

(Translation)

Minutes of the 10th Meeting of
Environment, Health and Climate Change Committee (1/22-23)

Date: 5 May 2022 (Thursday)

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Venue: Main Conference Room, Tsuen Wan District Office

Present:

Mr KOT Siu-yuen, MH (Chairman)

Mr YAU Kam-ping, BBS, MH

Mr MAN Yu-ming, MH

Mr CHAN Sung-ip, BBS, MH

Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio

Mr WONG Ka-wa

Mr LAU Cheuk-yu

Government Representatives

Mr LAI Yik-wing, Wesley Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan),
Tsuen Wan District Office

Miss LEUNG Mee-sze Chief Health Inspector (Tsuen Wan)1,
Food and Environmental Hygiene
Department

Mr LEE King-chau Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing &
Pest Control) Tsuen Wan 1, Food and
Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr LAM Ming-chi, Ryan Deputy District Leisure Manager
(Tsuen Wan)2, Leisure and Cultural
Services Department

Ms WONG Fong, Fanny Senior Environmental Protection
Officer (Regional West)2,
Environmental Protection Department

Mr LEUNG Kwong-chung Senior Engineer/Mainland South 2,
Drainage Services Department

Mr HO Kit-ming Engineer/Tsuen Kwai 2, Drainage
Services Department

Mr FAN Chin-wai, Joseph	Engineer/14 (West), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr KAN King-ming, Victor	Housing Manager/Wong Tai Sin, Tsing Yi & Tsuen Wan 8, Housing Department
Ms YEUNG Sien-ching, Susana	Administrative Assistant/Lands, District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing
Miss LEUNG Ming-sze, Ashley	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 SIU Chung-sing, Johnson (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council)1, Tsuen Wan District Office
Miss NG Lok-man, Katherine	Assistant Executive Manager (District Council)2, Tsuen Wan District Office

Attendance by Invitation:

For discussion of item 2A

Mr TSUI Ka-kim, Kim	Senior Building Surveyor/D5, Buildings Department
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For discussion of item 2B

Mr YAN Tung-hin, Borze	Engineer/New Territories West (Headworks 3), Water Supplies Department
Ms NGAR Yuen-ngor	Senior Country Parks Officer (Management 2), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Mr TANG Hoong-kin, Philip	Country Parks Officer (West), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Mr CHENG Ho-yin, Henry	Senior Estate Surveyor/Tsuen Wan, District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing
Mr Clement CHOW	Honorary Secretary, Hong Kong Gun Club

For discussion of item 3

Mr LEE Huen-yiu

District Engineer/Tsuen Wan,
Highways Department

The Meeting

I Opening Remarks and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives from government departments to the 10th meeting of the Environment, Health and Climate Change Committee (EHCCC), and introduced:

- (1) Ms WONG Fong, Fanny, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West)2 (SEPO(RW)2), Environmental Protection Department (EPD), who replaced Ms TSANG Ka-man, Carmen to attend the meeting;
- (2) Mr FAN Chin-wai, Joseph, Engineer/14 (West), Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD), who replaced Ms TANG Ho-yan, Joyce, Senior Engineer/2 (West) to attend the meeting;
- (3) Mr LAM Ming-chi, Ryan, Deputy District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan)2, Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), who replaced Ms FONG Wei-king, Luna to attend the meeting; and
- (4) Ms YEUNG Sien-ching, Susana, Administrative Assistant/Lands (AA/Lands), District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing (DLO), who replaced Ms HUNG Yuen-ching to attend the meeting.

2. The Chairman stated that according to section 28 of the Tsuen Wan District Council Standing Orders, unless otherwise agreed by the Chairman, Members could have up to 2 minutes to introduce the paper, and each Member who submitted a paper might make supplementary remarks once. Such a Member could choose to speak after the responses from the representative(s) of government departments or make concluding remarks before the end of discussion of the agenda item for up to 2 minutes each time. For each agenda item, except the Member(s) who submitted the paper, Members could only speak once at the meeting. The Chairman would confirm the number of speakers before the discussion. Each Member might speak up to 2 minutes if five or fewer Members spoke on the agenda item and up to 1.5 minutes if more than five Members spoke on the agenda item. Representatives from the departments concerned might speak up to 2 minutes twice.

II Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 9th Meeting held on 17.6.2021

3. The Chairman stated that the Secretariat did not received any proposed amendment before the meeting. The captioned minutes were confirmed without amendment.

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

(A) Paragraphs 4 to 15 of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 June 2021: Request for Addressing the Odour Problem of Tsuen Wan Harbourfront Exeditiously

4. The Chairman stated that the representatives from the departments responsible for giving responses were:

- (1) Mr LEUNG Kwong-chung, Senior Engineer/Mainland South 2, Drainage Services Department (DSD);
- (2) Mr HO Kit-ming, Engineer/Tsuen Kwai 2 (E/TK2), DSD;
- (3) Mr TSUI Ka-kim, Kim, Senior Building Surveyor/D5 (SBS/D5), Buildings Department (BD);
- (4) Ms WONG Fong, Fanny, SEPO(RW)2, EPD;
- (5) Miss LEUNG Mee-sze, Chief Health Inspector (Tsuen Wan)1 (CHI(TW)1), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD);
and
- (6) Mr LEE King-chau, Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing & Pest Control) Tsuen Wan 1 (SHI(C&PC)TW1), FEHD.

Besides, the written reply of the BD was tabled at the meeting.

5. E/TK 2 of the DSD responded as follows:

- (1) the DSD had always been concerned about the odour problem of Tsuen Wan harbourfront and had adopted multi-pronged measures at the major stormwater drains in the district to reduce potential odour emission from the drainage system;
- (2) to enhance the effectiveness of deodourising PVC screens, the DSD had lengthened the PVC screens and hung additional heavy weights at their lower ends after reviewing the design. Replacement of new PVC screens at the outfalls of the box culverts at Tai Ho Road, Tai Chung Road and Ma Tau Pa Road had been completed in July, October and November 2021 respectively;
- (3) the DSD was in collaboration with a team from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology to study the use of odour control hydrogel (hydrogel) to suppress the generation of volatile organic compounds. It had started to place the reformulated hydrogel at the

coastal outfalls since September 2021. In respect of suppressing the specific volatile organic compounds generated at these outfalls, the hydrogel had yielded positive preliminary results. Nevertheless, further adjustment and enhancement of the reformulated hydrogel were still necessary with a view to suppressing various types of volatile organic compounds;

- (4) the DSD would construct five additional dry weather flow interceptors (DWFIs) in the rural area of Tsuen Wan district. The works had gradually commenced in the third quarter of 2020 and were expected to be completed in 2023 in a progressive manner. It was expected that the DWFIs would reduce the odour problem caused by misconnection of foul water pipes to stormwater drains in villages; and
- (5) to further reduce the quantity of pollutants being discharged into Victoria Harbour, the DSD had brought forward the proposal of constructing newly designed DWFIs in Tsuen Wan. The new model of DWFI was supplemented with screening and filtering equipment for immediately intercepting and filtering the polluted dry weather flow in the box culverts (at Ma Tau Pa Road and Tai Ho Road) in Tsuen Wan. This project was currently in design stage and a site investigation was underway.

6. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded as follows:

- (1) the EPD continued to conduct inspections of the sources of pollution in the district. During the period from 2018 to March 2022, a total of 59 cases of misconnection of foul water pipes to stormwater drains had been identified. Among them, the rectification works of 44 cases had been completed and the remaining 15 cases had been referred to the BD and DSD for follow-up respectively; and
- (2) during the period from 2021 to March 2022, the EPD had conducted a total of 514 inspections to the sources of pollution. A total of seven cases of foul water pipe misconnection in buildings and 12 cases of misconnection between public sewers and stormwater drains had been identified. They had been referred to the BD and DSD for follow-up respectively.

7. SBS/D5 of the BD responded that currently there were 27 cases of foul water pipe misconnection in buildings being followed up by the BD. Among them, the rectification works of 13 cases had been completed and that of 11 cases had commenced or would commence shortly. The BD had also issued drainage repair or removal

orders in three cases.

8. SHI(C&PC)TW1 of the FEHD responded that staff of the contractor engaged by the FEHD would conduct regular clearance of refuse at the gullies in the district. If the drains at public places were found blocked during routine inspections conducted by the FEHD staff, the FEHD would arrange for clearance to be carried out by its contractor. In the case of unsuccessful clearance of drain blockage, the FEHD would refer such cases to the DSD and Highways Department (HyD) for follow-up.

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

- (1) he said that the odour from the harbourfront could even be smelled by people from afar at Nan Fung Centre and by some residents when they had passed through Sha Tsui Road and Castle Peak Road. He commented that the odour problem had persisted in Tsuen Wan for a long time. Apart from the locations mentioned by the departments concerned where improvement measures had been implemented, there had to be some other potential odour sources. Hence, he hoped that the departments concerned would put more efforts in identifying such sources. Besides, he suggested that they should consider writing to the bureau concerned for the request of conducting a study on the odour problem in the district (Mr WONG Ka-wa);
- (2) he said that although some residents of Pavilia Bay saw an improvement in the odour problem, the odour was not of “mild” level as described in the EPD’s paper. He enquired if the EPD staff had worn face masks while conducting the odour prediction assessment, and believed that the results of such assessment might not be accurate if it was conducted under the condition where staff were in face masks. Starting from a location near the outfall of the box culvert at Tai Ho Road, he had gone on a walk towards Pavilia Bay before the meeting. He had found that the level of odour intensity had gone higher along the way. Comparatively, the odour level had been less intense near Ocean Pride. The situation was similar to the findings of the EPD’s odour prediction assessment carried out at the two locations. Moreover, some residents of Pavilia Bay relayed to him that the odour problem might be affected by factors such as temperature, time and wind direction. Furthermore, he was concerned about the operation of the inter-departmental task force as mentioned in the paper submitted by the EPD and suggested jointly conducting an on-site inspection on the captioned issue with the relevant

departments (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio); and

- (3) he opined that the results of the EPD's odour prediction assessment carried out at individual locations being rated as "mild" were inconsistent with the residents' perception. Some residents of Pavilia Bay had even moved to other places because of the odour nuisance. He enquired whether the EPD could deploy additional manpower to conduct odour prediction assessment at night and proposed that such assessment should be carried out together with Members at different time slots (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu).

10. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded as follows:

- (1) during the epidemic, the EPD staff would put on face masks when conducting odour prediction assessment;
- (2) the inter-departmental task force set up for tackling the odour problem of Tsuen Wan harbourfront had held a meeting in October 2021 for discussion on improvement measures and progress of follow-up actions as well as exchange of information among various departments; and
- (3) the EPD would review the proposal of conducting odour prediction assessment at various time slots to evaluate changes in the level of odour at different times.

11. The Chairman stated that the odour problem had persisted in the district for a long time. Some people had relayed to him that odour problem had also occurred in the vicinity of Princess Alexandra Community Centre. Nonetheless, he opined that the efforts of various departments for addressing the odour problem should not be disregarded, and for this reason, thorough consideration was necessary before writing to the bureau concerned. He agreed that an on-site inspection should be conducted on the captioned issue and requested the EPD to make arrangement. Besides, the EHCCC would continue to discuss the captioned item under the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting at the next meeting.

(B) Paragraphs 16 to 29 of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 June 2021: About the Discovery of Shooting Activity Scraps near Shing Mun Reservoir

12. The Chairman stated that the representatives from the departments/organisation responsible for giving responses were:

- (1) Mr YAN Tung-hin, Borze, Engineer/New Territories West (Headworks 3) (E/NTW(H3)), Water Supplies Department (WSD);
- (2) Ms WONG Fong, Fanny, SEPO(RW)2, EPD;

- (3) Ms NGAR Yuen-ngor, Senior Country Parks Officer (Management 2), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD);
- (4) Mr TANG Hoong-kin, Philip, Country Parks Officer (West) (CPO(W)), AFCD;
- (5) Ms YEUNG Sien-ching, Susana, AA/Lands, DLO;
- (6) Mr CHENG Ho-yin, Henry, Senior Estate Surveyor/Tsuen Wan (SES/TW), DLO;
- (7) Mr TSUI Yiu-fung, Estate Surveyor/Tsuen Wan 2, DLO; and
- (8) Mr Clement CHOW, Honorary Secretary, Hong Kong Gun Club (HKGC).

Besides, the written reply of the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) was tabled at the meeting.

13. E/NTW(H3) of the WSD responded that the WSD staff continued to conduct inspections at the catchwater and slopes near the HKGC. Although the situation of accumulation of shooting activity scraps was found to be improved, the shooting activity scraps discovered during the inspections conducted in late March 2022 had not yet been completely removed. The WSD therefore urged the HKGC once again to strengthen the clearance work.

14. CPO(W) of the AFCD responded as follows:

- (1) the AFCD staff would regularly conduct inspections to the overlapping area of the country park and the HKGC as well as nearby slopes. The quantity of shooting activity scraps found near the mesh fences erected at the perimeter of the area of the HKGC had decreased, but still a large quantity of shooting activity scraps was identified at the adjacent valley outside the HKGC. The AFCD would continue to request the HKGC to carry out clean-up work and formulate a long-term clearance plan;
- (2) the HKGC had replied to the DLO that it would draw up a clearance plan, including measures such as the provision of additional screen barriers and trenches to alleviate the problem of shooting activity scraps. The AFCD hoped that the HKGC would provide the designs and schedule of the works in detail; and
- (3) the AFCD would continue to maintain communication with other departments concerned.

15. SES/TW of the DLO responded as follows:

- (1) The DLO had issued a warning letter to the HKGC in June 2021,

requiring the HKGC to rectify the lease breach. As the HKGC had not rectified the breach within the period specified in the warning letter, the DLO had registered the warning letter at the Land Registry under the respective lots (commonly known as “imposing an encumbrance”) in September 2021; and

- (2) the DLO and other departments concerned had all along been jointly following up on the clearance of shooting activity scraps, and would take law enforcement and lease enforcement actions by attending to their respective duties.

16. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded that the EPD would continue to provide the DLO with technical advice on soil sampling and testing, thereby assisting the DLO in taking follow-up actions according to the lease conditions.

17. Honorary Secretary of the HKGC responded as follows:

- (1) the HKGC had outsourced the clean-up work of shooting activity scraps at the catchwater to a contractor in January 2022, who had been expected to complete the clearance within two months but failed to do so even in late April 2022. The HKGC had urged the contractor to expeditiously complete the clean-up work;
- (2) the DLO would conduct an on-site inspection at the HKGC on 10 May 2022. The HKGC would spare no efforts in carrying out the clean-up work but found that it would be more difficult to conduct the clearance work during adverse weather, indicating that more time was required to thoroughly clear all shooting activity scraps; and
- (3) the HKGC had come to an agreement with the HKPF that shooting activities would resume only after the completion of the erection of mesh fences. It was anticipated that the works would take at least one year to complete. Hence, there should be no more shooting activities in 2022 and the HKGC would seize the opportunity to carry out the clean-up work during this period.

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

- (1) he opined that the HKGC should consider relocating to other locations, which were well served by public transport and would facilitate public access to shooting sports, instead of spending a lot of money on improvement works and clean-up work. He did not understand why the contractor engaged by the HKGC had failed to complete the clean-up

work within the period specified. He requested the DLO to provide the relevant information at the next meeting and set out the conditions for reinstating the HKGC's original land lease (Mr WONG Ka-wa);

- (2) during an on-site inspection previously conducted at the HKGC with Members, he had found that a large amount of shooting activity scraps had still been left within the area of the country park. He considered that the WSD had given a vague reply and asked the WSD to inform Members of the specific progress of the clean-up work of shooting activity scraps in the area of the catchwater and the findings as to whether shooting activity scraps had affected the quality of fresh water. He suggested writing to the section of the Home Affairs Department (HAD) which was responsible for licensing matters to reflect the problem. He opined that the HKGC should be determined and devote more efforts to tackle the problem of shooting activity scraps without shirking the responsibility to the contractor. He also hoped to participate in the on-site inspection to be taken place on 10 May 2022, which was led by the DLO (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu); and
- (3) he said that as the captioned item had been discussed under the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting for multiple times and all the departments concerned had written to the HKGC for warning and prosecution respectively, the HKGC should have carried out the clean-up work more seriously. He was discontented with the contractor engaged by the HKGC for the slow progress of the clean-up work, opining that discussion on the captioned item under the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting should be continued (the Chairman).

19. E/NTW(H3) of the WSD responded as follows:

- (1) the WSD had carried out large-scale clearance work of shooting activity scraps left on nearby slopes in recent years and had immediately removed the shooting activity scraps identified during the inspections conducted earlier; and
- (2) the WSD was aware of Members' concern over water quality, therefore it had been taking samples from the catchwater and Shing Mun Reservoir for testing on a regular basis. The results showed that the water quality had been normal.

20. Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan) (ADO(TW)) of the Tsuen Wan District Office (TWDO) responded that he would forward Members' views to the HAD for

follow-up.

21. Honorary Secretary of the HKGC responded as follows:
- (1) the HKGC had spent nearly \$1.5 million for the clean-up work since 2019. However, shooting activity scraps had been accumulated for many years, therefore the HKGC required more time to completely clean them up;
 - (2) the HKGC had suspended skeet shooting activities for two years and would continue the clean-up work; and
 - (3) installation of additional mesh fences had become one of the licensing conditions for the HKGC. Shooting activities would not be held at the HKGC before the completion of the installation of the additional mesh fences which, as expected, would take at least one year.

22. SES/TW of the DLO responded that staff of the DLO and the government departments concerned would jointly conduct an on-site inspection at the HKGC on 10 May 2022 for having a better understanding of the progress of the clearance work thereat. Members who were interested in participating in the on-site inspection might directly liaise with the DLO for arrangement.

IV Item 3: Request for Serious Attention to the Illegal Disposal of Construction Waste in Tsuen Wan District
(EHCCC Paper No. 2/22-23)

23. The Chairman stated that Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio submitted the paper. The representatives from the departments responsible for giving responses were:

- (1) Ms WONG Fong, Fanny, SEPO(RW)2, EPD;
- (2) Mr LEE Huen-yiu, District Engineer/Tsuen Wan (DE/TW), HyD;
- (3) Miss LEUNG Mee-sze, CHI(TW)1, FEHD; and
- (4) Mr LEE King-chau, SHI(C&PC)TW1, FEHD.

Besides, the written reply of the EPD was tabled at the meeting.

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

25. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded as follows:
- (1) the EPD had installed surveillance camera systems at eight locations in the district, including Tai Chung Road near Superluck Industrial Centre Phase 2, Mei Wan Street near Discovery Park, Tak Wah Street, Ho Pui Street near Mary of Providence Primary School, Wang Wo Tsai Street

near Ever Gain Centre, Tsuen Yip Street, Cheung Tung Road and Sham Shui Kok Substation; and

- (2) the EPD would irregularly upgrade the surveillance camera systems installed in the district and review their effectiveness. In case an increase in the number of complaint cases lodged by the public was identified or the problem of illegal disposal of construction waste at specific locations had worsened, the EPD would review the need of re-allocating the surveillance camera systems having regard to privacy and actual circumstances.

26. DE/TW of the HyD responded as follows:

- (1) the HyD was mainly responsible for the construction, maintenance and repairs of the public roads and ancillary facilities under its management. It would also assist in clearing construction waste illegally deposited on public roads upon receipt of such reports from the public and other departments;
- (2) to expedite the HyD's clearance of construction waste which had caused obstruction on public roads, the public might provide the relevant information to the HyD through the government hotline 1823 or the HyD's complaint hotline or by email;
- (3) the HyD suggested that the public should provide the EPD with the relevant information on suspected cases concerning illegal disposal of construction waste with a view to assisting the EPD in taking law enforcement actions and instigating prosecutions against offenders for elimination of such illegal act; and
- (4) the HyD had dealt with a total of about 38 tonnes of construction waste in Tsuen Wan district in the past 12 months.

27. SHI(C&PC)TW1 of the FEHD responded as follows:

- (1) the FEHD was responsible for clearing household and organic waste disposed of in public areas. In case fly-tipping of construction waste was identified, it would notify the HyD and Lands Department (LandsD) for assistance in clearance as appropriate; and
- (2) in case construction waste was found to be mixed with household/organic waste in the illegally deposited refuse, the FEHD staff would immediately remove the household and organic waste as well as give notification to the HyD and LandsD for assisting in clearing the remaining construction waste.

28. The views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:
- (1) he asked the EPD to clarify how the number of inspections conducted against illegal disposal of construction waste in the district was calculated. As regards the EPD's proposal of installation of surveillance camera systems at black spots of fly-tipping of construction waste in Tsuen Wan district, he did not recommend installing surveillance camera systems at locations near residential premises or in streets of high pedestrian flow in order to protect the privacy of residents. He was pleased to learn that the EPD had shouldered the responsibility of conducting inspections and taking law enforcement actions in a proactive manner. He considered that the FEHD was not an appropriate department to handle complaint cases which only involved construction waste. Therefore, he requested the HyD to provide its complaint hotline to Members. He also hoped that the department, which was responsible for addressing the problem of illegal disposal of construction waste, could inform Members of the specific contact person and make every effort to apply the concept of "one-stop" service platform when handling complaints, so as to facilitate the classification of complaints received from the public by Members such that they could sort the cases according to the nature of the illegally deposited objects involved and liaise with the most appropriate department to follow up on such complaints. In addition, he requested to refer complaint cases to specific contact persons of the department concerned by using instant messaging applications to streamline the referral procedure (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio);
 - (2) he said that dumping of construction waste was often carried out by law breakers by using large vehicles. Thus, he suggested encouraging the public to take photos of the number plates of the vehicles involved when they spotted a fly-tipping incident of construction waste, thereby assisting the departments concerned in handling the relevant complaints. He also suggested installing surveillance camera systems at black spots concerning illegal disposal of construction waste for evidence collection and enforcement action. He believed that this was the solution to tackle the problem at root and eliminate such illegal practices. In his opinion, the act of illegal disposal of construction waste in urban area was outrageous, and the above solution should also be adopted in tackling fly-tipping of construction waste in rural area (Mr MAN Yu-ming); and
 - (3) he believed that the EPD, FEHD and HyD were all responsible for

assisting in cleaning up illegally deposited objects in the district, and that the public and Members could convey the problem of fly-tipping to the departments concerned through various channels. He agreed that penalties should be imposed on offenders involving illegal disposal of construction waste but considered the prosecution rate of fly-tipping cases was undesirable for the EPD. He requested the EPD to strengthen its efforts in monitoring and enforcement at black spots involving illegal disposal of construction waste (the Chairman).

29. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded as follows:
- (1) the EPD staff would inspect several black spots in a specific area at the same time during an inspection. Regarding the frequency of inspections, locations in proximity to each other being inspected during the inspection would be considered as inspected for one time even multiple locations were inspected;
 - (2) the EPD had started to install surveillance camera systems for detecting fly-tipping of construction waste by vehicles since 2018, with a view to aiding the EPD in taking law enforcement actions; and
 - (3) the EPD had successfully instigated eight prosecutions by adopting the above approaches in 2021.

V Item 4: Provision of Additional Collection Boxes for Disposal of Face Masks
(EHCCC Paper No. 3/22-23)

30. The Chairman stated that Mr MAN Yu-ming submitted the paper. The representatives from the departments responsible for giving responses were:

- (1) Miss LEUNG Mee-sze, CHI(TW)1, FEHD;
- (2) Mr LEE King-chau, SHI(C&PC)TW1, FEHD; and
- (3) Ms WONG Fong, Fanny, SEPO(RW)2, EPD.

Besides, the written reply of the EPD was tabled at the meeting.

31. Mr MAN Yu-ming introduced the paper.

32. The Chairman stated that with the easing of the fifth wave of the epidemic and the gradual relaxation of certain social distancing measures, it was necessary to be more cautious in handling discarded masks. He enquired whether the Government had implemented any corresponding precautionary measures at the time of relaxing the social distancing measures. He also enquired whether the FEHD would disinfect and clean the refuse containers when removing refuse from such containers.

33. SHI(C&PC)TW1 of the FEHD responded as follows:
- (1) according to the guidelines issued by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP), face masks worn by the public for daily use should be regarded as general waste after they had been disposed of;
 - (2) the FEHD provided refuse bins at suitable locations in the streets to facilitate the disposal of small pieces of refuse (including face masks) by members of the public. The FEHD would regularly deploy staff to clear the refuse bins to ensure the cleanliness of the locations where the bins were placed;
 - (3) during the epidemic, the FEHD had stepped up its efforts in clearing discarded face masks and refuse as well as reminding staff to pay attention to their personal hygiene and handle the waste disposed of properly;
 - (4) the FEHD would provide face masks to the contractors engaged for distribution to their cleaning workers for use at work. The contractors would also provide protective equipment to the cleaning workers. Whenever discarded face masks were identified in the streets, the FEHD staff would immediately remove them; and
 - (5) the FEHD staff had been divided into different teams, which were responsible for removing refuse from refuse bins and cleaning refuse bins respectively. If the FEHD staff found that the refuse bins were too dirty during the removal of refuse, they would also assist in cleaning such bins.
34. ADO(TW) of the TWDO responded as follows:
- (1) government departments were required to carry out cleansing work in the areas under their management respectively. The TWDO had provided collection boxes for disposal of face masks near some refuse bins in community halls and community centres. The public could dispose of their used face masks at these collection boxes; and
 - (2) the TWDO would, in the light of the public's habit of disposing of face masks, place collection boxes for discarded face masks at suitable locations in facilities under its management instead of placing such collection box beside every regular refuse bin.
35. The views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:
- (1) despite the utility of collection boxes for discarded face masks, used face masks was still considered as dirty and repulsive by the public. Hence,

he opined that the provision of collection boxes for discarded face masks might arouse the public's discontent. If this kind of collection boxes were placed within his constituency, the public might lodge complaints about them. He also opined that the public should be advised to properly wrap their face masks before discarding them in regular refuse bins (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu);

- (2) he opined that in view of the subsiding epidemic situation, the measure in respect of wearing masks might be relaxed in the latter part of the year. The long-term provision of additional collection boxes for discarded face masks was proposed based on a more pessimistic assumption, therefore the cost-effectiveness would be questioned if the measure turned out to be a short-term one. In his opinion, a more optimistic perspective towards the epidemic trend should be adopted and the existing anti-epidemic measures might be progressively relaxed in response to the easing of the epidemic situation (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio);
- (3) he considered that it would be a measure easier for implementation if departments provided additional collection boxes for discarded face masks within the areas under their management respectively. However, the Government should consider the necessity of providing additional collection boxes for discarded face masks upon defining whether discarded face masks were waste that required special treatment (Mr WONG Ka-wa); and
- (4) as people had to wear face masks during physical activities in recreational and sports facilities, he considered it appropriate to provide collection boxes for discarded face masks in recreational and sports facilities for public disposal of face masks which were soaked with sweat. He opined that it was important to pay attention to the cleaning and disinfection procedures because certain risk of infection was involved in handling discarded face masks (the Chairman).

36. ADO(TW) of the TWDO responded as follows:

- (1) the TWDO did not impose any requirement on the public for compulsorily disposing of their used face masks into the collection boxes for discarded face masks set up at the facilities managed by the TWDO. For people who wanted to dispose of their face masks without wrapping them properly, they might use such collection boxes specially set up for collecting used face masks;
- (2) the CHP had all along been strongly encouraging the public to properly

wrap and discard their used face masks; and

- (3) as advised by the website of the CHP, face masks and rapid antigen test kits used by members of the public were regarded as municipal waste which could be discarded with general refuse.

37. SHI(C&PC)TW1 of the FEHD responded that the FEHD would remind frontline staff to take protective measures properly. The FEHD staff would immediately remove any discarded face masks in the streets once identified.

38. Mr MAN Yu-ming explained that the original intention of proposing the provision of collection boxes for discarded face masks was to enhance the promotion of public health and anti-epidemic awareness as a preventive measure against the epidemic. Although he agreed that he should have made the proposal earlier, he considered that people should continue to stay on guard with a view to avoiding a rebound in the epidemic situation. He believed that apart from relaxing anti-epidemic measures, publicity and education on the proper ways to dispose of face masks should be provided to the public, thereby tackling the problem of indiscriminate disposal of face masks by some people.

VI Item 5: Information Papers

- (1) Work Report on the Problem of Sea Water Pollution of the Rambler Channel, Tsuen Wan (May 2021 to March 2022)
(EHCCC Paper No. 7/22-23)

39. Mr LAU Cheuk-yu opined that the findings of the EPD's odour prediction assessment failed to reflect the residents' actual perception. Besides, the EPD had conducted odour prediction assessment during office hours only. He therefore hoped that the EPD would deploy additional manpower to conduct odour prediction assessment at night and invite Members to participate in such assessment.

40. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded that the EPD had conducted odour prediction assessment in various time slots and might review the time slots for conducting odour prediction assessment again. The EPD welcomed Members to put forward suggestions during the on-site inspection to be arranged in due course.

- (2) Work Report on Environmental Hygiene in Tsuen Wan District
(EHCCC Paper No. 9/22-23)

41. Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio enquired of the FEHD the reason of a substantial increase in the number of unlicensed food premises identified in July 2021

when compared with that of the same period in the previous year. Although the FEHD had strengthened its efforts in combating offenders of shop front extension (SFE) since October 2021, a decrease in the number of summons action taken against SFE offenders was recorded in March 2022 when compared with that of the same period in 2021. He enquired about the reasons. He also requested the FEHD to implement enhanced measures against the problem of water dripping from air-conditioners in the district. Lastly, some residents reflected to him that odour had emitted from the temporary toilets which were provided during the renovation works of Wang Lung Street Public Toilet. He requested the FEHD to coordinate with the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) for expeditious completion of the works, thus facilitating the prompt removal of the temporary toilets.

42. CHI(TW)1 of the FEHD responded as follows:

- (1) some unlicensed food premises in the district were situated in the factory and most of them had ceased to operate;
- (2) the FEHD would conduct regular inspection to unlicensed food premises and immediately institute prosecutions against offenders if operation without a licence at such premises was identified. The operation of unlicensed food premises was prohibited in some shopping centres in the district; and
- (3) the FEHD would proactively conduct inspection at black spots of water dripping from air-conditioners in the district, such as bus stops and pedestrian crossing facilities, on a weekly basis. Immediate follow-up actions would be taken if cases of water dripping from air-conditioners were identified.

43. SHI(C&PC)TW1 of the FEHD responded as follows:

- (1) since October 2021, the FEHD and HKPF had started to conduct joint operations to combat the problem of SFE. As a result, the total number of prosecutions taken against SFE offenders had also increased since October 2021;
- (2) the FEHD had always been in coordination with the ArchSD regarding the renovation works of Wang Lung Street Public Toilet. However, the completion date was delayed since the logistics and transportation of the materials to be used in the works had been adversely impacted by the epidemic. Having been informed by the ArchSD that the works would be completed in mid-June 2022, the FEHD would continue its coordination with the ArchSD; and

- (3) the FEHD would instruct the contractor concerned to provide cleansing service for the temporary portable toilets set up near Wang Lung Street Public Toilet as appropriate.

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

- (3) Publicity and Anti-Marine Littering Operation in Tsuen Wan District (January 2021 - January 2022)
(EHCCC Paper No. 4/22-23);
- (4) Work Report on Environmental Pollution Control in Tsuen Wan District (1 May 2021 to 31 March 2022)
(EHCCC Paper No. 5/22-23);
- (5) Odour Prediction Assessment at Riviera Gardens and Tsuen Wan Slaughter House (May 2021 to March 2022)
(EHCCC Paper No. 6/22-23);
- (6) Noise Monitoring Result of MTR Tsuen Wan Depot (May 2021 to March 2022)
(EHCCC Paper No. 8/22-23); and
- (7) Aircraft Noise Data Collected from Dedicated Monitoring Stations in Tsuen Wan District during April 2021 to January 2022
(EHCCC Paper No. 10/22-23).

VII Item 6: Any Other Business

45. The Chairman said that as the office of the Convenor of the Working Group on Environmental Protection, Environmental Improvement, Public Health and Food Safety (the “Working Group”) had become vacant, election for the Convenor of the Working Group would then be conducted.

46. The Secretary read out the membership list of the Working Group which comprised the Chairman, Mr MAN Yu-ming, Mr CHAN Sung-ip, Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio and Mr WONG Ka-wa.

47. Mr MAN Yu-ming proposed that the Chairman should assume the role of the Convenor of the Working Group. Members unanimously endorsed the proposal.

VIII Adjournment of Meeting

48. The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting was scheduled at 2:30 p.m. on 23 June 2022 (Thursday) and the deadline for submission of papers was 8 June 2022 (Wednesday).

49. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat

20 May 2022