

Minutes of the 6th Meeting in 2025
of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee
of Tai Po District Council

Date: 5 November 2025 (Wednesday)
Time: 2:30 p.m. – 4:53 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

Miss CHEUNG Shun-ling, Maggie Senior Executive Officer (District Management) (Atg.) / TPDO
/ HAD

Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed Members and departmental representatives to the 6th meeting in 2025 of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (“FEHC”) of TPDC, and announced the following:

- (i) Miss CHEUNG Shun-ling, Maggie, Senior Executive Officer (District Management) (Atg.) of TPDO, was attending the meeting in place of Miss CHAN Sui-king, Madeline.
- (ii) Mr. POON Ming-ho, Chief Health Inspector (Tai Po)2 (Atg.) of FEHD, would take the floor to attend the meeting in place of Ms. WAN Yuk-chi.
- (iii) Mr. CHAN Siu-cheung, Patrick, Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing & Pest Control) Tai Po 1 of FEHD, would take the floor to attend the meeting in place of Miss FAN Wing-man.
- (iv) Mr. LAU Hong-lok, Engineer / Tai Po 1 of DSD, would take the floor to attend the meeting in place of Mr. FUNG Cheuk-pong, Ronald.

I. Confirmation of the minutes of the 5th meeting in 2025 of the FEHC on 22 September 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. Matters relating to cross-boundary illegal fishing activities and the impact of Outer Tap Mun fish culture zone on fishermen’s livelihood

(TPDC Paper Nos. FEH 54/2025, FEH 54a/2025 and FEH 54b/2025)

3. The Chairman welcomed the following departmental representatives to attend the meeting for this agenda item:

- (i) Miss HO Chun-man, Valerie, Senior Fisheries Officer (Licensing and Enforcement) of AFCD; and
- (ii) Messrs. LAI Ka-yiu, WONG Ying-chuen and LAW Koon-hong, Marine Officer /

Harbour Patrol Section (4), Senior Assistant Shipping Master / Harbour Patrol Section (4) and Senior Assistant Shipping Master / North of MD, respectively.

4. A Member went through Paper No. FEH 54/2025.
5. The representative of AFCD stated that regarding its efforts to combat illegal fishing, the department undertook enforcement actions mainly under the Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Cap. 171) and the Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap. 476), conducting patrols at random hours daily. In 2023, 2024 and 2025 (up to September), the department had conducted 847, 859 and 667 patrols respectively, targeting illegal fishing black spots in the northeast waters of Hong Kong. These included 122 joint enforcement operations with the Marine Police during the above period. The department would also conduct joint enforcement operations with relevant Chinese Mainland authorities, and remove from the water fishing gears used for illegal fishing. In addition, the department was in the course of studying the use of new technologies such as drones and an automatic identification system (“AIS”) to assist in enforcement.
6. The representative of AFCD stated that the department had set up new fish culture zones (“FCZs”) according to the Blueprint for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Fisheries released in 2023 to assist capture fishermen in switching to engage in sustainable aquaculture. A series of measures, including the provision of financial support and loaning of trusses, as well as granting extra points to capture fishermen in their applications for relevant licences, had been implemented. Among the projects currently open for application, the department had received applications from fishermen of Tai Po District.
7. The representative of MD went through Paper No. FEH 54b/2025.
8. The representative of HKPF went through Paper No. FEH 54a/2025.
9. Members’ comments and questions were as follows:
 - (i) They asked whether the relevant departments planned to increase the deterrent effect of enforcement actions.
 - (ii) Vessels engaging in illegal fishing activities usually neither displayed correct licence numbers nor activated the AIS, making enforcement difficult. They asked how the relevant departments could effectively carry out enforcement actions.
 - (iii) They asked whether the AFCD had assessed the impact of setting up FCZs on fishermen operating in the relevant waters before establishing them.

- (iv) They suggested that the relevant departments step up joint enforcement with Chinese Mainland authorities to enhance its effectiveness.

10. The representative of AFCD stated that drones and the AIS could assist enforcement officers in grasping information on the navigation of vessels suspected of being involved in illegal fishing. In addition, the department and the Police were studying the use of a vessel arrest system to stop vessels that refused to comply with instructions. If a vessel suspected of illegal cross-border fishing could not be stopped in Hong Kong waters, the department would record the incident and refer it to Chinese Mainland enforcement authorities. During joint operations between Hong Kong and Chinese Mainland law enforcement agencies, close communication would be maintained. If the vessel in question entered Chinese Mainland waters, the Chinese Mainland law enforcement agency would stop it.

11. The representative of AFCD said that the results of the environmental impact assessment conducted prior to setting up new FCZs showed that the impact of setting up the FCZ at Outer Tap Mun on existing fishery activities was of an acceptable level. The new FCZ would bring positive effects to marine ecology and fishery resources in the future, and there were enough suitable fishing grounds outside the FCZ for fishermen to operate.

12. The Chairman expressed his hope that the relevant departments would continue to strengthen joint efforts against illegal cross-border fishing.

13. A Member asked about the numbers of dispersals, interceptions and prosecutions made in the 16 anti-illegal fishing operations conducted by the Police between 1 and 22 October in the area of Marine Police North Division, as set out in Paper No. FEH 54a/2025.

14. The representative of HKPF said that the Police had stopped vessels and inspected their licences in the above 16 operations, during which no non-local vessels were found, nor prosecutions were made.

15. The representative of AFCD said that no prosecutions were made by the department during joint operations conducted in 2025 (up to September) in the northeast waters.

III. Proposed provision of an appropriate number of rubbish bins in public areas in Tai Po District

(TPDC Paper Nos. FEH 55/2025, FEH 55a/2025, FEH 55b/2025 and FEH 55c/2025)

16. The Chairman welcomed the following departmental representatives to attend the meeting for this agenda item:

- (i) Mr. SIT Ka-lok, Deputy District Leisure Manager (Tai Po)2 of LCSD; and
- (ii) Mr. SHUM Ka-wai, Housing Manager / Tai Po, North & Shatin 12 of HD.

17. A Member went through Paper No. FEH 55/2025.

18. The representative of LCSD went through Paper No. FEH 55b/2025.

19. The representative of HD went through Paper No. FEH 55c/2025.

20. The representative of FEHD went through Paper No. FEH 55a/2025 and supplemented that there were 646 litter containers (“LCs”) in Tai Po District.

21. Members’ comments were as follows:

- (i) The openings of the current FEHD LCs were too small. In addition, smokers would discard cigarette butts onto the top of LCs. It was suggested that the FEHD review the design of LCs and step up clearing efforts.
- (ii) Some villages were located relatively far from refuse collection points (“RCPs”). It was suggested that the FEHD place large LCs at suitable locations.
- (iii) Some members of the public had been pouring water onto the top of LCs to lessen the problem of second-hand smoke caused by cigarette butts there, but such practice might cause accumulation of water and lead to mosquito infestation. It was suggested that the FEHD monitor the situation and consider replacing them with LCs of a better design.

22. The representative of FEHD said that the department had taken note of Members’ comments and would review whether the design of LCs could be further improved. Regarding placement locations, Members were welcome to put forward comments to the department. The department would follow up based on usage of LCs, pedestrian flow, width of pavements and other relevant factors.

23. A Member suggested that the Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office (“TACO”) of the Department of Health (“DH”) strengthen proactive inspections of public transport facilities.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat had forwarded the suggestions to the TACO of DH.)

IV. Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Highways Department, District Lands Office, Tai Po, and Leisure and Cultural Services Department – Follow-up reports on the environmental hygiene issues arising from egret droppings in the area near the junction of Kwong Fuk Road and Wan Tau Kok Lane

(TPDC Paper No. FEH 60/2025)

24. The Chairman welcomed the following departmental representatives to attend the meeting for this agenda item:

- (i) Ms. CHAN Long-kwan, Joyee, Fauna Conservation Officer (Operation)¹ of AFCD;
- (ii) Ms. CHENG Lai-wa, Natalie, Landscape Architectural Assistant / Vegetation Maintenance (New Territories East)² of HyD; and
- (iii) Mr. SIT Ka-lok, Deputy District Leisure Manager (Tai Po)² of LCSD.

25. The representative of AFCD said that the department conducted a site visit in conjunction with the LCSD, HyD and Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (“HKBWS”) on 15 October to explore ways to protect egrets and to carry out tree management work during the non-breeding season.

26. The representative of HyD said that the department had received views from the AFCD and HKBWS during the said site visit. The department would prune tree branches, clear climbers and remove a tree in poor health between late November and early December.

27. The representative of LCSD said that the department would carry out tree and shrub pruning between November 2025 and February 2026.

28. The representative of TPDLO said that the Office conducted a site visit with a Member on 30 September, and noted that tree pruning work was required in an area under the purview of TPDLO. The Office had referred the matter to the Special Duties Task Force of LandsD to arrange for a contractor to carry out tree pruning during the non-breeding season of egrets.

29. Members' comments were as follows:

- (i) Having regard to the tree pruning plan in Paper No. FEH 60/2025, they opined that the extent of tree pruning was not enough, and that one of the trees with a large number of egrets gathered therein had not been dealt with.
- (ii) They emphasised that the pedestrian flow at that section of Kwong Fuk Road was relatively high, with many residents from Kwong Fuk Estate and Wang Fuk Court, etc., using this route to travel to and from Tai Po Market. Wan Tau Kok Lane was also a route for many students travelling to school. Therefore, they suggested pruning all branches right above the pavements at that section to prevent egret droppings from falling directly onto pedestrians and the pavements.
- (iii) They suggested that Giant Alocasia along the pavements be removed to prevent mosquito infestation.

30. The Chairman said that he had inspected the FEHD's cleaning work on the pavements there. Despite frequent cleaning by the FEHD, the environmental hygiene problem caused by egret droppings had yet to be resolved effectively. In addition to the pavement on the south of Kwong Fuk Road, the pavement on the north near the bus stop also faced similar problem. The Chairman emphasised that it would be advisable for the departments to grasp the opportunity during the non-breeding season of egrets from October to February to undertake tree pruning and removal of climbers more effectively.

31. The Chairman suggested that the AFCD, HyD, LCSD and TPDLO arrange an inter-departmental site inspection after the meeting and visit there with Members to discuss follow-up actions.

32. Members' comments were as follows:

- (i) Apart from tree pruning, they suggested further exploring the feasibility of adopting scientific methods to attract or relocate egrets to locations away from the sides of the pavements.
- (ii) Egret droppings not only caused odour problem, but might also carry pathogens.
- (iii) They suggested that consideration be given to constructing covered walkway and keeping the cover clean.
- (iv) They suggested that the AFCD, HyD, LCSD and TPDLO report the follow-up progress to the FEHC in a timely manner.

(Post-meeting note: The Chairman, Members and representatives of HyD, TPDLO, LCSD and TPDO conducted a site inspection in the area near the junction of Kwong Fuk Road and Wan Tau Kok Lane on 25 November and discussed follow-up methods. A Member suggested that relevant departments carry out substantial pruning of trees grown beside the pedestrian crossing at the junction of Kwong Fuk Road and Wan Tau Kok Lane as well as trees next to the bus stop during the non-breeding season of egrets. The representatives of HyD, TPDLO and LCSD stated that they would refer to relevant guidelines and the AFCD's advice to conduct tree pruning work to an appropriate extent.)

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 56/2025)

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

34. Members' comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) They enquired about how to enhance river water quality to meet the standard suitable for water activities.
- (ii) They asked whether the EPD had measured *Escherichia coli* (“*E. coli*”) counts in the rivers. If not, they suggested that the department conduct regular measurements and reporting.
- (iii) Recently, there had been noticeable white waste water discharged into Lam Tsuen River. They hoped that relevant departments would pay attention to the discharge of waste water.
- (iv) They enquired about the method used by the EPD in measuring river water quality.

35. The representative of EPD stated that the parameters for measuring water quality included dissolved oxygen, five-day biochemical oxygen demand and ammonia-nitrogen levels, while *E. coli* counts were not included. The department had taken note of Members' views and would follow up as appropriate. The method used by the department for water quality monitoring involved regularly sending staff to designated locations in the rivers to collect samples, and then

arranging for testing.

36. Members' comments were as follows:

- (i) The Water Quality Indices for the river water of Lam Tsuen River shown in Appendix II to the paper were mostly "Good" and "Excellent", which might lead to misunderstanding that the river was suitable for water recreational activities such as swimming and rowing. They suggested that the EPD adjust the reporting method, for example, by displaying numerical values for relevant parameters along with explanatory notes.
- (ii) They were concerned about watercrafts mooring in the river channel, and opined that watercrafts moored would pose a certain danger when the water level was relatively high. Moreover, should there be dead fish trapped between watercrafts, they would emit foul odours. They suggested that relevant departments conduct joint operations to disposed of abandoned watercrafts.

(Post-meeting note: The MD stated that it had been paying attention to the situation of vessels mooring in Lam Tsuen River, and sent staff to Lam Tsuen River for inspections from time to time to ensure that no vessels obstructed river traffic. Since Lam Tsuen River was not a prohibited anchorage area nor any other designated no-anchorage area, vessels mooring within this area did not violate relevant marine legislation. In this May, the department conducted a joint inspection with other departments and assisted in joint enforcement actions. The department would continue to pay attention to the situation of Lam Tsuen River and step up patrols, as well as to remind vessel owners to focus on safety and environmental hygiene. Should any vessel be found in breach of marine laws, follow-up actions would certainly be taken according to established procedures.)

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 57/2025)

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

38. The Chairman drew Members' attention to the report of HyD in Appendix IV to the

captioned paper.

39. The representative of TPDO reported that inter-departmental joint operations had been conducted in the area around Jade Plaza and the Four Lanes area in Tai Po Market on 15 August and 17 September respectively to monitor the illegal extension of business by shops.

40. Members' comments were as follows:

- (i) One new imported case of chikungunya fever ("CF") had recently been recorded in the territory, involving a patient residing in Hong Lok Yuen. They asked whether the FEHD would step up anti-mosquito work in the proximity of Hong Lok Yuen in response to this case.
- (ii) They suggested that relevant departments step up efforts to clear illegally parked bicycles in Fu Tip Estate near the area of the Pentecostal Holiness Church Wing Kwong Junior School.
- (iii) They suggested that the FEHD arrange for Members to inspect the anti-mosquito work and step up publicity efforts.
- (iv) They suggested that publicity materials printed with symptoms of CF and knowledge on household mosquito prevention be distributed.

41. The representative of FEHD said that in response to the above-mentioned case, the department had intensified mosquito prevention and elimination efforts within a 250-metre radius of Hong Lok Yuen. These included carrying out fogging operations to eliminate adult mosquitoes, applying temephos sand granules to eliminate larvae, removing stagnant water and arranging inspections with the property management agent of Hong Lok Yuen. In terms of publicity, the department had collaborated with representatives of TPDO, TPDC and Area Committee (Tai Po), to conduct publicity for the public and remind them to take precautions against CF.

42. The representative of FEHD supplemented that the Area Gravidtrap Indexes for Tai Po West and Tai Po East in October were 1.7 per cent and 0 per cent respectively, both at the lowest Level 1 of the Gravidtrap Index for *Aedes albopictus*. The department would continue to closely monitor the situation.

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

(TPDC Paper No. FEH 58/2025)

43. The representative of TPDO reported that inter-departmental bicycle clearance joint operations were conducted on 11 August, 21 August, 28 August, 12 September, 26 September and 8 October, with a total of 1 357 notices issued and 290 illegally parked bicycles confiscated (of which nine were shared bicycles).

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

45. A Member said that recently, there had been more shared bicycles illegally parked in the area of the pedestrian crossing between Kwong Fuk Sitting-out Area and Wang Fuk Court, and hoped that relevant departments would follow up on this.

46. The representative of TPDO noted Members' views.

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

(TPDC Paper No. FEH 59/2025)

47. The Chairman drew Members' attention to the report of MD in Appendix I to the captioned paper.

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

49. Members' comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) The RCP at Wong Shek Pier was currently undergoing repairs. During the repair period, refuse placed nearby had been blown into the sea, and wild pigs had overturned rubbish bins to search for food, causing environmental hygiene problems. They asked the FEHD when the repairs of the RCP would be completed.
- (ii) There had been sightings of wild pigs in the vicinity of Tai Mei Tuk near Lung Mei, affecting residents' safety and environmental hygiene. They hoped that relevant departments would pay attention to the matter.

50. The representative of FEHD said that if wild pigs overturned rubbish bins and affected environmental hygiene, the department would send staff to clean up the area as soon as possible and would arrange for the use of wildlife-resistant rubbish bins as far as possible.

(Post-meeting note: The FEHD was currently undertaking improvement works at the RCP at Wong Shek Pier, converting the original RCP into a solar-powered aluminium RCP to improve environmental hygiene and enhance service quality. The department and the contractor conducted a site inspection at the end of October and found that several works items still required rectification. The contractor anticipated that the works would be completed by the end of December.)

IX. Request to follow up on the food safety issue concerning suspected illegally imported seafood at Fu Tip Estate, Tai Po

(TPDC Paper No. FEH 61/2025)

51. A Member went through the captioned paper.

52. The representative of FEHD said that the department was vigilant about the captioned issue and was conducting relevant inspections. Pursuant to the Import and Export Ordinance (Cap. 60), any person who imported meat and poultry must obtain an import licence issued by the FEHD. In addition, pursuant to the Imported Game, Meat, Poultry and Eggs Regulations (Cap.132AK), any person who imported or brought game, meat, poultry or eggs into Hong Kong must be in possession of a health certificate issued by the issuing entity of the place of origin or an import permission issued by the FEHD. Members of the public could visit the FEHD website for the published list to ensure that businesses they patronised had obtained the required licences. The department would continue to maintain close contact with relevant enforcement departments to crack down vigorously on illegal food import activities.

53. Members' comments were as follows:

- (i) They suggested intensifying publicity on relevant legislation and strengthening interception of illegal food import activities by means of collaboration with property management agents.
- (ii) They suggested that the FEHD step up spot checks to ensure food safety.
- (iii) They suggested that the FEHD conduct a high-profile inspection of food premises and related businesses in Fu Tip Estate in the near future and publish the results.

- (iv) They suggested that food premises and food retailers be required to display relevant licences, permits or certificates in a more visible manner.

54. The representative of FEHD said that the Centre for Food Safety (“CFS”) under the department was conducting an in-depth investigation into the above-mentioned incident, and added that the CFS routinely collected food samples at import, wholesale and retail levels to conduct tests such as microbiological tests, chemical tests and radiation tests to safeguard public health.

X. Any other business

55. Members did not raise other business.

XI. Date of next meeting

56. The next meeting was tentatively scheduled to be held at 2:30 p.m. on 9 January 2026 (Friday).

57. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m.