

(Translation)

Minutes of the 8th Meeting of
Environment, Health and Climate Change Committee (1/21-22)

Date: 22 April 2021 (Thursday)
Time: 2:30 p.m.
Venue: Main Conference Room, Tsuen Wan District Office

Present:

Members

Mr LAU Jackson (Vice Chairman)
Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris
Mr MAN Yu-ming, MH
Mr LI Hung-por
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, MH
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 LAI Yik-wing, Wesley	Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan), Tsuen Wan District Office
Miss LEUNG Mee-size	Chief Health Inspector (Tsuen Wan) 1, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr YUEN Chiu-kit	Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing & Pest Control) Tsuen Wan 2, 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
Mr HO Kit-ming	Engineer/Tsuen Kwai 2, Drainage

Mr LI Pui-sang	Services Department Contract Project Coordinator/2 (West), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr KAN King-ming, Victor	Housing Manager/Wong Tai Sin, Tsing Yi & Tsuen Wan 8, Housing Department
Ms HUNG Yuen-ching	Administrative Assistant/Lands, District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing
Mr CHAN Sai-hung	Senior Inspector of Works, Tsuen Wan District Office
Miss LEUNG Ming-sze, Ashley	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
Mr SIU Chung-sing, Johnson (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council)1, Tsuen Wan District Office
Miss WONG Hoi-kiu, Hosanna	Executive Officer (District Council)2, Tsuen Wan District Office

In Attendance:

Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly	Chairman, Tsuen Wan District Council
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Attendance by Invitation:

For discussion of items 2A and 7

Mr TSUI Ka-kim, Kim	Senior Building Surveyor/D5, Buildings Department
Mr LEUNG Kwong-chung	Senior Engineer/Mainland South 2, Drainage Services Department
Mr WONG Wai-keung	Engineer/Tsuen Kwai 1, Drainage Services Department

For discussion of item 2B

Mr KAN Ka-man	Engineer/New Territories West (Headworks 3), Water Supplies Department
Mr LEE Siu-fung, Michael	Country Parks Officer (West), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Mr CHENG Ho-yin, Henry	Senior Estate Surveyor/Tsuen Wan, District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing
Mr LEE Chun-yin, Raymond	Chief Inspector of Police (Administration)

Mr CHUNG Ching-to

(Tsuen Wan), Hong Kong Police Force
Senior Officer, Hong Kong Gun Club

For discussion of items 5 and 12

Mr LEUNG Kwong-chung

Senior Engineer/Mainland South 2,
Drainage Services Department

Mr WONG Wai-keung

Engineer/Tsuen Kwai 1, Drainage
Services Department

Absent:

Mr SHUM Lester

The Meeting

I Opening Remarks and Introduction

The Chairman of the Tsuen Wan District Council (TWDC) said that the TWDC Secretariat (the “Secretariat”) received a resignation notice from Mr TAM Hoi-pong on 20 April 2021, stating that he would resign as TWDC Member with effect from 20 April 2021. He appreciated Mr TAM Hoi-pong’s continuous dedication to the district work and contribution towards protecting and enhancing the environment of Tsuen Wan district. He expressed regret at the resignation of Mr TAM Hoi-pong and wished him all the best. As Mr TAM Hoi-pong was originally the Chairman of the Environment, Health and Climate Change Committee (EHCCC), the office of Chairman was temporarily vacant. As such, the Vice Chairman of the EHCCC would now take over the chair in accordance with section 35(3) of the Tsuen Wan District Council Standing Orders (the “Standing Orders”).

2. The Acting Chairman welcomed the Members and representatives of government departments to the 8th meeting of the EHCCC. He thanked Mr TAM Hoi-pong for his contribution to issues concerning environmental protection in the district, and introduced Ms HUNG Yuen-ching, who replaced Mr CHEN Wai-kuen to assume the post of Administrative Assistant/Lands (AA/Lands), District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing (DLO) and attended the meeting for the first time.

3. The Acting Chairman stated that according to section 28 of the Standing Orders, unless otherwise agreed by the Chairman, Members could have up to 2 minutes to introduce the paper, and each Member who submitted a paper might make supplementary remarks once. Such a Member could choose to speak after the responses from the representative(s) of government departments or make concluding remarks before the end of discussion of the agenda item for up to 2 minutes each time. For each agenda item, except the Member(s) who submitted the paper, Members could only speak once at the meeting. The Chairman would confirm the number of speakers before the discussion. Each Member might speak up to 2 minutes if five or fewer Members spoke on the agenda item and up to 1.5 minutes if more than five Members spoke on the agenda item. Representatives from the departments concerned might speak up to 2 minutes twice.

(Note: Mr MAN Yu-ming joined the meeting at 2:35 p.m. Mr KOT Siu-yuen left the meeting at 2:36 p.m.)

II Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 7th Meeting held on 18.2.2021

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

- (1) in lines 4 to 5 of paragraph 11(4) of the captioned minutes, “並詢問成員名單有否在職銜及姓名後面加註成員所代表的部門。” (and enquired whether the respective departments which the Members represented were specified after their post titles and names in the membership list.) should be amended as “並詢問成員名單有否在各職銜名稱後面加註「或代表」這幾個字。” (and enquired whether the words “or a representative” were specified after the post titles in the membership list.);
- (2) in lines 8 to 9 of paragraph 11(4) of the captioned minutes, “以及專責小組成立十年以來各部門的首長級官員有否以書面方式商議解決海旁氣味問題的方案” (and whether the directorate grade officers of the departments had discussed solutions to the odour problem at the waterfront in writing over the past ten years since the establishment of the task force) should be amended as “以及專責小組在過去十年幾乎沒有召開過會議期間各部門的首長級官員是否有繼續以書面方式商議解決海旁氣味問題的方案” (and whether the directorate grade officers of the departments had continued to discuss solutions to the odour problem at the waterfront in writing over the past ten years, during which meetings of the task force had seldom been convened);
- (3) after “而發出噪音” (noise was thus generated) in line 3 of paragraph 78(1) of the captioned minutes, “而且滋擾期間不斷延長，由最初的晚上十一時至翌日凌晨一時延伸至近期的晚上十一時至翌日清晨五時，非常過份” (it was outrageous that the duration of noise nuisance had been extending from between 11:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m. on the next day initially to between 11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. on the next day recently) should be added;
- (4) in line 4 of paragraph 78(1) of the captioned minutes, “，認為警方執法力度不足” (he considered that the Police’s law enforcement effort was insufficient) should be added after “但仍未能解決問題” (yet, the problem was still unsolved); and
- (5) in line 5 of paragraph 78(1) of the captioned minutes, “希望” (hoped) should be amended as “要求” (requested).

5. The Acting Chairman asked if Members would endorse the captioned minutes and the proposed amendments. Members unanimously endorsed the

captioned minutes and the proposed amendments.

(Note: Mr LAU Cheuk-yu and Mr LAI Man-fai joined the meeting at 2:43 p.m.)

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

(A) Paragraphs 6 to 16 of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 February 2021:
Request for Addressing the Odour Problem of Tsuen Wan Harbourfront
Expediently

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

- (1) Mr LEUNG Kwong-chung, Senior Engineer/Mainland South 2 (SE/MS2), Drainage Services Department (DSD);
- (2) Mr WONG Wai-keung, Engineer/Tsuen Kwai 1 (E/TK1), DSD;
- (3) Mr HO Kit-ming, Engineer/Tsuen Kwai 2 (E/TK2), DSD;
- (4) Mr TSUI Ka-kim, Kim, Senior Building Surveyor/D5 (SBS/D5), Buildings Department (BD);
- (5) Ms TSANG Ka-man, Carmen, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West)2 (SEPO(RW)2), Environmental Protection Department (EPD);
- (6) Miss LEUNG Mee-sze, Chief Health Inspector (Tsuen Wan) 1 (CHI(TW)1), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD);
and
- (7) Mr YUEN Chiu-kit, Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing & Pest Control) Tsuen Wan 2 (SHI(C&PC)TW2), FEHD.

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

7. E/TK2 of the DSD responded as follows:

- (1) one of the major sources of odour at Tsuen Wan harbourfront was the discharge of sewage into the sea via stormwater drains and box culverts due to the misconnection of some foul water pipes to the stormwater drains in the district;
- (2) the DSD had all along been collaborating with the EPD and BD, rendering assistance in handling cases of foul water pipe misconnection. The DSD had actively adopted multi-pronged measures to reduce odour emitted from the drainage system. These measures included the mounting of PVC screens at the outfalls of three box culverts in the district since 2015, placing of odour control hydrogel (hydrogel) at more than 30 locations, placing of a larger amount of hydrogel at designated locations of the box culverts and provision of four additional dry weather flow interceptors (DWFIs) in the old areas which had commenced operation since September 2020; and
- (3) the DSD had also commenced the construction of six additional DWFIs in the rural area of Tsuen Wan since July 2020.

8. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded that the EPD had been conducting

inspection of the sources of pollution in the district and conducted a total of 56 investigations in the first two months this year, during which one case of foul water pipe misconnection in buildings and two cases of misconnection involving public sewers and stormwater drains were identified. These cases had been referred to the relevant departments for follow-up.

9. SBS/D5 of the BD responded as follows:

- (1) when compared with the list of buildings involving foul water pipe misconnection submitted by the BD at the previous meeting, 11 cases in which the misconnection problem had been solved or was unidentified were deleted from the list submitted by the BD at this meeting;
- (2) the BD was currently following up on 23 cases of foul water pipe misconnection in buildings. Among those cases, rectification works had commenced or would commence shortly in six cases. The BD had instituted prosecution in six cases, issued repair orders in seven cases and was preparing repair orders for three cases. For the remaining one case, investigation by the BD was in progress.

10. SHI(C&PC)TW2 of the FEHD responded that the FEHD's outsourced contractors had been conducting clearance of refuse inside the gullies concerned on a regular basis. If the drains in public places were found blocked, the FEHD would arrange for contractors to clear them. If they were unable to clear the refuse, the cases would be referred to the DSD and Highways Department for follow-up.

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

- (1) Members of all the previous terms had strived for the installation of additional DWFIs and conducting various experiments in the district to solve the odour problem. He was concerned about the problem of foul water pipe misconnection in the district, and believed that foul water pipe misconnection was the major cause of the odour problem. Although the installation of DWFIs could alleviate the odour problem, the departments should completely eliminate the problem of foul water pipe misconnection in the district (Mr MAN Yu-ming);
- (2) he pointed out that among the 23 cases of foul water pipe misconnection in buildings followed up by the BD, 18 cases had been processed for more than two years. Among the seven cases in which repair orders had been issued, six had been processed for more than two years. He was discontented with the BD's slow progress in handling the cases. He enquired whether the BD had encountered any difficulties in handling the above cases and why the progress of some of the cases was still unsatisfactory even after two years of handling. Besides, he had made enquiries to the BD about the radio transmitters for mobile communications. He enquired when the BD could give a reply (Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus);
- (3) when he passed by Pavilia Bay recently, he found that the odour

problem was serious in the vicinity, indicating that the problem had not been solved. He enquired of the EPD about the post title of the Member of the task force responsible for addressing the odour problem at the harbourfront, whether the post titles were followed by “or a representative”, and whether the then District Officer (Tsuen Wan) was the representative of the Tsuen Wan District Office (TWDO) attending the meetings of the task force to learn about the meeting details. He opined that the departments had mostly relying on stopgap measures to tackle the odour problem at present, and measures which could tackle the problem at source, such as handling water pipe misconnection, should be enhanced. He hoped that the departments concerned would strengthen the existing measures and explore more ways to address the current situation and root cause of the matter to tackle the odour problem. He also enquired of the BD whether the lack of manpower was the cause of the slow progress in handling the cases of foul water pipe misconnection. He opined that the BD could deploy additional manpower to handle the misconnection cases (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio);

- (4) he was more concerned about the effectiveness of the DWFIs. Despite the installation of four DWFIs in the district, the odour problem persisted. He hoped that the odour problem in the district would be alleviated upon completion of the installation of the remaining DWFIs in the rural area by the departments concerned. He enquired whether the odour problem at the harbourfront and urban area was caused by the indiscriminate discharge of sewage into the stormwater drains in the rural area. The DSD had previously submitted a proposal of public works concerning the construction of sewers in villages to the EHCCC for circulation. Considering that some villagers would discharge sewage into stormwater drains, he enquired whether this proposal could expedite the resolution of the odour problem in the district. Besides, some contractors had disclosed that sewers would be constructed near Route Twisk. He enquired of the departments concerned about the progress of the works (Mr CHIU Yan-loy);
- (5) he opined that Members had repeatedly expressed their concern over the EPD’s failure to accurately detect the odour level at the harbourfront. He understood that the odour problem would occur intermittently, but considered this situation did not mean that the odour level was acceptable. He enquired of the EPD whether there were any measures to resolve the discrepancy between the assessment standard of the EPD and the perception of the public (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu); and
- (6) he enquired whether the BD would institute prosecution against the owners’ corporations (OCs) or individual owners in the cases of foul water pipe misconnection in buildings (the Acting Chairman).

12. Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan) (ADO(TW)) of the TWDO responded

that since another department had taken the lead to convene the inter-departmental meetings, such leading department should be tasked with following up the request for provision of the minutes or details of the meetings.

13. SE/MS2 of the DSD responded that to tackle the odour problem at the harbourfront, the DSD would installed a total of six DWFIs in the rural area of Tsuen Wan, which would facilitate the alleviation of the odour problem to a certain extent. Due to the lack of a sewerage system in the rural area, villagers mostly handled the polluting matters through the septic tank system. Some might even discharge the polluting matters directly into the stormwater drains or streams. The DSD held that it was still necessary to adopt a multi-pronged approach to progressively solve the odour problem at the harbourfront.

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

- (1) the EPD had all along been collaborating with the DSD and BD in tackling the odour problem in the district with measures addressing both the current situation and root cause of the problem;
- (2) the measures of addressing the current situation included the installation of DWFIs, which would intercept polluting matters in the middle and lower reaches and hence prevent them from flowing into the sea. The EPD would construct newly designed large-scale dry weather interception facilities in the district for collection of storm water from the box culverts at Ma Tau Pa Road and Tai Ho Road and subsequent interception of polluting matters before the discharge of such storm water into the sea; and
- (3) as regards the measures of addressing the root cause of the odour problem, the EPD had been conducting inspection of the sources of pollution in the district. If cases of foul water pipe misconnection were identified, the EPD would promptly refer the cases to relevant departments for follow-up.

15. SBS/D5 of the BD responded as follows:

- (1) it would take a relatively long time for the BD to tackle the problem of foul water pipe misconnection in buildings due to the complicated and time-consuming procedures for adducing evidence, which had to be completed before the BD made an application to the court for entry into the premises concerned for investigation pursuant to the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123). In addition, it would take some time for the owners concerned to handle and comply with the repair orders issued by the BD upon receipt;
- (2) the BD had adopted some of the recommendations made by the Office of The Ombudsman (OFOMB). If cases of foul water pipe misconnection involved buildings without an OC, such cases would be referred to the TWDO for assistance in forming OCs among the owners of such buildings or coordination between individual owners with a view to facilitating the coordination of repair works and solving the

- problem of foul water pipe misconnection expeditiously;
- (3) the BD was deploying more staff to deal with cases of foul water pipe misconnection at present; and
- (4) if the owners concerned failed to comply with the statutory orders without reasonable excuse, the BD would consider instituting prosecution against them. Besides, if the cases of foul water pipe misconnection involved the communal pipes of the buildings concerned, summonses would be issued to the respective OCs or all the co-owners for buildings without an OC.

16. The Acting Chairman stated that the EHCCC would continue to discuss the captioned item under the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting at the next meeting.

(B) Paragraphs 17 to 30 of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 February 2021: About the Discovery of Shooting Activity Scraps near Shing Mun Reservoir

17. The Acting Chairman stated that the relevant paper was submitted by a Member at the fifth meeting. The representatives from the departments/organisation responsible for giving response were:

- (1) Mr KAN Ka-man, Engineer/New Territories West (Headworks 3) (E/NTW (H3)), Water Supplies Department (WSD);
- (2) Ms TSANG Ka-man, Carmen, SEPO(RW)2, EPD;
- (3) Mr LEE Siu-fung, Michael, Country Parks Officer (West) (CPO (W)), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD);
- (4) Ms HUNG Yuen-ching, AA/Lands, DLO;
- (5) Mr CHENG Ho-yin, Henry, Senior Estate Surveyor/Tsuen Wan (SES/TW), DLO;
- (6) Mr LEE Chun-yin, Raymond, Chief Inspector of Police (Administration) (Tsuen Wan) (CIP (A) (TW)), Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF); and
- (7) Mr CHUNG Ching-to, Senior Officer, Hong Kong Gun Club (HKGC).

18. E/NTW (H3) of the WSD responded as follows:

- (1) the WSD had continued to conduct inspection, and had completed the clearance work and erection of location marks at the slopes near the HKGC to facilitate evidence collection;
- (2) the WSD had liaised with departments concerned such as the DLO to conduct an inter-departmental inspection at the HKGC in March 2021. During the inspection, it was found that the quantity of shooting activity scraps in the vicinity of the HKGC had reduced after the clearance work by the HKGC. Nevertheless, further clearance was still required; and
- (3) apart from urging the HKGC to continue to follow up the situation, the WSD would also implement supporting measures in line with the follow-up work carried out by other departments.

19. CPO (W) of the AFCD responded as follows:
- (1) after the inspection conducted jointly with officers of the departments concerned in March 2021, officers of the AFCD found that the quantity of shooting activity scraps had reduced. However, some shooting activity scraps were still left in the soil within the overlapping area of the country park and the HKGC;
 - (2) the AFCD had immediately requested the HKGC to expedite the clearance and asked the HKGC to provide the timetable of cleaning up the shooting activity scraps through the Lands Department (LandsD). The AFCD had also requested the HKGC to provide the timetable of conducting sampling and soil testing; and
 - (3) the HKGC informed the AFCD that it would explore measures to reduce the quantity of shooting activity scraps entering the catchwater and country park areas. The AFCD had requested the HKGC to provide a concrete timetable in this regard.

(Note: Mr WONG Ka-wa joined the meeting at 3:23 p.m.)

20. SES/TW of the DLO responded as follows:
- (1) the DLO had all along been maintaining communication and cooperating with other departments concerned. The DLO had written to the HKGC in September and November 2020 as well as in January and February 2021, requiring it to conduct appropriate clearance operations and adopt preventive measures;
 - (2) the DLO had also requested the HKGC in writing to continue to clean up shooting activity scraps and take samples of soil for testing as advised by the EPD. The EPD would provide technical advice on soil testing to ensure such testing was in compliance with relevant technical standards;
 - (3) the HKGC had stated in November 2020 and late January 2021 that skeet shooting activities in the venue had been suspended, and that additional screen barriers had been erected to prevent shooting activity scraps from flowing out of the area. The HKGC had also arranged for contractors to clean up shooting activity scraps;
 - (4) the HKGC had previously stated that the clearance of shooting activity scraps would be completed in February 2021. It was confirmed that the HKGC had indeed carried out clearance work after the DLO's inspection conducted in mid-February 2021 and the inter-departmental inspection jointly conducted by the departments concerned and the DLO in March 2021. Nevertheless, shooting activity scraps were still found in the lots and nearby slopes. The DLO had requested the HKGC to promptly clear the remaining shooting activity scraps;
 - (5) the HKGC informed the DLO that it would conduct soil testing upon completion of the clearance work. The HKGC had submitted a preliminary proposal on soil testing and contacted accredited laboratories, and would submit a detailed proposal on soil testing again

- after making reference to professional advice;
- (6) the DLO had written to the HKGC in early April 2021, requesting the HKGC to submit a specific timetable of cleaning up shooting activity scraps and conducting soil testing. The HKGC informed the DLO that the follow-up plan and timetable would be formulated at its internal meetings; and
 - (7) the DLO would continue to follow up on matters in relation to the clearance of shooting activity scraps and soil testing, maintain communication and co-operate with the departments concerned to take law enforcement and lease enforcement actions by attending to their respective duties.

21. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded that to assist the DLO in processing the proposal on soil sampling and testing report submitted by the HKGC, the EPD had provided the technical requirements of soil sampling and testing to the DLO. The EPD would also continue giving relevant technical advice to assist the DLO in taking follow-up actions according to the lease conditions.

22. CIP (A) (TW) of the HKPF responded that the HKPF and various departments continued to keep an eye on the above case, and were waiting for the completion of the HKGC's clearance operation.

23. Senior Officer of the HKGC responded as follows:

- (1) the HKGC would continue to clean up the remaining shooting activity scraps. During the inspection conducted by officers of various departments at the HKGC on 19 March 2021, shooting activity scraps had been found at new locations. The HKGC had immediately arranged for clearance;
- (2) it was reported in newspapers on 20 and 22 April 2021 that shooting activity scraps had been found in an abandoned drain which was well hidden. The HKGC had immediately cleared such scraps, and suspected that there were trespassers in the HKGC area;
- (3) the HKGC would change the firing direction to towards the slopes on the right to facilitate the collection of shooting activity scraps in the future and reduce the quantity of shooting activity scraps flowing out to other areas; and
- (4) the HKGC would hold an internal meeting on 2 May 2021 to discuss a comprehensive proposal on following up and solving the problem for submission to relevant departments.

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

- (1) he enquired whether there was any department responsible for following up the soil testing of the HKGC. In his opinion, although the HKGC had a responsibility to clean up the shooting activity scraps, government departments should also monitor the soil testing conducted by the HKGC to ensure that the HKGC's testing was in compliance

- with the standards (Mr TSE Man-chak);
- (2) he considered the progress of cleaning up shooting activity scraps by the HKGC slow, and enquired why the HKGC cleared the shooting activity scraps only after the situation was reported in the news. He held that the HKGC should consider making a report to the Police if it suspected that some trespassers had entered the HKGC area. He wished that the HKGC would properly address the problem of shooting activity scraps (Mr LAI Man-fai);
 - (3) the EHCCC had repeatedly requested the HKGC to provide the timetable of cleaning up shooting activity scraps and conducting soil testing. The HKGC had told Members that the clearance work would be completed in two to three months when its representative attended the meeting for the first time. Such being the case, he was discontented with the slow progress of the HKGC in handling shooting activity scraps and discussing a comprehensive solution. He enquired whether the presence of additional shooting activity scraps implied that the pollution caused by the HKGC was way more serious than originally expected, and whether the departments and HKGC had failed to perform a thorough inspection. He opined that soil testing should be conducted as soon as possible. Additionally, he opined that various departments should take more stringent measures to deal with this case if the HKGC was unable to present a satisfactory proposal after its internal meeting to be held on 2 May 2021 so as to warn the HKGC of the consequence of its failure to effectively address the problem of shooting activity scraps (Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy);
 - (4) he pointed out that the slopes near the HKGC were scattered with plastic ammunition cases. Although most of them had been cleared, he found solidification agents adhering to the shooting activity scraps on the surface soil of the slopes nearby. Most of the solidification agents had come off and fallen into the stormwater drains, and were covered by dead wood. He enquired of the HKGC about the source of such solidification agents, and opined that the departments concerned should take law enforcement actions against the behaviour of damaging the slope environment with solidification agents. He also pointed out that, according to the land lease, no person shall store, use or release any harmful or toxic chemicals at the water gathering grounds within or outside the leased lot without the consent of the Director of Water Supplies. He enquired whether the DLO and WSD were aware of the above situation, and hoped that the departments would institute prosecution or conduct investigation (Mr CHIU Yan-loy);
 - (5) Members had conducted a site inspection at the HKGC half a year ago. He suggested that the departments should arrange another site inspection at the HKGC for Members to compare the situation half a year ago and that at present. He also opined that they might seize the opportunity to observe if there were any trespassers entering the HKGC and causing damage to the ecological environment (Mr LAM Sek-tim);

- (6) he noted that some green groups had recently conducted site visits thereat again. Although the situation of accumulation of shooting activity scraps had improved, there was still a large quantity of lead marbles and fragments of clay targets left within the buffer area of Tai Lam Country Park. He enquired why the HKGC had not yet worked out a timetable for the clearance work so far and why it had not honoured its promise by completing the clearance work within February 2021. He also enquired of the DLO about the number of warning letters issued to the HKGC since September 2020. He opined that the DLO should consider requesting the HKGC to complete the clearance work within a specified period by citing the lease condition so as to solve the problem promptly (Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus); and
- (7) he had also brought up the issue of shooting activity scraps at the previous term of the TWDC. He opined that the problem remained serious so far, and there were even signs of deterioration. All the departments concerned were responsible for tackling the problem. He enquired why the department concerned, being the owner of the lots, had no idea of the locations where shooting activity scraps were identified therein, and why the HKGC had started the clearance work only after there were media reports. He was concerned that the shooting activity scraps might lead to pollution of fresh water, and hoped that the departments concerned would conduct a thorough site inspection in the vicinity of Shing Mun Reservoir to see if shooting activity scraps were still left in the area. Lastly, he agreed that a site inspection at the HKGC and its vicinity should be conducted, and wished that site inspections could be conducted after the meeting and upon completion of the clearance work by the HKGC (Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly).

25. E/NTW (H3) of the WSD responded as follows:

- (1) the WSD would continue the collection of evidence pursuant to the Waterworks Ordinance (Cap. 102) and strengthen the measures supporting the collection of evidence, including the erection of location marks on site. To avoid affecting the work of evidence collection, the WSD called on all parties concerned not to interfere with the location markings; and
- (2) the WSD noted Members' concern over the progress of the clearance work, and was ready to conduct a site inspection with Members and officers of various departments concerned after the meeting.

26. CPO (W) of the AFCD responded as follows:

- (1) as parts of the area under the HKGC's land lease overlapped with the area of the country park, the AFCD had all along been requesting the HKGC to provide a management plan of shooting activity scraps in the past two to three years, and had relayed the above request to the HKGC

through the LandsD;

- (2) the AFCD was also concerned about the problem of shooting activity scraps. The department had requested the representatives of the HKGC during the site inspection to carry out clearance operations and draft a timetable of the clearance work, but the HKGC did not actively follow up the AFCD's request. Hence, the AFCD had conducted joint inspections with the LandsD, and had repeatedly asked the HKGC to follow up the issue directly or through the LandsD; and
- (3) the AFCD had also requested the HKGC to explore measures to prevent shooting activity scraps from falling into the area of the country park, and would continue to communicate with various departments concerned. The AFCD wished that the HKGC would expeditiously submit the timetable of carrying out the clearance work and implementing the preventive measures.

27. SES/TW of the DLO responded as follows:

- (1) after consulting the EPD, the DLO held that the HKGC had a responsibility to conduct clearance operations and soil testing at its own expense. Therefore, the DLO had written to the HKGC, requesting it to conduct soil testing. The EPD would provide technical advice on soil sampling and testing for the DLO to ensure that such tests complied with relevant technical standards;
- (2) the DLO had issued warning letters to the HKGC in September and November 2020 as well as January and February 2021. Moreover, the DLO had written to the HKGC in April 2021, requiring it to submit the relevant timetable;
- (3) the land lease was a private contract of which the lease conditions were enforced by the LandsD in its capacity as the landlord and a party to the contract. Actions taken by the LandsD in such a capacity did not involve prosecution. In general, when taking lease enforcement action, the DLO would first issue a warning letter to the land owner concerned requesting rectification of the lease breach within a specified time. If the land owner ignored the DLO's warnings and the DLO also held that the HKGC's follow-up action did not comply with the requirements of various departments, the DLO would consider registering the warning letter at the Land Registry, which was commonly known as "imposing an encumbrance". This would affect the application for renewal of the contract concerned upon its expiry in 2027; and
- (4) regarding the solidification agents which had entered the stormwater drains, the DLO was coordinating with the WSD to arrange for a site inspection, and would consider if the lease conditions mentioned by Members were applicable.

28. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded that the EPD would continue to provide relevant technical advice with a view to assisting the DLO in taking follow-up action

according to the lease conditions.

29. CIP (A) (TW) of the HKPF responded that if a joint site inspection was arranged for participation by the DLO, other departments and Members, the HKPF was willing to send representatives to attend such inspection.

30. Senior Officer of the HKGC responded that if it was necessary to enter the HKGC area for inspection, the departments concerned should notify the HKGC to facilitate coordination. Besides, after the meeting of the executive committee on 2 May 2021, the HKGC would formulate more specific guidelines on matters related to soil testing and drawing up of a timetable. So far, the HKGC had no idea of the source of the chemicals suspected to be a solidification agent.

31. The Acting Chairman stated that since the Member who originally submitted the agenda item could no longer continue to follow up the captioned item at the meeting, he suggested that the captioned item should not be further discussed under the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting at the next meeting. If any Members wished to continue following up the captioned item, they could approach the departments concerned directly or submit a discussion paper again after six months.

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

- (1) he enquired whether there were relevant provisions in the Standing Orders stipulating that the captioned item could not be discussed any further. He opined that although the Member who originally submitted the paper could no longer continue expressing concern over the captioned item, the problem of shooting activity scraps still prevailed and was currently being followed up by the EHCCC. Therefore, discussion on the captioned item under the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting should not be ended. Since there were no regulations prohibiting the EHCCC from continuing the discussion on the captioned item and the majority of Members agreed to continue the discussion, the EHCCC should continue discussing the captioned item at the next meeting (Mr TSE Man-chak);
- (2) in his opinion, the EHCCC should make the decision on its own if the Standing Orders did not set out the procedures of handling the above situation. He opined that a site inspection should first be arranged as suggested by Members, and wished that the Secretariat would study and elaborate on whether there were any provisions prohibiting further discussion of the captioned item by the EHCCC. He believed that most Members wished to continue discussing the captioned item. He would submit another discussion paper if there were indeed provisions prohibiting the EHCCC from continuing the discussion of the captioned item (Mr CHIU Yan-loy);
- (3) as some Committees had discussed papers submitted by Members who were absent from the meeting, he enquired why the same procedure

was not applicable to the captioned item. He opined that even if the discussion of the item could not be continued in the end, the EHCCC should still continue following up on the progress in tackling the problem of shooting activity scraps until such a problem had been solved. He hoped that the Secretariat would study whether the captioned item could be further discussed under the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting. He also opined that the HKGC should brief Members on the results of the internal meeting to be held on 2 May 2021 (Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus);

- (4) he pointed out that according to section 24(3) of the Standing Orders, where the TWDC had made a decision on a subject matter, no further discussion on the matter shall be proposed by Members within six months unless with the consent of the Chairman or more than half of the TWDC Members. He considered that the EHCCC had not made any decision on the item, and that more than half of the Members at the meeting wished to continue the discussion on the item. He therefore hoped that the Secretariat would study the procedure of continuing the discussion of the captioned item, and that the Acting Chairman would make a decision of continuing the discussion of the item under the consent of more than half of the Members (Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy);
- (5) he opined that the issue on whether the captioned item could be discussed under the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting should be handled according to the Standing Orders. He was discontented with the proposal of not discussing the item any further and enquired about the reason for such proposal (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu);
- (6) he held that proposals of ending the discussion of the items under the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting should not be raised since there were no provisions prohibiting the EHCCC from continuing the discussion of the captioned item (Mr LAI Man-fai);
- (7) he agreed that the Acting Chairman could, subject to the consent of Members, make a decision of discussing the captioned item under the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting before any provisions prohibiting the EHCCC from such discussion were found. He held that if the Secretariat provided justifications for not allowing the discussion on the item under the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting, Members could submit another discussion paper for discussion at the EHCCC meetings. He hoped that the Secretariat would clarify if the item could be discussed under the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting as soon as possible after the meeting (Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly);
- (8) he opined that discussion of an issue raised by any Member who had resigned or could no longer perform his or her duties should not be ended, and that the work of addressing problems in the district should not be affected by such incidents as the resignation of any Member or his or her inability to further discharge any duties (Mr LAM Sek-tim);

and

- (9) he believed that various government departments should still follow up and tackle the problem of shooting activity scraps actively even though it was not certain whether the captioned item could be discussed under the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting. In addition, as the district issue under discussion involved the entire Tsuen Wan district, government departments should support the EHCCC in tackling the problem and the discussion should not be affected by the resignation of individual Members (Mr WONG Ka-wa).

33. The Acting Chairman asked Members if they agreed to discuss the captioned item under the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting. Members unanimously agreed to discuss the item under the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting and requested the Secretariat to clarify if the item could be discussed under the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

34. The Secretary said that he would seek relevant advice on the situation after the meeting.

(C) Paragraphs 48 to 55 of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 February 2021: Scooping of Marine Refuse in the Waters of Tsuen Wan by the Marine Department and its Contractors

35. The Acting Chairman stated that the paper was submitted by a Member at the seventh meeting. The representative from the department responsible for giving response was Ms TSANG Ka-man, Carmen, SEPO(RW)2, EPD. Besides, the written reply of the Marine Department (MD) was tabled at the meeting.

36. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded that the EPD had nothing to add since the captioned item was mainly concerned with matters in relation to the collection of marine refuse.

37. The views and enquiries of Members were consolidated as follows:

- (1) as the MD did not send representatives to attend the meeting, an effective discussion on the item could not take place. He opined that the MD should be invited to become one of the standing government departments of the EHCCC (Mr TSE Man-chak);
- (2) he suggested that if the MD, being the leading department related to the captioned item and despite being invited, did not send its representatives to attend the meeting for giving response to Members' enquiries, a letter should be sent to it to condemn its failure to send representatives to attend the meeting with the consent of the EHCCC. A letter should also be sent to the policy bureau supervising the MD, requesting the bureau to instruct the MD to send representatives to attend the EHCCC meetings (Mr WONG Ka-wa);
- (3) in his opinion, the purpose of inviting the MD to send representatives to attend the meeting was to facilitate the discussion with its

representatives on identifying the source of marine refuse at the meeting. He held that the MD should send representatives to attend the meeting for giving responses to Members' enquiries, instead of providing Members with a written reply only. He hoped that the MD would reflect on its failure to send representatives to attend the meeting (Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus);

- (4) he enquired whether the MD was one of the standing government departments of the Coastal Affairs Committee of the last-term DC. He opined that the MD should be invited to be one of the standing government departments of the EHCCC (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu); and
- (5) he considered it necessary to continue the discussion of the captioned item at the next meeting, and that the Acting Chairman should decide after Members' voting whether the item should continue to be discussed. The Secretariat should make complementary efforts in supporting such a decision. He hoped that the Secretariat could clarify whether the item could be discussed under the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting expeditiously (Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy).

38. The Acting Chairman stated that he would study with the Secretariat after the meeting the matter on inviting the MD to be a standing department of the EHCCC. Besides, the EHCCC would write to the MD to condemn its failure to send representatives to join the discussion of the captioned item. It was decided that the item would be discussed under the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat conveyed Members' views to the MD in writing on 3 June 2021.)

39. The Secretary noted Members' views and would obtain relevant advice on whether the captioned item could be discussed under the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting after the meeting.

(D) Paragraphs 89 to 92 of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 February 2021: Discussion on Reducing the Impact of Aircraft Noise over Sham Tseng and Tsing Lung Tau

40. The Acting Chairman stated that Mr LAU Chi-hung submitted the paper. Besides, the written reply of the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) was tabled at the meeting.

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

- (1) he opined that the CAD should send representatives to attend the meeting and give response to the concerns raised by Members as well as explore solutions to tackle aircraft noise with Members. In his opinion, the problem of aircraft noise affected almost 30 000 residents in the vicinity of Sham Tseng and Tsing Lung Tau. He was

therefore discontented with the CAD's failure to send representatives to attend the meeting. He also thought that the captioned item should be discussed under the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Mr LAU Chi-hung);

- (2) in his opinion, the CAD should send representatives to attend the meeting and explore solutions to solve the problem of aircraft noise with Members. He understood that the nature of the CAD's daily work might be different from that of other works departments, but the CAD should address the issue in a more active manner. He opined that the captioned item should be discussed under the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting. Incidentally, he enquired of the CAD which runway would be suitable for implementation of the Members' proposal, that is, setting the angle of descent of aircrafts at above three degrees, and whether the type of aircrafts and geographical environment would affect the feasibility of making adjustment to the angle of descent of aircrafts (Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus); and
- (3) he held that a letter should be sent to the CAD to condemn its failure to send representatives to attend the meeting for discussion of the captioned item, and that a copy of the letter should be distributed to the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio).

42. The Acting Chairman stated that the EHCCC would write to condemn the CAD for not sending officers to attend the meeting to discuss the captioned item and would convey Members' views to the CAD. The EHCCC would also distribute a copy of the letter to the THB and continue to discuss the item under the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting at the next meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat conveyed Members' views to the THB and CAD in writing on 3 June 2021.)

IV Item 3: Proposal on Funds Allocation for the Environment, Health and Climate Change Committee 2021/22
(EHCCC Paper No. 3/21-22)

43. The Secretary introduced the paper.

44. The Acting Chairman stated that the EHCCC was provided with a total allocation of \$3,550,000 in 2021/22, from which \$600,000 (including a five-percent deficit of the budget) was allocated for the District Council Funds for Community Involvement Projects and \$2,950,000 for the District Minor Works Programme for implementation of minor environmental improvement works. The EHCCC unanimously endorsed the captioned proposal on funds allocation and relevant administrative arrangements.

V Item 4: Application for District Council Funds as regards Traffic Expenses for Site visits of Minor Environmental Improvement Programme 2021/22
(EHCCC Paper No. 4/21-22)

45. The Secretary introduced the paper.
46. The Acting Chairman asked if Members had to make declarations of other interests immediately. No Members made a declaration of other interests.
47. The EHCCC endorsed one funding application as follows:

<u>Activity/Project</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Approved Amount (\$)</u>
(1) Traffic Expenses for Site Visits of Minor Environmental Improvement Programme 2021/22	26.5.2021	3,500.00

VI Item 5: Request for an Examination of Various Biological Odour Treatment Methods with a View to Alleviating the Odour Problem of Pipes and Drains in the District
(EHCCC Paper No. 5/21-22)

48. The Acting Chairman stated that Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus submitted the paper. The representatives from the departments responsible for giving responses were:

- (1) Ms TSANG Ka-man, Carmen, SEPO(RW)2, EPD;
- (2) Mr LEUNG Kwong-chung, SE/MS2, DSD;
- (3) Mr WONG Wai-keung, E/TK1, DSD; and
- (4) Mr HO Kit-ming, E/TK2, DSD.

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

49. Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus introduced the paper.
50. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded as follows:
- (1) members of the inter-departmental task force responsible for tackling the odour problem at the harbourfront continued to follow up the odour problem in the district according to their respective duties;
 - (2) the EPD had conducted consultancy studies on the water quality of Tsuen Wan harbourfront and the odour problem. The department had formulated various measures including constructing newly designed DWFIs at the offshore area near the Tai Ho Road and Ma Tau Pa Road box culverts in Tsuen Wan and launching a trial scheme on screening coarse pollutants at the black spots of non-point source pollution. Among these measures, the project of construction of newly designed DWFIs at the box culverts in Tai Ho Road and Ma Tau Pa Road had been included in the Public Works Programme, and the DSD was currently carrying out the design work. As the scale of the aforesaid project was considered relatively large, it was anticipated that the construction would take seven to eight years; and
 - (3) the EPD would continue to conduct inspection of the sources of

pollution in the district. If cases of foul water pipe misconnection were identified, the EPD would refer them to relevant departments for follow-up.

51. E/TK2 of the DSD responded that regarding the odour nuisance in the vicinity of Parc City as mentioned by Members, as the specific location was not indicated, Members could provide the more specific locations to the DSD for further investigation. Besides, regarding the odour problem at roadside gullies mentioned in the Member's letter, the DSD had installed gully traps at the roadside gullies near Princess Alexandra Community Centre to reduce odour. According to the DSD's observation, the results were satisfactory. Members could provide the locations of the roadside gullies concerned for further investigation by the DSD.

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

- (1) he had submitted a discussion paper on the odour nuisance at the roadside gullies near Princess Alexandra Community Centre. He hoped that relevant departments would spare no efforts to study the feasibility of using biological odour treatment methods at the gullies. In his opinion, mounting of deodourising PVC screens was not a long-term solution due to its temporary effect in alleviating the odour. The departments should continuously explore up-to-date solutions to tackle the problem (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio);
- (2) he enquired why the DSD only used hydrogel for odour control in Tsuen Wan district without making reference to the biological odour treatment methods adopted by other districts in river channels. He also enquired when the departments concerned could provide scientific data to facilitate the identification of the sources of odour nuisance and resolve the current discrepancy between the data and the residents' perception. In addition, he enquired whether the FEHD would consider introducing the use of curing agents which could solidify oil to replace the technology of deodourising PVC screens currently used by the DSD for the clearance work at roadside gullies. Incidentally, he enquired whether the two DWFIs proposed for construction at the harbourfront by the department concerned would lead to the backflow of odour. Furthermore, he enquired whether such facilities as parks could continue to be built above the construction locations of the DWFIs (Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus); and
- (3) he hoped that the departments concerned would invite Members to conduct site inspections to facilitate Members' understanding of the drainage situation in the district and a more effective communication with the departments (Mr WONG Ka-wa).

53. SE/MS2 of the DSD responded that the cleaning of roadside gullies was in general undertaken by the FEHD. As there were foul sewers beneath the gullies mentioned by Members, the DSD used gully traps to reduce odour. Since the cleaning of gullies and the design of the manhole cover of the gullies were outside the

DSD's purview, the DSD had requested the department concerned to study and develop a more innovative design.

54. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded that the EPD had not adopted any biological odour treatment technologies in Tsuen Wan district at present, but Members' views in this respect were noted.

55. SHI(C&PC)TW2 of the FEHD responded that the FEHD's contractors would regularly clean up roadside gullies. Regarding the proposal on removing oil inside roadside gullies with a curing agent, since the roadside gullies were mainly used for collecting storm water and the FEHD was responsible for the regular scooping of solid waste (such as tissues or plastic bottles) in the gullies to keep the drains clear, no special method was employed to remove the oil inside the gullies.

56. ADO(TW) of the TWDO responded that the TWDO was not responsible for the drainage facilities in the district, and implementation of relevant educational work should be undertaken by the department concerned. The department concerned could contact the TWDO if it wished to place relevant educational or promotional leaflets at the Home Affairs Enquiry Centre for public access.

57. The Acting Chairman hoped that the DSD and FEHD would arrange a site visit for the captioned item for Members.

VII Item 6: Noise Generated by Machines on the Rooftop of Yeung Uk Road Market
(EHCCC Paper No. 6/21-22)

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

- (1) Miss LEUNG Mee-sze, CHI(TW)1, FEHD;
- (2) Mr YUEN Chiu-kit, SHI(C&PC)TW2, FEHD; and
- (3) Ms FONG Wei-king, Luna, Deputy District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan)2 (DDLMTW)2, Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD).

Besides, the written replies of the Architectural Services Department and Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) were tabled at the meeting.

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

(Note: Mr MAN Yu-ming left the meeting at 4:15 p.m.)

60. CHI(TW)1 of the FEHD responded that the repair and maintenance of the air-conditioning system installed on the rooftop of Yeung Uk Road Market was undertaken by the EMSD. The FEHD had conveyed the matters of concern put forth by Members to the EMSD for follow-up, and the EMSD had responded to their concerns in writing.

61. DDLM(TW)2 of the LCSD responded that the rooftop area of Yeung Uk Road Municipal Services Building was not managed by the LCSD, so the department could not advise on the issue of the machines on the rooftop of the building concerned.

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

- (1) he pointed out that similar problems also occurred on the rooftop of Goodman Global Gateway. Since some buildings with round-the-clock operation of air-conditioning systems were private properties but not government buildings, members of the public affected by noise nuisance could not directly report to the government department as they could in this case. Besides, owners of these buildings might not be willing to conduct inspection and maintenance at their own expense. He thus enquired whether there was any legislation currently in place to regulate this kind of noise (Mr CHIU Yan-loy);
- (2) he had assisted in handling similar cases of noise nuisance, and opined that the noise might be caused by aged parts. He hoped that the department in charge would solve the above noise problem through replacing the aged parts to avoid causing noise nuisance to the residents nearby. In addition, he had handled complaints about noise nuisance in Lei Muk Shue Estate, and opined that high-powered exhaust fans and air conditioners used by residents might also be sources of noise nuisance (Mr WONG Ka-wa);
- (3) he opined that noise nuisance caused by air conditioners prevailed in the entire Tsuen Wan town centre. Citing the industrial buildings in Wang Wo Tsai Street and Wang Lung Street as examples, he pointed out that many industrial buildings and residential premises in Tsuen Wan district were in close proximity to each other. This resulted in noise nuisance to residents from air conditioners or exhaust fans in industrial buildings. Besides, he had heard ear-splitting noise, which seemed to be generated by machines, near Shui Cheong Industrial Building on Kwu Hang Road. He hoped that the Government could address the problem of industrial noise in the district (Mr LAM Sek-tim); and
- (4) he enquired whether the commitment made by the EMSD's in its written reply could be included in the minutes of the meeting or the EMSD's written reply could be uploaded onto the TWDC's website. He commended the EMSD for proposing improvement measures and actively assisting Members in addressing the noise problem being brought forward. However, he believed that if the EMSD was willing to send officers to attend the meeting, Members' questions could be answered immediately and discussion on the most effective solution to the problem could be carried out with Members directly (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio).

63. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded that noise generated by machines was regulated by the Noise Control Ordinance (Cap. 400). The EPD would visit the residential unit of the complainant concerned to measure the noise upon receipt of a complaint. If Members were aware of any residents affected by noise nuisance from machines, they could contact the EPD for follow-up.

64. CHI(TW)1 of the FEHD responded that the FEHD would convey the proposal of replacing the machine parts to the departments concerned.

65. The Acting Chairman stated that the Secretariat would upload onto the TWDC's website the written replies of the departments concerned tabled at the meeting.

VIII Item 7: Concern about the Discharge of Effluent and Emission of Odour from the Storm Water Drain at Chiu Tam Path
(EHCCC Paper No. 7/21-22)

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

- (1) Mr LEUNG Kwong-chung, SE/MS2, DSD;
- (2) Mr WONG Wai-keung, E/TK1, DSD;
- (3) Mr HO Kit-ming, E/TK2, DSD; and
- (4) Mr TSUI Ka-kim, Kim, SBS/D5, BD.

67. Mr LAU Cheuk-yu introduced the paper.

68. E/TK1 of the DSD responded as follows:

- (1) the DSD had received reports from the EPD and the public in early March 2021, stating that the foul sewers at Tsuen Wan Centre near the nullah at Tso Kung Tam were damaged. Upon arrival at scene for inspection, the DSD's staff had found that muddy water was flowing out from the area of Tsuen Wan Centre. However, the drainage and environmental pollution problems of private buildings involved in the case fell within the law enforcement jurisdiction of other departments;
- (2) as far as the DSD knew, the relevant department had requested the management agency concerned to expeditiously tackle the problem of water leakage;
- (3) the DSD's staff had conducted another inspection thereat one week before the meeting. Neither odour nor outflow of muddy water was identified;
- (4) the DSD would clean up the nullah on a regular basis, and had conducted a clean-up operation in early March 2021. The DSD would also replace the hydrogel every month to inhibit the generation of odour in drains;
- (5) in early 2021, the DSD had launched a feasibility study on promoting the concept of "Rivers in the City" and reviewed the potential for

revitalisation of the main nullahs in various districts (including Tsuen Wan district) with a view to selecting suitable nullahs for revitalisation and bringing forward suitable proposals for revitalisation in a timely manner for greening and beautification of river channels; and

- (6) the DSD held that any pollution problems of river channels had to be solved at source. If any cases of illegal discharge were identified, the DSD would refer them to relevant departments for follow-up.

69. SBS/D5 of the BD responded as follows:

- (1) the BD had received reports from members of the public on effluent flowing out from the slope beside Chiu Tam Path. Upon investigation by the BD, it was confirmed that the effluent flew out from the shopping mall of Tsuen Wan Centre. It was believed that the situation was caused by the leakage in the pipes connecting the sewage pipes of the toilets in the shopping mall and the public drainage system;
- (2) the BD had written to the OC concerned for this matter and would issue a repair order to the OC in due course requesting for completion of the maintenance works within the specified period; and
- (3) the BD would continue to actively follow up the case.

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

- (1) as informed by the management office of the housing estate concerned, water leakage was caused by the burst of the underground sewer of the housing estate. The maintenance works of the sewer had basically been completed (Mr LI Hung-por);
- (2) he pointed out that foul odour was occasionally emitted from the nullah at Chiu Tam Path, and opined that it was caused by the illegal discharge of polluting matters from some squatters on the hillside. Besides, the DSD had planned to add covers and construct recreational facilities above the nullah. He enquired about the progress of the project and the source of water flowing through the nullah at Chiu Tam Path at present (Mr CHIU Yan-loy);
- (3) he enquired about the penalties for leakage of effluent in buildings and illegal discharge of effluent. He opined that the environment of the nullah at Chiu Tam Path had all along been unsatisfactory. In addition, the Government had only carried out river training works by constructing concrete covers, failing to achieve the goal of beautification. He suggested drawing reference from the approach adopted in dealing with the nullah at Tai Chung Road, i.e. converting the nullah into an underground facility or implementing greening works at river channels to improve the environment of the nullah (Mr LAI Man-fai); and
- (4) he enquired about the progress of the testing of hydrogel, limitations of hydrogel in practical application, suitability of the application of hydrogel in chemical waste discharged in industrial area, and location of placing hydrogel for maximum effectiveness (Mr YICK

Shing-chung, Angus).

71. E/TK1 of the DSD responded as follows:
- (1) considering that nullahs were more conducive to drainage and maintenance than culverts and the covering of nullahs went against the current concept of river greening, the DSD had no plans to cover the nullah at Chiu Tam Path at this stage;
 - (2) the DSD would provide relevant technical advice if other departments wished to use the space on the covers of the nullah for their works projects; and
 - (3) stream water collected around Tso Kung Tam would be discharged to the culvert at Tai Chung Road through the nullah at Chiu Tam Path.
72. E/TK2 of the DSD responded that the second stage of the study focused on identifying the effective coverage of hydrogel under various circumstances and studying the effectiveness of hydrogel in suppressing the generation of other gases, such as gases generated by volatile organic compounds commonly found in waste. It was anticipated that the second stage of the study would be completed by the end of 2021.
73. SE/MS2 of the DSD responded as follows:
- (1) the first stage of the DSD's study on hydrogel focused on testing the use of hydrogel in inhibiting the hydrogen sulfide in effluent, and was applicable to the effluent in general;
 - (2) the second stage of the study on hydrogel focused on testing the effectiveness of hydrogel in suppressing volatile gases other than hydrogen sulfide. Due to the epidemic, the testing work had been suspended last year. It was anticipated to be completed by the end of 2021;
 - (3) the DSD would place hydrogel at a location about 30 to 50 metres to the upstream of the spot where odour problem was detected; and
 - (4) hydrogel could not be used to inhibit odour generated by all kinds of polluting matters. As most of the effluent in the district was general effluent, the first stage of the pilot study had proved effective. The DSD would continue to examine the effectiveness of the second stage of the pilot study and, upon completion of the study, provide Members with relevant information.
74. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded that the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 358) was not applicable to damaged pipes in buildings. Regarding Members' enquiry about the breach of the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 358), a person who discharged polluting matters into the waters of Hong Kong or into inland waters in the water control zone was liable to imprisonment for 6 months and a fine of \$200,000 upon conviction on the first occasion.

IX Item 8: Requesting the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to Add More Locations for 660-Litre Wheeled Waste Collection Bins and Increase Their Collection Hours in Old Areas around Yeung Uk Road Market
(EHCCC Paper No. 8/21-22)

75. The Acting Chairman stated that Mr LAM Sek-tim submitted the paper. The representatives from the department responsible for giving responses were:

- (1) Miss LEUNG Mee-sze, CHI(TW)1, FEHD; and
- (2) Mr YUEN Chiu-kit, SHI(C&PC)TW2, FEHD.

76. Mr LAM Sek-tim introduced the paper.

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

- (1) the FEHD had conducted a 4-month trial scheme on the use of solar-powered compacting refuse bins (SCRBs) from 16 October 2020 to 15 February 2021. During this period, a SCRb was placed on Chung On Street at a fixed location and fixed times to enable residents of “three-nil” buildings and old buildings to properly handle domestic waste;
- (2) to continue supporting the residents in properly handling domestic waste, the FEHD had started to place a 660-litre refuse bin at the location where a SCRb was previously placed from 6:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. every day since 16 February 2021;
- (3) the FEHD had also designated nine additional locations for placing 660-litre refuse bins, including 92 Chung On Street, 120 Chung On Street, 124 Chung On Street, 16 Sam Pei Square, 70 Ho Pui Street, 75 Ham Tin Street, 5 Yi Pei Square, 61 Yeung Uk Road and 26 Tak Wah Street; and
- (4) the FEHD would arrange contractors for daily placement and collection of the temporary 660-litre refuse bins at specified times and make adjustment to the locations, quantity and duration for placement of the refuse bins as well as the frequency of emptying the refuse bins according to the situation.

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

- (1) in his opinion, the hygiene condition around Yeung Uk Road Market was not satisfactory. It was also undesirable for Members to collect litter by themselves in order to draw public attention. In addition to placing 660-litre refuse bins, he opined that the FEHD should dovetail its work with relevant educational work or activities to encourage the residents to develop a habit of disposing of rubbish properly (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu);
- (2) he supported the proposed provision of additional 660-litre refuse bins. He had liaised with other Members to clean up refuse in the vicinity of Yeung Uk Road during late night, and found that some residents would pile up rubbish at the exits/entrances of buildings. The hygiene condition was poor. In his opinion, provision of additional 660-litre

refuse bins could preliminarily solve the above problem. Subsequently, incentives should be provided to encourage residents to care for their living environment. Besides, he opined that the act of causing damage to the environment by eateries in the district was a matter of concern (Mr LAU Chi-hung);

- (3) he pointed out that some residents considered the 660-litre refuse bins unappealing, but he still supported the proposed provision of additional 660-litre refuse bins. He enquired whether the refuse bins could be made more attractive. For example, slogans might be posted on the bins to remind members of the public not to litter or the bins might be painted in brighter colours (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio);
- (4) he pointed out that there was a substantial amount of refuse being indiscriminately disposed of in the vicinity of Yeung Uk Road Market and Ho Pui Street, and the hygiene condition was unsatisfactory. He admired those Members who had bought refuse collection bins for cleaning up refuse in person. In his opinion, apart from placing additional 660-litre refuse bins, the FEHD should also strengthen its cleaning, inspection and prosecution work so as to reduce the hygiene problems in the vicinity of Yeung Uk Road Market (Mr LAI Man-fai);
- (5) he had liaised with Members to buy refuse collection bins and clean up streets, and opined that it was hard work (the Acting Chairman); and
- (6) he thanked the FEHD for rendering assistance in tackling the hygiene problems in the district. Having referred to the FEHD's educational work for the trial scheme on the use of SCRBs conducted in October 2020, he learnt that issuing summonses was more effective than publicity and educational work in encouraging members of the public to develop the habit of disposing of refuse properly. He noticed that many shop operators would sweep rubbish onto the streets when the shops were close on that day without giving a thought to the environmental hygiene in the district. This caused rodent and pest infestation, and he could do nothing about these shop operators. He hoped that the FEHD would pay attention to the irregular time of the placement of refuse collection bins and consider placing them in the morning to bring convenience to members of the public in disposing of refuse in the morning (Mr LAM Sek-tim).

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

- (1) the FEHD had been conducting publicity and education work through various channels, including distributing leaflets, setting up on-street booths for publicity, putting up posters and distributing gifts. However, the FEHD's posters were removed by unknown persons. The FEHD would also regularly upload the latest information on environmental hygiene onto its website;
- (2) the FEHD would not place 660-litre refuse bins overnight to prevent overnight accumulation of substantial amount of refuse at the same location without the FEHD's monitoring and other consequent hygiene

problems;

- (3) during refuse collection by the FEHD, the refuse bins would be lifted with mechanical equipment installed on the refuse collection vehicle. This might damage the embellished bins; and
- (4) the FEHD had all along been instituting prosecution against persons who committed indiscriminate disposal of waste around Yeung Uk Road.

X Item 9: Request for Serious Enforcement Action by the Environmental Protection Department to Address the Problem of Poor Environmental Hygiene Caused by Misconnected Pipes in “Three-nil” Buildings in Tsuen Wan District

(EHCCC Paper No. 9/21-22)

80. The Acting Chairman stated that Mr LI Hung-por submitted the paper. The representative from the department responsible for giving response was Ms TSANG Ka-man, Carmen, SEPO(RW)2, EPD. Besides, the written replies of the BD and EPD were tabled at the meeting.

81. Mr LI Hung-por introduced the paper.

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

- (1) the EPD had all along been liaising with various departments concerned to conduct investigation and enforcement actions so as to tackle the problems of foul water pipe misconnection in buildings and the consequential pollution of the near-shore water of the harbour;
- (2) the EPD continued to conduct inspection of the sources of pollution in the district. If water pipe misconnection in buildings was identified during inspection, the case would be referred to the BD for follow-up. For cases involving complications, such as incomplete plans or unclear drawings and photographs that could hardly show the drainage problems, the EPD and BD would arrange for a joint inspection to facilitate the follow-up by the BD; and
- (3) the EPD had conducted more than 580 inspections in the district from 2017 to 2020 and identified 23 cases of foul water pipe misconnection in buildings. Among them, 16 cases had been rectified and the remaining seven cases were being followed up by the BD.

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

- (1) he noted that previously there had been newspaper reports on the problem of water pipe misconnection in buildings in the district. He pointed out that the odour problem had affected the entire Tsuen Wan district, and that some residents did not know they should report the situation to which departments when being troubled by the odour problem. He and the Members concerned had been following up in the Council the odour problem in the district for a long time. As such, he enquired why the odour problem in the district remained unsolved

for such a long time and wished that the problem would be tackled promptly. Besides, the Government had stated its plan to carry out rectification of the misconnected pipes for “three-nil” buildings. He enquired which department was responsible for implementing such a plan (Mr WONG Ka-wa);

- (2) he enquired whether the EPD had considered taking more active measures to enable its officers to enter the premises involving misconnected pipes for evidence collection and hence expedite the commencement of prosecution procedures in response to the OFOMB’s report. He also enquired whether the TWDO could provide support in public education to educate the residents to select appropriate contractors for maintenance works. Otherwise, they might not be able to rectify the problem of misconnected pipes effectively due to the lack of related knowledge. Although he understood that the abovementioned educational work was outside the TWDO’s purview, he opined that the TWDO should try to make more contributions outside its purview when carrying out district work (Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus);
- (3) he pointed out that the above report indicated that some cases of water pipe misconnection still had not been addressed effectively even after 11 years. He thus suggested that the BD should work out a timetable for handling the cases of water pipe misconnection. He wished that the BD would strengthen manpower for dealing with cases of water pipe misconnection duly. The above report also recommended that the BD should strengthen its monitoring mechanism and take decisive enforcement action against cases of water pipe misconnection by duly instituting prosecution against owners of “three-nil” buildings who failed to comply with the repair orders. The BD should also, if necessary, first carry out repair works for the owners concerned and recover the costs of the repair works upon completion of the works (Mr LI Hung-por); and
- (4) he pointed out that when handling cases of water seepage, the Joint Office for Investigation of Water Seepage Complaints (JO) would make an application to the District Court for entry into the premises for investigation if the owners were uncooperative during investigation. He enquired whether the above method was applicable to handling cases of water pipe misconnection in buildings. In his opinion, the lack of an OC for taking follow-up actions and motivation for raising funds for repair works among the owners of the buildings concerned posed obstacle to solving the problem of water pipe misconnection in “three-nil” buildings. He enquired if the BD could draw reference from the approach of handling unauthorised building works by mandating that flats involving misconnected pipes should undergo repair works carried out by the BD first to rectify the misconnection problem and the costs of the repair works would be recovered from the owners concerned upon completion of the works (Mr CHIU Yan-loy).

84. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded that the EPD would carefully consider and follow up the OFOMB's recommendations made to the EPD. The EPD had no further information to provide at the moment.

85. ADO(TW) of the TWDO responded as follows:

- (1) the TWDO understood that Members wished to improve the environmental hygiene condition in the district and would spare no efforts to provide assistance in areas under its purview. However, the TWDO did not have law enforcement power;
- (2) the TWDO was concerned about the management problem of old buildings and had all along been assisting owners of old buildings, commonly known as "three-nil" buildings, in forming OCs so that they could duly fulfil their obligation to carry out building repair and maintenance works; and
- (3) as regards the views on public education, given the highly professional nature of the matters related to the repair works of pipes, the TWDO was willing to assist the OCs or owners in liaising with such professional departments as the BD for professional advice.

XI Item 10: Concern about Illegal Cultivation on the Government Land near Tai Lam Chung and Shing Mun Catchwater, and Request for a Ban on Behaviours Causing Damage to Natural Environment
(EHCCC Paper No. 10/21-22)

86. The Acting Chairman stated that Mr CHIU Yan-loy submitted the paper. The representatives from the departments responsible for giving responses were:

- (1) Ms TSANG Ka-man, Carmen, SEPO(RW)2, EPD; and
- (2) Miss HUNG Yuen-ching, AA/Lands, DLO.

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

87. Mr CHIU Yan-loy introduced the paper.

88. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded that matters involving illegal cultivation on land were outside the EPD's purview.

89. AA/Lands of the DLO responded as follows:

- (1) the DLO would send officers for site inspection when situation of unlawful occupation of government land came to its notice. If the situation was confirmed, the DLO would handle it according to applicable procedures and priorities and, when necessary, display notices pursuant to the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 28) requiring the persons concerned to remove the structures on government land within a specified period;
- (2) regarding the issue of illegal cultivation on the slope of Section 4 of Kwong Pan Tin Tsuen, the DLO's staff had conducted a site inspection in February 2021 and taken land control actions. The DLO had also

erected notice boards at the site concerned to prevent illegal occupation of government land. Moreover, the DLO had referred the issue of illegal tree felling to the AFCD for follow-up on 7 October 2020;

- (3) on 30 March 2021, the DLO received a letter from Members relaying the matter of illegal cultivation near Shing Mun Catchwater. As there were squatters near the site in question, the DLO had referred the case to the Squatter Control Office (SCO) for follow-up. The DLO's officers would take appropriate land control actions if they found any cases of unlawful occupation of government land after inspection; and
- (4) as regards the illegal excavation on the slope of the hill behind Allway Gardens, the DLO had put up notices pursuant to the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 28) on 20 March 2021. The specified period provided for the persons concerned to remove the structure in question had expired. The DLO would contact the contractor for clearance at the site concerned.

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

- (1) he did not agree with the AFCD's statement that the area mentioned in the captioned issue was way too wide in its reply. He pointed out that there were many traces of suspected illegal cultivation in the vicinity of the catchwaters of Shing Mun Reservoir and Tai Lam Chung Reservoir. He opined that the departments concerned should strengthen inspection, and enquired which department was responsible for following up the matters related to squatters (Mr LAI Man-fai);
- (2) he was glad that the DLO was following up the captioned issue. Illegal cultivation had taken place on the slope behind Block 3 of Lei Muk Shue Estate. The DLO had gently advised the participants in illegal cultivation at that time, but its effort was futile. Consequently, landslide occurred as the rainy season approached. He therefore opined that the DLO should not give too much time to the offenders of illegal cultivation for carrying out clearance work so as to avoid increasing the risk of landslide when the rainy season began. He also considered that the DLO should clear the land which had been unlawfully excavated in a more comprehensive manner and expedite the completion of the clean-up work before the arrival of the rainy season (Mr WONG Ka-wa);
- (3) in his opinion, the departments concerned should study the cause of illegal tree felling by lawbreakers such that enforcement actions could correctly be taken to solve the problem, and should take vigilant enforcement actions against offenders of illegal cultivation. Besides, subject to the compliance with safety standards and technical conditions, the Government could consider leasing government land to the public for use as community farmland. This could not only solve the problem of illegal cultivation, but could also generate profit for the Government (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio);
- (4) he believed that illegal cultivation of land might cause damage to the

structure of some of the slopes and increase the risk of landslide. Besides, he opined that as lawbreakers involved in illegal cultivation would set fire to grass and woods on government land, doubling the risk of fire. He hoped that government departments would seriously address the hazards caused by the above behaviours (Mr TSE Man-chak); and

- (5) regarding the illegal cultivation of land at the slope of the hill behind Allway Gardens, he noted that the DLO had taken follow-up actions. However, the site was occupied again. He therefore opined that the DLO might consider installing mesh barriers to prevent further occupation of the site. As the site was situated at the exit/entrance of a major hiking trail, he was concerned about whether the concrete structure on the slope would affect the slope structure and cause landslide. He hoped that the LandsD would regularly deploy officers for inspection at the sites concerned after carrying out a thorough clearance on the unlawfully occupied land. If the sites concerned were occupied again, the LandsD had to adopt more stringent measures for deterrence (Mr CHIU Yan-loy).

91. AA/Lands of the DLO responded as follows:

- (1) regarding the recurrence of occupation of government land after clearance, the DLO would study if there was a need to install mesh barriers;
- (2) the DLO would consult the department concerned about whether the concrete structure would affect the structure of the slope; and
- (3) as regards the squatters on illegal cultivation sites, they had to be handled by the SCOs under the LandsD. The DLO could assist in following up the progress of handling.

XII Item 11: Request for Better Arrangements for Deploying Refuse Collection Vehicles to Housing Estates in Tsuen Wan

(EHCCC Paper No. 11/21-22)

92. The Acting Chairman stated that Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy submitted the paper. The representatives from the department responsible for giving responses were:

- (1) Miss LEUNG Mee-sze, CHI(TW)1, FEHD; and
- (2) Mr YUEN Chiu-kit, SHI(C&PC)TW2, FEHD.

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

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

- (1) unless the Increasing Gale or Storm Signal No. 9 or Hurricane Signal was hoisted, the refuse collection contractors engaged by the FEHD would deploy refuse collection vehicles to refuse collection points (RCPs) or designated locations at least once a day for refuse collection according to the established routes and schedule;

- (2) the FEHD adopted the approach of visiting sites for refuse collection and collected refuse from housing estates with refuse storage rooms and access for refuse collection vehicles. As regards other sites, residents had to collect the refuse by themselves or engage private contractors for collection and transportation to the FEHD's RCPs. The FEHD would deploy refuse collection vehicles to the RCPs at least once a day;
- (3) the FEHD noticed that the amount of domestic waste in Tsuen Wan district had substantially increased during the period from December 2020 to February 2021. As a result, refuse collection vehicles were often filled up much sooner than expected, and subsequently, the contractor had to temporarily rearrange the routing for refuse collection. Additionally, the increase in the amount of refuse would occasionally cause refuse collection vehicles to break down, affecting the refuse collection service;
- (4) as the amount of refuse had gradually resumed normal after the Lunar New Year, refuse collection service would also resume normal; and
- (5) although there had been delay in refuse collection service due to breakdown of refuse collection vehicles, the FEHD had deployed other refuse collection vehicles to collect refuse for the affected housing estates on the same day. The FEHD would continue to monitor the situation of refuse collection in various housing estates with a view to providing appropriate refuse collection service.

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

- (1) the cleaners of Cheung Shan Estate and Shek Wai Kok Estate told him that a sudden change in the time for refuse collection by refuse collection vehicles would increase their workload. Some residents also conveyed that the noise generated by refuse collection vehicles during operation between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. had affected their daily lives (Mr LAI Man-fai);
- (2) some refuse collection vehicles had previously arrived at Allway Gardens at 9:00 a.m. for refuse collection, causing inconvenience to residents commuting to work in the morning. He thanked the FEHD for its assistance in postponing the refuse collection time. Residents did not wish the refuse collection time overlapped with the peak hours of commute. He was also concerned about the noise generated by the refuse collection vehicles of the contractors engaged by the FEHD during refuse collection in the morning, which had affected the daily lives of the residents. He opined that the FEHD could consider deploying refuse collection vehicles to collect refuse in housing estates with refuse chutes or enclosed refuse collection points first. The refuse collection time for other large housing estates could be postponed to 11:00 a.m. or later to enable the cleaners to have sufficient time to clear the refuse and reduce the impact on residents' daily lives and commute (Mr CHIU Yan-loy);

- (3) he enquired of the FEHD about the reason for the substantial increase in the amount of refuse from December 2020 to February 2021, and whether there were any penalties or checks and balances if the contractor's service performance was found to have deviated from the standards stipulated in the contract. Besides, he was concerned that the contractor would neglect its contractual obligations as such a contract was about to end if it learnt that there would not be a contract renewal in the future (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio); and
- (4) he learnt that the contractor had once again deployed only one refuse collection vehicle to Luk Yeung Sun Chuen for refuse collection after the Lunar New Year. He held that when signing the contract with the contractor, the FEHD should have required the contractor to prepare contingency plans to cope with such circumstances as an increase in the amount of refuse and breakdown of refuse collection vehicles rather than allowing these problems to occur and affect the refuse collection service and hence the refuse collection work of housing estates. He also thought that the FEHD should strengthen its monitoring of the contractor's performance and promptly issue a default notice once the contractor's service performance was found to have deviated from the standards (Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy).

(Note: Mr LI Hung-por left the meeting at 5:39 p.m.)

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

- (1) the FEHD noted Members' views. Although the FEHD could flexibly make adjustment to the time of refuse collection, all the housing estates wished that the collection time would not be set too early. Members who had any special requests regarding the refuse collection time could contact the FEHD after the meeting for discussing an coordinated approach;
- (2) as large housing estates were less prone to the noise generated during refuse collection, the FEHD would generally arrive at the large housing estates for refuse collection at earlier hours;
- (3) due to the epidemic, there was an increase in the amount of refuse related to takeaway and online shopping, such as cardboard, styrofoam and disposable tableware. This had led to a substantial increase in the quantity of domestic waste. Since it was relatively difficult to compress the discarded styrofoam, this kind of refuse had exerted pressure on the operation of refuse collection vehicles; and
- (4) the FEHD would from time to time deploy non-government vehicles to follow the contractor's refuse collection vehicles so as to ensure that the contractor had been adopting the routes stipulated by the FEHD for refuse collection. If the contractor was found not to comply with the stipulations, the FEHD would issue a default notice to the contractor and make deductions from the payment of monthly service charges.

XIII Item 12: Request for an Improvement to the Hygiene Condition of the Mouth of the River between Yuk Ha Kok and Ma Sim Pai Road
(EHCCC Paper No. 12/21-22)

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

- (1) Ms TSANG Ka-man, Carmen, SEPO(RW)2, EPD;
- (2) Mr LEUNG Kwong-chung, SE/MS2, DSD;
- (3) Mr WONG Wai-keung, E/TK1, DSD;
- (4) Mr HO Kit-ming, E/TK2, DSD; and
- (5) Mr LAI Yik-wing, Wesley, ADO(TW), TWDO.

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

98. Mr LAI Man-fai introduced the paper.

99. E/TK2 of the DSD responded that the DSD had sent officers for site inspection at the location concerned on 15 April 2021 and did not identify any serious odour problem. However, the DSD had found that a large amount of refuse was accumulated on the slopes near the river mouth. The DSD could liaise with Members and relevant departments for further investigation if Members considered it necessary.

(Note: Mr WONG Ka-wa left the meeting at 5:49 p.m.)

100. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded that the EPD had conducted two site inspections in April 2021, during which neither odour nor other irregularities were detected. The EPD would regularly assess the water quality of various rivers and streams in the territory. The river concerned was one of the regular assessment points of water quality. According to the EPD's data on water quality monitoring, the water quality of the river concerned had been rated "excellent" for the past four consecutive years.

101. ADO(TW) of the TWDO responded that the TWDO had nothing to add about the hygiene and water supplies of the river mouth.

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

- (1) he pointed out that relatively strong odour would be occasionally emitted from some river channels in the district, and enquired of the DSD whether this was an inevitable phenomenon and whether there were any effective solutions (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu); and
- (2) the hygiene condition at the river mouth had improved recently, and he hoped that the situation could be maintained. He wished to conduct a site inspection at the river mouth with officers of the DSD with a view to tackling the problem of accumulation of refuse and miscellaneous articles in the vicinity. He also hoped that the department concerned would increase the height of the fences enclosing the river mouth to prevent residents from trespassing the area for placing miscellaneous

articles or disposing of refuse (Mr LAI Man-fai).

103. E/TK2 of the DSD responded that the odour problem occasionally occurring at the river channel mentioned by Members was caused by various factors. It was difficult to determine the cause of the odour emitting from the river channel when concrete information was not available.

104. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded that the EPD had set up an additional monitoring station at a location lying close to the upper reaches of the river mouth. The water quality was good as reflected by the data on the water quality measured at the monitoring station. As some residents were residing at the upper reaches of the river mouth, polluting matters might flow into the river channel during rainy days or out of carelessness of the residents, thereby causing occasional odour nuisance.

(Note: Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris joined the meeting at 6:06 p.m.)

XIV Item 13: Information Papers

(1) Work Report on Environmental Hygiene in Tsuen Wan District
(EHCCC Paper No. 19/21-22)

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

- (1) in view of the recent increase in the enquiries about water seepage, he referred to the supplementary information tabled at the meeting by the JO and enquired of it about the three stages of investigating water seepage cases. For example, he enquired how long it would take respectively from the receipt of a complaint to the performance of a site inspection and from the site inspection to the arrangement of a colour water test. He also hoped that the JO would resume sending officers to the meeting to report on the relevant supplementary information (Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris); and
- (2) in the supplementary information tabled at the meeting, the JO stated that investigation at Stage III had been completed in 171 cases this year. He enquired whether adoption of such technologies as infrared thermography or microwave tomography by outsourced contractors was necessitated in these cases because the sources of water seepage could not be identified for such a long period; why the situation of water seepage ceased to occur during investigation in some cases; and whether there were any limitations on the investigation at Stage III that led to the persistent failure to identify the source of water seepage in some cases thereafter. Additionally, he enquired whether the JO could regularly submit supplementary information in the form of an information paper (Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus).

106. CHI(TW)1 of the FEHD responded that the FEHD would relay Members' views to the JO for follow-up.

(2) Procedure on Minor Environmental Improvement Programme in 2021/22
(EHCCC Paper No. 22/21-22)

107. The Secretary introduced the paper.

108. The Acting Chairman stated that the site visit for the minor environmental improvement programme in 2021/22 was scheduled on 26 May 2021. Members were asked to reserve time for attending the site visit. Besides, the deadline of submitting project proposals was 12:00 noon on 30 April 2021.

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

- (1) he considered that the decision of setting the deadline of submitting project proposals on 30 April 2021 was too hasty. In his opinion, Members should be given more time for preparing proposals (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio);
- (2) he enquired whether the project proposals of last year could be arranged for implementation this year, whether the vetting process of the project proposals which were same as those of the previous year could be streamlined, and how the balance of the allocation for the programme in the previous year would be handled. Regarding the proposal of constructing outdoor activity rooms submitted by him last year, he enquired why the project estimate was higher than the tender rates put in by private companies, and said that he might submit the project proposal in question again this year. Additionally, for projects of which soil investigation works had been completed but could not be implemented due to insufficient score in the previous year, he enquired whether the procedure of soil investigation works could be exempted if Members submitted such project proposals again this year (Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus);
- (3) he pointed out that the procedures of the minor environmental improvement programme of this year were similar to that of last year. However, he was discontented with the postponement of the commencement of the projects of last year, which had led to the failure to implement some of the projects as scheduled. He considered that sufficient time should be given to Members for preparing project proposals. He cited Kwai Tsing district as an example and enquired whether documents of more diversified contents could be posted on the TWDC notice boards in the district (Mr LAU Cheuk-yu);
- (4) he pointed out that the EHCCC had proposed introducing a merit point system to process the projects submitted by Members which were same as the individual project items proposed in the previous year. He enquired about the scoring criteria (Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy); and
- (5) in other districts, information such as the contact details of DC Members, DC activities and DC meetings would be posted on the DC notice boards. He opined that documents related to the TWDC could be displayed on the notice boards in Tsuen Wan district (Mr LAI Man-fai).

110. ADO(TW) of the TWDO responded as follows:

- (1) Members were welcome to submit project proposals. After collecting such necessary information as site conditions, traffic, project requirements, difficulties in taking forward the works and land ownership or management rights, the TWDO would make an all-out effort to assist Members in completing the projects on the premise that the projects were feasible and had obtained adequate scoring;
- (2) whether the scoring procedures of project proposals that were same as those put forth last year could be streamlined should be determined by the EHCCC;
- (3) the balance of the allocation for implementation of minor environmental improvement projects of last year could not be used this year;
- (4) due to the epidemic, commencement of the minor environmental improvement projects was delayed last year. The TWDO did not intentionally slow down the progress of the projects; and
- (5) the TWDO had to study whether the contents of the documents to be displayed on the notice boards of the TWDC could be improved.

111. Senior Inspector of Works (SIOW) of the TWDO responded that projects amounting to about \$1,200,000 had been carried out in the previous year. The TWDO would not continue to follow up on projects that could not be carried out in the previous year. If Members wished to continue to implement the same projects, they had to submit the project proposals again this year. For projects of which soil investigation works had been completed in the previous year and were submitted by Members again this year, no investigation works would be required again if such projects were to be carried out at the same location.

112. The Secretary responded that at the meeting held on 5 March 2020, the EHCCC endorsed the adoption of the proposals and assessment mechanism used by the Environmental and Health Affairs Committee under the last-term TWDC for implementation of the minor environmental improvement projects from 2020 to 2023. Two amendments had been made as well. Firstly, the number of participants in a site inspection was increased from one third to not less than two fifths of the total number of Members of the EHCCC. Secondly, a merit point system was introduced, i.e. if a project could not be implemented this year and was proposed again by the same Member next year, a bonus of 0.5 point could be added to the average score of the project. If any Member proposed more than one project which met the above condition, the Member could choose to add the bonus point to one of such projects.

113. The Acting Chairman stated that the time limit for submission of project proposals by Members of this year was the same as that of last year. The Secretariat would invite Members for submission of project proposals in writing after the meeting.

114. Members noted the contents of the following information papers:
- (3) Amount of Marine Floating Refuse Collected by Marine Department in Tsuen Wan District (Jan - Dec of 2021)
(EHCCC Paper No. 13/21-22);
 - (4) Publicity and Anti-Marine Littering Operation in Tsuen Wan District (January - March 2021)
(EHCCC Paper No. 14/21-22);
 - (5) Work Report on Environmental Pollution Control in Tsuen Wan District (1 January 2021 to 28 February 2021)
(EHCCC Paper No. 15/21-22);
 - (6) Odour Prediction Assessment at Riviera Gardens and Tsuen Wan Slaughter House (November 2020 to February 2021)
(EHCCC Paper No. 16/21-22);
 - (7) Work Report on the Problem of Sea Water Pollution of the Rambler Channel, Tsuen Wan (January 2021 to February 2021)
(EHCCC Paper No. 17/21-22);
 - (8) Noise Monitoring Result of MTR Tsuen Wan Depot (November 2020 to February 2021)
(EHCCC Paper No. 18/21-22);
 - (9) Aircraft Noise Data Collected from Dedicated Monitoring Stations along Runway 07 Departure Flight Path and Runway 25 Arrival Flight Path in Tsuen Wan Districts during December 2020 to January 2021
(EHCCC Paper No. 20/21-22);
 - (10) Progress Report on Minor Environmental Improvement Programme and Maintenance Projects in 2020/21
(EHCCC Paper No. 21/21-22); and
 - (11) Financial Summary of Environment, Health and Climate Change Committee Funds 2020-21
(EHCCC Paper No. 23/21-22).

XV Item 14: Any Other Business

115. The Acting Chairman stated that as Mr SHUM Lester was unable to perform the duties of the Convenor of the Working Group on Inclusive Environment for Animals in the Community (the “Working Group”) for the time being, he recommended inviting a Member to temporarily discharge the duties of the Convenor of the Working Group. Members proposed that Mr TSE Man-chak should temporarily discharge the duties of the Convenor of the Working Group. The EHCCC endorsed that Mr TSE Man-chak should temporarily discharge the duties of the Convenor of the Working Group.

116. The views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:
- (1) he enquired whether the seats bearing the TWDC logo installed in the district were maintained by the TWDO (Mr LAM Sek-tim);
 - (2) he hoped that the departments concerned would redouble their efforts in handling cases concerning shop front extensions and the problem of accumulation of discarded styrofoam in the district (Mr LUK

- Ling-chung, Antonio); and
- (3) he opined that the WSD should pay attention to whether there were persons assisting unauthorised vehicles in entering the area of Shing Mun Catchwater (Mr LAI Man-fai).

117. SIOW of the TWDO responded that the seats bearing the TWDC logo in the district were maintained by the TWDO.

118. CHI(TW)1 of the FEHD responded that the FEHD would keep a close eye on the environmental hygiene during daily operations, and would clean up and remove refuse in a timely manner.

XVI Adjournment of Meeting

119. The Acting Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting was scheduled at 2:30 p.m. on 17 June 2021 (Thursday) and the deadline for submission of papers was 1 June 2021 (Tuesday).

120. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat
18 May 2021