

(Translation)

Minutes of the 18th Meeting of
Environment, Health and Climate Change Committee (3/2023)

Date: 24 August 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

Mr LAU Cheuk-yu

Government Representatives

Mr LEE Soeng-him, Sean Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan),
Tsuen Wan District Office

Mr SO Yeung-fung Chief Health Inspector (Tsuen Wan) 1,
Food and Environmental Hygiene
Department

Ms 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 CHOY Chi-wai, Ray Engineer/24 (West), Civil Engineering
and Development Department

Mr CHU Wai-kit Housing Manager/Wong Tai Sin,

Mr YU Hok-chi, Raymond

Tsing Yi & Tsuen Wan 8 (Acting),
Housing Department
Administrative Assistant/Lands,
District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and
Kwai Tsing

For discussion of item 3

Mr TAM Wai-ho

Engineer/New Territories
West (Distribution 1), Water Supplies
Department

Ms LEUNG Wai-man

Senior Resident Engineer, Water
Supplies Department

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat Representatives

Miss LEUNG Tsz-wai, Apple

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

Miss LEUNG Wai-ching, Clementine
(Secretary)

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

Mr LI Hongfeng, Ken

Assistant Executive Manager (District
Council)2, Tsuen Wan District Office

The Meeting

I Opening Remarks and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed the Members and representatives from government departments to the 18th meeting of the Environment, Health and Climate Change Committee (EHCCC) and introduced:

- (1) Mr SO Yeung-fung, Chief Health Inspector (Tsuen Wan) 1 (CHI(TW)1), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), who replaced Miss LEUNG Mee-sze to attend this meeting; and
- (2) Mr CHU Wai-kit, Housing Manager/Wong Tai Sin, Tsing Yi & Tsuen Wan 8 (Acting), Housing Department, who replaced Mr KAN King-ming, Victor to attend this meeting.

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.

II Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 17th Meeting held on 15.6.2023

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

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

IV Item 3: Request for Enhanced Inspection of Old Water Mains and Comprehensive Replacement of Aged Water Mains by Government Departments (EHCCC Paper No. 19/2023)

6. The Chairman stated that the paper was submitted by Mr LAU Cheuk-yu. The representatives from the departments responsible for giving responses were:

- (1) Mr TAM Wai-ho, Engineer/New Territories West (Distribution 1) (E/NTW(D1)), Water Supplies Department (WSD);
- (2) Ms LEUNG Wai-man, Senior Resident Engineer (SRE), WSD; and
- (3) Mr HO Kit-ming, Engineer/Tsuen Kwai 2 (E/TK2), Drainage Services Department (DSD).

7. Mr LAU Cheuk-yu introduced the paper.

(Note: Mr WONG Ka-wa joined the meeting at 2:37 p.m.)

8. E/NTW(D1) of the WSD responded that around 42% of all water mains in Tsuen Wan district had been used for 20 years or above and about 31% had been in service for 25 years or more. When reviewing whether a water main was in need of replacement, the WSD would not only take into consideration the number of years the water main had been in use but also the materials of which the water main was made, the leakage record in the past and the surroundings of the water main in order to assess its risk of leakage. The WSD would conduct risk assessments for water mains on a regular basis and tackle those with a higher risk of leakage under the Risk-based Improvement Programme of Water Mains (the “Programme”). The water mains in Tsuen Wan district (including fresh water mains and salt water mains) measured about 350 kilometres altogether. About 101 kilometres of the water mains had been dealt with since the implementation of the Programme, and 9 kilometres of the water mains were pending follow-up under the Programme for the time being.

9. SRE of the WSD responded that the Programme covered 9 kilometres of existing water mains in Tsuen Wan district. The 9-kilometre water mains were scattered at locations of major concern to Members, including Hoi Shing Road, Texaco Road and Shing Mun Road near Sai Lau Kok Road. The WSD found that the water mains at these locations had a higher risk of leakage upon assessment. Under the current arrangements, priority should be given to the prompt resumption of water supply after a water main burst incident. Hence, a more frequent approach adopted by the WSD was to carry out urgent repairs to deal with the burst water main. The remaining water mains pending replacement would be added to the planned improvement works of water mains and would be replaced as soon as practicable. The WSD would review the Programme in a timely manner and continuously accord priority to carrying out improvement works for the water mains which were assessed to be of high risk. The WSD anticipated that the projects formulated for Tsuen Wan district would be completed within the next one to two years.

10. E/TK2 of the DSD responded that the DSD had nothing to add because the repairs of water mains fell beyond its purview.

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

- (1) he wanted to gain a deeper understanding of the details of the WSD’s water mains replacement programme. He opined that it was equally important to learn about the number of years which the water mains in Tsuen Wan district had been put into use. He pointed out that a water main on Texaco Road off City Point had burst repeatedly, adversely affecting nearby residents. He

noted that the WSD had worked out a plan to solve the problem in 2023. He enquired about the division of labour between the two Engineers from the WSD, and whether Senior Resident Engineers were government employees or contractors' staff of the Programme (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio);

- (2) he pointed out that the scheme for replacing all water mains in the urban areas of Tsuen Wan had already been discussed at meetings of the Tsuen Wan District Council (TWDC) three or four years ago. The vicinities of Chung On Street and Castle Peak Road – Tsuen Wan were covered under the scheme. It proposed replacing aged metal mains with new and durable fibre tubes in blue. He enquired about the current progress of this scheme. In his opinion, the WSD should put in place a detailed planning instead of only tackling and replacing burst water mains (Mr CHAN Sung-ip);
- (3) he hoped that the WSD would provide a supplementary list of water mains with a higher risk of burst after the meeting. As far as he knew, the strategy adopted by the WSD was to outsource a major portion of improvement works of water mains. He enquired of the WSD how a water main was assessed as having a high risk and how the replacement priority of water mains was determined under the Programme. Also, he hoped that the WSD would focus on explaining the measures in prevention of water main bursts and the positive outcome it anticipated the Programme would achieve, instead of only stating that it would seek assistance from contractors (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu); and
- (4) a year ago, he had approached the WSD to learn about the situation in the wake of a water main burst incident at Sai Lau Kok Road. He noted that the WSD had kept a list of water mains which had a higher risk of burst and warranted replacement in Tsuen Wan district and Kwai Tsing district. He understood the WSD's work, and was also aware that the WSD had to coordinate the replacement works with other government departments. He hoped that the WSD would continue to expedite the replacement of water mains and explore ways to minimise water main bursts (the Chairman).

12. E/NTW(D1) of the WSD responded as follows:

- (1) the WSD did not have the information on the replacement of the water main on Chung On Street at the moment. It would supplement the information and progress of the Programme after the meeting;
(Post-meeting note: The supplementary information submitted by the WSD on 31 August 2023 was forwarded to Members for their perusal.)
- (2) the main job duty of Engineers was to resolve the instant leakage problem of

water mains in the district, whereas Senior Resident Engineers were primarily responsible for implementing the Programme. Senior Resident Engineers were not contractors' staff of the Programme;

- (3) the WSD understood that emphasis should not only be placed on repairing leaked water mains. Hence, the WSD launched the Programme with the aim of prioritising improvement works for water mains which were assessed as having a high risk of leakage. As the replacement of water mains was always accompanied by follow-up work such as road surfacing, it would inevitably have an impact on nearby residents. The WSD would also seek approval from the Transport Department (TD) and Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) beforehand with a view to minimising the impact of the works on the traffic and members of the public as far as possible;
- (4) regarding the water main leakage incident occurred on Sai Lau Kok Road near Grand City Plaza in July 2023, the WSD had immediately dealt with the leaked water main there. On top of that, the WSD had also discussed with the TD and HKPF to concurrently replace nearby water mains as far as practicable, preventing the recurrence of repeated water main bursts in 2022 at the said location. A water main burst had occurred on Sai Lau Kok Road for the first time in August 2022. Later, No. 8 Gale or Storm Signal was hoisted by the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO). It was probable that the adverse weather had given rise to soil erosion at the location concerned and as a result, the water main had burst for the second time. After the second water main burst incident, the WSD had also expedited the repairs and replacement of water mains near the location concerned in September and October 2022; and
- (5) the objective of the Programme was to replace water mains with a higher risk of leakage. However, given the busy traffic in Tsuen Wan district, the WSD could only implement the replacement works after coordinating with various government departments and residents. Therefore, it was impossible to carry out the aforesaid replacement works for the 9-kilometre water mains at the same time. For instance, the smooth implementation of works at Texaco Road was only possible thanks to Senior Resident Engineer's repeated discussions on the works with different stakeholders. Various difficulties would also arise during the implementation of the works.

V Item 4: Climate Resilience of Parks in Tsuen Wan District and Ways to Enhance Their Abilities to Mitigate the Impact of Climate Hazards
(EHCCC Paper No. 20/2023)

13. 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, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West) 2 (SEPO(RW)2), Environmental Protection Department (EPD); and
- (2) Mr LAM Ming-chi, Ryan, Deputy District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan) 2 (DDL(M(TW)2), Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD).

Besides, the written reply of the Environment and Ecology Bureau was tabled at the meeting.

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

15. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded that the matters mentioned in the paper fell beyond the EPD's purview. Hence, the EPD was unable to provide information on the matters.

16. DDL(M(TW)2 of the LCSD responded that the LCSD had all along been working in tandem with the Government's greening policies. The LCSD had been committed to enhancing the environment through active planting as well as proper maintenance and preservation of trees and other vegetation. Regarding the environmental protection work, apart from setting up recycling bins in its parks and playgrounds, the LCSD had also endeavoured to provide additional greening areas and adopt renewable energy facilities as far as practicable in the planning and development of public works projects, proactively promoting the environmental protection work. Taking the improvement works project at Tsuen Wan Riviera Park as an example, he said that solar LED lighting systems had not only been installed at the pavilions but also the children's playground and other walkways in the park. Besides, the LCSD was gradually replacing existing lamp posts with solar LED lamp posts at major parks (e.g. Shin Mun Valley Park, Kwok Shui Road Park and Jockey Club Tak Wah Park) for the time being. The LCSD would continuously review the effectiveness of the said devices together with the works departments, and would install the devices at other parks and playgrounds in phases. The LCSD had planted around 6 000 trees in its parks and playgrounds in Tsuen Wan district so far, whereas around 9 000 roadside trees were under the LCSD's maintenance. Different researches showed that the planting of trees in cities could help mitigate the urban heat island (UHI) effect. The temperature in the shade of trees was also around 4 degrees cooler than the outdoor temperature in general. Trees could absorb carbon dioxide from the air and release oxygen. Tree leaves and bark could also purify the air by capturing airborne particles and dust.

Researches also showed that tree clusters could act as windbreaks in the event of adverse weather conditions. Trees and soil could also help minimise surface run-off, mitigate soil erosion and reduce sediment in water, thereby lowering the risk of blocked river channels and flooding. The LCS D would continue to actively promote the greening work. Yet, in order to reduce carbon emissions of the entire city and alleviate climate hazards, the collaborative efforts of other organisations, government departments and the public were indispensable. All parties should strive to conserve energy, adopt a low-carbon lifestyle and protect the natural environment with a view to mitigating the impact of climate hazards.

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

- (1) he thanked the LCS D for the informative response. He pointed out that Hong Kong were going to brave excessively hot weather, deal with more serious storm surge events and encounter problems such as the failure to maintain its biodiversity in the future. Urban parks were effective in lessening the impact of climate hazards. Yet, the Government currently did not take into account climate change as a factor in the planning of urban parks, which would compromise the health of the general public in the long run. He said that Chapter 4: Recreation, Open Space & Greening of the latest version of the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines stated the benefit of improving microclimate brought by parks and focused on the function of park landscape with respect to environmental beautification. However, the ability of parks to reduce climate hazards were not mentioned. On the other hand, urban parks were also not listed as an effective means to cope with extreme weather in the Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050 announced by the Government in 2021. In his opinion, the Government failed to make full use of urban parks to mitigate climate hazards. He pointed out that according to Prof. Lawal M. MARAFA from the Department of Geography and Resource Management of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, urban parks did not only function as a place for people to rest and exercise, but they also played a crucial role in easing the impact of climate change on Hong Kong. He held that Tsuen Wan district was in grave need of parks to alleviate the impact of climate hazards. However, there were insufficient parks in the district for the time being and the parks were too small. The problems currently encountered in the old areas (including poor ventilation, limited vegetation and absence of biodiversity in the parks) would aggravate the UHI effect and undermine the flood resilience of the urban areas. Besides, he pointed out that a climate-resilient park should be

equipped with trees, ponds and a ground paved with breathable materials to enhance its cooling and water absorption efficiency. On top of that, the park should adopt an elevated or a sunken design having regard to the microclimate and terrain of streets with a view to increasing the drainage capacity of the area. He said that the climate resilience of cities such as London, Amsterdam and Fukuoka was enhanced upon the refinement of the design and management of parks. Additionally, he opined that when formulating the design standards of parks, the Government should take into account the needs of users and grassroots workers so as to put urban parks into good use. In this way, it could also ensure that everyone were able to enjoy the benefits of parks while parks fulfilled their function of mitigating the impact of climate hazards. He pointed out that the Urban Renewal Authority would redevelop Tsuen Wan district. In his opinion, this was an opportunity to construct additional parks when space was made available after the demolition of old buildings (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio); and

- (2) he hoped that the Government would construct more parks in Tsuen Wan with a view to promoting greening in the district. Previously, he had also discussed the feasibility of retaining a larger number of trees in Ma Wan Park with the management officer of the park (the Chairman).

VI Item 5: Information Papers

- (1) Work Report on Environmental Pollution Control in Tsuen Wan District (1 May 2023 to 30 June 2023)
(EHCCC Paper No. 22/2023)

18. Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio pointed out that the captioned paper stated that a fine of only \$8,000 was imposed after prosecution under the Noise Control Ordinance was instituted. He considered the amount of fine too small. In his opinion, the EPD should not wait and only take action after the passage of the proposed amendment in relation to the adjustment of the maximum fine. Instead, it should make extra efforts to proactively conduct inspections before the proposed amendment was endorsed. He pointed out that nearby residents had been suffering from the noise problem in the district for a long time.

19. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded that the abatement of noise nuisances caused by shops was one of the EPD's priority tasks in the district. The data set out in the paper might lag behind the actual situation because it took more than six months to complete the procedures of prosecution since the occurrence of the incident. The EPD had initiated prosecution against multiple cases in 2023, and he anticipated that the

relevant work would be reflected in the data in the future. Understanding that it took time to go through the procedures for initiating prosecution against noise nuisances caused by shops, the EPD was currently seeking views from the public on the mechanism of fixed penalty with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of the prosecution work.

(2) Work Report on the Problem of Sea Water Pollution of the Rambler Channel, Tsuen Wan (May to June 2023)
(EHCCC Paper No. 24/2023)

20. Mr LAU Cheuk-yu enquired whether Paper Nos. 23 and 24 could be merged. Moreover, he pointed out that the result of the odour assessment showed that mild odour was detected. He enquired of the EPD whether it had forwarded the result of the odour assessment to the department responsible for constructing dry weather flow interceptors (DWFIs) for consideration. He did not understand why the department concerned still had to construct DWFIs while the assessment result showed that the odour was mild. He said that there was currently a decrease in the number of complaints received on seawater odour at the harbourfront, and enquired of the EPD whether it had also received fewer complaints on the same subject matter.

21. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded that Paper No. 23 mainly served to present the result of the odour assessment conducted at Tsuen Wan Slaughter House. The odour under discussion in Paper No. 23 originated from the slaughter house, which was different from the source of the odour mentioned in Paper No. 24. Hence, the EPD reported on the matters in two separate papers. The EPD had set up different teams to conduct inspections and odour assessments during different periods of time. The EPD had also adopted Members' suggestions to conduct inspections in the evening. The EPD's staff held that the odour was mild upon inspection and assessment, and they often detected odour at certain locations (e.g. water outfalls). The EPD had been actively conducting inspections to search for cases of pipe misconnection which were suspected culprits of the odour problem. Besides, the EPD had received 11 related complaints as at June 2023, including complaints on odour and discoloured water. The EPD had received 8 complaints in 2022 and 15 complaints in 2021. A complaint lodged in 2023 was about the emergence of black water in the sea following the issuance of Black Rainstorm Signal by the HKO. The EPD understood that black water would unavoidably be generated after heavy rainfall. Apart from Tsuen Wan district, similar complaints had also been received in other districts in Hong Kong. However, the condition of the sea had been improved after a few days. If the complaints on black water were excluded, the numbers of complaints on odour, sewage

discharge and other discoloured water were comparable to those of 2022. Some people were of the opinion that the odour problem had been slightly improved and conveyed such views to the EPD's staff when they were conducting inspections and collecting views from the public in the district.

22. The Chairman pointed out that DWFI had its function. An exhibition of DWFI would be held on 19 and 27 August 2023. The one held on 27 August 2023 would be staged in Tsuen Wan Park. The Chairman encouraged Members to actively promote the exhibition among residents in the district.

(3) Work Report on Environmental Hygiene in Tsuen Wan District
(EHCCC Paper No. 26/2023)

23. Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio welcomed CHI(TW)1 of the FEHD who recently assumed the post to this meeting. He noted that one of the FEHD's responsibilities was to provide cleansing services, including cleaning streets with the aid of water jets roughly four times a month. He learnt that the Highways Department (HyD) would repair the surfaces of walkways such as replacing the paving blocks of an entire walkway. He opined that there was a lack of communication between the FEHD and HyD. For instance, they failed to coordinate with one another in order to determine whether the first cleaning should be carried out by the FEHD's contractor or the HyD's staff upon the completion of the resurfacing of the walkway. This problem had recently arisen at the walkways on Luen Yan Street and Kwu Hang Road near Tsuen Fook Kui. The HyD's contractor had removed the fences enclosing the works site although there was sand everywhere on the walkways after the completion of works. The staff of the FEHD's contractor had not cleaned the walkways because they were uncertain whether the works had been completed or not. He held that inter-departmental communication should be enhanced and a suitable mechanism should be set up to deal with problems.

24. CHI(TW)1 of the FEHD responded that the FEHD had all along been placing emphasis on regular cleaning of streets. If the HyD was laying paving blocks on a walkway, the street cleaning work of the FEHD's staff would be impeded to a certain extent. In case the HyD completed the works earlier than expected, it was likely that the FEHD's staff was unaware of the completion of the works. The FEHD would enhance communication with the HyD to ascertain the handover time of works sites, thereby stepping up the street cleaning services. The FEHD would follow up on the locations mentioned by the Member. It would also pay attention to locations where the HyD was carrying out works for walkways in the district in order to arrange for

cleaning work at those locations after the completion of the works.

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

- (4) Publicity and Anti-Marine Littering Operation in Tsuen Wan District (January 2023 - June 2023)
(EHCCC Paper No. 21/2023);
- (5) Odour Prediction Assessment at the Riviera Gardens and Tsuen Wan Slaughter House (May to June 2023)
(EHCCC Paper No. 23/2023);
- (6) Noise Monitoring Result of MTR Tsuen Wan Depot (May 2023 to June 2023)
(EHCCC Paper No. 25/2023); and
- (7) Aircraft Noise Data Collected from Dedicated Monitoring Station in Tsuen Wan District during April 2023 to May 2023
(EHCCC Paper No. 27/2023).

VII Adjournment of Meeting

26. The Chairman stated that this meeting was the last EHCCC meeting during the current tenure of the TWDC. He took this opportunity to thank all Members and representatives from government departments for their time and contributions. He also hoped that continuous improvements would be made to the environmental hygiene of Tsuen Wan district.

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat

5 September 2023