

## **Summary of the Minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Tsuen Wan District Council**

The 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Tsuen Wan District Council (TWDC) was held on 27 January 2015. The major issues discussed were summarised as follows:

### **Visit of Director of Highways to Tsuen Wan District Council**

2. The Director of Highways briefed the meeting about the organisation of the Highways Department (HyD) and its work in Tsuen Wan district. Members put forth their views on the implementation of the “Universal Accessibility” Programme such as expanding its scope to cover the rural areas and expediting the implementation of other works projects apart from the three priority projects to be carried out in Tsuen Wan. They also expressed their concern over the necessary improvement to the road conditions, including tackling the water seepage from the flyover section of highway, enhancing the monitoring of pavement reinstatement works carried out by contractors of public utilities, enhancing maintenance and improving water drainage of the roads in rural areas and lighting of the roads. Besides, they raised issues over traffic noise and requested the HyD to adopt more noise mitigation measures such as construction of noise barriers at Tsuen Wan Road and Wo Yi Hop Road. In addition, they enquired about the progress of the widening of Tsuen Wan Road and construction of Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link. The Director of Highways duly responded to Members’ concern and enquiries. He further elaborated the general principles of the “Universal Accessibility” Programme and the way forward after the three priority projects were completed in the district. He also undertook to follow up the improvement measures to road conditions and convey Members’ views on various issues to the parties concerned.

### **Work Plan of Lantau Development**

3. The Development Bureau (DEVB) sought Members’ views on the work plan of Lantau development. Members supported the development of Lantau but expressed concern over the aircraft noise from the Hong Kong Airport which would affect the artificial islands. They opined that there was a need to strike a balance between development needs and conservation in response to the growing awareness of environmental protection of the public. The representatives from the DEVB and Planning Department (PlanD) duly responded to Members’ concern and welcome Members to express their views to the Secretariat of Lantau Development Advisory Committee. A study related to the economic development strategy and market positioning for commercial land uses of Lantau would also be conducted. Moreover, site visits would be arranged for Members and stakeholders who were interested in Lantau development via the district offices.

## **Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme and Regulation of Private Healthcare Facilities**

4. The Food and Health Bureau (FHB) briefed Members on the Consultation Documents on Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme (the Scheme) and Regulation of Private Healthcare Facilities. Members in general expressed their concern over the coverage and popularity of the Scheme as well as the affordability of the elderly and retired persons because the older the insured persons, the higher the premium required. They opined that tax deduction might not be very effective in incentivising the potential insured persons to purchase the plans. Besides, they put forth enquiries on whether the relevant parties would request the government to inject more funding to the High Risk Pool or increase the premium infinitely when there was financial crisis; whether a cap on the administration fee charged to the plans could be imposed; and how the government could prevent the private firms such as the insurance companies from overcharging and earning huge profits from the Scheme. Also, it was considered appropriate for the complaint management system recommended in the consultation document to run in a one-stop mode of operation. In addition, they reflected the public views that the packages cover surgeries offered by the healthcare service providers were more preferable. The representative from the FHB duly responded to Members' enquiries in detail. It was anticipated that the two bills of the captioned subjects would be introduced to the Legislative Council early next year.

### **Strongly Request for Provision of Roof Cover for Pedestrian Link in the Estate**

5. Two Members raised and discussed the request for the provision of a roof cover for pedestrian link in Lei Muk Shue Estate. Members hoped that a covered footbridge or roof covers for the existing pedestrian crossing facilities could be provided taking into account the elderly residents' needs. They also enquired about the progress of the provision of a roof cover for the bus terminal in Lei Muk Shue Estate. The representative from the Housing Department (HD) responded that the construction works of the roof cover for the bus terminal in Lei Muk Shue Estate was about to complete. After the studies on the provision of roof covers for other sites were completed and approved, the HD would report the relevant details to the Members and parties concerned. The HD was requested to discuss with the Members concerned on the captioned matter after the meeting.

### **Request the Food and Health Bureau to Explain the Two Criteria of Law Enforcement Adopted by One Department**

6. A Member raised and discussed the request to the FHB to explain the two criteria adopted by one department for law enforcement against illegal shop front extension. The representative from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) duly responded to the Member's concern and provided the figures on

inter-departmental joint operations and prosecution against the recycling shop in question as well as the number of notices issued to the shop. To tackle illegal shop front extension, the Home Affairs Department (HAD) would set up an inter-departmental working group steered by the Deputy Director. A pilot scheme was being carried out in Yuen Long and Sham Shui Po and the HAD had briefed the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the 18 district councils on the scheme. At present, the HAD was drawing up the relevant proposals and penalties. The scheme would be implemented in various districts in due course.

**“Strongly Request the Highways Department for Alteration of the Location of the Lift on NF234 Footbridge at Yeung Uk Road so as to Save the Public Fund of \$5 Million”**

7. Two Members raised and discussed the request to the HyD for relocating the lift on NF234 footbridge at Yeung Uk Road so as to save the public fund of \$5 million. The representatives from the Transport Department (TD), HyD and consultancy firm concerned duly responded to Members’ enquiries and explained the details of both original construction works plans and the one proposed by the two Members. It was stressed that road safety, drivers’ sight distance and impact to the pedestrians were the main factors for consideration when drawing up the design for the footbridge. After discussion, the motion was not endorsed with a vote of 2 in favour, 9 against and 3 abstention. The original construction works plan endorsed at the meeting of the Traffic and Transport Committee on 7 July 2014 remained.

**Request the Government to Identify a Provisional Policy to Address the Lunch Problem of the Workers of the Factory Area**

8. Two Members raised and discussed the request to the Government to identify a provisional policy to address the lunch problem of the workers of the factory area as the number of food stalls there decreased. For the benefits of the workers, it was suggested to transfer those licences of the cooked food stalls to the social enterprises for operation if the licensee's spouse failed to succeed the licence. The representative from the FEHD duly responded to Members’ concern and was requested to convey Members’ views to the Headquarters of FEHD.