

(Translation)

Minutes of the 11th Meeting of
Environment, Health and Climate Change Committee (2/22-23)

Date: 23 June 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

Mr WONG Lap-yan, Ivan
District Environmental Hygiene
Superintendent (Tsuen Wan), Food
and Environmental Hygiene
Department

Mr YIP Yick-chun
Chief Health Inspector (Tsuen Wan) 2,
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 HO Kit-ming	Engineer/Tsuen Kwai 2, Drainage Services Department
Mr FAN Chin-wai, Joseph	Engineer/14 (West), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr CHU Wai-kit	Assistant Housing Manager/Shek Wai Kok 2, Housing Department
Ms YEUNG Sien-ching, Susana	Administrative Assistant/Lands, District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing

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
Mr TANG Hoong-kin, Philip	Country Parks Officer (West), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Mr TSUI Yiu-fung	Estate Surveyor/Tsuen Wan 2, District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing
Mr CHUNG Ching-to	Senior Officer, Hong Kong Gun Club

The Meeting

I Opening Remarks and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed the Members and representatives from government departments to the 11th meeting of the Environment, Health and Climate Change

Committee (EHCCC) and introduced:

- (1) Mr YIP Yick-chun, Chief Health Inspector (Tsuen Wan) 2 (CHI(TW)2), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), who attended the meeting on behalf of Miss LEUNG Mee-sze, Chief Health Inspector (Tsuen Wan) 1; and
- (2) Mr CHU Wai-kit, Assistant Housing Manager/Shek Wai Kok 2, Housing Department, who attended the meeting on behalf of Mr KAN King-ming, Victor, Housing Manager/Wong Tai Sin, Tsing Yi & Tsuen Wan 8.

2. The Chairman stated that according to section 28 of the Tsuen Wan District Council Standing Orders, unless otherwise agreed by the Chairman, Member(s) could have up to 2 minutes to introduce a 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 department(s) 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. The representative(s) from the department(s) concerned might speak up to 2 minutes twice.

II Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 10th Meeting held on 5.5.2022

3. The Chairman stated that the Secretariat had received six proposed amendments from Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio prior to this meeting. The proposed amendments were set out as follows:

- (1) in line 5 of paragraph 9(2) of the captioned minutes, “這與環保署的臭味評估結果相若” (it was comparable to the findings of the EPD’s odour assessment) should be amended as “這與環保署的兩邊臭味評估比較相若” (it was relatively comparable to the findings of the EPD’s odour assessment conducted on the two sides);
- (2) in line 3 of paragraph 28(1) of the captioned minutes, “他不建議將監察攝錄系統設置於人流較多的街道” (he did not recommend the installation of surveillance camera systems in streets with a higher pedestrian flow) should be amended as “他不建議將監察攝錄系統設置於民居附近或人流較多的街道” (he did not recommend the installation of surveillance camera systems near residential premises or in streets with a higher pedestrian flow);
- (3) in line 7 of paragraph 28(1) of the captioned minutes, “盡可能以 ‘一站式’

服務台概念運作” (it should operate like a “one-stop” service platform as far as possible) should be added before “讓委員在收到市民的投訴時能因應所涉非法棄置物的性質” (so that Members could take actions corresponding to the types of illegally deposited objects upon receipt of complaints from the public);

- (4) in line 9 of paragraph 28(1) of the captioned minutes, “以簡化投訴程序” (to streamline the complaint procedure) should be amended as “以簡化轉介程序” (to streamline the referral procedure);
- (5) in lines 2 and 3 of paragraph 35(2) of the captioned minutes, “而短期加設該等收集箱的效益亦成疑” (the effectiveness of the temporary provision of those collection boxes was also in doubt) should be amended as “而如果最後只變成短期措施則成本效益成疑” (the cost-effectiveness would be in doubt if the measure became a short-term initiative in the end); and
- (6) in lines 5 and 6 of paragraph 41 of the captioned minutes, “希望食環署可協調建築署盡快完成工程” (hoped that the FEHD would coordinate with the Architectural Services Department to expeditiously complete the works) should be followed by “，使到那數個臨時洗手間可以盡早移走” (, so as to remove those temporary toilets as soon as possible).

4. The Chairman asked if Members endorsed the captioned minutes and the proposed amendments. Members unanimously endorsed the captioned minutes and the proposed amendments.

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

(A) Paragraphs 4 to 11 of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 May 2022: Request for Addressing the Odour Problem of Tsuen Wan Harbourfront Expeditiously

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

- (1) Mr HO Kit-ming, Engineer/Tsuen Kwai 2 (E/TK2), Drainage Services Department (DSD);
- (2) Mr TSUI Ka-kim, Kim, Senior Building Surveyor/D5 (SBS/D5), Buildings Department (BD);
- (3) Ms WONG Fong, Fanny, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West) 2 (SEPO(RW)2), Environmental Protection Department (EPD);
- (4) Mr WONG Lap-yan, Ivan, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Tsuen Wan) (DEHS(TW)), FEHD;
- (5) Mr YIP Yick-chun, CHI(TW)2, 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.

6. E/TK2 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 odour that probably originated from the drainage system;
- (2) to further enhance the effectiveness of deodourising PVC screens in controlling odour, the DSD was replacing the screens at the outfalls of the box culverts at Tai Ho Road, Tai Chung Road and Ma Tau Pa Road. It expected that the replacement would be completed in July 2022;
- (3) the DSD would clean the waterfront sections of the three box culverts with high pressure jet cleaners on a regular basis. It had cleaned the box culverts in February and March 2022 respectively, and would carry out another clean-up by the end of June 2022;
- (4) the DSD would continue to adjust and refine the formula of odour control hydrogel (hydrogel) in collaboration with a team from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) with a view to further inhibiting hydrogen sulfide and most of the volatile organic compounds;
- (5) the DSD would construct additional dry weather flow interceptors (DWFIs) at five rural locations in Tsuen Wan. The works had gradually commenced in the third quarter of 2020 and were expected to be progressively completed in 2023; and
- (6) the DSD would construct newly designed DWFIs at the waterfront in the lower reaches from the box culverts at Tai Ho Road and Ma Tau Pa Road. The ground investigation and site selection of the project were in full swing at present, and the detailed work would commence once the project sites were finalised.

(Note: Mr MAN Yu-ming joined the meeting at 2:34 p.m. Mr WONG Ka-wa joined the meeting at 2:38 p.m.)

7. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded that the EPD had conducted 56 inspections of the sources of pollution in the district in the first four months of 2022, during which one case of foul water pipe misconnection in buildings had been identified. The case had already been referred to the BD for follow-up.

8. SBS/D5 of the BD responded that the BD was currently following up on a total of 16 cases of foul water pipe misconnection in buildings. Among those cases, rectification works had been completed in two cases and had commenced or would commence in 10 cases, and one case was under investigation at the moment. The BD had also issued repair orders or removal orders in three cases.

9. SHI(C&PC)TW1 of the FEHD responded the FEHD's contractors would clear drains in the district on a regular basis. If the FEHD's staff found blockage of drains in public places during routine inspections, they would make arrangements for clearance with contractors. If the contractors were unable to clear the blocked drains, the FEHD would refer the cases to the DSD and Highways Department for follow-up.

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

- (1) he said that the captioned item had been discussed several times under the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting. Yet, the EPD still marked the odour assessment results of individual locations as "mild", deviating from the perception of residents. He expressed regret over and was baffled by this. Besides, he held that the misconnection of foul water pipes in buildings might not be the only cause behind the odour problem, and that the Tsuen Wan District Office (TWDO) should coordinate with the departments concerned to completely solve the odour problem in the district. In addition, he was discontented with the departments for their failure to arrange an on-site inspection before the meeting (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu);
- (2) in his opinion, the departments should promptly arrange an on-site inspection with Members to identify the sources of odour. He opined that efforts should be made to study the extent to which the cases of foul water pipe misconnection had contributed to the odour problem at the harbourfront. He also held that besides the pipe misconnections, it should also study whether the accumulation of sludge discharged from past industrial activities on the seabed was one of the causes of the odour problem at the harbourfront. He agreed that the TWDO should coordinate with various departments to solve the odour problem. He opined that if the Environment Bureau or EPD was able to put forth a permanent solution to the odour problem, the EHCCC could cease to discuss the item under the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting. Moreover, he had reservations on the cost-effectiveness of DWFIs constructed by the DSD (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio); and
- (3) he noted that the departments concerned were arranging an on-site inspection,

and wanted to learn about the results of the study on hydrogel conducted by the DSD and the HKUST (the Chairman).

11. E/TK2 of the DSD responded that the first stage of the study on the formula of hydrogel conducted by the DSD and the HKUST team showed that hydrogel had a positive effect on inhibition of the odour of hydrogen sulfide. The second stage of the study aimed to investigate the effectiveness of hydrogel in suppressing volatile organic compounds unique to Tsuen Wan district. The study on a new formula of hydrogel was underway.

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

- (1) the EPD had extended the odour assessment period to the nighttime since June 2022. The results of the latest odour assessment also showed that the odour level was “mild” or “very mild”; and
- (2) the EPD was actively liaising with staff of the departments concerned in order to promptly arrange an on-site inspection with Members.

13. Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan) (ADO(TW)) of the TWDO responded as follows:

- (1) the TWDO noted the efforts made by various departments to tackle the odour problem of Tsuen Wan harbourfront, and would make coordination at different levels. Regarding the divergent views between some Members and government departments about the causes of odour, the TWDO welcomed Members to convey their views to government departments through various channels including the discussion platform of the Council. The TWDO respected and thanked all the professional departments for their views and follow-up on the causes of odour. The TWDO had also participated in an inter-departmental meeting led by the EPD last year, where directorate officers from various departments discussed solutions to the odour problem;
- (2) the TWDO had all along been attempting to assist residents of “three-nil” buildings in the district in forming owners’ corporations (OCs) or electing Resident Liaison Ambassadors, helping such buildings to expeditiously rectify pipe misconnections and thereby dovetailing with other departments’ work on improving the odour problem at the harbourfront. The TWDO had launched a pilot scheme in 2022 in an effort to facilitate more efficient establishment of OCs through the cooperation between professional management companies and local organisations as well as capitalising advice

from the Area Committees (ACs); and

- (3) the TWDO had invited the EPD to attend meetings of the ACs to collect views from AC Members and brief them on the EPD's work against the odour problem at the harbourfront. It would also promote the correct ways to repair drains among the public and introduce the subsidy schemes of other departments to them through the ACs.

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

- (1) he held that the effectiveness of the measures taken by various departments to tackle the odour problem at the harbourfront was questionable. He noted that the departments concerned had held meetings regularly in a bid to solve the odour problem at the harbourfront in the district. However, he opined that the sole reliance on the district-level discussions and use of local resources was inadequate to solve the said problem effectively, whereas the only thing Members could do was to reflect the odour problem to the Government (Mr WONG Ka-wa); and
- (2) he commented that the results of the EPD's odour assessments still failed to reflect the actual perception of the public. He was discontented in this regard. He also opined that the measures to solve the odour problem such as the construction of DWFIs and rectification of pipe misconnections failed to achieve satisfactory results. He therefore hoped that the TWDO would coordinate with various departments to identify the causes of the odour problem at the harbourfront, thereby resolving it thoroughly (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu).

15. ADO(TW) of the TWDO responded that he believed that various departments had noted Members' views and would exchange views with Members in their fields of expertise at meetings.

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

- (1) as the epidemic had subsided in recent months, the EPD had actively been conducting inspections of the sources of pollution in the district. It had successfully identified five or six cases of foul water pipe misconnection in buildings and public sewer misconnection; and
- (2) the EPD still wished to ease the odour problem through the rectification of pipe misconnections, while understanding that pipe misconnections might not be the only factor causing the odour problem.

17. The Chairman stated that the departments were arranging an on-site inspection with respect to the captioned item. He hoped that Members would refrain from participating in the on-site inspection with outsiders so as to ensure that the exchange of views between the departments and Members would not be hindered. Besides, the EHCCC would continue to discuss the captioned item under the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

(B) Paragraphs 12 to 22 of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 May 2022: About the Discovery of Shooting Activity Scraps near Shing Mun Reservoir

18. 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) Mr TANG Hoong-kin, Philip, Country Parks Officer (West) (CPO (W)), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD);
- (4) Ms YEUNG Sien-ching, Susana, Administrative Assistant/Lands, District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing (DLO);
- (5) Mr TSUI Yiu-fung, Estate Surveyor/Tsuen Wan 2 (ES/TW2), DLO; and
- (6) Mr CHUNG Ching-to, Senior Officer (SO), Hong Kong Gun Club (HKGC).

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

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

- (1) the WSD's staff had continued to inspect the catchwater and slopes near the HKGC, and had regularly spot-checked and monitored water samples therefrom;
- (2) the WSD had conducted an on-site inspection at the HKGC together with staff of the departments concerned and Members after the previous meeting, and had found that the HKGC had erected screens to prevent shooting activity scraps from falling into the catchwater apart from clearing shooting activity scraps. According to the HKGC, shooting activities would only resume after the installation of mesh barriers; and
- (3) as the WSD had still found shooting activity scraps within the HKGC, it urged the HKGC once again to step up the clearance work and would give the HKGC advice on measures to prevent shooting activity scraps from falling into the catchwater.

20. CPO (W) of the AFCDD responded that the AFCDD's staff had continued to inspect the overlapping area of the HKGC and the country park as well as nearby slopes, and had still discovered shooting activity scraps therein. A larger amount of shooting activity scraps would be found after heavy rain. The AFCDD hoped that the HKGC would formulate a long-term plan of clearance.

21. ES/TW2 of the DLO responded as follows:

- (1) the DLO had registered the warning letters issued to the HKGC with respect to the lot concerned at the Land Registry (commonly known as "imposing an encumbrance") in September 2021; and
- (2) before taking the above approach, the DLO had issued warning letters to the HKGC and required it to take actions to rectify the lease breach, including clearing the remaining shooting activity scraps to the satisfaction of all the departments concerned, as well as obtaining the HKPF's confirmation that the HKGC complied with the relevant requirements of the Firearms and Ammunition Ordinance (Cap. 238) and the Commissioner of Police.

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

23. SO of the HKGC responded that the HKGC had immediately removed the shooting activity scraps identified during the on-site inspection. Besides, the Executive Committee of the HKGC would discuss the reply to the letter from the DLO in July 2022.

24. Mr LAU Cheuk-yu said that he had conducted an on-site inspection at the HKGC and found that the progress of the clearance of shooting activity scraps was not satisfactory. While noting that the HKGC had taken practical actions to clear shooting activity scraps, he was dissatisfied with the progress. Shooting activity scraps had been accumulating for many years, and soil would become loose during the rainy season. Also, the HKGC could not use large dredgers to aid the clearance within the country park. Agreeing that it was actually difficult for the HKGC to carry out the clearance work, he thus advised the HKGC to seek assistance from professionals to remove shooting activity scraps besides escalating the clearance work. Moreover, he enquired about the follow-up work on this matter carried out by the Office of the Licensing Authority (OLA) under the Home Affairs Department (HAD).

25. ADO(TW) of the TWDO responded that the OLA under the HAD was responsible for the licensing matters of the HKGC. The TWDO had conveyed Members' views to the HAD after the previous meeting, and was waiting for a reply from the HAD at the moment.

26. The Chairman stated that as the captioned item had been discussed repeatedly under the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting, the EHCCC would cease to discuss it further. Besides, the EHCCC would write to enquire of the HAD about the progress of its follow-up on the licensing matters of the HKGC.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat conveyed Members' views to the HAD in writing on 26 July 2022.)

IV Item 3: Noise from Promotional Activities of Roadside Shops in the Old Areas of Tsuen Wan

(EHCCC Paper No. 12/22-23)

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

- (1) Ms WONG Fong, Fanny, SEPO(RW)2, EPD;
- (2) Mr WONG Lap-yan, Ivan, DEHS(TW), FEHD;
- (3) Mr YIP Yick-chun, CHI(TW)2, FEHD; and
- (4) Mr LEE King-chau, SHI(C&PC)TW1, FEHD.

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

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

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

- (1) he said that there was also noise nuisance caused by promotional activities of roadside shops in the area where he resided. However, he understood that a noise would only constitute a nuisance if it persisted and exceeded a prescribed level. He enquired whether the EPD had received any complaints about such noise nuisance. If yes, he enquired about the number of complaint cases it had received. He also pointed out that he had received complaints in the past from people who also suffered from poor mental health due to the long-term exposure to noise nuisance. He enquired of the EPD on the complete solutions to the noise problem (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu); and
- (2) he had visited the areas concerned, and agreed that street cries from retailers

in those areas were quite loud indeed. He enquired of the EPD whether the generation of noise from street cries was prohibited within a designated period of time. He opined that on the one hand, importance should be attached to the problem of residents being disturbed by noise, but on the other hand, one should understand that retailers also needed to earn a living. Besides, he opined that it would be difficult to take enforcement actions if such noise was not regulated by law (Mr MAN Yu-ming).

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

- (1) the EPD had instigated a total of 19 prosecutions against the use of loudspeakers for street cries by shops in the old areas of Tsuen Wan including the vicinities of San Tsuen Street, Chuen Lung Street, Ho Pui Street and Yeung Uk Road during 2018 to May 2022. As at May 2022, the persons in question of a total of 16 cases had been convicted. Four of these cases involved two vegetable chain stalls in San Tsuen Street of which the operators had committed the same offence repeatedly. The director of the vegetable chain stalls concerned had been prosecuted by the EPD and fined HK\$19,000 upon conviction;
- (2) the EPD had conducted a total of 247 inspections in 2021 and about 70 inspections in the first five months of 2022. During the inspections, the EPD would explain the statutory requirements to new shop operators and remind the existing shop operators to pay attention to the volume level of their loudspeakers apart from taking enforcement action;
- (3) noise generated by street cries from shops were under regulation round the clock, and the EPD was currently responsible for taking law enforcement actions in this respect. As regards noise generated by neighbourhood activities, the public might seek assistance from the HKPF to obtain more direct support; and
- (4) the EPD had received a total of 22 complaints about noise generated by street cries in the district in 2021 and eight such complaints in the first five months of 2022. The EPD had instigated a total of eight prosecutions in 2022 and conducted one joint operation with the Police and FEHD for taking law enforcement actions and giving advice to the persons in question around San Tsuen Street and Ho Pui Street.

31. DEHS(TW) of the FEHD responded as follows:

- (1) the FEHD was not responsible for handling noise nuisance caused by street cries from shops;

- (2) the FEHD was responsible for tackling the problem of street obstructions caused by shop front extensions. To combat the problem of illegal extension of business by shops, the FEHD had adopted a new mode to take enforcement actions with the Police since October 2021; and
 - (3) during October 2021 and 31 May 2022, the FEHD had conducted a total of 45 joint operations with the Police. It had issued a total of 408 fixed penalty notices against illegal extension of business by shops and 76 summonses against hawking without licence. The persons in question of eight of these cases had been arrested and prosecuted, and the goods involved had been confiscated. The FEHD would continue to conduct the operations.

32. The views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:
 - (1) he enquired about the criteria used for determining whether a noise constituted a nuisance (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu);
 - (2) he said that the EPD could also provide timely assistance in tackling the problems of light pollution and noise pollution near Lo Tak Court. He enquired if the EPD would deploy a task force to address the noise problem in question (the Chairman); and
 - (3) he held that the noise situation mentioned by him had met the criteria for constituting a nuisance in terms of the continuity and repetitiveness, and hoped that the EPD would vigorously combat the problem. He opined that the EPD should draw reference from the practice of the FEHD and form a task force responsible for conducting inspections on a regular basis in order to achieve a stronger deterrence effect among shop operators. In his opinion, the number of the EPD's successful prosecutions against noise nuisance of shops was too small. The EPD should directly prosecute people making noise instead of giving warnings first. He agreed that the old areas were not only affected by noise nuisance but also other problems such as illegal extension of business by shops. He therefore hoped that the TWDO would redouble its coordination efforts (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio).

33. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded as follows:
 - (1) to determine if a person violated the Noise Control Ordinance (Cap. 400), it depended on whether the noise he/she made had caused "annoyance". Enforcement officers of the EPD would assess if a noise had caused annoyance by taking into account various factors such as the complainant's location, the noise level of the surroundings as well as the continuity and repetitiveness of the noise in question;

- (2) the EPD had all along been devoting effort to enhancing the training of frontline enforcement officers with a view to increasing the consistency of enforcement actions;
- (3) the EPD had strengthened its proactive deployment of staff to conduct inspections and take enforcement actions against noise nuisance caused by shops in the old areas of Tsuen Wan. Given the close proximity of the EPD's Tsuen Wan branch office to San Tsuen Street and Ho Pui Street, the EPD would promptly deploy staff to follow up on a noise complaint and take enforcement actions upon receipt of the complaint; and
- (4) a smaller number of prosecution cases was shown on the list because the court's ruling usually lagged behind. The EPD would step up its law enforcement actions and directly instigate prosecution without prior warning if relatively serious violations were committed by shop operators.

(Note: Mr WONG Ka-wa left the meeting at 3:07 p.m.)

V Item 4: Information Papers

(1) Work Report on the Problem of Sea Water Pollution of the Rambler Channel, Tsuen Wan (April 2022)

(EHCCC Paper No. 16/22-23)

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

- (1) he enquired of the EPD if the existence of sediments on the riverbed was one of the causes behind the odour problem at the harbourfront. Besides, he commented that the findings of the EPD's odour assessments had all along failed to reflect the actual perception of residents (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu);
- (2) he considered that another on-site inspection concerning the odour problem at the harbourfront should be conducted during the ebb so that Members and representatives from the departments could observe the outfalls at the harbourfront (Mr CHAN Sung-ip); and
- (3) he hoped that the EPD would arrange for an on-site inspection (the Chairman).

35. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded that the EPD could further study whether the existence of sediments on the riverbed was one of causes of the odour problem at the harbourfront together with the departments concerned.

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

- (1) Publicity and Anti-Marine Littering Operation in Tsuen Wan District (January

2021 - May 2022)

(EHCCC Paper No. 13/22-23);

- (2) Work Report on Environmental Pollution Control in Tsuen Wan District (1 April 2022 to 30 April 2022)

(EHCCC Paper No. 14/22-23);

- (3) Odour Prediction Assessment at Riviera Gardens and Tsuen Wan Slaughter House (April 2022)

(EHCCC Paper No. 15/22-23);

- (4) Work Report on Environmental Hygiene in Tsuen Wan District

(EHCCC Paper No. 17/22-23); and

- (5) Aircraft Noise Data Collected from Dedicated Monitoring Stations in Tsuen Wan District during February 2022 to March 2022

(EHCCC Paper No. 18/22-23).

VI Item 5: Any Other Business

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

- (1) he said that for Members' information, the Progress Report on Minor Environmental Improvement Programme in 2021/22 was tabled at the meeting. Besides, as Mr WONG Lap-yan, Ivan, DEHS(TW) of the FEHD, would be transferred to a new position, he extended his gratitude to DEHS(TW) and his team (the Chairman); and
- (2) he thanked DEHS(TW) for his hard work on street management. Besides, he hoped that the FEHD would step up its efforts to address the problem of dripping air-conditioners around Chung On Street (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio).

VII Adjournment of Meeting

38. The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting was scheduled at 2:30 p.m. on 18 August 2022 (Thursday) and the deadline for submission of papers was 3 August 2022 (Wednesday).

39. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat

14 July 2022