

(Translation)

Minutes of the 7th Meeting of
Environmental and Health Affairs Committee (5/16-17)

Date : 5 January 2017 (Thursday)

Time : 2:40 p.m.

Venue : Main Conference Room, Tsuen Wan District Office

Present:

Members

Mr CHOW Ping-tim (Chairman)
Mr CHENG Chit-pun (Vice Chairman)
Mr TIEN Puk-sun, Michael, BBS, JP
Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris
Mr LI Hung-por
Ms LAM, Lam Nixie
Mr LAM Faat-kang, MH
Mr CHAN Sung-ip, MH
Mr WONG Ka-wa
Mr KOT Siu-yuen
Mr CHUNG Wai-ping, SBS, MH
Mr LO Siu-kit
Mr TAM Hoi-pong

Co-opted Members

Mr LAM Kwok-on
Mr LAM Fook-chuen
Ms CHOW Chin-tung
Mr TSE Wing-hong

Government Representatives

Mr CHONG Kong-sang, Patrick

Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan),
Tsuen Wan District Office

Mr CHAN Kwok-hung

Chief Health Inspector 1, Food and
Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr TAM Ka-lok, Michael

Deputy District Leisure Manager(Tsuen
Wan)3, Leisure and Cultural Services
Department

Mr TAI Moon-kwong, Daniel

Senior Environmental Protection
Officer(Regional West)2,
Environmental Protection Department
Engineer/Tsuen Kwai 2, Kowloon &
New Territories South 2, Drainage
Services Department

Mr CHU Man-kit

Engineer/Tsuen Kwai 1, Kowloon &
New Territories South 2, Drainage
Services Department

Mr TSE Man-hong

Mr TANG Siu-chung

District Engineer/KT, Highways
Department

Mr LI Pui-sang	Contract Project Coordinator/2 (NTW), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr CHENG Chi-hung	Housing Manager/TTI, Housing Department
Mr KONG Tak-shing	Senior Land Executive/Control 2 (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing), Lands Department
Mr YUNG Chi-wai	Senior Inspector of Works, Tsuen Wan District Office
Mr LEE Shing-fai, Henry	Executive Officer (Development), Tsuen Wan District Office

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat
Representatives

Miss LAM Siu-yung, Daisy	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Tsuen Wan District Office
Mr LEE Nelson (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council)1, Tsuen Wan District Office

Attendance by Invitation:

For discussion of items 2A and 2F

Mr WONG Wan-chi, Anbrose	Chief Inspector of Police (Operations 1) (Tsuen Wan), Hong Kong Police Force
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For discussion of item 2C

Mr YU Kam-cheung, Simon	Building Services Engineer/Tsuen Wan, Architectural Services Department
Mr LAI Wai-man	Senior Building Supervisor(Property Management)NT1, Government Property Agency

For discussion of item 3

Mr CHAN Tak-yeung	Chief Engineer/Consultants Management, Water Supplies Department
Mr LEUNG Siu-kau	Senior Engineer/Consultants Management 5, Water Supplies Department
Mr LAO Yin	Electrical Engineer/Projects 12, Water Supplies Department
Mr MAN Ka-leung	Mechanical Engineer/Consultants Management, Water Supplies Department
Mr LEE Chi-kin	Chemist/Treatment 9, Water Supplies Department

Ms Viola CHAN

Senior Public Relations Officer, Ove
Arup & Partners Hong Kong Limited

For discussion of item 4

Mr SZETO Wai-tun

Engineer/NTW (Distribution 1), Water
Supplies Department

Mr KAN Ka-man

Engineer/NTW (Customer Services)
Inspection, Water Supplies Department

For discussion of item 6

Mr KO Po-wai

Senior Health Inspector(Environmental
Hygiene)3/Joint Office, Food and
Environmental Hygiene Department
Professional Officer 1/Joint Office 2,
Buildings Department

Mr LEUNG Chun-wai

Engineer/NTW (Customer Services)
Inspection, Water Supplies Department

Mr KAN Ka-man

Absent:

Members

Mr MAN Yu-ming, MH

Mr KOO Yeung-pong, MH

Ms LAM Yuen-pun, Phyllis

The Hon CHAN Han-pan, Ben, JP

Mr CHAN Chun-chung, Jones

Mr WONG Wai-kit

Co-opted Member

Ms LUI Dik-ming

Action The Meeting

I Opening Remarks and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed the Members and government representatives to the 7th meeting of the Environmental and Health Affairs Committee (EHAC), and introduced:

- (1) Mr TANG Siu-chung, District Engineer/KT, who attended this meeting on behalf of Mr CHONG Kwok-wai from the Highways Department (HyD);
and
- (2) Mr TAM Ka-lok, Michael, Deputy District Leisure Manager(Tsuen Wan)3, who attended this meeting on behalf of Mr AU YEUNG Wai-ming, Arthur from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD).

2. The Chairman said that Mr KOO Yeung-pong, Ms LAM Yuen-pun, Phyllis, the Hon CHAN Han-pan, Ben, Mr CHAN Chun-chung, Jones, Mr WONG Wai-kit and Ms LUI Dik-ming were absent with apologies.

3. The Chairman reminded Members that according to section 15(3) of the Tsuen Wan District Council Standing Orders (the “Standing Orders”), “in the course of a meeting of the Council, all persons attending or sitting in on the meeting at the place of the meeting shall switch off all devices which may emit sound and shall not use any telecommunications devices for conversation” in order to ensure the smooth progress of the meeting.

II Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 6th Meeting held on 3.11.2016

4. The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously confirmed by Members without amendment.

III Item 2: Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

5. The Chairman said that agenda item 2C would be firstly discussed at the request of the departments concerned.

(C) Paragraph 5 to 11 of Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 November 2016: Request to Improve the Environment of the Waiting Area of the Minibus Terminus in Sai Lau Kok Multi-storey Carpark

6. The Chairman welcomed the government representatives who specially joined the meeting, including:

- (1) Mr YU Kam-cheung, Simon, Building Services Engineer/Tsuen Wan (Bldg Services Engr/Tsuen Wan) of the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD); and
- (2) Mr LAI Wai-man, Senior Building Supervisor(Property Management)NT1 (Sr Bldg Supr(Property Mgt)NT1) of the Government Property Agency (GPA).

Besides, the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (FSTB) had submitted a written reply on the captioned matter prior to the meeting for Members’ perusal.

7. The Chairman asked the representative from the ArchSD to report on the latest situation.

8. Bldg Services Engr/Tsuen Wan of the ArchSD reported that the GPA would be responsible for the works concerned. The ArchSD had made the funding application for the works and was currently arranging for the commencement of the works. The works was expected to be completed in January 2017.

9. Sr Bldg Supr(Property Mgt)NT1 of the GPA said that as a more comfortable environment could be provided for the general public after the installation of the fans, the GPA had requested the ArchSD to commence the works as early as possible and would discuss with the relevant departments on the issue of management responsibility for the lobby on the ground floor, with a view to formulating the acceptable proposals.

10. The Chairman said he hoped that the clarification on which department should be held responsible for the location concerned and the title of the whole building would be made as soon as possible. The installation of the fans should have been completed in summer 2016. He was disappointed that it was already winter at present and response was received only after the EHAC sent a letter to the FSTB. He also hoped that the GPA would proactively assist in commencing the improvement works in Sai Lau Kok Multi-storey Carpark in future.

(A) Paragraph 12 to 24 of Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 November 2016: Request Government Departments to Assist in Resolving the Matters Concerning Occupation of Public Area by Metals and Waste Paper Recycling Shops at Tak Wah Street and (F) Paragraph 12 to 24 of Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 November 2016: Strongly Request the Government Departments to Strengthen the Joint Law Enforcement Actions Against the Black Spots of Shop Extensions

11. The Chairman welcomed the government representatives who specially joined the meeting, including:

- (1) Mr WONG Wan-chi, Anbrose, Chief Inspector of Police (Operations 1) (Tsuen Wan) (CIP (OPS 1) (Tsuen Wan)) of the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF);
- (2) Mr CHAN Kwok-hung, Chief Health Inspector 1 (Ch Health Insp 1) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD); and
- (3) Mr KONG Tak-shing, Senior Land Executive/Control 2 (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing) (Sr Land Ex/Control 2) of the District Lands Office (DLO).

12. Ch Health Insp 1 of the FEHD reported that during November and December 2016, besides participating in the three inter-departmental joint operations conducted on a monthly basis, the FEHD had also arranged not less than six inspections and issued 32 Notices to Remove Obstruction during the said period. However, no immediate legal action could be taken due to insufficiency of site evidence. After discussing with the Police and district councillors of the constituencies, the FEHD planned to remove the unclaimed obstacles on the road at the request of the Police under section 32(1) of the Summary Offences Ordinance (Chapter 228), in a bid to institute prosecution immediately against the owner when he/she claimed the articles from the FEHD. As the joint operation conducted in such form would be put on trial for the first time, it was decided after negotiation that the recyclers at Hau Tei Square would be selected as the targets of the joint operation on trial. The joint operation would be extended to cover the recycling shops at Tak Wah Street if the trial run deemed to be successful.

13. The views, enquiries and suggestions of Mr LO Siu-kit and the Chairman were summarised as follows:

- (1) it was discussed with the FEHD and the Police earlier on the new measures to resolve the problem of shop extensions. It was hoped that the recyclers

which were under frequent complaints at Hau Tei Square would be selected as the targets of the joint operation on trial and that the joint operation would be extended to cover the recycling shops at Tak Wah Street shortly; and

- (2) it was puzzled by the selection of Hau Tei Square as a trial site. It was opined that the problem of occupation of public area at Tak Wah Street was expected to be resolved through the matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting. Thus, enquiry was raised on the reasons for the selection of Hau Tei Square as the trial site, instead of conducting the joint operation in Hau Tei Square and Tak Wah Street at the same time.

(Note: Mr TAM Hoi-pong joined the meeting at 2:40 p.m. Mr TIEN Puk-sun, Michael joined the meeting at 2:42 p.m.)

14. Ch Health Insp 1 of the FEHD responded that in order to catch up with the demand on manpower and resources for the joint operation on trial in such form which was conducted for the first time, the FEHD proposed that the joint operation on trial could be conducted at a location which was under frequent complaints and easier to handle. The FEHD would extend the joint operation to cover the recycling shops at Tak Wah Street shortly after the trial run deemed to be successful.

15. The views, enquiries and suggestions of the Chairman were summarised as follows:

- (1) he was dissatisfied with the departments' failure to select the location stated in the captioned agenda item as the trial site; and
- (2) the Lands Department (LandsD) had successfully driven away the people and removed the articles which occupied the area of the Central Government Offices successfully by invoking the ordinance. In this connection, he raised an enquiry on the details of the arrangements made for the clearance operation and whether such arrangements were coordinated by the LandsD or the Police. Reference could be drawn from the situation of the Central Government Offices as it was similar to the problem of occupation of public area at Tak Wah Street.

16. Sr Land Ex/Control 2 of the DLO responded as follows:

- (1) in general, the DLO would take two steps to handle the said situation. First, the articles such as tents would be regarded as unauthorised structures. Second, if the unauthorised structures were found on the government land, the DLO would conduct clearance by invoking the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance. If the government land was occupied due to the activities such as demonstrations, the DLO would, having regard to the individual circumstances, seek advice from the Department of Justice before making decision on taking further actions;

- (2) the approach taken in the above case might not be applicable to the general cases of occupation of government land; and
- (3) the relevant ordinances and approaches to handling the cases would be provided after the meeting.

(Note: Ms LAM, Lam Nixie joined the meeting at 2:50 p.m.)

17. The views, enquiries and suggestions of Mr TIEN Puk-sun, Michael were summarised as follows:

- (1) he enquired about the implementation of the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance and hoped that the re-occupation of the road surface by the shops after the joint operations could be resolved under this Ordinance;
- (2) he enquired about the improvements made for the black spots of shop extensions after the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance came into effect;
- (3) he suggested that the FEHD should conduct ambush operations after the joint operations and institute prosecution immediately against the shops which placed the obstacles on the road again; and
- (4) he enquired whether the FEHD could take law enforcement actions according to the relevant laws and regulations, so as to eradicate the problem of shop extensions.

18. Ch Health Insp 1 of the FEHD responded as follows:

- (1) the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance was applicable to any place with sufficient evidence for prosecution;
- (2) the FEHD issued a total of 192 Fixed Penalty Notices from 24 September 2016 to 4 January 2017;
- (3) prosecution could not be instituted because the obstacles at Tak Wah Street were unclaimed. The FEHD could only conduct clearance after attaching a notice and waiting for four hours. Hence, the FEHD had discussed with the district councillors of the constituencies and the Police on adoption of an approach on a trial basis through pressing the owner to claim the articles by section 32(1) of the Summary Offences Ordinance (Chapter 228) and then the FEHD could immediately institute prosecution against the owner according to the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance;
- (4) after the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance came into effect, the situation of shop extensions was improved. The FEHD would continue to conduct law enforcement in order to resolve the problem of shop extensions;
- (5) regarding a Member's view on instituting prosecution against shop extensions by ambush, it would be difficult for the FEHD to deploy resources because it was uncertain about the time of placement of the

obstacles by the shops. Furthermore, the FEHD should take into consideration the factors including whether the location of placement caused street obstruction, the width of the road at the scene and the pedestrian flow when instituting prosecution against the on-street articles placed by the shops. Also, as the shops were legally allowed to give reasonable excuses, there were difficulties in adducing evidence; and

- (6) the FEHD considered that section 32(1) of the Summary Offences Ordinance (Chapter 228) invoked by the FEHD in collaboration with the Police was a feasible solution to address the captioned problem.

19. The Chairman said that the captioned matters (A) and (F) under the item of matters arising would be jointly discussed because they fell within the same scope.

20. Ch Health Insp 1 of the FEHD added that a total of 192 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued from the day of implementation of the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance (the Ordinance) on 24 September 2016 to 4 January 2017, of which 38 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued in the places including Chuen Lung Street, San Tsuen Street, Ho Pui Street and Yi Pei Square under the District-led Actions Scheme and the remaining 154 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued in other places in Tsuen Wan including Lo Tak Court, Tai Ho Road, Tak Fat Street, Tak Hoi Street, Ham Tin Street, Tso Kung Square, Heung Wo Street, Tai Pa Street, Sha Tsui Road and Chung On Street. After the Ordinance came into effect, the problem of shop extensions in Tsuen Wan district was significantly improved. The FEHD would continue to take law enforcement actions in different places in Tsuen Wan district, so as to resolve the problem of shop extensions.

21. The Chairman thought it was unacceptable that the FEHD needed to consider manpower arrangement and had to work in collaboration with the Police at the trial site and conduct a review before addressing the issue of shop extensions at Tak Wah Street. The Police could, during their daily patrols, invoke section 32(1) of the Summary Offences Ordinance (Chapter 228) and request the FEHD to clear the obstacles. He opined that manpower deployment was not a reason for failure to handle shop extensions daily.

22. CIP (OPS 1) (Tsuen Wan) of the HKPF responded that the HKPF would only intervene in handling shop extensions under three circumstances and the handling of shop extensions was not the priority duty of the HKPF. The police officers conducted patrols in order to maintain law and order, prevent crimes and safeguard life and property of the general public. The deployment of police officers to handle the problem of shop extensions would lead to a reduction in manpower for prevention of crimes. Hence, the HKPF would only assign its staff to support the staff of the FEHD in the joint operations and prevent obstruction or injury when they carried out the law enforcement work.

(Note: Mr WONG Ka-wa joined the meeting at 3:00 p.m.)

23. The Chairman said that only the Police could promptly resolve shop extensions at present and they just needed to inform the FEHD to arrange for removing the obstacles after the problem of shop extensions was found during patrol. He did not understand why the Police conducted the non-priority operations including the large-scale prosecution against illegal parking and jaywalking on one hand but said that the handling of shop extensions was not a priority duty on the other.

24. CIP (OPS 1) (Tsuen Wan) of the HKPF responded that only the HKPF could take law enforcement actions against traffic obstruction or jaywalking. Hence, the HKPF should address the said offences and the said operations were carried out over the territory.

25. The Chairman said he hoped that the departments would respect the agenda items proposed by the EHAC. The EHAC would also write to the relevant authorities to express its views as and when necessary. Although it was learnt from the Police's response that the pilot scheme proposed by Members might not be effective, the review could only be conducted after the completion of the pilot scheme for the time being. Besides, he expressed dissatisfaction at the failure to select the location stated in the captioned agenda item as the trial site.

26. Mr LO Siu-kit said that the captioned agenda item had been discussed in the EHAC for years. Despite having made a request to cancel the joint operations which were ineffective, he was pleased to note that the Police and the FEHD would take the new enforcement operation on a trial basis in a bid to resolve shop extensions. As the departments concerned were unsuccessful in the lawsuit relating to street obstructions caused by retractable advertising banners, he hoped that the departments would succeed in the trial run and could resolve the shop extensions at Tak Wah Street shortly. Besides, the publicity had been conducted in Chuen Lung Street, San Tsuen Street and Ho Pui Street. He hoped that the FEHD and the Police would enhance the resources before the Lunar New Year, so that the said locations would be kept clear from shop extensions as in previous years.

(B) Paragraph 27 to 29 of Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 November 2016: Request for Taking Operation against the Easy-mount Frames on the Two Bridges of Fou Wah Centre, Citistore and Chung On Street

27. The Chairman asked Ch Health Insp 1 of the FEHD to report on the follow-up work taken by the FEHD on the obstructions caused by the easy-mount frames on the two bridges of Fou Wah Centre and Citistore as well as the walkway in Chung On Street.

28. Ch Health Insp 1 of the FEHD reported that during November and December 2016, the FEHD had conducted law enforcement work through taking surprise operations and manning at the scene from time to time at the bridges outside Fou Wah Centre and Tsuen Fung Centre and around the walkway in Chung On Street, so as to combat the obstructions caused by the retractable advertising banners. During the said period, three Fixed Penalty Notices were issued at Chung On Street, one Fixed Penalty Notice was issued at the bridge outside Tsuen Fung Centre and 31 retractable advertising banners were removed from Chung On Street.

(D) Paragraph 30 to 35 of Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 November 2016: Strongly Request the Marine Department and Environmental Protection Department to Stop the Contractors of the Gin Drinkers Bay Public Cargo Working Area from Making Noise Nuisance whilst Operation in order to Safeguard a Quiet Living Environment in the Waterfront Area of Tsuen Wan

29. The Chairman welcomed Mr TAI Moon-kwong, Daniel, Senior Environmental Protection Officer(Regional West)2 (Sr Env Protection Offr(Regional W)2) of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) who specially joined the meeting. Besides, the Marine Department had submitted a written reply on the captioned matter prior to the meeting for Members' perusal.

30. Sr Env Protection Offr(Regional W)2 of the EPD reported as follows:

- (1) the EPD would continue to assess the noise level of the Public Cargo Working Area (PCWA) concerned whilst operation on a regular basis and the noise level of the PCWA taken on the rooftop of Hoi Sing Mansion, Riviera Gardens at around 11:30 a.m. on 1 November 2016 was 70 dB. Moreover, the noise level of the PCWA taken on the platform of Hoi Sing Mansion, Riviera Gardens at around 11:00 a.m. on 9 December 2016 was 66 dB. The results showed that the noise levels above had not exceeded the noise standards under the Noise Control Ordinance; and
- (2) the EPD continued to conduct inspections for the berths in question after the last meeting and monitor the implementation of the noise abatement measures. In the regular inspections conducted in the past two months, the EPD had never found any operator which dumped scrap iron from the tipper onto the ground directly.

31. The Chairman said that the EHAC would continue to monitor the captioned agenda item.

(E) Paragraph 36 to 41 of Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 November 2016: Strongly Request the District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing to Specify the Requirement of Provision of Professional Consultancy Report on Environmental and Traffic Assessment by the Successful Tenderer in the Tender for the Grant of the Temporary Allocated Area in the Proposal in question, with a view to Ensuring that the Living of Residents of the Housing Estates Nearby would not be Adversely Affected due to the Grant of the Site, and Request the Departments to Review the District Consultation Mechanism of Grant of Sites, under which Communication and Cooperation with District Council and Members should be an Integral Part in future

32. The Chairman said that as this agenda item was raised by him, the Vice Chairman would take over the chair temporarily.

33. The Acting Chairman welcomed Mr KONG Tak-shing, Sr Land Ex/Control 2 of the DLO who specially joined the meeting and asked him to report on the latest situation.

34. Sr Land Ex/Control 2 of the DLO reported that the DLO was in active liaison with the EPD currently and would consider adding the appropriate regulations in the conditions of the short term tenancy (STT) agreement after completing the study on the views collected.

35. Mr CHOW Ping-tim enquired about the regulations which would be added in the Conditions of Grants by the DLO as well as the timetable and details of the relevant consultation.

36. Sr Land Ex/Control 2 of the DLO responded that the DLO was still seeking advice from the EPD for the STT before processing the STT and the DLO was not informed of any progress by the EPD.

37. The Chairman resumed the chair.

(G) Paragraph 45 to 48 of Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 November 2016: Strongly Request for Paying Serious Attention to and Addressing the Refuse Accumulation Problem at Lo Tak Court Carpark and Returning a “Clean and Quiet” Community to the Residents

38. The Chairman asked Ch Health Insp 1 of the FEHD to report on the latest situation.

39. Ch Health Insp 1 of the FEHD said that the Tsuen Wan District Environmental Hygiene Office would continue to carry out the inspections and enforcement work at Lo Tak Court carpark and the current situation was improved significantly. The FEHD would continue to conduct the said operations.

40. The Chairman said that the EHAC would continue to discuss the captioned agenda item under the matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

(H) Paragraph 49 to 52 of Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 November 2016: Request the Departments Concerned to Pay Serious Attention to the Environmental Hygiene Problems under the Flyover at Tsuen Wan Road near Clague Garden Estate

41. The Chairman said that the DLO had submitted a written reply on the captioned matter prior to the meeting for Members' perusal and asked Sr Land Ex/Control 2 of the DLO to report on the latest situation.

42. Sr Land Ex/Control 2 of the DLO reported that the contractors of the DLO had completed the clearance of weeds and fallen leaves at the location concerned in mid-December 2016. Also, the relevant photos were enclosed with the written reply which was submitted before the meeting for Members' reference.

43. The Chairman said that the EHAC would continue to discuss the captioned agenda item under the matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

(I) Paragraph 53 to 60 of Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 November 2016: Follow-up Report on the Effectiveness of the Installation of Large Plastic Sheets in Prevention of Odour at Tai Ho Road, Tai Chung Road and Ma Tau Pa Road by Drainage Services Department

44. The Chairman welcomed Mr TSE Man-hong, Engineer/Tsuen Kwai 1, Kowloon & New Territories South 2 and Mr CHU Man-kit, Engineer/Tsuen Kwai 2, Kowloon & New Territories South 2 of the Drainage Services Department (DSD) who specially joined the meeting. Besides, the DSD had submitted a written reply on the captioned matter prior to the meeting for Members' perusal and the representatives of the DSD were asked to report on the latest situation.

45. Engineer/Tsuen Kwai 2, Kowloon & New Territories South 2 of the DSD reported that the large plastic sheets were installed at the box culverts of Ma Tau Pa Road, Tai Ho Road and Tai Chung Road by the DSD, with a view to preventing the residents nearby from being affected by the odour. The DSD would continue to conduct monitoring and assessment at the three locations concerned regularly and arrange for cleansing work as and where necessary.

(J) Paragraph 67 to 73 of Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 November 2016: Strongly Request the Drainage Services Department to Implement the Works for Covering the Nullah at Chiu Tam Path As Soon As Possible

46. The Chairman said that the DSD had submitted a written reply on the captioned matter prior to the meeting for Members' perusal and asked the representatives of the DSD to report on the latest situation

47. Engineer/Tsuen Kwai 1, Kowloon & New Territories South 2 of the DSD reported that the DSD proposed selecting one of the box culvert outlets at the location concerned as a trial site for installation of the large plastic sheets and would continue to strengthen the inspections and cleansing work, with a view to reducing the probability of emission of odour at the location concerned.

48. Mr LI Hung-por said he hoped that the DSD would illustrate the difficulties in separating the captioned works for covering the nullah from the construction project of the ecological park of the LCSD at the next meeting.

49. The Chairman said he hoped that the department would submit clear colour documents for Members' reference in future.

(K) Paragraph 74 to 81 of Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 November 2016: Request the Highways Department to Explain the Reasons in Detail for Implementation of the Strengthening Works for the Blocks on Footpaths by Application of Glue Without Conducting any Consultation and How the Repair and Maintenance of the Footpaths in Tsuen Wan District were Enhanced and Improved so as to Further Ensure the Safety of the General Public

50. The Chairman said that as this agenda item was raised by him, the Vice Chairman would take over the chair temporarily.

51. The Acting Chairman said that the HyD had submitted a written reply on the captioned matter prior to the meeting for Members' perusal and invited Members to raise enquiries.

52. The views, enquiries and suggestions of Mr CHOW Ping-tim and Mr TAM Hoi-pong were summarised as follows:

- (1) the appearance of the road surface was improved. It was hoped that the HyD would ensure the works quality and reinstatement of the road surface when conducting the works in future;
- (2) enquiry was raised on the effectiveness of the application of glue among the blocks on footpaths and whether this was the policy of the HyD; and
- (3) as the glue applied among the blocks on footpaths would be washed all over the road by stormwater, it was hoped that the HyD would review whether the works concerned should be carried out.

53. District Engineer/KT of the HyD responded that as the works concerned was taken up by the colleagues of the Repair Section, he would relay Members' views to the relevant colleagues for follow-up actions.

54. The Acting Chairman said he hoped that the HyD would provide the locations of the works of application of glue among the blocks on footpaths which would be conducted in future for Members' reference.

55. The Chairman resumed the chair.

(Note: Mr CHAN Sung-ip left the meeting at 4:00 p.m.)

IV Item 3: PWP No. 9363 WF Upgrading of Disinfection Facilities in Water Treatment Works

(EHAC Paper No. 58/16-17)

56. The Chairman welcomed the representatives from the department and consultant company who specially joined the meeting, including:

- (1) Mr CHAN Tak-yeung, Chief Engineer/Consultants Management (Ch Engr/Consultants Mgt) of the Water Supplies Department (WSD);
- (2) Mr LEUNG Siu-kau, Senior Engineer/Consultants Management 5 of the WSD;
- (3) Mr LAO Yin, Electrical Engineer/Projects 12 of the WSD;
- (4) Mr MAN Ka-leung, Mechanical Engineer/Consultants Management of the WSD;
- (5) Mr LEE Chi-kin, Chemist/Treatment 9 of the WSD; and
- (6) Ms Viola CHAN, Senior Public Relations Officer of Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Limited.

57. Ch Engr/Consultants Mgt of the WSD introduced the paper.

(Note: Mr LI Hung-por left the meeting at 4:15 p.m.)

58. The views, enquiries and suggestions of Mr WONG Ka-wa, Mr TIEN Puk-sun, Michael, Mr LI Hung-por, Mr TAM Hoi-pong, Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris and Mr CHENG Chit-pun were summarised as follows:

- (1) support was given to the use of advanced facilities in the water treatment works, with a view to reducing the risks of transportation and storage of liquid chlorine;
- (2) as the roads near the water treatment works were relatively narrow and in close proximity to the residential areas, it was suggested that the WSD should solicit views from the relevant village chiefs as early as possible;
- (3) enquiry was raised on how the WSD would handle the waste produced from the generation of chlorine gas at the water treatment works and address the impacts on the environment and ecology nearby; and the risks or disadvantages of the project concerned, for example, whether it would emit odour like that given off in swimming pools;
- (4) according to the Harris Report published in the United States in 1974, people who consumed drinking water, which was chlorinated and contained trihalomethane, would be prone to developing cancer, compared to those who consumed well water. Ozone or ultraviolet radiation had been used as a disinfecting medium in most of the water treatment works in Europe,

Japan and North America for years to reduce pollution and bacteria in drinking water. However, the WSD still used the relatively dated technologies which were no longer adopted by the advanced countries. Therefore, it was suggested that the WSD should, by taking the opportunity followed by the rising costs of importation of liquid chlorine from China, update the technologies of disinfection of drinking water and replace the existing technologies which were more dangerous and might pose health risk, instead of allocating more resources to upgrade the outdated equipment;

- (5) enquiry was raised on the cost difference between the construction of a new water treatment works and the captioned project;
- (6) the WSD was requested to make a cost comparison between the captioned project and the methods of disinfection using ozone or ultraviolet radiation;
- (7) it was opined that the risk arising from the transportation of liquid chlorine could be reduced by the production of chlorine gas self-sufficiently at the water treatment works;
- (8) the findings of the current study indicated that the use of chlorine gas in disinfection of drinking water should be minimised in order to reduce the risk of developing cancer among the general public. It was hoped that the WSD would follow the trend and adopt the more advanced water treatment technologies;
- (9) it was enquired whether the WSD had evaluated the costs of different disinfection technologies using chlorine gas, ozone and ultraviolet radiation;
- (10) the WSD should adopt safer technologies in the supply of drinking water to members of the public and the information provided by the WSD at present was not sufficient to gain Members' support on the captioned project. It was hoped that the WSD would provide more information on the advantages of using chlorine gas for disinfection of drinking water, so that Members would consider that it was appropriate for the continued use of chlorine gas;
- (11) each technology had limitations. The project proposed by the WSD could not only reduce the risk associated with the transportation of liquid chlorine at present, but also could generate by-products with potential use such as hydrogen. Thus, it was considered that this project would bring benefits;
- (12) it was concerned about whether the costs would be changed and the electricity consumption would be increased upon completion of the project;
- (13) it was opined that there was no reason to raise objection against this project which could eliminate the risks of transportation and storage of chlorine gas as well as improving the living environment nearby;
- (14) it was opined that the WSD should explore to adopt other new water treatment technologies; and
- (15) the roads in the vicinity of Yau Kom Tau Water Treatment Works were very

narrow and bendy, making the transportation of liquid chlorine extremely dangerous. Hence, priority should be accorded to replacing the use of liquid chlorine at Yau Kom Tau Water Treatment Works.

59. Ch Engr/Consultants Mgt of the WSD responded as follows:
- (1) the WSD had solicited views from Tsuen Wan Rural Committee and the village representatives of the nearby villages of Tsuen Wan Water Treatment Works and Yau Kom Tau Water Treatment Works on 21 December 2016, and explained to them that the main objective of the project was to improve the current situation. Where the standards of disinfection of drinking water remained unchanged, the risks of storage and transportation of liquid chlorine would be eliminated and safer operation would be achieved;
 - (2) as some brine used in the generation of chlorine gas was non-reusable, it should be processed before discharge. Given that the composition of the depleted brine was comparable to that of seawater for flushing by the general public daily, upon discussion with the DSD, the depleted brine would be delivered to the sewage treatment works for processing around twice monthly;
 - (3) the swimming pools were installed with the facilities to generate sodium hypochlorite. The swimming pools smelled of chlorine gas because the concentration of chlorine in the pool water should be maintained at a certain level for a long time so as to maintain the effectiveness in disinfection. On the other hand, chlorine gas would be generated directly for disinfection of drinking water in Tsuen Wan Water Treatment Works and Yau Kom Tau Water Treatment Works;
 - (4) sodium hypochlorite would also be produced at some designated water treatment works outside Tsuen Wan district and would be transported to four small water treatment works for disinfection of drinking water once weekly;
 - (5) as drinking water would pass through the service reservoirs and longer water supply ducts before reaching the consumers, the use of chlorine gas was necessary in order to maintain an appropriate amount of residual chlorine in the water supply systems and achieve the effectiveness in disinfection;
 - (6) an investment of \$880 million was required for upgrading the disinfection facilities in 11 local major water treatment works and Tai Lam Chung No. 2 Chlorination Station under the captioned project. The unit production cost of this project was comparable to that of the liquid chlorine system at present. After deduction of the investment cost of \$880 million, the operating costs of the chlorine generation facilities would be lower than that of the existing system;
 - (7) the generation of chlorine gas would produce a small amount of hydrogen simultaneously. The hydrogen would be diluted to below 1% concentration in the water treatment works before discharge according to

the international standards, so as to eliminate the flammable and explosive risks of hydrogen. As hydrogen was lighter than air, it would rise to the atmosphere rapidly and would not cause any impact on the environment and human health;

- (8) as the use of the chlorine generation facilities would lead to a rising electricity demand in the plant, the WSD would upgrade the electrical system as and when necessary; and
- (9) having noted the conditions of the roads in the vicinity of Yau Kom Tau Water Treatment Works, the WSD would consider giving priority to conducting the works of upgrading the disinfection facilities in Yau Kom Tau Water Treatment Works, with a view to reducing the risk of transportation of liquid chlorine as soon as possible.

60. Chemist/Treatment 9 of the WSD responded as follows:

- (1) chlorine gas and sodium hypochlorite solution were at present the most commonly used disinfectants for drinking water worldwide. Taking the United States as an example, chlorine gas was used as the disinfectant for over 90% of drinking water and sodium hypochlorite came second. In Europe and countries such as Canada, Japan and Australia, chlorine gas and sodium hypochlorite also served as the major disinfectants;
- (2) the disinfection facilities using ozone had already been installed in a number of more advanced water treatment works. Consideration would also be given to provision of disinfection facilities using ozone or ultraviolet radiation in the future water treatment works;
- (3) although ozone could be used for disinfection of drinking water, it was not as effective as chlorine gas which achieved a long-lasting disinfection effect in the water supply systems. Therefore, it was a worldwide and local practice in Hong Kong that an appropriate amount of chlorine gas would be added in drinking water, with a view to preventing bacterial growth in the ducts of drinking water supply. The technologies similar to that of the captioned project were also adopted by other places such as the United States, Japan and Singapore; and
- (4) trihalomethane might only be generated when chlorine gas was mixed with excessive organic materials in raw water. The WSD had all along been conducting regular examination of drinking water according to the guidelines of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and displayed the results of examination of drinking water on its website. The results showed that the trihalomethane content in local drinking water was below the standards set out by the WHO and did not exceed the standards.

61. The views, enquiries and suggestions of Mr TIEN Puk-sun, Michael, Mr WONG Ka-wa, Mr TAM Hoi-pong, Mr CHUNG Wai-ping and Mr CHENG Chit-pun were summarised as follows:

- (1) it was hoped that when making funding application to the Legislative Council, the WSD would give a clear explanation of the operation guidelines of the water treatment works in Hong Kong and which countries' practices were drawn as reference;
- (2) given that ozone would be used as the major disinfectant in the water treatment works in future, it was enquired why over \$800 million had to be spent on doing away with the importation of liquid chlorine at present but chlorine gas would still be used as the major disinfectant;
- (3) it was worried that the use of high voltage electricity would be required due to the rising electricity consumption by the works and that specific areas of the water treatment works might be closed as necessary because the works would cause hazards to the residents nearby;
- (4) it was suggested that the WSD should study how to improve the treatment plant, with a view to reducing or completely avoiding the use of chlorine gas for disinfection of drinking water;
- (5) it was enquired as to why ozone was only adopted in some water treatment works but not the water treatment works under this project;
- (6) it was agreed that the project was conducive to reducing the risk posed on the residents nearby by the transportation of liquid chlorine;
- (7) some villagers were worried that the works concerned would cause nuisance because the water treatment works was in close proximity to the residential areas. Thus, it was suggested that the WSD should apply the most suitable and cost-effective technologies in future, so that members of the public would not have to worry about developing cancer and facing other safety risks; and
- (8) enquiry was raised on the reasons for not using ozone as the major disinfectant in the water treatment works and its limitations; and whether the project cost of \$880 million covered the upgrading works for the water treatment works in other districts.

62. Ch Engr/Consultants Mgt of the WSD responded as follows:

- (1) the WSD selected the most suitable facilities and systems for disinfection of drinking water for Hong Kong by drawing reference from the technologies and experiences of other counties;
- (2) the project cost of \$880 million was the total amount of investment for upgrading the disinfection facilities in 11 local major water treatment works and Tai Lam Chung No. 2 Chlorination Station;
- (3) the daily operating costs upon completion of the works would be lower than that of the current system using liquid chlorine. The unit production costs would be comparable after the depreciation of the new facilities was calculated;
- (4) due to the long-distance transportation, the existing operation mode generated more carbon emissions and caused more negative impacts on the environment;

- (5) the project proposed by the WSD did not only reduce the operating costs, but also eliminated the risks of transportation and storage of liquid chlorine, in order to ensure the community safety; and
 - (6) as the works would only be undertaken within the boundaries of the water treatment works, it would neither cause any impact on the residents nearby nor pose any risk on the surrounding environment.
63. Chemist/Treatment 9 of the WSD responded as follows:
- (1) most of the advanced countries would not use one single disinfection technology of drinking water and ozonation was currently not the mainstream technology for disinfection of drinking water in the world. The quality of the source of drinking water should be firstly taken into consideration before decision was made as to which disinfection technology of drinking water should be adopted;
 - (2) although ozonation was a more advanced technology, ozone would dissipate immediately after achieving disinfection in drinking water. Therefore, a small quantity of chlorine gas generating a residual effect should be applied so as to prevent bacterial growth in drinking water in the service reservoirs and along the water supply ducts. The WSD would ensure that the chlorine gas in use conformed to the WHO's guidelines, so as to prevent proliferation of bacteria in the water mains; and
 - (3) the results of examination of drinking water would be displayed on the WSD's website on a regular basis.
64. The views, enquiries and suggestions of Mr TIEN Puk-sun, Michael, Mr CHUNG Wai-ping and the Chairman were summarised as follows:
- (1) it was enquired why the WSD did not give consideration to switch to the use of ozone and chlorine gas still served as the major disinfectant of drinking water in the two water treatment works in Tsuen Wan, while ozone was used as the major disinfectant in the two local water treatment works;
 - (2) some people from Yau Kam Tau Village raised objection against the captioned project;
 - (3) it was enquired whether there was room for downward adjustment of the water charges after completion of the project;
 - (4) the WSD did not have any plan to switch to the use of ozone in the two water treatment works in Tsuen Wan. It was enquired whether it was due to the need for construction of new plants or facilities, or consideration was given to the substantial increase in the costs, or the failure to upgrade the disinfection technologies by making use of even more funding under the existing constraints; and
 - (5) it was hoped that the WSD would make a comparison between the costs of the captioned project and those of other disinfection technologies of drinking water after the meeting.

65. Ch Engr/Consultants Mgt of the WSD responded as follows:
- (1) the WSD had adopted ozonation for disinfection of drinking water in the detailed study and design for the new water treatment works such as Ngau Tam Mei Water Treatment Works and Tai Po Water Treatment Works. New facilities could not be installed in the existing water treatment works due to the environmental limitations or the spatial constraints inside the plants;
 - (2) the main objective of the captioned project was to reduce the risk of using liquid chlorine in the existing water treatment works. Should these water treatment works switched to use ozone as the major disinfectant, the water supply services would probably be affected under such drastic changes; and
 - (3) a comprehensive study on the feasibility of construction of new disinfection facilities using ozone for all the existing water treatment works should be conducted in the first place.

66. The Chairman hoped that the WSD would explain in depth the benefits and importance of the project to individual members of the local community again. The EHAC raised no objection to the project but Mr TIEN Puk-sun, Michael had reservations about the project. The WSD was requested to make a comparison between the costs of the project and those of other disinfection technologies of drinking water after the meeting.

V Item 4: Request for Conducting a Comprehensive Review on the Fresh Water Pipes Installed in Villages without Compliance of Requirements and Making Rectifications As Soon As Possible
(EHAC Paper No. 59/16-17)

67. The Chairman said that the captioned paper was submitted by Mr TIEN Puk-sun, Michael and Mr CHENG Chit-pun, and welcomed Mr SZETO Wai-tun, Engineer/NTW (Distribution 1) (Engr/NTW (Distribution 1)) and Mr KAN Ka-man, Engineer/NTW (Customer Services) Inspection (Engr/NTW (Customer Services) Inspection) of the WSD who specially joined the meeting.

68. Mr TIEN Puk-sun, Michael and Mr CHENG Chit-pun introduced the paper.

69. Engr/NTW (Distribution 1) of the WSD responded that the Leak Detection Unit of the WSD would conduct inspections on the Government's major pipelines every 18 months on a cyclical basis. After identifying leakage and other problems during inspections, the WSD would make referrals to its regional offices for follow-up actions. However, the WSD was unable to provide a breakdown of the problem cases by categories because classification was not made for such cases which were found during inspections.

70. Engr/NTW (Customer Services) Inspection of the WSD responded that the private water pipes and associated water supply systems were mainly handled by the Customer Services Division of the WSD. Upon receiving complaint on the water pipes in villages (e.g. damage, leakage or pollution of a supply), the WSD would assign its staff to conduct the follow-up work and inspections. If a private water pipe was under complaint, the WSD would issue a notice to the registered consumer according to the Waterworks Ordinance for engaging a licensed plumber to make repairs within a specified time frame. The registered consumer should report to the WSD for further inspection after repairs were made. The Customer Services Division of the WSD mainly received cases reported by the representatives from the local communities, building management offices and occupants as well as public complaints referred by the Integrated Call Centre. The WSD would assign its staff to conduct inspections at the locations as mentioned in the captioned paper, so as to learn more about the situation before giving views.

(Note: Ms LAM, Lam Nixie left the meeting at 5:00 p.m.)

71. The views, enquiries and suggestions of Mr TIEN Puk-sun, Michael, Mr WONG Ka-wa and Mr CHENG Chit-pun were summarised as follows:

- (1) the WSD was requested to make clarification on whether the locations as mentioned in the captioned paper were government land. If yes, the department should be held accountable for failure to execute its duties;
- (2) dissatisfaction was expressed at the WSD's failure to provide the time of the last inspections conducted at the locations concerned and the number of non-compliances;
- (3) the WSD was requested to provide the records and results of the last inspections, including those of Sham Tseng, as well as the number of warning letters issued;
- (4) enquiry was raised on the time frame for completion of repair as required in the notice issued to the consumer; the penalties for the consumer's failure to complete the repair within the time frame; and the number of improved cases after the notices were issued by the WSD in Tsuen Wan district;
- (5) it was opined that the WSD's practice of taking follow-up actions only after receipt of complaint was unsatisfactory. It was hoped that the WSD would proactively conduct a comprehensive review on the fresh water pipes installed in villages without compliance of requirements; and
- (6) enquiry was raised on which department was responsible for handling the problem of water pipes on private lands and how the problem would be solved.

72. Engr/NTW (Customer Services) Inspection of the WSD responded as follows:

- (1) only the Government's major pipelines were covered in the WSD's inspection which was conducted every 18 months. Nevertheless, the WSD would carry out the in-depth follow up work on the water pipes in the

locations concerned in the captioned paper and arrange for an inspection after the meeting to find out whether these were the Government's water pipes;

- (2) according to section 16 of the Waterworks Ordinance, the time frame for making repairs as stated in the notice issued to the registered consumer of the water supply systems was generally within seven to 21 days, subject to the severity and complexity of the case. The WSD would further issue another notice to the registered consumer as a reminder if the repair was not completed within the time frame. Should the situation persisted, the WSD would disconnect the water supply to the registered consumer concerned;
- (3) most leakage problems associated with private water pipes were not complicated. The repairs in most of the cases followed up by the WSD in the past could be completed; and
- (4) currently, the WSD did not have a routine practice of inspecting private water pipes on a regular basis and Members' views were noted.

73. Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan) (ADO) of the Tsuen Wan District Office (TWDO) responded that as the waterworks were involved, the TWDO would refer the cases to the WSD for follow-ups after receiving the complaints on fresh water pipes.

74. Engineer/Tsuen Kwai 2, Kowloon & New Territories South 2 of the DSD responded that the DSD would refer the cases to the WSD for follow-ups after receiving the complaints on fresh water pipes.

75. The Chairman suggested that Members should conduct an on-site inspection at the locations concerned with the staff of the WSD, so as to clarify whether the existing situation had violated the regulations and these locations could be selected as trial sites. He hoped that by doing so, the similar situations in other villages in Tsuen Wan could be solved as well. Also, he hoped that the WSD would conduct the investigation proactively after receiving the complaints from Members at this meeting. The EHAC would continue to discuss the captioned agenda item under the matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

76. Engr/NTW (Customer Services) Inspection of the WSD responded that the staff of the WSD would conduct inspection in the locations concerned after the meeting.

VI Item 5: Procedure on Minor Environmental Improvement Programme in 2017/18
(EHAC Paper No. 60/16-17)

77. The Secretary introduced the paper.

78. The EHAC approved the procedure on Minor Environmental Improvement Programme in 2017/18.

79. The Chairman said that the site visit for assessment of the project priorities would be held in the morning on 16 February 2017 and Members were invited to schedule for and join the site visit that day.

VII Item 6: Work Report on Environmental Hygiene in Tsuen Wan District
(EHAC Paper No. 61/16-17)

80. The Chairman welcomed the government representatives who specially joined the meeting, including:

- (1) Mr KO Po-wai, Senior Health Inspector(Environmental Hygiene)³ of the Joint Office (JO)/FEHD;
- (2) Mr LEUNG Chun-wai, Professional Officer 1 (Professional Offr 1/Joint Office 2) of the JO/BD; and
- (3) Mr KAN Ka-man, Engr/NTW (Customer Services) Inspection of the WSD.

81. The Chairman asked the representatives from the JO to report on the latest situation of handling the water seepage in buildings in the district.

82. Professional Offr 1/Joint Office 2 of the JO/BD reported as follows:

- (1) as at the end of November 2016, the JO had received a total of 2 248 reports on water seepage in Tsuen Wan district, in which 1 527 cases were processed. Among the processed cases, 588 cases were screened out and 939 cases were concluded. Among the concluded cases, the water seepage ceased during investigation amounted to 174 cases; the source of water seepage was identified for 486 cases; and the source of water seepage could not be identified for 279 cases. The JO had instituted prosecution for six cases; and
- (2) if the staff of the JO were rejected from entering and inspecting the flat concerned during investigation, the JO would apply to the court for a “Warrant to Effect Entry into Premises” under the law so as to enter the flat to carry out investigation and testing. The JO had issued a total of 35 “Notices of Intention to Apply for Warrant of Entry”, and applied to the Tsuen Wan Magistrates’ Courts for “Warrant to Effect Entry into Premises” for 12 cases among all.

83. The Chairman said he was pleased to note that the investigation figures were improved and would continue to monitor the situation concerned.

84. Ch Health Insp 1 of the FEHD introduced the Work Report on Environmental Hygiene in Tsuen Wan District.

85. Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris enquired about the follow-ups or operations carried out by the FEHD on the problem of dog fouling in Tsing Lung Tau and Sham Tseng areas.

86. Ch Health Insp 1 of the FEHD responded that during October and November 2016, the FEHD assigned its plainclothes officers to conduct a total of four irregular inspections in the morning, the afternoon and the evening in the locations which were more popular for dog walks, including Sham Tsz Street in Sham Tseng, the vicinity of the Garden Company Limited, Rhine Garden, Bellagio Mall, Sham Tseng Catholic Primary School and the walkway off Lido Garden. The FEHD also conducted a survey on the number of citizens who walked their dogs. There were 30 to 60 citizens who walked their dogs in the morning and the afternoon respectively and 80 to 100 citizens in the evening. The FEHD would continue to deploy its plainclothes officers to conduct the inspections in different time slots.

87. Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris said he was satisfied with the practical actions taken by the FEHD to handle and resolve the problem of dog fouling. Although no prosecution figure was recorded for the time being, he believed that the FEHD would continue to carry out the said operations and that prosecution against the offenders would be successful in the near future.

88. The Chairman said he recognised the FEHD's practical actions taken on the problem of dog fouling.

VIII Item 7: Work Report on Environmental Pollution Control in Tsuen Wan District (October to November 2016)
(EHAC Paper No. 62/16-17)

89. Sr Env Protection Offr(Regional W)2 of the EPD reported the EPD's work on environmental pollution control.

90. Mr LAM Faat-kang said that the noise level was very close to 70 dB as shown in the Noise Monitoring Result of MTR Tsuen Wan Depot of the EPD. He suggested that the EPD should request the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) to enhance the noise abatement measures and lower the noise level, so that the EPD was not required to take noise measurement so frequently.

91. Sr Env Protection Offr(Regional W)2 of the EPD responded that the EPD had all along been monitoring the noise level of MTR Tsuen Wan Depot and submitted the report to the EHAC on a bimonthly basis. Currently, the data showed that the noise level of MTR Tsuen Wan Depot had not exceeded the relevant standards. The MTRCL had taken the measures such as adopting the lubrication system, switching off the air-conditioning system on the depot-bound trains, reducing the speed of the depot-bound trains in the evening and avoiding the use of the relatively curved tracks on both sides after 11 p.m. as far as possible. The data revealed that the noise level was improved. The EPD suggested that the representatives from the MTRCL should be invited to explain the measures taken by the MTRCL directly to the EHAC when necessary.

92. The Chairman said that the EHAC would invite the representatives of the MTRCL to attend the next EHAC meeting.

IX Item 8: Progress Report on Minor Environmental Improvement Programme and Maintenance Projects in 2016/17

(EHAC Paper No. 63/16-17)

93. Senior Inspector of Works (Sr Insp of Works) of the TWDO briefed Members on the progress of the projects and said that regarding the new project item 7 (Provision of a Fitness Equipment at Waterfront Promenade near Hoi On Road Lamp Post DC0041, Tsuen Wan), the original tender was rejected because the tender prices greatly exceeded the estimated cost. A retender was conducted after some parts of the works were streamlined and revised. Although the retender prices were still higher than the estimated cost, the excessive rate dropped from 80% to 60% against the estimated cost. Sr Insp of Works of the TWDO said after this project was accepted in an excessive rate of tender price, it was estimated that the balance of funds was still sufficient for the implementation of other minor environmental improvement projects as set out in the list of projects (phase I) under the Minor Environmental Improvement Programme.

94. The views, enquiries and suggestions of the Chairman were summarised as follows:

- (1) similar situation never occurred in the past. Neither was there any mechanism for discussion on the works arrangements in case the tender price exceeded the estimated cost. There was nothing the EHAC could do but only accepted the fact that the project concerned would proceed continuously at present;
- (2) Members' assessment of the projects might vary, subject to the estimated costs. It might give rise to unfairness if a project could still continue despite of exceeding the estimated cost; and
- (3) he hoped that a reasonable line would be drawn up for the Minor Environmental Improvement Programme in 2017/18, so that the works could be terminated as appropriate.

95. ADO of the TWDO responded as follows:

- (1) there were uncertainties in each project. Hence, a buffer of 40% was given in the funding guidelines of the Tsuen Wan District Council (TWDC) to cope with such uncertainties;
- (2) when there was a substantial increase in the estimated cost of a project, the project should be submitted to the EHAC for consideration; and
- (3) the mechanism for handling similar situation was not discussed in the past. He proposed that a study on the relevant mechanism could be conducted in the following year after the said project was approved.

96. The views, enquiries and suggestions of the Chairman, Mr TAM Hoi-pong, Mr WONG Ka-wa and Mr CHUNG Wai-ping were summarised as follows:

- (1) the EHAC did not have sufficient information for consideration and learning about the reasons for the cost overrun. There was nothing the EHAC could do but noted the cost overrun and allowed the project to proceed;
- (2) the project resulting in cost overrun was considered to be unsatisfactory;
- (3) it was suggested that the mechanism for handling cost overruns of the projects in future should be explored at the next meeting; and
- (4) it was agreed that the project should be proceeded continuously without prejudice to the principle of fairness. Also, the mechanism for handling the works arrangements for the tender price which was higher than the estimated cost should be drawn up before the Minor Environmental Improvement Programme was implemented in 2017/18.

97. Sr Insp of Works of the TWDO responded that the TWDO had conducted two tenders; however, the cost still overran probably due to the under-estimation of the project expenditures or the increase in material costs or wages. Moreover, it would be inappropriate to disclose the tender prices for the time being because the tendering process was still underway. As the tender price of the new project item 7 was still higher than the estimated cost by 40%, a report was submitted to the EHAC in accordance with the TWDC's funding guidelines on the District Minor Works Programme (paragraph 8.1.6).

98. The Chairman said he hoped that the project estimates and funding procedures for the following year would be reviewed upon completion of the tendering process.

X Item 9: Application for District Council Funds as regards Traffic Expenses for Site Visits of Minor Environmental Improvement Programme 2017/18
(EHAC Paper No. 64/16-17)

99. The Secretary introduced the paper.

100. The EHAC approved the funding application as follows:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Applicant Organiser/ Co-organiser</u>	<u>Amount Approved (\$)</u>
(1) Site Visits of Minor Environmental Improvement Programme 2017/18	Environmental and Health Affairs Committee	3,500.00

XI Item 10: Application for District Council Funds for Activities Co-organised by Monitoring Group on Environmental Protection and Green Community and Local Organisation

(EHAC Paper No. 65/16-17)

101. The Secretary introduced the paper and said that the Chairman, Mr MAN Yu-ming, Ms LAM Yuen-pun, Phyllis, the Hon CHAN Han-pan, Ben, Mr KOO Yeung-pong, Mr TAM Hoi-pong, Mr WONG Ka-wa, Mr WONG Wai-kit and Mr LAM Kwok-on were the Members of the Monitoring Group on Environmental Protection and Green Community, so as to indicate that they had made declaration of their membership.

102. As the Chairman had made declaration of interest, the Vice Chairman would take over the chair temporarily.

103. The Acting Chairman permitted that the Members who were concurrently the Members of the Monitoring Group on Environmental Protection and Green Community could speak and vote on the matter according to section 48(12) of the Standing Orders, and asked if any Members needed to make declaration of other interest immediately. No Members made declaration of other interest.

104. The EHAC approved the funding application as follows:

	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Applicant Organiser/ Co-organiser</u>	<u>Amount Approved (\$)</u>
(1)	Hong Kong Flower Show 2017 and Game Stalls	HKLSS Jockey Club Riviera Gardens Lutheran Integrated Service Centre	12,000.00

105. The Chairman resumed the chair.

XII Item 11: Work Progress Report of Working Groups under Environmental and Health Affairs Committee

(A) Monitoring Group on Environmental Protection and Green Community

106. The Secretary reported that the Monitoring Group on Environmental Protection and Green Community had held its third meeting on 19 December 2016 and followed up the activity plan and financial budget for the current year. The Monitoring Group approved a funding of \$12,000 which was earmarked for co-organising the “Hong Kong Flower Show 2017 and Game Stalls” with the HKLSS Jockey Club Riviera Gardens Lutheran Integrated Service Centre. This activity would be held in March 2017. A game stall with the theme “Love Blossoms” would be set up at the Hong Kong Flower Show in Victoria Park as organised by the LCSD, with a view to disseminating the message of green lifestyle to the general public through education and entertainment.

(B) Monitoring Group on Public Health and Food Safety

107. The Chairman reported that the “Health Promotional Project 2016” would be held during December 2016 and January 2017. This activity aimed to enhance the concern about the deadly viruses of the century among the residents in Tsuen Wan district and raise their awareness on healthy diet, so as to build a healthy community hand in hand. A total of three activities would be held at the Amphitheatre of Tsuen Wan Park on 7 January 2017, the Pearl Plaza of Lei Muk Shue Estate on 8 January 2017 and the plaza off Block 10 of Riviera Gardens on 14 January 2017.

(C) Task Force on Environmental Pollution and Improvement

108. Mr LO Siu-kit reported that the “Buildings Cleaning Programme in Tsuen Wan District” would be held during December 2016 and January 2017. It was hoped that the living environment of the residents and hygienic condition in the district would be improved by carrying out cleansing work for the public places (including roof tops, light wells and staircases) of about eight private buildings in Tsuen Wan district as proposed by the FEHD. Besides, the “Rear Lane Improvement Works” would be held during December 2016 and January 2017. It was hoped that the importance of maintaining environmental hygiene would be instilled in the residents of Tsuen Wan district by conducting improvement works at the four rear lanes as proposed by the FEHD.

XIII Item 12: Any Other Business

109. The views of Mr KOT Siu-yuen, Mr LAM Faat-kang and Mr CHUNG Wai-ping were summarised as follows:

- (1) some residents reflected that the hygienic condition of the footbridges in Tsuen Wan district was unsatisfactory. It was hoped that the departments concerned would enhance the cleansing work for the footbridges;
- (2) it was hoped that the GPA would promptly clarify the title of the footbridge outside Tsuen Wan Government Offices at Sai Lau Kok Road, so that the responsible departments could clear the cigarette butts accumulated at the footbridge as soon as possible;
- (3) some tiles on the steps of the staircase next to Fou Wah Centre fell off during the installation of nosing under the Minor Environmental Improvement Programme. It was hoped that the Works Section of the TWDO would carry out the follow-up work; and
- (4) it was hoped that the HyD would reserve resources to undertake the beautification works for the road surface at Sha Tsui Road and Chung On Street again after the WSD completed the works at Chung On Street.

110. The Chairman stated that the EHAC would request the Tobacco Control Office of the Department of Health in writing for enhancing the inspections at the footbridge outside Tsuen Wan Government Offices and hoped that the situation would be improved as the GPA had assumed the responsibility of care for the premises. Besides, the EHAC would write to the HyD to make enquiry on the information of the

said footbridge and the timetable of cleansing work. Also, he hoped that the HyD would submit a proposal of beautification works for the road surface. He asked the Works Section of the TWDO to contact Members for the follow-up work on the projects under the Minor Environmental Improvement Programme. Also, he reminded Members to submit paper if they wished to discuss the matters concerned in depth at the EHAC meetings.

(B) Information Papers

111. Members noted the contents of the following information papers:

- (1) Financial Statement of the Funds Allocated to Environmental and Health Affairs Committee as at 16 December 2016
(EHAC Paper No. 66/16-17);
- (2) Odour Prediction Assessment at the Riviera Gardens and Tsuen Wan Slaughter House (October to November 2016)
(EHAC Paper No. 67/16-17, submitted by the EPD);
- (3) Work Report on the Problem of Sea Water Pollution of the Rambler Channel, Tsuen Wan (October to November 2016)
(EHAC Paper No. 68/16-17, submitted by the EPD);
- (4) Noise Monitoring Result of MTR Tsuen Wan Depot (October to November 2016)
(EHAC Paper No. 69/16-17, submitted by the EPD);
- (5) Tsuen Wan District Anti-rodent Campaign 2017 (Phase 1)
(EHAC Paper No. 70/16-17, submitted by the FEHD); and
- (6) Application for District Council Funds Endorsed by Circulation by Environmental and Health Affairs Committee during the period from 19 October to 16 December 2016
(EHAC Paper No. 71/16-17).

XIV End of the Meeting

112. The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting was scheduled at 2:30 p.m. on 2 March 2017 (Thursday) and the deadline for submission of paper was 15 February 2017.

113. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat

15 February 2017