

(Translation)

Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of  
Environment, Health and Climate Change Committee (1/20-21)

Date: 11 May 2020 (Monday)

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Venue: Main Conference Room, Tsuen Wan District Office

Present:

Members

Mr TAM Hoi-pong (Chairman)

Mr LAU Jackson (Vice Chairman)

Mr MAN Yu-ming, MH

Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris

Mr LI Hung-por

Mr SHUM Lester

Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus

Mr LAM Sek-tim

Ms CHAN Kim-kam

Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio

Mr WONG Ka-wa

Mr KOT Siu-yuen

Mr CHIU Yan-loy

Mr LAU Chi-hung

Mr LAU Cheuk-yu

Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy

Mr LAI Man-fai

Mr TSE Man-chak

Government Representatives

Mr CHOW Chun-hun, Gary

Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan),  
Tsuen Wan District Office

Mr CHAN Kwok-hung

Chief Health Inspector (Tsuen Wan)1,  
Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Department

Ms FONG Wei-king, Luna

Deputy District Leisure Manager (Tsuen  
Wan) 2, Leisure and Cultural Services  
Department

Ms TSANG Ka-man, Carmen

Senior Environmental Protection Officer  
(Regional West) 2, Environmental  
Protection Department

Ms LO Sze-yan

Engineer/Tsuen Kwai 2, Drainage  
Services Department

Mr LI Pui-sang

Contract Project Coordinator/2 (W), Civil  
Engineering and Development  
Department

Mr KAN King-ming, Victor	Housing Manager/Wong Tai Sin, Tsing Yi & Tsuen Wan 8, Housing Department
Mr YIM Wai-hung	Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing)
Mr YUNG Chi-wai	Senior Inspector of Works, Tsuen Wan District Office
Miss TAI Tsz-yan, Angie	Executive Officer (Development), Tsuen Wan District Office

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat Representatives

Miss LAM Siu-yung, Daisy	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Tsuen Wan District Office
Miss CHUNG Sau-ling, Shirley (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council)1, Tsuen Wan District Office
Miss CHEUNG Wai-nga, Katherine	Executive Officer (District Council)4, Tsuen Wan District Office

Attendance by Invitation:

For discussion of item 2B

Mr LEUNG Kwong-chung	Senior Engineer/Mainland South 2, Drainage Services Department
Mr WONG Chi-hin	Engineer/Consultants Management 18, Drainage Services Department
Mr TSUI Ka-kim, Kim	Senior Building Surveyor/D5, Buildings Department

For discussion of item 3

Mr LEE Pak-ho	Senior Health Inspector (Administration & Development) Special Duties, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
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For discussion of item 5

Mr CHU Tung-fai	Senior Health Inspector, Joint Office/Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr FUNG Man-hon	Professional Officer 2-1, Joint Office/Buildings Department

For discussion of item 6

Mr LEUNG Kwong-chung	Senior Engineer/Mainland South 2, Drainage Services Department
Mr WONG Chi-hin	Engineer/Consultants Management 18, Drainage Services Department

For discussion of item 7

Mr LO Tim-fat	Chief Inspector of Police (Operations) (Tsuen Wan) (Acting), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr WONG Chi-hin	Engineer/Consultants Management 18, Drainage Services Department
<u>For discussion of item 9</u>	
Ms LEE Lai-kiu, Winnie	Senior Liaison Officer (2), Tsuen Wan District Office
<u>For discussion of item 11</u>	
Mr YAU Wai-yip	Senior Property Services Manager/Sham Shui Po & Tsuen Kwai, Architectural Services Department
Ms CHAN Li-ye, Gobby	Property Services Manager/Tsuen Wan, Architectural Services Department
<u>For discussion of item 12</u>	
Mr YAU Wai-yip	Senior Property Services Manager/Sham Shui Po & Tsuen Kwai, Architectural Services Department
Ms CHAN Li-ye, Gobby	Property Services Manager/Tsuen Wan, Architectural Services Department
<u>For discussion of item 13</u>	
Mr WONG Wai-keung	Assistant Engineer/Tsuen Kwai 1, Drainage Services Department

## The Meeting

### I Opening Remarks and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed the Members to the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Environment, Health and Climate Change Committee (EHCCC), and introduced Mr CHAN Kwok-hung, Chief Health Inspector (Tsuen Wan)<sup>1</sup> (Ch Health Insp (Tsuen Wan)<sup>1</sup>), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) who attended this meeting on behalf of Mr KUAN Man-hou.

2. The Chairman stated that according to section 28 of the Tsuen Wan District Council Standing Orders (the “Standing Orders”) and in response to the evolving epidemic situation, unless otherwise specified, each Member who submitted a paper might have up to 2 minutes to introduce the paper and might make supplementary remarks once. The Member might choose to speak after the responses from the representative(s) from government departments or make concluding remarks before the end of discussion of the agenda item for up to 2 minutes. For each agenda item, except for 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 of each item. 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. In addition, the representatives from government departments might speak up to 2 minutes twice.

II Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting held on 5.3.2020

3. The captioned minutes were unanimously confirmed by Members without amendment.

(Note: Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris, Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus and Mr KOT Siu-yuen joined the meeting at 2:40 p.m.)

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

(A) Paragraphs 9 to 19 of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 March 2020: Proposals and Assessment Mechanism of Minor Environmental Improvement Programme

4. The Chairman stated that for this agenda item, each Member could speak up to 2 minutes and make supplementary remarks for up to 1.5 minutes, i.e. each Member might speak for 2 times in total. Representatives from government departments might have up to 2 minutes for giving response. The EHCCC received at this meeting a paper setting out 68 proposed projects which had not been screened. He enquired whether all the projects proposed by Members had been included in the paper. He said that according to past experience, project proposals that were technically infeasible would not be included as items for assessment. Besides, the captioned item would be discussed in the following order. Firstly, ways of handling project proposals considered inappropriate by the Tsuen Wan District Office (TWDO) would be discussed. Secondly, the discussion would move on to the proposal on providing facilities on non-gazetted beaches put forward by Ms CHAN Kim-kam and Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris, and whether the proposal should be implemented if it obtained a relatively high average score after voting by Members. Lastly, the issue of whether or not to continue with the practice of carrying out site inspections would be discussed. He thought that there were different possibilities at present. One of them was that Members should insist on the provision of opinion collection boards. Another one was that the provision of opinion collection boards was to be included as an item for assessment, but this might be rejected by the TWDO; or that the provision of opinion collection boards was not to be included as an item for assessment, and the EHCCC would continue to score other feasible project proposals.

(Note: Mr WONG Ka-wa joined the meeting at 2:43 p.m.)

5. The views, enquiries and suggestions of the Chairman and Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) he hoped that the TWDO would clearly explain in writing the reason for not including the provision of opinion collection boards as an item for assessment. He opined that opinion collection boards could show public opinions clearly and enable the Government to learn about the public demand (Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy);
- (2) in his opinion, residents could express opinions on district issues through the opinion collection boards, which enabled the Government to learn about the views of various sectors in the community, thereby facilitating the implementation of government policies and improving people's livelihood. District Councillors could also put forward proposals through the opinion collection boards. He was discontented with the Government which rejected

- or disapproved of the inclusion of the proposed project as an item for assessment on political grounds. According to previous practice, the Works Section of the TWDO would inspect the sites for the proposed projects with Members and explain why the proposed projects were infeasible. District Councillors would then decide whether to withdraw the proposed projects. Besides, after all the proposed projects had been scored, district consultation exercises still had to be conducted to collect residents' views, and the projects would be taken forward according to the established mechanism. Therefore, he opined that the TWDO had intervened the established mechanism by rejecting the proposed project prior to the scoring session (Mr CHIU Yan-loy);
- (3) he thought that the opinion collection board was a means of district consultation. Given that the function of the TWDO was to relay public opinions to the Government, it would leave an impression that the Government disregarded public aspirations if the provision of opinion collection boards was not included as an item for assessment. He thus hoped that the TWDO would give an account of the ordinance on which the decision made was based (Mr LAU Jackson);
  - (4) given that funds allocation for the Minor Environmental Improvement Programme had been used for installing District Council notice boards in the past, the Government's act of telling the 18 District Councils (DCs) that opinion collection boards could not be provided at present was a political decision indeed. He agreed that it was necessary to handle the proposed project according to the established procedures, rather than explaining to the public that opinion collection boards could not be provided on political grounds. He hoped that Members would send letters to the departments concerned to express their wish to enhance interaction with residents. The obstruction created by the Government would only motivate District Councillors to carry out more district work (Mr WONG Ka-wa);
  - (5) he and Members had studied the Guidelines for Implementing District Minor Works Projects and the District Councils Ordinance before putting forward project proposals. He enquired of the Home Affairs Department (HAD) about the basis for not including the proposed project as an item for assessment. In addition, he enquired about the channels through which Members could file a complaint besides the Office of The Ombudsman should Members opine that the TWDC Secretariat or HAD did not act according to the current legislation, including the District Councils Ordinance, and whether there were no other ways besides lodging a judicial review (Mr SHUM Lester);
  - (6) he understood that the HAD was concerned about the management of opinion collection boards because messages containing foul language or personal attacks might be posted on the opinion collection boards. Therefore, he proposed setting up a management unit comprising District Councillors or staff of the HAD for removing such messages. He thought that the proposal could be examined from a positive perspective since the contents posted on the opinion collection boards might not necessarily involve political issues only, but might also involve issues related to people's livelihood. The locations for installation of opinion collection boards could be further discussed (Mr LI Hung-por);

- (7) he said the TWDO had once pointed out that DCs were advisory bodies, and so discussion on political issues regarding the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region at DC meetings was unacceptable. Given that opinion collection board was one of the channels of public consultation, he hoped that the TWDO would handle the proposed project in accordance with the legislation (Mr LAI Man-fai);
- (8) as far as he knew, fighting among residents had once taken place near the opinion collection board in Lei Muk Shue Estate. He did not want to see conflicts between people holding different views arising out of opinion collection boards or a recurrence of similar incidents. He thought that District Councillors had the responsibility to collect public opinions and relay them to various departments. He had seen many District Councillors display banners for collecting views posted by the public in the vicinity of Belvedere Garden. He thus enquired whether these banners were considered as opinion collection boards, and which department was responsible for examining and regulating the contents posted thereon. Since many problems were still unsolved for the time being, he did not support the inclusion of installation of opinion collection boards as an item for assessment (Mr KOT Siu-yuen); and
- (9) he enquired about the current number of DC notice boards and the department responsible for determining the contents to be posted thereon. He also enquired which department members of the public or District Councillors should approach for enquiries if they wished to put up posters related to environmental protection. In addition, he enquired about the regulations for regulating the act of opening the glass windows of the DC notice boards and posting materials thereon by members of the public on their own initiative (the Chairman).

(Note: Ms CHAN Kim-kam joined the meeting at 2:50 p.m.)

6. Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan) (ADO(TW)) of the TWDO responded that he would not comment on individual projects before the discussion on the assessment mechanism and scoring of projects had been completed. On the whole, DCs were intended for improving district facilities, living environment and hygienic condition in various districts over the territory through providing funding for the implementation of minor works in the district under the District Minor Works (DMW) Programme. The HAD or Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) were the lead departments in implementing DMW projects. Upon approval of a DMW project proposal by the TWDC, the lead departments would examine whether the project proposal met the requirements in respect of the scope and objectives of the Minor Environmental Improvement Works Projects, and would advise on the technical feasibility of the proposal. If the proposal did not comply with the requirements in respect of the scope of the Minor Environmental Improvement Works Projects, or if works could not be implemented due to the proposed objective of the project or its own technical problems, the departments would provide advice to the person who put forth the proposal, such as making amendments to the scale or scope of the proposed project. If a project proposal might affect public order or cause conflicts, the departments would examine whether the project proposal complied with the scope and objectives of the Minor Environmental Improvement Works Projects. At present, the DC notice boards were mainly managed by

the TWDO for displaying information related to the TWDC and funding of DMW projects, including the list of DC Members, their contact information, agendas and minutes of meetings of the TWDC full council and its committees, information on activities in the district, and information for bringing convenience to the residents, such as public consultations on planning and the corresponding findings. Due to the limited space of the DC notice boards, the TWDO would consider different factors when posting materials thereon. From the perspective of the TWDO, opinion collection boards did not comply with the existing policy on notice boards. In addition, taking into account the responsibility of managing and maintaining the notice boards and to avoid disrupting public order or causing conflicts, the HAD held that opinion collection boards should not be provided. The TWDO had put on record Members' views, and the HAD would take note of them.

(Note: Mr TSE Man-chak joined the meeting at 2:53 p.m.)

7. The Chairman said that he wanted to have a discussion with the HAD so as to strive for the implementation of the proposed project. In his opinion, there were three possibilities, namely, (a) to continue to strive for inclusion of all proposed projects as items for assessment and their implementation; (b) to implement other feasible proposals, excluding those which could not be implemented due to technical or political reasons, according to the priority accorded after all proposed projects had been scored; and (c) upon endorsement of the funds allocation, to earmark part of the funding for those projects which could not be commenced immediately until they could be successfully implemented. He invited Members to make suggestions concerning the possibilities and carry out discussion.

8. The views, enquiries and suggestions of the Chairman and Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) the TWDO only gave an account of the HAD's stance, and did not cite any ordinances. Members were left with no options to choose from (Mr LAU Jackson);
- (2) as the TWDO held that opinion collection boards might lead to discussion and disputes, and thus rejected the provision, he asked whether the entire Government had to be ousted since it had also stimulated heated discussion among the public at present. He thought that it was necessary to reach a consensus in the discussion by agreeing that the law enforcement agencies should take stringent law enforcement action when violent incidents happened, but not limit the freedom of expression (Mr TSE Man-chak);
- (3) he thought that the matter in question should be handled according to relevant ordinances, and that all proposed projects should be included as items for assessment. He did not accept that some of the proposed projects were rejected due to the HAD's stance (Mr LAI Man-fai);
- (4) the public opinion could not be clearer at present. The TWDC full council had also endorsed a motion indicating the residents' aspiration for a Lennon wall. In addition, he did not agree that the provision of opinion collection boards should be rejected based on the existing criteria for providing notice boards. The opinion collection boards, which would be used for collecting residents' opinions, were of a different nature compared to those used for giving notices or displaying materials. As far as he learnt, some project

proposals, such as formation of sites in rural areas, despite not being included in the DMW Programme, were still deemed feasible by the HAD in the past. He thus enquired why opinion collection boards could not be installed. If the proposed project was rejected on grounds of the possible impact on public order, he thought that the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) should also be restructured. He further asked whether the banners of District Councillors, which often caused conflicts, had to be removed as well. He opined that Members needed to make an all-out effort to appeal to the HAD for provision of opinion collection boards (Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy);

- (5) elected Members' comments were a reflection of public opinions in the TWDC. He hoped that the Government would not put the cart before the horse, and thought that government departments needed to negotiate with Members instead of rejecting the project proposal (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu);
- (6) he hoped to seek a solution, and opined that Members had to have an interview with the representatives of the HAD and request an explanation from the HAD on the reasons for rejecting the project proposal, as well as the criteria for political approval, which included the reason for assuming that the contents on opinion collection boards must involve the discussion of political issues and thus create disputes. In his opinion, the opinion collection board was a channel for residents to express their opinions about livelihood issues. Thus, he requested the TWDO to include the provision of opinion collection boards as an item for assessment (Mr LAU Chi-hung);
- (7) he thought that Members could set up street counters more often to collect residents' opinions, and disapproved of the provision of opinion collection boards when there were still frequent disputes at present. If Members hoped to gain public support, they could relay public opinions to various departments. In his opinion, the provision of opinion collection boards could not solve the problem, but would only intensify hatred. In addition, he agreed that the information currently shown on the DC notice boards should be updated (Mr KOT Siu-yuen);
- (8) he enquired when the information on DC notice boards was last updated. He learnt that the notice board installed at the main entrance of Tai Hung Fai (Tsuen Wan) Centre had not been updated in the past six months, and the information displayed was the matters of the last DC term. Information about the current DC term could not be found thereon. Besides, he deemed that expression of opinions was a fundamental human right in a democratic society, and so rejecting the provision of opinion collection boards on grounds of the possibility of conflicts was unacceptable (Mr LAM Sek-tim);
- (9) he hoped that the TWDO would convey the views. The TWDO stated that it had assessed whether opinion collection boards would give rise to disruption of social order. However, in his opinion, the problem did not stem from the boards; instead, it was caused by the failure of the law enforcement agencies to take stringent law enforcement actions. On top of that, there were many causes of conflicts, for instance, setting up street counters for consulting residents. District Councillors had relayed public opinions to the Government, but they were not accepted. Thus, the provision of opinion collection boards was necessary for relaying these opinions. If the proposed project with the

words “Lennon Wall” in its name was deemed inappropriate, he enquired whether the Government would accept the proposal after the opinion collection boards had been renamed. He thought that if the criteria currently adopted by the TWDO was to be followed, the DC notice boards had to be removed as well (Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus);

- (10) he was concerned about the relevant procedures and regulations, and opined that the TWDO had mixed political views with procedures. Members proposed installing opinion collection boards using the funding under the DMW Programme according to the District Councils Ordinance and established procedures. Nevertheless, the TWDO opposed the project proposal on grounds of the possibility of disputes between people of different political views arose from the provision of opinion collection boards in the district. He thus enquired why the TWDO handled the matter by taking into account opinions and political views only without following relevant procedures and regulations, and about the legal basis of rejecting the proposed project (Mr SHUM Lester); and
- (11) in his opinion, the provision of opinion collection boards was in compliant with the regulations, same as the required works related to livelihood issues, such as the provision of seating and rain shelters, under the relevant guidelines. Nevertheless, the TWDO did not handle the proposed project according to the assessment mechanism endorsed by Members at the previous meeting. He opined that the EHCCC should continue to strive for the implementation of the project proposal, and proposed earmarking part of the funding for controversial projects with a relatively high score. The remaining funding could continue to be used for taking forward feasible projects. Members could discuss the funding amount to be earmarked (the Chairman).

9. Mr SHUM Lester requested to move an impromptu motion: “the Environment, Health and Climate Change Committee requests the Home Affairs Department to seriously implement the decision and resolution of the Tsuen Wan District Council according to the existing law and withdraw the decision of not installing opinion collection boards, and requests the Director of Home Affairs to immediately have a meeting with Members of the Tsuen Wan District Council”. Mr TSE Man-chak seconded.

10. The Chairman asked if Members would make any proposed amendments to the impromptu motion. No Member made any proposed amendments.

11. Mr CHIU Yan-loy proposed that an open ballot should be held. Members agreed to the proposal.

12. The Chairman asked Members to vote on the impromptu motion, and stated that as he was the Chairman, he would not cast any vote. The voting result was as follows:

For (14 votes in total)

Mr TSE Man-chak, Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy, Mr LAU Cheuk-yu, Mr LAU Chi-hung, Mr CHIU Yan-loy, Mr WONG Ka-wa, Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio, Ms CHAN Kim-kam, Mr LAM Sek-tim, Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus, Mr SHUM

Lester, Mr LI Hung-por, Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris and Mr LAU Jackson

Against (0 vote in total)

Abstention (2 votes in total)

Mr KOT Siu-yuen and Mr MAN Yu-ming

13. The Chairman announced that the above impromptu motion was endorsed.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat conveyed the impromptu motion to the HAD in writing on 18 May 2020.)

14. ADO(TW) of the TWDO stated that the TWDO would convey Members' views. The lead departments of the DMW Programme were the HAD and LCSO. If the departments held that it was difficult to implement the proposed project and they could not follow up on its implementation due to the responsibility of management and maintenance or considerations previously explained, the proposed project could not be submitted to the TWDC for discussion and voting. In the past, the Government would consult the local community on policies and issues, and would take the initiative to send representatives to attend the TWDC meetings to listen to Members' views. If members of the public wished to express views on particular issues, they might do so through different channels. Since the funds allocation had not been endorsed yet, implementation of this year's DMW Programme had been delayed. After Members had discussed the scoring criteria, the TWDO would set out the feasible projects and would endeavour to follow up the projects concerned in an active manner.

15. The views, enquiries and suggestions of the Chairman and Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) as some of the proposed projects might be rejected, he opined that he felt duty-bound to put forth the above proposal and amendment concerning the funds allocation in question (the Chairman);
- (2) he enquired whether the Chairman would move a motion. If voting by Members was not required for making the decision, he suggested that the Chairman should put forth views and directly ask Members whether they had objections (Mr CHIU Yan-loy);
- (3) in general, he did not object to earmarking part of the funding for implementation of feasible projects. There would not be any wastage of funding if the projects were to be commenced next year (Mr LI Hung-por);
- (4) he enquired whether the act of putting forth funding proposals for feasible and infeasible projects respectively was a previous practice of handling the DMW Programme. He had reservations about the above proposal as he opined that it would erode the TWDC's functions, and discussion items would also be separated into feasible and infeasible proposals for handling in the future. He thought that it was necessary to handle the captioned issue according to the established procedures and allocation of funds (Mr SHUM Lester);
- (5) although he thought that the Chairman's proposal was feasible, it was necessary to consider the amount of funding to be earmarked because the

quotations for various projects were not set out in the paper. He anticipated that some of the projects, such as the one at Discovery Park, might require more funding. As the relevant amount of funding was not available, he proposed setting aside an amount of funding sufficient for implementation of one or two projects, which was subject to the Members' consent. Moreover, he supported the motion and did not accept the HAD's behaviour of undermining proposals made by District Councillors from all aspects. As such, he agreed to invite the Director of Home Affairs for a meeting (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio);

- (6) he agreed to the above motion. During the discussion on the relevant procedures earlier, he suggested giving bonus points to the projects put forth by Members again in the following year. This showed that the endorsed funding procedures would continue to be adopted. In his opinion, it was inappropriate to determine the implementation priority of projects prior to the scoring session. Thus, he suggested that the scoring session should be retained, and it was not necessary to earmark funding for the projects with higher scores. In case the projects could not be commenced this year, the decision on whether to implement them could be made in the following year (Mr WONG Ka-wa);
- (7) she had reservations about the proposal on setting aside part of the funding because she thought that it was a matter of whether justice could be achieved in the procedures and in the mechanism. If the mechanism currently in place was considered inadequate, Members could put forth amendments and handle the matter according to the existing procedures and mechanism. It might cause procedural injustice if the HAD could decide whether a proposed project was feasible on its own initiative. She did not wish that the decision originally made would be reversed in the end. If the project obtained a high score in the scoring session and was not technically infeasible, the department concerned should implement the construction works according to the Members' decision (Ms CHAN Kim-kam);
- (8) he opined that the matter should be handled according to the established procedures. At present, it was very dangerous for the HAD to undermine the original system due to different political beliefs. Therefore, he thought that the scoring session should continue to be carried out according to the procedures. Turning a blind eye to overwhelming public opinion just because of the controversial nature of the proposed projects was unacceptable (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu); and
- (9) he had reservations about the proposal on setting aside part of the funding. As the EHCCC had all along been complying with the relevant procedures, he opined that Members should insist on striving for projects that might be rejected by the TWDO. He opined that the TWDO did not have the authority to cancel any projects (Mr TSE Man-chak).

16. The Chairman said he noted that many projects could not be implemented due to a lack of funding in the past. He reminded Members that projects with high scores might not be implemented according to the accorded priority due to political reasons in the future, and, after the implementation of other feasible projects, controversial projects with high scores might not be implemented due to insufficient funding. He decided that all proposed projects

should be included as items for assessment, and that items that had been rejected on grounds other than technical infeasibility would be discussed at the next EHCCC meeting. He asked Members to discuss whether site inspections should continue to be conducted. In view of the impact from the epidemic, the fact that the funding allocation was pending endorsement, and the relatively long time required for inspecting the sites for the 68 proposed projects this year, he would propose conducting the scoring session indoors as a substitute for site inspections, even though this meant that the projects would be scored only with the help of relevant photographs.

17. The views, enquiries and suggestions of the Chairman and Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) he did not agree to the indoor scoring arrangement, and opined that a site inspection was necessary (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio);
- (2) he thought that it was necessary to continue to carry out a site inspection. He enquired whether site inspections had been cancelled before, and whether Members could first make the relevant payment and arrange for a site inspection in May 2020 (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu);
- (3) he agreed that a site inspection had to be carried out, but he anticipated that it might not be conducted in May 2020 because of the epidemic and the fact that the funds allocation was pending endorsement. Moreover, as Members had to reserve a whole day for site inspection, an indoor scoring session was a compromise approach. The proposal on asking Members to make relevant payment in advance was infeasible (the Chairman);
- (4) site inspections of the works had all along been conducted in the past. As there were many newly joined Members this year, he thought that a site inspection was necessary (Mr LI Hung-por); and
- (5) he believed that site inspections could help Members in scoring the projects and thus should continue to be conducted. He understood there were difficulties in arranging one, but he still hoped that it could be arranged promptly (Mr MAN Yu-ming).

18. The Chairman asked Members to vote on whether a site inspection should continue to be conducted.

19. After voting, Members unanimously endorsed the proposal for site inspections.

20. The Secretary stated that as Members had endorsed a suspension of the discussion on updating the Proposal for Tsuen Wan District Council Funds Allocation in 2020/21 in the TWDC meeting held on 24 April 2020, the EHCCC had no available funding for transportation fees that would be incurred in site inspections. Even if the funds allocation was endorsed, it would still take time to arrange a coach for site inspections and make an application for a coach permit for entry into Ma Wan.

21. The Chairman invited the TWDO to give response to the proposed provision of seating on non-gazetted beaches. Members might take note of the TWDO's comments and consider them in the scoring session.

22. Senior Inspector of Works (Sr Insp of Works) of the TWDO responded that as regards project items 49 and 52 in the paper, these two proposed projects were both about the provision of benches on beaches near Anglers' Beach, which was managed by the LCSD, at Castle Peak Road - Tsing Lung Tau. Since the proposed benches were to be provided on non-gazetted beaches, which were not within the LCSD's beaches nor its service area, the facilities might mislead the public into thinking that the LCSD would provide services thereat, constituting safety concern. The TWDO noted the views and had relayed them to the person who proposed the project earlier.

(B) Paragraphs 20 to 30 of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 March 2020: Request for Addressing the Odour Problem of Tsuen Wan Harbourfront Exeditiously

23. The Chairman stated that the representatives from the departments responsible for giving response were:

- (1) Ms TSANG Ka-man, Carmen, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West) 2 (Sr Env Protection Offr(Regional W)2), Environmental Protection Department (EPD);
- (2) Mr LEUNG Kwong-chung, Senior Engineer/Mainland South 2 (Sr Engr/Mainland South 2), Drainage Services Department (DSD);
- (3) Ms LO Sze-yan, Engineer/Tsuen Kwai 2 (Engr/Tsuen Kwai 2), DSD;
- (4) Mr WONG Chi-hin, Engineer/Consultants Management 18 (Engr/Consultants Mgt 18), DSD; and
- (5) Mr TSUI Ka-kim, Kim, Senior Building Surveyor/D5 (Sr Bldg Surveyor/D5), Buildings Department (BD).

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

24. Mr CHIU Yan-loy said he noted that, as stipulated by the TWDC and the Committees thereunder, no further discussion on the same agenda item shall be proposed by Members within six months. He enquired whether this stipulation was still in effect. He also suggested that the captioned item and Item 6 should be discussed together.

25. The Secretary responded that the Chairman had decided that the two items should be discussed separately before the meeting. The discussion on Item 6 would focus on the effectiveness of the dry weather flow interceptors, whereas the discussion on the captioned item would focus on the odour problem of the harbourfront.

26. In response, the Chairman held that the two items were similar, and enquired of Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus whether he agreed that the two items should be discussed together.

27. Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus said that his item targeted the effectiveness of the dry weather flow interceptors, and he hoped to solve the problem at source. In addition, he opined that there was no duplication of contents in the two papers, and he had no comments on discussing the two items together.

28. The Chairman said he hoped that Members would conduct a thorough discussion on the items, so he decided that the two items should be discussed separately.

29. Sr Env Protection Offr(Regional W)2 of the EPD reported that the EPD, BD and DSD had held a meeting with several Members last Thursday for discussion on the captioned matter. Despite limited resources and the impact of the epidemic, the EPD would continue to step up inspection of the sources of pollution. In 2020, the EPD conducted 100 inspections with a view to promptly identifying the sources of pollution and the problem of misconnection of pipes. If other departments were involved, the EPD would refer the cases to the departments concerned for prompt follow-up.

30. Sr Engr/Mainland South 2 of the DSD reported that the DSD had conducted a more in-depth discussion on the odour problem with Members in the previous week. In the past, the DSD would use odour-control hydrogel (hydrogel) in the manholes at the upstream part of the box culverts. At present, it would place a larger volume of hydrogel in the pipelines at the upstream part of the water outlets of the box culverts and at locations around 20 metres from the water outlets on a trial basis with a view to alleviating the odour problem.

31. Sr Bldg Surveyor/D5 of the BD reported that if owners failed to comply with the order, the BD would institute prosecution against them. If owners still failed to comply with the order after being prosecuted, the BD would consider instituting prosecution again or arranging for contractors to undertake default works. At present, the BD was actively following up all the cases, and, at the same time, encouraged owners to rectify the problem of misconnection of pipes on their own initiative, with a view to solving the problem in an expeditious manner.

32. The views, enquiries and suggestions from Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) as the odour problem had been a nuisance to residents of Tsuen Wan for many years, he proposed setting up an inter-departmental steering committee or task force, with the EPD as the coordinating department and a directorate grade officer as the convenor or chairman. He also suggested that the Administration should organise publicity activities and liaise with District Councillors to distribute leaflets in the old areas to call on residents and food premises not to discharge sewage to stormwater drains. Moreover, the Government held that the odour problem was caused by the misconnection of pipelines, and yet, owners were in general unwilling to deal with the problem of misconnection of pipelines on their own initiative because they worried that the rectification works might be unreasonably expensive. As such, he suggested that the BD should properly compile the list of approved contractors to enable members of the public to search for suitable contractors who charged at reasonable rates conveniently (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio);
- (2) he enquired of the EPD about the data obtained in the first stage of the study of hydrogel and the information on the second stage of the study, as well as the anticipated effectiveness and details regarding the use of a larger volume of hydrogel. Moreover, he enquired of the EPD whether its future direction would first focus on tackling the problem of drainage channels or the polluted seabed, and about the detailed information on the works at the ten junctions of stormwater drains and sewers in Tsuen Wan district. Furthermore, he opined that if owners were required to carry out rectification works on their initiative, the BD should strengthen its support for them. The TWDO could assist in

distributing leaflets to facilitate the residents' understanding of the costs of the works and enhance their knowledge about building maintenance (Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus); and

- (3) he thought that departments including the TWDO, which was responsible for coordination, did not assist in tackling the problem. Pointing out the severity of the odour problem at the harbourfront, he hoped that the departments would handle the problem in an earnest manner (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu).

33. Sr Env Protection Offr(Regional W)2 of the EPD responded that the EPD had distributed the information about the works by the EPD and DSD to the seven Members who had attended the meeting held earlier by email prior to this meeting. Members had also mentioned their wish that the EPD would coordinate and establish an inter-departmental task force. The EPD had thus conveyed their views, and would report to Members if there were any updates.

34. Engr/Tsuen Kwai 2 of the DSD responded that the first stage of the study showed that hydrogel had a positive effect on inhibiting the concentration of hydrogen sulfide. The supplementary information on the data and research findings would be provided after the meeting. The second stage of the study aimed to investigate the effectiveness of hydrogel in suppressing volatile organic compounds. As the study was still in progress, the relevant data could not be released.

35. Sr Bldg Surveyor/D5 of the BD responded that the BD would promptly conduct inspection and issue relevant orders upon receipt of complaints or referrals. He cited a referral case the BD had recently received as an example. In the said case, the BD had conducted an inspection and issued an order within two weeks. If the owner concerned failed to carry out the works as required by the order, prosecution action would be taken after the deadline.

36. Mr LAU Cheuk-yu requested that an impromptu motion should be moved: "Request the Government to immediately set up an inter-departmental steering committee or task force led by the Environmental Protection Department with a directorate grade officer as its convenor to swiftly eradicate the odour problem of Tsuen Wan harbourfront that had been a nuisance for many years". Mr WONG Ka-wa seconded.

37. The Chairman accepted the impromptu motion, and asked Members if they would like to make any proposed amendments to the impromptu motion. No Member made any proposed amendment.

38. Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio proposed that an open ballot should be held. Members agreed to the proposal.

39. The Chairman asked Members to vote on the impromptu motion, and stated that as he was the Chairman, he would not cast a vote. The voting result was as follows:

For (17 votes in total)

Mr MAN Yu-ming, Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris, Mr LI Hung-por, Mr SHUM Lester, Mr

YICK Shing-chung, Angus, Mr LAM Sek-tim, Ms CHAN Kim-kam, Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio, Mr WONG Ka-wa, Mr KOT Siu-yuen, Mr CHIU Yan-loy, Mr LAU Chi-hung, Mr LAU Cheuk-yu, Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy, Mr LAI Man-fai, Mr TSE Man-chak and Mr LAU Jackson

Against (0 vote in total)

Abstention (0 vote in total)

40. The Chairman announced that the above impromptu motion was endorsed.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat conveyed the impromptu motion to the EPD, DSD and BD in writing on 18 May 2020.)

IV Item 3: Introduction to Green Burial 2020  
(EHCCC Paper No. 1/20-21)

41. The Chairman introduced Mr LEE Pak-ho, Senior Health Inspector (Administration & Development) Special Duties (Sr Health Insp (Adm & Dev)SD), FEHD, who was responsible for briefing on the agenda item.

42. Sr Health Insp (Adm & Dev)SD of the FEHD introduced the paper.

43. The views, enquiries and suggestions of the Chairman and Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) he supported environmental protection and green burial, and enquired about the current number of persons who opted for the scattering of cremated ashes at sea because he thought that having an idea of the data would help Members promote green burial (Mr MAN Yu-ming);
- (2) due to time constraint, the FEHD's presentation was yet to be completed. He enquired whether the FEHD could distribute the presentation materials to Members for reference (Mr LAM Sek-tim);
- (3) he enquired whether the FEHD could distribute the presentation materials to Members by email (the Chairman);
- (4) he strongly supported green burial, and had made a will stating his wish to opt for the scattering of cremated ashes at sea. He enquired why there were only three designated areas for the scattering of cremated ashes at sea (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio);
- (5) he supported green burial and had registered his wish for it. As far as he learnt, there was a significant increase in the number of persons choosing green burial after 2017. At present, there were only two legal columbaria in Tsuen Wan, but the number of applications for niches had all along been maintained at around 30. Such being the case, he enquired whether members of the public chose green burial only because they were unable to engage in a free trade of private niches, and how the FEHD would promote green burial in the future to alleviate the burden of purchasing niches on the public (Mr CHIU Yan-loy);

- (6) he strongly supported green burial. Having officiated at funeral service, he noted that the public had a very keen demand for burial ground sites and niches at present. He thus enquired whether the FEHD would continue to promote green burial. As the proportion of people choosing green burial was relatively low in the population at present, he suggested inviting government officials to show support for green burial (Mr LAU Chi-hung);
- (7) he supported green burial and enquired how green burial could be further promoted. He suggested that government officials should register for green burial for promotion (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu); and
- (8) he enquired whether facilities similar to the Gardens of Remembrance had been provided in Catholic cemeteries, and wished to know whether other religious groups also supported green burial (Mr WONG Ka-wa).

44. Sr Health Insp (Adm & Dev)SD of the FEHD responded that the FEHD had consulted several departments including the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, EPD and Marine Department in 2007 to designate three areas for scattering cremated ashes. Green burial was introduced in 2012. The Private Columbaria Ordinance came into effect on 30 June 2017, and public niches in Wo Hop Shek Cemetery were made available for allocation in 2016. Therefore, there was no direct relationship between green burial and the availability of niches. When the FEHD set up the Green Burial Central Register in 2019, the Secretary for Food and Health had taken the lead in making registration. Besides the eight Gardens of Remembrance managed by the FEHD, Gardens of Remembrance were also built in private cemeteries such as Junk Bay Chinese Permanent Cemetery and HKCCCU Pok Fu Lam Road Cemetery at present. The FEHD also encouraged other religious groups to build Gardens of Remembrance in cemeteries under their management. For example, a Garden of Remembrance had been constructed in Hong Kong Buddhist Cemetery. Under the Catholic doctrine, green burial was unacceptable. As regards the provision of Angel Gardens in Catholic cemeteries, the facility was used for the burial of stillborn foetuses of less than 24 weeks' gestation, and so it was unrelated to green burial.

V Item 4: “Market Management Consultative Committee” for Public Markets under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department  
(EHCCC Paper No. 2/20-21)

45. Ch Health Insp (Tsuen Wan)<sup>1</sup> of the FEHD introduced the paper.

46. Mr LAU Cheuk-yu enquired about the number of meetings held and functions of the Market Management Consultative Committee (MMCC).

47. Ch Health Insp (Tsuen Wan)<sup>1</sup> of the FEHD responded that the MMCC would conduct quarterly meetings, and its functions included assisting in improving the business environment of public markets, promoting schemes related to public markets, and giving advice on enhancement of the environment and facilities of public markets.

48. The Chairman stated that Mr WONG Ka-wa and Mr LAU Chi-hung were interested in joining the MMCC of Yeung Uk Road Market. There were two available seats for the said MMCC, and Members also agreed to recommend them to join the MMCC.

49. The Chairman stated that Mr KOT Siu-yuen and Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio were interested in joining the MMCC of Tsuen Wan Market. There were two available seats for the said MMCC, and Members also agreed to recommend them to join the MMCC.

50. The views, enquiries and suggestions of the Chairman and Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) he was previously a Member of the MMCC of Heung Che Street Market, and thus wished to continue to take up the post to follow up on related matters originally. However, as other Members were uninterested in joining the MMCC of Tsuen Wan Market, he joined the MMCC of Tsuen Wan Market instead. Thus, he welcomed other Members to join the MMCC of Tsuen Wan Market in order that he could continue to take up his role as a Member of the MMCC of Heung Che Street Market (Mr KOT Siu-yuen);
- (2) he was interested in joining the MMCC of Tsuen Wan Market (Mr TSE Man-chak);
- (3) as a number of tenants in Heung Che Street Market did not receive subsidies from the Government, and there were several matters requiring follow-up in Heung Che Street Market, he was interested in joining the MMCC of Heung Che Street Market (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu);
- (4) she enquired whether it was necessary to join the MMCCs according to certain established mechanism and membership size cap. If the number of Members in the MMCCs could be increased, she would want to join the MMCC of Tsuen Wan Market (Ms CHAN Kim-kam);
- (5) due to limited time for discussion, the maximum membership sizes of various MMCCs would be the same as those in the original proposal (the Chairman); and
- (6) he was concerned about the matters related to markets, and had earlier assisted the tenants in Yeung Uk Road Market in filling out forms. He hoped to serve more residents of Tsuen Wan district in addition to assisting the residents in his constituency (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio).

51. The Chairman stated that since Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio, Mr KOT Siu-yuen and Mr LAU Cheuk-yu were interested in joining the MMCC of Heung Che Street Market, which had two seats available only, he proposed electing the Members to join the said MMCC by a secret ballot.

52. The Chairman asked Members to vote for the Members who would join the MMCC of Heung Che Street Market. The voting result was as follows: 12 votes for Mr LAU Cheuk-yu, 12 votes for Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio, and 0 vote for Mr KOT Siu-yuen. Therefore, Mr LAU Cheuk-yu and Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio were recommended to join the MMCC of Heung Che Street Market. In addition, he agreed that Mr KOT Siu-yuen would join the MMCC of Tsuen Wan Market according to the original arrangement.

53. The Chairman stated that Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris was interested in joining the MMCC of Sham Tseng Temporary Market. There was one available seat for the said MMCC, and Members also agreed to recommend him to join the MMCC.

54. The Chairman stated that since Mr TSE Man-chak and Mr CHIU Yan-loy were interested in joining the MMCC of Chai Wan Kok Cooked Food Market, which had one seat available only, he proposed electing the Member to join the said MMCC by a secret ballot.

55. The views, enquiries and suggestions of Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) as residents in his constituency often visited Chai Wan Kok Cooked Food Market, he hoped to join the MMCC of Chai Wan Kok Cooked Food Market for a better understanding of the residents' needs and the related work (Mr TSE Man-chak); and
- (2) many residents in his constituency were tenants or regular customers of Chai Wan Kok Cooked Food Market. Thus, he wished to assist the residents in dealing with matters related to the management and environmental hygiene of Chai Wan Kok Cooked Food Market (Mr CHIU Yan-loy).

56. The Chairman asked Members to vote for the Member who would join the MMCC of Chai Wan Kok Cooked Food Market. The voting result was as follows: 5 votes for Mr TSE Man-chak and 6 votes for Mr CHIU Yan-loy. Therefore, Mr CHIU Yan-loy was recommended to join the MMCC of Chai Wan Kok Cooked Food Market. He wished Members to perform their functions in the MMCCs.

57. Ch Health Insp (Tsuen Wan)<sup>1</sup> of the FEHD expressed his gratitude for Members' enthusiasm for joining various MMCCs.

VI Item 5: Government Departments Should Enhance the Monitoring of Water Pipe Leakage in Housing Estates that Aroused Concern for Prevention of Spread of Virus (EHCCC Paper No. 3/20-21)

58. The Chairman stated that Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris submitted the paper. The representatives from the departments responsible for giving response were:

- (1) Mr FUNG Man-hon, Professional Officer 2-1 (Professional Offr 2-1), Joint Office (JO)/BD; and
- (2) Mr CHU Tung-fai, Senior Health Inspector (Sr Health Insp), JO/FEHD.

59. Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris introduced the paper.

60. Professional Offr 2-1 of the JO/BD responded that from January to late April 2020, the numbers of outstanding cases in Tsuen Wan area and Tsing Lung Tau area were 345 and 25 respectively. The JO had handled 423 and 42 cases in the said two areas respectively. Nuisance Notices were issued in 79 and 2 cases identified in the above areas respectively. Moreover, the JO had completed the investigation of 424 cases in Tsuen Wan area and 24 cases in Tsing Lung Tau area in the last three months.

61. Sr Health Insp of the JO/FEHD responded that within 6 working days upon the receipt of a water seepage report, the JO would contact the informant to arrange for Stage I of the water seepage investigation, which included recording the condition of the seepage location and monitoring the moisture content using a moisture meter. If the moisture content of the seepage area exceeded 35% and the seepage problem was found to have been caused by

other premises, the JO would proceed to carry out Stage II of the water seepage investigation. The JO would deploy staff to visit the suspected premises for conducting investigation and carrying out the colour water test at the drainage outlet near the seepage area, i.e. colour water would be poured into the drainage outlet for testing. The seepage area in the informant's premises would be reviewed for any seepage of colour water. Under normal circumstances, Stages I and II of the water seepage investigation could be completed within one month at the earliest. If the JO staff encountered difficulty and could not enter the suspected premises in the course of their investigation, the JO would make an application to the Court for a "Warrant of Entry Into Premises" for entering the suspected premises for investigation and testing. Once the source of water seepage was identified, the JO would issue a Nuisance Notice to the owner requesting maintenance in accordance with the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance. If the owner failed to do so, the JO would institute prosecution against the owner. If wastage of water due to defective exposed drainage pipes or freshwater pipes was identified during the investigation, the JO would refer the case to the BD and Water Supplies Department for follow-up. The JO was currently promoting the Scheme of Participation by Property Management Agents in Tackling Water Seepage in Residential Building, and would brief the participating property management agents on the investigation procedures and provide them with moisture meters and colour water. Upon receipt of complaints from households or referral from the JO, staff of the property management agents would first follow up the cases, conduct investigation and tackle the problem of water seepage through mediation.

62. The views, enquiries and suggestions of Members were summarised as follows:
- (1) since the problem of water seepage had seriously affected the households, he hoped that the JO would expedite the entire investigation process and complete the first two stages of water seepage investigation within one month. He also urged the JO to pay attention to the use of words in the investigation report. After Stage I of water seepage investigation, if water seepage was not identified, the JO would issue a report stating that there was no water seepage to the household. This would result in a dispute between the informant and the household of the suspected premise. He also hoped that the JO would improve the technologies for generating more accurate test results (Mr LI Hung-por);
  - (2) apart from discharging effluent, the foul water pipes were also involved with the vent pipes connected to the roof of a building. Having received many complaints from the residents about the gases discharged from the vent pipes, which affected the roofs and upper floors of buildings, he hoped that the BD would pay more attention to the conditions of foul water pipes, and that the JO would arrange for inspection of vent pipes and provide advice upon receipt of complaints (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio);
  - (3) he opined that the inspection method currently employed by the BD was out of date because among the cases he received, half of them could not have the source of water seepage identified. He had commissioned a loss adjuster to use new technologies for investigation, and the seepage locations were identified easily. Such being the case, he enquired whether the JO would use new technologies to identify the source of water seepage. In view of the epidemic, he enquired of the JO whether and how it would tackle the issues of

public concern relating to the broken anti-syphonage pipes and traps of the pipes. Apart from water seepage in floor slabs and water pipes, residents would in general identify water seepage at drains only when they cooked and took a shower at night. The FEHD thus was not able to identify water seepage timely during normal inspections. As such, he enquired whether there was relevant data and any method to address the problem (Mr CHIU Yan-loy);

- (4) he enquired whether the JO was currently using the infrared thermography and microwave tomography to investigate water seepage cases in Tsuen Wan district, when the New Territories West Regional Joint Office would be established, and how the JO would react if households of the suspected premises could not be reached during investigation. He hoped that the JO would spare no efforts to solve the problem (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu); and
- (5) he considered the problem of water seepage a livelihood issue of concern, and so the water pipes should not be inspected only when there was a virus outbreak. It was also necessary to seriously address the case where the premises suffering from water seepage had caused concrete spalling at the ceiling of the premises directly below. He understood that the JO was facing manpower shortage, but it was difficult to identify the source of water seepage by conducting the colour water test in Stage II of the investigation, which could also bring about disputes easily. He hoped that the Government would increase manpower and adopt new technologies to identify the source of water seepage, and enquired whether new technologies would be introduced to Tsuen Wan district progressively. In his opinion, if the moisture content was within the range of 20% to 35%, the households would be affected. Therefore, the problem of water seepage had to be handled properly (Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy).

63. Sr Health Insp of the JO/FEHD responded that if a check of the moisture content showed a level exceeding 35%, the JO would carry out the colour water test. He believed that if there was an ongoing problem of water seepage, even a strictly night-time one, the moisture content at the seepage area would still exceed 35% in the following morning, and the JO would have sufficient justification for conducting the colour water test. If the household of the suspected premises could not be reached or the flat was vacant, the JO would make an application to the Court for a warrant of entry and break in the premises in the presence of police officers and locksmiths for conducting the water seepage investigation. However, this was not what the JO wanted to see. Even if the JO was applying for a warrant of entry from the Court, it would still continue to attempt to contact the household or owner of the suspected premises with a view to arranging a water seepage investigation. Moreover, the JO would provide the participating property management agents of the Scheme with training on investigation procedures, electronic instruments and colour water for investigation and testing. The general proximity of the property management agents to the housing estates was also conducive to water seepage investigation. If the source of water seepage was identified to be related to sewers, the JO would, according to the relevant report, issue a Nuisance Notice to the owner concerned requiring such owner to carry out repair works within a specified timeframe. If the owner did not follow up accordingly, the JO would take prosecution action. Staff of the property management agent concerned might be required to

give evidence in the Court if necessary. Besides, the JO had deployed four officers to follow up the cases undergoing Stages I and II of the water seepage investigation in Tsing Lung Tau and its adjoining areas, and would deploy staff in a flexible manner to follow up the water seepage investigation when necessary. The JO would continue to promote the said Scheme. It believed that investigation progress could be facilitated if more property management agents participated in the Scheme.

64. Professional Offr 2-1 of the JO/BD responded that in late June 2018, the JO experimented with new technologies, including infrared thermography and microwave tomography, in three pilot districts. Having examined the relevant data and reviewed the suppliers' capability, the JO's manpower and resources, the number of cases requiring Stage III of the water seepage investigation in various districts, and the average staff deployment of the four Regional JOs, the JO extended the pilot scheme to eight districts in September 2019, which consisted of Kowloon City, Wan Chai, Central and Western, Sham Shui Po, Kwai Tsing, Tuen Mun, Tai Po and North District. The JO hoped to collect more test results of different cases in the pilot districts for a more comprehensive analysis of the application and effectiveness of the new technologies under testing. Although Tsuen Wan district was not designated as one of such pilot districts at this stage, the JO would also adopt new technologies to investigate cases in which the source of water seepage was difficult to be identified. Due to limited resources, the new technologies could not be adopted in the investigation of all the cases at present. If exposed vent pipes were identified, the JO would refer such cases to the BD for follow-up.

65. Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris said that owing to time constraint, he hoped that the JO would take the initiative to brief on the technologies currently adopted in the investigation at the next EHCCC meeting. In the water seepage cases he received, the JO visited the premises concerned only after the water seepage problem had ceased to occur or solved, and the report issued by the JO stating that there was no water seepage problem had led to disputes between residents. He thus requested the JO to make more stringent performance pledges to tackle the problem in a timely manner. If water seepage was related to foul water pipes, hygiene problems would arise, which had to be tackled immediately. He also enquired whether the four officers mentioned by the JO were dedicated to handling the cases in Tsing Lung Tau, or they had to handle other cases in Tsuen Wan district at the same time.

66. The Chairman remarked that as many Members were concerned about the water seepage problem, the EHCCC would send a letter to the JO to request an explanation on the details of the new technologies, effectiveness of the investigations conducted by the JO, and related performance pledges.

67. The Chairman stated that owing to time constraint, Members who put forth enquiries and views could speak for up to 1.5 minutes. The Vice Chairman would take over the chair temporarily.

(Note: Mr MAN Yu-ming left the meeting at 4:30 p.m.)

VII Item 6: Request to Immediately Review and Explain the Effectiveness of Dry Weather Flow Interceptors for Eliminating the Odour Problem at Source in Tsuen Wan District As Soon As Possible

(EHCCC Paper No. 4/20-21)

68. The Acting Chairman stated that Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus submitted the paper. The representatives from the DSD responsible for giving response were:

- (1) Mr LEUNG Kwong-chung, Sr Engr/Mainland South 2;
- (2) Ms LO Sze-yan, Engr/Tsuen Kwai 2; and
- (3) Mr WONG Chi-hin, Engr/Consultants Mgt 18.

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

69. Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus introduced the paper.

70. Sr Engr/Mainland South 2 of the DSD responded that the EPD was responsible for the overall planning of the sewerage system and the study of the installation of dry weather flow interceptors at four locations, whereas the DSD was responsible for the construction and maintenance and repair work. The DSD and EPD would submit information on the effectiveness and data of the dry weather flow interceptors in the district after the meeting. The DSD had deployed staff for inspection at the locations concerned, and odour problem was not identified at the places where dry weather flow interceptors had been installed. With a full enclosure design, the dry weather flow interceptors would not cause odour problem under normal circumstances. Staff of the DSD would conduct inspection to see whether the odour problem was related to the illegal dumping of refuse by food premises in the vicinity. In addition, the DSD found that the odour problem in areas around Tai Ho Road and Sha Tsui Road might be related to the food premises and refuse collection points nearby. The odour did not come from the dry weather flow interceptors. The DSD welcomed Members to advise on locations with odour problem. If the problem was found to be relevant to the DSD, it was willing to solve the problem.

71. Sr Env Protection Offr(Regional W)2 of the EPD responded that the EPD had provided the Members concerned with information on the new dry weather flow interceptors under planning, which they had requested earlier, before the meeting.

72. The views, enquiries and suggestions of Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) the residents said that the dry weather flow interceptors could not alleviate the odour problem, and worse, they aggravated the problem. Thus, the residents were very upset. Having reviewed the information, he suspected that the odour came from the dry weather flow interceptor installed at the junction of Tai Ho Road North and Hoi Pa Street. However, the DSD stated that the dry weather flow interceptors adopted a full enclosure design and thus would not cause odour. He enquired of the DSD about the solution to the problem (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio); and
- (2) he enquired of the DSD whether there would be accumulation of sewage upon completion of the installation of dry weather flow interceptors, exacerbating the odour problem. Residents of Kwong Pan Tin Tsuen and Fu Yung Shan Tsuen were concerned about the worsening of the odour problem after the installation of dry weather flow interceptors. Moreover, the DSD needed to

address the lack of a unified sewerage system for the villages along Route Twisk. He was concerned that the residents would suffer from odour nuisance and environmental hygiene problems, and thus wanted to obtain more data and information to facilitate the communication between Members and the residents of the constituency concerned. He enquired about the anticipated dates of commencing and completing the installation of dry weather flow interceptors at Kwong Pan Tin Tsuen and Fu Yung Shan Tsuen (Mr CHIU Yan-loy).

73. Sr Engr/Mainland South 2 of the DSD responded that dry weather flow interceptors could alleviate the odour problem in general. If the dry weather flow interceptors were blocked, the manholes would be inundated with effluent. The DSD would inspect the locations concerned and conduct follow-up action when necessary.

74. Sr Env Protection Offr(Regional W)2 of the EPD responded that regarding the installation of dry weather flow interceptors in Kwong Pan Tin Tsuen, the EPD had consulted the TWDC, and was now waiting for the approval of funding for the Public Works project concerned from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council. If the funding application concerned was approved successfully, the works would be scheduled for commencement this year.

75. Engr/Consultants Mgt 18 of the DSD responded that the DSD anticipated completing the installation of five dry weather flow interceptors within four years after the approval of funding.

76. Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus thanked the departments for holding a meeting to discuss with Members the captioned item before this EHCCC meeting. In view of the impact from the odour problem on Tsuen Wan district, Members hoped that, through close collaboration among departments, the odour problem could be solved within a few years, and that the FEHD would provide details of the illegal disposal of refuse by food premises to assist in solving the odour problem.

77. The Acting Chairman stated that the DSD could arrange for a site inspection with Members regarding the odour problem.

(Note: Mr KOT Siu-yuen left the meeting at 5:00 p.m.)

VIII Item 7: Environmental Nuisances in the Old Areas of Tsuen Wan  
(EHCCC Paper No. 5/20-21)

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

- (1) Mr CHAN Kwok-hung, Ch Health Insp (Tsuen Wan)1, FEHD;
- (2) Mr LO Tim-fat, Chief Inspector of Police (Operations) (Tsuen Wan) (Acting), (Ch Insp of Police (Ops) (Tsuen Wan) (Atg.)), HKPF;
- (3) Ms TSANG Ka-man, Sr Env Protection Offr(Regional W)2, EPD;
- (4) Mr YIM Wai-hung, Administrative Assistant/Lands (Adm Asst/Lands), District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing (DLO); and

- (5) Mr CHOW Chun-hun, Gary, Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan) (ADO(TW)), TWDO.

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

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

80. Ch Health Insp (Tsuen Wan)<sup>1</sup> of the FEHD responded that many shops were located in the vicinity of San Tsuen Street, Tai Uk Street, Chuen Lung Street and Ho Pui Street as mentioned by Members. It was illegal for the shops to make additional space for business activities through shop front extension. The FEHD had all along proactively tackled street management problems, including placement of articles on such public places as footpaths and carriageways, loading/unloading activities, and illegal hawking. The TWDO had also all along been coordinating various departments in inspecting for any shop front extension in the streets. The staff of the FEHD would adopt a “warning first, followed by prosecution” strategy, and would continue to conduct inspection in May and June 2020 and combat illegal hawking or shop front extension committed by shops. Joint operations with the HKPF would be taken when necessary. From January to 4 May 2020, the FEHD had instituted 181 prosecutions in the aforementioned streets, which involved 12 cases of illegal hawking, and issued 94 fixed penalty notices (FPNs) to offenders for littering.

81. Ch Insp of Police (Ops) (Tsuen Wan) (Atg.) of the HKPF responded that during the joint operations conducted in the past, the HKPF learnt of such street management problems as illegal parking and random placement of goods in the vicinity of Ho Pui Street and Chuen Lung Street. The HKPF would actively tackle and follow up the said problems. In the past three months, the HKPF had liaised with the FEHD to conduct a total of 12 joint operations. Regarding the noise problem, the HKPF faced constraints on law enforcement. Before the HKPF instituted prosecutions, the complainants had to give evidence for proving that the source of noise concerned had caused a nuisance to others. The HKPF also took this opportunity to call on Members to assist in publicity and encourage complainants to give testimony for effective law enforcement.

82. Sr Env Protection Offr(Regional W)<sup>2</sup> of the EPD responded that the EPD had all along attached importance to the noise problem from shops in the vicinity of San Tsuen Street, Tai Uk Street, Chuen Lung Street and Ho Pui Street, and had taken the initiative to conduct inspections. Since April 2020, the EPD had received complaints about noise nuisance from the shops in the said area. The EPD was also aware of the opening of new shops therein. As such, it had conducted a large-scale publicity and education campaign with a view to introducing relevant statutory requirements to shop operators, and had issued warnings to shops that had produced noise. Subsequently, the EPD deployed officers to visit the residential premises of one of the complainants to conduct noise assessment. The assessment findings did not indicate any noise nuisance caused, and the complainant concerned also pointed out that the situation was significantly improved. The EPD would continue to closely monitor the situation. Members might refer the complaints they had received, if any, to the EPD for follow-up. Members were welcome to contact the EPD for prompt arrangement if they learnt of any residents who were willing to let staff of the EPD visit their premises for noise assessment.

83. Adm Asst/Lands of the DLO responded that the DLO would, as usual, tie in with the district-led programmes coordinated by the TWDO, participate in joint operations, and take follow-up action regarding the cases of shop front extension as appropriate.

84. ADO(TW) of the TWDO responded that the environmental nuisances in Tsuen Wan district could only be solved through the concerted efforts of various departments. The TWDO strived for combating the problem of shop front extension, and had liaised with the FEHD, DLO and Highways Department (HyD) to conduct public education and publicity campaigns, including distributing advisory letters or leaflets to shops, in the old areas of Tsuen Wan town centre or places where there was serious street obstruction. The TWDO thanked the DLO for its cooperation, which helped alleviate the issue of shop front extension in the vicinity of Ho Pui Street, Chuen Lung Street and San Tsuen Street. The TWDO would continue to liaise with the DLO to inspect the situation of shop front extension in the district for a better understanding of the situation in the district and arrangement of corresponding joint operations. The TWDO had all along coordinated relevant operations and conducted publicity and law enforcement. It would continue to maintain communication with the departments concerned and arrange publicity campaigns in the light of the situation in Tsuen Wan town centre in a flexible manner to enhance the knowledge of shop operators on relevant legislation.

85. The views, enquiries and suggestions of Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) he often received complaints about noise nuisance and street obstruction in the streets concerned. The shops would play promotional recordings persistently, and pedestrians would be forced to walk on carriageways, causing danger. He doubted about the HKPF's statement that its enforcement action was restricted, and hoped that the Police would take law enforcement according to procedures without bias (Mr LAI Man-fai);
- (2) the problem of shop front extension was very serious around Ho Pui Street, leading to traffic congestion. As the shop operators disregarded the FPNs, the problem recurred continually. In his opinion, the departments had to conduct more joint operations to combat street obstruction and strengthen monitoring. The deterrence of the existing penalty was inadequate as well. He thus hoped that the HKPF would take law enforcement actions impartially (Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy);
- (3) the problem of shop front extension had all along existed. He thought that the penalty of the FPN issued did not have sufficient deterrent effect, and the departments concerned could not seize the articles causing street obstruction. The situation in Chung On Street was worse on weekends. He enquired whether the method used to combat street obstruction by food premises could be adopted to tackle the problem of shop front extension, i.e. suspending the licences of the shops committing the offence of shop front extension for 14 days, and whether the HKPF could combat the said problem on weekends (Mr CHIU Yan-loy);
- (4) he deemed that the prosecution figures failed to reflect the effectiveness of law enforcement. As far as he learnt, shops on Ho Pui Street and Chuen Lung Street would place goods and food on the footpaths at night, and rodents were spotted thereat. He was worried that this would give rise to environmental

hygiene problems in the district and affect the health of the residents. In view of the heavy pedestrian and vehicular flow and occurrence of accidents near the minibus stand on Chuen Lung Street, he hoped that the departments concerned would strengthen their enforcement actions against offending shops (Mr LAM Sek-tim);

- (5) he opined that the paper had clearly reflected the situation. There were three major problems in the old areas of Tsuen Wan, one of which was wet floor caused by drainage problem. He enquired about the details of the clearance of drains, and suggested constructing drains or stepping up the clearance of drains. Besides, although the noise level on Sundays and public holidays was regulated by the Noise Control Ordinance, shop operators still made loud noises when peddling goods in the evening. He enquired why the shop operators concerned had relapsed into their former manners, and whether the EPD had deployed staff to measure the noise level in decibel at the locations concerned. Lastly, he spotted rodents in the streets. He enquired about the details of routine street cleansing (Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus); and
- (6) he enquired whether the EPD had deployed staff to measure the noise level at the scene (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu).

86. Ch Health Insp (Tsuen Wan)<sup>1</sup> of the FEHD responded that the FEHD would make an all-out effort to perform its duties within its purview, and would, together with the TWDO and various departments, continue to follow up the situation. The FEHD proposed sending a letter to the HyD to remind it to deal with the issue of uneven road surface as mentioned in the paper. During the inspection of rear lanes, staff of the FEHD found a substantial volume of Styrofoam goods. The reason behind was that two recyclers would collect Styrofoam goods from elderly people every day. The FEHD was more lenient with recycling activities involving elderly people, and had issued notices to inform them of the need to handle the above articles promptly.

87. Ch Insp of Police (Ops) (Tsuen Wan) (Atg.) of the HKPF responded that the HKPF was unbiased when taking law enforcement, and hoped that Members would appreciate the existence of grey area in the legislation. The Court had relevant guidelines stating that it was inappropriate for the HKPF to determine on its own whether a source of noise had constituted a nuisance. Therefore, law enforcement required that evidence should be given by a witness who was not a police officer, and the HKPF would appreciate Members' understanding in that regard. The HKPF had allocated resources to organise Traffic Days and conduct large-scale enforcement actions regularly. In the past two days, the HKPF had issued a total of more than 1 000 fixed penalty tickets. It would continue to take law enforcement during the hours when there was serious street obstruction and conduct joint operations with the FEHD to tackle the street management problems.

88. Sr Env Protection Offr(Regional W)<sup>2</sup> of the EPD responded that the noise nuisance from the use of loudspeakers by shops was regulated by Section 5(4) of the Noise Control Ordinance. Upon receipt of complaints from members of the public, staff of the EPD would conduct investigation and assess whether the noise would cause any nuisance to the public, rather than measuring its noise level. If the enforcement officers determined that the complaint about nuisance was valid during assessment, the shop concerned would be

prosecuted according to the Noise Control Ordinance. The staff of the EPD would be the witness of the said case. The EPD had established the prosecution procedure, and had successfully instituted prosecution against shops causing noise nuisance with loudspeakers for a number of times. The EPD was willing to deploy officers for noise assessment at appropriate locations such as residential premises.

89. Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio said he did not agree to the HKPF's statement that it had taken law enforcement without bias. A few days ago, he saw that the anti-riot police had ferociously driven the public away at Tsuen Wan Plaza. He thought that the HKPF, however, did not apply the same level of efforts to combat the illegal act committed by shop operators around Ho Pui Street and San Tsuen Street. He opined that the HKPF had to provide support for the EPD and FEHD because the personal safety of FEHD's staff was under threat when they were dealing with cases of shop front extension. Due to limited time for discussion, he suggested including the captioned item in the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting. Besides, he had received complaints from the representatives of residents about the noise nuisance caused by the reversing of goods vehicles and loading/unloading activities in Wo Tik Street from 3:00 to 4:00 a.m. every day, and about the random placement of goods in the vicinity of Yeung Uk Road. In his opinion, the EPD had effectively assisted in solving the noise problem. He hoped that the FEHD and HKPF could both tackle the problems professionally.

90. The Chairman resumed the chair.

91. The Chairman hoped that the FEHD would arrange for inspections with Members at the locations concerned in the morning and at night respectively, and would discuss the time of conducting inspections after the meeting.

IX Item 8: Request for Improvement of the Problem of Emission of Incense Smoke from Temples in the Vicinity of Lo Wai  
(EHCCC Paper No. 6/20-21)

92. The Chairman stated that Mr LAI Man-fai submitted the paper. The representatives from the departments responsible for giving response were:

- (1) Ms TSANG Ka-man, Sr Env Protection Offr(Regional W)2, EPD; and
- (2) Mr CHOW Chun-hun, Gary, ADO(TW), TWDO.

Besides, the written replies of the EPD and the Chinese Temples Committee were tabled at the meeting.

93. Mr LAI Man-fai introduced the paper.

94. Sr Env Protection Offr(Regional W)2 of the EPD responded that upon receipt of complaints about incense smoke from temples, the EPD would conduct investigation to learn about the situation. Since 2017, the EPD had received a total of four complaints about the temples in the vicinity of Lo Wai. After investigation, the EPD did not find any non-compliance with the Air Pollution Control Ordinance by the temples concerned. The EPD had urged the persons-in-charge of the temples concerned to properly handle the gas emissions therefrom and regularly maintain and repair the air pollution control equipment. It

would continue to monitor the situation. Members might refer the complaints they had received, if any, to the EPD for follow-up.

95. The views, enquiries and suggestions of Members were summarised as follows:
- (1) as the temples had closed the facilities due to the prohibition on group gathering implemented earlier, the air pollution problem in question was alleviated temporarily. With the gradual reopening of the temples, he believed that the problem would recur. He hoped that the EPD would strengthen the monitoring of and pay attention to the emission of incense smoke from the temples, which could affect the health of the residents nearby (Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy); and
  - (2) he received more than four complaints every month. He enquired whether all the complaints received could be referred to the EPD, and whether the EPD had put forth improvement measures to the temples concerned. He learned that Yuen Yuen Institute had implemented improvement measures for some of the incinerators, but none were implemented for the incinerator inside the columbarium. As the facilities were closed due to the prohibition on group gathering, the air pollution problem was not serious at Ching Ming Festival. However, as the Yue Lan Festival and Chung Yeung Festival were near, he was concerned that the air pollution problem would become serious again (Mr LAI Man-fai).

96. Sr Env Protection Offr(Regional W)2 of the EPD responded that if the complainant could point out precisely the temple from which the emissions had caused air pollution, the EPD could take follow-up action more effectively. Therefore, apart from Members' referral of complaints to the EPD, members of the public could also lodge complaints to the EPD directly.

97. The Chairman said that he had followed up similar cases and understood that the EPD could follow up the cases effectively only when the complainants had provided details to the EPD. He suggested that Members should closely monitor the situation and refer cases to the EPD for follow-up.

X Item 9: A Motion: Request for Assistance in Carrying out Disinfection Work in Three-nil Buildings in Tsuen Wan District  
(EHCCC Paper No. 7/20-21)

98. The Chairman stated that Mr LAM Sek-tim and Ms CHAN Kim-kam submitted the paper. The representative from the department responsible for giving response was Ms LEE Lai-kiu, Winnie, Senior Liaison Officer (2) (Sr Liaison Offr (2)), TWDO.

99. Mr LAM Sek-tim and Ms CHAN Kim-kam introduced the paper.

100. Sr Liaison Offr (2) of the TWDO responded that the concerted efforts of all parties were required to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. In response to the epidemic, the HAD and District Offices of various districts had provided one-off cleansing service at public places of buildings for old buildings in need of such service in the district, in particular the "three-nil" buildings, i.e. buildings which had neither formed owners' corporations (OCs) or

any form of residents' organisations nor engaged property management agents, through various arrangements, with a view to calling on residents to maintain environmental hygiene and fight against the epidemic together. Since late 2019, the TWDO had provided one-off cleansing service at public places for free for a total of more than 20 old buildings in need in the district. It would continue to carry out cleansing work for buildings having such need in stages in due course. The TWDO welcomed Members to give views for its consideration.

101. The views, enquiries and suggestions of the Chairman and Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) he enquired whether the free one-off cleansing service as mentioned by the TWDO would be provided to all "three-nil" buildings, or only to the buildings referred by Members or chosen at the TWDO's discretion. He also wished that the TWDO would provide details on its resource allocation and future plans (the Chairman);
- (2) he supported the motion. Since the hygiene in "three-nil" buildings was poor, he considered it necessary to provide cleansing service for these buildings. He had received complaints from the residents about urinating and defecating by some residents at the staircases in the buildings. He hoped that the TWDO's assistance in cleansing buildings could help improve the hygiene practices of the residents, and they would become willing to engage contractors to assist in cleansing the buildings (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio);
- (3) he did not think that anyone would object to assisting in cleansing the "three-nil" buildings, but he had reservations about the captioned motion. In the motion, the principle of fairness was involved. If the Government was willing to provide cleansing service for "three-nil" buildings, he enquired whether it would also provide such service for other private buildings. He opined that there was still room for discussion regarding the allocation of resources. He had assisted residents of old buildings to engage cleaning companies to handle refuse, during which he found that most of the residents in "three-nil" buildings in Tsuen Wan district were tenants, making it difficult to contact the owners to form OCs. As such, he enquired whether the TWDO could assist in forming mutual aid residents' organisations to tackle the problem. As far as he knew, the residents were willing to engage contractors to assist in the cleansing of staircases or disposal of rubbish, but they had no idea of the channels or methods for doing so. For this reason, he held that assisting the residents in forming mutual aid organisations could solve the problem more effectively (Mr CHIU Yan-loy); and
- (4) according to the information, there were a total of 120 "three-nil" buildings in Tsuen Wan district in October 2019. He hoped that the TWDO would provide relevant data for a better understanding of the details. At present, the Government would provide financial assistance to the OCs or property management agents through the Anti-epidemic Fund. He enquired when the one-off cleansing service would be provided, how effective the service was, whether the free cleansing service could be provided for more than once, and about the details of the cleansing service (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu).

102. Sr Liaison Offr (2) of the TWDO responded that the TWDO wished to provide free cleansing service to all “three-nil” buildings in the district for once subject to the availability of resources, with a view to promoting the message of maintaining environmental hygiene in public places. If Members learned of any buildings with cleansing needs or required prioritised or enhanced cleansing due to poor environmental hygiene, they might refer them to the TWDO for consideration. Due to limited resources, the routine cleansing service could not be provided for every building at the moment. According to records, there were 126 “three-nil” buildings in Tsuen Wan district currently. They were mainly located in Tsuen Wan town centre. Among them, there were about 80 single-block residential buildings, and the remaining ones were industrial buildings or warehouses, etc. Apart from enhancing the cleanliness and hygiene of the old buildings or “three-nil” buildings, the TWDO had all along provided old buildings in need, in particular the “three-nil” buildings, with free professional advisory and follow-up services on building management through support schemes and measures such as the Building Management Professional Advisory Service Scheme (BMPASS). Understanding the difficulty of old buildings in forming OCs, the TWDO hoped to assist the owners in overcoming difficulties and fostering the responsibility of managing their own buildings through the BMPASS. Moreover, the TWDO launched the Resident Liaison Ambassador (RLA) Scheme, which aimed to recruit owners or tenants who lived in buildings of 30 years or above and without any form of management as RLAs, to assist in building a resident liaison network and promoting the message of building management.

103. ADO(TW) of the TWDO responded that the TWDO had all along attached importance to the hygiene issues of “three-nil” buildings. In response to the epidemic, the TWDO wanted to make optimal use of resources for expeditious implementation of the cleansing programme. The TWDO would deal with the cleansing work of buildings subject to resources and its effectiveness in a persistent manner. Nevertheless, the departmental efforts alone were insufficient to tackle the environmental hygiene, management and maintenance problems of “three-nil” buildings. Thus, in addition to such efforts, the TWDO also encouraged the owners to fulfil their responsibilities. The TWDO would assist in following up proposals put forth by Members, if any.

104. Mr LAM Sek-tim requested to move a motion: “Request the Government to assist in carrying out cleansing and disinfection work in ‘three-nil’ buildings in Tsuen Wan district, and to implement any effective and feasible measures to address the hygiene problems in “three-nil” buildings in the district in order to prevent further spread of virus and improve the hygiene and environment in the district”. Ms CHAN Kim-kam seconded.

105. The Chairman asked whether Members would make any amendments to the motion. No Member made any amendment to the motion.

106. The Chairman asked Members to vote on the motion, and stated that as he was the Chairman, he would not cast a vote. The voting result was as follows: 14 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstention.

107. The Chairman announced that the above motion was endorsed.

108. The Chairman stated that the captioned item would be handed over to the Working Group on Environmental Protection and Improvement for follow-up. He hoped that old buildings would set up relevant bodies as soon as possible to solve the problems. After the funds allocation had been approved, the EHCCC would organise activities with non-profit-making organisations or social enterprises to assist in carrying out cleansing in “three-nil” buildings. Members of the Working Group could voice their views by then. He also reminded Members of the Working Group to submit papers to the Working Group for discussion.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat conveyed the motion to the TWDO in writing on 21 May 2020.)

XI Item 10: Implementation of Contactless Transaction in Markets for Minimising the Risk of Spread of Germs  
(EHCCC Paper No. 8/20-21)

109. The Chairman stated that Mr LAU Jackson submitted the paper. The representatives from the departments responsible for giving response were:

- (1) Mr CHAN Kwok-hung, Ch Health Insp (Tsuen Wan)<sup>1</sup>, FEHD; and
- (2) Mr CHOW Chun-hun, Gary, ADO(TW), TWDO.

Besides, the written reply of the Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB) was tabled at the meeting.

110. The Chairman stated that the EHCCC would send a reprimand letter to the government department which was absent from the meeting.

111. Mr LAU Jackson introduced the paper.

112. Ch Health Insp (Tsuen Wan)<sup>1</sup> of the FEHD responded that the FEHD was gravely concerned about the potential environmental hygiene problems arose from the use of cash for buying vegetables and fruits in the markets by members of the public. Therefore, the FEHD encouraged the public to wash their hands using the hand-washing facilities provided in the markets after shopping. The FEHD believed that the hygiene problem in question could be resolved preliminarily. In addition, the FEHD had consulted its Headquarters on the Members’ proposal. The Headquarters held that non-cash payment was not to be introduced for the time being, and noted the Members’ proposal. He pointed out that the shop operators in markets could not provide various kinds of payment methods in their current business mode. However, if the shop operators shared the same view, he believed that the installation of Octopus processors could also be one of the methods for achieving the objective of the Members’ proposal.

113. ADO(TW) of the TWDO responded that the TWDO was concerned about whether the introduction of cashless transaction could enhance the hygiene condition. Older stall operators might not be able to get themselves familiarised with the new payment technologies. They might instead hope to continue their business with cash transaction. If new payment technologies were to be introduced in the future, the HAD could assist in their implementation and would consult relevant parties.

114. The views, enquiries and suggestions of Members were summarised as follows:
- (1) cashless transaction was not an innovative technology. Although the Octopus card had been introduced for many years, it was still not popular in the markets so far because there was a licence fee for the installation of Octopus processors. He believed that there was much room for development of cashless transaction in the markets. At present, many stall operators in markets still relied on cash transaction for maintaining cash flow, and some of them did not have bank accounts and thus had no idea of how to collect the revenues from the Octopus Cards Limited. Taking into account the above factors, he proposed that the FEHD or other departments should take the lead to collaborate with the Octopus Cards Limited. Also, the administrative fees should be waived or sponsored by the Government, and consideration should be given to carrying out clearing work every day so that stall operators could get back cash immediately, thereby reducing their operating costs (Mr CHIU Yan-loy);
  - (2) as mentioned in the paper, members of the public had to first purchase a transaction card. When they left the market, they might ask for a refund of the remaining value or keep the value for use next time. In his opinion, it would cause inconvenience if members of the public did not receive an immediate refund of the remaining value and bought another transaction card as they forgot about it when doing shopping next time. He thus agreed to Members' proposal, but he opined that the details of its implementation required further discussion (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio);
  - (3) he opined that policies concerning banknote transaction had to be implemented by a policy bureau such as the ITB or Development Bureau, and the FEHD might not have a direct relationship in this respect. He hoped that the Government would introduce a recognised electronic currency and improve the related ancillary measures to promote the popularity of cashless transaction (Mr WONG Ka-wa); and
  - (4) he thought that cashless transaction would change the original culture in the markets, including the relationship among people, consumption pattern of residents and planning of the entire district. In addition, members of the public might have concern over the security of the transaction system. He had reservations about the implementation of the said policy in the lack of sufficient protection provided at present (Mr SHUM Lester).

(Post-meeting note: The EHCCC conveyed Members' views to the ITB in writing on 15 May 2020.)

XII Item 11: Request for Enhancement of Anti-mosquito Work in Various Areas of Tsuen Wan

(EHCCC Paper No. 9/20-21)

115. The Chairman stated that Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy submitted the paper. The representatives from the departments responsible for giving response were:

- (1) Mr CHAN Kwok-hung, Ch Health Insp (Tsuen Wan)1, FEHD;
- (2) Ms FONG Wei-king, Luna, Deputy District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan) 2 (Dep Dist Leisure Mgr (Tsuen Wan) 2), LCSD;

- (3) Mr YAU Wai-yip, Senior Property Services Manager/Sham Shui Po & Tsuen Kwai (Sr Property Services Mgr/Sham Shui Po & Tsuen Kwai), Architectural Services Department (ArchSD);
- (4) Miss CHAN Li-yee, Gobby, Property Services Manager/Tsuen Wan, ArchSD; and
- (5) Mr YIM Wai-hung, Adm Asst/Lands, DLO.

Besides, the written replies of the ArchSD and DLO were tabled at the meeting.

116. Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy introduced the paper.

117. Ch Health Insp (Tsuen Wan)<sup>1</sup> of the FEHD responded that the FEHD had devoted a substantial amount of resources to carry out mosquito control and prevention work. At present, there were 22 pest control roving teams in the district, which would clean up relevant locations at least once a week. The FEHD had taken relevant measures in view of the approaching rainy season. He thanked Members for conducting inspections together and giving advice. The FEHD also encouraged members of the public to participate in the anti-mosquito work to reduce mosquito infestation. Starting from this year, the FEHD had launched a pilot scheme on two new anti-mosquito devices, including the use of gravidtraps since April 2020. Besides, the FEHD had installed 40 new mosquito trapping devices in the district. Female mosquitoes would act as the medium for carrying insect growth regulators to various water bodies to control the growth of mosquitoes and prevent the larvae in the water bodies from growing into adult mosquitoes.

118. Dep Dist Leisure Mgr (Tsuen Wan)<sup>2</sup> of the LCSD responded that the LCSD had all along been carrying out anti-mosquito work at leisure venues in the district. Such work included deploying staff for inspection, monitoring staff's duties such as daily cleaning work at the venues, regular cutting of overgrown plants and application of larvicidal oil and sand, and arranging contractors for fogging operations. The LCSD had conducted fogging operations on a bi-weekly basis from January to March 2020, and had increased the frequency of fogging operations to once a week since April 2020. Currently, the LCSD had installed 123 mosquito trapping devices in its venues, including 39 Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) mosquito trapping devices, 11 electric mosquito trapping devices, 23 solar-powered mosquito trapping devices, and 50 sets of new mosquito trapping devices. The LCSD would continue and enhance its effort in monitoring the mosquito infestation, and would conduct review from time to time. It would further enhance the anti-mosquito measures when necessary.

119. Sr Property Services Mgr/Sham Shui Po & Tsuen Kwai of the ArchSD responded that the ArchSD would conduct review and take follow-up action upon receipt of reports or referral of cases regarding the accumulation of stagnant water or other problems identified in government buildings maintained by the ArchSD. In general, stagnant water was mostly caused by the accumulation of sludge or debris rather than an insufficient channel gradient. Such being the case, the ArchSD would notify the management department of the need to arrange for clean-up work and follow-up action. If the problem of stagnant water was found to be caused by the damage of channels due to the growth of nearby tree roots, geographical reasons or other factors, the ArchSD would carry out repair work or arrange for channel diversion works subject to the circumstances. Moreover, the ArchSD would also repair minor cracks identified in channels at an early stage to avoid deterioration of the situation,

hence problems such as stagnant water or sewage leakage. The ArchSD would also adopt corresponding anti-mosquito measures during construction, and would expedite the repair and maintenance works of government buildings in relation to environmental hygiene.

120. Adm Asst/Lands of the DLO responded that the DLO would continue to collaborate with the FEHD, regularly inspect the enclosed government land under the DLO's management in the district, and, where necessary, arrange for weeding and application of larvicidal oil. Regarding the mosquito prevention and control work at roadside slopes, it would be arranged by the department responsible for the management of the sites concerned. In addition, the DLO would remind the licence holders of government land, tenants of short term tenancies and departments allocated with government land to enhance anti-mosquito work.

121. The views, enquiries and suggestions of the Chairman and Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) he enquired whether the FEHD had conducted environmental impact assessments for the new anti-mosquito devices as he was concerned that the chemicals in the devices might affect other species or the environment (Mr TSE Man-chak);
- (2) as many residents wanted to learn about the operational principles of the anti-mosquito devices installed in venues managed by the LCSD, he hoped that the LCSD would invite Members to participate in its next anti-mosquito operation so that Members could observe and learn about their operation. With the advent of summer, mosquito infestation in Wang Wo Tsai Street Garden, Yi Pei Square and Sam Pei Square had become increasingly serious. He hoped that the department concerned would face the problem squarely (Mr LAM Sek-tim);
- (3) he had previously recommended the FEHD to use biological methods for mosquito control, but the FEHD was currently using chemical methods in its anti-mosquito work. As such, he enquired about the impact of such anti-mosquito methods on the environment (the Chairman); and
- (4) as there were many resite villages under the ArchSD's management in his constituency, he hoped that the ArchSD would enhance communication through providing Members with its timetable of reviewing the conditions of channels and the inspection findings, as well as inviting Members to conduct relevant review jointly. He had liaised with the representatives of the ArchSD to inspect the problems of dilapidated channels and stagnant water in resite villages last month. He hoped that the inspection arrangement would be continued (Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy).

122. Dep Dist Leisure Mgr (Tsuen Wan) 2 of the LCSD responded that Members were welcome to inspect the department's anti-mosquito work, and some Members had indeed done so in the past. The LCSD had also briefed them on the mechanism of the LPG mosquito trapping device. The LCSD would remind its responsible officers to pay more attention to the mosquito infestation in Wang Wo Tsai Street Garden, Yi Pei Square and Sam Pei Square.

123. Ch Health Insp (Tsuen Wan)<sup>1</sup> of the FEHD responded that the new anti-mosquito devices used in Tsuen Wan district had been put on trial and had passed the safety assessment. The FEHD could provide detailed information on the new anti-mosquito devices in due course.

124. The Chairman stated that Members attached importance to the anti-mosquito issue. He learnt that the departments had all along carried out anti-mosquito work, but they did not inform the Members concerned of it. Thus, he requested the LCSD to invite the Members concerned for participation prior to each anti-mosquito operation, and the FEHD to provide detailed information on the new anti-mosquito devices after the meeting.

XIII Item 12: About the Condition of and Sewage Leakage from the Public Toilet under Closure in Ma Wan Rural Committee Road  
(EHCCC Paper No. 10/20-21)

125. The Chairman stated that as the paper was submitted by him, the Vice Chairman would take over the chair temporarily.

126. The Acting Chairman stated that the representatives from the departments responsible for giving response were:

- (1) Mr CHAN Kwok-hung, Ch Health Insp (Tsuen Wan)<sup>1</sup>, FEHD;
- (2) Mr YAU Wai-yip, Sr Property Services Mgr/Sham Shui Po & Tsuen Kwai, ArchSD;
- (3) Miss CHAN Li-ye, Gobby, Property Services Manager/Tsuen Wan, ArchSD;  
and
- (4) Mr YIM Wai-hung, Adm Asst/Lands, DLO.

Besides, the written replies of the ArchSD and DLO were tabled at the meeting.

127. Mr TAM Hoi-pong introduced the paper.

128. Ch Health Insp (Tsuen Wan)<sup>1</sup> of the FEHD responded that the purpose of constructing a public toilet on Ma Wan Rural Committee Road was to replace the old public toilet at Tin Liu, which had never been opened for use upon completion because of objections from the residents. In the future planning of Ma Wan, two flushing toilets would be constructed at the said location by the management company of Ma Wan. In addition to the two aqua privies provided by the FEHD, public toilets were also provided in many locations on Ma Wan Island, including Lau Fa Tsuen, the integrated performing venue, lookout tower and Fong Yuen Study Hall in Ma Wan Park, and Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach. As many sites in Ma Wan were private land, it was relatively difficult to identify suitable locations and obtain support from residents for the construction of public toilets.

129. Sr Property Services Mgr/Sham Shui Po & Tsuen Kwai of the ArchSD responded that the sewage leakage from the public toilet on Ma Wan Rural Committee Road might be caused by the improper discharge of excessive oil from the non-residential premises situating at the upstream area of the public toilet concerned, which had resulted in blockage of channels and sewage leakage. The ArchSD had informed the FEHD of the need to pay attention to the problem via the DLO.

130. Adm Asst/Lands of the DLO responded that the DLO had received an application for short term tenancy made by the organisation concerned. However, the public toilet was located in a “Village-type Development” zone. If the site was to be converted for use as a community centre, prior approval from the Town Planning Board (TPB) was required. After the organisation concerned had made application to the TPB for a change of land use and obtained approval, the DLO would continue to process the application for short term tenancy.

131. The views, enquiries and suggestions of Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) according to the department’s information, the sewage leaked from the upstream area via the public toilet. Therefore, he proposed investigating the source of sewage, and opined that the problem was not complicated. In addition, as the public toilet had never been opened for use, it was evident that the residents did not need to use the public toilet. Thus, consideration could be given to demolishing the public toilet after consultation (Mr WONG Ka-wa);
- (2) he believed that sewage leakage and public toilet were two different problems. In his opinion, as the public toilet had never been opened for use, sewage leakage should not occur. Thus, it was necessary to investigate the source of sewage. Besides, he enquired whether the departments would consider demolishing the public toilet, and whether a relevant timetable had been formulated. He pointed out that the residents were not voicing objection to the provision of public toilets, but were instead voicing the aspiration for the optimal use of the site concerned for construction of community and public service facilities by the Government. They were also concerned that their daily lives would be affected after the public toilets had been opened for use. As such, he enquired whether the departments would consult the residents on the land use of the site concerned (Mr CHIU Yan-loy); and
- (3) he believed that the FEHD, ArchSD and DLO all had a responsibility. The FEHD was unable to dissuade households from reducing the discharge of oil, and sewage leakage from the public toilet occurred due to water pressure problem at the drainage channel. As such, he hoped that the three departments would continue to follow up the captioned matter (Mr TAM Hoi-pong).

132. The Acting Chairman stated that due to limited time, the departments concerned could give responses after the meeting if necessary.

133. The Chairman resumed the chair.

XIV Item 13: Request for Improvement of Sewage Treatment in Sham Tseng  
(EHCCC Paper No. 11/20-21)

134. The Chairman stated that Mr LAU Chi-hung submitted the paper. The representatives from the departments responsible for giving response were:

- (1) Ms TSANG Ka-man, Sr Env Protection Offr(Regional W)2, EPD;
- (2) Mr WONG Wai-keung, Assistant Engineer/Tsuen Kwai 1 (Asst Engr/Tsuen Kwai 1), DSD;
- (3) Mr CHAN Kwok-hung, Ch Health Insp (Tsuen Wan)1, FEHD; and
- (4) Mr YIM Wai-hung, Adm Asst/Lands, DLO.

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

135. Mr LAU Chi-hung introduced the paper.

136. Sr Env Protection Offr(Regional W)2 of the EPD responded that according to records, the connection rate to public sewers in Sham Tseng San Tsuen reached 90%. During the recent inspection, it was found that the hygiene problem in question was caused by the blockage of some stormwater nullahs in the village due to the accumulation of refuse.

137. Asst Engr/Tsuen Kwai 1 of the DSD responded that the public sewerage system in Sham Tseng area covered Sham Tseng San Tsuen and Sham Tseng Kau Tsuen. If members of the public had to connect the sewers in their properties to the public sewerage system, the DSD was willing to provide information and technical advice to assist them. For properties not covered by the public sewerage system, the owners had to employ methods accepted by the departments for handling the sewage in their own initiative. The discharge of unhandled effluent to stormwater drains would not only create environmental hygiene problems, but would also be liable to prosecution by relevant law enforcement agencies. Stormwater at Sham Tseng Village and from the uphill area would be collected by the main nullah beside the road in Sham Tseng Village. However, due to tidal conditions, accumulation of silt was very likely to happen at the bottom of the nullahs. The DSD had all along arranged regular clearance work. Generally speaking, the DSD was not the dedicated department for the maintenance and repair of stormwater drains in villages and their resite areas. As far as the DSD understood, the TWDO would arrange regular cleaning for the small nullahs in Sham Tseng San Tsuen mentioned in the agenda item.

138. Ch Health Insp (Tsuen Wan)1 of the FEHD responded that the FEHD would step up inspection of drainage channels in the villages and clearance of accumulated refuse prior to the onset of the rainy season to prevent blockage of drainage channels.

139. Adm Asst/Lands of the DLO responded that as the clearance of nullahs was out of the DLO's terms of reference, it had referred the case to the FEHD for follow-up.

140. Sr Insp of Works of the TWDO responded that the TWDO would arrange regular cleaning for the stormwater drains constructed under the Rural Public Works programme around Sham Tseng San Tsuen. The FEHD was responsible for road cleaning. Although a sewerage system had been set up at the location concerned, miscellaneous articles were found in many nullahs. He believed that it was a result of the illegal or improper discharge of effluent by residents. The TWDO would continue to follow up the situation and conduct regular cleaning of drains.

141. Mr LAU Chi-hung stated that the blockage of drainage channels and odour problem had posed an impact on the residents, and enquired whether the EPD had conducted assessment of the odour or relevant data. A few days ago, he still found stains and substantial volume of refuse at the nullahs. He enquired whether the DSD had carried out cleaning thereat. He had conducted a site inspection with staff of the TWDO, which indicated that it would only remove the refuse on roads and would not clean drainage channels. The odour, after all, was caused by the blockage of channels by refuse therein.

Nevertheless, the problem had not been addressed all along. He hoped that the departments concerned would work together to solve the problem, and the discussion of the captioned item would be continued in future meetings. Besides, he was concerned about the planning application submitted by Chan Kee Plaza in Sham Tseng, of which the works site was only 70 metres from the nullah. As the environmental assessment report was unavailable, and neither was the impact of the works on the environment known, he hoped that the EHCCC would send letters to the departments concerned to object to the application.

142. The Chairman stated that the EHCCC would liaise with the TWDO, EPD, DSD, FEHD and DLO to conduct a site inspection. In addition, the EHCCC would send letters to the Planning Department (PlanD) and TPB to request an explanation on the environmental impact assessment report of the planning application concerned.

(Post-meeting note: The EHCCC conveyed Members' views to the PlanD and TPB in writing on 15 May 2020.)

(Note: Ms CHAN Kim-kam left the meeting at 6:40 p.m.)

XV Item 14: Information Papers

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

- (1) Financial Statement of Minor Environmental Improvement Programme and Maintenance Projects 2019-20  
(EHCCC Paper No. 12/20-21);
- (2) Work Report on Environmental Pollution Control in Tsuen Wan District  
(February 2019 to March 2020)  
(EHCCC Paper No. 13/20-21);
- (3) Odour Prediction Assessment at the Riviera Gardens and Tsuen Wan Slaughter House in March 2020  
(EHCCC Paper No. 14/20-21);
- (4) Work Report on the Problem of Sea Water Pollution of the Rambler Channel, Tsuen Wan (February 2020 to March 2020)  
(EHCCC Paper No. 15/20-21);
- (5) Noise Monitoring Result of MTR Tsuen Wan Depot (January 2020 to March 2020)  
(EHCCC Paper No. 16/20-21);
- (6) Tsuen Wan District Anti-mosquito Campaign 2020 (Phase2)  
(EHCCC Paper No. 17/20-21); and
- (7) Work Report on Environmental Hygiene in Tsuen Wan District  
(EHCCC Paper No. 18/20-21).

XVI Item 15: Any Other Business

144. The views, enquiries and suggestions of Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) he opined that the odour prediction assessment report submitted by the EPD failed to reflect the situation. He enquired why the assessment was only conducted in the vicinity of Riviera Gardens, and hoped that the EPD would conduct assessment around Pavilia Bay, Ocean Pride and Belvedere Garden (Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus);

- (2) he thought that the report of the EPD was rich in content. He suggested that the EPD should conduct an assessment of the odour of seawater in Tsuen Wan district (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu);
- (3) he held that the contents in the EPD's report were very simple. He enquired about the current methods of assessing the odour, and whether new technologies would be used for the assessment of odour (Mr TSE Man-chak); and
- (4) he enquired whether the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) had submitted the report on aircraft noise to the EHCCC (Mr WONG Ka-wa).

145. The Chairman said he hoped that the EPD would provide relevant supplementary information at the next EHCCC meeting. In the past, the CAD would submit the reports on aircraft noise to the relevant working group. The CAD would distribute the reports published this year to Members by email. The report would be presented as an information paper of the EHCCC from next meeting onwards.

#### XVII Adjournment of Meeting

146. The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting was scheduled for 2:30 p.m. on 11 June 2020 (Thursday) and the deadline for submission of discussion papers was 27 May 2020 (Wednesday).

147. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

(Post-meeting note: In view of the epidemic situation, the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EHCCC was rescheduled to 18 June 2020.)

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat  
29 May 2020