

Summary of the Minutes of the 8th Meeting of the Tsuen Wan District Council

The 8th Meeting of the Tsuen Wan District Council (TWDC) was held on 29 January 2013. The major issues discussed were summarised as follows:

Signature Project Scheme; Issue about Replanning of Sai Lau Kok Garden; Propose to Utilise the “Highlight Works” Funding Allocated to District Councils in 2013 Policy Address to Comprehensively Optimise and Improve “Tsuen Wan Waterfront Promenade”

2. The Chief Executive announced on 16 January 2013 in the Policy Address to enhance the District Administration Scheme by introducing the Signature Project Scheme (SPS) and a one-off allocation of \$100 million would be earmarked for each district to support District Councils in implementing SPS projects. The District Officer (Tsuen Wan) briefed Members on key points of the SPS and stressed that the SPS was aimed at addressing the needs of local citizens. Members supported the two proposals of replanning Sai Lau Kok Garden and improving Tsuen Wan Waterfront Promenade as both of the proposals had been discussed by the TWDC for a long time and were regarded as effective in catering for actual needs of the district. Besides, Members expressed their views on the SPS and considered that the timeframe for submission of SPS proposals to the Home Affairs Department (HAD) by end March was too tight and urged the HAD to fine-tune SPS arrangements to facilitate better deliberation of the TWDC. Members unanimously endorsed to set up a “Tsuen Wan District Signature Project Scheme Task Force” to follow up SPS issues and that TWDC Chairman would serve as Convenor of the Task Force. Members were welcome to submit SPS proposals to the Task Force for further discussion.

Sham Tseng Reclamation Issue

3. Members expressed strong objection against any reclamation plan in Sham Tseng and urged the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) to duly consider views of Members and local residents and permanently shelve the reclamation plan in Sham Tseng. The CEDD explained the reclamation policy and stated that five potential reclamation sites at Lantau North, Lung Kwu Tan in Tuen Mun, Tsing Yi Southwest and Ma Liu Shui were identified in the 2013 Policy Address and the Government would not undertake reclamation study at Sham Tseng or other places at the present stage. The CEDD would brief relevant District Councils latest progress of reclamation proposals at the five locations during the Stage 2 Public Engagement on Enhancing Land Supply Strategy.

Urge the Government to Issue New Free Television Licences As Soon As Possible to Introduce Healthy Competition and Expand Room for Creativity

4. Written replies in relation to the captioned issue from the Chief Executive’s Office, Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) and Communications Authority were

tabled. Members expressed their discontent with relevant government departments for not assigning representatives to attend the meeting and their written replies failing to duly respond to Members' concerns. Members' views on the subject matter would be conveyed to the CEDB.

Strongly Request to Promptly Resolve the Nuisance Caused by Monkeys at Shing Mun Country Park, Tsuen Wan

5. Members urged the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) to attach great importance to tackling the nuisance caused by monkeys in the district and put forth their concerns and recommendations. The AFCD elaborated on its measures to tackle the problem such as providing demonstration on how to handle nuisance caused by monkeys, prosecuting for unauthorised feeding of wild monkeys, conducting surgical sterilisation for monkeys on a regular basis, and providing a direct hotline for areas severely affected by monkey nuisance to facilitate immediate follow up action by the AFCD. The Housing Department responded that a briefing on how to tackle nuisance by monkeys had been arranged for estate management staff and notices were posted in housing estates to remind residents not to feed wild monkeys. The Hong Kong Police Force (Police) would look into individual circumstances of any case in which someone assaulted or killed a monkey to decide whether legal action would be appropriate, whereas anyone hunting or willingly disturbing wild animals would be liable to a fine of \$100,000 and one year imprisonment under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance. Besides, local citizens were advised to call the Police and not to confront monkeys in case wild monkeys entering their property in the interest of their own safety.

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat
March 2013