

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting in 2024
of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee
of Tai Po District Council

Date: 6 March 2024 (Wednesday)
Time: 2:31 p.m. – 4:17 p.m.
Venue: Conference Room, Tai Po District Council (“TPDC”)

Present

Time of Arrival

Time of Withdrawal

Chairman

Mr. CHAN Siu-kuen, MH, JP	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
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Vice-chairman

Mr. YU Chi-wing, MH	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
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Members

Mr. LEE Man-kit	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Ms. LEE Sai-yin, Jeanne, BBS, JP	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. LI Wah-kwong, Rex, MH	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. LI Yiu-ban, BBS, MH, JP	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
Ms. CHAN Kin-kwan	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. WONG Pik-kiu, BBS, MH, JP	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Ms. LOK Siu-luen	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. LO Hiu-fung	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting

Secretary

Miss NG Ka-yue, Yui	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
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Executive Officer (District Council) 2 /
Tai Po District Office (“TPDO”) /
Home Affairs Department (“HAD”)

In Attendance

Mr. NG Man-kam, Keith	Structural Engineer / C2-3 / Buildings Department (“BD”)
Mr. LEE Chi-kin, Clive	Senior Engineer / Maintenance 1 / Civil Engineering and Development Department (“CEDD”)
Mr. MA Ping-hing	Project Coordinator / Maintenance 1D / CEDD
Mr. CHAN Yu-kwan	Engineer / Tai Po 3 / Drainage Services Department (“DSD”)
Mr. WONG Pak-ki	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional North) 1 / Environmental Protection Department (“EPD”)
Mr. LAU Wai-cheung	Chief Health Inspector (Tai Po) 1 / Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”)
Miss LAI Hiu-wing	Chief Health Inspector (Tai Po) 2 (Atg.) / FEHD
Mr. LAM Chun-ting	Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing & Pest Control) Tai Po 1 / FEHD
Ms. CHAN Wing-kwan, Wendy	Operations Support Sub-Unit Commander / Tai Po Division / Hong Kong Police Force (“HKPF”)
Mr. CHENG Sin-man, Raymond	Commander / Patrol Sub-unit 1 / Tai Po Division / HKPF
Mr. LI Tsz-yau, Roy	Assistant District Engineer / Tai Po (1) / Highways Department (“HyD”)
Mr. TSUI Chun-sing	Administrative Assistant / Lands / District Lands Office, Tai Po (“TPDLO”) / Lands Department
Miss CHAN Sui-king, Madeline	Senior Executive Officer (District Management) / TPDO / HAD
Ms. SING Hoi-shan, Wendy	Senior Executive Officer (District Council) / TPDO / HAD

Absentee

Mr. LAM Yick-kuen, MH

Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed Members to the 2nd meeting in 2024 of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (“FEHC”) of TPDC, and announced the following:

- (i) He welcomed Messrs. LEE Chi-kin, Clive, and MA Ping-hing, Senior Engineer / Maintenance 1 and Project Coordinator / Maintenance 1D of CEDD respectively, to attend the FEHC meeting in place of Mr. CHU Chung, Boffin.
- (ii) Miss LAI Hiu-wing and Mr. LAM Chun-ting, Chief Health Inspector (Tai Po) 2 (Atg.) and Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing & Pest Control) Tai Po 1 of FEHD respectively, were attending the FEHC meeting in place of Messrs. CHAU Man Sang and TSANG Chin Kan.

- (iii) Mr. CHAN Yu-kwan, Engineer / Tai Po 3 of DSD, was attending the meeting in place of Mr. NG Wing-hung.
- (iv) The representative of Marine Department could not attend the meeting due to other work commitments.
- (v) Mr. LAM Yick-kuen was unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments and had submitted a notice of absence to the TPDC Secretariat (“Secretariat”). Pursuant to Order 64 of the TPDC Standing Orders, the District Council (“DC”) would only give consent to a Member’s application for absence from a meeting filed on the grounds of sickness (including sickness due to pregnancy), jury service, attendance at a meeting or an activity on behalf of the DC, attendance at a Legislative Council or Executive Council meeting, confinement or paternity leave. As such, the FEHC gave consent to Mr. LAM Yick-kuen’s application for absence.

I. Confirmation of the minutes of the 1st meeting in 2024 of the FEHC on 9 January 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. Food and Environmental Hygiene Department – Achievements of the Tai Po District 2024 Year-end Clean-up

(TPDC Paper No. FEH 12/2024)

- 3. The representative of FEHD went through TPDC Paper No. FEH 12/2024.
- 4. Members’ comments and questions were as follows:
 - (i) They thanked the department for its assistance in clearing up the refuse at the footbridge piers, and noted that the area was under the purview of HyD. As such, they would contact the representative of HyD directly to follow up in the future.
 - (ii) They suggested inviting more departments to participate in the Year-end Clean-up (“Clean-up”) next year to enhance cleansing at places such as parks, pedestrian subways and footbridges, as well as to deal with work which involved inter-departmental efforts (such as disposal of abandoned ancestral tablets).
 - (iii) They suggested that the department arrange for the Clean-up to be conducted in small areas and work with DC Members or community officers of the constituencies concerned to enhance the overall effectiveness of the Clean-up.

- (iv) They hoped that the department would strengthen its efforts in controlling the accumulation of miscellaneous articles at backlanes and take enforcement actions.
- (v) They hoped that the departments concerned would address the littering of cigarette butts frequently found on the footbridges leading from Fortune Plaza to Jade Plaza, Tai Po Centre and Tai Po Plaza.
- (vi) They asked whether the contractor of the department would report on the locations where cleansing had been completed as well as weekly cleansing frequency, and suggested establishing a quantitative yardstick to enhance environmental hygiene in the district and monitor the effectiveness.
- (vii) Rodent infestation was serious in public housing estates in the district but rodent glue traps were ineffective. They hoped that the department would provide figures on rodent trapping and share its experience in anti-rodent work.
- (viii) Noting that bags of refuse were often discarded next to the refuse bins near the bus stops in the morning, they suggested that the department review the refuse collection time of outsourced cleaning companies in this regard.
- (ix) They suggested that the department upgrade the cleansing equipment to relieve the workload of cleansing workers and enhance efficiency.
- (x) They asked whether the department could share the experience of cases in which fixed penalty notices (“FPNs”) were issued against individuals for fouling public places as a result of their wild bird feeding.
- (xi) There was serious mosquito infestation in Tai Po Tau. They asked whether the department could provide information on anti-mosquito work (such as locations where ovitraps were placed) for reference.
- (xii) With the impending implementation of municipal solid waste charging (“MSW Charging”), they asked whether the department would consider reducing the number of refuse bins on-street, as well as whether the department would adopt other measures to deal with the matter in case where refuse was still found piling up next to the refuse bins upon the implementation of MSW Charging.

5. The representative of FEHD responded as follows:

- (i) The department would strengthen communication with the HyD to keep the footbridges clean, and welcomed Members to contact the department when necessary.
- (ii) He noted Members’ suggestion of inviting more departments to participate in the Clean-up. The department would strengthen communication and cooperation with other government departments and follow up on the accumulation of

miscellaneous articles at backlanes. If the areas concerned were not under its purview, the department would also strengthen cooperation with other departments. Regarding the disposal of abandoned ancestral tablets, issues including street management and government land were involved. As such, the department would learn about the locations from Members and communicate with the departments concerned to deal with the issue.

- (iii) For the footbridges leading from Fortune Plaza to shopping malls nearby, as some of them were in private area and not under the purview of the government, the department would contact the relevant property management companies (“PMCs”) to remind them to keep an eye on the littering of cigarette butts on footbridges and step up cleansing efforts there. For other footbridges that were in public area, the department would step up cleansing work and cooperate with the HyD to carry out cleansing operations in a timely manner.
- (iv) He noted the suggestion of strengthening the clean-up efforts in small areas.
- (v) He noted the suggestion of advising contractors to start cleansing work earlier, and study the feasibility. The department would keep in view the situation of bags of refuse being dumped next to refuse bins and keep a close eye on the refuse bins in the vicinity of “three-nil buildings” in the hope of improving the situation.
- (vi) The department would provide the number of rodents captured successfully using rat baits after the meeting. Departmental staff would contact Members later to discuss the work.
- (vii) The department would check the cleansing equipment with a view to relieving the workload of cleansing workers and enhancing efficiency through upgrade of equipment.
- (viii) The department would furnish Members with details of the issuance of FPNs after the meeting.
- (ix) The department would keep in view the mosquito infestation in Tai Po Tau and carry out fogging operations to eliminate mosquitos when necessary.
- (x) The department would continue to liaise with the EPD to tie in with the implementation of MSW Charging. The department would also keep a close eye on fly-tipping, and consider conducting blitz prosecution actions, as well as whether it was necessary to keep refuse bins on-street depending on the circumstances.

6. The representative of HyD responded as follows:

- (i) The department would learn about the complaint cases from FEHD after the meeting, and reflect them to the section concerned to collaborate with the follow-ups actively.
- (ii) There was a clear division of work in the cleansing of footbridges and pedestrian subways under the purview of the department. The department was mainly responsible for the deep cleansing of structural parts (say, graffiti removal), and would collaborate with the FEHD to carry out cleansing operations in a timely manner. The department would strengthen communication with the FEHD to avoid recurrence of similar cases.

7. The Chairman said that he understood that the purview of the departments could be easily confused. As such, he would like to clarify the division of work with the departments concerned after the meeting to enhance the efficiency in case handling.

8. Members' comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) They asked about the department responsible for cleansing footbridges, as well as the schedule and arrangements for the cleansing work. In addition, they hoped that the department would provide direct contact means to cater for emergency situations where urgent cleansing was required.
- (ii) They invited the HyD to conduct site visits with them at locations such as pedestrian subways or walls in the district and provide cleansing service on a need basis.

9. The Chairman said that Members were welcome to refer cases for assistance to the departments directly. If Members were not sure about the responsible department for a specific location, they could contact the liaison officers of the district to clarify the powers and responsibilities of departments for respective locations.

10. Members' comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) During weekends, foreign domestic helpers often set up tents on the footbridge to Tai Po Plaza, leaving behind a large quantity of refuse afterwards and many cigarette butts on the ground, resulting in poor hygiene conditions. Members asked which department was responsible for cleansing the footbridge as well as the arrangements for cleansing work.

- (ii) As the footbridge would give off foul odours from time to time, it was suggested that the department carry out cleansing work on Mondays on a regular basis, as well as enhance patrols on the footbridge and hand out publicity leaflets during weekends to appeal to the public to keep the environment clean.

11. The representative of FEHD responded as follows:

- (i) There were publicly owned and privately owned footbridges. The department would strengthen communication with the HyD on clearing refuse at public footbridges. He also asked the representative of HyD to supplement on the work arrangements for the cleansing of footbridges.
- (ii) For privately owned footbridges, the department would try to communicate with the PMCs to remind them to keep an eye on the hygiene condition of footbridges during holidays and to step up cleansing efforts to improve the situation.
- (iii) The issue of tents occupying space on the footbridge was not within the purview of the department.

12. Members pointed out that the footbridge to Tai Po Plaza (no. NF131) was a public place and should be the responsibility of HyD.

13. The Chairman suggested that the FEHD strengthen enforcement efforts to reduce the littering of cigarette butts.

14. The representative of HyD responded as follows:

- (i) The department would cleanse the structural parts of public footbridges regularly. He would find out from Members the condition of footbridge no. NF131 after the meeting.
- (ii) He noted that there were graffiti on some footbridges. He would communicate with Members after the meeting to collaborate further.

(Post-meeting note: The HyD advised that it would strengthen communication with the FEHD to cleanse the structural parts of public footbridges and pedestrian subways regularly, and would arrange for additional cleansing work and removal of graffiti having regard to the situation on-site. The department would also keep in contact with Members and conduct site visits with them to inspect individual public footbridges and pedestrian subways at their requests, and arrange for cleansing work when necessary.)

III. Marine Department and Food and Environmental Hygiene Department – Reports on the quantity of refuse collected from Tolo Harbour between January and February 2024
(TPDC Paper Nos. FEH 13/2024 and FEH 14/2024)

15. The Chairman asked Members to take note of TPDC Paper No. FEH 13/2024.
16. The representative of FEHD went through TPDC Paper No. FEH 14/2024.
17. Members did not raise any comments or questions.

IV. Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, Environmental Protection Department, Civil Engineering and Development Department and Drainage Services Department – Reports on the clearing of rubbish and sludge in Lam Tsuen River and Tai Po River in Tai Po
(TPDC Paper No. FEH 15/2024)

18. The representatives of FEHD, EPD, CEDD and DSD went through the work on the clearing of rubbish and sludge in Lam Tsuen River and Tai Po River one by one at the meeting (see TPDC Paper No. FEH 15/2024 for details).

19. Members' comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) They hoped that the department would respond to the complaints about the malodour from the rivers.
- (ii) They noticed that the EPD had received relatively more complaints about water pollution this year and asked about the complaint details and follow-up status.
- (iii) It was hoped that the DSD would step up its efforts in removing rubble in rural areas (e.g. near the river in Fung Yuen Village) before the rainy season.
- (iv) They asked the DSD about the progress of the river improvement works in Upper Lam Tsuen River.
- (v) It was mentioned in the captioned paper that there were past cases in which some construction companies had illegally discharged improperly treated wastewater into stormwater drains. They asked about the final penalties for the cases.

20. The representative of DSD responded as follows:

- (i) The department was responsible for the maintenance of Lam Tsuen River (from Kwong Fuk Bridge to Sha Pa, Lam Tsuen Valley). The department carried out

river desilting works in the section between Kwong Fuk Bridge and Tai Wo Bridge in mid-2023 to clear sediments in the river channel as well as refuse on the river bed. The current drainage condition was satisfactory and the department would continue to monitor the condition of the river.

- (ii) The department would supplement on the removal of rubble in the river channel at Fung Yuen Village after the meeting.
- (iii) The river improvement works in Upper Tai Po River were being carried out at present and the works were ongoing.

21. The Chairman asked the DSD representative to make enquiries with Members as to the detailed location of rubble in the river channel at Fung Yuen Village in order to supplement on the relevant information after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The DSD had confirmed with Members that there was mud, sand and rubble in the river channel near the village office of Fung Yuen Village, and the clearance work had been completed in early March.)

22. The representative of EPD responded as follows:

- (i) The 27 complaint cases of water pollution mentioned in the captioned paper involved the entire Tai Po District, including leakage in village houses and repeated complaints. The department was in the process of handling the cases.
- (ii) Of the past cases of illegal discharge of wastewater by construction companies, some of them could not be handled due to difficulties in gathering evidence. The department successfully issued a FPN to a construction company suspected of illegal discharge of wastewater in 2023.

23. Members said that the problem of illegal discharge of wastewater by construction companies into stormwater drains had persisted for years, resulting in the emanation of foul odours from Lam Tsuen River. The department should institute prosecutions vigorously against such irregularities and strengthen publicity and education to the housing estates nearby. Given the uniqueness of Lam Tsuen River, they hoped that the departments would cooperate in cleansing and beautifying the river so that Lam Tsuen River could become a sightseeing spot in the district.

24. The Chairman asked the EPD to take note of the comments.

25. Members asked whether the DSD had set up an odour detection indicator or monitoring system.

26. The representative of EPD responded as follows:

- (i) The department would inspect Lam Tsuen River and Tai Po River regularly and expeditiously deal with any issues once detected. The department would also conduct further studies on increasing penalty level.
- (ii) The department had been collecting data on the water quality of Tai Po River and Lam Tsuen River, including oxygen level, biological index and chemical index. He could provide Members with the relevant EPD webpage link after the meeting for Members' reference. From the data in the past few years, the water quality of the rivers was good and the department would continue to follow up actively on the water quality of the rivers.

(Post-meeting note: Regarding the webpage mentioned above, the EPD had supplemented on the relevant link to Members via the Secretariat (web link: <https://cd.epic.epd.gov.hk/EPICRIVER/riverrecent/?lang=en>).)

27. The representative of DSD responded that the DSD was responsible for cleaning up Upper Lam Tsuen River, while the CEDD was responsible for cleaning up the river section between Kwong Fuk Bridge and the estuary to Tolo Harbour. The department would clear sediments in the river channels by adopting corresponding methods.

28. The Chairman said that the DSD was carrying out river desilting work in Upper Lam Tsuen River, and it was hoped that the work would be completed before the rainy season. He hoped that the departments would work together to strengthen monitoring and cleaning of Tai Po River and handle the water quality of the river with care.

29. Members said that the river channels might be smelly due to the accumulation of organic sediments. In the past, some departments had proposed to reduce the odour by increasing the oxygen level in the river water, and thus they asked about the progress of the scheme.

30. The representative of EPD said that the scheme was not within the responsibility of the department.

31. The representative of DSD said that he had no relevant information at the moment.

32. Members said that the scheme was carried out in Shing Mun River, Sha Tin at that time, but they were not sure whether the scheme was ended due to improvement in odour from the river channel.

33. The Chairman asked the DSD to follow up and provide the FEHC with the relevant information if available.

(Post-meeting note: The DSD stated that there was no plan to increase the oxygen level in the water of Lam Tsuen River for the time being.)

V. District Lands Office, Tai Po – Report on abandoned vehicles, illegal dumping of soil and inter-departmental bicycle clearance joint operations

(TPDC Paper No. FEH 16/2024)

34. The representative of TPDLO went through TPDC Paper No. FEH 16/2024.

35. Members' comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) Many vehicles were abandoned on the footpaths, mountains and by the roads in rural areas, and notices had been affixed on some of the abandoned vehicles. They asked how would these abandoned vehicles be followed up.
- (ii) Some of the abandoned motorcycles, which did not have vehicle licence discs or number plates, had been parked in motorcycle parking spaces for a long time. They asked the TPDLO about the procedures of handling abandoned vehicles as well as the reporting channels.
- (iii) Many shared bicycles had been parked on footpaths for a long time. There were often complaints from residents in the past about shared bicycles causing obstruction to footpaths. They asked whether the department had communicated with the bicycle-sharing operators and advised the companies concerned to designate locations for the parking of shared bicycles. In addition, they asked whether there was any legislation to regulate shared bicycles at present. and whether the TPDLO would enforce the law in this regard.
- (iv) They suggested that the TPDLO provide a form for Members to report on the locations where abandoned bicycles were frequently found.
- (v) They asked whether the TPDLO, in dealing with the abandoned vehicles, could request information of the registered vehicle owners and then inform them to remove the vehicles on their own.
- (vi) They suggested that the TPDLO clear miscellaneous articles and refuse at public bicycle parking spaces on a regular basis to optimise the facilities.
- (vii) They asked how would the TPDLO react if the locations where abandoned vehicles were found were under the purview of Water Supplies Department, or Agriculture,

Fisheries and Conservation Department.

36. The representative of TPDLO responded as follows:

- (i) The TPDLO would deal with abandoned vehicles by the land type. The TPDLO was responsible for handling abandoned vehicles on unleased and unallocated government land other than public roads. Abandoned vehicles on government streets and roads or footpaths would be dealt with in the inter-departmental joint operations, details of which would be supplemented by the TPDLO.
- (ii) Abandoned motorcycles parked in the urban areas or parking spaces would be cleared in the inter-departmental joint operations, whereas abandoned motorcycles parked on unleased and unallocated government land on private roads in rural areas would be handled by the TPDLO.
- (iii) Dilapidated bicycles abandoned at public bicycle parking spaces would be regarded as refuse and handed over to the departments concerned for disposal.
- (iv) Upon receipt of abandoned vehicle complaints, the TPDLO would send staff to the scene to inspect and handle the vehicles in accordance with the procedures. Members were welcome to provide locations where abandoned vehicles were found for follow-up actions.
- (v) Before clearing the abandoned vehicles, the TPDLO would make enquiries with the Transport Department and Police as to the vehicle information, and then affix notices to inform the vehicle owners to remove the vehicles. Upon expiry of the deadline, the TPDLO would send its staff to the site for inspection. If the vehicles had been removed, the cases would be closed but the TPDLO could not ascertain whether the vehicles were removed by the vehicle owners. Vehicles remained unremoved would be cleared according to the law, and the TPDLO would recover the costs incurred from the clearance from the vehicle owners.

37. Members asked the TPDLO how dilapidated bicycles abandoned at public bicycle parking spaces were defined as refuse.

38. The representative of TPDLO responded that the TPDLO staff would determine by visual inspection whether the dilapidated bicycles were refuse or not. The TPDLO would communicate with the FEHD and inform the FEHD to follow up if the bicycles could not be operated.

39. The Chairman suggested that Members provide the TPDLO with the locations of abandoned vehicles (including building numbers or lamp post numbers) to facilitate follow-ups. He suggested that the FEHD handle forthwith inoperable bicycles, and hoped that the departments would strengthen communication to expedite the handling of cases.

40. Members pointed out that at present, the inter-departmental clearance joint operations were empowered under the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance to take enforcement action by posting notices to inform vehicle owners to remove their vehicles within 24 hours on their own, failing which the vehicles would be regarded as refuse and be subject to clearance. As such, they suggested that if vehicles or bicycles were found to be parked in certain location for a long time, the department concerned could be notified to deal with them.

VI. Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, Hong Kong Police Force, District Lands Office, Tai Po, Highways Department, Buildings Department and Environmental Protection Department – Departmental reports on the environmental hygiene issues in Tai Po District (TPDC Paper No. FEH 17/2024)

41. The Chairman welcomed all departmental representatives to attend the meeting for this agenda item.

42. The representative of FEHD went through Appendix I to TPDC Paper No. FEH 17/2024.

43. The representative of HKPF went through Appendix II to TPDC Paper No. FEH 17/2024.

44. The representative of TPDLO went through Appendix III to TPDC Paper No. FEH 17/2024.

45. The representative of HyD went through Appendix IV to TPDC Paper No. FEH 17/2024.

46. The representative of BD went through Appendix V to TPDC Paper No. FEH 17/2024.

47. The representative of EPD went through Appendix VI to TPDC Paper No. FEH 17/2024.

48. Members' comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) Given that paint was peeling off from the external walls of a building located at the junction of Wai Yan Street and Po Heung Street in Tai Po Market due to the humid weather, they worried that concrete spalling might occur, thereby posing a danger to the public. Members asked about which department would be responsible, and what measures would be taken to prevent the problem from happening.
- (ii) Members would like to invite the FEHD to join them in inspecting the rodent infestation in Kwong Fuk Estate and sharing knowledge of rodent prevention and control with the relevant parties.

49. The Chairman said that concrete spalling off the external walls of private buildings could be referred to the BD for liaison with the owners concerned for repair.

50. The representative of BD responded as follows:

- (i) Upon receipt of a report on suspected spalling of concrete, the department would send its staff to conduct a site visit. If loose concrete or rendering in building was found to be in need of immediate removal but the building owners could not follow up forthwith, the department would arrange for a government contractor to deal with the issue right away and then recover the costs from them. If a building was found to be in disrepair but no obvious danger was spotted, the department would issue a letter to the owners first requesting them to expeditiously arrange for repair works themselves. Otherwise, the department would issue a repair order to require them to carry out repair works within a prescribed period.
- (ii) The department had received a report on spalling concrete at the bottom part of the canopy of a building at Kwong Fuk Road earlier. Upon inspection, it was found that there was loose concrete in the building that required immediate removal. As the building owners could not follow up the matter forthwith, the department had arranged for a government contractor to remove the loose concrete right away. In addition, the department had issued a letter to the owners requesting for repair works. During a recent inspection in the vicinity of Kwong Fuk Road, the department noted that repair works had already commenced at the building concerned.
- (iii) Regarding the peeling off of paint from external walls and suspected concrete spalling in a building at the junction of Wai Yan Street and Po Heung Street in Tai Po Market, the department would send staff to inspect the building after the meeting and take appropriate follow-up actions.

51. The Chairman suggested that Members provide the department with information for follow-up if the above situation were to arise.

52. Members' comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) They suggested that the FEHD continue to review places of concern for environmental hygiene in the district, and to adjust places of concern in rural areas due to mosquito infestation with reference to data of ovitrap index of FEHD. The review to be conducted could be shortened from once a year to once every half year, places that had been improved would be removed from the list.
- (ii) Intake of flats in Fu Tip Estate (Phase 2) had commenced, and they asked the

department about the process of handling abandoned construction waste.

53. The representative of FEHD responded that the department would normally handle domestic waste and bulky waste for housing estates, while construction waste should be handled by contractors arranged by the management companies or responsible persons.

VII. Any other business

54. Members' comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) Residents of Yuen Leng Village had reflected that quite a lot of stray dogs were found near the refuse collection point ("RCP") affecting environmental hygiene. As such, Members suggested that the FEHD provide a covered RCP made of corrugated iron outside Manning Garden, and install closed-circuit televisions and increase the number of refuse bins in the RCP.
- (ii) The hygiene conditions in the periphery of the RCP next to Manning Garden were poor with a large quantity of refuse accumulated near the footbridge. Members asked whether the RCP in question was a temporary one, and suggested that the department step up enforcement, publicity and education.
- (iii) The footpaths and lifts of Yee Nga Court were smelly with the accumulation of refuse. They hoped that the department would step up its cleansing efforts.
- (iv) A large quantity of flowers of *Bombax ceiba* and refuse were often found at the stairs near the bus stop of bus route K17 in Tai Po Market Station Public Transport Interchange. They hoped that the department would step up its cleansing efforts.
- (v) They hoped that the DSD would deal with the odour problem of the underground sewers at Tai Po Centre and Fortune Plaza.
- (vi) They asked whether the departments concerned would remove the weeds in the area of Sacred Heart of Mary Catholic Primary School in Fu Heng Estate.

55. The Chairman advised that Members might contact the village representative of Yuen Leng Village to discuss the land use with the department for providing an additional RCP. He also advised that Members might invite the department for a site visit after the meeting.

56. The representative of FEHD responded that the department would make enquiries to Members after the meeting as to the afore-mentioned locations that required enhanced cleansing and the relevant information for follow-up.

57. The representative of DSD responded that the department would conduct a site visit with Members after the meeting to learn about the sewer locations, and would further follow up or refer to the departments concerned for follow-up depending on the sewer locations.

(Post-meeting note: The DSD had replied to Members that the odour at the junction of On Chee Road and On Cheung Road did not come from the underground facilities of DSD.)

58. The representative of CEDD responded that the department would learn about the locations from Members after the meeting and refer the matter to the responsible department.

59. Members said that there were weeds at the planters at the junction of Po Heung Street and Kwong Fuk Road, and asked which department was responsible for pruning.

60. The representative of HyD responded that the department would enquire about the relevant information after the meeting before giving a reply.

61. Members said that they could inspect the site with HyD representative after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The HyD and Members conducted a site visit immediately after the meeting, and completed the reinstatement of planters on 7 March 2024 as suggested by Members during the site visit.)

62. The Chairman said that miscellaneous articles, refuse or weeds on the streets required regular clean-up, and hoped that the departments would collaborate to build a more liveable community environment.

VIII. Date of next meeting

63. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 p.m. on 8 May 2024 (Wednesday).

64. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.