

(Translation)

Minutes of the 13th Meeting of
Environment, Health and Climate Change Committee (4/22-23)

Date: 20 October 2022 (Thursday)

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Venue: Main Conference Room, Tsuen Wan District Office

Present:

Mr KOT Siu-yuen, MH (Chairman)

Mr CHAN Sung-ip, BBS, MH

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

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 Po-kin, Ken

Assistant District Leisure Manager
(Tsuen Wan) 4, 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

Mr KAN King-ming, Victor and Development Department
Housing Manager/Wong Tai Sin,
Tsing Yi & Tsuen Wan 8, Housing
Department
Mr YU Hok-chi, Raymond 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
Miss LEUNG Wai-ching, Clementine Executive Officer (District Council)1,
(Secretary) Tsuen Wan District Office
Mr NG Cheuk-pong, James Executive Officer (District Council)4,
Tsuen Wan District Office

Attendance by Invitation:

For discussion of item 2

Mr CHAN Tsz-ho, Lenco Building Surveyor/D5-3, Buildings
Department

Absent:

Mr YAU Kam-ping, BBS, MH
Mr MAN Yu-ming, MH

The Meeting

I Opening Remarks and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed the Members and representatives from government departments to the 13th meeting of the Environment, Health and Climate Change Committee (EHCCC). He introduced Mr LAM Po-kin, Ken, Assistant District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan) 4, Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), who attended the meeting on behalf of Mr LAM Ming-chi, Ryan, Deputy District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan) 2.

2. The Chairman stated that according to section 28 of the Tsuen Wan District Council Standing Orders (the “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.

(Note: Mr LAU Cheuk-yu joined the meeting at 2:35 p.m.)

II Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 12th Meeting held on 18.8.2022

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

- (1) in lines 1 and 2 of paragraph 9(1) of the captioned minutes, “他認為若環保署能統籌製作一份有關荃灣海濱臭味問題成因的研究報告，本委員會便不需續議本議題” (he opined that if the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) would coordinate the preparation of a report about a study on the causes of the odour problem of Tsuen Wan harbourfront, the EHCCC would no longer need to continue to discuss the captioned item under the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting) should be amended as “他認為若環保署能統籌擬備一份如何解構荃灣海濱臭味問題的全面性文件，他會同意不需將此議題放在續議事項” (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);
- (2) in line 2 of paragraph 14(2) of the captioned minutes, “他對過濾站需設於第三至第六座的正對面表示不解” (he was baffled by the need to construct a filtering station right opposite Blocks 3 to 6 of City Point) should be amended as “他對過濾站需設於第三至第六座的前方表示不解” (he was baffled by the need to construct a filtering station in front of Blocks 3 to 6 of City Point);
- (3) in line 5 of paragraph 14(2) of the captioned minutes, “並指有柏傲灣的居

民向他反映渠務署於 2019 年下半年在市中心設置的旱季截流器對改善海濱氣味情況的效用不大” (he pointed out that some residents of The Pavilia Bay had told him that the dry weather flow interceptors (DWFIs) constructed by the Drainage Services Department (DSD) in the town centre in the second half of 2019 were ineffective in easing odour at the harbourfront) should be followed by “。簡而言之，他要求渠務署收回這份文件” (。 Simply put, he requested the DSD to withdraw the captioned paper); and

- (4) in lines 2 and 3 of paragraph 16(2) of the captioned minutes, “以及旱流是否經箱型雨水渠匯聚至環宇海灣第三至第六座對面” (and whether dry weather flow would be gathered at the site opposite Blocks 3 to 6, City Point through the box culverts) should be amended as “他認為該項工程計劃明顯是企圖將大河道及馬頭壩道下面兩條箱型雨水渠經喉管錯駁而受污染的旱流一併匯聚至環宇海灣第三至第六座對面作處理” (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).

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 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), DSD;
- (2) Mr HO Kit-ming, Engineer/Tsuen Kwai 2 (E/TK 2), DSD;
- (3) Mr CHAN Tsz-ho, Lenco, Building Surveyor/D5-3 (BS/D5-3), Buildings Department (BD);
- (4) Ms WONG Fong, Fanny, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West) 2 (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.

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) the DSD would clean the three box culverts at Tai Chung Road, Tai Ho Road and Ma Tau Pa Road with high-pressure jet cleaners on a regular basis, and had completed the clean-up in September 2022;
- (2) 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. It was also consulting and coordinating with the departments concerned accordingly;
- (3) 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. At present, the reformulated hydrogel was effective in inhibiting certain kinds of volatile organic compounds at Tsuen Wan harbourfront and reducing the amount of volatile organic compounds near the outfalls at Tsuen Wan harbourfront. At the current stage, the study focused on adjusting the dosage and application strategy of the reformulated hydrogel at Tsuen Wan harbourfront with a view to further alleviating the odour problem caused by the existence of hydrogen sulfide and volatile organic compounds there;
- (4) the DSD was constructing additional DWFI in 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
- (5) 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 was conducting site investigations for the project and selecting a site for installing the DWFI, and would carry out the detailed work immediately after finalising a project site.

7. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded that the EPD had conducted a total of 86 inspections of the sources of pollution in the district in July and August 2022, during which 14 cases of foul water pipe misconnection in buildings and four 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. BS/D5-3 of the BD responded that the BD was currently following up on a total of 38 cases of foul water pipe misconnection in buildings. Among those cases, rectification works had been completed in one case and had commenced in 12 cases, and one case was under investigation. The BD had also issued repair orders or removal orders in 19 cases, and was preparing the repair orders or removal orders in five cases.

9. SHI(C&PC)TW1 of the FEHD responded that 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) in his opinion, the DSD was not the only department which should tackle the odour problem of Tsuen Wan harbourfront. The EPD, BD and FEHD should also follow up on it continuously. He queried why the follow-up work was led by the DSD but not the EPD. Also, considering that the BD was an important stakeholder of the issue, he did not understand why the BD had failed to send staff to attend the on-site inspection on 30 September 2022. He opined that the FEHD might be exempted from attending the on-site inspection because the issue had less relevance to the FEHD. Besides, he had prepared a sample template of a paper about the odour problem of Tsuen Wan harbourfront. If the EPD would coordinate the preparation of the paper, he would agree to remove the captioned item from the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting. He was discontented with the EPD for its failure to coordinate the preparation of the paper all the time. He would give the sample to the EPD after the meeting for its reference. If the EPD was unable to coordinate the preparation of the paper, he hoped that the EPD would explain the corresponding reasons (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio)

(Post-meeting note: The BD made a supplementary response after the meeting. Regarding Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio's discontent with the BD for its failure to send staff to attend the on-site inspection on 30 September 2022, the BD responded that it had always shared the importance of on-site

inspections. Yet, the BD had not sent staff to attend the on-site inspection on 30 September 2022 because it had not been notified of the on-site inspection.);

- (2) he further enquired about the amount of stormwater discharged into the sea through DWFIs each month, the amount of polluted stormwater therefrom which caused the odour problem in Rambler Channel, and the estimated extent to which DWFIs could reduce the negative impact of odour of dry weather flow on nearby residents. He wanted to learn about why the construction of DWFIs was essential and felt puzzled over the DSD's failure to provide the relevant information all along. While he constantly supported the implementation of measures beneficial to the public, he did not support the construction of DWFIs before learning about the related basic data (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu)

(Post-meeting note: The DSD made a supplementary response after the meeting. As for the above matters, the DSD's staff provided Mr LAU Cheuk-yu with detailed explanations for his enquiries and matters of concern to him over the phone on 28 November 2022.); and

- (3) he thanked the Tsuen Wan District Office and the departments concerned for coordinating the on-site inspection on 30 September 2022 although it had failed to go smoothly due to bad weather (the Chairman).

11. SE/MS2 of the DSD responded that the DSD would communicate with staff of the departments concerned and convey Members' enquiries and views to them.

12. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded to Members' enquiries on the data and information on the water quality of open waters at Rambler Channel raised during the on-site inspection on 30 September 2022 that the EPD would monitor the quality of water collected from open waters at the water quality monitoring station (VM14) at Tsuen Wan Bay on a monthly basis. In 2021, the depth-averaged levels of dissolved oxygen, total inorganic nitrogen and unionised ammonia nitrogen were 4.9mg/L, 0.38mg/L and 0.002mg/L respectively. All the three water quality parameters complied with the standards.

13. BS/D5-3 of the BD responded that the BD would communicate with the staff concerned and convey Members' views to them.

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

- (1) he felt puzzled why it was still necessary to construct DWFIs while the EPD stated that the water quality parameters complied with the standards. He once again urged the DSD to provide the basic data related to DWFIs (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu)
(Post-meeting note: The DSD supplemented after the meeting that Members could refer to the supplementary information provided in paragraph 10(2) above.); and
- (2) he enquired of the BD whether a deadline had been set for the rectification works of cases of foul water pipe misconnection in buildings in which the works had already commenced (Mr CHAN Sung-ip).

15. BS/D5-3 of the BD responded that a deadline would generally be stipulated in orders issued by the BD. The BD would issue warning letters to owners who failed to complete the relevant works by the deadline, and would consider initiating prosecution against such owners if they did not reply or had no reasonable excuses.

16. The Chairman hoped that the BD would impose heavier penalties for water pipe misconnection with a view to enhancing the deterrence. 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.

IV Item 3: Information Papers

- (1) Work Report on Environmental Hygiene in Tsuen Wan District
(EHCCC Paper No. 34/22-23)

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

- (1) he pointed out that the problem of shop front extensions was highlighted in the Policy Address. He said that severe street obstruction had been caused by a shop selling fruits and vegetables at the junction of Chuen Lung Street and Yeung Uk Road and on Ho Pui Street due to illegal extension of business. He opined that the situation had not been improved even though the FEHD had initiated prosecution against the shop concerned. He hoped that the FEHD would strengthen law enforcement. He pointed out the great dissatisfaction with the situation among nearby residents because they found it difficult to pass through the road section concerned and there was insufficient space for them to wait for public light buses (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio); and
- (2) he hoped that the positive outcomes brought by the Hong Kong New

Cityscape clean-up campaign to Tsuen Wan district would last so that the environment in the community would remain clean. He pointed out that street obstruction was not only caused by shops in the daytime but also by food premises at night. He opined that the generation of refuse and noise by the said problem had adversely affected the environmental hygiene and the daily lives of people living upstairs. He hoped that the FEHD would continue to step up its enforcement actions against the problem (the Chairman).

18. SHI(C&PC)TW1 of the FEHD responded that the FEHD had always been concerned about the problem of street obstruction near Yeung Uk Road Market, and had been taking enforcement actions against illegal extension of business and hawking without licence continuously. In addition to routine inspections and enforcement actions, the FEHD would conduct joint operations with the Police to combat the illegal acts. Besides, the Government had launched the territory-wide Hong Kong New Cityscape clean-up campaign in August 2022, which aimed to enhance the environmental hygiene and cityscape of Hong Kong. The areas around Yeung Uk Road Market were covered in the campaign. The FEHD would focus on strengthening enforcement actions, combating hawking without licence and conducting joint operations with the Police to crack down on illegal extension of business to the roadside by shops which caused street obstruction. Since January 2022, the FEHD had issued 463 fixed penalty notices against offenders for street obstruction in the vicinity of the above location, and had instigated prosecution against 77 cases of hawking without licence and 79 cases of street obstruction. The Police had also issued 139 warning notices requiring the removal of articles which gave rise to street obstruction. The FEHD would continue to monitor and follow up on the above situations, including shop front extensions and illegal extension of business by food premises.

(2) Aircraft Noise Data Collected from Dedicated Monitoring Stations in Tsuen Wan District during June 2022 to July 2022
(EHCCC Paper No. 35/22-23)

19. Mr LAU Cheuk-yu enquired whether the changes in the flight paths necessitated the relocation of the four dedicated monitoring stations.

20. The Secretary stated that the Secretariat had conveyed Members' views raised at the previous meeting to the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) in writing on 15 September 2022. The reply submitted by the CAD on 5 October 2022 had been

forwarded to Members for their perusal.

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

- (1) Publicity and Anti-Marine Littering Operation in Tsuen Wan District (January 2021 - September 2022)
(EHCCC Paper No. 29/22-23);
- (2) Work Report on Environmental Pollution Control in Tsuen Wan District (1 July 2022 to 31 August 2022)
(EHCCC Paper No. 30/22-23);
- (3) Odour Prediction Assessment at the Riviera Gardens, Tsuen Wan and Tsuen Wan Slaughter House (July to August 2022)
(EHCCC Paper No. 31/22-23);
- (4) Work Report on the Problem of Sea Water Pollution of the Rambler Channel, Tsuen Wan (July to August 2022)
(EHCCC Paper No. 32/22-23); and
- (5) Noise Monitoring Result of MTR Tsuen Wan Depot (July 2022 to August 2022)
(EHCCC Paper No. 33/22-23).

V Item 4: Any Other Business

22. Mr WONG Ka-wa wanted to learn about the locations in Tsuen Wan covered under the Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots and the progress of the work concerned. In his opinion, the environmental hygiene would only be improved when government staff were present at the scene. Noting that the programme was ongoing, he hoped that the departments concerned would provide relevant photos and information once every few months to aid Members' understanding of the programme and further discuss the programme with Members at the final stage. Moreover, he had identified the problems of mosquito and rodent infestations around Lei Muk Shue in August 2022. He and Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly had communicated with heads of schools in the vicinity earlier. The school heads also agreed that mosquito and rodent infestations were quite serious, and said that rodent would also be found in the schools. He pointed out that although mosquito infestation was less serious due to the colder weather at present, the problem of rodent infestation persisted. He hoped that the Housing Department and FEHD would improve the environmental hygiene inside and around Lei Muk Shue Estate, and in particular, tackle the problem of rodent infestation and that they would further discuss the matter with the Members concerned after the meeting.

VI Adjournment of Meeting

23. The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting was scheduled for 15 December 2022 (Thursday) and the deadline for submission of papers was 30 November 2022 (Wednesday).

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat

14 November 2022