

(Translation)

Minutes of the 12th Meeting of
Environment, Health and Climate Change Committee (3/22-23)

Date: 18 August 2022 (Thursday)

Time: 3:00 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 CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly

Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio

Mr WONG Ka-wa

Mr LAU Cheuk-yu

Government Representatives

Mr LEE Soeng-him, Sean	Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan), Tsuen Wan District Office
Ms LEE Lai-kiu, Winnie	Senior Liaison Officer (2), Tsuen Wan District Office
Mr YUEN Chiu-kit	Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing & Pest Control) Tsuen Wan 2, 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
Mr YU Hok-chi, Raymond	Chief Land Executive/Squatter Control, District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing
Ms YEUNG Sien-ching, Susana	Administrative Assistant/Lands, District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat Representatives

Mr LIM Kuen	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 2

Mr TSUI Ka-kim, Kim	Senior Building Surveyor/D5, Buildings Department
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For discussion of item 3

Mr LEE Chiu-chun, Lawrence	Principal Project Coordinator, Drainage Services Department
Mr KWONG Wah-kin, Kenneth	Senior Engineer/System Management Division 2, Drainage Services Department
Mr LO Sung-hei	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Sewerage Infrastructure) 2, Environmental Protection Department
Mr CHAN Hin-kwong	Technical Director, Binnies Hong Kong Limited

For discussion of item 5

Mr YAU Wai-yip

Senior Property Services Manager/Sham
Shui Po & Tsuen Kwai, Architectural
Services Department

Ms CHAN Li-yee

Property Services Manager/Tsuen Wan,
Architectural Services Department

The Meeting

I Opening Remarks and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed the Members and representatives from government departments to the 12th meeting of the Environment, Health and Climate Change Committee (EHCCC). He introduced Mr LEE Soeng-him, Sean, who replaced Mr LAI Yik-wing, Wesley to assume the post of Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan) (ADO(TW)).

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 11th Meeting held on 23.6.2022

3. The Chairman stated that the Secretariat did not receive any proposed amendment before the meeting.

4. The Chairman enquired whether Members would like to immediately put forth proposed amendments, and whether they endorsed the minutes. No Member immediately put forth a proposed amendment. Members unanimously endorsed the minutes.

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

(A) Paragraphs 5 to 17 of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 June 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 LEUNG Kwong-chung, Senior Engineer/Mainland South 2 (SE/MS2), 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, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West) 2 (SEPO(RW)2), Environmental Protection Department (EPD); and
- (5) Mr YUEN Chiu-kit, Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing & Pest Control) Tsuen Wan 2 (SHI(C&PC)TW2), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD).

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

6. E/TK 2 of the DSD responded that 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. The progress of these measures was as follows:

- (1) to enhance the effectiveness of deodourising PVC screens in controlling odour, the DSD had replaced the screens at the outfalls of the box culverts at Tai Ho Road, Tai Chung Road and Ma Tau Pa Road in July 2022;
- (2) the DSD would also clean the three box culverts with high-pressure jet cleaners on a regular basis, and had completed the clean-up in June 2022;
- (3) the DSD was currently making preparations for the clearance of sludge in the box culvert constructed at the waterfront section of Ma Tau Pa Road;
- (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 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 a newly designed DWFI in the lower reaches from the box culverts at Ma Tau Pa Road and Tai Ho Road. The DSD and its

engineering consultant would provide detailed information on the project under Item 3.

7. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded that the EPD had conducted a total of 122 inspections of the sources of pollution in the district in May and June 2022, during which eight cases of foul water pipe misconnection in buildings and three cases of misconnection involving stormwater drains and public sewers had been identified. These cases had been referred to the BD and DSD for follow-up.

8. SBS/D5 of the BD responded that the BD was currently following up on a total of 34 cases of foul water pipe misconnection in buildings. Among those cases, rectification works had been completed in one case and had commenced in nine cases. Prosecution had been instigated in one case, and 13 cases were under investigation at the moment. The BD had also issued repair orders or removal orders in ten cases.

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

- (1) he opined that if the EPD would coordinate the preparation of a comprehensive paper analysing the odour problem of Tsuen Wan harbourfront, he would agree to remove the captioned item from the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting. In his opinion, the odour problem of Tsuen Wan harbourfront were mainly caused by the improper discharge of effluent from villages in the upstream area, foul water pipe misconnection in buildings in the district, and deposition of pollutants discharged from past industrial activities in Tsuen Wan on the seabed. He held that the departments concerned should strive to explore ways to eliminate odour. He commended the BD's work on tackling the problem of foul water pipe misconnection in buildings (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio);
- (2) he was discontented with the departments concerned for their failure to arrange an on-site inspection regarding the item for Members and with the EPD over its failure to reflect the perception of residents in the odour assessment. He hoped that an on-site inspection would be promptly arranged for Members in response to the item. Besides, he held that the departments concerned should pinpoint the causes of the odour problem at the waterfront and prescribe a right remedy for it to avoid wastage of resources (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu);
- (3) he regretted that the departments concerned failed to arrange an on-site inspection and hoped that an on-site inspection would be arranged for Members to concurrently address both the captioned item and the item about

the proposed DWFI which would be discussed later. He opined that the odour problem took its toll on the whole Tsuen Wan district. So, the EHCCC should discuss the odour problem of the district more comprehensively, instead of only focusing on the harbourfront. He hoped that the BD would continue its work to rectify foul water pipe misconnection in buildings, and that the DSD's study on hydrogel would achieve positive results as soon as possible. He said that the EHCCC would continue to discuss the captioned item under the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting at the next meeting (the Chairman); and

- (4) he opined that the departments concerned should arrange an on-site inspection for Members to concurrently address both the captioned item and the item on the proposed DWFI to be discussed later (Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly).

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

- (1) the EPD understood the public's concern over the odour problem in the district. It had also largely grasped the odour-affected locations and extent of the impact brought about by odour. The EPD would enhance the collaboration with the departments concerned with a view to easing the odour problem in the district;
- (2) the EPD was reviewing the methods of conducting the odour assessment and recording the results. It would provide Members with more specific reports by including other data such as the wind direction in the reports;
- (3) the EPD had deployed additional staff to conduct inspections in the first seven months of 2022. It had identified a total of 22 cases of foul water pipe misconnection in buildings and six cases of underground public pipe misconnection, and had already referred the cases to the departments concerned for follow-up; and
- (4) as the odour problem of Tsuen Wan harbourfront was mainly caused by the discharge of sewage into stormwater drains from buildings, restaurants or streets in the district, the EPD would make every effort to identify cases of foul water pipe misconnection in the district.

11. ADO(TW) of the Tsuen Wan District Office (TWDO) responded that the TWDO would communicate with the departments concerned to arrange an on-site inspection for Members.

IV Item 3: PWP No. 4450DS - Construction of Dry Weather Flow Interceptor at Tsuen

Wan

(EHCCC Paper No. 19/22-23)

12. The Chairman stated that the paper was submitted by the DSD. The representatives from the departments and consultancy responsible for giving responses were:

- (1) Mr LEE Chiu-chun, Lawrence, Principal Project Coordinator (PPC), DSD;
- (2) Mr KWONG Wah-kin, Kenneth, Senior Engineer/System Management Division 2, DSD;
- (3) Mr LO Sung-hei, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Sewerage Infrastructure) 2, EPD; and
- (4) Mr CHAN Hin-kwong, Technical Director (TechD), Binnies Hong Kong Limited (BHKL).

13. PPC of the DSD and TechD of the BHKL introduced the paper.

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

- (1) he did not object to the construction of the proposed DWFI but was doubtful about its effectiveness. He proposed paying a visit to similar facilities in Kowloon Bay so as to learn about the actual operation of the facilities. He enquired (a) whether an office responsible for the management of DWFIs would be set up in the district; (b) whether the second stage the construction works of the new pet garden would be carried out immediately after the completion of the first stage; (c) whether there would be a replacement if the car park within the project site should be closed; and (d) whether it was necessary to close the roads near the project site with hoardings (Mr WONG Ka-wa);
- (2) he said that the project would adversely affect the residents of all seven blocks of City Point and most of the residents of City Point objected to the project. He was baffled by the need to construct a filtering station in front of Blocks 3 to 6 of City Point, and requested the DSD to consider other sites far away from residential premises. Besides, he held that DWFIs had limited effectiveness. He pointed out that some residents of The Pavilia Bay had told him that the DWFIs constructed by the DSD in the town centre in the second half of 2019 were ineffective in easing odour at the harbourfront. Simply put, he requested the DSD to withdraw the captioned paper (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio);
- (3) he pointed out that a few DWFIs had already been constructed in Tsuen Wan but the odour problem at the harbourfront had not yet been relieved. He

enquired about the extent to which the proposed DWFI could reduce the impact on nearby residents brought about by the odour of dry weather flow (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu);

- (4) he said that the works would lead to the closure of the temporary car park for four years, thereby reducing the supply of parking spaces in the district. He opined that the close proximity of the project site to City Point would arouse opposition of the residents. He suggested selecting another site which did not require the closure of the entire temporary car park, and that the Transport Department (TD) should be consulted about the relevant traffic matters (Mr CHAN Sung-ip);
- (5) he was concerned about the environmental and traffic impacts of the project, and enquired how the departments concerned would tackle nuisance caused to residents by the project. He enquired whether the new pet garden would be smaller than the original one after the completion of the first stage of the works. He also hoped that the departments concerned would designate areas for large and small dogs respectively in the pet garden under the renovation project. He hoped that the Government would actively consult nearby residents about the project. He pointed out that residents might worry about noise and odour problems which might arise during the construction period and after the completion of the facilities. Furthermore, he hoped that an on-site inspection would be arranged for Members to learn about the project site and address the odour problem at the harbourfront (Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly);
- (6) he pointed out that residents had been disturbed by the odour problem at the harbourfront for many years. The captioned project was one of the important ways to solve the odour problem. However, he held that full consideration should be given to the impact on nearby residents in the project design. The department concerned should brief Members on the compensatory measures such as the provision of the pet garden and greening zones in detail. He requested a visit to similar facilities in Kowloon Bay to learn about the concept of the entire project on site. Besides, he suggested that the department concerned should identify other suitable sites in the district for the provision of parking spaces (Mr MAN Yu-ming); and
- (7) while considering that it was necessary to construct the DWFI concerned, he pointed out that the residents nearby might have doubts about the project site and environmental impact. He requested the DSD to provide Members with data in relation to, for example, the effectiveness and environmental impact of similar facilities in Kowloon Bay. Owing to the scarcity of parking

spaces in Tsuen Wan district, he objected to the reduction of local parking spaces due to the need to vacate space for the construction of the DWFI. He also requested for conducting on-site inspections at the project site and similar facilities in Kowloon Bay. Besides, he proposed constructing the filtering station at the vacant site near the sewage pumping station at No. 32 Wing Shun Street, which was far away from the residential premises of City Point (the Chairman).

15. PPC of the DSD gave an overall response as follows:

- (1) the proposed DWFI consisted of two parts, namely, automatic flow interception devices and a filtering station. The former should be installed at the box culverts concerned to intercept and transfer dry weather flow to the filtering station through underground pipes. The distance between the automatic flow interception devices and the filtering station should not exceed 500 metres having regard to various technical and geographical factors. The proposed site of the filtering station was selected after careful consideration. Apart from meeting the need and objective of the project, it was also a more feasible option. Other sites identified for selection were not suitable because there were already large-scale development projects underway, major public facilities (such as high voltage cables), constraints imposed by bridge piers and limited space. The alternative site suggested by the Member was far away from where the automatic flow interception devices would be set up. Hence, an additional intermediate pumping station and related screening facilities should be constructed if this site was selected and the outcome would be comparable to the proposed arrangement;
- (2) the DWFI would be constructed near the seaside outfalls of the two box culverts. Stormwater collected by these box culverts originated from the urban area of Tsuen Wan. The function of the DWFI was to intercept polluted stormwater and prevent pollutants therein from being discharged into the harbourfront of Tsuen Wan, thereby easing the odour problem at the harbourfront;
- (3) the DSD had already communicated with the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) about the matters related to the pet garden. The DSD would endeavour to construct the new pet garden before carrying out the construction works at its original site in order to prevent any negative impact on users of the pet garden;
- (4) the DSD had already preliminarily communicated with the TD on the proposed project site, and would only close the affected parking spaces when

the works commenced. The TD had been closely monitoring the utilisation, as well as supply and demand of parking spaces in the district. He learnt that on the whole, sufficient parking spaces had been provided in the district. Notwithstanding this, the TD would continue to identify suitable locations in the district and consider the feasibility of providing additional public parking spaces thereat where practicable;

- (5) the DSD would implement a series of mitigation measures during the construction period, and would work together with the TD and the Police to draw up temporary traffic diversion measures to minimise the impact of the works on the public. The DSD would also adopt the technology of trenchless excavation to lay pipes at suitable locations to minimise possible nuisance caused to the public by the works; and
- (6) the DSD's facilities constructed in Kowloon Bay differed from those proposed under the project. Having said that, the DSD could still arrange a site visit for Members if they were interested in learning about the facilities concerned.

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

- (1) he did not object to the construction of the proposed DWFI. He hoped that the DSD would discuss with the EHCCC the detailed design and related facilities of the pet garden again. He also hoped that the District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing (DLO) would acquire half of the temporary car park for the implementation of works first, and that it would acquire the remaining half at a later time (Mr WONG Ka-wa);
- (2) he noted that the owners' committee (OC) of City Point also opposed the proposed project. He enquired whether the department concerned would conduct a district consultation or consider other works proposals. In his opinion, the project was an obvious attempt to transmit dry weather flow, which had been polluted due to pipe misconnections, from the two box culverts under Tai Ho Road and Ma Tau Pa Road to the site opposite Blocks 3 to 6, City Point for central treatment. Besides, he pointed out that residents were concerned about the noise and odour problems that might be caused by the works concerned (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio); and
- (3) he was discontented with the DSD for its failure to persuade Members to support the project beforehand, and considered the consultation period too short. Given the lack of insufficient data to prove the effectiveness of the DWFI at present, he enquired whether the project must be pursued and about the existence of other feasible works proposals which had a less significant

impact on residents. He wanted to learn about the extent to which stormwater discharged from the box culverts concerned had contributed to the odour problem at the harbourfront (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu).

17. PPC of the DSD further gave an overall response as follows:

- (1) the DSD would continue to maintain communication with the LCSD with respect to the detailed design of the pet garden;
- (2) the DSD would contact the DLO and discuss with it the time of and arrangement for land acquisition with a view to minimising the impact of the works on the existing temporary parking spaces;
- (3) the DSD had briefed the OCs of City Point and housing estates along Tsuen Wan harbourfront as well as the Tsuen Wan South Area Committee on the project, and residents had also expressed their views;
- (4) the DSD would maintain liaison with Members in the future and seek their views early when necessary;
- (5) the problems which might arise during the operation of the DWFI had been taken into consideration under the current design of the project. Theoretically, if it was deemed necessary, the operation of the DWFI could be suspended and the box culverts could resume normal operation. Nevertheless, the DSD held that such a need would not arise. The DSD explained that sewage inside the box culverts was polluted stormwater or underground water instead of domestic, industrial or commercial effluent. The Government was currently implementing various drainage projects in different areas of Tsuen Wan district with a view to alleviating the odour problem of Tsuen Wan harbourfront on the whole; and
- (6) the DSD was willing to arrange a site visit to the proposed project site and similar facilities in Kowloon Bay at the request of Members where necessary.

18. ADO(TW) of the TWDO responded that the TWDO had all along been making efforts to assist various government departments in conducting public consultations. The TWDO would make appropriate arrangements for an on-site inspection with the departments concerned.

19. The Chairman said that besides the site proposed for the installation of the DWFI, he also wanted to pay a visit to similar facilities in Kowloon Bay to learn about the operation of those facilities.

V Item 4: Water Quality Problems of Beaches in Tsuen Wan Caused by Pollution

(EHCCC Paper No. 20/22-23)

20. 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; and
- (2) Mr LAM Ming-chi, Ryan, Deputy District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan) 2 (DDL(M)2), LCSD.

Besides, the written replies of the EPD and DSD were tabled at the meeting.

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

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

- (1) thanks to the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme and the establishment of other sewage infrastructures, the water quality of the waters of Hong Kong had been significantly improved since 2010. Starting from 2010, the water quality of all beaches in the territory (including the eight beaches in Tsuen Wan district) had complied with the standards and was suitable for swimming;
- (2) owing to the unstable weather conditions in Hong Kong and Guangdong Province, the water quality of beaches in the district had deteriorated since mid-May 2022. Heavy rainfalls did not only wash pollutants offshore but also shortened the sunshine duration. Therefore, it would take a longer time for the water quality of beaches to naturally return to normalcy;
- (3) an influx of fresh water from the Pearl River into the waters of Hong Kong decreased the salinity of the sea, leading to the stratification of sea water and undermining the natural exchange and dilution capacities of the water body. Even if there were brief periods of sunshine sometimes, sunlight still could not penetrate the sea surface. As the self-purification mechanism of the water body would become less efficient, the water quality would fail to return to normal; and
- (4) as the rain gradually eased off in mid-July 2022, the EPD noted that the water quality of beaches had been improved and graded “Good” or “Fair” in the first two weeks of August 2022, and was suitable for swimming.

23. DDL(M)2 of the LCSD responded as follows:

- (1) the LCSD staff would clear refuse within the sandy areas and beaches to maintain the quality of water; and
- (2) even when the water quality of some beaches was not good, the LCSD would

still open the sandy areas of the beaches to the public for activities other than water sports. In addition, lifeguards of the LCSD would continue to be on duty at these beaches to protect public safety.

24. The views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:
- (1) he said that Members could refer to the information paper submitted by the Marine Department (MD) to learn more about the Anti-Marine Littering Operation carried out by the department in the district (the Chairman);
 - (2) regarding the EPD's statement that the water quality was affected by external factors, he opined that the EPD should review the existing ways of assessing the water quality and adopt Members' opinions so that the assessment results could reflect the actual situation more comprehensively (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu);
 - (3) he said that the water quality of beaches in Tsuen Wan had been poor over the years. While understanding that the water quality was subjected to an array of external factors, he hoped that the departments concerned would intercept pollutants at source and increase the frequency of clearing marine refuse so that the public could use the beaches in Tsuen Wan at ease (Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly); and
 - (4) he said that the number of gazetted public beaches in the district stated by the LCSD was inconsistent with that by the EPD. He pointed out that a representative of the LCSD had told him that the pollutants might be discharged from the residential buildings along Castle Peak Road. However, the departments concerned attributed the causes of poor water quality to the natural environment and weather in their replies to this discussion. He felt helpless about it (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio).
25. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded as follows:
- (1) the deterioration of the water quality of beaches in Tsuen Wan in June 2022 was a regional incident. The situation had been improved recently; and
 - (2) the EPD would continue to monitor the water quality of beaches. It would also send staff to conduct inspections near the beaches in Tsuen Wan to ensure that no abnormal pollutants would be discharged into the sea.

VI Item 5: Request for a Better Solution to Manhole Blockage
(EHCCC Paper No. 21/22-23)

26. The Chairman stated that the paper was submitted by Mr CHAN Sung-ip. The representatives from the departments responsible for giving responses were:

- (1) Mr YU Hok-chi, Raymond, Chief Land Executive/Squatter Control, DLO;
- (2) Ms YEUNG Sien-ching, Susana, Administrative Assistant/Lands (AA/Lands), DLO;
- (3) Mr YAU Wai-yip, Senior Property Services Manager/Sham Shui Po & Tsuen Kwai (SPSM/SSP&TK), Architectural Services Department (ArchSD);
- (4) Ms CHAN Li-yee, Property Services Manager/Tsuen Wan (PSM/TW), ArchSD; and
- (5) Mr YUEN Chiu-kit, SHI(C&PC)TW2, FEHD.

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

27. Mr CHAN Sung-ip introduced the paper.

28. AA/Lands of the DLO responded that the manhole system concerned was constructed on government land within Ma Wan Main Street Village and Tin Liu New Village, and that the ArchSD was responsible for the repairs of the manhole system.

29. PSM/TW of the ArchSD responded as follows:

- (1) the ArchSD had received several complaints about manhole blockage behind House Nos. 3 and 4 of Tin Liu New Village in 2022. During the clearance of the manholes concerned, the ArchSD's staff had found the improper disposal of pollutants including grease and towels therein;
- (2) during an investigation at the manholes in the vicinity, the ArchSD's staff had identified that the blockage of the manhole system might be caused by the discharge of grease from restaurants in the upper reaches; and
- (3) the ArchSD's staff had checked the manhole system concerned and confirmed that it was in normal condition. It might be necessary for the departments concerned to enhance their efforts to educate nearby residents and operators of the restaurants and promote the proper discharge of sewage among them.

30. SHI(C&PC)TW2 of the FEHD responded as follows:

- (1) the FEHD's contractor would send workers to inspect the drains concerned on a daily basis and carry out clearance twice a week depending on the locations of the drains;
- (2) if the FEHD's staff identified drain blockage during routine inspections, they would arrange manpower to clear the drain as far as possible. If they were unable to clear the drain effectively, the FEHD would refer the case to the DSD or Highways Department (HyD) for follow-up; and

- (3) when issuing restaurant licences, the FEHD would require all applicants to install grease traps at their restaurants. It would also remind frontline staff to check if such equipment was operating properly during inspections.
31. The views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:
- (1) he opined that given the relatively large number of restaurants in Ma Wan, the FEHD should step up its efforts to inspect the restaurants in the area. This could prevent the failure of some restaurants to comply with the standards of sewage discharge due to a lower inspection frequency. Such failure would lead to manhole blockage, adversely affecting the residents nearby. Besides, the department concerned should consider using high-pressure drain jetting trucks for clearance of blocked manholes (Mr WONG Ka-wa);
 - (2) he considered that the sources of pollution causing drain blockage should be dealt with first in order to solve the problem. The department concerned should step up inspections at restaurants and take corresponding enforcement actions against those which had repeatedly violated the standards of sewage discharge with a view to keeping the resources used in addressing drain blockage to a minimum. He also hoped that the department concerned would increase the frequency of manhole inspections in the district to prevent the outflow of sewage caused by blockage (Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly);
 - (3) he urged the department concerned to seriously address the problem of manhole blockage in Ma Wan, which was caused by the improper discharge of sewage by restaurants. The Ma Wan Rural Committee should also communicate with the restaurants concerned to ensure that they would properly discharge sewage according to the relevant requirements (the Chairman); and
 - (4) he said that owing to the restrictions imposed on vehicles accessing Ma Wan, the contractor once failed to arrange a construction vehicle to clear blocked pipes in a timely manner, resulting in the outflow of sewage and causing inconvenience to the residents. As the manhole system would frequently experience blockage during weekends in autumn and winter, he enquired whether the ArchSD could install wider drains to enhance the drainage efficiency of the manhole system. He hoped that the FEHD would conduct inspections of grease traps at restaurants more frequently, and that the DSD would make efforts to obtain a permit for the contractor so that vehicles for drain clearance could access Ma Wan at any time (Mr CHAN Sung-ip).

32. SPSM/SSP&TK of the ArchSD responded as follows:
- (1) the proposed installation of wider drains was technically feasible. Yet, this approach would be more likely to result in the accumulation of pollutants in the drains, reducing the drainage efficiency of the drains;
 - (2) the improper disposal of domestic waste into the drains was also one of the main causes of drain blockage. Domestic waste might be thrown into toilets by some residents and flow into the drains after being flushed. Consequently, domestic waste in combination with grease discharged from restaurants would lead to blockage inside the drains;
 - (3) according to past records, the problem of drain blockage in Ma Wan was sporadic and unpredictable. The capacity of the drains did not have a bearing on the problem either. The recurrence of blockage of the manhole system during weekends in autumn and winter probably resulted from residents' preference for visiting Ma Wan to celebrate festivals during that period;
 - (4) the ArchSD would take precautionary measures in winter at locations along the manhole system where blockage frequently occurred. Such measures included clearing drains upon being notified and monitoring the interior of the drains with the aid of closed-circuit televisions; and
 - (5) the ArchSD called on Members to assist in promoting the proper ways of discharging sewage among the residents of Ma Wan.
33. SHI(C&PC)TW2 of the FEHD responded as follows:
- (1) the FEHD would study strengthening the inspections at restaurants in the location concerned. It would also inspect the grease traps of restaurants during routine inspections with a view to ensuring the proper operation of grease traps and therefore relieving the drainage pressure on the drains; and
 - (2) workers of the FEHD's cleansing contractor would regularly remove solid waste from the drains. If the FEHD's staff identified blocked drains in public places during routine inspections, the FEHD would immediately make arrangements for clearance with the contractor. In case the contractor failed to clear the blocked drains, the FEHD would refer the cases to the DSD and HyD for handling. However, the FEHD was unable to provide high-pressure drain clearance services.

VII Item 6: Information Papers

- (1) Publicity and Anti-Marine Littering Operation in Tsuen Wan District (January 2021 - July 2022)

(EHCCC Paper No. 22/22-23)

34. Mr LAU Cheuk-yu held that the paper failed to effectively demonstrate the nature and effectiveness of the operation. He hoped that the MD would explain to Members the nature and effectiveness of the operation.

35. The Secretary stated that the Member's views would be conveyed to the MD.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat conveyed the Member's views to the MD in writing on 15 September 2022, and forwarded the reply submitted by the MD on 27 September 2022 to Members for their perusal.)

(2) Noise Monitoring Result of MTR Tsuen Wan Depot (May 2022 to June 2022)
(EHCCC Paper No. 26/22-23)

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

- (1) he enquired about the time and criteria of the noise assessment conducted by the EPD at the MTR Tsuen Wan Depot (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu); and
- (2) as residents of Block F, Luk Yeung Sun Chuen were subjected to more serious noise nuisance, he enquired whether the department concerned had implemented any rectification measures accordingly (Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly).

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

- (1) the EPD had all along been monitoring the noise generated from the MTR Tsuen Wan Depot. The criteria used for assessing noise were that after reducing the background noise level, the level of noise from the depot should not exceed 65 decibels (dB) from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. and 55 dB from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. in the following day. The EPD found no instance of the depot generating noise which exceeded the standards; and
- (2) as the level of noise from the depot measured by the EPD at Block F, Luk Yeung Sun Chuen was comparable to the background noise level, the EPD was unable to take enforcement action in this regard. The EPD would deploy staff for inspections if complaints from nearby residents were received.

(3) Work Report on Environmental Hygiene in Tsuen Wan District
(EHCCC Paper No. 27/22-23)

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

- (1) he enquired why prosecution had been initiated against five cases of illegal

hawking at Ho Pui Street alone in June 2022 but the paper showed that there had been only one case of unlicensed hawker being arrested and charged in the same month. He hoped that the FEHD would continue to take enforcement action against offenders of illegal hawking (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio); and

- (2) he hoped that the FEHD would step up its law enforcement against the illegal disposal of refuse by restaurants (the Chairman).

39. SHI(C&PC)TW2 of the FEHD responded that “arresting and charging” meant that prosecution was instituted by way of arrest, whereas prosecution could be initiated by issuing summons or fixed penalty notices. The FEHD would continue to take enforcement actions.

- (4) Aircraft Noise Data Collected from Dedicated Monitoring Stations in Tsuen Wan District during April 2022 to May 2022
(EHCCC Paper No. 28/22-23)

40. Mr LAU Cheuk-yu hoped that the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) would provide data to reflect the noise level after the commissioning of the third runway of the Hong Kong International Airport.

41. The Secretary stated that the Member’s views would be conveyed to the CAD.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat conveyed the Member’s views to the CAD in writing on 15 September 2022, and forwarded the reply submitted by the CAD on 5 October 2022 to Members for their perusal.)

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

- (5) Work Report on Environmental Pollution Control in Tsuen Wan District (1 May 2022 to 30 June 2022)
(EHCCC Paper No. 23/22-23);
- (6) Odour Prediction Assessment at the Riviera Gardens and Tsuen Wan Slaughter House (May to June 2022)
(EHCCC Paper No. 24/22-23); and
- (7) Work Report on the Problem of Sea Water Pollution of the Rambler Channel, Tsuen Wan (May to June 2022)
(EHCCC Paper No. 25/22-23).

VIII Item 7: Any Other Business

43. The views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:
- (1) he welcomed the Government's cleansing operations conducted at hygiene black spots in the district. He also enquired whether Members could recommend to the Government any hygiene black spots pending cleansing with a view to improving the environmental hygiene of the district (Mr WONG Ka-wa); and
 - (2) he enquired about the time specified for handling cases of water seepage in buildings by the Joint Office for investigation of reports on water seepage in buildings (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu).

IX Adjournment of Meeting

44. The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting was scheduled at 2:30 p.m. on 20 October 2022 (Thursday) and the deadline for submission of papers was 5 October 2022 (Wednesday).

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat

13 September 2022