

Summary of the Minutes of the 7th Meeting of the Tsuen Wan District Council

The 7th Meeting of the Tsuen Wan District Council (TWDC) was held on 27 November 2012. The major issues discussed were summarised as follows:

Visit of Director of Social Welfare to Tsuen Wan District Council

2. The Director of Social Welfare briefed Members on the Social Welfare Department (SWD)'s work and district collaboration. Members in general appreciated the SWD's collaboration with district stakeholders and expressed their concerns over youth problem, short of local domestic helpers, daytime child-minding service, dental service for the elderly, manpower of private elderly homes, Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged, Old Age Allowance and Disability Allowance, etc. The Director of Social Welfare elaborated on the Government's elderly policy of "ageing in place as the core, institutional care as back-up" and a Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly to be launched in 2013/14 to encourage "ageing in place". He further responded to Members' recommendations and the SWD would implement multi-pronged measures to resolve the elderly problem.

Visit of Postmaster General to Tsuen Wan District Council

3. The Postmaster General introduced the Hongkong Post (HKPost)'s scope of business, postal facilities in Tsuen Wan district and partnership with local community. Members praised for the HKPost's diversified and caring postal services and commented on areas covering its business objectives, delivery of mail services, mechanism of "No Circular Mail" Opt-out Sticker Scheme, standardisation of village letter box, enhancement of mobile phone application and conversion of serving non-civil service contract staff into civil servant. The Postmaster General duly responded to Members' opinions and the HKPost would capitalise on the flexibility of operating as a trading fund to provide convenient and reliable postal and ancillary services to meet market demand.

Visit of Director of the Hong Kong Observatory to Tsuen Wan District Council

4. The Director of the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) introduced meteorological data and facilities in Tsuen Wan district, Community Weather Information Network and the HKO's services. Members praised the HKO for its accurate weather forecast and expressed their views and recommendations. The Director of the HKO duly responded.

Request for Strengthening Action to Combat Street Prostitution Problem

5. The District Commander (Tsuen Wan) of the Hong Kong Police Force stated that the Police would accord top priority to tackle street prostitution and “one prostitute apartment” problems in Tsuen Wan and elaborated on the multi-pronged approach in addressing the problem in the long run, including high profile uniformed patrol, strengthened enforcement by police decoy operation and joint operation with government departments. Members expressed their concerns over street prostitution and its extension from downtown to public housing estates, neon signs or advertisement boards of foot massage shops with prostitution activities, statistics on number of prostitutes under arrest and total number of “one prostitute apartments”, manipulation by triad society, on-call sexual services at hotels in Tsuen Wan, covert operation and repatriation against two-way permit holders in breach of conditions of stay, flats altered and operated as vice establishments and how to prevent deported prostitutes from re-entering Hong Kong. Regarding residential flats altered as vice establishments, the District Lands Officer (Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing) of the Lands Department (LandsD) responded that the LandsD would examine terms and conditions of the title deed to confirm whether the subject premises could be used for commercial purpose and take appropriate action and refer to the Police in case of any breach of title deed. The District Commander (Tsuen Wan) responded that coordinated and round-the-clock enforcement actions would be mounted, relevant statistics could be provided for Members’ information and problems about neon signs and advertisement signboards of vice establishments, provision of sexual services at hotels and triad society’s involvement in manipulating “one prostitute apartments” would be closely monitored. He welcomed Members to provide locations of public housing estates involving prostitution activities for police investigation. In the event that any flats operating as vice establishments involved unauthorised building structures, the Police would refer the cases to the Buildings Department (BD) for follow up, whereas the Immigration Department would keep photos of persons involved in prostitution in Hong Kong in its database for future identification purpose and forbidding them to re-enter the territory.

The Work of Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section, Development Bureau

6. The Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section under Development Bureau (DEVB) gave Members a brief account of its work and greening policy, as well as work focus of its Greening and Landscape Office and Tree Management Office and an e-book version of the “Tree and Landscape Map” series was available at the DEVB’s Greening website, online application store and public libraries. Members raised concerns over prolonged time needed for handling problematic trees, greening coverage ratio in urban areas, Tree Register, Greening Master Plan for Tsuen Wan and greening issues in the district. The DEVB elaborated on its greening and tree management mechanism and was committed to enhancing the mechanism in collaboration with relevant government departments.

Strongly Request the Transport Department to Relocate the Current 238M and 38A Bus Stops at Ma Tau Pa Road to Appropriate Location so as to Maintain Original Frequency of Bus Service and Protect Rights and Interests of Residents in the Hoi Bun Area

7. Members put forward their opinions on the captioned issue. In response, the Transport Department (TD) illustrated the rationale of the location of 238M and 38A bus stops and Members' recommendations would be duly considered subject to the traffic conditions upon completion of the installation of traffic signal system at Wang Lung Street pedestrian crossing. The TD was requested to look closely into the issue and the Traffic and Transport Committee would follow up.

Objection to Change of Land Use to Hotel Use for Ground Floor (part) and Second Floor (part) of Shopping Arcade, Phase 1, Allway Garden

8. Members indicated their worries over adverse impact of the proposed change of land use of the shopping arcade of Allway Garden on local residents. Representatives of the Planning Department (PlanD), BD and Home Affairs Department (HAD) elaborated processing procedures of the subject proposal and responded to Members' concerns. The motion "1. Objection to Change of Land Use to Hotel Use for Any Portion of the Shopping Arcade of Allway Garden. 2. The Town Planning Board Should Respect the Original Planning of Allway Garden as Pure Residential Area and the Will of Local Residents so as to Safeguard Residents' Continual Use of All Convenience Services Provided by the Shopping Arcade under its Original Planning and Avoid Making Any New Planning or Planning Amendment to Worsen the Transport, Environmental and Law and Order Situation" was unanimously endorsed. The motion would be referred to the PlanD, BD, HAD and Town Planning Board.

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat

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