# Minutes of the 6th Meeting in 2024 of the District Facilities and Works Committee of the Tai Po District Council

Date: 6 November 2024 (Wednesday)

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 11:03 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room, Tai Po District Council ("TPDC")

<u>Present</u>	<b>Time of Arrival</b>	Time of Withdrawal
<u>Chairman</u>		
Ms. WONG Pik-kiu, SBS, MH, JP	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
<u>Vice-chairman</u>		
Mr. LI Wah-kwong, Rex, MH	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Members		
Mr. YU Chi-wing, MH	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. LEE Man-kit	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. LI Yiu-ban, BBS, MH, JP	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. MUI Siu-fung	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. MUI Ching-hung	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. CHAN Tsz-kin	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. CHAN Cho-leung, MH, JP	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Ms. CHAN Kin-kwan	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. CHAN Siu-kuen, MH, JP	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. CHAN Pok-chi, JP	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. LOK Siu-luen	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. LO Hiu-fung, MH	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. LEONG Chung-ming	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Ms. NG Bun-bun, Catherine	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting

#### Secretary

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. CHAU Chun-wing Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories East) / Leisure and Cultural

Services Department ("LCSD")

Mr. FUNG Hon-wa, Harris District Leisure Manager (Tai Po) / LCSD

Ms. CHAN Wing-yee, Pion Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Tai Po / LCSD

Ms. WONG Mei-lin, Rita Senior Executive Officer (Planning) 23 / LCSD

Ms. WONG Chit-hei, Heidi Executive Officer (Planning) 23 / LCSD

Miss LEE Mei-yee, May Senior Librarian (Tai Po) / LCSD

Mr. LI Tsz-yau, Roy District Engineer / Tai Po (1) (Doubling-sideways District Engineer /

Tai Po (2)) / Highways Department ("HyD")

Mr. YUNG Sze-wei Maintenance Inspector of Works / Tai Po / HyD

Mr. TSUI Chun-sing Administrative Assistant / Lands / District Lands Office, Tai Po /

Lands Department

Mr. LAM Chun-ting Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing & Pest Control) Tai Po 1 / Food

and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD")

Ms. LEUNG Shing-mei, Angela Architect (Works)1 / HAD

Mr. WONG Wilson Architect (Works)10 / HAD

Ms. SING Hoi-shan, Wendy Senior Executive Officer (District Council) / TPDO / HAD

Mr. LI Ka-lun Senior Inspector of Works / TPDO / HAD

Mr. LAU Chun-ming Inspector of Works (3) / TPDO / HAD

Miss MAN Fung-yee, Stella Liaison Officer (7) / TPDO / HAD

### **Opening remarks**

<u>The Chairman</u> welcomed participants to the 6th meeting in 2024 of the District Facilities and Works Committee ("DFWC"), and then welcomed Ms. NG Bun-bun, Catherine, a co-opted member, and Ms. CHAN Wing-yee, Pion, Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Tai Po of LCSD to attend future DFWC meetings in place of Mr. YAU Wan-po, Wallace.

#### I. Confirmation of the minutes of the 5th meeting in 2024 of the DFWC on 4 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. Position of Tai Po District Office District Minor Works Projects

(TPDC Paper No. DFW 14/2024)

- 3. <u>The representative of TPDO</u> went through the captioned paper. The minor works projects completed under the "District Minor Works ("DMW") Programme" in the first half of 2024-25 were enumerated in Table I, while the minor works projects under implementation in the second half of 2024-25 were enumerated in Table II, which included those to be implemented by TPDO and LCSD.
- 4. Members' comments and questions were as follows:
  - (i) They asked about the progress and date of commissioning of "TP-DMW371 Conversion of one of the squash courts at Tai Po Sports Ground Squash and Tennis Centre into an indoor bouldering and climbing wall".
  - (ii) As "TP-DMW270 Provision of shelters at Po Nga Road connecting Tai Wo Plaza, Tai Po" had been completed, they asked whether Link Asset Management Limited ("Link") would pursue further.
- 5. The representative of TPDO said that the TPDO maintained on-going communication with Link on Works No. TP-DMW270 and had suggested the installation of a free-standing cover/tent. After conducting a feasibility study, Link indicated that as the proposed site of installation was a staircase location, there was no suitable free-standing cover/tent that could meet the safety requirements on the market to suit the situation of the said site. As such, the suggestion could not be adopted. The TPDO further suggested that Link could consider applying for a relaxation of the plot ratio so as to widen the cover within its management boundaries, and Link indicated that it had already conducted a site visit and an assessment of the proposal. However, in view of the unstable market environment in recent years, it needed to take into account resources allocation and cost-effectiveness, coupled with the fact that a covered walkway leading to and from the shopping centre was already in place near the said site, thus there was no plan to take forward this proposal for the time being. The TPDO would continue to communicate with Link to review other feasible options, and Members were welcome to put forward their suggestions.
- 6. <u>The representative of LCSD</u> said that the tender exercise for Works No. TP-DMW371 had been completed with funding approval in October, and the department had issued a letter of acceptance to the contractor. The works project was expected to commence early next year for completion in the fourth quarter.

- 7. Members' comments and questions were as follows:
  - (i) They would like to know about the booking methods and venue arrangements for the indoor bouldering and climbing wall ("bouldering wall").
  - (ii) Regarding Works No. TP-DMW270, it was suggested that Link sign a written consent to handover the management of the said location to a government department so that the Government could carry out the works there.
  - (iii) They asked about the situation of the addition of pet-inclusive facilities to Works No. "TP-DMW263 Provision of fitness equipment and elderly facilities near the morning trail at Wan Tau Tong, Tai Po".
- 8. The representative of LCSD said that the department would consult the relevant sports associations and make reference to the practice of other facilities in determining the duration and number of users for each session of the bouldering wall. In addition, the department had consulted the local community on the addition of pet-inclusive facilities to Works No. TP- DMW263. The result showed that the public did not want the relevant facilities to be pet-inclusive. As such, no pets would be allowed in the venue and message to this effect would be displayed to remind users.
- 9. <u>The representative of TPDO</u> said that the TPDO would discuss Works No. "TP-DMW270 with relevant Members and Link at a later time.
- 10. <u>The Chairman</u> suggested that the TPDO could invite Link and relevant Members to meet for discussion if necessary.
- 11. Members' comments and questions were as follows:
  - (i) They opined that the grounds on which Link refused to carry out the works were unreasonable.
  - (ii) They asked about the works progress of the provision of covers on walkway from the junction of Plover Cove Road and Nam Wan Road to MTR Tai Po Market Station.
- 12. <u>The representative of TPDO</u> said that the project of the provision of covers on walkway at the junction of Plover Cove Road and Nam Wan Road was not under the DMW Programme.
- 13. <u>The Chairman</u> suggested that Members follow up on the relevant project at the meeting of the Traffic and Transport Committee.

# III. Proposed road resurfacing of both sides of Lam Tsuen River

#### (TPDC Paper Nos. DFW 15/2024 and DFW 15a/2024)

- 14. <u>The Chairman</u> welcomed Messrs. LI Tsz-yau, Roy, and YUNG Sze-wei, District Engineer / Tai Po (1) (Doubling-sideways District Engineer / Tai Po (2)) and Maintenance Inspector of Works / Tai Po of HyD respectively to attend the meeting for this agenda item.
- 15. The representative of HyD went through the captioned paper (No. DFW 15a/2024).
- 16. The Chairman asked Members to refer to the captioned paper (No. DFW 15/2024), and said that both sides of Lam Tsuen River were the major leisure and exercise areas for local residents and hoped that the department would proactively improve the ground surfaces on both sides of Lam Tsuen River.

#### 17. Members' questions were as follows:

- (i) They asked whether the department would resurface the cycle tracks on both sides of Lam Tsuen River.
- (ii) They asked the department about the scope of testing to be conducted and the commencement date of the works.
- (iii) Upon completion of the resurfacing works, it was hoped that the relevant departments would use the same material for resurfacing if road digging had to be carried out for the maintenance of underground conduits for utilities in future.

#### 18. The representative of HyD responded as follows:

- (i) The department was arranging for the re-laying of anti-skid material along the cycle track between Kwong Fuk Bridge and Tai Po Waterfront Park. The works were expected to commence in the fourth quarter of this year, following the traffic instructions to be given by the Transport Department.
- (ii) The pavement on which the testing to be conducted was about 40 metres in length.
- (iv) The department would be responsible for the routine maintenance of the surfaces of pavements and cycle tracks. If road excavation works had to be carried out for underground works in future, the responsible department would use the same material for resurfacing.
- 19. <u>The Chairman</u> asked the department to continue to follow up on the relevant matters, and Members could be invited to a field visit to observe the testing in a timely manner.

# IV. <u>Leisure and Cultural Services Department — Report on the management of facilities in Tai Po District</u>

(TPDC Paper No. DFW 16/2024)

### 20. The representative of LCSD reported as follows:

- (i) The utilisation of recreation and sports facilities in Tai Po District from August to September 2024 was enumerated in Annex I to the captioned paper for Members' reference.
- (ii) The locations of the greening works and enhancement of leisure facilities were enumerated in Annexes II and III to the captioned paper respectively for Members' reference.

# 21. Members' comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) As Kwong Fuk Football Ground ("KFFG") had far too much wear and tear, it was suggested that the department carry out repairs as soon as possible.
- (ii) As there were quite a number of places in the district overgrown with weeds, it was hoped that the department would monitor the services rendered by contractors on an on-going basis.
- (iii) They asked about the progress of the retrofitting of air-conditioning facilities at Fu Shin Sports Centre ("FSSC").
- (iv) Members of the public had often reflected that the water temperature of Tung Cheong Street Swimming Pool ("TCS Swimming Pool") was too low and it was hoped that the department would follow up on it. In addition, some members of the public had reflected that the floor of the male changing room was wet and slippery and it was hoped that the department would remind cleansing workers to take care of the situation.
- (v) It was suggested that the frequency of the removal of weeds and rubbish at central reservations be increased.
- (vi) It was suggested that the department plant shade- and drought-tolerant plants in planters underneath flyovers so as to slow down the wilting of plants.

# 22. The representative of LCSD responded as follows:

- (i) The department was aware of the situation in KFFG. It was expected that the refurbishment works would be conducted in 2025 or 2026 at the earliest, and Members would be informed of any updates available.
- (ii) FSSC was located at the Multi-storey Car-park Building in Fu Shin Estate. The

department had been carrying out a feasibility study with the works departments on the retrofitting of air-conditioning facilities, which was subject to the electricity load and structural constraints of the venue. The department would place fans at the venue to enhance ventilation according to the weather conditions.

- (iii) The department would urge the contractors to improve the service level of the removal of weeds and greening services and step up monitoring of their performance.
- (iv) The department would plant shade-tolerant plants at locations such as beneath the flyovers where sunlight was scarce.
- (v) For efficient use of energy and to minimise the pressure on the environment, the LCSD had deferred the date of supply of heated water in swimming pools from the original 1 November to 16 November this year. The Aquatic Venues Unit of LCSD would keep note of the nine-day weather forecast of the Hong Kong Observatory, and would inform the venue to open heated swimming facilities when the average temperature was 23 degrees Celsius or below for three or more consecutive days. The department would reflect the public views to the said Unit.

# 23. Members' comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) Some members of the public had reflected that the outsourced worker of Ma Wo Road Garden would close the seats and some areas at night, making it impossible for the public to use the facilities.
- (ii) They asked the department how to monitor the contractor of Tai Wo Sports Centre ("TWSC") to ensure the quality of works.
- (iii) It was hoped that the department would provide a timetable on seepage rectification works to be carried out for its facilities.
- (iv) They asked the department whether there were other ways to install ventilation systems in FSSC.
- (v) They asked whether the basketball court outside FSSC was under the management of LCSD.
- (vi) They would like to know the department's criteria for arranging contractors to clear weeds and whether priority would be set for handling such situation.
- (vii) They would like to know the details about the retrofitting of air-conditioning facilities and ceiling seepage rectification works to be carried out by the TPDO at Fu Shin Community Hall ("FSCH") in February next year.
- (viii) It was suggested that the department set out locations where greening works would be carried out in Pak Shek Kok in the future papers.

- (ix) The public would conduct hockey and baseball activities in KFFG from time to time, thus accelerating the wear and tear of the venue. It was suggested that such sports activities be reduced at that venue, or they should take place in the new Football-cum-Rugby Pitch in Area 33, Tai Po upon its completion, so as to extend the service life of KFFG.
- (x) At present, the greening services outsourced by the Government were tendered on the basis of the principle of "the lowest bid wins", which affected the service quality. It was suggested that the relevant departments enhance communication to expedite the removal of weeds.
- (xi) They asked about the reasons for extending the construction period of the ceiling seepage rectification works at TWSC. If the construction period was extended due to the need to carry out the refurbishment works at the same time, it was suggested that various works projects be carried out separately and the facilities could be partially opened for public use.

(<u>Post-meeting note</u>: The LCSD advised that the basketball court outside FSSC was not under the management of LCSD.

The TPDO added that the multi-purpose hall and conference room of FSCH were expected to be temporarily closed from 16 February 2025 to 31 May 2025 for the replacement of the parts and components of the central air-conditioning units and air handling units, waterproof roofing, retrofitting of staircase handrails on the stage and refurbishment of male and female dressing rooms.)

#### 24. The representative of LCSD responded as follows:

- (i) The department was mainly responsible for the horticultural maintenance of flower beds located at the road sides and central reservations along non-expressways, and would arrange pruning of plants and clearing of weeds in flower beds once to twice a month. The department noted that the performance of contractors had not been satisfactory recently and would reflect this faithfully in the report. It would also remind contractors and monitor the quality of actual services provided. Members were welcome to provide information on the locations where the removal of weeds was required and the department would follow up actively.
- (ii) The department would discuss the management of Ma Wo Road Garden with relevant staff at a later time.
- (iii) TWSC had to be closed for ceiling seepage rectification works. In order to make good use of the construction period, the department would arrange for the refurbishment of facilities in the sports centre at the same time so as to reduce the impact on the public. There were no other facilities in the district scheduled for

- seepage rectification works for the time being.
- (iv) The department would include information on the greening works in Pak Shek Kok in the papers in future.
- (v) The department noted Members' comments on KFFG and would keep in view its booking position upon completion of the Football-cum-Rugby Pitch in Area 33, Tai Po.
- (vi) The Housing Department ("HD") was responsible for the ceiling seepage rectification works of TWSC, and had requested the LCSD to remove facilities such as air-conditioning units and water pipes for the purpose of carrying out the works. Upon completion of the rectification works, it would also take time for the works section of the department to re-install the same. After examination, the works section considered it necessary to extend the construction period. The department would make good use of the said construction period to upgrade the facilities in the sports centre. The department would closely monitor the works progress with the works section and relevant departments to minimise the impact on users.
- 25. A Member suggested that the department draw up a timetable for the removal of weeds, setting out key areas and handling priority so as to facilitate the monitoring of the services of contractors.

# 26. The Chairman's comments were as follows:

- (i) She suggested that the department provide Members with contact details of the staff responsible for the removal of weeds so as to deal with the issue expeditiously. In addition, she hoped that the central reservation at Po Heung Street could be included in the locations for greening works.
- (ii) She suggested that the department enhance monitoring of the service level of the outsourced cleansing service contractor of TCS Swimming Pool and follow up on the problem of weak water pressure in shower compartments.
- (iii) She suggested that the department discuss with its works section the refurbishment of TWSC to be carried out also at night to shorten the construction period.
- 27. A Member said that the contractors of LCSD and HD should consider whether it was necessary to remove all facilities such as air-conditioning units and water pipes before commencing the ceiling seepage rectification works and whether a compromise approach could be adopted to shorten the construction period.
- 28. <u>The Chairman</u> asked the department to discuss matters relating to TWSC with the relevant Member after the meeting.

(<u>Post-meeting note</u>: The LCSD had contacted the relevant Member after the meeting, indicating that upon review and assessment on the need for the relevant works procedure by the LSCD and HD, it was considered that the LCSD had to first temporarily remove facilities such as airconditioning units and water pipes installed on the roof of TWSC for the HD to carry out the comprehensive waterproofing and maintenance works thereon. As such, the relevant works would take a longer time to complete. Due to the removal of such facilities, TWSC had to be closed temporarily as its air-conditioning and water supply systems would also be affected. The LCSD understood that the temporary closure of TWSC for several months due to the maintenance works would cause inconvenience to local residents in doing exercise. However, the relevant works could effectively address the aggravating ceiling seepage problem at TWSC. Although there was no compromise approach to shorten the construction period for the time being, the LCSD would certainly liaise closely with the HD and relevant works section and monitor the works progress closely so as to minimise the impact on users.)

# V. <u>Food and Environmental Hygiene Department — Refurbishment of Pak Shing Street Public Toilet cum Bathhouse</u>

(TPDC Paper No. DFW 17/2024)

- 29. The representative of FEHD went through the captioned paper.
- 30. <u>The Chairman</u> thanked the department for carrying out the captioned works for the convenience of the public.

# VI. Minor works items of Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in Tai Po District (TPDC Paper No. DFW 18/2024)

- 31. The representative of FEHD went through the captioned paper.
- 32. DFWC noted the said report.

### VII. Any other business

- 33. Members' comments and questions were as follows:
  - (i) They asked about the number of parking spaces to be provided and the traffic arrangements upon completion of the facility upgrading of Tai Po Civic Centre ("TPCC").
  - (ii) They suggested providing additional facilities for the elderly and children at Yuen

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Shin Park, and would discuss the matters with the department after the meeting.

- (iii) It was hoped that the department would follow up on the uneven road surfaces between Tai Po Division Police Station and Yuen Shin Park.
- (iv) It was suggested that swimming facilities be introduced in the areas of Fu Shin Estate, Ming Nga Court and Sun Hing Garden.

(<u>Post-meeting note</u>: The LCSD had replied to the relevant Members on the traffic arrangements for TPCC by phone on 6 November 2024.)

34. The Chairman asked the relevant departments to take note of the items raised by Members.

# VIII. Date of next meeting

- 35. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 9:30 a.m. on 8 January 2025 (Wednesday).
- 36. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Tai Po District Council Secretariat December 2024