

Minutes of the 1st Meeting in 2024
of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee
of Tai Po District Council

Date: 9 January 2024 (Tuesday)
Time: 2:30 p.m. – 6:13 p.m.
Venue: Conference Room, Tai Po District Council (“TPDC”)

Present

Time of Arrival

Time of Withdrawal

Chairman

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

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

Mr. LEE Man-kit	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Ms. LEE Sai-yin, Jeanne, BBS, JP	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. LI Wah-kwong, Rex, MH	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. LI Yiu-ban, BBS, MH, JP	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. 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	5:57 p.m.
Mr. CHAN Pok-chi, JP	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. MAK Shing-ho, Gary	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. WAN Koon-kau	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. WONG Wai-tung	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Ms. WONG Pik-kiu, BBS, MH, JP	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Ms. LOK Siu-luen	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. LO Hiu-fung	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting

Secretary

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

In Attendance

Mr. NG Man-kam, Keith	Structural Engineer / C2-3 / Buildings Department (“BD”)
Mr. CHU Chung, Boffin	Project Coordinator / Maintenance 1D / Civil Engineering and Development Department (“CEDD”)
Mr. NG Wing-hung	Senior Engineer / Tai Po / Drainage Services Department (“DSD”)
Mr. CHEN Kin-wun, Edwin	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Waste Collection & Charging) 1 / Environmental Protection Department (“EPD”)
Mr. WONG Pak-ki	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional North) 1 / EPD
Miss NG Wai-kei, Vicky	Environmental Protection Officer (Waste Collection & Charging) 12 / EPD
Mr. LAU Wai-cheung	Chief Health Inspector (Tai Po) 1 / Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”)
Mr. CHAU Man-sang	Chief Health Inspector (Tai Po) 2 / FEHD
Miss LAI Hiu-wing	Senior Health Inspector (Hawker) Tai Po / FEHD
Mr. TSANG Chin-kan	Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing and Pest Control) Tai Po 2 / FEHD
Ms. CHAN Wing-kwan	Operations Support Sub-Unit Commander / Tai Po Division / Hong Kong Police Force (“HKPF”)
Mr. LI Tsz -yau, Roy	Assistant District Engineer / TP(1) / Highways Department (“HyD”)
Mr. TSUI Chun-sing	Administrative Assistant / Lands / District Lands Office, Tai Po (“TPDLO”) / Lands Department (“LandsD”)
Mr. CHAN Siu-keung, Keith	Marine Officer / Pollution Control Unit (1) / Marine Department (“MD”)
Mr. CHUNG Yau-tai	Senior Assistant Shipping Master / Pollution Control Unit (1) / MD
Mr. MA Chi-ping	Senior Assistant Shipping Master / Pollution Control Unit (2) / MD
Miss CHAN Sui-king, Madeline	Senior Executive Officer (District Management) / TPDO / HAD
Ms. SING Hoi-shan, Wendy	Senior Executive Officer (District Council) / TPDO / HAD

Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed Members to the 1st meeting in 2024 of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (“FEHC”).

2. The Chairman welcomed the following participants to attend the meeting of FEHC today:

Core departments (i.e. departments with regular attendance)

- (i) Mr. CHU Chung, Boffin, Project Coordinator / Maintenance 1D of CEDD;
- (ii) Mr. NG Wing-hung, Senior Engineer / Tai Po of DSD;

- (iii) Mr. WONG Pak-ki, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional North) 1 of EPD;
- (iv) Mr. LAU Wai-cheung, Chief Health Inspector (Tai Po) 1 of FEHD;
- (v) Mr. CHAU Man-sang, Chief Health Inspector (Tai Po) 2 of FEHD;
- (vi) Miss LAI Hiu-wing, Senior Health Inspector (Hawker) Tai Po of FEHD;
- (vii) Mr. TSANG Chin-kan, Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing and Pest Control) Tai Po 2 of FEHD;
- (viii) Mr. TSUI Chun-sing, Administrative Assistant / Lands of TPDLO;
- (ix) Miss CHAN Sui-king, Madeline, Senior Executive Officer (District Management) of TPDO;
- (x) Ms. SING Hoi-shan, Wendy, Senior Executive Officer (District Council) of TPDO; and
- (xi) Ms. CHOW Hoi-tung, Highton, Assistant Executive Manager (District-led Actions Scheme) of TPDO.

Other government departments

- (i) Mr. NG Man-kam, Keith, Structural Engineer / C2-3 of BD;
- (ii) Mr. LI Tsz -yau, Roy, Assistant District Engineer / TP (1) of HyD;
- (iii) Ms. CHAN Wing-kwan, Operations Support Sub-Unit Commander / Tai Po Division of HKPF;
- (iv) Mr. CHAN Siu-keung, Keith, Marine Officer / Pollution Control Unit (1) of MD;
- (v) Mr. CHUNG Yau-tai, Senior Assistant Shipping Master / Pollution Control Unit (1) of MD; and
- (vi) Mr. MA Chi-ping, Senior Assistant Shipping Master / Pollution Control Unit (2) of MD.

I. Food and Environmental Hygiene Department – Briefing on the “Market Management Consultative Committees” of the public markets
(TPDC Paper No. FEH 1/2024)

3. The representative of FEHD went through TPDC Paper No. FEH 1/2024.

4. Some Members asked whether the FEHD could consider allowing more than three DC Members (“Members”) to serve in the “Market Management Consultative Committees” (“MMCCs”).
5. The representative of FEHD responded that the FEHD had given due consideration to factors such as past experience, the size of the market and operational effectiveness, and the proposed number of persons mentioned in the paper was for reference only. The department hoped that members of MMCCs could provide advice and guidance on the work of the department.
6. Some Members opined that in view of the limited space available in the meeting venue, the department should propose the actual number of members of MMCCs for nomination purpose.
7. The representative of FEHD responded that the department could arrange for hardware facilities as far as possible.
8. The members of Tai Po Hui Market MMCC were Ms. WONG Pik-kiu and Messrs. YU Chi-wing, LO Hiu-fung, WAN Koon-kau and LAM Yick-kuen; while members of Plover Cove Road Market MMCC were Messrs. MUI Siu-fung, LAM Yick-kuen and CHAN Pok-chi.
9. Some Members reminded that there were not many stalls in Plover Cove Road Market at present but many tenants were selling the same type of goods, and hence giving rise to disputes easily.

II. Food and Environmental Hygiene Department – Tai Po District 2024 Year-end Clean-up **(TPDC Paper No. FEH 2/2024)**

10. The representative of FEHD went through TPDC Paper No. FEH 2/2024.
11. Members’ comments and questions were as follows:
 - (i) They hoped that the department would pay attention to the cleansing of public toilets next to Lam Tsuen Wishing Square and nearby streets, with a view to tying in with the Hong Kong Well-Wishing Festival at Lam Tsuen and “Night Vibes Hong Kong” activities to be held later.
 - (ii) They asked whether the department would co-operate with property management companies (“PMCs”) and Housing Department (“HD”) in mounting joint operations on pest control within the area of public housing estates (“PHEs”). They asked, subject to the consent of incorporated owners (“IOs”), whether the

department could enforce the law in private areas such as tackling the problem of feeding feral pigeons in Fu Heng Estate. In addition, there were cases of discarding ancestral tablets in some PHEs and they hoped that the department would assist in clearance and law enforcement.

- (iii) They said that there was illegal feeding of feral pigeons at the intersection of Chung Nga Road.
- (iv) They suggested that the department should use high-temperature pressure cleaners for street cleansing, which could enhance the effectiveness, and hoped that the relevant departments would clean up locations such as pedestrian subways, footbridges and lifts.
- (v) They asked whether the department would increase the frequency of clearance of refuse collection vehicles before the Lunar New Year.
- (vi) They suggested that the department should strengthen anti-rodent work at Fu Shin Market and Tai Yuen Market, as well as anti-mosquito work in the area from the bus stop at On Po Lane to Sun Hing Garden.
- (vii) They asked about the date of Year-end Clean-up, and suggested distributing publicity leaflets to the public during the Year-end Clean-up and inviting IOs in the districts to participate in the activity.
- (viii) Some dog walkers allowed their dogs to foul the morning trail at Wan Tau Tong, causing environmental hygiene problems. They suggested that the department should deploy plainclothes officers to step up enforcement, and publicise and remind dog walkers to avoid baiting points.
- (ix) They hoped that the department would assist in clearing up standing water found at Four Lanes, Jade Plaza, Tai Po Centre, Tai Po Plaza and L2 Podium of Fortune Plaza.
- (x) They observed that someone would dispose of refuse and construction waste at rural refuse collection points (“RCPs”) at night, and asked whether the department would consider installing closed-circuit televisions (“CCTVs”) there to enhance the deterrent and vigilant effect.
- (xi) It was mentioned in the paper that the department would issue “Nuisance Notice” (“NN”) or “Notice to Remove Litter/Waste and to Clean Areas” when necessary. They asked whether the department could share the relevant deployment.

12. The representative of FEHD responded as follows:

- (i) The FEHD would perform deep cleansing before the Hong Kong Well-Wishing Festival at Lam Tsuen and “Night Vibes Hong Kong” activities, and during which

the department would also closely monitor and maintain the cleanliness of public toilets.

- (ii) The department would strengthen liaison with the relevant government departments such as HD and Link Asset Management Limited Real Estate Investment Trust (“Link REIT”), step up anti-rodent work within the area of PHEs and keep a close eye on the anti-rodent and anti-mosquito work at On Po Lane, Fu Shin Market and Tai Yuen Market.
- (iii) The cleansing of pedestrian subways and lifts was under the purview of HyD, which would step up its efforts in clearing up refuse in the area.
- (iv) The department would step up enforcement against the fouling of public places by feeding feral pigeons and animals in public places.
- (v) As it was expected that more people would be disposing of bulky waste before the Lunar New Year, the department would deploy additional grab lorries to handle the waste.
- (vi) The department had mounted joint operations with other governments departments to assist in the handling of discarded ancestral tablets. The department would strengthen communication with the relevant departments to deal with the problem.
- (vii) At present, the department did not have a mechanism to issue fixed penalty notices (“FPNs”) for hygiene problems in private areas. The department might strengthen liaison with the relevant PMCs and remind them to pay attention to environmental hygiene such as clearing of stagnant water on podium which caused environmental hygiene problems.
- (viii) Members were invited to participate in the cleansing operations of the department and carry out publicity and educational work together.
- (ix) The department would deploy plainclothes officers to step up enforcement and patrol along the morning trail at Wan Tau Tong, and institute prosecutions against offenders for littering, spitting and allowing their dogs to foul the streets. In general, the department would pack the baits in thin PVC bags to prevent accidental uptake by non-target animals.
- (x) The department would also deploy plainclothes officers to patrol and inspect the situation of illegal refuse disposal in rural areas, and explore the installation of its Internet Protocol (“IP”) cameras when necessary.
- (xi) The department would be pleased to share with Members matters relating to enforcement details after the meeting.

13. Members’ comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) Households of sub-divided units in “three-nil” buildings often disposed of bulky waste on the rooftops of their buildings, causing environmental hygiene problems and additional cleansing burden to the department. At present, the existing RCPs were insufficient to cope with the demand and the public might not be aware of their locations. As such, they suggested that the department step up publicity and increase the number of large-size waste containers from the 28th day to the 30th day of the last month of the Chinese lunar calendar to cope with the demand.
- (ii) They asked the department to enhance cleansing of backlanes near food premises and shops selling meat and vegetables. They also suggested that the department should pay attention to the area around the bus stop at Chong San Road outside St Martin, the RCP outside Tat Wan Road Public Toilet at Lai Chi Shan and the two RCPs at Shek Kwu Lung Village and Kam Shan Village.

14. The representative of FEHD responded as follows:

- (i) The department would step up inspection at rooftops of “three-nil” buildings and contact the owners concerned to clear refuse when necessary.
- (ii) The five RCPs were located at Dai Kwai Street, Evergreen Court, Kwong Fuk Square, Plover Cove Road and Yan Hing Street respectively. If necessary, the department would consider providing additional large-size waste containers at suitable locations and enhancing cleansing in the vicinity of food premises.
- (iii) The department welcomed discussion with Members on locations required enhanced cleansing by the department after the meeting.
- (iv) The department would co-organise publicity campaigns with the TPDO and invite Members to participate in the distribution of cleansing packs, promotional leaflets and souvenirs organised by the department in the area of Tai Po Hui Market to remind the public about the enhanced year-end clean-up as well as anti-rodent and anti-mosquito works.

15. The representative of TPDO responded that the TPDO would co-organise the Year-end Clean-up with the FEHD to distribute cleansing packs to the public in the district. The location of the campaign was preliminarily set at the open area outside Tai Po Hui Market, where Members would be invited to promote the messages of year-end household clean up to the public. The campaign was tentatively scheduled for late January. The Secretariat would inform Members of the exact date at a later time and she invited Members to take active participation in the campaign.

16. The Chairman said that government departments conducted the Year-end Clean-up with DC every year. He opined that there was also a need to step up cleansing at other times of the year.

As such, he asked various departments to enhance inspection in areas within their purview and maintain close liaison with Members to deal with the problems as soon as possible. He hoped that the new term of DC could improve environmental hygiene in the district.

(Post-meeting note: The “2024 Year-end Clean-up” co-organised by the TPDO and FEHD was held on 1 February 2024. The Chairman and Members of DC distributed household cleansing packs to the public outside Tai Po Complex and at Tai Po Central Town Square. The Chairman and Members had also inspected the environmental hygiene of the backlanes at Tai Po Market to know more about the FEHD’s work on anti-rodent and tried out the pressure washer surface cleaners for street cleansing.)

III. Food and Environmental Hygiene Department – First Phase of Anti-rodent Campaign 2024 in Tai Po District

(TPDC Paper No. FEH 3/2024)

17. The representative of FEHD went through TPDC Paper No. FEH 3/2024.
18. Members’ comments and questions were as follows:
 - (i) There was a significant difference between the number of rat cages and traps placed by the department and the number of live rodents trapped, which seemed to suggest that the use of rat cages and traps was ineffective. They asked whether thermal imaging cameras (“TICs”) would be installed at rodent problematic spots so as to introduce new technology to enhance the effectiveness of anti-rodent work.
 - (ii) Since the installation of CCTVs at rural RCPs, the situation of littering and disposal of bulky waste had improved. However, some village representatives were concerned that upon implementation of municipal solid waste charging (“MSW charging”) by the Government, members of the public might go to dispose of their refuse in rural areas. As such, they hoped that CCTVs could be installed at more large-scale rural RCPs to monitor non-compliance.
 - (iii) They asked the department how to fill up rat holes.
 - (iv) They hoped that the department would arrange for site inspection of rodent blackspots to enable Members to know more about the pest control work. They also hoped that the department could enhance supervision of the work of pest control staff and contractors.

19. The representative of FEHD responded as follows:

- (i) The department was currently installing TICs at the backlane of Fu Shin Street, which had produced some encouraging results at this initial stage. TICs could help detect rodent activities and facilitate targeted rodent prevention and control work. The department would continue to install TICs at rodent blackspots to assist in rodent prevention and control work.
- (ii) At present, the department had installed more than 20 IP cameras at different RCPs to monitor fly-tipping. It would consider installing more IP cameras if resources were available.
- (iii) The department would use crumpled paper balls as a means of testing whether the rat holes were active, and poisonous baits would then be placed at the entrance of active rat holes. After confirming that the rodents inside had been dead, the holes would be filled with cement to prevent reinfestation of rodents.
- (iv) As it was rather difficult to know the exact locations where rodents frequented, the department would, by way of casting nets for fishing, place a certain amount of rat cages and traps at locations where rodent infestation was found. As such, there might be a large discrepancy between the number of rat cages and traps placed and the number of live rodents trapped.
- (v) At present, there were a total of 21 teams of in-house pest control staff and contractor staff, who conducted inspections at various locations, placed and replaced rat cages and rodent baits every day, as well as examined the locations of rat cages. The department would pay special attention to the performance of staff concerned and take follow-up actions as necessary.
- (vi) The department had tried to place rodent baits according to the locations where rodents frequented as far as practicable and used more attractive baits, as well as piloted the use of Ekomille in RCPs and FEHD markets for rodent prevention and control.

20. Members' comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) They asked whether Ekomille could be used in rural areas in order to enhance the effectiveness of rodent trapping.
- (ii) Noting that some members of the public were feeding rats and pigeons, they hoped that the department would penalise such improper practices. They asked whether the department would release the CCTV footage of the offences for public scrutiny so as to serve as a warning to the public.

21. The representative of FEHD responded as follows:

- (i) Ekomille contained alcohol, which was hazardous and involved some risks, and was therefore only recommended for trial use in RCPs and FEHD markets at present. Ekomille could help prevent and control rodents.
- (ii) The IP cameras of FEHD could be used for evidence collection, but it was not appropriate to handle the offenders of illegal feeding of rats and pigeons by releasing the CCTV footage to the public. The department would monitor fly-tipping and illegal feeding resulting in fouling of public places by means of CCTV, and deploy plainclothes officers to issue FPNs to offenders.

22. Members' comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) There were quite a number of foreign domestic helpers picnicking, cooking and trading in the vicinity of MTR Tai Po Market Station ("TPM Station") during holidays, causing environmental hygiene problems and aggravating the rodent infestation problem. As such, they suggested that the department should step up publicity and anti-rodent work.
- (ii) They asked about the current situation of rodent infestation in the district and whether the rodent infestation problem could be solved more thoroughly.
- (iii) They suggested that the department should strengthen co-operation with the HD and various PMCs of large housing estates to minimise the rodent infestation problem.

23. The representative of FEHD responded as follows:

- (i) He was aware of the rodent infestation situation in the vicinity of TPM Station and would take appropriate follow-up actions.
- (ii) If rodent infestation was found in private housing estates and housing estates of HD, the department would be willing to share with them the effective methods of rodent disinfection.

24. The Chairman said that the situation of rodent disinfection in the district had been followed up for many years and the department had also been improving its anti-rodent work, but to little avail. He hoped that the department would consider installing additional CCTVs at rodent problematic spots, and thanked the department for continuing to follow up the rodent infestation situation.

IV. Food and Environmental Hygiene Department – Anti-mosquito Campaign 2024 (Phase I) in Tai Po District

(TPDC Paper No. FEH 4/2024)

25. The representative of FEHD went through TPDC Paper No. FEH 4/2024.
26. Members' comments and questions were as follows:
- (i) They thanked the department for handling the problem of mosquito infestations in the district. As the mosquito surveillance index varied among the urban and rural areas, they suggested increasing the number of locations for placing oviposition traps ("ovitraps") so as to facilitate the explanation of the relevant information to the public.
 - (ii) They suggested that the department should discuss with the Leisure and Cultural Services Department about trimming the grass before applying larvicidal oil to avoid undermining the effectiveness of anti-mosquito efforts. In addition, as there were overgrown grass and weeds along cycling tracks and footpaths in the area from Hong Lok Yuen Road to Shui Wai, they asked the department to pay attention to mosquito infestation there and step up anti-mosquito efforts in rural areas during summer.
 - (iii) Some members of the public had reflected that there was serious infestation of biting midges in the district and asked whether the department had new ways to tackle the problem.
27. The Chairman said that the infestation of biting midges had always been a cause for concern. As biting midges were mainly found in wet soil, he opined that various departments should work more closely together and trim the grass and weeds regularly.
28. The representative of FEHD responded as follows:
- (i) At present, there were about 100 ovitraps in Tai Po District, which were placed over Tai Po East and Tai Po West, covering densely populated areas and rural areas in the district.
 - (ii) Various government departments were involved in the anti-mosquito work.
 - (iii) The prevention and control of biting midges was mainly based on draining water away from the soil and reducing its moisture content, with the application of pesticides where necessary. Members were welcomed to inform the department of the locations of biting midge infestation for follow-up actions.

29. The Chairman asked the departments to take note of Members' views.

V. **Marine Department and Food and Environmental Hygiene Department – Report on the quantity of refuse collected from Tolo Harbour between September and December 2023**
(TPDC Paper Nos. FEH 5/2024 and FEH 6/2024)

30. The representative of MD went through TPDC Paper No. FEH 5/2024.

31. The Chairman asked the MD to pay more attention to the refuse in the waters near the Island House Conservation Studies Centre, and moorings of dragon boats at Pak Shek Kok and Sam Mun Tsai.

(Post-meeting note: The MD indicated that it had immediately contacted marine refuse cleansing contractors to enhance the cleansing services at the relevant locations after the meeting. The matters had also been discussed at the monthly contract management committee meetings between the MD and management of cleansing services contractors, where they were requested to pay more attention to the cleanliness of the locations concerned and the waters off the Tai Po area, including the refuse near the shore and in rock crevices.)

32. The representative of FEHD went through TPDC Paper No. FEH 6/2024.

33. A Member asked why there was a larger quantity of refuse in September.

34. The representative of FEHD responded that as there were typhoons and rainstorms in September last year, a larger quantity of marine refuse was collected between September and October. The department would step up efforts in improving the cleanliness of shorelines with regard to the circumstances.

35. The Chairman asked the department to pay more attention to the refuse in rock crevices along the shore.

VI. **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 7/2024)

36. The representatives of FEHD, EPD, CEDD and DSD went through the work on the clearing

of rubbish and sludge in Lam Tsuen River and Tai Po River one by one at the meeting (see TPDC Paper No. FEH 7/2024).

37. The Chairman welcomed departments to approach Members direct for the inspection of the relevant river dredging work.

38. Members' comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) The channel of Lam Tsuen River had been damaged due to the extreme weather. The DSD and CEDD might contact Members or village representatives for advice if necessary. They hoped that the restoration works could be completed as soon as possible before summer.
- (ii) They were thankful to the DSD for using large excavators for clearing of sludge in Lam Tsuen River, and were also thankful to the FEHD for the clearance of the river.
- (iii) There were still debris such as debris, sludge and refuse in Tai Po River outside the area of Wun Yiu near Kam Shan Garden and they hoped that the department would follow up to clean up the debris. They observed that large excavators had been deployed for river works near Tai Po River in San Uk Tsai Village recently and asked whether recovery works were being carried out. As debris in some rivers in rural areas had not been cleared, they were worried that the flooding situation would be aggravated if they had not been cleared before the rainy season, and hoped that the department would pay attention to the clearing of river channels in rural areas.
- (iv) The section of riverbanks on both sides of Lam Tsuen River underneath the bridge from Tai Po Mega Mall to Plover Cove Garden were damaged and the repair works had not yet been completed. They asked whether the rocks fallen from the riverbanks would be used for the restoration works. The problem of refuse and sludge in quite a number of rivers in the district had not yet been dealt with. They hoped that the relevant departments would follow up on them actively and expedite the restoration works of the rivers.
- (v) As the consultation on beautification works of Lam Tsuen River and its facilities along the river might be conducted later, they hoped that the relevant departments would actively co-operate and step up efforts in tackling the sources of pollution and refuse problem.
- (vi) As flooding might occur underneath the vehicular bridge outside TPM Station due to backflow of river water during rainstorms, affecting the vehicular traffic, they suggested building additional flood gates at the relevant locations. The river section at the junction of San Tong Ha Village and Sha Pa Village also suffered

from frequent flooding, which obstructed the passage of the public, and they asked the department to pay attention to the situation. As the manhole covers for sewers on the carriageway outside San Tong Village RCP were often washed up by rainwater, jeopardising the safety of motorists, they would like to draw the attention of the relevant departments to the situation.

39. The representative of DSD responded as follows:

- (i) Reinstatement works were being carried out in the upper stream of Tai Po River and the washed-out gabions in the river were being progressively removed.
- (ii) The CEDD was responsible for the repair works of the four grantie walls at the riverbanks of Lam Tsuen River which had collapsed due to extreme weather in September last year.
- (iii) The DSD would follow up on the cleansing of rivers.
- (iv) The HyD was responsible for the repair and maintenance of the stormwater collection system underneath the bridge outside TPM Station. To his understanding, the occurrence of flooding last year was due faulty water pumping facilities. The relevant facilities had been repaired and he asked the HyD to supplement on it.
- (v) The department had observed that there was an outflow of stormwater from the sewer manholes near San Tong Village during rainstorms but the department could not trace the source of stormwater so far. The department was planning to implement improvement measures before the rainy season so as to minimise the inconvenience caused to the public and posing danger to road users.

40. The representative of CEDD responded that the CEDD commenced the reinstatement works at the riverbanks in October last year, and completed the reinstatement of the two walls outside Tai Wo Road Sitting-out Area in December. Preparation was being made to commence the reinstatement of the two walls underneath the bridge at Tai Po Centre, which was expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2024.

41. The representative of HyD responded that the HyD did not have information on the relevant water pumping facilities at present. He would follow up with Members after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The HyD stated that flooding occurred underneath the vehicular bridge outside TPM Station (HyD Structure No. NU17) during particularly heavy rainstorms in September 2023. At that time, the water pumping facilities under the bridge failed to function properly due to the large amount of sand, sludge and debris. The contractor had used temporary pumping facilities to remove the accumulated water under the bridge on that day so as to repair

the water pumping facilities. The water pumping facilities concerned had now been repaired. The HyD would closely monitor the risk of the recurrence of flooding at the relevant locations and take appropriate actions.)

42. The Chairman asked the departments concerned to complete the embankment works as soon as possible before the rainy season to prevent flooding.

VII. District Lands Office, Tai Po – Report on abandoned vehicles and illegal dumping of soil
(TPDC Paper No. FEH 8/2024)

43. The representative of TPDLO went through TPDC Paper No. FEH 8/2024.

44. Members' comments and questions were as follows:

- (i) They asked whether data on illegally abandoned bicycles could be provided in the report, whether the department would clear abandoned shared bicycles, and asked about the type of the 12 abandoned vehicles mentioned in the paper.
- (ii) They opined that the time limit requiring cessation of occupation of Government land of the notices affixed by the TPDLO was relatively long and that the situation where some vehicles had not been removed upon expiry of the deadline was unsatisfactory. As such, they asked whether the time limit could be shortened.
- (iii) It was mentioned in the paper that some vehicle owners had removed their vehicles on their own after the posting of notices, which might involve illegal parking. As such, they asked the Police whether there was information on the vehicles concerned and prosecution instituted, and whether abandoned vehicles were often found at the relevant locations.
- (iv) There were a number of abandoned motorcycles parked at Chung Nga Road and underneath the footbridge of Fu Shin Estate, and they would like to know more about the situation.

45. The representative of TPDLO responded as follows:

- (i) The inter-departmental joint operations were responsible for the handling and clearance of abandoned bicycles. He asked the relevant departments to supplement on the relevant data.
- (ii) Before the clearance of abandoned vehicles, the TPDLO would first make enquiries with the Police and TD as to whether the vehicles in question were missing vehicles, and then post notices and remove the vehicles only after

obtaining records of the registered vehicle owners and confirming whether the vehicles were abandoned.

- (iii) The 12 abandoned vehicles mentioned in the paper did not involve motorcycles.
- (iv) The TPDLO was responsible for handling abandoned vehicles on unleased and unallocated government land other than public roads. The motorcycles at Chung Nga Road and underneath the footbridge of Fu Shin Estate would be handled during inter-departmental joint operations.

46. The representative of HKPF responded as follows:

- (i) The HKPF would continue to ticket the offending vehicles where notices had already been posted on such abandoned vehicles. The Police would conduct joint operations with the TPDLO regularly, and before towing away the abandoned vehicles, the Police would check the licence plates again to ensure that the abandoned vehicles were not missing vehicles.
- (ii) Information on the above-mentioned vehicles was not available at present. Even if vehicle owners removed their vehicles on their own on the day of operation, the Police would take ticketing action forthwith.

47. The representative of TPDO responded that the TPDO would conduct inter-departmental bicycle clearance joint operations with the TPDLO, FEHD, HKPF and TD twice a month. She would see if the number of bicycles cleared in the relevant operations could be provided at the next meeting.

48. The Chairman advised Members to inform the departments should they find any abandoned vehicles. He said that the handling of abandoned vehicles straddled the purview of different government departments and hoped that the departments would take note of Members' views.

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 9/2024)

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

50. The representative of FEHD went through Appendix I to TPDC Paper No. FEH 9/2024.

51. The representative of HKPF went through Appendix II to TPDC Paper No. FEH 9/2024.
52. Members' comments and questions were as follows:
- (i) Some shop operators had reflected that diners were unable to park their vehicles as the double yellow lines were marked on the carriageway outside their shops, which dampened consumer sentiment. As such, they hoped that the Police and HyD would work together in updating the enforcement guidelines against illegal parking in town centre and re-planning the marking of single yellow line and double yellow lines. They also hoped that the Police would deal with illegal parking flexibly so as to facilitate local residents and boost local consumption.
 - (ii) Some members of the public had reflected that there was serious illegal parking at the taxi stand at the side of the bus terminus at Fu Shin Estate and Fu Heng Estate from night time to the early morning, and asked the Police to follow up on it.
 - (iii) They opined that the relevant paper mainly covered data on illegal parking, and suggested submitting the paper to the Traffic and Transport Committee ("TTC") for further in-depth discussion.
53. The Chairman agreed that the TTC should continue to follow up on the matter of illegal parking.
54. The representative of HKPF responded as follows:
- (i) It was the Police's established practice to adhere to its internal guidelines when there was a need to exercise discretion in enforcing the law. Members could reflect to the Government should they had any comments on the improvement of the legislation.
 - (ii) The Police was fully aware of the situation at the traffic blackspot in Fu Shin Estate and had arranged for patrols to be carried out three times a day. It would continue to step up patrols and keep a close eye on the situation.
 - (iii) The Police had no comments on referring Appendix II to the TTC for discussion. The Police, in conjunction with the FEHD, conducted regular joint operations against shop front extension leading to street obstructions in the vicinity of Four Lanes and Jade Plaza every month. It would also patrol the vicinity for illegal parking and take enforcement actions, mainly against illegal loading and unloading activities and perennial occupation of roads by goods vehicles, and for this reason, the paper included data on illegal parking.
55. The representative of TPDLO went through Appendix III to TPDC Paper No. FEH 9/2024.

- 56. The representative of HyD went through Appendix IV to TPDC Paper No. FEH 9/2024.
- 57. The representative of BD went through Appendix V to TPDC Paper No. FEH 9/2024.
- 58. The representative of EPD went through Appendix VI to TPDC Paper No. FEH 9/2024.
- 59. Members did not have any other comments or questions.

IX. Food and Environmental Hygiene Department – Briefing on 2024 Lunar New Year Fair in Tai Po District
(TPDC Paper No. FEH 10/2024)

- 60. The Chairman asked Members to take note of the above information paper.

X. Food and Environmental Hygiene Department – Briefing on 2024 Tai Po Lam Tsuen Fong Ma Po New Year Fair
(TPDC Paper No. FEH 11/2024)

- 61. The Chairman asked Members to take note of the above information paper.

XI. Any other business

Environmental Protection Department – Municipal Solid Waste Charging Scheme

- 62. The Chairman welcomed the representatives of EPD to attend the meeting for this agenda item.
- 63. The representative of EPD went through the PowerPoint presentation on the said charging scheme.
- 64. Members' comments and questions were as follows:
 - (i) Some PMCs had asked Members how to address the problem of households not using designated bags ("DBs") for waste disposal. They opined that the measure of lining large waste collection bins on individual floor with transparent garbage bags might be infeasible and was against the principle of waste reduction, and

asked whether the department would distribute DBs to PMCs. As PMCs might not have sufficient manpower to monitor non-compliance, they believed that it would end up with “double charging” and opined that the department should give more consideration to the difficulties faced by private buildings.

- (ii) They were worried that after implementation of the scheme, more people would go to rural RCPs for waste disposal, and opined that punitive measures might not be able to be taken consistently, which would end up increasing the workload of cleansing workers. They hoped that the Government would consider implementing the measure progressively.
- (iii) They recognised the need to implement municipal solid waste charging (“MSW charging”) but the existing ancillary facilities could not facilitate the public and cater for their needs. They asked whether the department would provide additional recycling facilities and support, and step up publicity and education, as well as whether the department would carry out education and publicity work in housing estates in the district; and if yes, they asked about the relevant lists and data for reference. They were of the view that there was inadequate publicity at present and the department should enhance communication and exchange with the public. As such, they asked whether an online platform would be launched and seminars would be held, and suggested that more publicity and education should be conducted in the community to encourage public participation and know more about the actual situation faced by the public through different channels.
- (iv) They asked whether the department would subsidise the installation of food waste processors in private housing estates.
- (v) The DC would work to complement the MSW charging scheme. They suggested that in addition to providing Members with posters and promotional leaflets, the department might also provide a set of DB samples for display so that the public could have a preliminary understanding of the capacity of DBs.
- (vi) The publicity messages of MSW charging had over-emphasised the “polluter-pays” principle. They opined that this might arouse resistance from the public and suggested that reference should be made to the GREEN\$ Electronic Participation Incentive Scheme of GREEN@COMMUNITY, with a view to enhancing the incentive for public participation from the perspective of rewards. They also suggested implementing a rewarding mechanism in private housing estates based on the quantity of waste recovered to enhance the residents’ motivation for waste recovery.
- (vii) They opined that it would be unfair to provide a phasing-in period only to households of “three-nil” buildings, rural village houses and PHEs, and suggested providing subsidies to the underprivileged in private buildings as well as grants

and support to schools and non-profit-making organisations during the phasing-in period. The elders and people suffering from chronic illnesses might need to dispose of clinical waste every day and as MSW charging might impose a financial burden on them, they were worried that the elders might accumulate refuse at home, thus affecting the home environmental hygiene. As such, they hoped that the department would look into the provision of support to the underprivileged.

65. The representative of EPD responded as follows:

- (i) Cleansing workers could use larger (say, 100-litre) DBs to wrap up multiple bags of non-compliant waste, instead of wrapping them up in small DBs one by one.
- (ii) The EPD would conduct inspections and take enforcement actions at the relevant buildings (including floors / staircase landings) according to the list of blackspots of disposing of non-compliant waste, and would follow up, in conjunction with the relevant departments, at rural RCPs reported by members of the public, village representatives and departments.
- (iii) The intention of using transparent garbage bags was to replace the existing large black plastic bags, and the department believed that there would be no additional increase in the use of plastic bags.
- (iv) The department encouraged the public to participate in recycling mainly by way of rewards and had planned to offer the redemption of DBs with GREEN\$ points of GREEN@COMMUNITY. He thanked Members for their comments and would suggest the department enhance promotion of the reward of GREEN\$ points to the public.
- (v) To expand the food waste collection network, the Environmental Campaign Committee had subsidised through the Environment and Conservation Fund to roll out the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Smart Recycling Bins in Private Housing Estates, which subsidised large-scale private housing estates to install food waste smart recycling bins.
- (vi) The three-coloured recycling bins had often been mistaken for refuse containers, resulting in contamination of the recyclables inside and rendered them unrecoverable. As the effectiveness of three-coloured recycling bins was limited, the department had progressively reduced their number in urban areas and encouraged the public to make good use of the recycling services under GREEN@COMMUNITY. The department was planning to expand the recycling network of GREEN@COMMUNITY progressively to facilitate recycling by residents of “three-nil” buildings and others.
- (vii) The department planned to distribute samples of DBs to Members and would also

distribute promotional posters and leaflets to Members through the Secretariat for community publicity.

- (viii) The six-month phasing-in period covered all Hong Kong citizens, during which publicity and education would be the focus. The department would take measures to help households of different categories to adapt to the new legislation, for example, the department would distribute free DBs to households of “three-nil” buildings, rural village houses and PHEs. As for private dwellings, PMCs or owners’ organisations could apply to the EPD for bulk purchase of DBs and distribute to residents of the private housing estates under their management for use so as to facilitate residents to develop a new habit of using DBs for waste disposal, thereby enhancing compliance rate. The EPD would offer a service fee equivalent to 3% of the prescribed price for each DB to applicants in order to cover the additional operating costs.
- (ix) Although information on only two online briefing sessions on MSW charging was shown on the department’s website for the time being, the department would continue to organise briefing sessions and release further information on its website as and when it was available.
- (x) While recognising that some people had special reasons for the increase in refuse quantity, the department hoped Members would understand that it was difficult for the department to identify and cater for the needs of different parties and provide them with targeted assistance. The department would like to start with education on waste reduction and recycling to reduce the burden of MSW charging on the persons concerned.
- (xi) The department noted the views on stepping up publicity and education in elderly centres, residents’ organisations and various sectors of the community, and it would consider how to maximise its reach. In addition, the department had communicated with the EDB and believed that it had corresponding measures to help schools cope with the additional expenditure on MSW charging.
- (xii) The department hoped that through enhanced education and publicity, the implementation of measures and provision of the six-month phasing-in period, members of the public could progressively adapt to the new policy. The department also believed that with the increase in the compliance ratio of the public, the expenditure incurred in dealing with non-compliance would gradually decrease.

66. The Chairman asked the department to take note of Members’ views.

(Post-meeting note: The Government announced on 19 January 2024 that the implementation date

of MSW charging scheme would be postponed to 1 August of the same year. Members also attended a briefing session on the policy held by the Environment and Ecology Bureau at Central Government Offices on 26 January 2024.)

XII. Date of next meeting

67. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 p.m. on 6 March 2024 (Wednesday).

68. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Tai Po District Council Secretariat
February 2024