

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting in 2025
of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee
of Tai Po District Council

Date: 5 March 2025 (Wednesday)
Time: 2:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.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 Siu-kuen, MH, JP	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
<u>Vice-chairman</u>		
Mr. YU Chi-wing, MH	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
<u>Members</u>		
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. 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
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, SBS, 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, MH	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Ms. CHAN Ching-yin	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
<u>Secretary</u>		
Mr. LEE Sung-hei, Marcus	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Executive Officer (District Council) 2 / Tai Po District Office (“TPDO”) / Home Affairs Department (“HAD”)		

In Attendance

Mr. LUI Kwok-man	Structural Engineer / C2-1 / Buildings Department (“BD”)
Mr. MA Ping-hing	Project Coordinator / Maintenance 1D / Civil Engineering and Development Department (“CEDD”)
Mr. NG Wing-hung	Senior Engineer / Tai Po / 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”)
Ms. WAN Yuk-chi	Chief Health Inspector (Tai Po)2 / FEHD
Miss FAN Wing-man	Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing & Pest Control) Tai Po 2 / FEHD
Mr. HO Wai-keung	Operations Support Sub-Unit Commander / Tai Po Division / Hong Kong Police Force (“HKPF”)
Mr. TSUI Chun-sing	Administrative Assistant / District Lands Office, Tai Po (“TPDLO”) / Lands Department (“LandsD”)
Ms. HUEN Lai-yan, Sara	Senior Executive Officer (District Council) / TPDO / HAD
Miss CHEUNG Shun-ling, Maggie	District Secretary / TPDO / HAD
Mr. Patrick CHAN	Senior Manager for Community Relations / Link Asset Management Limited (“Link”)
Mr. Eric LAW	Manager for Community Relations / Link

Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed Members and departmental representatives to the 2nd meeting in 2025 of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (“FEHC”) of TPDC, and announced the following:

- (i) Messrs. Patrick CHAN and Eric LAW, Senior Manager for Community Relations and Manager for Community Relations of Link, were attending the meeting for the fourth agenda item.
- (ii) Mr. HO Wai-keung, Operations Support Sub-Unit Commander of Tai Po Division of HKPF, was attending the meeting in place of Ms. YIU Cho-yee.

I. Confirmation of the minutes of the 1st meeting in 2025 of the FEHC on 8 January 2025

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. Follow-up on the incident of prohibiting dogs from entering food premises in Tai Po District
(TPDC Paper No. FEH 13/2025)

3. Mr. WU Cheuk-him went through the captioned paper and declared that he was a dog owner.
4. The representative of FEHD advised that section 10B of the Food Business Regulation (Cap. 132X) stipulated that no person shall bring any dog onto any food premises and no person engaged in any food business shall knowingly suffer or permit the presence of any dog on any food premises, unless it was a guide dog or a dog performing a statutory duty (such as a police dog). The department was aware that there were divergent views among the stakeholders in the district on the captioned incident. Upon receipt of complaints from the public, the department would conduct investigation and take prosecution action if breaches were found.
5. Ms. LEE Sai-yin, Jeanne, Messrs. LEE Man-kit and LAM Yick-kuen as well as Ms. LOK Siu-luen declared in their speeches that they had pets.
6. Members' comments and questions were as follows:
 - (i) They said that some members of the public had considered that there was room for adjusting the relevant stipulations, and hoped that the department would assist in conveying the views of various stakeholders in the district to the relevant departments.
 - (ii) It was asked whether FEHD would give advice first before instituting prosecution.
 - (iii) Some members of the public had reflected that during after school hours on weekdays, there were more school children and dogs moving around at the same time in the area around podium L2 of Tai Yuen Estate, and some parents were concerned about the safety of their children after school. Members suggested that consideration be given to setting up a designated dog-friendly area there.
7. The representative of FEHD noted Members' views, and supplemented that the said podium in Tai Yuen Estate was not under the purview of the department.
8. The representative of Link noted Members' views on the management of the podium in Tai Yuen Estate.
9. Members suggested that letters be sent to the departments concerned to express their

concerns on the captioned matter.

III. Damaged vinyl tactile warning tiles at Tai Yuen Commercial Centre
(TPDC Paper No. FEH 14/2025)

10. A Member went through the captioned paper and pointed out that the tactile tiles at the location mentioned in the paper had been replaced. The Member added that there were also damaged tactile tiles at the location adjacent to the 7-Eleven convenience store, and hoped that the authorities would arrange for repairs.

11. The Chairman said that the TPDO had contacted the Highways Department (“HyD”) and Link on the said situation. The HyD replied that the said area was not within its purview, whereas Link replied that repairs had been carried out in late February.

12. A Member said that there was also the problem of stagnant water there and suggested that the relevant authorities follow up on it.

13. The representative of Link noted Members’ suggestion and said that the matter would be followed up within its scope of management.

IV. Follow-up on the late-night noise problem at the unloading area of Tai Wo Plaza
(TPDC Paper No. FEH 15/2025)

14. A Member went through the captioned paper, and suggested that Link strengthen the implementation of existing measures to reduce noise levels, expedite the resurfacing of the remaining road surfaces and consider suspending the opening of the unloading area late at night.

15. The representative of EPD said that the department had always been concerned about the problem. Members and relevant stakeholders were welcome to provide further information for the department to carry out inspection.

16. The representative of Link presented the written reply by the company (No. FEH 15a/2025) and added that the company was aware of the public concerns and would strengthen its management and monitoring.

17. Members’ comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) Some members of the public and commercial tenants had reflected that noise nuisance had been caused by the use of loudspeakers for hawking in the vicinity of

Tai Yuen Commercial Centre (“CC”) for a long time. It was hoped that the EPD would step up inspection and prosecution.

- (ii) Some members of the public had reflected that there was noise nuisance in Fu Heng Shopping Centre.
- (iii) They asked the EPD whether the duration of noise measurement could be shortened.
- (iv) They considered that resurfacing would help reduce the noise level significantly.
- (v) They considered that it would help reduce the noise level by making it mandatory for delivery staff to use rubber-wheeled carts or quiet trolleys to deliver goods at night, and suggested that management and supervision in this regard should be strengthened.
- (vi) They suggested that the EPD install display panels at the unloading area to indicate real-time noise decibel levels.
- (vii) They suggested that Link pave the road surface of the entire unloading area with noise-absorbing materials and consider installing noise barriers.
- (viii) They opined that the effectiveness of the existing measures depended on whether the management could effectively implement the measures.
- (ix) They suggested that the management consider establishing a blacklist to restrict frequent noise-making users from using the unloading area.

18. The representative of EPD responded as follows:

- (i) He was aware of Members’ views on the duration of noise measurement, and the current shortest measurement period adopted was 30 minutes.
- (ii) Regarding the hawking noise problem in the vicinity of Tai Yuen CC, the department had earlier conducted a number of inspections and issued verbal advice and warnings. Members were welcome to provide more information to the department for follow-up.
- (iii) He was aware of the suggestion of installing display panels on real-time noise decibel levels.
- (iv) Apart from taking enforcement actions, the department had also provided recommendations to relevant stakeholders to reduce the noise level.

19. The representative of Link noted Members’ suggestions and would expedite the planning progress of ground surface works and enhance frontline management.

20. The Chairman suggested visiting the site to follow up after the meeting.

V. **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 16/2025)**

21. The representatives of FEHD, EPD, CEDD and DSD each went through the captioned paper one by one.

22. Members' comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) It was hoped that the EPD would include a report on the water quality of rivers in the paper.
- (ii) Regarding the act of someone discarding rubbish such as styrofoam boxes in the rivers and their vicinity, it was suggested that the relevant departments step up enforcement and clear-up of the river watercourses.
- (iii) They said that there were formations of algal blooms in the rivers and asked about the existing monitoring mechanism and treatment methods.

23. The representative of EPD responded as follows:

- (i) A report on river water quality would be incorporated in the paper for the next meeting.
- (ii) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department ("AFCD") was responsible for monitoring algal blooms. Regarding the recent emergence of algae in Lam Tsuen River, the AFCD advised after examination that the algae in question was a common alga in the territories and was non-toxic. The EPD had also taken samples on site earlier for laboratory tests and found no water quality problems. The department would continue to monitor water quality on a regular basis.

24. The representative of FEHD noted Members' suggestion and added that a number of departments were responsible for the disposal of rubbish in rivers. The department would conduct inspections and issue fixed penalty notices ("FPNs") to offenders for littering.

(Post-meeting note: The record of actions taken by the FEHD against littering offences in the vicinity of Lam Tsuen River in 2025 was as follows:

Number of raids conducted: 5 times in January and 18 times in February

Number of cases in which FPNs were issued: 2 cases in January and 1 case in February)

25. A Member noted that the EPD website indicated that the water quality of the river was of good grading. However, a group had provided a report on the water quality of Lam Tsuen River, and the test data and results were different from those of EPD. The Member wished to forward the said report to the EPD.

26. The representative of EPD welcomed Members to provide the department with relevant reports and information, and added that the department conducted water quality tests every month and monitored the trend of data over a long period of time. The department would take enforcement action if illegal discharge of effluent was detected.

27. The Chairman said that Lam Tsuen River and Tai Po River were landmarks of Tai Po and hoped that the departments concerned would step up inspection and prosecution.

28. A Member suggested that the departments concerned provide resources to assist owners of old buildings without Owners' Corporations to carry out the relevant works.

29. The representative of EPD said that he would be pleased to provide appropriate assistance and would continue to follow up on the related cases.

30. A Member suggested that the DSD construct public sewage manholes at suitable locations to facilitate the connection of old buildings in the district which were previously not connected to the public sewerage system to the public sewers.

31. The Chairman suggested that a site visit be conducted after the meeting.

VI. Food and Environmental Hygiene Department – Achievements of the Tai Po District 2025 Year-end Clean-up

(TPDC Paper No. FEH 17/2025)

32. The representative of FEHD went through the captioned paper.

VII. Food and Environmental Hygiene Department – Anti-mosquito Campaign 2025 (Phase I) in Tai Po District

(TPDC Paper No. FEH 18/2025)

33. The representative of FEHD went through the captioned paper.

34. Members' comments were as follows:

- (i) They noted that there were more mosquitoes bred inside aqua privies (“APs”) and portable toilets, such as the public toilet (“PT”) at Wai Ha Village, and suggested that anti-mosquito efforts be stepped up and flushing toilets be used instead.
- (ii) It was hoped that the relevant departments would continue to carry out rodent prevention and control work in Shin Kwan House and Shin Lun House of Fu Shin Estate.
- (iii) They indicated that quite many members of the public and visitors would visit Tai Po for hiking and sightseeing and so on, and hoped that the relevant departments would continue to improve PTs.
- (iv) It was suggested that the relevant departments carry out mosquito control work in conjunction with the regular cleansing of APs.

35. The representative of FEHD responded as follows:

- (i) Arrangements were being made for the refurbishment of the PT at Wai Ha Village, and anti-mosquito efforts would be stepped up in PTs in rural areas.
- (ii) He noted the suggestion of converting APs and portable toilets into flushing toilets.

36. Members’ comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) They said that the supporting facilities and management of PTs were very important.
- (ii) They asked about the date of completion and opening of the new PT at Nai Chung Tsuen.

37. The representative of FEHD advised that the reprovisioning works of the PT at Nai Chung Public Transport Interchange had yet to be completed and handed over to the FEHD for management. The opening date had yet to be confirmed and would be announced in due course.

VIII. 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 19/2025)

38. The representative of TPDO reported that inter-departmental joint operations had been conducted at Four Lanes and Heung Sze Wui Square in Tai Po Market, the section of Kwong Fuk Road near Four Lanes, and in the area around Jade Plaza on 16 December and 23 December of

2024, and 10 January, 13 January, 14 February and 17 February of 2025 respectively. The TPDO would continue to monitor illegal extension of business by shops in conjunction with various departments.

39. The representatives of FEHD, HKPF, TPDLO, BD and EPD each went through the captioned paper one by one.

40. The Chairman asked Members to take note of the report of HyD in Appendix IV to the captioned paper.

41. Members' comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) They asked whether the four pieces of verbal advice issued by the EPD against the problem of noise nuisance caused by hawking as stated in the paper were binding, and whether the department had kept the relevant records and whether follow-up actions would be taken.
- (ii) Some members of the public had reflected that after unloading their goods at Four Lanes at night, some shop operators had piled up a large number of styrofoam boxes on the pavement and removed them only in the following morning, which had caused obstruction and might also increase the risk of fire. Members suggested that the department give advice to the shop operators concerned.
- (iii) They indicated that someone had piled up carton paper boxes and other junk items there.

42. The representative of EPD said that in general, if any suspected violation of the Noise Control Ordinance was found, the department would conduct an assessment directly and decide whether to institute prosecution based on the assessment results. The four cases mentioned in the paper had not violated the Ordinance.

43. The representative of FEHD said that the department would keep in view the situation, strengthen cleansing work in the vicinity of Four Lanes and communication with relevant stakeholders. Enforcement action would be taken by the department if the situation was serious.

44. Members appreciated that the recycling of styrofoam boxes would inevitably take up some space for a short period of time, and suggested that suitable locations in the vicinity be made available for the purpose. Members suggested that the department consider the government site situated next to Pui Yin Lane.

45. The representative of TPDLO said that the said site was involved in an application for a short term tenancy which was being processed and might not be available for the use suggested

by Members.

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

(TPDC Paper No. FEH 20/2025)

46. The representative of TPDLO went through the captioned paper.

47. The representative of TPDO reported that inter-departmental bicycle clearance joint operations were conducted on 6 December and 19 December of 2024, and 9 January, 17 January, 21 January, 12 February and 20 February of 2025, with a total of 2 333 notices issued and 190 illegally parked bicycles confiscated. In addition, starting from 22 January 2025, the TPDO had invoked the relevant sections of the Summary Offences Ordinance (Cap. 228) to seize illegally parked bicycles causing obstruction in the vicinity of the pedestrian subway near the outside of MTR Tai Po Market Station in conjunction with the HKPF and Transport Department (“TD”). As at February 2025, a total of six illegally parked bicycles had been seized.

48. A Member said that from time to time, someone would lock their bicycles on the railings of the said subway near the bay in the direction of Wan Tau Tong, occupying part of the surface of the cycle track. The Member suggested that publicity leaflets be distributed to bicycle offenders as a reminder, and that the railings be temporarily fenced off with banners to prevent people from locking their bicycles there.

49. The Chairman said that the TD and HyD had indicated that they were looking into the installation of plastic panels to prevent people from locking their bicycles there.

50. The representative of TPDO said that publicity leaflets were available for Members’ collection. The suggestion of enclosing the railings with banners would be examined and arranged by the TPDO.

(Post-meeting note: The TPDO had been displaying warning banners on the relevant railings since 21 March 2025.)

X. Marine Department and Food and Environmental Hygiene Department – Departmental reports on the quantity of marine and coastal refuse collected

(TPDC Paper No. FEH 21/2025)

51. The Chairman asked Members to take note of the report of the Marine Department in Appendix I to the captioned paper.

52. The representatives of FEHD went through Appendix II to the captioned paper.

XI. Any other business

53. The representative of FEHD went through a paper (No. FEH 22/2025).

54. Members' comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) It was suggested that the FEHD take photos before and after the operations to facilitate examination of the results.
- (ii) They said that the use of high pressure equipment for street washing might lead to loosening of paving blocks.
- (iii) They noted that two bags of garbage under the tree near Lam Kam Road Interchange had not been collected and removed for some time and hoped that the relevant departments would take action.

(Post-meeting note: The FEHD had taken note of Members' views. If loose or damaged paving blocks were found, the department would refer them to the relevant departments for follow-up and appropriate action. Regarding the issue of uncollected garbage as pointed out by Members, the department had deployed staff to inspect the site after the meeting and the garbage had been cleared. The department would continue to monitor the situation.)

XII. Date of next meeting

55. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 p.m. on 7 May 2025 (Wednesday).

56. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.