

Minutes of the 6th Meeting in 2024
of the Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee
of Tai Po District Council

Date: 7 November 2024 (Thursday)
Time: 9:30 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.
Venue: Conference Room, Tai Po District Council (“TPDC”)

<u>Present</u>	<u>Time of Arrival</u>	<u>Time of Withdrawal</u>
<u>Chairman</u>		
Mr. CHAN Cho-leung, MH, JP	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
<u>Vice-chairman</u>		
Ms. LEE Sai-yin, Jeanne, BBS, JP	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
<u>Members</u>		
Mr. LEE Man-kit	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. YU Chi-wing, MH	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. LI Wah-kwong, Rex, MH	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. LEE Hon-cheung	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. LAM Yick-kuen, MH	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. WU Cheuk-him	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. CHAN Tsz-kin	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Ms. CHAN Kin-kwan	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. CHAN Yung-wa	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. CHAN Siu-kuen, MH, JP	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. MUI Siu-fung	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. MAK Shing-ho, Gary	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. WAN Koon-kau	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. WONG Wai-tung	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Ms. WONG Pik-kiu, SBS, MH, JP	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. LO Hiu-fung, MH	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. YIP Yan	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. CHENG Sze-wang	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
<u>Secretary</u>		
Miss CHAN Yin-ning, Elaine	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Executive Officer (District Council) 1 / Tai Po District Office (“TPDO”) / Home Affairs Department (“HAD”)		

In Attendance

Mr. FUNG Hon-wa, Harris	District Leisure Manager (Tai Po) / Leisure and Cultural Services Department (“LCSD”)
Ms. CHAN Wing-yee, Pion	Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Tai Po / LCSD
Ms. OR Hiu-man, Stella	Senior Manager (New Territories East) Promotion / LCSD
Ms. LAU Fung-yi, Connie	Manager (New Territories East) Marketing & District Activities / LCSD
Miss LEE Mei-yee, May	Senior Librarian (Tai Po) / LCSD
Ms. CHAN Lai-tak	Senior School Development Officer (Tai Po) 3 / Education Bureau (“EDB”)
Ms. SING Hoi-shan, Wendy	Senior Executive Officer (District Council) / TPDO / HAD
Ms. WONG Sze-man, Queenie	Senior Liaison Officer (2) / TPDO / HAD
Mr. CHOW Tsz-yan, Daniel	Executive Officer I (District Council) / TPDO / HAD
Mr. CHO Tin-ho, Eric	Liaison Officer (6) / TPDO / HAD

Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed participants to the 6th meeting in 2024 of the Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee (“CCRC”), and announced the following:

- (i) Ms. CHAN Wing-yee, Pion, Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Tai Po of LCSD, would attend future CCRC meetings in place of Mr. YAU Wan-po, Wallace.
- (ii) Messrs. CHOW Tsz-yan, Daniel and CHO Tin-ho, Eric, Executive Officer I (District Council) and Liaison Officer (6) of TPDO respectively, would be in attendance of the meeting.

I. Confirmation of the minutes of the 5th meeting in 2024 of the CCRC on 5 September 2024

2. The Chairman reported that as the Secretariat did not receive any proposed amendments prior to the meeting, and no Members on the floor had put forward any amendments, the captioned minutes therefore were confirmed.

II. The design of Tai Po District Office and TPDC monthly calendar 2025

3. The representative of TPDO advised that the theme of the captioned calendar (“Calendar”) was on the special attractions and events in Tai Po District. With reference to Members’ views expressed at the last meeting, useful telephone numbers of government departments would be printed on the Calendar, as well as the National Security Education Day (15 April), Tin Hau Festival, Kwun Yum (Goddess of Mercy) Festival, and dates of Meet-the-Public Scheme (“Scheme”) would be displayed as well. Drawings from primary and secondary students in the district had been collected through the schools by the TPDO earlier, and suitable works had been selected by the Chairman and Vice-chairman of CCRC to be used as illustrations in the Calendar, which would be printed upon completion of the layout.

4. Members’ comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) They asked about the date of completion of the printing of the Calendar in the hope that distribution of calendars to the public could be carried out as early as possible.
- (ii) They asked about the print run and number of copies to be allocated to each District Council (“DC”) Member or the Area Committees.
- (iii) It was suggested that the design of the Calendar be circulated for Members’ information upon completion by the TPDO.
- (iv) It was suggested that only the dates of the Scheme be marked. There was no need to display the names of Duty Roster Members.
- (v) It was suggested that consideration be given to incorporating the winning entries of “Photo Competition on Activities in Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Founding of the People’s Republic of China in Tai Po District” (“Photo Competition”) as the design of the Calendar.
- (vi) They suggested increasing the print run and providing a certain number of copies for distribution by the District Services & Community Care Teams (“Care Teams”).
- (vii) They said that the desktop calendar produced last year was very popular, and suggested that more desktop calendars be produced by the TPDO.

5. The Chairman suggested that Members could take part in and follow up on future calendar production. Interested Members were welcome to join.

6. The representative of TPDO responded as follows:

- (i) The printing of the Calendars was expected to be completed in December, and the TPDO would inform Members of the actual distribution date as soon as possible.

- (ii) It was tentatively estimated that each DC Member would have about 500 calendars for distribution to the public.
- (iii) The TPDO had taken note of Members' views on the design and distribution of the Calendar.
- (iv) The TPDO would invite Members to take part in the discussion on the production and arrangement of the Calendar as and when necessary.
- (v) The TPDO had selected a printing supplier in accordance with the Stores and Procurement Regulations. Once the draft was finalised, arrangement would be made for printing as soon as possible, and the finalised design would be circulated for Members' information.

7. The Chairman understood that production time was tight and hoped that the TPDO would finalise the version as soon as possible for circulation to Members. He hoped that the Secretariat would assist in inviting Members to take part in the discussion on the production of the Calendar as well as the distribution arrangements as and when necessary.

III. Proposed construction of additional cultural and leisure facilities at Tai Po Waterfront Park
(TPDC Paper Nos. CCR 9/2024 and CCR 9a/2024)

8. The Chairman went through the captioned paper (No. CCR 9/2024), and asked Members to refer to the response of LCSD (No. CCR 9a/2024).

9. Members' comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) As some of the areas in Tai Po Waterfront Park ("TPWP") would not be affected by outdoor winds, it was suggested that the department add table tennis and badminton facilities there.
- (ii) They concurred with the provision of additional recreation and sports ("R&S") facilities at TPWP to cater for the different needs of the public.
- (iii) TPWP had been in use for a long time. It was suggested that the department review facilities that required to be renovated and upgrade them according to the community needs, preferably in conjunction with the works to be carried out at the end of the year.
- (iv) They asked whether the department would update the exhibition theme of TPWP Insect House on a regular basis, and suggested that characteristic themes be added.
- (v) They suggested making good use of the space and facilities at TPWP to bring diversified activities to the public, and organising different types of activities to

increase the pedestrian flow.

- (vi) It was hoped that the department would renovate the flooring at the entrances of TPWP as soon as possible so that the works progress would not be affected by the weather.
- (vii) They asked about the site selected for the skateparks at TPWP and the related information.
- (viii) They asked whether the department would provide relevant facilities to tie in with the publicity of the 15th National Games (“National Games”) so as to enhance public awareness of the National Games.
- (ix) It was suggested that the department organise guide tours at TPWP to introduce the plants therein, and consideration might be given to providing audio guide tours for the public to scan the QR code to listen to the information there.
- (x) It was suggested that flapstuffs be provided at the Amphitheatre of TPWP for conducting flag-raising ceremonies, and that the national flag be displayed at the Spiral Lookout Tower (“Tower”) to enhance its symbolic nature.
- (xi) It was suggested that additional historical information on the Handover of Hong Kong be provided at the Tower and The 10th Anniversary of the Hong Kong’s Handover Sculpture.

10. The representative of LCSD responded as follows:

- (i) The department had taken note of Members’ views, and would study whether there were suitable sites at TPWP for providing additional table tennis and badminton facilities.
- (ii) The department would consider organising guide tours and adding characteristic themes to enhance public understanding of greening and the history of Hong Kong’s Handover.
- (iii) The department had preliminarily planned to construct the skateparks at Formal Garden, and was studying the design with the relevant national sports associations and works departments to tie in with the development of the sports concerned. CCRC would be informed if further information was available.
- (iv) The department would inspect the facilities in TPWP regularly, and would study and carry out renovation works with the relevant works departments having regard to the service life and level of wear and tear of the facilities.

IV. Tai Po District Office — Half-yearly report on initiatives under the Community Involvement Programme (from April to September 2024)
(TPDC Paper No. CCR 10/2024)

11. The representative of TPDO went through the captioned paper.
12. Members' comments and questions were as follows:
 - (i) They were thankful to the TPDO for organising a wide range of activities in the past six months, and hoped to continue to assist in organising activities in the future to boost the local economy of Tai Po District.
 - (ii) It was suggested that apart from counting the attendance of the activities, the TPDO might also quantify the economic benefits brought by the activities to the district.
 - (iii) It was suggested that the national and regional flags be displayed regularly at suitable locations in the district so as to nurture the patriotic spirit of the public.
 - (iv) It was suggested that the TPDO make good use of the copyright of the cartoon figure "Milk Dragon (奶龍)" to help publicise the activities in the district within the time limit.
 - (v) It was suggested that the TPDO distribute questionnaires to shops in the vicinity of the activity venues. Schools might also assist in distributing questionnaires to parents of local students to collect data on the activities and economic benefits.
 - (vi) They considered that apart from boosting local economy, the activities organised by the TPDO could also enhance the public sense of well-being.
13. The representative of TPDO responded as follows:
 - (i) The TPDO had taken note of Members' views, and was thankful to Members and the Care Teams for their assistance rendered to facilitate smooth running of the activities.
 - (ii) The TPDO would work with relevant departments to examine whether there were suitable locations for the display of the national and regional flags, and consider ways to collect data on the activities so as to make better the activities to be held in the future.
14. CCRC noted the above report.

V. **Leisure and Cultural Services Department — Report on the overview of community activities held between April and September 2024, participation in community activities held between September and October 2024, and proposed community activities to be held in November and December 2024 in Tai Po District**
(TPDC Paper No. CCR 11/2024)

15. The representative of LCSD reported on Appendix I to the captioned paper that the department had organised a total of 603 R&S programmes in Tai Po District between April and September 2024 with a total of 16 075 participants, details of which were set out in the annex for Members' reference.

16. A Member said that some members of the public had reflected that there were problems with the payment method of SmartPLAY, the new intelligent R&S services booking and information system. It was hoped that the department would follow up and inform Members of the updates.

17. The representative of LCSD responded that SmartPLAY system was being updated continuously, and Members would be informed forthwith of any updates received by the department.

18. Members' comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) It was suggested that more payment methods be provided to facilitate the public in renting R&S facilities under the management of the department.
- (ii) It was suggested that the department step up publicity on SmartPLAY so that the public could make good use of the system to book R&S facilities and enrol in R&S programmes.
- (iii) Some members of the public had reflected that Tung Cheong Street Swimming Pool ("TCSSP") did not have heated water supply at present. They asked how the department decided when the heated water facilities would be provided.
- (iv) It was suggested that improvement be made to the water pressure of the showers in the changing rooms of TCSSP.

19. The representative of LCSD responded as follows:

- (i) The department would reflect Members' views to the relevant section to improve the SmartPLAY system.

- (iii) For efficient use of energy and to minimise the pressure on the environment, the date of supply of heated water in public swimming pools this year had been deferred from 1 November to 16 November.
- (iv) The department understood that the water temperature was relatively low in the morning, and would reflect the views to the Aquatic Venues Unit (“AVU”) and monitor the situation continuously.
- (v) The AVU would determine whether to provide heated swimming facilities based on the nine-day weather forecast of the Hong Kong Observatory. If the average temperature was 23 degrees Celsius or below for three or more consecutive days, the venue would be notified to open heated swimming facilities.

20. Members’ comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) The venue at Kwong Fuk Football Ground had suffered serious wear and tear as a result of the frequent use for rugby or hockey activities. They hoped that the department would improve the situation.
- (ii) As most of the users of TCSSP in the morning were elderly people, it was suggested that the department exercise flexibility in the arrangement for the supply of heated water to the swimming pool.

21. The Chairman asked the department to follow up on Members’ views.

22. The representative of LCSD reported in connection with Appendix II to the captioned paper that Annex I set out the attendance report of cultural programmes held and sponsored in Tai Po District between August and October 2024, Annex II set out details of the proposed activities to be held between November and December 2024, and Annex III set out the half-yearly report on activities held between April and September 2024 under the Community Involvement Programme – 18dART Community Arts Scheme in Tai Po District for Members’ reference.

23. The representative of LCSD reported in connection with Appendix III to the captioned paper that Annexes I and II set out the attendance at extension activities of Tai Po Public Library and the utilisation of mobile library service points (“MLSPs”) between September and October 2024 respectively, Annex III set out the extension activities proposed to be held between November and December 2024, and Annex IV set out details of the library extension activities already held between April and September 2024 for Members’ reference.

24. Members thanked the department for arranging an on-site inspection to Fu Tip Estate with staff of the estate management office earlier to identify suitable location for setting up the MLSP and discuss the installation of service boxes and signboards. They hoped that good

communication with the department would be maintained thereafter so that the installation of service boxes could be completed with concerted efforts.

25. The representative of LCSD thanked Members for their views on the provision of MLSP in Fu Tip Estate. At present, the original service sessions provided by the MLSP in Shuen Wan were temporarily arranged to be provided in Fu Tip Estate. Subject to no other comments and the smooth implementation of the relevant works project (including the identification of suitable location for the parking of library van, the installation of service boxes and signboards, etc.), upon completion of the relevant works for the MLSP in Fu Tip Estate, the department will arrange for the original service sessions provided by the MLSP in Shuen Wan to be provided in Fu Tip Estate, i.e., replacing the MLSP in Shuen Wan by the MLSP in Fu Tip Estate.

26. CCRC noted the above report.

VI. Education Bureau – Report on the education matters in Tai Po District

27. The representative of EDB advised that the schools in the district had been in normal operation in general since the last meeting.

28. Members' questions and comments were as follows:

- (i) They asked whether the bureau could provide the number of primary and secondary school-age children as well as the number of school places in the district.
- (ii) At present, there was a shortage of secondary school places in the district, resulting in many school children commuting to schools in other districts. They would like to know about the relevant figures for reference in the future planning and development of Tai Po District.
- (iii) At present, there was an acute shortage of secondary school places in districts in the New Territories East (namely Tai Po, Sha Tin and North District), coupled with the increasing number of school children in the district, it was hoped that the bureau would reflect their views to alleviate the shortage of school places.
- (iv) It was suggested that the bureau provide detailed information on the vacant school places in other districts.

29. The representative of EDB responded as follows:

- (i) At present, the numbers of school children and school places in Tai Po were similar to those of last year.

- (ii) As the number of school places in the district was extremely tight, the bureau would, depending on the circumstances, assist parents to contact schools or suggest them to apply for admission of their children to schools in other districts.
- (iii) For enquiries about access to information of schools, parents might approach the Regional Education Office (“REO”) of EDB to which the school belonged.

30. Members’ comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) They hoped that the bureau would provide information on schools in the district that still had school places, as well as the number of remaining school places available in schools in Kowloon, which would be helpful for them to respond to public enquiries.
- (ii) As the number of school children in the district would increase in the coming few years, they suggested that early planning be made before the next school year to increase the number of school places and make appropriate adjustments based on the number of school children in the district, so as to minimise the situation of students commuting to schools in other districts.

31. The representative of EDB said that if parents wished to seek school places, they could make enquiries with the REO of EDB to which the school belonged. Since an increase in school places was a territory-wide policy, the views would be reflected to the bureau.

32. A Member remarked that the shortage of places in primary and secondary schools in the district could be reflected to the Association of Secondary School Heads, Tai Po District, which would allocate school places every year based on the number of primary six students in the district.

33. CCRC noted the above report.

VII. Any other business

34. Members did not raise other business.

VIII. Date of next meeting

35. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 9:30 a.m. on 9 January 2025 (Thursday).

36. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Tai Po District Council Secretariat
November 2024