

Minutes of the 4th Meeting in 2024
of the Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee
of Tai Po District Council

Date: 4 July 2024 (Thursday)
Time: 9:30 a.m. – 10:43 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
<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”)
Mr. YAU Wan-po, Wallace	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
Mr. CHO Tin-ho, Eric	Senior Liaison Officer (2) (Atg.) / TPDO / HAD

Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed participants to the 4th meeting in 2024 of the Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee (“CCRC”).

I. Confirmation of the minutes of the 3rd meeting in 2024 of the CCRC on 9 May 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. Concerns over the mental health problem of students in Tai Po **(TPDC Paper No. CCR 5/2024)**

3. A Member went through the captioned paper, stating that there had been a suicide spate among school children in Tai Po District recently. In this regard, she would like to know about the corresponding measures taken by the EDB, and raised the following questions:

- (i) When a case was reported to the bureau by a school, would there be other arrangements and follow-up actions apart from handling the case in accordance with the existing mechanism.

- (ii) It was asked whether additional support would be provided to the teachers and students of the school concerned.
- (iii) In the 2023/24 financial year, the bureau had provided schools with a one-off grant of \$60,000 and \$20,000 respectively for the promotion of mental health of students in schools and the organisation of related programmes by parent-teacher associations. She asked about the amount of other grants relating to mental health of school children, details of the projects and their effectiveness.
- (iv) She asked, apart from implementing the 4Rs Mental Health Charter, whether the bureau would consider increasing the establishment of educational psychologists and other staff supporting the mental health of school children in Tai Po District so as to facilitate early identification of and support to school children, teachers and parents in need in the district.

4. The representative of EDB responded as follows:

- (i) Upon receipt of information on student suicide, the School Development Section responsible for the school concerned would forthwith contact the school to provide the necessary support. The Discipline Section and Educational Psychology Service Section would also follow up according to internal guidelines, say, by arranging follow-up work such as joint school visit, to provide counselling services to students, parents and teachers in need.
- (ii) The bureau attached great importance to the mental health of students, and had been encouraging schools to adopt the Whole School Approach directed at three levels, namely Universal, Selective and Indicated, to enhance support for students with mental health needs. These included promoting values education and arranging diversified student activities, strengthening support at the school level and promoting parent education, providing “gatekeeper” training for parents, teachers and students, as well as providing information through different channels and promoting cross-sectoral collaboration.
- (iii) The bureau, Health Bureau and Social Welfare Department (“SWD”) have been implementing Three-Tier School-based Emergency Mechanism from December 2023 to December 2024 to encourage schools to identify students with mental health needs and suicidal risk early, and to refer them to professionals for appropriate support.
- (iv) The bureau has been collaborating with the SWD to arrange for non-governmental organisations (“NGOs”) to visit secondary schools in the district to organise mental health activities from February to August 2024, with a view to enhancing students’ awareness of mental health and help-seeking. The bureau would continue to

collaborate with other departments and different stakeholders to care for and support students with mental health needs at various levels.

- (v) Schools were required to report on the utilisation of funding from the EDB in their annual reports each year, and were required to report to the school stakeholders and Incorporated Management Committees.
- (vi) The Tai Po District School Development Section (“TPDSDS”) had been actively providing various types of teacher training in the district to enhance the professional capacity of primary and secondary school as well as kindergarten teachers and staff in taking care of students’ mental health. In the 2023/24 school year, the TPDSDS had organised two teacher training talks on caring for students’ mental health, which were well received.
- (vii) Apart from the Educational Psychology Service (New Territories East) Section (“EPS(NTE)S”) which assisted in following up the mental health of school children in Tai Po District, the bureau also allocated resources to schools to collaborate with NGOs in engaging professionals to provide support to teachers and students.

5. Members’ comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) There had been a fatal case in the district in which a secondary school student committed suicide by falling off the school premises. They asked whether special attention would be paid to the school in question, and whether support would be provided to the school in collaboration with NGOs.
- (ii) They asked whether training on new trends and technologies would be provided to school-based social workers each year, with a view to facilitating them to reach out to students and parents through various channels, thereby providing counselling and support services.
- (iii) As the problem of bullying in schools remained serious, it was hoped that the bureau would continue to pay attention to the problem and assist affected students in transferring to other schools.

6. The representative of EDB responded as follows:

- (i) The TPDSDS had visited the school in question with the Discipline Section and EPS(NTE)S to understand the needs of teachers and students and provide them with the appropriate support.
- (ii) The bureau organised various types of training for schools on a regular basis, and participation of social workers, teachers and related staff were welcome.

- (iii) The bureau adopted a zero tolerance policy on bullying in schools, and schools were required to report relevant cases to the bureau for follow-up action.

7. Members' comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) They asked whether the bureau had provided any travelling activities for students to enable them to build up relationships with teachers and peers while studying.
- (ii) They asked whether the SWD had strengthened communication with schools on the recent suicide cases committed by school children, and allocated additional resources for handling and preventing similar cases from happening again.
- (iii) The SWD had launched the Peer Power – Student Gatekeeper Training Programme. They enquired about the list of participating schools.
- (iv) They asked whether indicated counselling services would be provided to senior secondary students.

8. The representative of EDB responded as follows:

- (i) The relevant sections of the bureau would organise Mainland exchange activities for students on a regular basis. Quite a number of schools would make arrangements for students to attend overseas exchange programmes each year, and schools would also organise local travelling activities for students to relax and socialise with each other.
- (ii) The bureau had been maintaining close contact with the SWD and schools.
- (iii) The TPDSDS did not have data or information on the participation of schools in individual programmes.
- (iv) The bureau would follow up on suicide cases committed by school children with other departments so as to provide appropriate support to the affected students, parents, as well as teachers and staff.

9. A Member asked the bureau whether there were guidelines reminding schools to take follow-up action within a designated period of time after the occurrence of a case and the need to report to the bureau.

10. The representative of EDB advised that there were internal guidelines for follow-up action and schools had to formulated short, medium and long-term measures to address the needs of different stakeholders.

III. Leisure and Cultural Services Department — Report on the participation in community activities held between May and June 2024 in Tai Po and proposed community activities to be held in July and August 2024 in Tai Po

(TPDC Paper No. CCR 6/2024)

11. The representative of LCSD reported on Appendix I to the captioned paper. The attendance report of cultural programmes held and sponsored by the LCSD in Tai Po District between April and June 2024, as well as details of the proposed activities to be held in July and August 2024 were set out in Annexes I and II respectively for Members' reference.

12. The representative of LCSD reported in connection with Appendix II to the captioned paper that Annexes I and II set out the attendance at extension activities of Tai Po Public Library ("TPPL") and the utilisation of mobile library ("ML") service points in May and June 2024 respectively, while Annex III set out the extension activities proposed to be held in July and August 2024 for Members' reference. She added that the "Summer Library Festival 2024" would kick off in July with a full array of activities to be organised in libraries. Subject Talk Series on "Journey to Tai Po and North East New Territories" would be held in August, whereas "Subject Talk on Stress Management for Junior and Secondary School Students" would be held in September to teach students to understand and face stress and to find a suitable formula for stress transformation.

13. Members' comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) It was suggested that the department organise local calligraphy and painting exhibitions for public appreciation. As the facility upgrading of Tai Po Civic Centre ("TPCC") would be completed in 2025, the department might invite Mainland calligraphers and painters to visit Hong Kong and interact with local calligraphers and painters as well as students to promote exchanges in arts and culture of the two places.
- (ii) Some members of the public had indicated that Tung Cheong Street Swimming Pool ("TCSSP") was undergoing maintenance, and no information on its swimming activities had been list out in the report. It was hoped that swimming classes could be re-opened upon completion of the maintenance works.
- (iii) They thanked and commended the department for making proper arrangements and preparations for the Hong Kong Games ("HKG"), and the Sport For All Day 2024 ("SFAD") would be held in August 2024. Different recreational facilities would be opened for free public use by then, and it was hoped that the department would promote the event vigorously.
- (iv) With the intake of tenants in Fu Tip Estate now in train, it was asked whether a

ML service point would be set up in September 2024 in the estate.

- (v) They asked about details of the recreational and sports competitions organised in Tai Po District, and hoped that the department would step up publicity to encourage residents' participation.
- (vi) Apart from the SFAD, the 2024 Paris Olympic Games ("Olympic Games") would be held soon. It was hoped that the department would organise related activities to promote territory-wide participation. There would be free broadcasting of matches in shopping malls in the district by then to encourage public support of the matches in which the Hong Kong and national teams would take part.
- (vii) They asked about the venue booking arrangements and details of TPCC after its re-opening.

14. The representative of LCSD noted Members' views. With the intake of tenants in Fu Tip Estate now in train, the department would inspect the conditions in the area outside Fu Tip Shopping Centre to assess whether it was suitable for a mobile library van to park there.

15. The representative of LCSD noted Members' views and said that planning for the opening programmes of TPCC was underway.

16. The representative of LCSD responded as follows:

- (i) When maintenance of TCSSP was underway, the swimming classes originally scheduled to be held there would be re-scheduled to Tai Po Swimming Pool.
- (ii) He was glad to see that Members served as Teams Leaders and Head of the Delegation for Tai Po District in the HKG.
- (iii) The 9th HKG had been conducted smoothly and the Delegation for Tai Po District had won a total of 19 medals, among which the overall third place in the Women's Division and the overall third place in the Women's Division A of the Volleyball and Table Tennis events respectively, which was an outstanding achievement. He hoped that Tai Po residents would continue to support HKG and athletes would outdo themselves in scaling new heights in the next HKG.
- (iv) The department had adopted "Stay Active, Healthy and Happy!" as the slogan of the SFAD and "Parent-child Exercise for Fun and Fitness" as the theme. The Tai Po District Leisure Services Office would hold diversified and free recreation and sports programmes at Tung Cheong Street Sports Centre from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on 4 August 2024, in the hope that the public would develop a good habit of regular exercise which would help promote good health and relationships among family members. The department would also open most of its leisure facilities for free

use by the public on the event day, and hoped that Members would continue to promote the event in the district.

- (v) The Olympic Games would open on 26 July 2024, and the Government had acquired the television rights for broadcasting by the three local free television stations and Radio Television Hong Kong. The department would broadcast the matches at designated venues in the 18 districts, with Tai Po Hui Sports Centre being the designated venue in Tai Po District. It was hoped that Members would appeal to the public to enjoy the matches together then.

17. Members' comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) They asked about details of the youth stress relief activities organised by public libraries, and hoped that the department would step up publicity in schools in the district.
- (ii) They asked about the utilisation rate of the study room in TPPL from March and June 2024. If the seating capacity of the study room was not sufficient to cope with the demand, it was suggested that community halls ("CHs") be opened for use as study rooms.
- (iii) There were only 53 people attending the "Chinese Instrumental Music Fiesta Community Concert: Pipa Quartet" organised by the department at the Amphitheatre of Tai Po Waterfront Park ("TPWP"). They asked whether the attendance was affected by the weather.
- (iv) Arts and cultural activities were most organised in schools in the district in the past. It was suggested that the department actively consider making use of the Tung Cheong Street CH as a performance venue.
- (v) It was suggested that popular arts programmes be held at the Tai Po Arts Centre or CHs in the district instead and tour performances be staged as well so as to offer more opportunities for public appreciation.
- (vi) It was suggested that the department collaborate with the District Services and Community Care Teams ("Care Teams") to help publicise and invite the public to enjoy the arts programmes.
- (vii) It was suggested that the department co-organise major events and activities in celebration of the HKSAR Establishment Day and the National Day with Care Teams.
- (viii) It was suggested that the department co-organise a music festival at the Amphitheatre of TPWP with other organisations to allow youth aspiring to developing themselves in music and arts to express their creativity.

- (ix) With reference to the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines, the standard provision was one sports centre for every 50 000 to 65 000 persons. At present, the population of Tai Po District was about 310 000 and there were a total of six sports centres in the district. It was suggested that the department make early planning for constructing sports centres and cultural facilities, especially in the new Pak Shek Kok Development.
- (x) As the hard-surfaced football pitch next to Tai Po Tung Cheong Street Leisure Building was large in size and conveniently located, it was suggested that the department make good use of the venue and consider holding the Lunar New Year Fair at the said location next year instead.

18. The representative of LCSD responded as follows:

- (i) He thanked Members for their views. The department would now offer funding support for performances by local art groups at schools or other venues in Tai Po District, and some of the performances were the finale performances upon completion of the School Performing Arts in Practice Scheme, which were well attended as they were supported by participating students and their parents.
- (ii) The attendance of “Community Cultural Ambassador 2024 – Hong Kong Music Ensemble Association ‘Chinese Instrumental Music Fiesta’ Community Concert: Pipa Quartet” was provided by the Cultural Presentations Section (“CPS”). The department would find out from the Section whether the event was affected by the weather or other factors.
- (iii) The department would relay Members’ views to the CPS, and Tung Cheong Street CH might be contacted to arrange more activities for public participation. The department would consider collaborating with the Care Teams in the future and co-organising major festive events and activities with various district performing groups.

(Post-meeting note: The CPS of LCSD advised that the hot weather on the day had affected the attendance of the said outdoor event.)

19. The representative of LCSD responded as follows:

- (i) “Subject Talk on Stress Management for Junior and Secondary School Students” would be held in September 2024. After preparation of the posters and information on the event, the department would furnish Members with the information by email and post in due course, and hoped to seek Members’ assistance in publicity.

- (ii) The average hourly utilisation rate of the study room in TPPL from April to June 2024 was about 40 per cent (the supplementary information provided by the department after the meeting was at Annex I).

20. The representative of LCSD said that the department was open to the suggestion of providing the hard-surfaced football pitch next to Tai Po Tung Cheong Street Leisure Building (i.e. Plover Cove Road Mini-Soccer Pitch) as a venue for the Lunar New Year Fair. The department would render cooperation with applications from relevant departments as far as practicable.

21. A Member hoped that the department would later provide information on the hourly attendance rate of the study room during the said period, particularly between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m.

(Post-meeting note: Please refer to Annex I for the utilisation of the study room in TPPL under LCSD from March to June 2024.)

22. CCRC noted the above report.

IV. Education Bureau – Report on the overall education in Tai Po District

23. The representative of EDB said that the overall operation of schools in the district was considered smooth in general °.

24. A Member said that following the progressive intake of tenants in Fu Tip Estate, the children of some families were allocated to schools which were far away or even in other districts. He asked how the bureau would assist school children in transferring to other schools.

25. The representative of EDB said that Primary One places were allocated by the School Places Allocation Section in accordance with the existing mechanism, whereas the allocation of places for Primary Two to Primary Four classes was the responsibility of TPDSDS. The bureau had scrutinised each application and would consult the families concerned on their wishes and make corresponding arrangements for school children.

26. CCRC noted the above report.

V. Any other business

27. A Member said that some NGOs had reflected the need to identify suitable venues for

organising activities, in particular activities for youth at risk during the overnight period. As such, it was hoped that the relevant departments would consider extending the opening hours of community facilities in the district to facilitate booking of venues by them.

28. The Chairman remarked that the District Council (“DC”) had reflected the issue to the Government over the years, and hoped that the department would arrange for venue management to open the venues during the overnight period.

29. A Member said that DC members of previous terms had written to the Legislative Council, requesting to increase the number of overnight outreaching service teams for young night drifters and to open up community facilities to 12 midnight. It was suggested that the relevant departments consider opening up community facilities in other neighbouring housing estates and discuss the item at the next meeting.

30. The Chairman remarked that he had made an appointment with the social workers of Hong Kong Children & Youth Services and relevant parties to discuss the issue later, and hoped that the relevant departments would explore the possibility of opening up some of the facilities for youth activities during the overnight period.

31. A Member suggested that the LCSD install additional spotlights at the TPWP to beautify the exhibits placed in the garden.

VI. Date of next meeting

32. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 9:30 a.m. on 5 September 2024 (Thursday).

33. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

Tai Po District Council Secretariat
August 2024