

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting in 2024 of Tai Po District Council

Date: 5 March 2024 (Tuesday)

Time: 9:36 a.m. – 11:26 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room, Tai Po District Council

<u>Present</u>	<u>Time of Arrival</u>	<u>Time of Withdrawal</u>
<u>Chairman</u>		
Ms. CHAN Hau-man, Eunice, JP	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
<u>Members</u>		
Mr. YU Chi-wing, MH	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
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. LEE Hon-cheung	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. CHAN Tsz-kin	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. CHAN Cho-leung, MH, JP	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Ms. CHAN Kin-kwan	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. CHAN Yung-wa	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. CHAN Siu-kuen, MH, JP	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. CHAN Pok-chi, JP	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. MUI Siu-fung	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. MAK Shing-ho, Gary	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Mr. MUI Ching-hung	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
<u>Secretary</u>		
Ms. SING Hoi-shan, Wendy	Beginning of the meeting	End of the meeting
Senior Executive Officer (District Council) / Tai Po District Office (“TPDO”) / Home Affairs Department (“HAD”)		

In Attendance

Mr. MA Wai-hing, Adrian	District Commander (Tai Po) / Hong Kong Police Force (“HKPF”)
Ms. CHOI Ying-tung	Police Community Relations Officer (Tai Po) / HKPF
Ms. FUNG Man-yu, May	District Social Welfare Officer (Tai Po/ North) / Social Welfare Department (“SWD”)
Mr. CHU Ka-chun, Gordon	District Leisure Manager (Tai Po) / Leisure and Cultural Services Department (“LCSD”)
Mr. YAU Wan-po, Wallace	Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Tai Po / LCSD
Ms. WONG Yee-fang, Eva	Chief Transport Officer / New Territories East / Transport Department (“TD”)
Ms. CHAN Hau-yin, Margaret	District Planning Officer / Sha Tin, Tai Po and North / Planning Department (“PlanD”)
Mr. WAT Wai-ching, Stephen	Senior Engineer / 11 (N) / Civil Engineering and Development Department (“CEDD”)
Mr. LAM Chi-ming, Kempis	District Lands Officer / TP (District Land Office, Tai Po) / Lands Department (“LandsD”)
Mr. TUNG Wai-lam	Administration Assistant / Lands (Atg.) / District Lands Office, Tai Po / LandsD
Mr. FOCK Wai-wa	Chief Manager / Management (TNS) / Housing Department (“HD”)
Mr. MA Hing-sum, Patrick	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Tai Po) / Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”)
Mr. TSANG Chin-kan	Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing & Pest Control) Tai Po 2 / FEHD
Ms. WONG Suet-wai, Crystal	Senior School Development Officer (Tai Po) 1 / Education Bureau (“EDB”)
Miss YU Wing-lam, Phoebe	Assistant District Officer (Tai Po) / HAD
Miss CHAN Sui-king, Madeline	Senior Executive Officer (District Management) / TPDO / HAD
Mr. LUI Kan-man, Raymond	Senior Liaison Officer (1) / TPDO / HAD
Ms. WONG Sze-man, Queenie	Senior Liaison Officer (2) / TPDO / HAD
Mr. CHOW Tsz-yan, Daniel	Executive Officer (District Council) / TPDO / HAD

The Chairman welcomed District Council Members (“Members”) and representatives of government departments to the second meeting of the 7th Tai Po District Council (“TPDC”).

I. Confirmation of the minutes of the 1st meeting in 2024 of the TPDC on 5 January 2024

2. Neither had the Secretariat received any proposed amendments before the meeting, nor had any participants put forward amendments at the meeting. The minutes of the captioned meeting were confirmed without amendment.

II. Launch of Care Action with the Care Teams in Tai Po District

(TPDC Paper No. 8/2024)

3. Miss YU Wing-lam, Phoebe, went through TPDC Paper No. 8/2024.
4. Mr. WU Cheuk-him asked whether the Care Teams (“CTs”) could submit to the TPDO should they wish to revise their activity plans or submit applications for new activities.
5. Mr. CHAN Yung-wa suggested providing appropriate training to CTs so as to enhance their emergency response capability.
6. Mr. WONG Wai-tung said that many CTs would provide simple in-flat maintenance services to the elders. Given that CT members came from different backgrounds and the services that they could provide varied, it was hoped that there would be guidelines to specify the scope of services that could be covered.
7. The Chairman responded as follows:
 - (i) The CTs had been in continuous operation since their commencement of work in the fourth quarter of last year. Should CTs have any queries about the operation, they could make enquiries to the relevant responsible officers or Liaison Officers of the TPDO.
 - (ii) The CTs might revise their submitted plans or submit a new project proposal at any time and should inform the TPDO of any changes in advance.
 - (iii) The TPDO was making preparations to enhance the capability of CTs in providing information by assigning the team leaders as the representatives to learn about the government policies and arrangements, so as to facilitate the CTs in assisting the Government in providing information to the public in their daily work. In emergency work, the TPDO was considering the provision of basic information on emergency work to all CTs in the district, as well as how to incorporate the mobilisation of CTs into the internal interdepartmental emergency exercise to be held in Tai Po District annually.
 - (iv) It was not appropriate to set rigid indicators for the service items of all CTs in Tai Po. The CTs should take into consideration the needs of individual sub-districts and make complementary efforts in their daily work arrangements. Members might contact the TPDO for assistance on details of individual items.
8. Mr. CHAN Cho-leung said that he planned to set up a shared care space at Lam Tsuen Valley

Committee.

9. The Chairman said that the features and strengths of CTs were that they could respond to residents according to the characteristics and needs of different sub-districts. In addition, with short mobilisation time and flexibility, they could respond promptly during an emergency, grasp real-time situation and provide assistance in the shortest possible time. She hoped that the District Council (“DC”) could work more closely with the CTs, and apart from satisfying the basic requirements of residents in the sub-districts, Members were welcome to put forward innovative programmes and work with different CTs in the district to come up with programmes suitable for the sub-districts.

III. Study of topics of concern in the district and collection of views from members of the public (TPDC Paper No. 9/2024)

10. The Chairman said that the functions of the DC included collecting the views of the people in the district in respect of district affairs and topics, and submitting to the Government the suggested corresponding measures. At the last TPDC meeting, Members agreed that the DC should collect views from members of the public on “For the project to construct a carriageway in conjunction with Kwong Fuk Bridge, what suggestions members of the public had regarding the improvement of the pavement on and facilities along the banks on both sides of Lam Tsuen River?” To enable Members to have a better understanding of the background information of the said project, the Secretariat had arranged for the TD and Highways Department to brief Members on details of the project and its latest progress on 26 January 2024.

11. Mr. WU Cheuk-him said that as one of his election platforms was to enhance both sides of Lam Tsuen River, he had collected views from quite a number of members of the public. Some of them had reflected to him their wish to level or re-surface the existing uneven surfaces of jogging trails and cycle tracks, add horticultural features and different types of flowers to planters, and provide additional sitting-out facilities and covered pavilions. In addition, he hoped that a carriageway near Kwong Fuk Bridge (“Carriageway”) could be constructed as soon as possible to alleviate traffic congestion in the district.

12. Mr. LAM Yick-kuen said that he had collected views from quite a number of members of the public through daily contacts and his ward office, including that some members of the public hoped that both sides of Lam Tsuen River could be widened for activities such as cycling and jogging. In addition, some wheelchair users reflected that the road surfaces on both sides of Lam Tsuen River were uneven, which could easily cause wear-and-tear to their wheelchair tyres, and suggested that the relevant department should improve the material used for paving the sloped surfaces. Besides, as the traffic in rural areas would be paralysed when traffic congestion occurred at Po Heung Bridge, the Rural Committees and many village representatives often

expressed their wish that the Government would provide the Carriageway as soon as possible, in the hope of helping to alleviate traffic congestion, especially when large-scale activities were held in the district.

13. Mr. MUI Siu-fung said that he had conducted consultations on the project of the provision of the Carriageway for many years through street counters, questionnaires and daily contacts, and had not received any objections from the public. As such, he hoped that the relevant government departments would take forward the project as soon as possible. Besides, he hoped that the stone railings on both sides of Lam Tsuen River, which had been damaged by heavy rainstorms, could be repaired. Meanwhile, many members of the public also hoped that additional jogging trails could be provided along the riverbanks.

14. Mr. LEE Man-kit said that he had collected views mainly through street counters and in handling calls for assistance from the public. Besides, the recent gradual intake of flats in Fu Tip Estate had increased the traffic flow on Chung Nga Road, and many large vehicles would park there at night, which would easily lead to traffic congestion. As such, he suggested that parking spaces for large vehicles should be provided.

15. The Chairman said that Members could contact the relevant government departments through the TPDO to follow up on district affairs.

16. Mr. MAK Shing-ho, Gary, said that during the consultation period, many members of the public had expressed support to the provision of the Carriageway and hoped that the project could be taken forward as soon as possible to alleviate traffic congestion. He pointed out that pedestrians and cyclists often came into conflict with each other on Kwong Fuk Bridge during morning peak hours, which was not only because pedestrians were walking on the cycle track for the sake of convenience, but also due to the fact that the footpath was covered with bird droppings. As such, he suggested that a cover be provided for that section of the footpath.

17. Mr. YU Chi-wing said that some residents of Kam Shan had reflected that in case emergency rescue vehicles had to enter Kam Shan, rescue operations would be hindered if there was traffic congestion on Kwong Fuk Road. As such, they hoped that the Carriageway would be constructed as soon as possible. Besides, some trade associations had reflected that ever since the completion of Tai Po Centre many years ago and the implementation of road conversion, the pedestrian flow and business activities in the vicinity of Kam Shan had decreased. It was hoped that the situation would be improved upon construction of the Carriageway. In addition, he suggested that the footpaths on both sides of Lam Tsuen River be widened to minimise pedestrian-cyclist conflicts.

18. Mr. CHAN Siu-kuen said that the major organisations in the district did not object to the construction of the Carriageway and hoped that the project could be taken forward as soon as possible.

19. Ms. LOK Siu-luen said that she had collected public views in support of the construction of the Carriageway through street counters, visits and online platforms. Members of the public were of the view that the Carriageway could alleviate traffic congestion in the district and mitigate the burden of roads, but the project needed to be cost-effective. In addition, members of the public also supported the enhancement of both sides of Lam Tsuen River and suggested that one to two additional footbridges should be constructed to facilitate travel between the two sides of the river, and that the distance between the footbridges should be even. Meanwhile, both sides of Lam Tsuen River were covered with bird droppings, and some members of the public had reflected the need to step up cleansing.

20. Mr. WAN Koon-kau said that residents of Tai Po Market hoped that the Carriageway would be constructed as soon as possible to alleviate the traffic in the vicinity of Pak Shing Street and Kwong Fuk Road and to drive the shops nearby to regain their prosperity and glory of the good old days. Besides, he suggested that flowering plants be planted on both sides of Lam Tsuen River for public appreciation and attracting visitors to the area.

21. Mr. CHAN Pok-chi said that he had conducted consultations through various channels and the public generally hoped that the Carriageway would be constructed as soon as possible. In addition, some members of the public had suggested that community artworks and display panels should be set up on both sides of Lam Tsuen River, and that public engagement activities (such as guided tours) should be organised on a regular basis.

22. Mr. CHAN Yung-wa said that the Carriageway project had been discussed for years, and hoped that it could be implemented as soon as possible. In addition, he suggested that specific areas on both sides of Lam Tsuen River should be designated for the performance and busking by street performers over a specific period of time.

23. The Chairman said that the issue of the lack of performance venues in Tai Po District had existed for years, and the TPDO had a grasp of the situation. The TPDC had retrofitted a vacant secondary school premises into Tai Po Arts Centre (“TPAC”) under the “Signature Project Scheme”. Since the opening of TPAC in 2019, the TPDO had carried out upgrading works for it on an ongoing basis, including the demolition of its external wall facing Lam Tsuen River to combine with a wide pavement, with a view to creating a larger public space. At present, Hong Kong Arts Development Council, the operator of TPAC, was considering arranging for street performances to be included in the regular performance programme, which would not only promote the TPAC, but also provide a smaller and more casual performance venue in Tai Po

District to bring about performances of different styles. In addition, small and medium sized venues, including Black Box and White Box which could accommodate an audience of some 200 people, were available in the TPAC. Local performing groups were welcome to stage their performances there.

24. Ms. LEE Sai-yin, Jeanne, said that she had collected views through regular contacts with the public, and members of the public were in support of the expeditious construction of the Carriageway to provide an alternative route for emergency rescue vehicles to drive to the vicinity of Pak Shing Street. Given the urgency of the project, she hoped that it would be taken forward for priority implementation and completed as soon as possible.

25. Ms. CHAN Kin-kwan said that she had collected public views in support of the construction of the Carriageway through street counters. In addition, some members of public had reflected that the riverside of Lam Tsuen River was a major leisure and strolling spot for residents. At present, some ground surfaces there were uneven, and there was insufficient lighting at night, which were prone to accidents. As such, she suggested that the lighting along the riverside should be adjusted. As Lam Tsuen River was relatively long, she suggested that additional sitting-out facilities should be provided and emergency help-lines should be set up to protect public safety.

26. Mr. LI Yiu-ban said that in the event of a traffic accident or congestion on Kwong Fuk Road, it would cause traffic tailback to Yan Hing Street. As such, shop operators nearby hoped that the Carriageway, which would connect directly with Tolo Highway to urban areas, would be constructed as soon as possible. At present, there were quite a number of sitting-out facilities and benches along both sides of Lam Tsuen River, but they were often soiled with bird droppings. Driving egrets away would be an offence, and the setting up of covers might affect the landscape, so careful consideration should be given to how to solve the problems.

27. Mr. LO Hiu-fung said that the Carriageway had generally received support from Tai Po residents. During the collection of views, some members of the public were concerned about the commencement date and construction period of the project, as well as the extent of its affected area. He hoped that the relevant departments would take forward the works as soon as possible, publicise relevant information or shorten the construction period by means of prefabrication, so as to minimise the impact on nearby residents.

28. Ms. WONG Pik-kiu said that she hoped that the Carriageway could be constructed as soon as possible to solve traffic congestion in Tai Po. In the past, the DC had suggested relocating Yan Hing Street Refuse Collection Point (“RCP”) and the metered parking spaces there, and converting them into a multi-storey car park, which could not only solve the problem of insufficient parking spaces in Tai Po Market, but also facilitate visitors to park their vehicles and visit the district, thereby boosting the economy. In addition, there were designated bicycle

parking spaces on both sides of Lam Tsuen River at present, but the utilisation rate was relatively low. As such, she suggested converting them into motorcycle parking spaces.

29. Mr. LEE Hon-cheung said that he had collected public views through home visits and street counters, and hoped that the Carriageway would be constructed as soon as possible. Some members of the public suggested that the bridges across Lam Tsuen River should be beautified by means of building projection, and consideration could be given to tie in with different festivals or government publicity.

30. Mr. LI Yiu-ban opined that the area of Yan Hing Street RCP was not sufficient for conversion into a multi-storey car park.

31. The Chairman responded as follows:

- (i) The functions of the DC were to collect the views of the people in the district in respect of district affairs and topics, and to submit to the Government the suggested corresponding measures. When problems and areas for improvement were identified in the district, Members who were familiar with the situation in the district and had different backgrounds and connections should submit specific proposals to the DC or the relevant government departments.
- (ii) It was clearly reflected from the consolidation of speeches made by Members just now that residents, shop operators and motorists supported the expeditious implementation of the construction of the Carriageway. She hoped that Members would continue to collect views and compile a summary of views before the next meeting for overall discussion at the next TPDC meeting. The Secretariat would collect the summaries of views compiled by Members collectively in early April.
- (iii) Members had raised the issue of bird droppings on both sides of Lam Tsuen River. At present, there were quite a lot of seats on both sides of Lam Tsuen River, some of which were covered. Nearly a hundred seats had been installed within the three kilometres from Kwong Fuk Bridge to Tai Po Waterfront Park, and the provision of additional covers might affect the landscape. In addition, consideration would also need to be given to the cover design, such as incorporating artistic elements or designing different road sections with different themes. She invited Members to provide concrete views in this regard and collect views along this direction to bring about substantial assistance in taking forward the project.
- (iv) As there were a cycle track and a footpath on one side of Lam Tsuen River, it was believed that pedestrian-cyclist conflict would occur on the other side where there was no cycle track. As such, cyclists should be encouraged to use the cycle track. As space along the riverbanks were limited, more specific and detailed proposals were required if cycle tracks were to be provided on both sides of the river or if

footpaths were to be widened as suggested by Members. There was also a need for more specific proposals on the improvement of landscaping on both sides of Lam Tsuen River for beautification purposes. As the banks of Lam Tsuen River were very long, Members should provide specific locations or photographs when proposing improvements to make their suggestions more specific and clear.

- (v) As facilities such as the TPAC and Tai Po Tung Cheong Street Leisure Building were also located on both sides of Lam Tsuen River, and there was a small area for parking bicycles near Kwong Fuk Bridge towards Fu Shin Street, Members could link up the said facilities mentioned above in their improvement proposals and take into account the public's daily habit of using district facilities. She invited Members to consolidate their views before the next meeting, and the Secretariat would liaise with Members in early April to discuss and follow up on the relevant matters at the next meeting.

IV. Reports of committees and working groups under the TPDC

(TPDC Paper No. 10/2024)

District Facilities and Works Committee

32. Ms. WONG Pik-kiu reported that the first meeting in 2024 of the District Facilities and Works Committee was held on 9 January 2024. She said that some members of the public had reflected their views on the unevenness of road surfaces through the "Meet-the-Public Scheme" ("Scheme"). She had asked the Secretariat to collect the relevant views from Members after the meeting for follow up at the next meeting. Members noted the contents of the report.

Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee

33. Mr. CHAN Siu-kuen reported that the first meeting in 2024 of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee was held on 9 January 2024, and the discussions on major items were set out in the paper. Members noted the contents of the report.

Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee

34. Mr. CHAN Cho-leung reported that the first meeting in 2024 of the Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee was held on 10 January 2024, and the discussions on major items were set out in the paper. Members noted the contents of the report.

Traffic and Transport Committee

35. Mr. LI Yiu-ban reported that first meeting in 2024 of the Traffic and Transport Committee was held on 10 January 2024, and the discussions on major items were set out in the paper. Members noted the contents of the report.

Social Welfare, Housing and Development Planning Committee

36. Mr. LO Hiu-fung reported that the first meeting in 2024 of the Social Welfare, Housing and Development Planning Committee was held on 11 January 2024, and the discussions on major items were set out in the paper. Members noted the contents of the report.

Working Group on Boosting Local Economy

37. Mr. LAM Yick-kuen reported that the first meeting in 2024 of the Working Group on Boosting Local Economy (“WG”) was held on 10 January 2024, and the discussions on major items were set out in the paper. Members noted the contents of the report.

38. Mr. LEE Hon-cheung said that some members of the public had written declarations of love on the big screen of “Wish for You Bazaar” and hoped to take photos of them, but the light-coloured background of the screen had rendered the results unsatisfactory. He suggested that the colour of the background of the big screen should be slightly darkened for the remaining two days of “Wish for You Bazaar”.

39. Mr. LAM Yick-kuen suggested that the number of planters at Lam Tsuen River right outside the TPDO could be reduced so as to widen the space for organising activities.

40. The Chairman said that “Wish for You Bazaar” was well received by the community, and some Members had also suggested to her that the venue could be extended to the pavement in the periphery. The pavement outside TPAC was under the management of TPDO, which would explore the feasibility of the suggestion if necessary. The event was organised with resources provided by the HAD. As this year marked the 75th anniversary of the National Day, the WG could conceive more activities to boost the local economy in conjunction with various large-scale activities in the district (such as the Dragon Boat Race and Tin Hau Festival), regardless of whether resources would be provided by the HAD.

41. Mr. WU Cheuk-him said that “Wish for You Bazaar” had attracted large number of visitors, and residents of Fortune Plaza and Tai Po Centre Blocks 3, 4 and 5 were supportive of organising more activities but they hoped that the volume of large PA systems or loudspeakers could be

controlled.

42. The Chairman said that the impact on nearby residents had already been discussed during the preparatory stage of the event. The venues for holding activities at TPAC were divided into two directions, namely, the directions facing Fortune Plaza and Tai Wo Road respectively. Street performances were mainly held in the direction of Tai Wo Road, while activities with softer sound waves (e.g. recorder performances) were arranged to be held in the direction of Fortune Plaza. In this connection, it was hoped that Members could provide specific suggestions and follow up with TPAC to adjust the arrangements, such as arranging workshops that would not create noise or adjusting the time of the events at the venue in the direction of Fortune Plaza. In addition, as the event had attracted a large number of visitors and stimulated consumer spending, some shop operators hoped that similar events could be held in daytime. She asked the WG to discuss and advise on the effectiveness of organising daytime events in boosting the economy in future.

43. Mr. LEE Man-kit suggested that the lighting decorations hanging from the trees should be retained for the public to “check in” after the event, and that the TPAC organise different thematic activities, such as coffee and tea festivals to attract visitors in future.

44. The Chairman said that the TPDO also intended to retain the lighting decorations within the TPAC to tie in with the lighting decorations and national flag and regional flag installations in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the National Day at a later time, but consideration had to be given to the timing of lighting up the decorations so as to achieve the effect of attracting visitors. Drawing on the experiences gained from the event, one might explore to organise activities with different characteristics at TPAC on a regular basis to enhance the knowledge of the public on TPAC and provide them with incentives to visit the TPAC. The matter would be referred to the WG for discussion.

45. Mr. LAM Yick-kuen said that some shops nearby were anticipating that the TPAC could organise more activities to boost the local economy, such as beer and food festivals. The WG would discuss in this regard.

46. The Chairman said that the project in question could increase the flow of people in the town centre of Tai Po and was worthy of being jointly conceived by nearby shops. It did not necessarily have to be led by the Government in staging an event at a particular place, but to work together and take an active part in the organisation of the event by contributing resources or dovetailing it. She cited as an example that if a food festival was to be organised, apart from the outdoor catering services provided by the TPAC, different food premises in the town centre of Tai Po could also jointly participate in order to enhance the scale and attractiveness of the festival. The function and effectiveness of the WG could be better demonstrated if the shops nearby could take the initiative and actively participate in the activities. It was hoped that Members could contact the shops through their own networks, and consideration could be given to adopting the

mode of co-operation as in the case of “Tai Po Lung Mei Beach Festival”. In addition, if the activities organised by the TPAC could also take into account of its intrinsic positioning by incorporating arts elements into the projects instead of simply using the venue, it would yield additional benefits to the activities.

47. Mr. MUI Siu-fung said that the two events, particularly the additional evening sessions of “Lam Tsuen Wishing Night Bazaar”, had won the praises of many people, and hoped that the Night Bazaar would continue to be held during the Lunar New Year in future. He also supported the organisation of activities to boost the local economy at TPAC on a regular basis, but not necessarily on a nightly basis as this would render the activities lacking in innovative ideas.

48. Mr. CHAN Siu-kuen said that the activities for boosting the local economy were very outstanding and had received applause from various sectors. He suggested contacting district arts practitioners by making use of networks to perform in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the National Day.

49. Mr. WAN Koon-kau opined that “Wish for You Bazaar” at TPAC should start from the 28th day of the 12th lunar month to dovetail with the Lunar New Year Fair, and “Lam Tsuen Wishing Night Bazaar” should start from the Lunar New Year’s Day, which would be more ideal.

50. The Chairman thanked Members for their concerted efforts in organising the projects for boosting the local economy, including identifying volunteers and participating merchants. She also thanked various government departments for their collaboration to dovetail with the events. The experience in organising the event reflected that apart from the need to carefully select the location of the event and to devise gimmicks and selling points, an event that was in line with the characteristics of the district could establish an important positioning for the project. It would be very easy to keep replicating successes, but this would make the events less appealing. The WG should bear this in mind as an important thinking direction.

V. Latest progress of “Meet-the-Public Scheme”

(TPDC Paper No. 11/2024)

51. The Secretary went through TPDC Paper No. 11/2024.

52. Ms. WONG Pik-kiu said that there had been media reports that only seven members of the public had participated in the eight sessions of the Scheme held in Tai Po District. She pointed out that members of the public would like Members to help resolve their problems immediately and would not wait until the weekly meeting time. Members of the public were generally very busy at 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays during dinner time. She asked whether Members could have the flexibility to be on duty, say, to meet the public during daytime on Wednesdays.

53. Ms. Jeanne LEE said that she had been on duty as scheduled under the Scheme to listen to the views of the public and address their difficulties. A member of the public had mentioned at the meeting that he had to work during daytime on weekdays and the Scheme enabled him to express his views to Members. In addition, some members of the public commended the efforts made by the departments concerned in tackling the problem of shop front extension leading to street obstructions at Four Lanes, which had yielded satisfactory results and kept the city clean.

54. Mr. CHAN Tsz-kin said that he would be on duty the following day and had been promoting the Scheme on social media platforms for two days, posting information on the Scheme outside his ward office and promoting it at street counters. He suggested that all Members could promote the Scheme.

55. The Chairman responded as follows:

- (i) The Scheme would not come into conflict with the daily work of Members and they would continue to meet the public at their ward offices. The effectiveness of the Scheme would not be measured by figures alone, and the small number of participants might indicate that members of the public had already been able to reach Members through their ward offices. The reason for the HAD to set the meeting time as 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays for the Scheme was that Members' ward offices were mainly open during daytime and some members of the public could only return to their districts of residence after work and seek assistance from their respective Members. There were many different channels through which members of the public could contact Members. If they wished to contact Members outside the hours of the Scheme, contact information of Members could be obtained from the DC website.
- (ii) Under the leadership of the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration and through inter-departmental collaboration, the environment of Four Lanes had been significantly improved.
- (iii) Members of the public could pass their views to Members at their ward offices, street counters or through the Scheme. The main thrust of the Scheme was that Members would be on duty at the DC office from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays to enable the public to express their views by appointments or walk-in. As this was a new arrangement, it took time to enhance awareness. Members could publicise the Scheme through their network so that members of the public could make better use of the Scheme as they become more familiar with it.

56. Mr. MUI Siu-fung suggested that information on the Scheme should be posted on DC Notice Boards to enhance awareness.

57. The Chairman said that the Secretariat would follow up on it promptly, and thanked Members for their support to the Scheme.

(Post-meeting note: Information on the Scheme had been posted on a total of ten DC Notice Boards in the district in mid-March.)

VI. Any other business

58. Members did not raise other business.

VII. Date of next meeting

59. The next meeting would be held at 9:30 a.m. on 7 May 2024 (Tuesday).

60. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Tai Po District Council Secretariat
March 2024