

(Translation)

Minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of  
District Planning, Development and Facilities Management Committee (3/21-22)

Date: 23 December 2021

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

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
Ms LEUNG Tsz-wai, Apple (Secretary)	Executive Officer I (District Council), Tsuen Wan District Office
Miss CHAN Hiu-yuen, Virginia	Executive Assistant (District Council)4, Tsuen Wan District Office
Ms LIM Ting-ting, Sylvia	Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories West), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
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
Ms TANG Ho-yan, Joyce	Senior Engineer/2 (West), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Ms HUNG Yuen-ching	Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands

Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing), Lands Department

Absent:

Mr LAU Cheuk-yu

For discussion of item 2

Mr TSUI Ka-kim, Kim Senior Building Surveyor/D5, Buildings Department

Mr LEE Huen-yiu District Engineer/Tsuen Wan, Highways Department

Mr CHU Ching-yu, Alex Engineer/Tsuen Wan 1, Transport Department

For discussion of item 4

Mr FAN Chin-wai, Joseph Engineer/14 (West), Civil Engineering and Development Department

For discussion of item 5

Mr FAN Chin-wai, Joseph Engineer/14 (West), Civil Engineering and Development Department

Mr CHU Ching-yu, Alex Engineer/Tsuen Wan 1, Transport Department

For discussion of item 6

Ms YUEN Mo-kuen, Monita Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing)3, Social Welfare 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 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the District Planning, Development and Facilities Management Committee (DPDFMC) and introduced:

- (1) Ms LIM Merry who attended the meeting for the first time and replaced Ms WONG Fan-ni, Jasmine to assume the post of Senior Manager (New Territories South) Promotion (Sr Mgr(NTS)Promotion), Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD);
- (2) Mr LEE Wai-man who attended the meeting for the first time and replaced Ms TSE Ka-yee, Carmen to assume the post of Senior Librarian (Tsuen Wan) (Sr Libn(Tsuen Wan)), LCSD; and
- (3) Ms HUNG Yuen-ching, Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands

Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing) who attended the meeting on behalf of Senior Estate Surveyor/Tsuen Wan, District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing (DLO).

2. The Chairman stated that for Members' information, Mr LAU Cheuk-yu was absent with apologies.

3. 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 28 February 2022 and the deadline for submission of papers was 11 February 2022. In addition, according to section 28 of the Standing Orders, unless otherwise agreed by the Chairman, Members could speak once for each agenda item at the meeting and each Member could speak up to 1 minute. A maximum of five Members could speak for each agenda item. The Member(s) who had submitted a paper would have 1.5 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 response.

## II Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 28.6.2021

4. 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 5 to 16 of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 June 2021: Request for Provision of Rain Shelter at the Staircase of the Government Footbridge connected with Tsuen Fung Shopping Arcade from Kolour Mall

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

- (1) Ms HUNG Yuen-ching, Administrative Assistant/Lands, DLO, Lands Department;
- (2) Mr LEE Huen-yiu, District Engineer/Tsuen Wan (Dist Engr/TW), Highways Department (HyD);
- (3) Mr CHU Ching-yu, Alex, Engineer/Tsuen Wan 1 (Engr/Tsuen Wan 1), Transport Department (TD);
- (4) Mr TSUI Ka-kim, Kim, Senior Building Surveyor/D5 (Sr Bldg Surveyor/D5), Buildings Department (BD); and
- (5) Mr LAI Yik-wing, Wesley, Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan) (Asst Dist Offr (Tsuen Wan)), Tsuen Wan District Office (TWDO).

6. Administrative Assistant/Lands of the DLO responded as follows:

- (1) the developer had fulfilled its obligation to construct a covered footbridge according to the land lease conditions. Hence, the DLO did not have any further contractual basis to request the developer to undertake additional work (e.g. providing a rain shelter at the staircase of the footbridge) apart from the repair, maintenance and cleansing of existing facilities; and
- (2) the said footbridge and staircase were situated on government land. The ownership belonged to the Government. If the department concerned intended to construct a rain shelter at the staircase and would take up the management and repair of the rain shelter in the future, the DLO would make complementary efforts and provide assistance in land administration. For instance, the DLO would take back the necessary part from the developer according to the department's works schedule as well as the terms of the relevant land lease and legal documents to enable the department to construct a rain shelter at that part.

7. Dist Engr/TW of the HyD responded that pedestrians could travel between the ground level and footbridge level using the lift near the location concerned or the covered accesses in Kolour Mall. Hence, for the time being, the HyD and TD had no plan to construct a rain shelter at the privately managed and maintained staircase.

8. Sr Bldg Surveyor/D5 of the BD responded that as the aforesaid land belonged to the Government, it was not subject to the regulation of the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123). Also, the BD had nothing to add because a rain shelter would not be constructed by the departments concerned (e.g. the HyD or TD) there at the moment.

9. Asst Dist Offr (Tsuen Wan) of the TWDO responded as follows:

- (1) after the previous meeting of the DPDFMC, the TWDO's staff had conducted an on-site inspection with the staff from the Works Section of the Home Affairs Department (HAD). They found that there were technical difficulties with the proposal for constructing a rain shelter on the ground. First of all, underground facilities, including pipelines and power cables, existed at the location concerned. It was difficult to dig up the ground for the construction of a rain shelter. Besides, to construct a sufficiently safe rain shelter of a notable height, a foundation with a comparable depth should be laid. Having considered an array of factors (including load bearing as well as future maintenance and repair), the Works Section provisionally held that it was extremely difficult to construct a rain shelter on the ground at the location concerned; and
- (2) the TWDO needed more time to consider the proposal for constructing a rain shelter as an extension to part of the existing footbridge or building

because it involved the issue of titles or load bearing.

10. The views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:
- (1) the captioned item was put forth by a former Member and had been discussed for a long time. Inter-departmental meetings had also been held earlier on to discuss the project. He was pleased that the HAD had arranged a team of engineers to study the project. Besides, he noted the difficulties presented by foundation construction, titles, load bearing and other aspects. He suggested ceasing the discussion on the captioned item under the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting. He also asked the HAD to report on the result of coordination with other departments after six months (the Chairman); and
  - (2) he was pleased that the government departments had conducted an on-site inspection for the captioned item. He advised the departments to study the feasibility of the project, and to work out the cost estimate of the project and consult the TWDC where necessary. Besides, he agreed to revisit the captioned item after six months (Mr WONG Ka-wa).

IV Item 3: Planning Applications (as at 10.12.2021)  
(DPDFMC Paper No. 37/21-22)

11. Senior Town Planner/Tsuen Wan (Sr Town Plnr/Tsuen Wan) of the Planning Department (PlanD) briefed Members on the planning applications vetted by the Town Planning Board (TPB) and those pending vetting by the TPB as at 10 December 2021.

12. The views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:
- (1) he was concerned about the planning applications for residential development, namely, Planning Application Nos. A/TW/529, A/TWW/121 and Y/TWW/7. He also suggested that the PlanD should urge the developers to shoulder social responsibility. The developers should reserve building areas and provide social welfare facilities according to the prevailing guidelines of the PlanD, thereby benefitting youngsters, elders and other people concerned. Moreover, he said that for some planning applications, high-rise residential buildings would be built but the number of parking spaces to be provided was relatively small. The entire area might be clogged with traffic in the future. He objected to constructing residential buildings when social welfare facilities and parking spaces were inadequate. He also pointed out the severe shortage of hourly parking spaces in the district. Vehicles which owners were fined due to illegal parking could be found everywhere. Moreover, as far as Planning Application No.

A/TW/530 was concerned, he advised the PlanD to properly play its gatekeeping role in order to prevent serious traffic congestion at the location concerned during Ching Ming Festival and Chung Yeung Festival (Mr WONG Ka-wa); and

- (2) a proposal for setting up 11 046 niches was put forth under Planning Application No. A/TW/530. It was a significant number of niches. If traffic and transport facilities failed to support the development, he was worried that the traffic of the entire Tsuen Wan district would be clogged during Ching Ming Festival and Chung Yeung Festival. The traffic control measures being implemented at the location concerned were effective. Yet, he suggested advance formulation of traffic measures to forestall traffic problems caused by the provision of niches in the future. As the public might have to walk to the location, he was concerned about the safety and comfort level of pavements leading to the location and the impact on nearby residents when worshippers visited the location in flocks during specific periods. Moreover, he opined that there was a demand for housing in society, and was concerned about the shortage of parking spaces. He also did not wish to see serious traffic congestion arising from the completion of residential buildings. He thus proposed giving careful consideration to the traffic ancillary facilities and urban planning in order to meet residents' needs and strike a balance in respect of community development (Mr MAN Yu-ming).

13. Sr Town Plnr/Tsuen Wan of the PlanD responded as follows:

- (1) the PlanD noted Members' request for providing community ancillary facilities and increasing parking spaces in the planning applications for residential development;
- (2) in view of the lack of child care centres in the district, the developer of Planning Application No. A/TW/527 proposed establishing a child care centre with a quota of 100 places at the location concerned to benefit the community;
- (3) the applicant of Planning Application No. A/TW/527 had submitted an application in June 2021. Having discussed with the PlanD and TD, the applicant decided to increase the number of residential parking spaces from 146 to 197. With the addition of 51 parking spaces, the total number of parking spaces for private vehicles increased by about 30% from 171 to 222. The TD did not object to the planning application in principle. The planning application would be submitted to the TPB on the day after this meeting. The PlanD had received considerable views on transport from the public, and would also submit those views to the TPB for its consideration;
- (4) most of the proposed niches were new niches under previously

submitted Planning Application No. Y/TW/15. Hence, the applicant could stipulate in the sale and purchase document that the location concerned would be closed during Ching Ming Festival and Chung Yeung Festival. As for Planning Application No. A/TW/530, about half of the niches had been sold. Also, there was no plan to close the columbarium and suspend its operation during Ching Ming Festival and Chung Yeung Festival. The applicant would provide visitors with a shuttle bus service plying between the location concerned and MTR Tsuen Wan West Station. The PlanD noted that Members and the TD were concerned about the traffic impact of this planning application during Ching Ming Festival and Chung Yeung Festival. It would closely liaise with the relevant departments and convey to them the traffic issues of concern to Members; and

- (5) Planning Application No. A/TW/529 was not a residential development and the applicant applied for the uses of office as well as shop and services on the “Business” zone, whereas Planning Application No. A/TWW/121 was a residential development. The PlanD would continue to maintain liaison with the departments concerned in respect of the planning applications.

V Item 4: PWP Item 293RS Cycle Track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun - Advance Works

(DPDFMC Paper No. 38/21-22)

14. The Chairman said that the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) would like to brief Members on the latest status and related matters of the PWP Item 293RS Cycle Track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun - Advance Works (Tsuen Wan Waterfront Section). The representatives from the department responsible for giving response were:

- (1) Ms TANG Ho-yan, Joyce, Senior Engineer/2 (West) (Sr Engr/2 (W)), CEDD; and
- (2) Mr FAN Chin-wai, Joseph, Engineer/14 (West) (Engr/14 (W)), CEDD.

15. Sr Engr/2 (W) of the CEDD briefed Members on the PWP Item 293RS Cycle Track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun - Advance Works (the “Advance Works”).

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

- (1) he thanked the CEDD for actively responding to Members’ requests regarding the promotion of the cycle track. For example, it had arranged a cycling experience day to promote the cycle track and give the public an opportunity to enjoy cycling. He was concerned about the arrangements for on-site bicycle ambassadors after the conclusion of the activity. He also enquired about the reasons for installing temporary direction signs, instead of permanent ones, at the locations

concerned along the cycle track. Besides, he enquired about the arrangements for setting up beverage vending machines. He also pointed out the lack of warning banners at the cycle track. He hoped that the CEDD would enhance communication with the Police to hang more banners at strategic locations, reminding non-cyclists to refrain from using the cycle track. He learnt that the TWDO would conduct joint operations against illegally parked bicycles next to on-street fences together with relevant departments. Yet, he opined that attaching a gentle reminder on illegally parked bicycles was insufficient to deter the illegal parking of bicycles. He proposed adopting the aforesaid approach, i.e. to remove illegally parked bicycles within the cycle track. Besides, he enquired whether there were bicycle parking spaces at which the parking of bicycles for more than 24 hours was permissible (the Chairman);

- (2) he had conducted on-site inspections at the cycle track and often found the CEDD's staff following up on the relevant work on site. He commended the CEDD in this regard. He suggested relocating the speed reduction signs to more suitable locations. Also, he hoped that to ensure the safety of cyclists, more notices would be put up to remind non-cyclists (including pedestrians, joggers and people riding scooters) to refrain from using the cycle track. He was pleased about the increase in bicycle parking spaces, and suggested providing a bicycle rental service to enable people to rent bicycles (Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly); and
- (3) he opined that there were insufficient bicycle parking spaces, and suggested that the departments concerned should take law enforcement actions against illegally parked bicycles. Also, he hoped that bottle-filling water dispensers, food trucks and ice-cream trucks would be introduced to the cycle track. Besides, he hoped that the departments concerned would study ways to refine the pedestrian crossing facilities at the said location. For instance, staircases should be provided to facilitate public access (Mr WONG Ka-wa).

(Note: Mr KOT Siu-yuen left the meeting at 3:10 p.m.)

17. Sr Engr/2 (W) of the CEDD responded as follows:

- (1) the CEDD would follow up on the issue related to the locations of the signs mentioned by the Member;
- (2) the CEDD was mainly responsible for implementing the Advance Works. It should work out the construction scope or design within the authorised scope defined by the statutory procedures (e.g. the gazettal). The CEDD thanked Members for recognising its work, and would make improvements where practicable and within the construction scope;

- (3) the CEDD planned to provide additional parking spaces within the existing bicycle parking sites. It was studying the feasibility of the plan with the departments concerned;
- (4) regarding the proposal for providing a bicycle rental service, the CEDD would holistically consider the demand for bicycle rental facilities and the operating conditions when preparing the detailed design for the Tsuen Wan Bayview Garden to So Kwun Wat Section;
- (5) the engagement of bicycle ambassadors to promote cycling safety during the initial opening of the cycle track was a short-term and complementary measure taken by the CEDD. The CEDD was mainly responsible for the works of the cycle track whereas the promotion of cycling safety fell within the purview of other departments. Hence, it might not be appropriate for the CEDD to continuously adopt the said measure;
- (6) regarding the proposal for providing additional water dispensers, the CEDD was discussing with the LCSD the provision of a bottle-filling water dispenser next to the fountain type water dispenser at the cycling entry/exit hub;
- (7) regarding the Member's proposal for constructing a staircase at the ramp next to the cycle track outside Belvedere Garden, the CEDD's staff had conducted an on-site inspection at the said location and found that the pedestrian flow was at an acceptable level. There were established standards and regulations on the design of staircases. Also, individual locations were subject to geographical constraints. A considerable area of the waterfront promenade would be taken up if a staircase was to be constructed, adversely affecting strollers at the waterfront promenade. Therefore, having balanced the situations, the CEDD held that it would be more desirable to maintain the status quo;
- (8) as far as the CEDD knew, the Police had hung a total of five promotional banners at locations with a relatively high visitor flow along the cycle track, appealing to cyclists and pedestrians to abide by the relevant traffic regulations. The CEDD would convey the Member's views to the Police; and
- (9) the law enforcement operation against illegally parked bicycles and the provision of food trucks and ice-cream trucks fell beyond the CEDD's purview. It should therefore leave the matters to the departments concerned for a response.

18. District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan) (District Leisure Mgr(Tsuen Wan)) of the LCSD responded that the LCSD had been discussing with the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) the provision of beverage vending machines outside the public toilets managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). The EMSD had provided the FEHD with the relevant

drawings for its perusal. After the said location had been connected with the electricity supply network, a contractor would be arranged to set up vending machines there.

VI Item 5: Enhancing the Ancillary Facilities for Bicycles in Tsuen Wan District  
(DPDFMC Paper No. 39/21-22)

19. The Chairman said that the paper was submitted by Mr WONG Ka-wa. The representatives from the departments responsible for giving response were:

- (1) Ms TANG Ho-yan, Joyce, Sr Engr/2 (W), CEDD;
- (2) Mr FAN Chin-wai, Joseph, Engr/14 (W), CEDD;
- (3) Mr CHU Ching-yu, Alex, Engr/Tsuen Wan 1, TD; and
- (4) Ms LEE Mei-sheung, Dickie, District Leisure Mgr(Tsuen Wan), LCSD.

Besides, the written replies of the Development Bureau and Hong Kong Police Force were tabled at the meeting.

20. Mr WONG Ka-wa introduced the paper.

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

- (1) many residents pointed out the inconvenience of purchasing and storing bicycles. Hence, for the time being, they could only enjoy the cycle track facilities in the district by taking part in cycling experience activities regularly organised by the CEDD. He thus suggested providing a bicycle rental service near the cycle track. Having conducted an on-site inspection, he opined that there were several spots suitable for setting up bicycle rental facilities for the public along the cycle track. He also advised the LCSD and departments concerned to seriously consider conducting a tender exercise in order to engage the successful tenderer to provide a bicycle rental service at the cycle track (Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly); and
- (2) it would take a long time to construct the entire 22-kilometre (km) cycle track. Also, the access width of certain sections was restricted and the owners' corporations of housing estates near some sections raised objections to the project. All those issues undermined the feasibility of constructing the entire cycle track. In his opinion, there was a huge public demand for cycle track facilities. Although some people violated the regulations and cycled on carriageways, most parents let their young children use cycle tracks and taught them to refrain from cycling on the pavement. Thus, to benefit the public as soon as possible, he proposed adopting a "take the easy but not the difficult path" approach and according priority to handling the less complex locations. Besides, he opined that the relevant departments should conduct a tender exercise to engage the successful tenderer to provide a bicycle rental service, and proposed drawing reference from the practice

adopted in the West Kowloon Cultural District (Mr WONG Ka-wa).

22. Sr Engr/2 (W) of the CEDD responded as follows:
- (1) the CEDD thanked Members for supporting the construction of the remaining sections of the Cycle Track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun. It would continue to adopt the “easier issues first” approach to carry out the works for the approximately 22-km Cycle Track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun in phases. Upon the completion of the Tsuen Wan Waterfront Section with a length of about 2.3 km, the CEDD planned to accord priority to constructing the proposed Tuen Mun to So Kwun Wat Section, which was about 3 km long, at the next stage. It was currently working on the design. Regarding the Tsuen Wan Bayview Garden to So Kwun Wat Section, the CEDD planned to conduct a public consultation next year and would consult the TWDC in a timely manner. It hoped that the works of the remaining sections would be implemented in phases with the support of stakeholders; and
  - (2) during the preparation of the design for the cycle track at the next stage, the CEDD would holistically consider the demand for bicycle rental facilities and the operating conditions. Also, the CEDD had advised bicycle-sharing service providers to consider providing a trial service at the Tsuen Wan waterfront. The CEDD learnt that in late November 2021, a service provider had provided more than ten bicycles for public rental at the Tsuen Wan waterfront so that local residents who did not own a bicycle could also enjoy the cycle track facilities.
23. Engr/Tsuen Wan 1 of the TD responded as follows:
- (1) there would be differences in ancillary facilities, environment and users between the approximately 22-km Cycle Track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun and the approximately 2.3-km Tsuen Wan Waterfront Section. Currently, no bicycle rental services or facilities were under the management of the TD. The TD learnt that bicycle rental services were usually provided by private operators or the LCSD;
  - (2) the Government had adopted a multi-pronged approach and implemented an array of measures to promote and manage the cycle track. For instance, during the initial opening of the cycle track, the CEDD arranged bicycle ambassadors to conduct regular patrols, assist the public, promote cycling safety and etiquette, and give advice to people violating the regulations on the use of the cycle track. Also, the departments concerned would organise various safety promotional activities and workshops to raise awareness of cycling safety among the public. Besides, promotional banners and traffic signs were set up along the cycle track, reminding the public to comply with the regulations on segregation of pedestrians and bicycles. Also, the law

enforcement departments would issue warning to people breaking the regulations;

- (3) the TD had rolled out a one-stop online platform offering information on cycling. Through the platform, the public could browse the information on cycle tracks, including traffic signs, road markings, cycling rules, relevant regulations and ordinances, cycling safety and so on;
- (4) the TD would endeavour to take measures related to segregation of pedestrians and bicycles with a view to separating cyclists and non-cyclists and ensuring the safety of road users; and
- (5) regarding the Member's enquiry about the existence of bicycle parking spaces at which the parking of bicycles for more than 24 hours was permissible, the TD did not have the relevant information at hand. In general, public bicycle parking facilities were made available to the public near cycle tracks or public transport terminuses for temporary parking of bicycles. Yet, parking bicycles there for more than 24 hours was not allowed. Currently, the TWDO would conduct joint operations against illegally parked bicycles in coordination with such government departments as the DLO and FEHD where appropriate.

24. District Leisure Mgr(Tsuen Wan) of the LCSD responded that a bicycle rental service should integrate with the overall long-term planning of the cycle track. This would necessitate careful consideration. The LCSD had no plan to provide a bicycle rental service for the time being.

25. The Chairman said that the duties of the LCSD and TD were to manage cycle tracks and walkways, whereas the CEDD was responsible for implementing the works for the Tsuen Wan Waterfront Section of the New Territories Cycle Track Network. He enquired which department would take over and follow up on the Tsuen Wan Waterfront Section after the completion of the works by the CEDD, and suggested that the TD should proactively provide assistance. In addition, regarding the possibility of providing a bicycle rental service at the cycle track, he suggested conveying Members' views to the Tourism Commission (TC) in writing.

26. The Chairman stated that the paper of the next agenda item was submitted by him. He thus proposed that Mr WONG Ka-wa should take over the chair temporarily. Members unanimously agreed to the proposal.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat conveyed Members' views to the TC in writing on 12 April 2021.)

VII Item 6: 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

(DPDFMC Paper No. 40/21-22)

27. The Acting Chairman said that the paper was submitted by Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio. The representatives from the departments responsible for giving response were:

- (1) Ms LEE Mei-sheung, Dickie, District Leisure Mgr(Tsuen Wan), LCSD;
- (2) Ms YUEN Mo-kuen, Monita, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing)<sup>3</sup> (Asst Dist Social Welfare Offr(TW/KwT)<sup>3</sup>), Social Welfare Department (SWD); and
- (3) Mr LAI Yik-wing, Wesley, Asst Dist Offr (Tsuen Wan), TWDO.

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

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

- (1) nearby residents were disturbed by noise generated by pets in the Pet Garden and skateboarders. While more efforts should be made to promote skateboarding, nearby residents were also deeply annoyed by the gathering of skateboarders at various locations (e.g. the vicinity of Shek Wai Kok). In his opinion, the LCSD's regulation of the opening hours of the Pet Garden would be the most direct and effective solution (Mr MAN Yu-ming);
- (2) while being concerned about animal rights, he was aware that residents were disturbed by dogs' noise. He thus opined that consideration should be given to setting a closing time for the Pet Garden. Having said that, there were only a few Pet Gardens in Tsuen Wan district now. Many people could only walk their dogs after work or during leisure time. Hence, he hoped that consideration could be given to extending the opening hours of the Pet Garden as far as possible. He proposed that the LCSD or TWDO should study whether additional resources could be allocated to conduct improvement works to provide skateboarding ancillary facilities such as beverage vending machines and public toilets at suitable locations (e.g. those under the flyover outside Cable TV Tower) in the district. Outreach social workers could also organise activities there so as to provide more venues for youngsters to play sports beneficial to their physical and mental health (Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly); and
- (3) he opined that the district lacked skateboard grounds, and suggested that the LCSD should consider allocating more resources to increase skateboarding facilities for youngsters in the district. These facilities should be set up in areas with a relatively small population of residents (e.g. industrial areas) in order to reduce the gathering of skateboarders. He supported regulating the opening hours of the Pet Garden, and suggested that the LCSD should work out a timetable to facilitate a

study in this regard (the Acting Chairman).

30. District Leisure Mgr(Tsuen Wan) of the LCSD responded as follows:
- (1) for the time being, the Pet Garden in Tsuen Wan Park was open 24 hours a day. Having received views from the public, the LCSD had assigned additional manpower to conduct patrols and hung banners in the Pet Garden since June 2021 in order to urge users to exercise self-discipline and properly manage their dogs;
  - (2) according to the LCSD's data on the utilisation of the Pet Garden between 9:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m., there were users at the venue during the said period. Starting from 1:00 a.m., the number of users would drop to about five or six people. The LCSD had an open attitude towards the regulation of the opening hours of the Pet Garden. As many people needed to use or were even accustomed to using the facilities of the Pet Garden late at night, the LCSD should carefully consider the views of different stakeholders;
  - (3) the LCSD would assign more security guards to patrol the Pet Garden with a view to enhancing the management, and would later find out whether the situation had been improved. According to the statistics, there were three cases in November 2021 in which public complaints about nuisance were handled by police officers at the scene, whereas no such complaint case had been received in December 2021 so far. As barking was natural behaviour for dogs, it was relatively difficult to define irregularities involving barking. The LCSD would proactively advise the public to exercise self-discipline and manage their dogs properly; and
  - (4) regarding skateboarding among youngsters, the LCSD would further study improvements to the relevant facilities at the locations mentioned by Members with a view to providing more venues suitable for the use of skateboarding enthusiasts.
31. Asst Dist Social Welfare Offr(TW/KwT)3 of the SWD responded as follows:
- (1) the social workers of the overnight outreach team serving Tsuen Wan district would frequently conduct outreach work at various locations (including Tsuen Wan Park) in the district. The social workers of the outreach team had approached youth skateboarders in Tsuen Wan Park and learnt that they all had daytime jobs. Out of the passion for the sport, they rode skateboards at Tsuen Wan Park after work. So far, other issues which required assistance from the social workers had not been found among the youngsters; and
  - (2) the social workers of the outreach team would continue to approach and stay in touch with the youngsters. If they needed any social welfare services, the social workers would provide appropriate assistance.

32. Asst Dist Offr (Tsuen Wan) of the TWDO responded that the TWDO was aware of the existence of skateboard grounds for the public and venues for people to walk their dogs in the district. As the TWDO had not set up any skateboard ground or pet garden in the district, it was unable to render professional advice on management matters. Nevertheless, the TWDO would pay attention to the situation continuously.

33. Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio said that regarding the proposal for setting a closing time for the Pet Garden, the TWDC played an advisory role whereas the LCSD should consider the follow-up approaches. He also agreed that the LCSD's representative should revisit the captioned item and report on the progress at the meeting two months later. In his opinion, the Pet Garden should be open either from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. or 11:30 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. He had an open attitude towards the said opening hours and would leave the proposal to the LCSD to study. If a closing time was to be set for the Pet Garden, he hoped that the public would be informed of the arrangement in advance, and signs would be set up at the venue. He also hoped that security guards would be instructed to open the Pet Garden on time to avoid public complaints. He proposed conducting an on-site inspection at relevant locations off Cable TV Tower. Besides, he opined that when considering improvements to skateboarding ancillary facilities, the departments should focus on studying the provision of more venues suitable for the use of skateboarding enthusiasts without causing nuisance to nearby residents. He hoped that a meeting would be held to invite representatives of the LCSD and youngsters to discuss ways of providing skateboard grounds at locations farther away from residential premises and improving existing facilities of skateboard grounds in the district.

34. The Acting Chairman said he was aware that specific opening hours had been set for the Pet Gardens in other districts, and suggested that the LCSD should conduct a survey in this regard. Also, he hoped that a timetable would be prepared to facilitate a study on setting a closing time for the Pet Garden concerned. For the sake of providing the public with more skateboarding facilities, he proposed that the LCSD should study whether improvements could be made to the facilities at the locations mentioned by Members, and report on the progress at the next meeting. As the population of Tsuen Wan district continued to grow and occupants were allowed to keep pets in many residential buildings, the facilities of Pet Gardens were nearing saturation point. He proposed that the LCSD should set up additional pet facilities at the Pet Gardens in the district to meet the needs of local residents. He asked the LCSD's representative to revisit the adjustment for the opening hours of the Pet Garden and report on the progress at the meeting two months later. Also, he asked the LCSD to arrange an on-site inspection for Members to visit the locations outside Cable TV Tower.

35. District Leisure Mgr(Tsuen Wan) of the LCSD responded that regarding the adjustment for the opening hours of the Pet Garden, the LCSD would prudently take into account the actual circumstances and views of different stakeholders. If consideration was given to setting a closing time for the Pet Garden, such a proposal should gain support from the TWDC.

36. The Chairman resumed the chair.

VIII Item 7: 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. 41/21-22)

37. District Leisure Mgr(Tsuen Wan) of the LCSD introduced the paper. She added that in order to provide more Inclusive Parks for Pets, the LCSD had proposed designating three venues in Tsuen Wan district as Inclusive Parks for Pets to open up more space to pets. The three ones were Sham Tsz Street Playground (the waterfront promenade), Tsuen Wan Waterfront Cycling Entry/Exit Hub (excluding the bicycle practising area) and Wo Yi Hop Road Garden.

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

(DPDFMC Paper No. 42/21-22)

38. Sr Mgr(NTS)Promotion of the LCSD introduced the paper.

(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. 43/21-22)

39. Sr Libn(Tsuen Wan) of the LCSD introduced the paper.

40. Mr MAN Yu-ming said that Book Exhibitions and Reading Programmes were less frequently held at Shek Wai Kok Public Library compared to Tsuen Wan Public Library. He hoped that subject to the availability of resources, the frequency of Book Exhibitions and Reading Programmes at Shek Wai Kok Public Library would be increased to promote culture and arouse residents' interest in reading.

41. Sr Libn(Tsuen Wan) of the LCSD responded that the LCSD organised Book Exhibitions to display books for children and adults on a regular basis. The LCSD noted the Member's views, and would increase the frequency of activities (e.g. Book Exhibitions) at Shek Wai Kok Public Library where practicable. Also, the LCSD regularly organised Storytelling for Children at weekends. It would consider increasing the frequency of Storytelling for Children during special festivals.

IX Item 8: Any Other Business

42. The Chairman stated that at the previous meeting, Members had proposed conducting an on-site inspection at the access next to the basketball court at Hoi On Road. He hoped that the TWDO would make arrangements as soon as possible, and suggested visiting the locations concerned under the flyover outside Cable TV Tower on the same day of the on-site inspection.

43. Asst Dist Offr (Tsuen Wan) of the TWDO responded that after the meeting, he would discuss with the LCSD in order to arrange an on-site inspection for Members to visit two locations on the same day.

(A) Date of Next Meeting

44. The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting was scheduled for 28 February 2022 and the deadline for submission of papers was 11 February 2022.

(Post-meeting note: The 11<sup>th</sup> meeting was rescheduled for 25 April 2022.)

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat  
17 February 2022