

Minutes of the 5th Meeting in 2025
of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee
of Tai Po District Council

Date: 22 September 2025 (Monday)
Time: 4:05 p.m. – 5:45 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
Ms. CHAN Kin-kwan	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. CHAN Pok-chi, MH, JP	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. MUI Siu-fung	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. MUI Ching-hung, MH	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 Hoi-tung, Jimmy	Engineer / Project 3C / Civil Engineering and Development Department (“CEDD”)
Mr. CHEUNG Chi-hing	Administrative Assistant / Lands / District Lands Office, Tai Po (“TPDLO”) / Lands Department (“LandsD”)
Mr. LAU Wai-cheung	Chief Health Inspector (Tai Po)1 / Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”)
Mr. POON Ming-ho	Chief Health Inspector (Tai Po)2 (Atg.) / FEHD
Miss FAN Wing-man	Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing & Pest Control) Tai Po 2 / FEHD
Mr. WONG Wai-sing, Penny	Structural Engineer / C2-1 / Buildings Department (“BD”)
Mr. SIT Ka-lok	Deputy District Leisure Manager (Tai Po)2 / Leisure and Cultural Services Department (“LCSD”)
Mr. HUANG Jialiang	Engineer / Replacement & Rehabilitation / Mainland North Division / Drainage Services Department (“DSD”)
Miss PANG Wing-sum, Michelle	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional North)1 (Atg.) / Environmental Protection Department (“EPD”)
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 5th meeting in 2025 of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (“FEHC”) of TPDC, and announced the following:

- (i) Mr. CHEUNG Chi-hing, Administrative Assistant / Lands of TPDLO, would attend future meetings in place of Mr. YEUNG Chun-yue.
- (ii) Mr. FUNG Cheuk-pong, Ronald, Senior Engineer / Tai Po of DSD, would attend future meetings in place of Mr. NG Wing-hung, Jack. Mr. HUANG Jialiang, Engineer / Replacement & Rehabilitation of Mainland North Division, was attending the meeting in place of Mr. Ronald FUNG.
- (iii) Mr. POON Ming-ho, Chief Health Inspector (Tai Po)2 (Atg.) of FEHD, was attending the meeting in place of Ms. WAN Yuk-chi.
- (iv) Miss PANG Wing-sum, Michelle, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional North)1 (Atg.) of EPD, was attending the meeting in place of Mr. WONG Pak-ki.
- (v) Mr. SIT Ka-lok, Deputy District Leisure Manager (Tai Po)2 of LCSD, was

attending the meeting for the second agenda item.

I. Confirmation of the minutes of the 4th meeting in 2025 of the FEHC on 9 July 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. The work situation related to grass cutting, snake-repelling and pest control in Tai Po District

(TPDC Paper Nos. FEH 44/2025, FEH 44a/2025, FEH 45/2025, FEH 44b-45b/2025 and FEH 44c-45c/2025)

3. Members went through Paper Nos. FEH 44/2025 and FEH 45/2025 respectively.

4. The Chairman drew Members' attention to the written responses of the FEHD, Highways Department ("HyD") and TPDO.

5. Members' comments were as follows:

- (i) With the approach of Chung Yeung Festival, they suggested stepping up grass cutting in permitted burial grounds and associated connecting roads.
- (ii) They suggested stepping up weed clearing in the area of Lin Au Ancient Trail.

6. The representative of LCSD said that the department was mainly responsible for the horticultural maintenance of flower beds located at the roadsides and central reservations along non-expressways by performing pruning of plants and weed clearing in flower beds and planters once or twice a month. From July to September 2025, the department's contractor conducted a total of 11 grass cutting exercises (three times in July, six times in August and twice in September) at recreational parks and roadsides in the areas of Tai Po Centre and Fu Shin Estate. Additionally, the department had sent staff for inspections at locations such as Shuen Wan, Sam Mun Tsai Road, Ting Kok Road, Tung Tsz Road, Tai Mei Tuk Bus Terminus, Fu Heng Estate and Chung Nga Court, etc. From June 2025 to date, the department had issued 18 default notices to the contractor for instances of overgrown weeds in accordance with the contract and deducted service payment from the contractor accordingly. Furthermore, the department held a meeting on 30 July to urge the contractor to clear weeds in the district as soon as possible. The contractor had deployed additional manpower to undertake the relevant work since August. The department would continue to closely monitor the contractor's work performance and follow up on the pruning of plants in the district.

7. The representative of LCSD said that the department would post notices in its venues and remind the public to notify venue management staff or call the Police for assistance if snakes were seen, and never attempt to catch a snake.

8. The representative of TPDLO said that between July and September 2025, the TPDLO conducted a total of 226 grass cutting exercises in Tai Po District, namely 180 regular grass cutting exercises performed on enclosed government land and 46 on request.

9. Members' comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) They suggested that the LCSD adjust the position of planters along roadsides and near road junctions or improve the planter design to avoid obstructing the sightlines of road users.
- (ii) They suggested that the TPDO step up grass cutting work along rural footpaths.
- (iii) They suggested that the departments step up grass cutting and anti-mosquito works in response to rainy weather.
- (iv) They were concerned about whether weeds on the embankments along Lam Tsuen River would affect the drainage structure, and suggested that the DSD step up grass cutting work.
- (v) They suggested stepping up grass cutting along the seaside road section of Sai Keng Village.

10. The Chairman suggested that the departments strengthen coordination and inspections regarding grass cutting work.

11. A Member suggested that relevant departments consider taking measures to prevent snake sightings.

III. Mosquito prevention and control measures taken against chikungunya fever in Tai Po District

(TPDC Paper Nos. FEH 46/2025, FEH 46a/2025, FEH 47/2025 and FEH 47a/2025)

12. A Member went through Paper No. FEH 46/2025, and cited the anti-mosquito action plan as set out in Paper No. FEH 48/2025 by the FEHD, asking whether the department would adjust its anti-mosquito action plan scheduled for the period from 22 September to 26 September in response to the Super Typhoon Ragasa and rainy conditions.

13. A Member went through Paper No. FEH 47/2025 and suggested conducting fogging operations to eliminate mosquito infestation at nearby bushes and hillsides.

14. A Member asked how the FEHD ensured that the outsourced contractors would carry out anti-mosquito work properly.

15. The representative of FEHD said that in the event of heavy rain, stagnant water would be removed first, to be followed by the arrangement of spraying mosquito larvicidal oil afterwards. Subsequently, inspections would be strengthened, as well as professional advice and technical support would be provided to relevant parties as needed. In response to the impending Super Typhoon Ragasa, the department would arrange for anti-mosquito work originally scheduled for this week to be completed between 29 September and 3 October. The representative of FEHD went through and cited Paper Nos. FEH 46a/2025 and FEH 47a/2025, pointing out that currently, the department was primarily focusing on environmental management, to be supplemented by biological and chemical methods to eliminate mosquito infestation.

16. A Member said that it was more common to find stagnant water around Tai Po Central Bus Terminus which might lead to mosquito infestation, and hoped that relevant departments would pay attention to this.

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

(TPDC Paper No. FEH 48/2025)

17. The representative of FEHD went through the captioned paper, and added that there were currently no chikungunya fever cases reported in Tai Po District. The FEHD welcomed Members to contact the department for organising relevant activities and publicity campaigns for mosquito prevention and control.

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 49/2025)

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

19. The Chairman, citing the Member's suggestion, suggested that the DSD step up grass

cutting along both sides of Lam Tsuen River.

20. A Member suggested stepping up the clearing of weeds along both sidewalks and in nearby areas from Kwong Fuk Bridge along Lam Tsuen River to the area of Lam Tsuen Valley concurrently.

21. The Chairman suggested that relevant departments follow up on this after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The DSD stated that the department was currently arranging for regular grass cutting along both sides of Lam Tsuen River, and would conduct regular inspections of the River. If necessary, the department would arrange for additional grass cutting work in a timely manner.

The LCSD said that plant pruning and weed clearing works along both sidewalks from Kwong Fuk Bridge along Lam Tsuen River to the area of Lam Tsuen Valley was completed in mid-October 2025. The department would continue to monitor the growth of plants in roadside flower beds and take follow-up actions in due course.)

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 50/2025)

22. 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 18 June, 24 June, 14 July and 15 August respectively.

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

24. The Chairman drew Members' attention to the report of HKPF in Appendix II and the report of HyD in Appendix IV to the captioned paper.

25. Members' comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) Many residents had reflected that there were hawking noises and begging activities from time to time in the area of Heung Sze Wui Street. It was hoped that the relevant departments would strengthen follow-up actions.
- (ii) Some residents in Four Lanes had reflected that their flats were subject to water seepage problem. It was hoped that the relevant departments would follow up on this.

- (iii) They asked the EPD how it would handle the situation if business operators turned a deaf ear to repeated verbal advice and continued hawking with loudspeakers and caused nuisance to residents.
- (iv) They hoped that the relevant departments would step up efforts in dealing with suspected illegal cross-boundary begging activities in Hong Kong. They asked whether the Immigration Department (“ImmD”) could refuse re-entry to the respective individual after the Police had handled the situation on-site.
- (v) They suggested that the relevant departments prune the branches extending over the pavement in the area near the junction of Kwong Fuk Road and Wan Tau Kok Lane during the non-breeding season of egrets to reduce the impact of egret droppings on the public.
- (vi) They suggested that the relevant departments communicate with business operators in Four Lanes to consider early or phased clean-up of styrofoam boxes and cartons left behind after the unloading activities from night to early morning.
- (vii) There were often many residents and students passing by the area near the junction of Kwong Fuk Road and Wan Tau Kok Lane, and pedestrians who were passing by the site were prone to being easily splashed by egret droppings. They hoped that the relevant departments would prune the trees in the area during the non-breeding season of egrets until there were no branches overhanging the pavement, so that egret droppings would not directly fall onto pedestrians when egrets nested and pooped in trees. They emphasised the need for an appropriate balance between conservation and environmental hygiene.

(Post-meeting note: The Police stated that they had always attached great importance to the issue of begging, and enforcement actions would definitely be taken if they received reports in the regard. If a beggar was arrested, prosecuted upon investigation and convicted in court, the Police would, in accordance with existing procedures, forward the concerned inbound visitor’s particulars to the ImmD to prevent such individual from re-entering Hong Kong.

The FEHD stated that the operation of shops would generate a certain amount of styrofoam boxes and cartons and most of which were recyclables. Recycling operators would collect and took them away for recycling purpose. However, if these items were placed in inappropriate locations for extended periods, they might cause environmental hygiene issue and road obstructions. As such, the department had communicated with business operators in Four Lanes and reminded nearby recycling practitioners to review their operational mode and avoided piling up of recyclable items in public places for long periods which might cause nuisance to others and impact on environmental hygiene. The department had stepped up street cleansing services at those locations and would continue to pay attention to their environmental hygiene conditions.)

26. The representative of EPD stated that, in general, business operators would cease generating noise after receiving verbal advice. In case of breach by any person of the Noise Control Ordinance, the department would take enforcement action and send additional officers to conduct surprise inspections.

27. The representative of FEHD stated that, if necessary, the department would collaborate with police operations on suspected illegal begging activities.

28. The Chairman said that concerning the issue of egret droppings, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department had provided a written response regarding Members' discussion at the last meeting, pointing out that tree pruning work should be scheduled during the non-breeding season (i.e. October to February). The Chairman suggested that the relevant departments follow up on the suggestion of pruning branches above the pavement after the meeting.

29. Members' comments were as follows:

- (i) Residents living along Pak Shek Kok Promenade had reflected that cyclists using loudspeakers at night were creating noise nuisances. It was hoped that the relevant departments would follow up on this.
- (ii) It was suggested that the relevant departments remove big-leaf plants and weeds at roadside near the site affected by egret droppings, and discuss at the next agenda item whether to include the concerned area in the list of target operation locations for improvement of environmental hygiene under the District-led Actions Scheme in Tai Po District.

30. The representative of EPD stated that it would be more appropriate for the Police to take the lead in following up on the issue of cyclists creating noise nuisances by loudspeakers.

(Post-meeting note: The Police stated that in case of receipt of complaints in this regard, the Police would send officers to attend the scene for investigation to ascertain whether there were cyclists using loudspeakers to make noise at night. If there were any illegal acts, the Police would carry out enforcement in accordance with relevant legislation, such as issuing warnings or taking other actions. The Police would also study with the relevant departments on how to encourage individuals to voluntarily lower noise levels through publicity and educational approaches, thereby reducing the impact on others.)

31. The representative of FEHD stated that the department had already stepped up the cleaning of egret droppings by washing the pavement concerned once daily. Depending on the on-site road and traffic conditions, up to four additional washing per week would be carried out.

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 51/2025)

32. The representative of TPDO went through the captioned paper.
33. A Member suggested adding the area near the junction of Kwong Fuk Road and Wan Tau Kok Lane to the list of target operation locations for improvement of environmental hygiene.
34. A Member suggested adding Tung Sau Square (Plover Cove Villagers' Playground) to the list of target operation locations for rodent prevention and control.

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

(TPDC Paper No. FEH 52/2025)

35. The representative of TPDO reported that inter-departmental bicycle clearance joint operations were conducted on 5 June, 19 June, 10 July, 24 July and 11 August, with a total of 1 828 notices issued and 220 illegally parked bicycles confiscated.
36. The representative of TPDLO went through the captioned paper.
37. A Member asked whether the above-mentioned 220 confiscated illegally parked bicycles included shared bicycles.
38. The representative of TPDO said that the above-mentioned figures included shared bicycles.
39. Members' comments were as follows:
- (i) It was suggested that the department report the figures of illegally parked shared bicycles in a separate category.
 - (ii) It was suggested that the FEHD dovetail with the inter-departmental joint operations to enhance street washing on pavements where bicycle rental shops had parked bicycles illegally.
40. The Chairman said that street obstructions caused by illegal parking of shared bicycles were indeed prevalent, and hoped that the relevant departments would take appropriate follow-up actions.

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

(TPDC Paper No. FEH 53/2025)

41. The Chairman drew Members' attention to the report of the Marine Department in Appendix I to the captioned paper.

42. The representative of FEHD went through Appendix II to the captioned paper.

43. Members' questions were as follows:

- (i) They asked why there was more coastal refuse collected in July 2025.
- (ii) Whether the amount of coastal refuse listed in Appendix II to the said paper included the refuse collected near the fish rafts at Yung Shue O and the Tap Mun Pier.

44. The representative of FEHD stated that more refuse was washed to the coast by stormwater in July, resulting in a larger amount of refuse collected. The figures listed in Appendix II to the said paper did not include refuse collected near the fish rafts at Yung Shue O and the Tap Mun Pier.

45. A Member estimated that the Super Typhoon Ragasa would lead to flooding and a large accumulation of refuse in pedestrian subways along Lam Tsuen River. It was suggested that the FEHD arrange for sufficient manpower and resources in a timely manner for clean-up after the typhoon.

X. Any other business

46. Members did not raise other business.

XI. Date of next meeting

47. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 p.m. on 5 November 2025 (Wednesday).

48. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.