

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting in 2025
of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee
of Tai Po District Council

Date: 7 May 2025 (Wednesday)
Time: 2:30 p.m. – 4:47 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. WONG Wai-sing, Penny	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
Ms. YIU Cho-yee	Operations Support Sub-Unit Commander / Tai Po Division / Hong Kong Police Force (“HKPF”)
Mr. YEUNG Chun-yue	Administrative Assistant / Lands (Atg.) / District Lands Office, Tai Po (“TPDLO”) / Lands Department (“LandsD”)
Mr. SHEK Wai-ming	Leisure Manager (Tree) New Territories East / Leisure and Cultural Services Department (“LCSD”)
Mr. SIT Ka-lok	Deputy District Leisure Manager (Tai Po)2 / LCSD
Mr. KWOK Chun-chai, Johnny	Assistant District Officer (Tai Po) / Home Affairs Department (“HAD”)
Miss CHAN Sui-king, Madeline	Senior Executive Officer (District Management) / TPDO / HAD
Ms. HUEN Lai-yan, Sara	Senior Executive Officer (District Council) / TPDO / HAD

Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed Members and departmental representatives to the 3rd meeting in 2025 of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (“FEHC”) of TPDC, and announced the following:

- (i) Mr. WONG Wai-sing, Penny, Structural Engineer / C2-1 of BD, was attending the meeting in place of Mr. LUI Kwok-man.
- (ii) Mr. KWOK Chun-chai, Johnny, Assistant District Officer (Tai Po) of HAD, was attending the meeting for the second agenda item.
- (iii) Mr. YEUNG Chun-yue, Administrative Assistant / Lands (Atg.) of TPDLO, was attending the meeting in place of Mr. TSUI Chun-sing.
- (iv) Messrs. SHEK Wai-ming and SIT Ka-lok, Leisure Manager (Tree) New Territories East and Deputy District Leisure Manager (Tai Po)2 of LCSD, were attending the

meeting for the eighth and fifteenth agenda items.

I. Confirmation of the minutes of the 2nd meeting in 2025 of the FEHC on 5 March 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. Suggestion for increasing the frequency of regular cleansing of the nullah behind Shuen Wan Public Toilet, Tai Po
(TPDC Paper No. FEH 23/2025)

3. A Member went through the captioned paper, stating that there were deposits of silt and rubbish in the nullah behind Shuen Wan Public Toilet and the fish pond nearby, and hoped that the department would follow up on it.

4. The representative of TPDO said that the area around the said location involved various stakeholders, and the area in which the fish pond located was under private ownership. Having regard to environmental hygiene issues, the TPDO would assist in dealing with the surrounding government land by arranging for a one-off dredging of the drain pipes and the nullah channel adjacent to the fish pond, in the hope of improving the situation through the concerted efforts of all parties involved.

5. The representative of FEHD said that after receiving a notification from the EPD in March, the department had immediately sent staff to remove dead fish in the surrounding area. The department would continue to monitor the situation and collaborate with other departments to improve the situation.

6. Members' comments were as follows:

- (i) They suggested adopting appropriate water diversion measures to improve the drainage condition in the area.
- (ii) They suggested incorporating the said location into the list of hygiene black spots under the "Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots".

7. The representative of FEHD said that the department would continue to keep the relevant situation in view.

III. Suggestion for stepping up efforts in tackling the rodent problem in Tai Po District
(TPDC Paper Nos. FEH 24/2025 and FEH 25/2025)

8. Members went through the two captioned papers respectively, suggesting combating the rodent problem at its source, and asked whether the FEHD had conducted surprise checks on the hygiene condition of food premises.

9. The representative of FEHD responded that the department had earlier conducted an inspection at Fu Shin Estate with Members, estate management office staff and members of the incorporated owners, during which recommendations and information on rodent prevention and control were provided to management staff based on actual circumstances, as well as relevant promotional materials were distributed to residents. The department would maintain communication with stakeholders in this regard.

10. The representative of FEHD added that apart from carrying out anti-rodent work in the daytime, the department had also arranged for overnight rodent control roving teams to set up cage traps in rear lanes. Moreover, the department had launched the “Anti-rodent Charter” (“the Charter”) for residential premises since December 2024, and 28 housing estates in Tai Po District had already signed the Charter to date. The department also provided hygiene education and advice on rodent control to persons-in-charge of food premises during routine food premises inspections, launched the trial scheme to regulate disposal arrangement of waste generated by food premises, and introduced new licensing conditions regarding the regulation requirement on collection and handling of meat and poultry by fresh provision shops.

11. Members’ comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) They suggested that relevant stakeholders pay attention to the hygiene condition around food waste recycling facilities.
- (ii) They asked the FEHD about the effectiveness of anti-rodent work using new technologies such as infrared detectors.
- (iii) They asked about the data on the latest Rodent Absence Rate (“RAR”).
- (iv) The inter-departmental Pest Control Steering Committee announced that the number of major rodent black spots in Hong Kong (“black spots”) was reduced by 63 in 2024. They asked about how many of them were in Tai Po District.
- (v) They said that it was advisable for the FEHD to impose heavier penalties against offenders holding Food Business Licences.

12. The representative of FEHD said that the department had set up Ekomille traps at five off-street refuse collection points (“RCPs”) and two markets in Tai Po District, and had fully adopted the use of thermal imaging cameras since 2024. The Rodent Activity Survey in Tai Po District

for the first and second halves of 2024 had been completed, with the RARs of 98.3 per cent and 98.0 per cent respectively. Out of the 63 black spots cleared across the territory in 2024, three were located in Tai Po District, and the department would continue to follow up on the situation at relevant locations. There were two black spots in Tai Po District in 2025, namely Heung Sze Wui Square and the rear lane of Kwong Fuk Road. As for the Licence, under the current Demerit Points System, the FEHD would suspend or even cancel the Licence of offending food premises.

IV. Request for enhancing anti-mosquito efforts and environmental cleanliness at Pak Shek Kok in Tai Po District

(TPDC Paper No. FEH 26/2025)

13. A Member went through the captioned paper.

14. A Member asked whether the FEHD had set up ovitraps in the area of Pak Shek Kok; if so, the relevant data.

15. The representative of FEHD said that regarding the setting up of ovitraps, the department had selected two survey areas in Tai Po District, namely Tai Po East and Tai Po West, and the relevant data had been uploaded onto the FEHD website for public inspection. From January to March 2025, the Area Gravidtrap Indices (“AGIs”) for the two survey areas were both zero; in April 2025, the AGI for Tai Po East was 2.0 per cent, while that for Tai Po West was 0.9 per cent. Starting from April, the department had been conducting ultra-low volume fogging operations to kill adult mosquitoes at places with dense bushes, more short-trunked trees and distant from residential areas.

16. Members’ comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) They asked the FEHD about its scope of mosquito control work, as well as the details of survey areas.
- (ii) They suggested conducting grass cutting work at government land covered with vegetation and other weedy places in the area of Pak Shek Kok.

17. The representative of FEHD said that Tai Po East and Tai Po West were the survey areas for AGIs in Tai Po District designated by the department. The FEHD would carry out mosquito control work across the entire Tai Po District, not limited to the survey areas.

18. The representative of TPDLO said that the LandsD was responsible for the non-routine maintenance of trees on unallocated and unleased government land that were not maintained by any designated government departments. When the department became aware of a vegetation problem or was on receipt of a referral, it would assign a vegetation maintenance contractor for

inspection. If the problem was confirmed to be within the purview of the LandsD, appropriate follow-up actions would be taken, including pruning, tree removal and clearing of weeds.

19. A Member hoped that the LCSD would pay attention to the planters near the bus and minibus stops in the area of Pak Shek Kok, as well as step up cleansing and anti-mosquito work.

(Post-meeting note: The LCSD had taken note of the comments, and would monitor the growth of plants in flower beds in the area of Pak Shek Kok as well as arrange regular pruning to prevent pest breeding in flower beds.)

V. Uneven surface of paving blocks and damaged stair steps in Tai Yuen Estate
(TPDC Paper No. FEH 27/2025)

20. A Member went through the captioned paper and added that a reply had been received from Tai Yuen Estate Management Office (Funing Property Management Limited), stating that the replacement of paving blocks within its service area would be arranged to be carried out between May and June. The management office of Tai Yuen Commercial Centre (Link Asset Management Limited (“Link”)) had also repaired the stair steps within its service area. A Member suggested that Link further level the stair steps, expedite the repair of the handrail outside the 7-Eleven convenience store at Tai Yuen Commercial Centre, and repair the damaged planters along with the adjacent wall. The Member also suggested that relevant departments follow up on the situation regarding stagnant water on floor and the condition of planters.

21. The Chairman said that the FEHD, Highways Department (“HyD”), LCSD and Link had been contacted regarding the above situation. The HyD, LCSD and Link would follow up on the relevant situations regarding stagnant water on floor, planters and flower planting, as well as planters and stair steps respectively.

(Post-meeting note: The FEHD had reminded the staff of contractors after the meeting to sweep away the stagnant water after street washing. Besides, the department had referred cases of uneven road surface and damaged planters at the said locations to the HyD and LCSD for follow-up. The FEHD would continue to monitor the situation and take appropriate action. Moreover, the LCSD had taken note of the views and would arrange for the replanting and replacement of fences as soon as possible.)

VI. Follow-up on potential environmental hygiene problems in Tai Po District
(TPDC Paper No. FEH 28/2025)

22. A Member went through the captioned paper and said that the cleansing performance of

using pressure washer surface cleaners at Fo Chun Road appeared to be below expectations.

23. The representative of FEHD said that the department had stepped up cleaning efforts and would review how to achieve a better result.

24. The Chairman said that in addition to the cleaning efforts, improving the environmental hygiene of Fo Chun Road also depended on the collaborative efforts of stakeholders. He suggested strengthening publicity efforts.

(Post-meeting note: On the afternoon of 19 May, the FEHD distributed multilingual promotional leaflets with the representatives of TPDO and members of the Area Committee (Tai Po) in the area of Fo Chun Road to remind the public to keep the streets clean. The FEHD would continue to monitor the situation and take appropriate action.)

VII. List of target operation locations for improvement of environmental hygiene under the District-led Actions Scheme in Tai Po District
(TPDC Paper No. FEH 29/2025)

25. The representative of TPDO went through the captioned paper and supplemented that should Members have any comments on adding “target operation locations” (“TOLs”), they were welcome to submit their reply slips by 20 May.

26. A Member said that there was bad smell at Tai Yuen Market near the area of 7-Eleven convenience store and On Chee Road near the CSL store, which were suspected to be coming from the drains. It was hoped that the relevant departments would look into it.

27. The representative of TPDO added that the list of TOLs only set out locations that required targeted follow-up by the relevant departments. If the relevant department had taken follow-up action upon receipt of a case and the proponent considered that the situation had improved, there was no need to include the location concerned onto the list of TOLs. Besides, if the situation of a location on the list of TOLs had improved, the proponent might suggest removing the location from the list.

28. A Member enquired with the TPDO about the criteria for removing TOLs from the list.

29. The Chairman suggested visiting the locations of Members’ concern for inspection after the meeting.

30. The representative of TPDO said that when updating the list on a regular basis, the TPDO would consult the proponents on whether the situation of relevant TOLs had improved; if so, the

TOLs would be removed from the list.

(Post-meeting note: The TPDO did not receive any Members' comments on additional TOLs by the deadline. The TPDO sent the confirmed list of TOLs to Members for circulation via the TPDC Secretariat on 23 June.)

VIII. Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, Highways Department, District Lands Office, Tai Po, and Leisure and Cultural Services Department – Reports on the follow-up work on environmental hygiene issues arising from egret droppings at Kwong Fuk Road and Wan Tau Kok Lane in Tai Po

(TPDC Paper No. FEH 30/2025)

31. The representatives of FEHD, TPDLO and LCSD went through the captioned paper one by one.

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

33. A Member said that apart from the locations mentioned in the paper, there were also other gathering points for egrets in Tai Po District. The Member hoped that while protecting egrets, the relevant departments would continue to minimise their impact on the public.

34. The Chairman hoped that the relevant departments would further remove invasive climbers at the locations mentioned in the paper so as to make it easy for egrets to inhabit in the trees, thereby minimising their impact on the surrounding environment.

IX. 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 31/2025)

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

36. Members' comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) They were concerned about whether garages and vehicle washing facilities had discharged wastewater into the rivers, and hoped that the relevant departments would monitor the situation as well as give advice and initiate prosecutions.
- (ii) They were of the view that some dog excreta collection bins (“DECBs”) newly placed along both sides of Lam Tsuen River (“LTR”) were rather large in size and might cause obstruction.
- (iii) Some members of the public had reflected that quite a number of watercrafts had been moored in the river channel of LTR for a long time. It was hoped that the representative of the Marine Department (“MD”) would attend the next meeting to explain the relevant situation.
- (iv) Members asked whether the departments could make use of advanced equipment and methods, such as sonar inspection boats, detection cameras, dye-tracing tests and remote-controlled desilting robots in LTR to identify locations of misconnected pipelines and pollution sources.
- (v) They asked whether the EPD had conducted regular monitoring of *Escherichia coli* (“*E. coli*”) counts in the rivers.
- (vi) They were concerned about the drainage capacity of drains at Lam Kam Road near San Tong Village RCP and around Fu Shin Street during the rainy season.

37. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to invite the representative of MD to attend the next meeting to explain the situation regarding the mooring of watercrafts in the river channel of LTR.

38. The representative of FEHD said that in order to make the pedal-operated DECB sufficiently stable, its size was generally larger. The department would make adjustment based on actual circumstances.

(Post-meeting note: The FEHD had assessed the status of DECBs placed on both sides of LTR, and had replaced those on narrower footpaths with smaller lidded DECBs.)

39. The representative of EPD said that there was a certain threshold for evidence collection and prosecution in cases of suspected illegal discharge of sewage, and the department would give advice and follow up as much as possible. The department also continually used equipment and methods such as dye-tracing tests, detection cameras and inspection boats to identify pollution sources in Tai Po District. Moreover, the department conducted regular monitoring of *E. coli* counts in the rivers annually.

40. The representative of DSD said that the department had constructed an additional sewer near San Tong Village RCP and had completed the drainage improvement works in the area of Fu Shin Street, which was praised by residents for the improvement in sewage discharge in the area.

41. Members' comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) Some members of the public had reflected that some food premises in the area of Jade Plaza and Fortune Plaza had discharged sewage into stormwater drains. Members suggested that the relevant departments take effective measures (such as deploying plainclothes officers) for law enforcement.
- (ii) It was suggested that the relevant departments monitor the drainage condition of the drains in the area of Jade Plaza near Tai Yuen Market.

42. The Chairman suggested that the relevant departments contact Members for follow-up after the meeting.

X. 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 32/2025)

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

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

45. The representative of TPDO reported that inter-departmental joint operations had been conducted at the Four Lanes area in Tai Po Market and the area around Jade Plaza on 14 February, 17 February, 14 March, 21 March, 16 April and 17 April respectively. The TPDO would continue to collaborate with the departments to monitor the situation of illegal extension of business by shops.

46. Members' comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) It was hoped that the EPD would collaborate with the Police to follow up on the long-term hawking noise problem caused by shop operators at Tai Kwong Lane.
- (ii) They asked the EPD about the subsequent follow-up actions to be taken against the hawking noise after issuance of verbal advice.

47. The representative of EPD said that during the inter-departmental joint operations conducted in April, the department issued 11 verbal advice and warnings against the problem of noise

nuisance caused by hawking. Two of the shops involved were located at Tai Kwong Lane, and the department was considering taking prosecution action.

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

(TPDC Paper No. FEH 33/2025)

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

XII. Food and Environmental Hygiene Department – Tackling dripping air conditioners in buildings and improving community environment

(TPDC Paper No. FEH 34/2025)

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

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

(TPDC Paper No. FEH 35/2025)

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

51. The representative of TPDO reported that inter-departmental bicycle clearance joint operations were conducted on 12 February, 20 February, 7 March, 20 March, 11 April and 24 April, with a total of 2 598 notices issued and 308 illegally parked bicycles confiscated. The TPDO had, in conjunction with the HKPF and Transport Department (“TD”), also invoked the relevant provisions of the Summary Offences Ordinance (Cap. 228) to seize illegally parked bicycles causing obstruction in the area of the pedestrian subway near the outside of MTR Tai Po Market Station. During the period between February and April, a total of six illegally parked bicycles were seized thereat.

52. The Chairman said that he was aware that the TD would install plastic sheets on the railings near the bend of the said subway in the direction of Wan Tau Tong in early June to prevent illegal parking of bicycles.

53. Members’ comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) They hoped that the relevant departments would remove the wreckage of shared bicycles abandoned on the riverbed of LTR.

- (ii) They hoped that the relevant departments would follow up on the issues of enforcement against shared bicycles and their illegal parking in public places.
- (iii) They noted that there were some dilapidated and incomplete bicycles illegally parked near Tai Po Central Bus Terminus (“BT”) and hoped that the relevant departments would follow up on it.

(Post-meeting note: The DSD had removed wreckage of seven abandoned shared bicycles from the riverbed of LTR (the section between Tai Wo Bridge and Tai Po Mega Mall). Regarding the problem of bicycles illegally parked near Tai Po Central BT, the TPDO had referred such cases to the TD for follow-up, and would conduct inter-departmental bicycle clearance joint operations with relevant departments at nearby bicycle parking areas in July to address the problem of abandoned bicycles occupying parking spaces.)

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

(TPDC Paper No. FEH 36/2025)

- 54. The Chairman asked Members to take note of the report of MD in Appendix I to the captioned paper.
- 55. The representatives of FEHD went through Appendix II to the captioned paper

XV. Any other business

- 56. The representative of LCSD briefed on the follow-up actions taken by the department regarding the issue of fluffy cotton from Red Kapok Trees, stating that it had collaborated with the FEHD to step up clean-up efforts.
- 57. A Member raised concern about the impact of fluffy cotton from Red Kapok Trees near Plover Cove Villagers’ Playground Tai Po, Tai Ming Lane Square and Tai Po Market Rest Garden on nearby residents.
- 58. The Chairman asked whether it was possible to remove the capsules on Red Kapok Trees to reduce their fluffy cotton.
- 59. A Member asked about the difference in impact on Red Kapok Trees caused by general tree pruning and the removal of their capsules.
- 60. The representative of LCSD said that the department followed relevant guidelines on tree

pruning, generally conducting branch trimming and removal of wilted branches to a limited extent, which caused minimal impact on the trees and might even be conducive to their healthy growth; whereas the removal of capsules from Red Kapok Trees would cause tree wounds, which had adverse impact on their health. As such, the department would not remove the capsules on Red Kapok Trees. Having said that, it would continue to monitor the situation and enhance efforts in cleaning up fluffy cotton.

XVI. Date of next meeting

61. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 p.m. on 9 July 2025 (Wednesday).
62. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Tai Po District Council Secretariat
June 2025