 applications from eligible housing estates in the Tuen Mun District and eight of which had been approved. The Department had always accelerated the approval process by scheduling meetings with the housing estate and the property management company or owners’ corporation as soon as all the documents were collected to confirm the location of the smart food waste bins and explain the relevant procedures and ancillary facilities for food waste collection. The approval process usually took three to four months;

- (ii) Five food waste recycling spots were set up in the Tuen Mun District. The EPD contractor would collect food waste from specific recycling spots at designated times, as well as directly from participating restaurants. Restaurants interested in participating in the food waste recycling scheme could reach the contractor through the telephone hotline; and

[Post-meeting note: The EPD provided supplementary information after the meeting that the Department has placed traditional pedal-operated food waste recycling bins at five public refuse collection points under the FEHD in the Tuen Mun District, namely Tseng Choi Street (Area 4B), Tseng Choi Street (Area 4C), Tsing Hoi Circuit (Area 37B), Yan Ching Street and Tat Yan Square (Area 10B), for the use of the general public and restaurants. Furthermore, the Department has installed smart food waste bins at GREEN@TUEN MUN for public use. To install smart food waste bins at public venues, the Department had to consider a number of factors, including whether there were suitable locations and power sources for installing smart food waste bins, whether there was enough space for temporary storage of fully loaded inner bins, whether the locations were convenient for the public to recycle food waste, and whether the installation works would cause inconvenience to site operation and site users. The Department would continue to look into setting up more public food waste recycling points at other suitable venues (such as public markets).]



- (iii) This year, new recycling points, namely GREEN@ON TING, GREEN@WU KING, GREEN@YAN Tin, and GREEN@FU TAI, were set up at public rental housing estates to expand the recycling channel to public rental housing estates for the convenience of the public. In general, the recovery rate of an estate was determined by its size, population and recycling practices. The above recycling points were easily accessible. It was expected that it would take time for the public to adapt and develop a recycling habit.

34. Members' enquiries and comments on the captioned paper were summarised as follows:

- (i) Members suggested stepping up efforts to promote recycling during major festivals by, for example, setting up recycling points for festive items and asking housing estates, shopping malls, owners' committees, and owners' corporations for help in raising public awareness of the new recycling points. Furthermore, Community Care Teams might be invited to help promote the recycling facilities, which could be incorporated into the GREEN\$ Electronic Participation Incentive Scheme;
- (ii) Members asked how recovery rates and other relevant data from GREEN@COMMUNITY would be reported for follow-up purposes; and
- (iii) Members asked about the number of restaurants registered for the "Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection" and the overall recovery rates. Members also asked whether the contractor would collect food waste directly from restaurants or from recycling spots. Members were concerned that food waste recycling spots would emit strong odours and disturb the public, and did not consider it necessary to set up food waste recycling spots if the contractor collected food waste at the door.

35. Mr Roy TSANG of the EPD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) The Department would adjust the operation of recycling facilities to handle extra recyclables generated during major festivals. The Department had taken note of Members' suggestions to step up the promotion of recycling during major festivals and provide special recycling points; and

[Post-meeting note: The EPD provided supplementary information after

the meeting that, to enhance publicity and education on waste reduction and recycling, the Green Outreach had reached out to the community (including housing estates/residential buildings, public markets and public transport clusters such as near the Light Rail stations) to organise promotional activities and provide on-site demonstrations to sustain the efforts to promote the importance of waste reduction at source and clean recycling, and encourage the public to integrate such practices into their daily lives. To further promote recycling during major festivals, the Green Outreach would participate in two large-scale activities organised by the Home Affairs Department in the Tuen Mun District in October, namely “Celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China – Tuen Mun Beach Festival 2024” on 19 October and “Tuen Mun Tai Hing and Shan King Area Carnival 2024 in Celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China.” At the events, the Green Outreach would host games and promotional booths for the public to celebrate the National Day while also enhancing their understanding of source separation and clean recycling practices. The Green Outreach would promote and publicise the events with the assistance of property management companies, owners’ committees, owners’ corporations and Community Care Teams.]

- (ii) Regarding the current situation and progress of resource recovery in the Tuen Mun District, the Department suggested submitting a report on the latest situation to the FEHC on a semi-annual basis, as relevant data was updated quarterly.

36. Mr Jimmy FUNG of the EPD added that regarding the arrangements for food waste recycling spots, the Department would set up food waste recycling spots in food and beverage clusters to collect food waste generated by restaurants through a booth at a designated location and time on a daily basis. Furthermore, every day at a specific time, the contractor would collect food waste from five recycling spots in the Tuen Mun District, which were located at Tsing Wui Street, Yan Oi Tong Circuit, Tuen Mun Heung Sze Wui Road, Tsing Min Path and Lam Tei Main Street. Restaurants interested in participating in the food waste recycling scheme could contact the contractor through the telephone hotline.

37. After discussion, the FEHC agreed to the EPD’s proposed reporting arrangements for the captioned items.

**(E) Water Quality of Tuen Mun Beaches  
(FEHC Paper No. 24/2024)**

38. Members noted the content of the report.
39. Members' comments and enquiries on the captioned paper were as follows:
- (i) Members expressed concern over an oil spill at Golden Beach, and asked about the source of the oil spill and frequency of beach closures this year due to oil spills;
  - (ii) Members asked how to prevent and manage oil spills; and
  - (iii) Members asked why high E. coli counts were detected at beaches in May and June, as well as how to lower E. coli levels.
40. Mr Roy TSANG of the EPD gave a consolidated response as follows:
- (i) In general, rainfall could negatively impact beach water quality. Nonetheless, the beach water quality would gradually return to normal with flushing and sunlight;
  - (ii) If the water quality of a beach was rated as Poor (Grade 3) or Very Poor (Grade 4), the Department would send its staff to the beach as soon as possible to conduct an investigation to determine if there were any illegal discharges and take appropriate action. Besides, rainfall had recently caused the water quality of some beaches to be rated as Very Poor (Grade 4);
  - (iii) Regarding pollution of the sea by oil, the Department was mainly responsible for monitoring marine and beach water quality, while the Marine Department handled vessel oil spills and cleaned up the oil spill at sea; and
  - (iv) The first oil leak at Golden Beach was detected by the Marine Department's patrol unit at sea. Although the cause of the oil spill could not be found, it was immediately remedied. The second oil leak was reported by the LCSD's beach management staff, who spotted a little amount of oil floating along the beach, and the EPD came to check out the

beach the same day. In terms of a reporting mechanism, if the Department received notification that a beach had been closed due to an oil spill, it would send its staff to the beach as soon as possible to conduct an investigation to determine whether there was an illegal discharge into the sea and to arrange for the collection of water samples from the sea on the same day or within the next one or two days to determine oil content. Once the water quality returned to normal, which meant that the oil had not flowed back to the beach and that there had been no illegal discharge, the Department would suggest that the LCSD reopen the beach.

**(F) Air Quality Health Index of Tuen Mun Air Quality Monitoring Station  
(FEHC Paper No. 25/2024)**

41. Members noted the content of the report.

**(G) Tai Shui Hang Water Quality Monitoring Records  
(FEHC Paper No. 26/2024)**

42. Members noted the content of the report.

**(H) Reports of Other Government Departments  
(FEHC Paper No. 27/2024)**

(i) Report on Environmental Monitoring of Mud Pit V

43. Members noted the content of the report.

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

44. Members noted the content of the report.

(iii) Grass Cutting and Spraying Mosquito Oil Works for Government Land in Tuen Mun District

45. Members noted the content of the report.

**VII. Any Other Business and Date of Next Meeting**

46. There being no other business, the Chairman announced the meeting closed at 4:34 p.m. The next meeting would be held on 17 October 2024 (Thursday) at 2:30 p.m.

Tuen Mun District Council Secretariat

Date: September 2024

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