

(Translation)

Minutes of the 16th Meeting of
Environment, Health and Climate Change Committee (1/2023)

Date: 20 April 2023 (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

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
Miss WONG Wan-yi	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 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

Administrative Assistant/Lands,
District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and
Kwai Tsing

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat Representatives

Ms LEUNG Tsz-wai, Apple

Senior Executive Officer (District
Council) (Acting), Tsuen Wan District
Office

Miss LEUNG Wai-ching, Clementine
(Secretary)

Executive Officer (District Council)1,
Tsuen Wan District Office

Mr NG Cheuk-pong, James

Executive Officer (District Council)4,
Tsuen Wan District Office

Absent:

Mr LAU Cheuk-yu

The Meeting

I Opening Remarks and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed the Members and representatives from government departments to the 16th meeting of the Environment, Health and Climate Change Committee (EHCCC).

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 WONG Ka-wa joined the meeting at 2:33 p.m.)

II Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 15th Meeting held on 16.2.2023

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

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

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

5. The Chairman stated that there were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

IV Item 3: Noise from Glass Recycling Activities in the Small Hours

(EHCCC Paper No. 1/2023)

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

- (1) Ms WONG Fong, Fanny, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West) 2 (SEPO(RW)2), Environmental Protection Department (EPD);
- (2) Miss LEUNG Mee-sze, Chief Health Inspector (Tsuen Wan) 1 (CHI(TW)1), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD);
- (3) Miss WONG Wan-yi, Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing & Pest Control) Tsuen Wan 2 (SHI(C&PC)TW2), FEHD; and
- (4) Mr LEE Soeng-him, Sean, Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan) (ADO(TW)), Tsuen Wan District Office (TWDO).

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

8. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded that the EPD had not identified any glass container collection activities carried out by the glass management contractor (GMC) concerned at areas around Sam Pei Square in the small hours during inspection. However, having regard to the operation of individual businesses, the Waste Management and Strategy Group of the EPD had requested the GMC concerned to make further improvements on glass container collection services, which included advising eateries to use carton boxes or collection bags for temporary storage of glass containers rather than disposing of glass containers into large refuse bins directly, with a view to reducing the noise generated from such activities. The GMC concerned had already offered the above advice to the eateries participating in the Producer Responsibility Scheme on glass beverage containers (GPRS) so as to facilitate the

collection of glass containers by the GMC after 8:00 a.m. on the following day. The EPD would regularly review the new arrangement for glass container collection with the GMC concerned in order to minimise the noise generated from the handling of glass containers by eateries participating in the GPRS at night.

9. CHI(TW)1 of the FEHD responded that the FEHD would pay extra attention to whether the GMC or refuse collection vehicles concerned had caused any public health problems and breached the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance. It would take corresponding follow-up actions as necessary. Moreover, the FEHD would arrange for its staff to conduct law enforcement operations at night and institute prosecutions against operators of food premises who had illegally extended their business areas.

10. ADO(TW) of the TWDO responded that the TWDO was aware of the negative impact on the daily lives of residents nearby arising from the noise nuisance caused by the activities of eateries at night. The TWDO would monitor and follow up on the effectiveness of the improvement measures implemented by the departments concerned. It would also coordinate and take part in inter-departmental joint operations as and when necessary.

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

- (1) he expressed regret over the fact that some government departments had failed to send representatives to attend the meeting, and believed that only by sending representatives to attend the meeting would the government departments be able to interact with Members. He opined that the absence of representatives from the government departments would very likely hinder the progress of getting the problems solved. Besides, he supposed that the noise of glass bottles collection activities came from Sam Pei Square, by which residents of Chelsea Court should be the most adversely affected, and residents of H Cube which was fairly distant from Sam Pei Square also suffered from the noise nuisance. He looked forward to seeing the effectiveness of the improvement measures introduced by the EPD, and thought that it would be better to use carton boxes than collection bags for collection of glass bottles since the former would reduce the clinking noise generated when glass bottles knocking against each other. He held that the crux of the problem lay in the contract signed between the EPD and the GMC concerned, which specified that work related to glass bottle collection was not allowed after 11:00 p.m. but eateries were exempted from such restriction. He therefore hoped that the EPD would make amendments to the terms of the contract concerned to specify

precisely the restrictions. He proposed to introduce a scoring mechanism for evaluating the efforts of a GMC in noise reduction during recycling activities in the tenders of GMC contracts, and that contracts would only be awarded if the tenderers had achieved the specified score. Lastly, he enquired when the current contract of the GMC concerned would expire (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio); and

- (2) he noted that the noise from eateries mainly came from Sam Pei Square as restaurants providing dinner and late-night snacks were abundant there. The noise level was lower at Lo Tak Court since most shops there were primarily selling desserts. He opined that if inter-departmental joint operations were to be carried out, Sam Pei Square should be taken as the target location. He also enquired about the time when the GMC collected glass bottles (the Chairman).

12. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded that the EPD would reflect Members' views to the responsible sections for consideration and follow-up. The EPD would provide the information on the contract period of the GMC concerned after the meeting and said that glass containers would be collected by the GMC after 8:00 a.m. in the following day.

(Post-meeting note: The current contract of the GMC would expire in November 2023.)

V Item 4: Information Papers

- (1) Odour Prediction Assessment at the Riviera Gardens and Tsuen Wan Slaughter House (January to February 2023)

(EHCCC Paper No. 4/2023)

13. Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio pointed out that many locations had been graded as "very mild" and "mild" in the captioned odour prediction assessment conducted by the EPD. He enquired whether the EPD had all along been assigning the same team of staff to conduct odour prediction assessments with their olfactory sensors rather than electronic equipment.

14. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded that a few teams of staff under the EPD were responsible for conducting odour prediction assessments.

- (2) Work Report on Environmental Hygiene in Tsuen Wan District
(EHCCC Paper No. 7/2023)

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

- (1) as far as he knew, the rodent problem in public markets was still troubling Tsuen Wan. He enquired whether the FEHD had adopted any other new

measures to combat rodent infestation. He also wanted to learn about the work of the overnight rodent control roving teams (the “roving teams”) set up by the FEHD. Besides, he considered that the FEHD should further alleviate the rodent problem by placing more glue traps and enhancing the detection of rodent activities, instead of solely relying on the use of rodent cage traps (the Chairman);

- (2) he pointed out that some residents had already avoided buying groceries in public markets under the management of the FEHD due to the uncomfortable environment there (such as wet floors and lack of air-conditioning). He worried that if glue traps were used in public markets for rodent control, these markets would further lose a batch of local patrons who were animal lovers and considered the use of glue traps cruel. He held that glue traps should be avoided as far as possible if other approaches which could achieve the same results of rodent control were available (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio); and
- (3) he suggested removing spaces in public markets which would easily become the hiding places of rodents. For example, some stall operators in Shek Wai Kok Market had placed their refrigerators at elevated levels in the past, and the space between the floor and the elevated refrigerator had facilitated the dispersal and food storage of rodents. He opined that in addition to the existing anti-rodent measures, the FEHD should strengthen education for stall operators and explore ways to eliminate the harbourage and food source of rodents. Although Shek Wai Kok Market was no longer in operation, he commended the Housing Department and FEHD for their work in the past, such as sealing up broken roller shutters to avoid the access of rodents. He hoped that the FEHD would find out more solutions which specifically targeted the characteristics of rodents for tackling the problem (Mr MAN Yu-ming).

16. CHI(TW)1 of the FEHD responded that the FEHD would have to enquire of the responsible section about whether there were any new measures to tackle the problem of rodent infestation, and would provide supplementary information after the meeting. The FEHD said that public markets were not included in the locations where the roving teams would carry out duties since public markets were closed after 8:00 p.m. or so. The roving teams mainly carried out anti-rodent work in public places in the district. Besides, the Pest Control Advisory Section of the FEHD would continue to study and introduce new measures for rodent and mosquito prevention. The prevailing anti-rodent measures adopted in Tsuen Wan district were carried out in accordance with the guidelines drawn up by the FEHD. The FEHD would inform Members in a timely manner if new measures were implemented.

17. SHI(C&PC)TW2 of the FEHD responded that the roving teams of the FEHD mainly carried out anti-rodent work in public places of Tsuen Wan town centre. The contractors engaged by the FEHD would place rodent cage traps at different locations based on the situation of rodent infestation and check if any rodents had been caught by the traps at 5:00 a.m. or so in the following day.

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

- (3) Publicity and Anti-Marine Littering Operation in Tsuen Wan District (January 2023 - February 2023)
(EHCCC Paper No. 2/2023);
- (4) Work Report on Environmental Pollution Control in Tsuen Wan District (1 January 2023 to 28 February 2023)
(EHCCC Paper No. 3/2023);
- (5) Work Report on the Problem of Sea Water Pollution of the Rambler Channel, Tsuen Wan (January to February 2023)
(EHCCC Paper No. 5/2023);
- (6) Noise Monitoring Result of MTR Tsuen Wan Depot (January 2023 to February 2023); and
(EHCCC Paper No. 6/2023)
- (7) Aircraft Noise Data Collected from Dedicated Monitoring Stations in Tsuen Wan Districts during December 2022 to January 2023
(EHCCC Paper No. 8/2023).

VI Item 5: Any Other Business

19. The Chairman pointed out that the EHCCC had conducted an on-site inspection at Yi Pei Square on 19 April 2023 to learn about the odour problem at Tsuen Wan harbourfront caused by foul water pipe misconnection in buildings. Members participating in the on-site inspection included Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio and Mr CHAN Sung-ip. He thanked the Buildings Department (BD), Drainage Services Department (DSD) and EPD for their participation. He planned to consolidate the relevant information and write to the Development Bureau (DEVB) in due course. During the on-site inspection, he had observed examples of buildings with improved conditions. He hoped that the departments concerned would continue to expedite the handling of cases concerning foul water pipe misconnection in buildings.

20. Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio thanked the Chairman and the TWDC Secretariat for arranging the on-site inspection. He also thanked the representatives of the government departments concerned for leading Members to different locations and giving explanation of the situation. He had gained a better understanding of matters

related to foul water pipe misconnection in buildings through the on-site inspection. He opined that the odour problem at Tsuen Wan harbourfront should be solved at root, and believed that the Government had the relevant resources for tackling the problem. In addition, during the on-site inspection, he found that there had been a divergence of views among the departments, and held that ADO(TW) of the TWDO should make efforts in coordinating the different parties. In his opinion, proposal of deploying additional manpower to the BD and EPD should be brought forward in the letter to be sent to the DEVB, so as to accelerate the progress of handling the cases of foul water pipe misconnection in buildings.

21. ADO(TW) of the TWDO responded that the EPD would take the lead in handling matters related to foul water pipe misconnection in buildings, while the TWDO including ADO(TW) would participate in inter-departmental meetings to coordinate and communicate with representatives of various departments including the BD and DSD. Understanding that the policy directions of different government departments might vary, the TWDO would continue to maintain communication with various departments in the light of their roles and operational needs. The TWDO would also pay close attention to the situation and development of the odour problem at Tsuen Wan harbourfront.

VII Adjournment of Meeting

22. The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting was scheduled for 15 June 2023 (Thursday) and the deadline for submission of papers was 31 May 2023 (Wednesday).

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat

2 May 2023