

(Translation)

Minutes of the 5th Meeting of Tsuen Wan District Council (3/20-21)

Date: 22 September 2020
Time: 2:30 p.m.
Venue: Main Conference Room, Tsuen Wan District Office

Present:

Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly (Chairman)
Mr LI Hung-por (Vice Chairman)
Mr MAN Yu-ming, MH
Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris
Mr SHUM Lester
Mr YAU Kam-ping, BBS, MH
Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus
Mr LAM Sek-tim
Mr CHAN Sung-ip, MH
Ms CHAN Kim-kam
Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio
Mr WONG Ka-wa
Mr KOT Siu-yuen
Mr CHIU Yan-loy
Mr LAU Chi-hung
Mr LAU Cheuk-yu
Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy
Mr LAU Jackson
Mr LAI Man-fai
Mr TSE Man-chak
Mr TAM Hoi-pong

In Attendance:

Miss YIP Kam-ching, Jenny, JP	District Officer (Tsuen Wan), Tsuen Wan District Office
Mr CHOW Chun-hun, Gary	Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan), Tsuen Wan District Office
Mr KWONG Chi-wing, Denis	Senior Executive Officer (District Management), Tsuen Wan District Office
Ms CHAN Tsz-yee, Emily	Senior Liaison Officer (1), Tsuen Wan District Office
Ms LEE Lai-kiu, Winnie	Senior Liaison Officer (2), Tsuen Wan District Office

Mr Kerry Paul Lee CAREW	District Commander (Tsuen Wan), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr HO Yiu-wing	Police Community Relations Officer (Tsuen Wan), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr KO Lok-lam, Ross	Chief Inspector (Operations)(Tsuen Wan), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms MA Sau-ching, Annisa	District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing), Social Welfare Department
Miss LO Pui-yiu, Sapphire	District Lands Officer/Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing), Lands Department
Mr CHEN Wai-kuen	Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing), Lands Department
Ms LUI Hiu-fai, Monica	Chief Transport Officer/NT South West, Transport Department
Mrs TANG FUNG Shuk-yin	Chief Manager/Management (Wong Tai Sin, Tsing Yi and Tsuen Wan), Housing Department
Mr KUAN Man-hou	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Tsuen Wan), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr TSANG Lap-kei, Freddie	Senior Engineer/2 (West), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Ms LIM Ting-ting, Sylvia	Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories West), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr CHENG Kwok-kuen, Chris	District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Miss LAM Siu-yung, Daisy (Secretary)	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Tsuen Wan District Office
Mr LAU Shun-tak, Donald	Executive Officer I (District Council), Tsuen Wan District Office

For discussion of item 13:

Mr TSUI Ka-kim, Kim	Senior Building Surveyor/D5, Buildings Department
Mr CHENG Man-lon, Mark	Senior Building Services Engineer/Wong Tai Sin, Tsing Yi and Tsuen Wan, Housing Department

For discussion of item 17:

Mr LEUNG Kwong-chung	Senior Engineer/Mainland South 2, Drainage Services Department
Ms LO Sze-yan	Engineer/Tsuen Kwai 2, Drainage Services Department
Mr YUEN Ting-fung, Jacky	Engineer/Tsuen Wan 1, Transport Department

Action

I Opening Remarks and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives from government departments to the 5th meeting of the Tsuen Wan District Council (TWDC) and introduced:

- (1) Mr CHEN Wai-kuen, who attended the meeting for the first time and replaced Mr YIM Wai-hung to assume the post of Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing), Lands Department (LandsD);
- (2) Mr HO Yiu-wing who attended the meeting for the first time and replaced Mr KO Lok-lam, Ross to assume the post of Police Community Relations Officer (Tsuen Wan), Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF); and
- (3) Mr TSANG Lap-kei, Freddie, Senior Engineer/2 (West), Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD), who attended this meeting on behalf of Mr CHU Wai-lun, Thomas.

2. The Chairman stated that the date of the next meeting was 9 October 2020. At the next meeting, it would handle papers submitted by the government departments instead of Members' papers. The Chairman reminded Members to speak as concise as possible because there were many items on the agenda. In addition, according to section 28 of the Tsuen Wan District Council Standing Orders (the "Standing Orders"), unless otherwise agreed by the Chairman, Members could speak once for each agenda item at the meeting and each Member could speak up to 1.5 minutes. A maximum of four Members could speak for each agenda item. The Member(s) who had submitted a paper would have 2 minutes to make an introduction and 1.5 minutes to draw a conclusion. The representatives of the departments would have up to 2 minutes to give response.

3. The Chairman said he learnt that the paper submitted by Mr LAI Man-fai and Ms CHAN Kim-kam fell beyond the functions of a District Council (DC) stipulated in section 61 of the District Councils Ordinance (Cap. 547). As Chairman, he determined to approve the discussion of the said paper at the meeting and would rearrange the agenda items in order of submission of papers. During the discussion of the item concerned, he would ask the representatives from the Tsuen Wan District Office (TWDO) to explain the reasons for excluding the paper from the agenda of this meeting. Besides, he had received a paper submitted by Mr SHUM Lester and Mr TSE Man-chak prior to the meeting. In general, any Member who wished to move a motion or ask any question at a meeting of the Council was required to give the Secretary a notice in writing ten clear working days before the meeting. However, he considered that this paper had urgency. It was also related to residents of Tsuen Wan district and issues of personal safety and fundamental rights. As Chairman, he thereby determined to approve the discussion of the paper under Any Other Business at the meeting.

II Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 2nd Special Meeting held on 22.5.2020 and Minutes of the 4th Meeting held on 9.6.2020

4. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had received a number of proposed amendments prior to this meeting. Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus and Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio had each raised three proposed amendments and Mr PUN

Long-chung, Roy had raised one proposed amendment. These proposed amendments were set out as follows:

- (1) Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus proposed that in line 3 of paragraph 85 of minutes of the 4th meeting held on 9 June 2020, “如在七二一事件中暴徒襲擊普通市民” (just like the thugs assaulted ordinary citizens in the 721 incident) should be amended as “如在七二一事件中白衣暴徒襲擊普通市民” (just like the white-clad thugs assaulted ordinary citizens in the 721 incident);
- (2) Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus proposed that in line 4 of paragraph 85 of minutes of the 4th meeting held on 9 June 2020, “在八三一事件中速龍小隊於地鐵追打普通市民” (Special Tactical Contingent chased and hit ordinary citizens at the MTR station in the 831 incident) should be amended as “在八三一太子站事件中穿著黑衣的速龍小隊於地鐵追打普通市民” (black-clad Special Tactical Contingent chased and hit ordinary citizens at the MTR station in the 831 Prince Edward Station incident);
- (3) Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus proposed that paragraph 109 of minutes of the 4th meeting held on 9 June 2020 should be amended as “易承聰議員不滿政府部門沒有盡心盡力為人民服務，包括面對口罩資源的問題置之不理；同時他亦不滿官員的表現，並引用毛語錄表示荃灣區政府部門應學習雷鋒精神，全心全意為人民服務；他更表示政府漠視民意，無視市民的訴求，各種差劣表現以致目前一事無成。他表示若依據毛澤東思想行事，現時官員的表現不只要譴責，甚至應將其批鬥，對此他是樂意帶頭參與批鬥官員，以行動實踐毛澤東思想，用鮮血和生命捍衛社會秩序。” (Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus was discontented with the government departments for their failure to make utmost efforts to serve the people, for example, they brushed the shortage problem of masks aside. Also, he was dissatisfied with the performance of government officials. Citing Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-tung, he opined that the government departments in Tsuen Wan district should learn from the spirit of LEI Feng to serve the people with full dedication. He further opined that the Government disregarded public opinion and ignored people’s requests. It accomplished nothing at present due to various instances of poor performance. In his opinion, according to the ideology of MAO Zedong, the government officials should not only be reprimanded for their current performance, but should also be severely criticised in struggle sessions. He was willing to take the lead in criticising the government officials severely in struggle sessions and put the ideology of MAO Zedong into practice so as to safeguard the social order with blood and life.);
- (4) Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio proposed that paragraph 69 of minutes of the 4th meeting held on 9 June 2020 should be amended as “陸靈中議員要求民政處高級聯絡主任(2)就他文件上所提出的問題例如過去三年荃灣區內‘三無大廈’及新成立的唐樓法團，提供數字。” (Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio requested that in response to the enquiries set out in his paper, Senior Liaison Officer (2) of the TWDO should provide the figures on “three-nil” buildings and newly formed Owners’ Corporations (OCs) of tenement buildings in Tsuen Wan district over the past three years.);

- (5) Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio proposed that in line 3 of paragraph 74 of minutes of the 4th meeting held on 9 June 2020, “就有關議題” (regarding the item concerned) should be amended as “在各自範疇” (within the respective scopes);
- (6) Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio proposed that in line 3 of paragraph 125 of minutes of the 4th meeting held on 9 June 2020, “因此他會於會議後與警方商討有關川龍街及河背街的店舖延伸問題” (he would therefore discuss the problem of shop front extensions at Chuen Lung Street and Ho Pui Street with the Police after the meeting) should be amended as “他會於會議後與警方商討解決有關川龍街及河背街的店舖延伸問題” (he would discuss the solutions to the problem of shop front extensions at Chuen Lung Street and Ho Pui Street with the Police after the meeting); and
- (7) Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy proposed that his oral statement made at the 4th meeting on 9 June 2020 should be attached to the minutes as an annex.

5. The Secretary stated that as the discussion matter involved in the proposed amendment of Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy was incompatible with the District Councils Ordinance (Cap. 547), the TWDC Secretariat was unable to provide secretarial services in this regard.

6. The Chairman asked Members if they wished to raise proposed amendments immediately.

7. Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus said that at the 4th meeting on 9 June 2020, the Chairman approved discussion of his paper which had been submitted but excluded from the agenda of that meeting. The Chairman and Secretariat informed him at an earlier meeting that the discussions before the withdrawal of representatives of government departments would be recorded in the minutes. He also noted that points of order (e.g. counting the quorum) would be recorded in the minutes of other DCs and the Legislative Council (LegCo). However, the responses given by District Officer (Tsuen Wan) were not recorded in the minutes of some TWDC meetings. He therefore had to spend considerable time preparing those missing parts of the relevant minutes.

8. The Chairman enquired why the discussions before the withdrawal of representatives of government departments were not recorded in the minutes.

9. The Secretary stated that if the relevant matters were incompatible with the functions of a DC stipulated in section 61 of the District Councils Ordinance (Cap. 547), the Secretariat was unable to provide secretarial services (e.g. preparation of minutes) for these matters.

10. Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy said that he had fully abided by the Standing Orders and submitted the oral statement to the Secretariat before the 4th meeting held on 9 June 2020. He had also read out the oral statement at the said meeting. He thus did not understand why the oral statement conflicted with the District Councils Ordinance (Cap. 547) and requested the Secretariat or TWDO to give a written reply or formal response.

11. The Secretary responded that as the contents of the oral statement were incompatible with the functions of a DC stipulated in section 61 of the District Councils Ordinance (Cap. 547), the Secretariat was unable to provide secretarial services in this regard.

12. Mr TAM Hoi-pong said that currently, some minutes were not endorsed by the TWDC due to omission of contents. Also, these minutes would not be displayed on the TWDC's webpage. In his opinion, the contents of minutes should be determined by Members but not by the Secretary or District Officer (Tsuen Wan). Also, it was not stipulated in the District Councils Ordinance (Cap. 547) that the Secretary had the power to determine the contents of minutes. Therefore, he enquired how the Secretary would discharge her duties if the minutes were persistently not endorsed.

(Note: Mr MAN Yu-ming joined the meeting at 2:35 p.m.)

13. Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus said that according to section 69 of the District Councils Ordinance (Cap. 547), a DC might appoint secretary: (1) for the purpose of carrying out its functions, a DC might appoint a public officer to act as the secretary of that DC; (2) a DC might determine the duties of the person appointed as secretary under subsection (1). The Secretary might refuse to provide support services for certain items according to the District Councils Ordinance. However, he opined that the Secretary should perform her duties and prepare the relevant minutes. He hoped that the Secretariat would not interpret the legal provisions on its own.

14. Mr CHIU Yan-loy proposed that Members should vote on the two sets of minutes separately. Members unanimously agreed to the proposal.

15. Mr LAU Cheuk-yu enquired about the consequences if the minutes were not endorsed.

16. The Chairman stated that if the minutes were not endorsed, the respective meetings would be devoid of minutes.

17. The Chairman asked whether Members endorsed the minutes of the 2nd special meeting held on 22 May 2020. After voting, the minutes of the 2nd special meeting were endorsed with a vote of 9 in favour, 0 against and 6 abstention.

18. The Chairman asked whether Members endorsed the minutes of the 4th meeting held on 9 June 2020 and the relevant proposed amendments. After voting, the minutes of the 4th meeting and proposed amendments were not endorsed with a vote of 2 in favour, 11 against and 7 abstention.

19. Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris suggested that upon receipt of Members' proposed amendments for minutes in the future, the Secretariat should print out the proposed amendments for Members' reference at meetings. Otherwise, it would be more difficult for Members to grasp longer proposed amendments.

20. Mr CHIU Yan-loy opined that the aforesaid proposal should also be applicable to committee meetings.

21. The Chairman requested that upon receipt of longer proposed amendments for minutes, the Secretary should provide Members with hard copies of such proposed amendments at meetings in the future.

22. Mr TAM Hoi-pong proposed that the Finance and In-house Working Group should hold a meeting to review the current approach to handling minutes and whether the Secretary had fully discharged her duties.

23. The Chairman opined that the aforesaid matters should be handled by the TWDC. He also learnt that some DCs had commenced legal proceedings with respect to these matters.

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

(A) Minutes of the 3rd Meeting held on 24.4.2020

24. The Chairman stated that the captioned minutes were not endorsed at the last meeting. He asked Members if they wished to raise proposed amendments immediately.

25. Mr TAM Hoi-pong enquired whether amendments had been made to the captioned minutes after the last meeting at which it failed to be endorsed.

26. The Secretary stated that except the oral statement made by Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy at the 3rd meeting on 24 April 2020, all the remaining items entailed discussion matters which were incompatible with the District Councils Ordinance (Cap. 547). Therefore, only the oral statement of Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy would be set out in Annex I to the minutes of the 3rd meeting held on 24 April 2020, whereas the remaining items would not be included in the minutes.

27. The Chairman asked whether Members endorsed the minutes of the 3rd meeting held on 24 April 2020. After voting, the minutes of the 3rd meeting were not endorsed with a vote of 1 in favour, 14 against and 2 abstention.

IV Item 3: Application for District Council Funds by Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong Tsuen Wan Centre (Integrated Children & Youth Services Centre) (TWDC Paper No. 41/20-21)

28. The Secretary introduced the paper.

29. The Chairman asked Members to make declaration of interest. No Member made declaration of interest.

30. After voting, the TWDC endorsed the following funding application with a vote of 16 in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention:

Name of Activity	Amount Approved (\$)
(1) "Volunteer Award Scheme in Tsuen Wan" 2020	79,926.00

V Item 4: Application for District Council Funds by Wellness Social Service Centre Limited
(TWDC Paper No. 43/20-21)

31. The Secretary introduced the paper.

32. Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris pointed out that according to the Guidelines on Allocation of Tsuen Wan District Council Funds, a local organisation should bear a quarter of the total actual expenditure of approved items of its activity. He enquired whether the local organisation could apply for full subsidy if the activity was related to a committee. Besides, it was anticipated that about 10 000 people would participate in the activity concerned. However, as there was uncertainty surrounding the epidemic at present, he believed that nobody would want to see an emergence of new clusters of local cases. He therefore did not agree to the provision of subsidy for organising such a large-scale activity during which people would gather.

33. Mr CHIU Yan-loy opined that people would gather during the proposed countdown activity on New Year's Eve. As it would be held during the wintertime, there might be a large-scale outbreak of the epidemic again. He thus enquired whether the applicant organisation had prepared any contingency plan or would postpone the activity. For example, he enquired whether it would draw reference from the practice of the Wong Tai Sin District Council and broadcast the activity live on the Internet instead. Although it was currently difficult to forecast the epidemic situation on the day of the activity, the applicant organisation could get well prepared in advance. He believed that the activity could be held in Tsuen Wan district as long as anti-epidemic measures were properly implemented.

34. Mr TAM Hoi-pong said that he should not only safeguard TWDC funds but also took into account the spending of organisations. In this connection, he enquired whether an organisation could claw back the spent amount if the activity should be terminated due to unexpected circumstances near the end of preparatory stage. Besides, he enquired about the ceiling of TWDC funds and advised the organisation to prepare a contingency plan for the proposed activity. Although he had strongly objected to the provision of more than \$200,000 for erecting a large stage for the Lantern Festival activity in the past, he opined that the organisation could consider changing the proposed activity to a Lantern Festival activity.

35. The Secretary stated that a local organisation should only bear at least one quarter of the total actual expenditure of approved items of its activity when applying for funds of individual committees. Also, upon receipt of funding applications, the Secretariat had already reminded the applicant organisations to pay attention to the latest development of the epidemic and make necessary arrangements in a timely manner. As regards premature termination of a project, the TWDC could make a decision having regard to the circumstances and the grounds raised by the non-governmental organisation. A maximum amount of \$2.5 million might be approved for each project. Besides, the applicant organisation concerned had not informed the Secretariat of any contingency plan so far.

36. The Chairman opined that the adoption of a contingency plan might fail to achieve the objective of the original activity. The activity contents and details

should also be drawn up afresh. For example, if the countdown activity was changed to a Lantern Festival activity, it would involve a completely different set of budget items. Therefore, the TWDC could not transfer the approved amount from the original activity to another activity. Currently, as the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G) (i.e. the prohibition on group gathering) was still effective, the organisation of activity with more than four people was prohibited. Also, the applicant organisation would face certain risk when using the funds. Hence, the Secretariat might not be able to reimburse the organisation for the relevant expenses. If there was the fourth wave of the epidemic after relaxation of the prohibition on group gathering, the TWDC could then consider whether the applicant body or organisation should be reimbursed for the relevant expenses.

37. Mr WONG Ka-wa pointed out that many singers performed on online platforms earlier. Also, online teaching and learning was adopted at schools. Hence, he opined that organisations should draw reference from the said examples in order to create employment opportunities for the grassroots. Given this reason, he supported the funding application concerned.

38. The Chairman stated that the applicant organisation might be required to submit a fresh funding application if the activity would be broadcast on online platforms.

39. Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris enquired whether section 4.2.2 of the Guidelines on Allocation of Tsuen Wan District Council Funds was only applicable to funding applications of the committees.

40. The Chairman confirmed that section 4.2.2 of the Guidelines on Allocation of Tsuen Wan District Council Funds was only applicable to the committees. Moreover, he suggested that the Secretariat should remind the organiser to promptly inform the TWDC of any cancellation of activity due to the epidemic so that the TWDC could invite other organisations to organise activities in early 2021.

41. After voting, the TWDC endorsed the following funding application with a vote of 15 in favour, 2 against and 2 abstention:

<u>Name of Activity</u>	<u>Amount Approved</u> (\$)
(1) New Year Countdown in Tsuen Wan 2021	1,202,280.00

(Post-meeting note: The Home Affairs Department (HAD) did not approve the allocation of the amount set out in the funding application.)

VI Item 5: Application for District Council Funds by District Fire Safety Committee (Tsuen Wan District)
(TWDC Paper No. 62/20-21)

42. The Secretary introduced the paper and said that Mr KOT Siu-yuen was a Member of the District Fire Safety Committee (Tsuen Wan District) (DFSC), so as to indicate that he had made declaration of his membership. Besides, Mr CHAN

Sung-ip was the Vice Chairman of the Tsuen Wan Safe and Healthy Community Steering Committee, and Mr YAU Kam-ping and Mr WONG Ka-wa were Members of the Tsuen Wan Safe and Healthy Community Steering Committee.

43. The Chairman requested that the Member who was concurrently the Member of the DFSC should remain silent during the discussion of the funding application concerned and could not participate in the decision-making or voting of the funding application concerned in accordance with section 48(11) of the Standing Orders. Besides, the Chairman decided that Members who had made declaration of their membership of the Tsuen Wan Safe and Healthy Community Steering Committee could participate in the discussion, decision-making and voting of the funding application concerned.

44. Mr LAU Cheuk-yu said that the HKPF had requested Members to put forth relevant enquiries at the meetings of the District Fight Crime Committee (Tsuen Wan District Office) (DFCC) in its reply to the DC. However, as both the DFCC and DFSC were different from the DC, he hoped that the TWDO would explain the difference to the Police.

45. Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy had doubts about the composition of the DFSC and the standards for the appointment as DFSC Members. He was uncertain about whether the DFSC could put forth appropriate views on fire safety on behalf of the Tsuen Wan district. Hence, he had reservations about the proposed activity.

46. The Chairman stated that the matters mentioned by the Members concerned were irrelevant to the captioned item.

47. Mr TAM Hoi-pong pointed out that as the activity would be held outdoors, it might be affected by such factors as the prohibition on group gathering and rain. In this connection, he enquired of the organiser about the back-up plan, if any.

48. Mr SHUM Lester thought that the organisation concerned might not be able to enhance the residents' awareness over fire safety through organising the Tsuen Wan Fire Safety Carnival, whose actual content and format were very different from what the general public perceived and thought. Hence, he opined that the DC should not allocate funds to support this activity.

49. Senior Liaison Officer (2) of the TWDO stated that the TWDO provided secretarial service for the meetings of the DFSC and would provide support when activities were held. The TWDO learnt that the organiser would consider postponement, change of venue or even cancellation in case the activity was affected by weather, the epidemic situation or other special circumstances.

50. After voting, the TWDC rejected the following funding application with a vote of 4 in favour, 6 against and 8 abstentions:

<u>Name of Activity</u>	<u>Amount Approved</u>
	(\$)
(1) Tsuen Wan Fire Safety Carnival	0

VII Item 6: Application for District Council Funds by Idea Infinite
(TWDC Paper No. 63/20-21)

51. The Secretary introduced the paper.

52. The Chairman asked Members to make declaration of interest. No Member made declaration of interest.

53. After voting, the TWDC endorsed the following funding application with a vote of 11 in favour, 2 against and 3 abstentions:

<u>Name of Activity</u>	<u>Amount Approved</u> (\$)
(1) Tsuen Wan Music Marathon	276,520.00

VIII Item 7: Application for District Council Funds by The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups Tsuen Wan S.P.O.T.
(TWDC Paper No. 64/20-21)

54. The Secretary introduced the paper.

55. Mr KOT Siu-yuen learnt that the applicant organisation would provide anti-epidemic packs for 75 500 beneficiaries. He enquired whether the beneficiaries were determined by the said organisation on its own initiative.

56. Mr TAM Hoi-pong thanked the Chairman for assuming the co-ordination role for the funding application concerned. He pointed out that as the supply of masks was steady at present, members of the public were more concerned with the quality of the masks. Hence, he opined that the applicant organisation should ensure that the masks were manufactured locally as well as in compliance with the standards and be able to provide relevant certificates. He also suggested that the said organisation should arrange a site visit to the mask factory for the TWDC Members where practicable.

57. The Chairman said that he had enquired of Members about the number of households in their respective constituencies earlier and discussed with the applicant organisation. The organisation would allocate sufficient number of masks to all constituencies so that each household in Tsuen Wan district could receive masks. Besides, masks would also be distributed to organisations or persons in need of them. The masks purchased by the organisation should be manufactured locally and comply with certain standards. The organisation should also be able to provide relevant certificates. In addition, the organisation would discuss with the successful tenderer, i.e. the mask manufacturer, the possibility of arranging a site visit to the mask factory for Members.

58. After voting, the TWDC endorsed the following funding application with a vote of 20 in favour, 0 against and 0 abstention:

	<u>Name of Activity</u>	<u>Amount Approved</u> (\$)
(1)	Joint Efforts in Tsuen Wan, Care for the Neighbourhood	1,199,994.00

IX Item 8: Application for District Council Funds by Po Leung Kuk F.S.F.T. Children & Youth Development Centre
(TWDC Paper No. 65/20-21)

59. The Chairman stated that the funding application for Anti-epidemic Programme in Tsuen Wan would be dealt with now.

60. The Secretary introduced the paper.

61. The Chairman asked Members to make declaration of interest. No Member made declaration of interest.

62. After voting, the TWDC endorsed the following funding application with a vote of 18 in favour, 0 against and 2 abstentions:

	<u>Name of Activity</u>	<u>Amount Approved</u> (\$)
(1)	Anti-epidemic Programme in Tsuen Wan	1,193,000.00

63. The Chairman stated that the funding application for Dance Parade Vol. 4.0 would be dealt with now.

64. The Secretary introduced the paper and said that the Vice Chairman, Mr LAM Sek-tim, Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio, Mr WONG Ka-wa, Mr KOT Siu-yuen, Mr CHIU Yan-loy, Mr LAU Chi-hung, Mr LAU Cheuk-yu, Mr LAI Man-fai and Mr TSE Man-chak were Members of the Strategy Group on Promotion of Recreational, Sports, Cultural and Arts Activities, so as to indicate that they had made declaration of their membership.

65. The Chairman asked Members to make declaration of other interests. No Member made declaration of interest.

66. The Chairman stated that he decided that Members who had made declaration of their membership of the Strategy Group on Promotion of Recreational, Sports, Cultural and Arts Activities could participate in the discussion, decision-making and voting of the funding application concerned in accordance with section 48(11) of the Standing Orders.

67. After voting, the TWDC endorsed the following funding application with a vote of 18 in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention:

	<u>Name of Activity</u>	<u>Amount Approved</u> (\$)
(2)	Dance Parade Vol. 4.0	253,000.00

X Item 9: Application for District Council Funds by Yan Chai Hospital Social Services Department

(TWDC Paper No. 66/20-21)

68. The Secretary introduced the paper.

69. The Chairman asked Members to make declaration of interest.

70. Mr YAU Kam-ping made declaration of his membership of the Hospital Governing Committee of Yan Chai Hospital under the Hospital Authority.

71. The Chairman stated that he decided that the Member who had made declaration of interest could participate in the discussion, decision-making and voting of the funding application concerned in accordance with section 48(11) of the Standing Orders.

72. After voting, the TWDC endorsed the following funding application with a vote of 18 in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention:

<u>Name of Activity</u>	<u>Amount Approved</u> (\$)
(1) Anti-epidemic Effort in Tsuen Wan Organised by Yan Chai Hospital	1,200,000.00

73. The Chairman said that the TWDC was the first DC to distribute masks. If this funding application was taken into account, the total amount of DC funds which the TWDC had endorsed for anti-epidemic purposes would be close to \$5,000,000. He thanked everyone who supported anti-epidemic work and hoped that the efforts of all those involved in combating the epidemic would pay off. In addition, he would contact the three applicant organisations as soon as possible to discuss the details of the funding applications concerned. He hoped the arrangements for residents in Tsuen Wan district to obtain the anti-epidemic supplies would work smoothly.

74. Mr LAU Cheuk-yu thanked the Chairman, Members and Secretariat staff for their efforts in assisting with the handling of the funding applications relating to anti-epidemic work.

XI Item 10: Application for Funds by Environment, Health and Climate Change Committee for District Minor Works Under Minor Environmental Improvement Project

(TWDC Paper No. 67/20-21)

75. The Secretary introduced the paper.

76. Members unanimously endorsed the application submitted by the Environment, Health and Climate Change Committee for funds for the District Minor Works under the Minor Environmental Improvement Project.

XII Item 11: Propose to Take Mosquito Control and Prevention Measures in Tsuen Wan District

(TWDC Paper No. 45/20-21)

77. The Chairman said that Mr YAU Kam-ping and Mr CHAN Sung-ip submitted the paper. The representatives from the departments responsible for giving response were:

- (1) Miss LO Pui-yiu, Sapphire, District Lands Officer (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing) of the LandsD;
- (2) Mr CHEN Wai-kuen, Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing) of the LandsD;
- (3) Mrs TANG FUNG Shuk-yin, Chief Manager/Management (Wong Tai Sin, Tsing Yi and Tsuen Wan) of the Housing Department (HD);
- (4) Mr KUAN Man-hou, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Tsuen Wan) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD);
- (5) Mr CHENG Kwok-kuen, Chris, District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD); and
- (6) Mr CHOW Chun-hun, Gary, Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan) of the TWDO.

Besides, the written replies of the Department of Health (DH) and HD were tabled at the meeting.

78. Mr YAU Kam-ping and Mr CHAN Sung-ip introduced the paper.

79. District Lands Officer (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing) of the LandsD responded as follows:

- (1) the LandsD issued a memorandum in May 2020 to remind relevant government departments of the necessity to properly manage the sites under their management and keep in view the mosquito problem therein. In addition, the LandsD had issued letters to remind the Government Land Licence holders and tenants of short-term tenancies of the necessity to properly carry out anti-mosquito work on land under their management;
- (2) the LandsD carried out regular grass cutting and larvicide oil spraying work once a month at 74 government sites in Tsuen Wan district. Besides, upon the receipt of complaints from members of the public and referrals from District Councillors or government departments, the LandsD would carry out enhanced grass cutting work specifically at the locations referred to in these special cases on a one-off basis. The LandsD would also consider expanding the list of designated locations for grass cutting by including spots with overgrown vegetation the removal of which had been frequently requested by members of the public. The inclusion would enable more frequent grass cutting to prevent the accumulation of stagnant water and mosquito breeding; and
- (3) at present, the LandsD adopted grass cutting and larvicide oil spraying as its primary anti-mosquito measures. The LandsD would also draw reference from the FEHD's application of, and views on, effective mosquito prevention and control methods.

80. Chief Manager/Management (Wong Tai Sin, Tsing Yi and Tsuen Wan) of the HD responded as follows:

- (1) the HD would regularly inspect places within housing estates, step up the removal of stagnant water and place mosquito traps. Besides, mosquito trapping devices would be placed in scrubby areas for anti-mosquito purposes; and
- (2) the HD would maintain a relationship of constant communication and co-operation with other departments, enhance publicity and education, and collaborate with the FEHD to improve the environment of housing estates.

81. District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Tsuen Wan) of the FEHD responded as follows:

- (1) the FEHD carried out multi-faceted anti-mosquito work including the implementation of the yearly Anti-mosquito Campaign in three phases. During the campaign, mosquito control and prevention work such as removal of stagnant water and overgrown vegetation at the roadside would be carried out, followed by thematic anti-mosquito operations in places where mosquito infestation was more severe so as to step up mosquito prevention through a targeted approach. The campaign also included educational work such as tendering technical advice on mosquito prevention to private housing estates and relevant persons of other departments;
- (2) the FEHD would convene monthly inter-departmental meetings with the task force on anti-mosquito work in the district so that Members of the said task force such as representatives from government departments, property management of the large housing estates in the district and the management of the theme park could discuss and comment on the problems identified by the FEHD during its inspections at the locations concerned;
- (3) the FEHD had all along kept in view new anti-mosquito technologies on the market and had introduced suitable products. For instance, the FEHD had recently conducted a trial run of a new-type mosquito trapping device which worked like a cockroach trap for mosquito control. Besides killing adult mosquitoes and mosquito eggs, the device also prompted female mosquitoes to carry insect growth hormones and fungus to other water bodies, thereby killing adult mosquitoes in contact with the water bodies containing the hormones and fungus and lowering the probability of successful hatching of mosquito eggs. As the new-type mosquito trapping device had proved quite effective in the trial, the FEHD had recommended it to other departments and large housing estates. Besides, the FEHD had recently purchased a large cart-like fogging operator for the use of the Pest Control Teams in Tsuen Wan district to enhance the efficiency of fogging work in relatively large exposed areas in the district; and
- (4) the FEHD thanked the departments for their co-operation and Members for their assistance in promoting the anti-mosquito message. As the weather became warmer at an earlier time with a larger amount of rainfall in 2020, the peak period of mosquito infestation came slightly

earlier. Hence, the gravidtrap index was higher in May and June 2020. After a series of anti-mosquito operations conducted by the FEHD and relevant departments, the gravidtrap index from July to September 2020 had decreased significantly.

82. District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan) of the LCS D responded as follows:
- (1) the anti-mosquito measures of the LCS D included the removal of stagnant water and fallen leaves, regular cutting of overgrown vegetation, spraying of larvicide oil and application of larvicide sand;
 - (2) the LCS D would kill mosquitoes at venues under its management using sprayers every week to tie in with the breeding cycle of mosquitoes for effective mosquito control. The LCS D had also installed mosquito trapping devices powered by liquefied petroleum gas, electricity or solar energy at venues under its management;
 - (3) in the light of the effectiveness of the 65 newly installed sets of the new-type mosquito trapping device, the LCS D had additionally installed 15 sets of the new-type mosquito trapping device at Jockey Club Tak Wah Park, Park Lam Road, Ma Wan Tung Wan and several playgrounds in Tsuen King Circuit between July and September 2020; and
 - (4) the LCS D would continue to keep in view the ovitrap index in the district and review the effectiveness of the anti-mosquito work from time to time. He suggested that Members should inform the LCS D of spots with severe mosquito infestation in the district for the enhancement of mosquito prevention measures.
83. Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan) of the TWDO responded as follows:
- (1) the Works Section of the TWDO had arranged for contractors to carry out regular and seasonal improvement work on the environment and hygiene in the district including additional drain cleansing work at rural areas to prevent the accumulation of stagnant water and breeding of mosquitoes in the drains due to blockage caused by debris and overgrown vegetation;
 - (2) the TWDO would also carry out additional cleansing work at the sitting-out areas whose maintenance were within its purview. This was to ensure good overall environmental hygiene and prevent mosquito breeding;
 - (3) in respect of education and publicity, the TWDO had liaised with relevant departments such as the FEHD and DH previously to organise thematic talks for the students and residents in the district. The TWDO hoped that the work would be resumed after the epidemic. In addition, the TWDO had prepared anti-mosquito packs for students in the district to enhance their awareness of the importance of mosquito prevention; and
 - (4) the TWDO would continue to co-operate with relevant departments to enhance the anti-mosquito work of the district.
84. Mr LAM Sek-tim thanked the FEHD and LCS D for their efforts in carrying out anti-mosquito work. He pointed out that as many residents would shut the

windows and switch on air-conditioners in summer, they might not be aware of the mosquito infestation. However, when the residents opened the windows and stopped using air-conditioners in winter, they would notice that the mosquito infestation in the district remained very severe even though it was the winter season. In addition, the parks under the LCSD's management created a suitable environment for the growth of mosquitoes, and mosquito infestation was often identified at the rooftops of abandoned industrial buildings due to the accumulation of stagnant water there. As the residents living near the said locations were greatly distressed, he hoped to seek a solution to the said problem.

85. Ms CHAN Kim-kam thanked the departments for briefing Members on the methods to tackle mosquito infestation which were currently in use. She said that in her constituency, the rear lanes of many old buildings became the breeding grounds of mosquitoes due to the accumulation of stagnant water in rainy season and water dripping from air-conditioners. Thus, the departments concerned had to conduct inspection, carry out grass cutting and spray larvicide oil at these rear lanes. In addition, she suggested that the departments concerned should not only contact the housing estates under the HD's management, but should also enhance the liaison with the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS) and other private housing estates to tackle the problem of mosquito-infested scrub in public space.

86. Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio suggested that the FEHD should enhance the mosquito prevention and control work at the area around City Point and Yeung Uk Road Market.

87. Mr WONG Ka-wa was pleased to learn that the departments were giving response to the paper enthusiastically and pointed out that besides mosquito infestation, infestation of biting midges was another problem in the district. He agreed with the methods adopted by the departments concerned to tackle mosquito infestation such as the use of the new-type fogger for mosquito control. In fact, such foggers installed at Lei Muk Shue Estate had proved notably effective in killing mosquitoes. Regarding the sites of the LandsD which had not been or would be used, he suggested that the LandsD should remind the land users of the necessity to carry out anti-mosquito work, remove stagnant water, cleanse drains and clear refuse on the land concerned. Besides, he pointed out that previously, the TWDO would earmark an amount of funds for allocation to anti-mosquito work. In this connection, he suggested using that amount of funds to protect students from the nuisance of mosquito infestation in view of the impending resumption of classes.

88. Mr CHIU Yan-loi commended the FEHD and LCSD for their contribution to tackling mosquito infestation. He said that currently, many sites under the management of the LandsD, Water Supplies Department (WSD) or Drainage Services Department (DSD) in Kwong Pan Tin Tsuen, Fu Yung Shan Tsuen and around Allway Gardens were fenced off. The substantial volumes of refuse and miscellaneous articles accumulated within the fenced-off areas had brought about the problem of stagnant water. However, officers of the FEHD and LCSD could only spray larvicide oil outside the fences when they were deployed to the said locations for anti-mosquito work. In this connection, he suggested that the departments concerned should enhance the anti-mosquito work at the said locations.

89. Mr LAU Cheuk-yu thanked the officers of the FEHD for conducting anti-mosquito and inspection work in his constituency. He said that the anti-mosquito packs prepared by the FEHD were well received by the residents, and suggested increasing the production quantity in 2021.

90. Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy thanked the departments for their efforts and said that he had discussed the mosquito infestation in the district at different Committee meetings, and had followed up on the situation with the departments. He pointed out that there were many government sites in some rural areas, for example the area around Fu Yung Shan Tsuen, at which regular grass cutting had not been carried out for years. The departments concerned only carried out ad hoc grass cutting at the said government sites upon receipt of complaints from the residents. In his opinion, such large sites required long-term maintenance. Thus, he suggested that the departments concerned should include more rural areas as the designated locations for grass cutting so that residents would not have to lodge complaints regularly.

91. Mr LAI Man-fai said that infestation of mosquitoes and biting minges had all along been very severe in some of the places in Tsuen Wan district such as Shing Mun Valley Park, and had caused distress to many children. Residents in Shek Tsui House and Shek Kwai House adjacent to Shing Mun Valley Park also suffered from the nuisance of mosquito infestation frequently. He thanked the departments concerned for promptly visiting Shek Wai Kok Estate and the area around Hoi Pa Resite Village off Yi Pei Chun Road to carry out grass cutting upon receipt of complaints about mosquito infestation. He hoped that the departments concerned would continue to make an effort to reduce the nuisance caused by mosquito infestation to nearby residents.

92. Mr MAN Yu-ming said that mosquito infestation had caused distress to the residents in his constituency for a long time. He thanked the HD, FEHD and LCSD for their efforts in mosquito control, of which the results were well-recognised and commendable. In addition, he pointed out that the moist soil in Shing Mun Valley Park rendered the infestation of biting minges difficult to cope with. The principals and teachers of the schools nearby had also made complaints about the problem. Hence, he suggested that apart from keeping in view the anti-mosquito work, the LCSD should also enhance its effort in controlling the infestation of biting minges. Besides, due to the blockage of drains and overgrown vegetation, mosquito infestation was severe at the squatters in Tai Kiu Tau Tsuen, Wo Yi Hop Lane. Although officers of the departments concerned had carried out clearance work at the said location, the growth of weeds was rapid and the hygiene there was poor. Hence, he suggested that staff of the TWDO and Members should visit the location together for an on-site inspection.

93. Mr YAU Kam-ping thanked Members for their concern over the mosquito infestation in the district and the departments for their efforts in carrying out anti-mosquito work.

94. The Chairman said that the FEHD could institute prosecution against households responsible for the accumulation of stagnant water at rooftops and water

dripping from air-conditioners, and suggested that the departments concerned should send officers to inspect the spots infested with mosquitoes pointed out by Members. He was also concerned about the severe rodent infestation in the district and pointed out that 13 out of the 14 cases of rat Hepatitis E virus (HEV) around the world were found in Hong Kong. He thus suggested that the FEHD should enhance its anti-rodent work and deploy its resources exclusively to the expansion of the current designated target areas for anti-rodent operations to minimise successful escapes of rodents. Besides, he suggested that government departments should draw reference from the FEHD's experience and adopt the new-type mosquito trapping device in areas under the management of the HD, HKHS and LandsD. He also suggested that the relevant departments should arrange for Members to inspect large-scale anti-rodent operations and the application of the new-type fogging devices for mosquito control in addition to following up on Members' concerns.

(Note: Mr CHAN Sung-ip left the meeting at 3:51 p.m.)

XIII Item 12: The Operation and the Way Forward of Tsuen Wan District Management Committee Since Commencement of the Current District Council Term

(TWDC Paper No. 46/20-21)

95. The Chairman stated that Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio submitted the paper. The representative from the department responsible for giving response was Mr KWONG Chi-wing, Denis, Senior Executive Officer (District Management) of the TWDO.

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

(Note: Mr YAU Kam-ping left the meeting at 3:52 p.m.)

97. Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio pointed out that there were "parent-like officials" in ancient times. The former Chief Executive intended to make the 18 District Officers the "junior chief executives" of the respective districts. Although this idea failed to materialise in the end, it sufficiently reflected the importance the Government attached to District Officers. Among numerous officials from departments at the district level, District Officers ranked first in order of precedence. They were also highest paid. The remuneration of a District Officer was at least more than twice as much as that of a DC Chairman. District Officers were the deputy heads of District Offices. The Government established the predecessor of District Office from the 1960s to the early 1970s with an aim to enhance communication between officials and people and to solve district issues. At the very beginning, the office was called "理民府" ("District Office") and the respective officer was called "理民官" ("District Officer"). The office later developed into "民政司署" ("Home Affairs Department") and then "政務處" ("District Office") headed by "政務專員" ("District Officer"). Finally, they evolved into the present "民政處" ("District Office") and "民政事務專員" ("District Officer") respectively. Moreover, the District Management Committees (DMCs) were initially comprised of the heads of other major departments in the respective districts. The objective of establishing the DMCs was to tackle difficult old major issues in the districts by coordinating relevant departments. In the mid-1990s, the

Government invited DC Chairmen to attend DMC meetings of the respective districts. Given the development to date, the official members of DMCs included the Chairmen, Vice Chairmen and committee Chairmen of the respective DCs. He enquired of District Officer (Tsuen Wan) when the Tsuen Wan District Management Committee (TWDMC) convened the last meeting and why it still had not convened any meeting since the commencement of the current DC term. He opined that while District Officer (Tsuen Wan) had considerable resources and manpower at her disposal and substantial powers were vested in her, she was out of touch with livelihood issues and unaware of people's hardship. He did not think that District Officer (Tsuen Wan) had made an effort to learn about and attempt to tackle difficult old major issues in the district. Besides, he enquired about the number of on-site inspections conducted by District Officer (Tsuen Wan) on difficult old major issues in the district between 2019 and 2020, the locations of on-site inspections and the issues addressed.

98. Mr TAM Hoi-pong said he was unfamiliar with the operation of the TWDMC because he did not serve as Chairman of any committee in the last DC term. However, having served as Chairman of the EHCCC in the current DC term for more than eight months, he had never learnt of the meeting schedule of the TWDMC. He was also unclear about the terms of reference of the TWDMC. He anticipated that the terms of reference of the TWDMC probably included tackling district problems involving multiple departments and therefore enquired about the role the TWDMC could play in this regard. Taking the problem in relation to display spots for Members' banners as an example, he said that the LandsD failed to designate display spots for banners whereas the FEHD often removed banners from permitted display spots. The TWDMC might be able to assist in solving this problem. Citing another example of the lack of a rain shelter at the staircase of the footbridge connecting KOLOUR•Tsuen Wan with Tsuen Fung Shopping Arcade, he said that as the location involved multiple departments and even the buildings nearby, he was uncertain whether the TWDMC could help solve the problem. Finally, he opined that Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan) participated in the coordination work more frequently. The roles of Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan) and District Officer (Tsuen Wan) overlapped excessively. Hence, he advised that District Officer (Tsuen Wan) should conduct on-site inspections with Members on problems involving multiple departments in Tsuen Wan district.

99. Mr CHIU Yan-loy said that he was Chairman of the Traffic and Transport Committee under the TWDC. However, he had not been informed of the meeting schedule of the TWDMC so far. Also, he was unclear whether the TWDMC would be abolished in the current term because the practice differed from that in the past. He opined that the representatives from departments would answer Members' enquiries at TWDC meetings currently. The departments might subsequently send staff to conduct on-site inspections and formulate necessary measures to solve the problems. However, when encountering a difficult old major issue, Members might have to put forth the issue at a TWDMC meeting so that the representatives from the relevant government departments who attended the meeting could examine solutions to the issue. Moreover, as ownership issues were involved in the lack of a rain shelter at the staircase of the footbridge connecting KOLOUR•Tsuen Wan with Tsuen Fung Shopping Arcade, the government departments concerned were unable to

provide a solution. Nevertheless, as this problem had remained unresolved for long, he hoped that the TWDMC would convene its first meeting as soon as possible.

100. Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus said that no matter it was a major complex issue (e.g. request for stringent regulation of the procedures for installing radio base stations for mobile communications or the universal community testing programme) or a simple issue (e.g. water seepage problem), inter-departmental coordination and communication were often required. Whenever Members put forth agenda items at meetings, they had to deal with the problems solely with their own effort. In this connection, he enquired about the reasons why the TWDMC still failed to convene a meeting.

101. Senior Executive Officer (District Management) of the TWDO responded as follows:

- (1) the situation of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) was severe. To reduce social contact and stop COVID-19 from spreading in the community, the Government adopted the special work arrangement in early 2020. While government employees should work from home, the Government continued to provide emergency and essential public services as well as basic and limited-scale public services. Many meetings should also be rescheduled or suspended;
- (2) to stop COVID-19 from spreading and safeguard the health of meeting attendees, the DMCs of many districts had suspended or postponed their meetings between January and July 2020. Given that the epidemic eased later, the TWDMC originally planned to convene a meeting in August 2020. Unfortunately, the epidemic figures fluctuated again during July and August 2020 and the situation was worse than before. It was necessary for the Government to take measures to significantly reduce the flow of people and social contact in order to stop COVID-19 from further spreading in the community. The Government arranged government employees to work from home again and inevitably, the TWDMC meeting originally scheduled for August 2020 should be postponed again;
- (3) the epidemic was easing at present. He anticipated that a TWDMC meeting could be scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2020; and
- (4) the last TWDMC meeting was held in August 2019.

102. District Officer (Tsuen Wan) of the TWDO responded as follows:

- (1) the TWDO had all along been maintaining liaison with other departments to follow up on district issues, including the lack of a rain shelter at the staircase of the footbridge connecting KOLOUR•Tsuen Wan with Tsuen Fung Shopping Arcade. It might not be necessary to convene a meeting to discuss these issues, but the relevant departments still needed some time to collect information; and
- (2) the epidemic was ongoing at present. After considering the health risk posed to Members and government officials, the TWDMC had no choice but to slightly postpone its meeting.

103. Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio said that since the TWDC had convened meetings amid the epidemic, he did not accept the TWDO's explanation that the TWDMC failed to convene a meeting due to the epidemic. Besides, according to the website of the HAD, the roles of a District Officer included serving as a link between the DC and government departments and resolving district problems through inter-departmental consultation and co-operation. The functions of a DMC included providing a forum for government departments to discuss and resolve district problems, responding positively to the advice and requests of the DC and assisting the Council to perform its role effectively. In his opinion, the TWDMC should convene meetings on a bi-monthly basis. He proposed that difficult old major issues in the district should be included in the "Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meetings" in the agenda of the meeting of the TWDMC for continuous discussion. The TWDMC should also regularly report to the TWDC on the progress in tackling those issues according to the relevant mechanism until the issues were resolved. Finally, he hoped that District Officer (Tsuen Wan) would promptly convene a TWDMC meeting and looked forward to receiving the agenda of the meeting.

104. The Chairman stated that the Government postponed meetings in view of health risk posed to meeting attendees. However, he pointed out that this was already the fifth meeting of the TWDC and a number of special meetings, committee meetings and working group meetings had also been held earlier. Representatives from departments attended all those meetings. Besides, although Members' views could be conveyed to government departments through District Officer (Tsuen Wan), it would be more desirable if Chairmen of committees could directly engage in dialogues with representatives from government departments at TWDMC meetings. Therefore, he opined that the TWDMC should convene a meeting as soon as possible.

XIV Item 13: Request for Stringent Regulation of the Procedures for Installing Radio Base Stations for Mobile Communications
(TWDC Paper No. 68/20-21)

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

- (1) Miss LO Pui-yiu, Sapphire, District Lands Officer/Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing), LandsD;
- (2) Mr CHEN Wai-kuen, Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing), LandsD;
- (3) Mr TSUI Ka-kim, Kim, Senior Building Surveyor/D5, Buildings Department (BD);
- (4) Mr CHENG Man-lon, Mark, Senior Building Services Engineer/Wong Tai Sin, Tsing Yi and Tsuen Wan, HD; and
- (5) Mr CHOW Chun-hun, Gary, Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan), TWDO.

Besides, the joint written reply of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) and Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) as well as the written replies of the Fire Services Department (FSD), Planning Department (PlanD), HD and Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) were tabled at the meeting.

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

107. Mr LAU Cheuk-yu said that Members occasionally received written replies on various issues from departments via the Secretariat. The departments often indicated in the written replies that the issues fell beyond their terms of reference. The EMSD's written reply on the captioned matter was one of such replies. According to the principle of environmental protection, he proposed that the Secretariat should refrain from forwarding this type of replies to Members or should only invite departments to give replies after checking their respective terms of reference so as to avoid wasting paper. Moreover, he pointed out the proliferation of antennas at buildings in Tsuen Wan town centre. The residents were worried because the antennas were in close proximity to the residential areas. Hence, he enquired about the complaint figures on antennas in Tsuen Wan district; how the public could distinguish between antennas which were legally installed and those which were not; and how they could obtain the related data.

108. Mr CHIU Yan-loy opined that the issue of antennas had all along been a subject of public concern. In the light of community development, there was a need for mobile network operators to construct radio base stations of the fifth generation (5G) mobile network in order to provide 5G services for the public. When applying for installation of radio base stations, a telecommunications provider was only required to obtain the consent of building owners. Usually, the application would be approved in about three months and the works for installing radio base stations could commence afterwards. Besides, some major telecommunications providers in Hong Kong would separately lure different owners of a building into repetitive installations of the same type of radio base station within the building, which was against the principle of environmental protection. As such, he proposed that the Government should regulate such installations and provide ancillary facilities with a view to boosting cost-effectiveness and reducing waste of resources. In addition, he pointed out that some building owners charged license fees for frequently used radio base stations. He enquired whether such practice was regulated under the law and involved changes in land use, and whether the views of residents in the areas concerned had been sought accordingly.

109. Ms CHAN Kim-kam said that the development density of Tsuen Wan district was relatively high and the number of new residential buildings was also on the rise. Hence, she was very concerned about the impacts on residents brought by radio base stations. She suggested conducting a systematic survey on the locations, quantities and distribution of radio base stations in the district so as to review the number of radio base stations required in the future as well as the vetting and approval arrangements. Besides, she proposed that residents should be informed of the works of installing radio base stations for a better understanding of the outcome and impact of the works.

110. The Chairman said that currently, there was no scientific evidence that radio base stations would affect human health. Nevertheless, the installation of excessive radio base stations at buildings would not only cause psychological stress on residents nearby but would also have an adverse visual impact on buildings. Also, the possible fall of radio base stations might cause accidents during the tropical cyclone season. As such, it was necessary to review the locations of radio base stations and

ensure that radio base stations were securely installed and had no impact on residents. Besides, he enquired how the public could lodge complaints with the departments about safety problems of radio base stations.

111. District Lands Officer/Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing) of the LandsD responded as follows:

- (1) the LandsD regulated private land in accordance with land lease conditions. Different land leases had different restrictions on development purpose, height and floor area because they were vetted and approved at different times;
- (2) in general, the dimensions of a radio base station and an antenna for mobile communications were about 5 metres (length) x 4.5 metres (width) x 3.5 metres (height) and 0.6 metres (length) x 0.6 metres (width) x 2.5 metres (height) respectively. These facilities were usually regarded as commercial facilities. If radio base stations were installed for the sole use of households of the same residential building, they would be regarded as being in ancillary use but not commercial use at the building. However, if the radio base stations served a larger area instead of solely serving the households of the same building, they would be regarded as being in commercial use. Regarding Chuen Yiu Lau on Chung On Street as mentioned in the captioned paper, only non-industrial uses were permitted at Chuen Yiu Lau according to the land lease conditions. Therefore, the installation of radio base stations and facilities for mobile communications at Chuen Yiu Lau did not constitute a violation of land lease conditions;
- (3) if the installation of telecommunications facilities constituted a violation of the land lease conditions, the owner of premises should apply for a temporary waiver from the LandsD in order to relax the relevant conditions in the land lease. After receiving an application for temporary waiver, the LandsD would consult the OFCA according to the current “one-stop application arrangement” of the OFCA and vet the application upon approval from the OFCA. The LandsD was not required to consult other departments. Nevertheless, the facilities under application should also meet the requirements laid down by other relevant departments, for example, the statutory regulatory requirements of the FSD and BD; and
- (4) over the past three years, the LandsD had never received any enquiry or complaint on radiation safety from members of the community. As far as she knew, a LegCo Member had previously requested that a government department should collect data on radiation safety issues inter-departmentally and so the OFCA currently collected enquiry and complaint figures on radiation safety relating to radio base stations for mobile communications from relevant departments every three months.

112. Senior Building Surveyor/D5 of the BD responded as follows:

- (1) regarding the case at Chuen Yiu Lau, the BD replied to the Member concerned in writing on 18 September 2020. The BD apologised for the delay in handling the case owing to the epidemic;

- (2) the BD had sent its staff to conduct an inspection at Chuen Yiu Lau. It was found during the inspection that the supporting frames for the radio base station antenna posed no imminent danger. Generally speaking, the supporting frames for radio base station antennas and facilities were regarded as amenity facilities for the public. If the said facilities were not under construction or posed no imminent danger, the BD would adopt a relatively lenient approach to handle the facilities, i.e. the BD would take appropriate enforcement action having regard to the actual circumstances only during large-scale operations; and
- (3) the installation of supporting frames for radio base station antennas and facilities was categorised as minor works. There were three classes of minor works in total. An applicant for Class I minor works or Class II minor works should submit a Notice of Commencement seven days before commencement of works, whereas an applicant for Class III minor works was only required to submit a Certificate of Completion within 14 days after completing the works as proof of completion. The BD would conduct random checks on documents and implementation of minor works. If non-compliances of minor works contractors were found, the BD would take appropriate action including instituting prosecutions and taking disciplinary action.

113. Senior Building Services Engineer/Wong Tai Sin, Tsing Yi and Tsuen Wan of the HD responded that having given a written reply on the captioned matter, the HD had nothing to add.

114. Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan) of the TWDO responded that the TWDO would readily provide assistance for government departments in conducting district consultation work with respect to the facilities concerned.

115. Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus said that according to the LandsD, approval should be obtained from the OFCA for installing radio base stations at private buildings according to the “one-stop application arrangement”. He thus opined that the OFCA was duty bound to send representatives to attend the meeting and discuss the captioned matter. Besides, the CEDB and OFCA indicated in their joint written reply that a total of about 700 enquiries and complaints on radiation safety of radio base stations in different areas had been received over the past three years. About one-seventh of these enquiries and complaints were made by him. He enquired why the OFCA had directly adopted the non-ionising radiation limits recommended by the International Commission on Non-ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) as the radiation safety standards for radio base stations without fine-tuning them based on the physical environment of Hong Kong. He also pointed out that the OFCA and relevant departments should properly prosecute offenders who failed to heed repeated warnings, especially those who had installed radio base stations before the implementation of the “one-stop application arrangement”. The OFCA should properly institute prosecution against offenders who did not heed repeated warnings. Besides, he was pleased to note that the BD would conduct investigations and take appropriate action (e.g. instituting prosecutions and taking disciplinary action) against minor works contractors in confirmed cases of violation of the regulations. He enquired about the prosecution figures and the timetable for reviewing unauthorised

building works. Regarding the case at Chuen Yiu Lau, he said that except for the household concerned, all households objected to installing the radio base station and lodged a complaint with him on the situation through the OC.

116. The Chairman regretted that the OFCA failed to send representatives to attend the meeting. Members' views would be recorded and conveyed to the government departments which had not sent representatives to attend the meeting so that the departments could answer Members' enquiries in due course.

XV Item 14: "Concern about Tenants of Subdivided Flats in Tsuen Wan District, and a Request that the Government Should Introduce Legislation and Policy on Tenancy Management to Protect Subdivided Flat Tenants"
(TWDC Paper No. 69/20-21)

117. The Chairman said that Mr WONG Ka-wa and the Vice Chairman submitted the paper. The written reply of the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) was tabled at the meeting.

118. Mr WONG Ka-wa and the Vice Chairman introduced the paper.

119. Mr WONG Ka-wa moved a motion that "request the Government to introduce legislation on tenancy control so that the 'level of initial rate, rate of rent increase and tenants' priority right in tenancy renewal' would be regulated to benefit the residents in Tsuen Wan district". The Vice Chairman seconded.

120. The Chairman asked whether Members would move a revised motion. No Member moved a revised motion.

121. Mr CHIU Yan-loy pointed out that tenancy control was introduced to Hong Kong in 1921. It stipulated that when renewing tenancy agreements, tenants should enjoy the priority right in tenancy renewal, the rate of rent increase should not exceed 30%, and the flat rental should not be higher than 90% of the prevailing market rents. The legislation was then repealed in 1998 upon the handover of sovereignty, resulting in today's unreasonably high rents for subdivided flats. In this connection, he agreed that tenancy control should be re-introduced. In addition, there were other serious problems as regards the subdivided flats. For instance, tenants might be overcharged for the use of water and electricity and be forced to move out any time. All these conditions made the grassroots feel very anxious. Hence, he strived for the re-introduction of legislation on tenancy control with a view to putting an end to the harsh tenancy terms in Tsuen Wan district as well as in Hong Kong.

122. Mr MAN Yu-ming supported the motion. In his opinion, the existence of subdivided flats was a satirical joke about Hong Kong as well as a reflection of the housing condition of the lowest strata of society. It was heart-breaking to learn that not only was the rent of the subdivided flats exorbitant but the living environment was also very poor. He had communicated with the scholars and learnt that subdivided flats might continue to exist for a very long time. In this connection, he opined that introducing legislation on tenancy control was necessary in order to safeguard the basic interests of the grassroots. Besides, he thought that other housing policies such as provision of transitional housing and expedition of the redevelopment of public

rental housing (PRH) estates were of equal importance. He hoped that these policies would enable applicants waiting for a PRH flat to be allocated one as soon as possible. As far as he knew, quite a number of tenants of subdivided flats were waiting also for PRH. They amounted to around 80 000 applications and the waiting time was more than three years.

123. Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris supported tenant control in principle and thought that tenants, whether residing in subdivided flats or not, were at a more disadvantaged position when it came to negotiation and thus could easily feel anxious. However, considering the background of the repeal of the legislation in question in Hong Kong at that time as well as the positive and adverse effects brought about by the implementation of tenancy control in various places in the world, he opined that a more in-depth study about the formulation of tenancy terms should be conducted. Given tenants' weaker bargaining power, the Administration should consider introducing legislation regulating the water and electricity charges borne by tenants to prevent overcharging.

124. Mr LAM Sek-tim agreed with the motion and pointed out that there were a large number of subdivided flats, and even worse cubicle bedspaces, in Tsuen Wan district, especially in the vicinity of the town centre. The tenants, however, could not receive any protection in spite of the high rents that they had to afford. In most cases, when problems were identified in subdivided flats, there was no way for the tenants to contact the landlords and ask them to handle the issues. Hence, he opined that besides the implementation of tenancy control, protection should also be provided to the tenants of subdivided flats and cubicle bedspaces to improve the poor hygiene of these two types of dwellings.

125. Mr LAU Chi-hung supported the motion. He thought that dedicated policies should be made specifically for the tenants of subdivided flats. Besides, he opined that relevant studies on the provision of rental subsidies as previously suggested by some scholars could indeed be conducted, but action should be taken promptly. Tenants of the subdivided flats were not only underprivileged, but were also without bargaining power. The interior of their dwellings was certainly poor, but the environment and ancillary facilities surrounding the dwellings were also highly problematic. For instance, the environment near Tsuen Wan Market was very poor.

126. Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy thought that the TWDO had double standards when handling territory-wide and legislative issues because the captioned item, though about territory-wide legislation, was nevertheless allowed to be added to the agenda. In his opinion, Members were entitled to relay the true voices in the district at the meetings. Hence, agenda items, whether they were related to politics, legislation or policies, should all be allowed for discussion at the meetings of the TWDC. Besides, he supported the proposed re-activation of the legislative process to implement tenancy control. In his opinion, the Government should handle this type of major problem through legislation. However, it should also prevent undesirable counter-effects such as an extremely high level of initial rent.

127. Mr LAU Jackson thought that the issue of subdivided flats was controversial, and there were also many tenants of subdivided flats in his constituency. As the issue of subdivided flats was difficult to eradicate, the solutions available were the redevelopment of old districts and provision of additional PRH estates. In addition, given that landlords often made up all sorts of pretexts and overcharged the tenants for the use of water and electricity, he was concerned that landlords would become harsher upon implementation of tenancy control. Some overseas examples showed that, upon implementation of tenancy control by the government, landlords tended to be selective about tenants, rendering it more difficult for the underprivileged to rent a flat than before and thus forcing the underprivileged to move in remoter and worse flats. At the same time, due to the limitation on rental income, landlords refused to carry out maintenance works for their flats, thereby decreasing social mobility and lowering the quality of housing. He suggested that the Government should study various ways of enhancing regulation during future discussions, and prevent a decline in the quality of life of the underprivileged in the community in the long term.

128. Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio supported the motion. He had chatted with a tenant of a subdivided flat in the morning and learnt that the rent for the said flat, measuring 100 square feet, was surprisingly more than \$4,000. Worse still, the landlord raised the flat rental at will every year and overcharged the tenant for the use of electricity, which was extremely unreasonable.

129. The Chairman said that Members had visited the dwellings of the grassroots. According to their observations, tenants of the subdivided flats not only had to live in a narrow space, but also had to share toilets and dining areas with other people. In one of the cases, the landlord even refused to carry out maintenance works in spite of serious water seepage identified in the subdivided flat concerned. Although Hong Kong was different from the underdeveloped regions in the developing world, it surprisingly suffered from a mismatching problem of subdivided flats, and tenants were forced to put up with the hefty rents and management fees because of a lack of bargaining power.

130. Mr WONG Ka-wa urged the TWDC to relay Members' views to the THB or Task Force for the Study on Tenancy Control of Subdivided Units in writing. Besides, there were media reports that children living in subdivided flats had a heavier sense of inferiority than children living in PRH estates and other buildings. Thus, in spite of the Government's inability to construct PRH estates immediately, he urged the Government to step up its effort in improving the environment of the subdivided flats such as their size and hygiene to avert a negative impact on the growth and development of our future leaders, and overall social development.

131. Mr WONG Ka-wa proposed an open ballot. Members agreed to the proposal.

132. The Chairman invited Members to vote on the motion. The voting result was as follows:

For (a total of 16 votes)

The Vice Chairman, Mr MAN Yu-ming, Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris, Mr SHUM Lester, Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus, Mr LAM Sek-tim, Ms CHAN Kim-kam, Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio, Mr WONG Ka-wa, Mr KOT Siu-yuen, Mr CHIU Yan-loy, Mr LAU Chi-hung, Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy, Mr LAI Man-fai, Mr TSE Man-chak and Mr TAM Hoi-pong

Against (a total of 0 vote)

Abstention (a total of 2 votes)

Mr LAU Cheuk-yu and Mr LAU Jackson

133. The Chairman declared that the motion was carried.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat conveyed the motion to the THB in writing on 28 September 2020, and conveyed Members' views in writing on 22 October 2020.)

134. The Chairman said that due to the limited time of provision of the simultaneous interpretation service, agenda items 19, 20, 21 and 22 would be discussed first.

XVI Item 19: Crime Brief for Tsuen Wan District – Comparison of Crime Statistics between May to June 2020 and May to June 2019, and Item 20: Crime Brief for Tsuen Wan District – Comparison of Crime Statistics between July 2020 and July 2019

(TWDC Paper No. 49/20-21 and TWDC Paper No. 74/20-21)

135. District Commander (Tsuen Wan) of the HKPF reported on the crime situation of Tsuen Wan district.

136. Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio thanked District Commander (Tsuen Wan) for meticulously following up on the various issues he had put forth, particularly the management of the streets of old areas in Tsuen Wan and illegal shop extensions. He noted that the Police stepped up enforcement action in conjunction with the FEHD in the past two months. Although the offenders of the shops concerned would restore their goods to the illegal positions upon the conclusion of the enforcement operation, he firmly believed that the Police's persevering effort in enforcement would bear fruit someday. Additionally, he asked District Commander (Tsuen Wan) to follow up on three issues: first, prostitution activities at Ho Pui Street and Chuen Lung Street; second, goods vehicles illegally parked on the pavement of Fui Yiu Kok Street, which could cause pedestrians bypassing them to be injured by other vehicles (as the goods vehicles could obstruct the sight lines of such pedestrians or other motorists), or cause injuries to passers-by when reversing on the pavement; third, residents' proposal for setting up police roadblocks from 2 a.m. to 3 a.m. and from 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. to tackle the problem of speeding in Tsuen Wan in the small hours of the morning.

137. Mr MAN Yu-ming said that he recently learnt from the press that the Police had been sparing no effort in tackling various issues, including handling more than 1 000 cases of illegal parking. Obstruction to traffic had been a serious problem for Tsuen Wan district. He agreed that the Police should step up their enforcement actions and issue fixed penalty tickets to illegally parked vehicles. He also noted the Police's successful detection of certain illegal sexual transactions and arrest of a woman through an undercover operation. Despite the success, he asked the Police to take one step further and proceed to smash the syndicate behind the prostitution activities rather than concentrating on individual cases.

138. Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris said Tsuen Wan Rural was one of the constituencies with the lowest crime rates. However, its remoteness rendered it susceptible to burglary. As far as he knew, in just three days in early September, a burglary occurred at Sea Crest Villa, followed by a suspected burglary at Hong Kong Garden. Seeing this as an alarming issue, he enquired about what measures the Police would take to prevent and combat such crimes so as to protect residents and their properties.

139. Mr LAM Sek-tim remarked that the Police would from time to time send him SMS messages advising him of on-going follow-up actions against illegal parking and illegal shop extensions around Ho Pui Street and Chuen Lung Street. When he arrived at those locations for an on-the-spot view, however, he would often find a resurgence of the illegal activities one or two hours after the conclusion of police operations. He therefore asked the Police to repeat its previous strategy of stationing police vehicles at the above locations for extended periods of time for effective deterrence. Earlier on, he witnessed the fall of an aluminium window from a flat straight to the ground on Ho Pui Street, and saw police officers arriving at the scene to handle the incident. Although an Emergency Unit vehicle was deployed to the same location to handle the case, the police officers on board surprisingly took no action to proactively tackle the illegal shop extensions at Ho Pui Street until someone reported the shop extensions to the Police. He therefore demanded an explanation from the HKPF.

140. Ms CHAN Kim-kam remarked that the Police would use orange cordon lines to cordon off large areas during each crowd dispersal operation, and would issue tickets to anyone within the cordoned areas for violating the prohibition on group gathering. She herself was also issued a ticket for violating the prohibition on group gathering while discharging her duties as District Councillor by appearing at the scene of crowd dispersal alone to offer her support. She enquired about what clear guidelines or specific practice the HKPF had adopted to ensure that frontline police officers fully understood the specific details of enforcement action under the prohibition on group gathering. Separately, she noted that the Police had been progressively installing close circuit television (CCTV) systems at private buildings in Tsuen Wan. She enquired about whether the Police had formulated any guidelines explicating the procedure for installing CCTV systems, whether installation works could commence simply with the consent of owners, and whether the public had the right to know the locations in Tsuen Wan district where CCTV systems had been installed by the Police.

141. Mr WONG Ka-wa stated that compared with July 2019, the crime figures for July 2020 showed a significant surge in several types of crime, including shop theft, blackmail and deception. With the economic situation worsening, a corresponding increase in the number of offenders was expected. Despite that, he could not see any deployment of police officers to the famous “jewellery shop street” in Tsuen Wan. While noting that relevant departments would take enforcement action against illegal gambling, he still requested an increase in the frequency of enforcement actions lest people should gather to gamble and affect other members of the public without regard to the prohibition on group gathering currently in force.

142. Mr KOT Siu-yuen commended the Police for their recent work in nearly two months. He pointed out that he saw the Police conducting their operation against illegal gambling activities on upper floors and successfully arresting many gamblers when he passed by Chuen Lung Street at night. He also said that the problem of domestic helpers' gathering at Lo Tak Court was a cause for concern for residents in the constituency, although the problem was not as serious as that on footbridges in Mong Kok. Starting from August, the Police Community Relations Office had been distributing publicity leaflets in the district on a weekly basis to appeal to the public to reduce gatherings on Sundays and public holidays. In mid-August, the Police even commenced a joint operation with other departments to handle relevant issues. He expressed his gratitude to the Police for the above work, and hoped the Police would continue to take enforcement action in relation to such issues.

143. Mr CHIU Yan-loy noted that the Police conducted operations to combat illegal gambling last month. During these operations, however, no violation of the prohibition on group gathering was involved. He thus enquired of the Police about the criteria for issuing tickets for violation of the prohibition on group gathering. Moreover, the theft of vehicles was very serious in his constituency area in July 2020. The crime scenes included the car park at Allway Gardens, and Route Twisk, and he was not sure whether these two cases had been detected. In addition, he was concerned about the law and order in the rural areas. He also pointed out that a spate of burglaries had recently happened at Route Twisk Villa on Route Twisk. He therefore enquired whether the Police would take follow-up actions. He hoped that the Police would also promptly explain the investigation progress of the aforesaid cases so as to put the mind of nearby residents at ease.

144. Mr LAU Chi-hung pointed out that the problem of illegal road racing remained unresolved in Sham Tseng. The peak periods of illegal road racing activities were from 1:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m., especially on weekends as well as during and before public holidays. He suggested that the Police should set up roadblocks during the said periods. Moreover, there was an increase in online fraud cases recently. He had also received a request for assistance with respect to online fraud. According to the person seeking assistance, the Police did not accept the case or made a lot of excuses when the person reported the case. He hoped that the Police would pay attention in this regard.

145. Mr LAU Cheuk-yu said he wished to commend the Police Force. However, the overall crime statistics in July 2020 and between May and June 2020 increased by about 50% and 30% respectively compared with those of 2019. Hence, he hoped that District Commander (Tsuen Wan) would put forth solutions to address the surge in crimes. Moreover, Tsuen Wan Police Station was situated in his constituency area. It was found that Tsuen Wan Police Station was installed with CCTV cameras pointing at the residential area. He thus enquired about the reasons for installing these CCTV cameras and whether they would invade personal privacy. In addition, the site next to Tsuen Wan Police Station was granted to the Police by way of temporary government land allocation (TGLA). As the five-year TGLA had already expired, he enquired why the site was still being used by the Police. He hoped that the TWDO would explain to the HKPF the difference between the TWDC and TWDFCC. He considered that the HKPF's reply was an insult to elected District Councillors.

146. Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy deeply regretted that the representatives of the Police and government departments had left the venue of the meeting earlier. In his opinion, the Police should review the incident of firing tear gas canisters at Caritas Jockey Club Tsuen Wan Social Service Building on 5 August 2019. Moreover, he did not understand why the Police could selectively disclose its internal codes of practice or law enforcement guidelines. For instance, while the Police would disclose the guidelines on law enforcement against illegal parking, it refused to explain the guidelines on the use of tear gas or crowd-control weapons to the public. He hoped that the HKPF would face up to the relevant issues.

147. Mr LAU Jackson said he had issued a letter to the HKPF earlier to point out the problem of drug abuse at Hau Tei Square. He hoped that the Police would promptly tackle the problem so that the public and the shop operators would be relieved. Moreover, he opined that the Police recently paid exceptional attention to the on-street booths set up by District Councillors. Police officers would approach him and raise enquiries every time he set up an on-street booth. He did not mind cooperating with the Police, but he hoped that police officers would be courteous at all times whilst on duty with a view to maintaining the image of the Police.

148. Mr LAI Man-fai was amazed at the small number of illegal gambling cases set out in the Crime Brief. He further pointed out that the problem of illegal gambling was very serious at the public housing estates (e.g. Fuk Loi Estate, Shek Wai Kok Estate, Cheung Shan Estate and Lei Muk Shue Estate) in Tsuen Wan district. In his opinion, the small number of such cases reflected the inadequacy of police enforcement actions. He hoped that the Police would enhance their enforcement actions. Regarding the incident of 5 August 2019, he opined that although the Police could refuse to give an explanation to the TWDC, it should explain the incident to the staff and elders at Caritas Jockey Club Tsuen Wan Social Service Building.

149. Mr TAM Hoi-pong said it was stipulated in the Police Force Ordinance (Cap. 232) that a police officer should only search a person when reasonably suspecting that the person had committed or was about to commit an offence. However, police officers had been randomly searching young people on the streets in Tsuen Wan district over the past six months. In his opinion, this practice violated the Police Force Ordinance but the Police had never conducted a review on it. Furthermore, although many vehicles were illegally parked outside Yeung Uk Road Market on Saturdays and Sundays, the Police failed to deploy sufficient manpower to take prosecution action. As a result, the said location was choked with traffic. He thus enquired whether the Police had misallocated its manpower.

150. Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus opined that the Police adopted inconsistent criteria when taking enforcement actions against violation of the prohibition on group gathering. Besides, he enquired about the HKPF's method of supervision for ascertaining whether frontline police officers showed basic courtesy to the public when conducting stop-and-searches or requesting members of the public to assist in investigations. He further pointed out when people reporting cases of online fraud to the Police were not accompanied by District Councillors, some police officers would refuse to accept the cases; however, if District Councillors were present, the police officers would take follow-up actions. Thus, he enquired whether the Police would

reprimand the police officers concerned and request them to explain the reasons for refusing to accept the cases. He also pointed out that the Police seldom followed up on cases of illegal parking at night, and enquired about the Police's criteria for towing away illegally parked vehicles. Finally, the Police undertook in February or March 2020 that it would conduct a joint enforcement operation against illegal road racing with the EPD and TD, but no relevant arrangements had been made so far. Noting that speed enforcement cameras would be installed at Castle Peak Road - Kwai Chung (commonly known as "upper road"), he enquired of the Police about its progress in planning the joint operation, and how it would tackle the illegal road racing along the section of Castle Peak Road from the Tsuen Wan section to the Castle Peak Bay section (commonly known as "lower road").

151. The Chairman pointed out the severe problem of illegal gambling at Lei Muk Shue Estate. Moreover, the commercial activities at Kwok Shui Road gave rise to persistent traffic congestion in nearby areas. He had relayed the problem to the Police in person and also through the TWDO. Members of the Social Service and Community Development Committee (SSCDC) discussed the agenda item "Concern about Consumers' Rights and Request for Combating Online Fraud through Strict Regulation" at its latest meeting. However, the HKPF claimed that it was unable to assign representatives to attend the meeting because the SSCDC was only concerned with welfare, education and community affairs. The HKPF indicated in its written reply that all matters on fighting crime should be discussed at the meetings of the TWDFCC. However, as the Member who raised such a matter might not serve on the TWDFCC, he or she might not be able to relay the problem to the Police. As such, he opined that even if it was a meeting of a committee under the TWDC, the HKPF should assign representatives to attend the meeting as long as Members' agenda items complied with the terms of reference of the TWDC. Finally, if the HKPF was unable to give response to Members' enquiries on the spot, it could request the Police Community Relations Office to contact the relevant Members for follow-up after the meeting.

152. Mr LUK Ling-chung, Antonio enquired whether District Officer (Tsuen Wan) of the TWDO would return to the Main Conference Room.

153. Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan) of the TWDO responded that District Officer (Tsuen Wan) had to leave the Main Conference Room at times due to office commitments. Meanwhile, the TWDO's staff present at the meeting would record the discussion and report it to District Officer (Tsuen Wan) in due course.

154. District Commander (Tsuen Wan) of the HKPF responded as follows:

- (1) there were two cases of burglary at Sea Crest Villa in the said report period, and another case was reported in September 2020. After investigation, the HKPF found that these cases shared one thing in common—the burglars all entered the residential flats to commit burglary through the toilet windows after climbing over the outer walls. In order to prevent crimes, the officers of the HKPF had visited the management office of the said housing estate and tendered advice on security to the relevant staff. For the sake of publicity and education, police officers had also been distributing promotional leaflets in the vicinity of Tsing Lung Tau on six occasions. The Police would

continue to take the above actions. At the same time, uniformed police officers were deployed to the black spots of burglary in the vicinity to conduct high-profile patrols so as to enhance the deterrent effect. Besides, the Rural Area Patrol Team would also conduct patrols at the hillside on a regular basis to prevent burglary;

- (2) deception cases accounted for about a quarter of the overall crime figures in Tsuen Wan district. In the first seven months of 2020, there were a total of 278 cases of online deception reported in Tsuen Wan District, in which 188 cases were related to e-shopping, accounting for 68% of the total number of online deception cases, and 6 of them were successfully detected. In the first six months of 2020, the overall number of cases reported across the territory totalled over 4 000, compared with just 2 962 for the same period in 2019. The number of cases in Tsuen Wan district in 2020 showed an increase of 139 cases when compared with the same period of 2019, and the increase was in line with the current social situation. Given the fact that the deception cases as regards e-shopping were in general territory-wide in nature with victims from different districts, and most of the time the offender was involved in multiple cases, different formations of the Police might be investigating different cases involving the same offender. Investigation into such cases was relatively difficult as some cases were territory-wide in nature or even related to cross-boundary crimes, and the victims in such cases might not be able to preserve the relevant evidence. Where there was a need for the Police to conduct investigations or collect evidence in respect of happenings outside Hong Kong, it would inevitably involve the laws and powers of different jurisdictions. In that case, the Police would have to spend considerable time on investigation, evidence collection, arrest and prosecution, and cope with various difficulties. At present, the HKPF would adopt four strategies to handle such cases, namely intelligence analysis, multi-agency cooperation, publicity and education and law enforcement action. The Police also managed to detect some of the cases lately. Despite the fact that it took time to handle reported cases of the above nature, the HKPF had reservations about the Member's remark that some police officers refused to accept such cases, and the Police had not instructed any officer to turn down such cases. Members of the public were welcome to provide information to the Police for combating crimes. If District Councillors found any situation similar to the aforesaid cases, they were welcome to contact the officers of the Police Community Relations Office, who would definitely assist the persons making reports;
- (3) since 2010, the use of the land at the junction of Tsuen King Circuit and Castle Peak Road had been granted to the nearby Tsuen Wan Police Station by way of TGLA by the LandsD for the parking of operational vehicles and storage of operational and ancillary equipment of the police station. Given that the land lease would soon have to be renewed, the HKPF was currently making an application for the renewal of the land lease via the LandsD. The HKPF would wait for the result of the application and make arrangements thereafter;

- (4) in the first seven months of 2020, the HKPF conducted a total of 11 operations against vice-related offences and arrested 42 persons. The HKPF also conducted 7 operations between May and June in 2020 and arrested 6 persons for various offences including soliciting for an immoral purpose, illegal entry and taking of unlawful employment by illegal immigrants. The HKPF would continue to combat the above crimes;
- (5) the HKPF noted that Kwok Shui Road was a black spot for road obstruction by vehicles, and would deploy police officers to take stringent enforcement actions. The HKPF issued a total of 78 fixed penalty notices (FPNs) to offending drivers and vehicles in August 2020, and towed away a vehicle on 9 September 2020 as the vehicle was causing serious obstruction to traffic and posing danger to road users. The HKPF would continue to take law enforcement actions on Kwok Shui Road;
- (6) the HKPF had all along been cooperating with the FEHD on tackling various problems around the town centre, and would continue to do so in the future;
- (7) the HKPF also conducted many operations against illegal road racing in the past three to four months, and would continue to conduct relevant operations. Besides, the HKPF would keep in view the effectiveness of the newly installed interval-based speed enforcement device, and apply for resources from the Regional Headquarters to continue to handle the above problem;
- (8) the HKPF would stay vigilant to prevent crimes such as burglary and taking conveyance without authority, and had succeeded in detecting several such cases;
- (9) the HKPF would reply to the letters from the District Councillors in due course;
- (10) the HKPF had stepped up its inspections to combat drug abuse at Hau Tei Square;
- (11) the HKPF noted Members' views about the impoliteness of individual police officers. If any Member thought that he or she had received unfriendly treatment from the Police, the HKPF encouraged him or her to file a complaint and would follow up on such complaints and reprimand the officers concerned for their wrongdoings; and
- (12) the Police would not conduct a search randomly. Every search should be conducted on the basis of reasonable suspicion, and would be recorded in the police notebook for "check and balance" purposes.

155. The Chairman requested the HKPF to send its representatives to attend meetings of the committees for discussion of issues on law and order in the future.

XVII Item 21: Crime Brief for Ma Wan – May to June 2020 and Item 22: Crime Brief for Ma Wan – July 2020

(TWDC Paper No. 50/20-21 and TWDC Paper No. 75/20-21)

156. District Commander (Tsuen Wan) of the HKPF reported on the crime situation of Ma Wan.

157. The Chairman stated that since the next agenda item was raised by him, he asked the Vice Chairman to take over the chair.

XVIII Item 15: Request for Government Follow-up to Address the Difficulties and Needs of Elders, Persons with Disabilities and Their Carers in Tsuen Wan District Who are in Need

(TWDC Paper No. 70/20-21)

158. The Acting Chairman stated that Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly submitted the paper. The representatives from the departments responsible for giving response were:

- (1) Ms MA Sau-ching, Annisa, District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing), Social Welfare Department (SWD); and
- (2) Mrs TANG FUNG Shuk-yin, Chief Manager/Management (Wong Tai Sin, Tsing Yi and Tsuen Wan), HD.

Besides, the written replies of the SWD and HD were tabled at the meeting.

159. Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly introduced the paper.

160. Mr WONG Ka-wa agreed to the points in the paper. He considered it necessary for the planning stage to include additional social welfare facilities for the district. However, with the progressive completion of new private developments in Tsuen Wan district and their intakes of new residents, there was now a lack of sites with new social welfare facilities except for the site at Sha Tsui Road discussed years ago. Thus, he suggested that the relevant departments should proactively identify new sites for additional social welfare facilities. He also expressed his concern about the frustration of and the impact on service users caused by the COVID-19 epidemic. In addition, he enquired about the details of how service organisations had been keeping contact with and supporting service users and their carers using the telephone and video communication equipment to ensure that they had indeed benefitted from the services concerned.

161. Mr CHIU Yan-loy said that in a relatively old community as Tsuen Wan, long waiting times were required for a place in residential care homes for persons with disabilities and the elderly, and ancillary support was also inadequate. In the past half year, the epidemic, a worsening economic situation and other factors had had an adverse impact on residents. In certain cases he received from the local community, the residents developed mood disorders due to different worries, and the disorders could further evolve into severe mental illnesses. When facing such disorders and even illnesses, the families of the patients were often unable to cope with the problems and left helpless. Upon receiving such cases, Members would refer them to social welfare organisations as far as possible. He was concerned that those residents who were reluctant to seek assistance or ignorant about ways of seeking assistance would turn from carers into patients of mood disorders themselves. In this connection, he opined that community support could play a critical role in preventing patients and their carers from eventually ending their lives tragically.

162. Mr LAI Man-fai said that the family tragedy that happened in Kwai Chung Estate earlier had aroused public concern about the shortage of residential care homes for persons with disabilities. On the other hand, the pressure on carers and their need

for counselling services were often overlooked. Earlier on, when the epidemic situation was relatively severe, many carers were left helpless as staff of the SWD had to work from home. He considered it necessary for the Government to seriously address the shortage of residential care homes. In this connection, he proposed that the HD should expedite not only the redevelopment of old public housing estates to release more sites for new residential care homes, but also the formulation of rehousing arrangements for people in need.

163. Mr LAM Sek-tim said that a member of his family became a paraplegic upon suffering a stroke. The family member had to wait for a place in a residential care home and medical support services, but he could do nothing to help even though he was a carer and a District Councillor. While it was said that there were the “golden 72 hours” of time limit available for rescuing a stroke patient, elders and patients would have to wait for half a year to a full year after the stroke episode under the current policy before they could receive relevant support. Hence, he suggested that relevant departments should render assistance to patients and their families to forestall unnecessary tragedies.

164. Mr LAU Cheuk-yu recognised the tough work faced by carers and relevant departments during the epidemic, and considered that the aforementioned problem was attributable to the inadequacy of social resources. He enquired what indicators and ways of attaining set targets the Government had formulated in respect of its provision of relevant services, and whether there were plans for additional services.

165. District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing) of the SWD responded as follows:

- (1) land was required for additional residential care home services. The SWD was aware of the long waiting times for residential care home services, and had therefore been active in providing different types of community support services for persons with disabilities, elders and their carers so as to strengthen the support for those in need;
- (2) the SWD was aware of the long times persons with disabilities had to wait before securing residential care home services. Thus, the SWD had enhanced its community support services for persons with disabilities in recent years. One of the enhancements was the progressive increase in the number of District Support Centres for Persons with Disabilities, from 16 currently to 21 eventually, from 2020-21 onwards to cater to the needs of the community. There was also a District Support Centre for Persons with Disabilities in Tsuen Wan district. Besides, the SWD would also increase the manpower of the 17 Social and Recreational Centres for the Disabled across Hong Kong in this financial year to provide enhanced community support for persons with disabilities and their carers. Additionally, the number of Parents/Relatives Resource Centres across Hong Kong had increased from 6 to 19, and the Parents/Relatives Resource Centre in Tsuen Wan district already commenced operation last year to provide support for the parents/carers of persons with disabilities. There was also the Home Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities to provide

persons with disabilities with home-based outreach services and other services;

- (3) since Tsuen Wan was a relatively old community, the SWD would reserve sites during the Government's land planning stage as far as practicable for the provision of social welfare facilities; and
- (4) in view of the unfamiliarity of some carers and persons in need with the SWD's relevant services in the district, the SWD's Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing District Co-ordinating Committee on Elderly Services had joined forces with the Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing District Co-ordinating Committee on Rehabilitation Services to launch a carer support resources programme. The programme recruited 1 000 "ambassadors" to provide support for carers and liaise with special schools in Tsuen Wan and Kwai Ching to enable direct introduction to the services of relevant service units with a view to supporting special school students at the early stage and enhancing their parents' awareness of various community support services.

166. Chief Manager/Management (Wong Tai Sin, Tsing Yi and Tsuen Wan) responded that in case elderly tenants and tenants with disabilities had the need to reside in flats on floors accessible by lifts on the grounds of physical condition, the Housing Authority would arrange transfers of such tenants to other suitable public rental housing flats as far as possible.

167. Mr CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly said that carers often had to make a Herculean effort to take care of feeble elders or persons with disabilities in their families for as long as more than ten years. Some carers might even worry that upon their own death there would be no one to take care of the family members. Such issues relating to carers would exhaust them both physically and mentally, and affect their emotional and mental health. In Hong Kong, it was common for those in need to wait for ten-odd years for a place in a residential care home, and assistance available to their carers was extremely limited. Thus, he suggested that the Government should not only construct a specific number of residential care homes at designated areas, but should also build complexes of rehabilitation services or elderly services, given that similar facilities had already been constructed in Kwai Tsing district. He proposed that the SWD should arrange site visits so as to brief Members on relevant services. On the other hand, he urged the TWDO to coordinate inter-departmental work relating to the PlanD, SWD, LandsD and HD, expedite its identification of sites in Tsuen Wan district, examine various options for increasing the number of places in residential care homes in the district, and submit to the TWDC a report on all of the above work within six months.

168. The Acting Chairman opined that compared with the general public, Members could obtain more relevant information with greater ease and could therefore, upon receipt of cases where assistance was sought, more readily assist the persons concerned in targeting and applying for relevant services of government departments. He also supported the proposal for visiting the rehabilitation complex to broaden Members' horizons. Finally, he suggested that the TWDO should discuss with relevant departments arrangements for increasing residential care home places, and submit a relevant proposal within six months.

169. The Chairman resumed the chair.

(Note: Mr KOT Siu-yuen left the meeting at 6:43 p.m.)

XIX Item 16: Enquiries about and Review of the Arrangements for Tsuen Wan District under the Universal Community Testing Programme
(TWDC Paper No. 71/20-21)

170. The Chairman stated that Mr TAM Hoi-pong submitted the paper. The representative from the department responsible for giving response was Mr CHENG Kwok-kuen, Chris, District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan) of the LCSD. Besides, the consolidated written reply of the Civil Service Bureau (CSB) and the written reply of the Hongkong Post (HKP) were tabled at the meeting.

171. Mr TAM Hoi-pong introduced the paper.

(Note: Mr WONG Ka-wa left the meeting at 6:46 p.m.)

172. Mr LAU Cheuk-yu thanked the TWDO's staff for meeting Members and briefing them on the Universal Community Testing Programme (UCTP) despite playing no role in it. He noted that some residents in Tsuen Wan were in need of a test for COVID-19 and about 20% of all Hong Kong people participated in the UCTP. Residents near the community testing centres might feel anxious because some participants of the UCTP suspected themselves of being infected with COVID-19. Hence, he hoped that the Government or TWDO would arrange a visit to the community testing centres for Members upon the conclusion of the UCTP so that the public could learn more about the safety of testing.

173. Mr LAI Man-fai said that while the Government spent hundreds of millions of public money on implementing the UCTP, it only succeeded in identifying 20-odd patients of COVID-19. The UCTP was indeed a waste of manpower and resources. Besides, there was a big problem in the selection of locations for setting up community testing centres in Tsuen Wan district. In particular, Wai Tsuen Sports Centre and Tsuen King Circuit Sports Centre, two of the community testing centres, were in close proximity to residential premises. In case of an outbreak in the community, there would be dire consequences if many people gathered and waited for specimen collection at these two community testing centres. On the other hand, he opined that the risk of people voting with masks on was actually lower than that of people opening their mouths for specimen collection. However, the Government allowed the public to take part in the UCTP but barred them from voting in the LegCo election. He strongly condemned it for having double standards.

174. 174. Mr YICK Shing-chung, Angus had approached the TWDO to enquire about information on the UCTP. For instance, the air outlets of Tsuen Wan Sports Centre, one of the testing centres, faced towards The Pavilia Bay and Ocean Pride. He thus questioned whether emissions from these air outlets contained the virus, resulting in transmission of the virus; whether some results were false positive ones; why nasopharyngeal swabs instead of deep throat saliva were collected as specimens in the UCTP even though such swabs posed a higher risk; and whether a similar

testing programme would be implemented again in the future and how the departments would work in tandem. Moreover, residents of The Pavilia Bay and Ocean Pride near Tsuen Wan Sports Centre were not informed in advance of its designation as a community testing centre under the UCTP. As a result, Members had to help get the message across to the residents on the first day when it served as a community testing centre. Members also had to make complementary efforts by requesting that cleansing and other additional work should be conducted at various housing estates. He expressed dissatisfaction in this regard.

175. Mr LAU Chi-hung opined that finding patients of COVID-19 through the UCTP was like looking for a needle in a haystack. It was a waste of public money. He said that even if a person was tested negative in the UCTP, it could not ensure that he or she would not be infected with COVID-19 later. He therefore considered that the entire programme an absurd one. He further pointed out that while mobilising all staff to implement the UCTP, the Government absurdly postponed the LegCo election, which could have been held as scheduled. He opined that this was utterly ridiculous and the Government should be condemned.

176. Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy said that the UCTP was a fiasco. The Chief Executive stated that the objective of the UCTP was to identify 1 500 asymptomatic patients but only 32 such patients had been identified so far. The Secretary for Food and Health anticipated that 5 million people would participate in the UCTP, but it turned out that only 1.78 million people registered for the programme. Although the Government initially claimed that a maximum of 300 000 specimens could be tested every day, the testing volume was merely 50 000 to 150 000 specimens during the first few days of the UCTP. He did not understand why the Government failed to hold the LegCo election and allow people wearing masks to vote; instead, it allowed people to open their mouths for specimen collection in the UCTP. In his opinion, the third wave of the epidemic had eased thanks wholly to the public's efforts to fight the virus.

177. The Chairman stated that the TWDC spent its funds on essential anti-epidemic work but the Government failed to consult it on the UCTP. Also, not many people used the CuMasks previously distributed by the Government. Yet, the Government still produced CuMasks for public distribution again. Besides, the Government failed to seek views from Hong Kong people before selecting the locations of community testing centres. He was disappointed that the Government skirted around the question of why the UCTP could be implemented while the LegCo election should be postponed.

178. District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan) of the LCSD responded as follows:

- (1) being the executive department of the UCTP, the LCSD was unable to answer Members' enquiries;
- (2) full preparation had been made for the operation of community testing centres. For instance, people waiting at the community testing centres maintained a distance of 1.5 metres from one another. The community testing centres were also sufficiently equipped with liquid antiseptic, masks and face shields; and

- (3) three sports centres were used as community testing centres in Tsuen Wan district. These sports centres were deeply cleansed daily during the 14-day period of the UCTP. On the next day upon the completion of the programme (i.e. 15 September 2020), the LCSO specially arranged sterilisation at the sports centres using the method of fogging in order to ensure that residents of Tsuen Wan district could use the sports centres at ease. The three sports centres were reopened on 17 September 2020.

179. Mr TAM Hoi-pong said that officials capable of answering the eight questions set out in the captioned paper failed to attend the meeting, whereas the departments gave written replies perfunctorily. He believed that the HKP had the figure on mail items in Tsuen Wan district. However, the HKP only stated in its written reply that “the Government mailed a batch of information leaflets of the ‘Universal Community Testing Programme’ to residential and commercial units across the territory, including those in Tsuen Wan district, via the ‘Hongkong Post Circular Service’ at the end of August 2020”. He added that the eight questions in the captioned paper were mostly representation of facts. In his opinion, the two written replies demonstrated the departments’ disrespect for the TWDC. He hoped that the TWDC would send letters to the departments concerned to request further replies. If the TWDC did not receive replies after sending the letters, he would make enquiries to the departments according to the Code on Access to Information.

180. The Chairman agreed that the TWDC should send letters to the departments concerned to request further replies.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat conveyed Members’ views to the CSB and HKP in writing on 16 October 2020.)

(Note: Mr MAN Yu-ming left the meeting at 6:58 p.m.)

XX Item 17: Request for Surface Drainage Improvement and Noise-Reducing Surfacing on the Section of Wai Tsuen Road from Tsuen Wan Ambulance Depot to the Part before Tsuen Kam Interchange
(TWDC Paper No. 72/20-21)

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

- (1) Mr YUEN Ting-fung, Jacky, Engineer/Tsuen Wan 1, TD;
- (2) Mr LEUNG Kwong-chung, Senior Engineer/Mainland South 2, DSD;
- (3) Ms LO Sze-yan, Engineer/Tsuen Kwai 2, DSD; and
- (4) Mr CHOW Chun-hun, Gary, Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan), TWDO.

Besides, the written replies of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), Highways Department (HyD) and WSD were tabled at the meeting.

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

183. Mr LAI Man-fai said that during heavy rain, the signalised pedestrian crossing off Fairview Garden on Wai Tsuen Road would flood and pedestrians would

have to wade across the carriageway. He held that the problem was mainly caused by the poor design of road gully inlets. Although the section of Wai Tsuen Road in question was a slope, the road gully inlets were set up near Tsuen Wan Ambulance Depot (i.e. at a lower position on the slope). Therefore, storm water could only reach the road gully inlets downstream via the pedestrian crossing. He suggested that to solve the flooding problem, several road gully inlets should be added at the upper end of the slope near Tsuen Kam Interchange so that most storm water would have flowed away before reaching the pedestrian crossing.

184. Mr CHIU Yan-loy opined that apart from the drainage problem, the noise problem at Tsuen Kam Interchange had been quite serious all along, causing an impact on residents nearby. He noted that according to the EPD's written reply, as the traffic flow was heavy and motorists would brake at the traffic lights, it was not appropriate to lay noise-reducing surfacing material at the aforesaid section of Wai Tsuen Road. He held that to solve the noise problem, noise-reducing surfacing material should be laid at the entire Tsuen Kam Interchange in addition to Wai Tsuen Road. Besides, the DSD's contractor held a meeting with Members in June 2020 and examined the drainage facilities concerned. Also, noting that Tsuen Kam Interchange had a very high density of drains, he enquired whether the DSD would conduct drainage improvement works in Tsuen Wan district.

185. The Chairman said that about a year ago, he issued a letter on the same problem to the department concerned. However, the department replied back then that the relevant works, if implemented, would lead to traffic chaos and were actually unfeasible. He thus opined that the department should explore other feasible solutions.

186. Engineer/Tsuen Wan 1 of the TD responded as follows:

- (1) at the meeting of the Traffic Management Liaison Group on 9 June 2020, the TD and HKPF gave traffic advice to the HyD and its contractor in respect of the temporary traffic management proposal to tie in with the surface drainage improvement works for Wai Tsuen Road, Tsuen Wan, with a view to ensuring that the temporary traffic arrangements would not have an unacceptable impact on the traffic. The implementation methods of the road works also complied with the Code of Practice for the Lighting, Signing and Guarding of Road Works. Besides, the TD had already requested the contractor to consult the affected stakeholders, relevant government departments and District Councillors on the works; and
- (2) according to the information provided by the HyD, the HyD's contractor conducted an on-site inspection with Members on 4 September 2020. The TD was currently revising the temporary traffic arrangements having regard to Members' views.

187. Engineer/Tsuen Kwai 2 of the DSD responded as follows:

- (1) the DSD assigned its staff to conduct an on-site inspection on 17 September 2020 after reviewing the relevant documents. It was found during the on-site inspection that the DSD's main stormwater drain along the section of Wai Tsuen Road between Tsuen Wan

Ambulance Depot and the location near Tsuen Kam Interchange was in order; and

- (2) according to the HyD's written reply, the works for the provision of additional road gully inlets and road resurfacing would commence in due course.

188. Senior Engineer/Mainland South 2 of the DSD understood that the crux of the problem was the relatively low position of the road gully inlets. He also noted that the HyD was considering an array of solutions. The DSD would readily provide technical advice if necessary.

189. Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan) of the TWDO said that the TWDO had nothing to add.

190. Mr PUN Long-chung, Roy was slightly disappointed at the departmental replies. He pointed out that vehicle noise had been adversely affecting the residents of Luk Yeung Sun Chuen and Fairview Garden. He questioned whether the impossibility of laying noise-reducing surfacing material on Wai Tsuen Road was due to the many bends on the road which would accelerate the abrasion of any surfacing material. He suggested that the departments should review the proposal again. In addition, he opined that the implementation of works at the location concerned, especially the excavation works which required road closure for one to three days, would bring inconvenience to the residents. He thus enquired whether there was any practicable solution to this problem.

191. The Chairman asked the departments concerned to consider Members' views and discuss with Members possible solutions to the noise and flooding problems after the meeting.

XXI Item 18: Request that the Tsuen Wan District Council Should Address the Problem of Refuse at Rooftops and Corridors of Old Buildings
(TWDC Paper No. 73/20-21)

192. The Chairman stated that Mr LAM Sek-tim submitted the paper. The representatives from the departments responsible for giving response were:

- (1) Mr KUAN Man-hou, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Tsuen Wan), FEHD; and
- (2) Ms LEE Lai-kiu, Winnie, Senior Liaison Officer (2), TWDO.

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

193. Mr LAM Sek-tim introduced the paper.

194. Mr CHIU Yan-loy pointed out that some newly moved-in residents in Tsuen Wan district living around Yeung Uk Road had been prosecuted by the FEHD because they were not aware of the relevant requirements for domestic waste disposal. In the past half year, he had drafted a number of petition letters for such offenders. In some cases, residents had conveniently disposed of domestic waste at litter containers simply because of a lack of knowledge of the locations of refuse collection points or the perception that such points were too far away from their residences. He therefore proposed setting up additional refuse collection points in the district and identifying

sites in the town centre for a new recycling centre. For future development projects in the district, considerations should be given to adding terms on mandatory provision of refuse collection points to the land leases of the projects so as to facilitate waste disposal by residents in old areas.

195. Mr LAU Jackson pointed out the substantial number of old buildings in the district. If such buildings had their own OCs, they could engage cleaning companies to clean the buildings. Some buildings, however, had not set up their own OCs or had OCs which did not operate effectively. In such cases, owners and tenants would hire cleaners privately or handle refuse themselves, or even dump refuse outside their doors at will, thereby causing hygiene problems inside the buildings. Thus, he suggested that the TWDO should enhance its communication with the tenants of such buildings. He further enquired of the FEHD whether it would assist buildings with ineffective OCs to carry out cleansing work to prevent the hygiene of such buildings from deteriorating.

196. Ms CHAN Kim-kam considered the hygiene problems of rooftops and corridors of old buildings serious. In particular, mosquitoes and rodents were frequently seen as a result of rubbish bins not properly covered near staircases. While buildings with OCs could engage private management companies, some companies suffered from mismanagement. There were also the “three-nil” buildings not managed by any property management companies. Even though staff of the FEHD had been conducting cleansing work on streets around these buildings, their hygiene problems remained to be tackled. Hence, she proposed that the EPD should establish well-equipped and clean recycling centres in the vicinity of old buildings in the district for proper waste separation and food waste recycling so as to alleviate the poor hygiene of old buildings at the root of the problem.

197. The Vice Chairman said that having assisted in handling work relating to OCs of buildings, he considered that the problem of refuse should be tackled by OCs or residents’ organisations themselves. He opined that the problem could never be eradicated merely with the assistance of individual departments in handling refuse. Thus, he proposed tackling the problem with legislative amendments. For example, the TWDO could be authorised by law to assign cleaning companies to clear the refuse of buildings without OCs, Mutual Aid Committees or residents’ organisations in the district which were regarded as “refuse black spots”, and subsequently charge the owners of those buildings appropriate fees so as to encourage prompt establishment of OCs or Mutual Aid Committees.

198. District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Tsuen Wan) of the FEHD responded as follows:

- (1) the FEHD was mainly responsible for the cleansing of public places, and the cleansing of private places should be the responsibility of owners. That said, the FEHD would support and participate in inter-departmental special cleansing operations, and assign workers to assist in handling refuse generated by “three-nil” buildings as necessary;
- (2) in case refuse from “three-nil” buildings was found to have caused hygiene nuisances in public places of the buildings, the FEHD could

issue Nuisance Notices to the property owners concerned pursuant to the law to demand that the owners concerned should clear the refuse, and might prosecute non-compliant owners in accordance with the relevant legislation, and

- (3) in view of the large number of “three-nil” buildings in the district, the FEHD would set up trial points at the section of Chung On Street between Yi Pei Square and Sam Pei Square in mid-October, and place mobile solar-powered compacting refuse bins at the points daily early in the evening. Guarded by designated staff, these new refuse collection devices would be close to residential premises, and would hopefully encourage residents to properly dispose of their waste more proactively. The compacting refuse bins would be able to collect up to about 4 tonnes of domestic waste, and refuse so collected would be transported to refuse transfer stations after 10 p.m. or so. This new pilot scheme would last for four months to allow sufficient time for an assessment of the effectiveness of the new devices and an observation of the trial points for the purpose of a subsequent review. The FEHD hoped that the pilot scheme would facilitate the disposal of domestic waste by residents of “three-nil” buildings.

199. Senior Liaison Officer (2) of the TWDO responded as follows:

- (1) the TWDO was always concerned about the management issues of old buildings. In addition to providing owners with advice on and assistance in building management, the TWDO would also implement various support measures to assist owners in discharging their responsibility for building management with a view to effectively improving the management and maintenance of their buildings;
- (2) in the light of the epidemic, the TWDO cleansed the public places of over 50 “three-nil” buildings in need of cleansing in the district between March and September this year. During the cleansing work, a certain volume of domestic waste was collected;
- (3) to appeal to residents to maintain a hygienic environment at all times, the TWDO had posted publicity posters at buildings to promote the basics of epidemic prevention and the importance of maintaining a hygienic environment. Where necessary and resources permitting, the TWDO would continue to carry out relevant cleansing work for buildings in need of cleansing service in stages in due course.
- (4) building management and the maintenance of a hygienic environment hinged on the joint effort of both owners and residents. The TWDO would provide appropriate assistance according to individual cases and circumstances while continuing to disseminate the message of good and effective building management to owners. Through its various support services and programmes, the TWDO also assisted owners in establishing residents’ organisations with a view to improving environmental hygiene and managing buildings effectively; and
- (5) the TWDO would relay Members’ views on legislative amendments and building management to the HAB for consideration.

200. Mr LAU Cheuk-yu Member enquired about the details of the solar-powered compacting refuse bins. He also proposed a joint visit to the sites of the bins for Members and TWDO staff, and a joint effort by both to promote the pilot scheme.

201. District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Tsuen Wan) of the FEHD responded that the target of the pilot scheme was the residents of “three-nil” buildings. The FEHD would provide Members with photographs and videos that enabled a better understanding of the mode of operation of the compacting refuse bins. Members were welcome to assist in the promotion of the pilot scheme.

202. Mr LAM Sek-tim stated that the refuse problem had remained unresolved to this day owing to the inadequacy of resources and some residents’ unawareness of the requirements for disposal of domestic waste. He thanked the FEHD for making a collaborative effort to assist in tackling the problem at its root, i.e. the prolonged improper disposal of waste by residents. Regarding the scheme of setting up solar-powered compacting refuse bins, he considered that the scheme warranted a trial run as it would allow residents to dispose of their waste at nearer locations and reduce the volume of domestic waste residents currently disposed of at the refuse collection point at Yeung Uk Road Market. Should the new measure prove effective, considerations could be given to setting up permanent compacting refuse bins at suitable locations in the district to eradicate the problem. Incidentally, he proposed launching a large-scale publicity campaign for the pilot scheme in the district.

203. The Chairman suggested that the relevant departments should arrange for Members to participate in on-site inspections of both the solar-powered compacting refuse bins and large-scale anti-rodent operations. While he believed that successful eradication of the refuse problem would depend on the assistance of relevant departments in cleansing work and a consideration of relevant legislative amendments, he also wished the TWDO to assist “three-nil” buildings in setting up OCs or Mutual Aid Committees. Therefore, he proposed that the TWDO should enhance its provision of assistance and support for owners of buildings.

XXII Item 23: Information Papers

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

- (1) Items Resolved by Circulation by the Tsuen Wan District Council during the Period from 14 July to 14 September 2020 (TWDC Paper No. 76/20-21);
- (2) Report of District Planning, Development and Facilities Management Committee (TWDC Paper No. 51/20-21);
- (3) Report of District Planning, Development and Facilities Management Committee (TWDC Paper No. 77/20-21);
- (4) Report of Environment, Health and Climate Change Committee (TWDC Paper No. 52/20-21);
- (5) Report of Environment, Health and Climate Change Committee (TWDC Paper No. 78/20-21);
- (6) Report of Recreation, Sports, Arts and Culture For All Committee (TWDC Paper No. 53/20-21);

- (7) Report of Recreation, Sports, Arts and Culture For All Committee (TWDC Paper No. 79/20-21);
- (8) Report of Traffic and Transport Committee (TWDC Paper No. 54/20-21);
- (9) Report of Traffic and Transport Committee (TWDC Paper No. 80/20-21);
- (10) Report of Social Service and Community Development Committee (TWDC Paper No. 55/20-21);
- (11) Report of Social Service and Community Development Committee (TWDC Paper No. 81/20-21);
- (12) Financial Statement of Tsuen Wan District Council Funds as at 6 July 2020 (TWDC Paper No. 56/20-21); and
- (13) Financial Statement of Tsuen Wan District Council Funds as at 7 September 2020 (TWDC Paper No. 82/20-21).

XXIII Item 24: Any Other Business

205. Mr TAM Hoi-pong pointed out that although District Councillors of the majority of the 18 districts could now resume hanging banners at the spots originally allocated to them, government departments continued to remove the banners of the District Councillors of Tsuen Wan district and issued fixed penalty notices to them. Hence, he requested the LandsD and FEHD to give response to Members and state clearly when banner hanging in Tsuen Wan district could resume. In addition, given that the minutes which were not confirmed would not be uploaded to the TWDC website at present, he enquired how the Secretary could continue to perform her duties and whether there would be better options for handling these minutes.

206. Mr LAU Cheuk-yu enquired about the details of the return of the DC funds which had been allocated to the LCSD.

207. District Lands Officer/Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing) of the LandsD responded as follows:

- (1) in the light of the postponement of the LegCo election until September 2021, which was one year later, the LandsD was arranging to resume the use of the designated spots by the District Councillors of the 18 districts. The preparation work was underway;
- (2) the same approach had been adopted in handling banners in all the 18 districts. District Councillors of other districts were also not yet permitted to display banners at the designated spots which had been allocated to them originally; and
- (3) as the arrangement for the use of the display spots had not been resumed, the FEHD would continue to issue fixed penalty notices to District Councillors if they displayed banners at the designated spots originally allocated to them.

208. Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan) of the TWDO responded as follows:

- (1) the TWDO noted Members' views and would look for better options for handling the said minutes; and

- (2) the TWDO reiterated that the TWDC Secretariat could only handle matters which were permitted under the law.

209. The Chairman opined that Members had misunderstood the arrangement made by the LandsD. In addition, he requested the LCSD to communicate with the Secretariat regarding the details of returning the DC funds and follow up on this matter properly.

210. The Chairman stated that he would now deal with the paper submitted by Mr SHUM Lester and Mr TSE Man-chak. He held that the issue concerned was related to Tsuen Wan district and thus permitted both Members to raise it under Any Other Business. However, in accordance with section 13(3) of the Standing Orders, Members should not discuss any matter not included in the agenda at the meetings of the TWDC. Hence, the paper would not be discussed.

211. Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan) of the TWDO stated that as the paper submitted by the Members involved an issue which was not a district-level matter relating to Tsuen Wan district, and the Government had reservations as to whether the paper complied with the functions of a DC as stipulated in section 61 of the District Councils Ordinance (Chapter 547), the Secretariat could not deal with the said paper and officers from government departments would neither remain in attendance at the meeting nor discuss the said paper.

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat
October 2020