

(Translation)

Minutes of the 12th Meeting of
District Planning, Development and Facilities Management Committee (2/22-23)

Date: 27 June 2022

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Venue: Main Conference Room, Tsuen Wan District Office

Present:

Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio (Chairman)

Mr MAN Yu-ming, MH

Mr WONG Ka-wa

Mr KOT Siu-yuen, MH

Mr LAU Cheuk-yu

In Attendance:

Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly	Chairman, Tsuen Wan District Council
Mr LAI Yik-wing, Wesley	Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan), Tsuen Wan District Office
Miss LAM Siu-yung, Daisy	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Tsuen Wan District Office
Miss LEUNG Tsz-wai, Apple (Secretary)	Executive Officer I (District Council), Tsuen Wan District Office
Miss CHAN Hiu-yuen, Virginia	Executive Assistant (Community Involvement)4, Tsuen Wan District Office
Ms LEE Mei-sheung, Dickie	District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms LIM Merry	Senior Manager (New Territories South) Promotion, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr LEE Wai-man	Senior Librarian (Tsuen Wan), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr NG Kar-shu	Senior Town Planner/Tsuen Wan, Planning Department
Mr CHENG Ho-yin, Henry	Senior Estate Surveyor/Tsuen Wan, Lands Department
Mr FAN Chin-wai, Joseph	Engineer/14 (West), Civil Engineering and Development Department

I Opening Remarks and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed the Chairman of the Tsuen Wan District Council (TWDC), Members and representatives from the government departments to the 12th meeting of the District Planning, Development and Facilities Management Committee (DPDFMC).

2. The Chairman reminded Members of sections 17(1) and 27 of the Tsuen Wan District Council Standing Orders (the “Standing Orders”) that any Member who wished to move a motion or ask any question at a meeting was required to give the Secretary a notice in writing ten clear working days before the meeting. Thus, he reminded Members that the date of the next meeting was 29 August 2022 and the deadline for submission of papers was 12 August 2022. In addition, according to section 28 of the Standing Orders, unless otherwise agreed by the Chairman, Members could speak once on each agenda item at the meeting and each Member could speak up to 1.5 minutes. The Member(s) who had submitted a paper would have 2 minutes to give an introduction and 1 minute to draw a conclusion. The representatives of the departments would have up to 2 minutes to give responses.

II Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 11th Meeting held on 25.4.2022

3. The Chairman said that the Secretariat did not receive any proposed amendment before the meeting. The minutes of the meeting were confirmed without amendment.

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

(A) Paragraphs 4 to 14 of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 April 2022: Exploring Ways to Improve the Late Night Management of Tsuen Wan Park and Its Pet Garden so as to Alleviate the Noise Nuisance to Nearby Residents

4. The Chairman stated that the paper of the captioned matter under the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting was submitted by him. He thus proposed that Mr LAU Cheuk-yu should take over the chair temporarily. Members unanimously agreed to the proposal.

5. The Acting Chairman said that the representatives from the departments responsible for giving responses were:

- (1) Ms LEE Mei-sheung, Dickie, District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan) (DLM(TW)), Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD); and
- (2) Mr LAI Yik-wing, Wesley, Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan) (ADO(TW)), Tsuen Wan District Office (TWDO).

(Note: Mr WONG Ka-wa joined the meeting at 2:32 p.m.)

6. DLM(TW) of the LCSD responded as follows:

- (1) regarding the late-night noise problem caused by people skateboarding

at the pedestrian access in Tsuen Wan Park near City Point, the LCS D had placed decorative planters at the said location since mid-June 2022 and set up a retractable gate to prevent people from gathering between 1:30 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. The public could make use of the access nearby to enter/leave the park. Since the implementation of these measures, the LCS D found that skateboarders no longer gathered at the pedestrian access concerned and the result was satisfactory; and

- (2) as for regulating the opening hours of the Pet Garden, the LCS D had conducted a district consultation through the TWDO and collected views from the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the TWDC, the Chairman of the DPDFMC, the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the West Area Committee and South Area Committee, as well as the Owners' Corporations or Owners' Committees of nearby housing estates. About 80% of the views were in support of closing the Pet Garden between 12:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. At the same time, the LCS D had conducted a survey by sending out online and paper questionnaires to collect views from the public, and had received a total of 550 questionnaires. 44% of the views were in favour of the proposal and 43% against it. The LCS D had an open attitude towards regulating the opening hours of the Pet Garden, and invited Members to express their views.

7. ADO(TW) of the TWDO responded that the TWDO had no plan to construct facilities such as skateboard grounds in the district. The TWDO had previously assisted the LCS D to conduct a district consultation. As for the results of the district consultation, the TWDO had nothing further to add.

8. The views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) he suggested holding a ballot in respect of regulating the opening hours of the Pet Garden to facilitate the LCS D's follow-up (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio); and
- (2) he said that as a resident from the area concerned, he was aware of the noise problem at the aforesaid pedestrian access in Tsuen Wan Park. He also knew that Tsuen Wan Park and its Pet Garden were open 24 hours a day and the entire Tsuen Wan Park was a pet-inclusive venue. If the Pet Garden was to be closed from 12:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m., the public could not enter the Pet Garden and should keep their pets on a leash although they could still enter Tsuen Wan Park within the said period. He asked Members to consider whether regulating the opening hours of the Pet Garden was an effective way to reduce noise (the Acting Chairman).

9. The Acting Chairman proposed holding an open ballot. Members

unanimously agreed to the proposal. The Acting Chairman asked Members to vote on the proposal for closing the Pet Garden between 12:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. The voting result was as follows:

For (1 vote in total)

Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio

Against (3 votes in total)

Mr MAN Yu-ming, Mr WONG Ka-wa and Mr KOT Siu-yuen

Abstention (0 vote in total)

10. The Acting Chairman announced that the proposal was not endorsed, and asked the LCSD to follow up on the matter.

11. Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio said residents of The Pavilia Bay told him that they were often disturbed by noise nuisance from the Pet Garden. The impact was rather significant that some residents even suffered from emotional problems consequently. He opined that the merits and demerits of regulating the closing time of the Pet Garden should be weighed up. It was also debatable whether the loss brought about by the measure to people walking dogs was comparable to the impact of noise nuisance on residents. As the DPDFMC had held a ballot on regulating the closing time of the Pet Garden and made a decision, he respected the voting result and would leave the matter to the residents of The Pavilia Bay to take follow-up actions by themselves.

12. The Chairman resumed the chair.

IV Item 3: Planning Applications (as at 16.6.2022)
(DPDFMC Paper No. 7/22-23)

13. Senior Town Planner/Tsuen Wan of the Planning Department briefed Members on the planning applications vetted by the Town Planning Board (TPB) and those pending vetting by the TPB as at 16 June 2022.

V Item 4: Exploration of How the Skateboard Ground of Kwok Shui Road Park Could Be Improved
(DPDFMC Paper No. 8/22-23)

14. The Chairman stated that the paper of the captioned agenda item was submitted by him. He thus proposed that Mr LAU Cheuk-yu should take over the chair temporarily. Members unanimously agreed to the proposal.

15. The Acting Chairman said that the representative from the department responsible for giving responses was Ms LEE Mei-sheung, Dickie, DLM(TW),

LCSD. Besides, the written reply of the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) was tabled at the meeting.

16. Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio introduced the paper.

17. DLM(TW) of the LCSD agreed on the matter concerned, and said that skateboarding was growing in popularity among young people. In April 2022, the LCSD had conducted an on-site inspection together with Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly, Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio, the ArchSD and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department. In June 2022, the LCSD had jointly explored the feasibility of implementing improvement and renovation works with staff of the ArchSD and persons-in-charge of the related sports associations on site. The ArchSD was currently conducting a feasibility study. The LCSD would report to Members on the progress in a timely manner.

18. The views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) the skateboard ground in Kwok Shui Road Park was the only skateboard ground in Tsuen Wan district. It was popular among local residents and those from nearby districts. As there were cracks and damage at certain locations in the skateboard ground for the time being, he advised the LCSD to promptly carry out repairs to prevent injuries or accidents among the young people skateboarding at the venue. Some youngsters would choose to skateboard outside Kwok Shui Road Park or other places in the district because the facilities of the said skateboard ground were obsolete and boring. Hence, he suggested that the LCSD should provide a renovation plan for the skateboard ground promptly and report to Members on the commencement and completion dates of the works concerned. Given that the new-term Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government attached importance to efficiency, he hoped that the LCSD would adopt an innovative mindset and reach the goal of renovating the skateboard ground as soon as possible (Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly);
- (2) the skateboard ground in question had been completed for some time. In view of the small number of skateboard enthusiasts in the past, the LCSD selected Kwok Shui Road Park, which was served with relatively poor transport links and had a comparatively low pedestrian flow, as the site for the provision of a skateboard ground. However, there was an increase in skateboard enthusiasts in recent years, and skateboard sports were included in the Olympic Games by the International Olympic Committee. Also, the LCSD had constructed skateboard grounds of a higher level of difficulty in recent years for skateboarders aspiring to take part in Asian and international competitions to have training therein. He pointed out that the skateboard ground in Kwok Shui Road

Park was an outdoor venue. According to past experience, it took about one and a half to two years for the LCSD Headquarters to grant a funding approval for renovation works. Hence, he suggested that district resources should be used to carry out repairs and grind the trail surfaces in a few months first before mapping out a plan for large-scale renovation works (Mr WONG Ka-wa);

- (3) he agreed with Members' views. He had conducted an on-site inspection at a skateboard ground in Diamond Hill. He found that the skateboard ground was relatively open and spacious. The safety level of this venue was also higher. Hence, users could try a wider range of skateboarding tricks there. On the contrary, as the skateboard ground in Kwok Shui Road Park was a small outdoor venue, users would feel confined when there were many people and could not skateboard freely. He opined that instead of conducting a large-scale development, the issues related to the repairing of basic facilities should be tackled first. This would be a more expeditious and lower-cost approach which could also achieve greater efficiency (Mr MAN Yu-ming); and
- (4) the skateboard ground concerned had been in service for about 14 years. He thus enquired of the LCSD whether it had knowledge of the locations which required repairs in the skateboard ground, and whether it could provide a timetable for the renovation works (the Acting Chairman).

19. DLM(TW) of the LCSD responded as follows:

- (1) the LCSD would carry out routine repairs for the skateboard ground in question. If a crack or unevenness was found on the ground, the LCSD would immediately take follow-up actions to ensure the safety of venue users. The LCSD's staff had notified the ArchSD to follow up on the repairs for the ground after the on-site inspection with the Members in April 2022;
- (2) the skateboard ground in Kwok Shui Road Park was not sizable compared with other skateboard grounds. Some larger skateboard grounds appropriate for organising competitions (e.g. the two skateboard grounds in Lai Chi Kok Park and Hong Kong Velodrome Park) were suitable for, apart from skateboard activities, extreme sports such as in-line skating and artistic cycling; and
- (3) the LCSD had jointly conducted a study on renovating the skateboard ground in Kwok Shui Road Park with the ArchSD's staff and the representatives from the related sports associations. The LCSD wished to promptly enhance the existing facilities through a cost-effective approach. It would continue to actively follow up on the matter with the departments concerned.

20. Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio suggested that the project concerned should be implemented as soon as practicable.

21. The Chairman resumed the chair.

VI Item 5: Information Papers

(A) Report on Recreational and Sports Activities and Facilities Management in Tsuen Wan by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department
(DPDFMC Paper No. 9/22-23)

22. DLM(TW) of the LCSD introduced the paper.

23. The Chairman said he had received media enquiries on the issue of poor water quality of the beaches in the district. Hence, he suggested that the LCSD should enrich the captioned paper by adding information on the water quality of the beaches in the district at the next DPDFMC meeting, including the condition of the beaches which had reopened after previous closure due to the epidemic. Three gazetted beaches in Tsuen Wan district were open for the time being, namely, Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach, Lido Beach and Casam Beach. The latest report of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) showed that the water quality of those beaches was classified as Grade 4 (“Very Poor”). He pointed out that the Environment, Health and Climate Change Committee had discussed the matter concerned back in 2020. At that time, a representative from the LCSD stated that the water quality of beaches fell within the purview of the EPD. In his opinion, the LCSD should tackle the problem more proactively and should also request the departments concerned to improve the water quality of beaches. He said that there were seven beaches in Tsuen Wan district, but over half of them could not be opened at the moment. It could be seen that the problem was severe. Even if the water quality of the beaches open to the public was being rated as unsuitable for swimming, the LCSD would still provide lifeguard services while hoisting red flags at such beaches. He was puzzled about this practice. He advised the LCSD to consider opening more beaches and continuously monitor the water quality of the beaches in question.

24. DLM(TW) of the LCSD responded that a total of seven gazetted beaches in Tsuen Wan district were under the LCSD’s management. The LCSD noted that the water quality of most of the beaches in the district was recently classified as Grade 4, i.e. the water of those beaches contained a relatively high level of *E. coli* and was unsuitable for swimming. After receiving a notification from the EPD, the LCSD would hoist red flags, make announcements and put up notices at the beaches concerned in order to dissuade people from getting into the water. Unless negative impacts were brought about by circumstances such as the epidemic, beaches which were open would not be completely sealed off in general. Also, as some people would still get into the water even when red flags were hoisted at the beaches, the

LCSD would continue to provide lifeguard services with a view to protecting people's life and safety. Besides, the water quality of beaches was subject to an array of factors, including weather, water current and emergencies (e.g. the discharge of pollutants nearby). It was also likely that the water quality of beaches was affected by the prolonged heavy rainfall earlier. In addition, there might be direct discharge of sewage into the water of beaches from quite a number of buildings constructed around Castle Peak Road in earlier times, easily causing water pollution at the beaches in the district. The LCSD had all along been maintaining liaison with the EPD and Drainage Services Department (DSD). The LCSD had contacted the DSD for follow-up once it learnt that the water quality of some beaches was classified as Grade 4. The LCSD would continue to improve the water quality of beaches in collaboration with the relevant departments.

25. The views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) he pointed out that the problem of poor water quality of the beaches in the district had persisted for more than 20 years. Every year, people would lodge complaints to him on the water quality of the beaches around Castle Peak Road being unsuitable for swimming and causing health problems. He thus enquired whether the overall water quality of beaches in Hong Kong would be affected by the high density of skyscrapers and the discharge of sewage by squatter occupants. He questioned why the said problem still persisted despite the implementation of improvement measures by the LCSD together with other departments including the EPD and DSD. He also opined that government departments were duty bound to provide the public with quality beaches for swimming. He did not wish to see the recurrence of the said problem every year. He thus enquired which department should be held accountable for the issue, and suggested that the captioned matter should be seriously discussed (Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly);
- (2) he said that the representative from the LCSD had explained the problem relating to the water quality of the beaches in the district. In his opinion, a comparison should not be made between the water quality of Rambler Channel and that of the beaches in Sai Kung district. Besides, he had assisted in clearing gravel and stones at the beaches in the district for several times. He learnt that the departments concerned had already arranged vessels to clear marine refuse with a view to improving the water quality of beaches, and appreciated their efforts made in this regard. Noting that some elders and people doing morning exercises would go to the beaches concerned for a swim in the morning, he hoped that the beaches in the district would be enjoyed by more residents (Mr KOT Siu-yuen); and
- (3) he was aware that the beaches in Tsuen Wan district did not only attract

swimmers who were local residents but also those from other districts (the Chairman).

(B) Report on Cultural Activities in Tsuen Wan District by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department

(DPDFMC Paper No. 10/22-23)

26. Senior Manager (New Territories South) Promotion (SM(NTS)P) of the LCSD introduced the paper.

27. Mr LAU Cheuk-yu said that Tsuen Wan Town Hall had been in service for many years. It had been closed earlier due to water leakage arising from heavy rain. Having conducted an on-site inspection relating to the said matter at Tsuen Wan Town Hall, he enquired about the current condition and whether the problem had been resolved.

28. SM(NTS)P of the LCSD responded that the Auditorium of Tsuen Wan Town had been temporarily closed for about one month so that a hazardous part of the ceiling of the stage could be removed. The repairs had been completed, and the venue had also been reopened to the public.

(C) Report on Promotional Activities and the Enrolment Rate in Tsuen Wan District Public Libraries by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department

(DPDFMC Paper No. 11/22-23)

29. Senior Librarian (Tsuen Wan) of the LCSD introduced the paper. He added that “Note (1)” on page six of the paper should be deleted.

VII Item 6: Any Other Business

30. Mr KOT Siu-yuen pointed out that it had rained heavily during the on-site inspection at the basketball court at Hoi On Road on 11 May 2022. Apart from Members and representatives from the departments, some members of the public had also been present at the site. The course of the on-site inspection had therefore been impeded. He thus enquired about the progress of the on-site inspection, and suggested preventing the recurrence of the said situation during on-site inspections in the future.

31. The Chairman noted the view, and asked ADO(TW) of the TWDO to brief Members on the progress of the on-site inspection at the basketball court at Hoi On Road.

32. ADO(TW) of the TWDO responded that he had liaised with the Transport Department (TD) after the on-site inspection. As multiple factors, including land ownership, specifications and design, had to be considered in implementing the works at the location concerned, the TD would continue to discuss and follow up on the

matter with the relevant departments. Besides, when organising an official on-site inspection in the future, arrangements would be made so that the assistants of the invited Members might also join the on-site inspection. Nevertheless, the number of participants should be limited in order to prevent an excessive number of people joining the on-site inspection. This practice also aimed at ensuring that Members and representatives of departments could exchange views sensibly and rationally. He would brief the Secretariat on the matter concerned after the meeting.

33. The Chairman said that the paper of the said matter was submitted in 2021. As the pedestrian access next to the basketball court managed by the LCSD at Hoi On Road had been damaged, many people would choose to walk through the basketball court during their journeys. A representative of the LCSD stated during the on-site inspection that there was no plan to construct a public access at Hoi On Road Playground, and therefore the matter was a traffic problem relating to pedestrian accesses and would be referred to the TD for follow-up. As the term “facilities” in the name of the DPDFMC mainly referred to the facilities under the LCSD’s management, he suggested that the TD should report the progress of the matter at future meetings of the Traffic and Transport Committee or the TWDC.

(A) Date of Next Meeting

34. The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting was scheduled for 29 August 2022 and the deadline for submission of papers was 12 August 2022.

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat
4 August 2022