

(Translation)

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of
Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (2/24-25)

Date: 20 June 2024

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Venue: Main Conference Room, Tsuen Wan District Office

Present:

Mr KOT Siu-yuen, MH (Chairman)

Mr TSANG Tai (Vice Chairman)

Mr KOO Yeung-pong, MH

Mr NG Chun-yu

Ms LAM Yuen-pun

Mr CHOW Sum-ming

Mr YAU Kam-ping, BBS, MH

Mr CHAN Chun-chung

Mr CHAN Sung-ip, BBS, MH

Mr MOK Yuen-kwan

Mr FUNG Cheuk-sum

Mr WONG Wai-kit, MH

Mr WONG Kai-chun

Mr CHENG Chit-pun

Mr LAU Chung-kong

Government Representatives

Mr KWAN Chun-kit, Eric

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

Mr SO Yeung-fung

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

Miss PANG Choi-ling

Chief Health Inspector (Tsuen Wan)2,
Food and Environmental Hygiene
Department

Ms TSANG Ka-lo

Health Inspector (Pest Control) Tsuen
Wan, Food and Environmental Hygiene
Department

Ms WONG Fong, Fanny

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

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat Representatives

Mr LIM Kuen

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

Miss LEUNG Wai-ching, Clementine
(Secretary)

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

Mr LI Hongfeng, Ken

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

Attendance by Invitation:

For discussion of item 3

Ms LEE Wing-chau, Cynthia

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

I Opening Remarks and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives from government departments to the 3rd meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (FEHC).

2. The Chairman stated that no application for absence had been received from any Member before the meeting.

3. The Chairman stated that according to the requirements stipulated in the Tsuen Wan District Council Standing Orders, if a District Council (DC) Member found that he/she had any direct personal or pecuniary interests in a discussion item or relevant matters when attending a meeting of the Council or dealing with matters related to the Council, the DC Member should declare the interests. The Secretariat had not received any declaration of interests prior to this meeting. The Chairman enquired whether any Members had to make declarations of interests immediately. No Member made a declaration of interests immediately.

II Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 2nd Meeting held on 25.4.2024

4. The Chairman stated that the Secretariat had not received any proposed amendment prior to this meeting. The Chairman enquired whether Members had to put forth proposed amendments immediately. No Member put forth a proposed amendment immediately. Members unanimously endorsed the captioned minutes.

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

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

IV Item 3: Concern about the Infestation of Mosquitoes and Biting Midges in Tsuen Wan District and Request for Enhanced Efforts to Control Mosquitoes and Biting Midges
(TWDC FEHC Paper No. 5/24-25)

6. The Chairman stated that Mr WONG Kai-chun, Mr WONG Wai-kit, Mr TSANG Tai, Ms LAM Yuen-pun and Mr CHENG Chit-pun submitted the paper. The representatives from the departments responsible for giving responses were:

- (1) Mr SO Yeung-fung, Chief Health Inspector (Tsuen Wan)¹ (CHI(TW)¹), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD);
- (2) Ms TSANG Ka-lo, Health Inspector (Pest Control) Tsuen Wan (HI(PC)TW), FEHD; and
- (3) Ms LEE Wing-chau, Cynthia, Deputy District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan)² (DDLMTW)², Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD).

7. Mr WONG Kai-chun, Mr WONG Wai-kit, Mr TSANG Tai, Ms LAM Yuen-pun and Mr CHENG Chit-pun introduced the paper.

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

- (1) a Member stated that quite a number of residents in the district had relayed to him/her that the infestation of mosquitoes and biting midges had worsened as compared with that of the same period last year. For example, the public light bus (PLB) terminus at Tsing Lung Tau was a black spot of mosquito breeding, causing residents to suffer from mosquito bites when waiting for PLBs. Members thanked the FEHD for its active efforts in anti-mosquito work, including application of larvicide sand and spraying of mosquito larvicidal oil. However, the Member considered that the anti-mosquito measures adopted at present failed to eradicate mosquito infestation effectively;
- (2) a Member pointed out that there were more rainy days this year, stagnant water accumulated after rain was favourable for mosquitoes to breed and proliferate. Rainwater might also reduce the effectiveness of pesticides applied by the FEHD. The Member looked forward to having discussion with the FEHD on how to enhance the anti-mosquito work and would provide information to the FEHD on locations of mosquito infestation that required special attention. The Member held that it was more difficult to tackle the problem of biting midges than that of mosquitoes, thus hoping that the FEHD would increase the frequency of anti-midge work;

- (3) a Member pointed out that mosquito infestation was serious in Tsuen Wan Northwest (including areas around Tsuen King Circuit). The locations concerned had a relatively high density of residential buildings and a great number of slopes nearby. The anti-mosquito measures currently adopted by housing estates were mainly to promote messages of mosquito prevention and control to residents. The Member hoped that further discussion could be held with the FEHD on how to strengthen the collaboration with housing estates and schools to reduce the impact of mosquito infestation;
- (4) a Member pointed out that some lots on slopes adjacent to residential buildings were government land under the management of the Lands Department (LandsD). They enquired how the LandsD would remind or encourage the housing estates near such locations to carry out anti-mosquito work. The Member also pointed out that there were a few pieces of government land enclosed by wire fences near the staff quarters of the Hong Kong Adventist Hospital - Tsuen Wan. Many trees were within the area of the land concerned, the accumulation of dead leaves would be favourable for mosquitoes to breed. The Member hoped that representatives of the LandsD would attend the next meeting at invitation for giving responses to the relevant enquiries raised by Members; and
- (5) a Member enquired about the utilisation rate and effectiveness of the “IN2CARE” Traps (the “Traps”) in Tsuen Wan district, and wished to know whether the Traps could be used in rural areas and during the rainy season.

9. CHI(TW)1 of the FEHD responded as follows:

- (1) the Area Gravidtrap Indices for *Aedes albopictus* (AGI) for the four survey areas of mosquito infestation in Tsuen Wan district (i.e. Tsuen Wan Town Centre, Tsuen Wan West, Ma Wan and Sheung Kwai Chung) in May were 6%, 24.3%, 4% and 23.9% respectively. Among them, the AGI of Tsuen Wan West and Sheung Kwai Chung were above 20%, which had reached Level III (i.e. the alert level). As for these two survey areas, most of the gravidtraps in Tsuen Wan West with *Aedes albopictus* caught were located at private residential areas, whereas that in Sheung Kwai Chung were mainly located at three public rental housing (PRH) estates and recreational facilities;
- (2) the FEHD had stepped up the anti-mosquito work in public places by applying pesticides, clearing stagnant water, emptying water containers, removing dead leaves and so on at potential mosquito breeding sites. To tie in with these efforts, adult mosquito control work had been conducted by means of regular ultra-low volume fogging operations and installation of mosquito trapping devices at appropriate locations;

- (3) the FEHD had, together with concerned government departments including the Housing Department (HD), Education Bureau and LCSD as well as property management companies (PMCs), jointly conducted on-site inspections and provided venue managers with technical advice, such as clearing of stagnant water and dredging of drainage channels. The FEHD had also provided measures and advice on prevention and control of biting midges, aiming to improve the situation of mosquito and biting midge infestation with a multi-pronged approach;
- (4) the methods of controlling mosquitoes and biting midges were broadly similar. However, for the control of biting midges, the FEHD would reduce the moisture content of the soil surface by turning the soil or adopting appropriate ways of drainage and would remove dead leaves and other withered vegetation on slopes and in flower beds to minimise the breeding of biting midges. The FEHD would also give timely reminder to concerned government departments for regular pruning of overgrown vegetation at locations under their management (such as slopes);
- (5) the FEHD had used mosquito trapping devices at humid and dark places in the past and achieved significant results in mosquito control. Mosquitoes would carry the insect growth regulators adhering to their bodies to water bodies when they left the devices, which would further prevent the larvae from hatching into mosquitoes;
- (6) the FEHD would convene regular meetings with the inter-departmental task force on anti-mosquito work in Tsuen Wan district, discussing the work on mosquito control with concerned government departments, owners' corporations and PMCs; and
- (7) if mosquito breeding sites were identified by the FEHD, the persons or organisations concerned (such the PMC of a housing estate) might be prosecuted. The FEHD had instigated four prosecutions against the relevant offence in Tsuen Wan district this year.

10. HI(PC)TW of the FEHD provided further introduction to the FEHD's anti-mosquito and anti-midge work in detail with the aid of slide presentation. The contents included introduction to mosquitoes and biting midges, survey results of mosquito infestation caused by *Aedes albopictus*, black spots of mosquito breeding, work of the FEHD's Pest Control Section, methods of killing mosquito larvae and adult mosquitoes, introduction to the Traps, as well as methods of preventing and controlling biting midges.

11. DDLM(TW)2 of the LCSD responded as follows:

- (1) the LCSD had all along been maintaining close liaison and collaboration with the FEHD to carry out anti-mosquito and anti-midge work with reference to the guidelines provided by the FEHD;

- (2) the LCSD would arrange for cleaning of recreational venues in Tsuen Wan district (such as Tsuen King Circuit Playground) every day and clearing of refuse and stagnant water regularly. The LCSD had reminded its contractors of trimming overgrown vegetation and removing dead leaves regularly to improve the drainage and permeability of flower beds and reduce the moisture content of the soil surface of flower beds. The LCSD would also arrange for regular clearance of refuse in drainage channels to prevent blockage of channels as well as application of larvicide sand and spraying of mosquito larvicidal oil at locations where stagnant water could not be cleared;
- (3) the LCSD had increased the frequency of conducting fogging operations and applying pesticides to eradicate adult mosquitoes at some of its venues since this April (i.e. increasing the number of such operations from once every two weeks to once or twice a week). The LCSD would also make adjustment to the frequency of carrying out anti-mosquito work according to the situation of the rainy season and the need of the venues;
- (4) the LCSD had placed the Traps at black spots of mosquito infestation to alleviate the problem. The LCSD had also placed publicity materials containing information on mosquito control at areas under its management to disseminate the messages of mosquito prevention and control to the public; and
- (5) the LCSD would send representatives to attend the monthly meetings of the FEHD's inter-departmental task force on anti-mosquito work in the district to enhance communication and collaboration with the FEHD.

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

- (1) a Member requested for increasing the number of the Traps to be installed in the area of the housing estates near Tsuen Wan Park;
- (2) a Member enquired about the situation and number of mosquito electrocuting devices installed at venues under the management of the LCSD;
- (3) a Member pointed out that the FEHD had strengthened the anti-mosquito work in Ma Wan, but the work on prevention and control of biting midge infestation had not been effective. For example, the area of Pak Lam Road was still plagued with a large number of biting midges. Besides, there were also a large number of biting midges at the premises of the three schools in Lei Muk Shue Estate. Despite the strengthened efforts of the staff of these schools in clearing the flower beds, the biting midge infestation remained severe due to the proximity of the school premises to the slopes and open channels. The negative impact of biting midge infestation on children was substantial in particular because they would usually keep on scratching the itchy parts caused by midge bites, causing deterioration of the affected areas.

Members wished to know whether there were other methods to eradicate biting midge infestation in addition to clearance of dead leaves and reducing the moisture content of the soil surface;

- (4) a Member had conducted a joint inspection to Tsuen Wan harbourfront with the FEHD earlier and indicated that the areas concerned included parks managed by the LCSD in addition to private housing estates. The Member hoped that cooperation among the departments could be enhanced for further prevention and control of mosquito infestation. Besides, many people would place their bicycles at areas around the harbourfront and cover them with plastic bags or tarpaulin sheets, on which stagnant water would be accumulated easily after rain and might thereby lead to the breeding of mosquitoes. The Member also noted that the FEHD had installed three Traps at the harbourfront. However, among these Traps, only one was in proper operation, one had been knocked over and the remaining one had lost the function of mosquito control because the pesticides inside might have been diluted by rainwater or might have not been replaced regularly. The Member asked the FEHD to urge its contractors to conduct regular inspections to the operation of the Traps installed and ensure regular replacement of the pesticides inside;
- (5) a Member noted that there was a flower bed on Kwan Mun Hau Street near the circular footbridge beside Tsuen Wan Garden, and it was overgrown with vegetation. The Member hoped that the LCSD would arrange contractors to carry out pruning at the location concerned. In addition, the Member mentioned that he/she rarely saw contractors trimming weed and vegetation in the district and hoped that the department concerned would strengthen the trimming work. Besides, the Member pointed out that areas around Lo Wai Village were also overgrown with weed and vegetation;
- (6) a Member wished to know whether representatives of the cleaning service contractors of PRH estates, in addition to the HD, would attend the meeting of the inter-departmental task force on anti-mosquito work as mentioned by the FEHD and, if not, the Member hoped that their representatives would be invited to attend the meetings. The Member opined that it was rather indirect for the FEHD to explain the anti-mosquito measures to the cleaning service contractors of PRH estates through the HD, the effectiveness of the relevant measures would thus be far from satisfactory. The Member also enquired whether the Traps were installed in PRH estates; and
- (7) a Member enquired about the methods of preventing and controlling mosquitoes by residents at their homes and whether the Traps were suitable for domestic use.

13. Having learnt that the AGI of Sheung Kwai Chung and Tsuen Wan West were relatively high, the Chairman stated that Shek Wai Kok, Cheung Shan Estate and the rural areas were beset with equally serious mosquito problem. Apart from Lei Muk Shue Estate, there were also a number of schools in Shek Wai Kok Estate. Some parents of the students had reflected that mosquito infestation was serious in the vicinity of the schools. Pointing out that Shek Wai Kok Estate was managed by the HD, the Chairman enquired whether the FEHD would carry out anti-mosquito work in the area of Shek Wai Kok. The Chairman was also concerned about mosquito infestation in Tsuen Wan West, pointing out that the mosquito problem outside Tsuen Wan Sports Centre had caused nuisance to residents. Lastly, the Chairman enquired about the criteria adopted by the FEHD for taking prosecution against the offence concerning mosquito breeding and which government department was responsible for carrying out the anti-mosquito work within government land.

14. CHI(TW)1 of the FEHD further responded as follows:

- (1) the FEHD noted the locations of mosquito infestation about which Members were concerned and would step up inspections and anti-mosquito work. The FEHD would hold a publicity campaign to promote mosquito prevention and control in Lei Muk Shue Estate on 8 July 2024. It would then approach the three schools in the estate for understanding the situation of mosquito infestation in the vicinity and their needs, as well as providing advice on prevention and control of mosquitoes;
- (2) the FEHD understood the importance of proper installation and operation of the Traps and would step up inspections to the Traps installed. As regards the Traps installed by other departments or housing estates, the FEHD would give specific reminders of the points to note on using the Traps at meetings of the inter-departmental task force on anti-mosquito work;
- (3) the FEHD would carry out mosquito control work mainly in public places and had instructed contractors to remove weeds, apply larvicide sand, spray mosquito larvicidal oil and so on at these places. The FEHD would not provide services in areas other than public places or under the management of other departments. Nevertheless, being the co-ordinating department for mosquito prevention and control, the FEHD would proactively remind other departments or the managing parties of private places of carrying out anti-mosquito work and provide technical advice to them;
- (4) the FEHD had been closely monitoring survey areas with high AGI recorded. If the locations prone to mosquito infestation were not public places, the FEHD would remind the managing parties of the private places concerned of carrying out anti-mosquito work. However, if the relevant parties persistently failed to follow up the situation, the FEHD staff would instigate prosecution once sufficient evidence was

collected; and

- (5) as for fenced government land where the FEHD staff had no permission to enter, the FEHD could not carry out anti-mosquito work there. The FEHD would liaise with the District Lands Office (DLO) responsible for managing such government land and ask the DLO to step up anti-mosquito work at the land concerned. As for government land not fenced off where the FEHD staff were granted authorised entry, the FEHD staff would assist in carrying out anti-mosquito work there.

15. DDLM(TW)2 of the LCSD further responded as follows:

- (1) in addition to application of larvicide sand and spraying of mosquito larvicidal oil at areas around Tsuen Wan Park and Tsuen Wan Riviera Park, the LCSD had also installed liquefied petroleum gas mosquito trapping devices and Traps there. The LCSD would also strengthen fogging operations and pesticide applications starting from July 2024 to eradicate adult mosquitoes. Neither solar power nor electrically driven mosquito trapping devices had been installed in Tsuen Wan Park and Tsuen Wan Riviera Park;
- (2) the LCSD noted the proposal of installing the Traps within Tsuen Wan Park (along the road towards Tsuen Wan West Station) and would study it further. Some locations along the harbourfront mentioned by Members fell within the boundary of a private housing estate, and the bicycle parking area at the end of Tsuen Wan Riviera Park was outside the area of the park. The LCSD would redouble its efforts to remove stagnant water within the area of the park; and
- (3) the LCSD noted the situation of overgrown vegetation at the flower bed on Kwan Mun Hau Street as mentioned by Members and would strengthen the trimming of plants at the location concerned.

16. Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan) of the Tsuen Wan District Office (TWDO) responded that in addition to street cleansing, weeding as well as mosquitoes prevention and control work that would be carried out by the government departments concerned, the TWDO would also prepare and distribute cleaning kits for promoting mosquito prevention (the “promotional kits”) to school children and members of the public. Recently, the TWDO and the FEHD had jointly visited some schools in the district and staged exhibitions to promote the message of mosquito prevention through the distribution of promotional kits. Apart from anti-mosquito products such as insect repellent, the promotional kits were also packed with educational leaflets. Members who were interested in participating in the roadshows or assisting in the distribution of the promotional kits might contact the TWDO for arrangement.

17. The Chairman stated that discussion on the captioned agenda would be continued under the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting at the next meeting. He would also invite the LandsD and the HD to attend the next meeting for providing the relevant information and statistical data on the mosquito prevention and control work carried out on government land and in PRH estates in the district as well as for giving responses to Members' enquiries.

V Item 4: Information Paper

Work Report on Environmental Pollution Control in Tsuen Wan District (1 April 2024 to 31 May 2024)

(TWDC FEHC Paper No. 6/24-25)

18. Members noted the content of the captioned paper.

VI Item 5: Information Paper

Work Report on Environmental Hygiene in Tsuen Wan District

(TWDC FEHC Paper No. 7/24-25)

19. A Member said that he/she had received quite a number of complaints lodged by the public about some dog owners allowing their dogs to foul the street with faeces at Tsuen King Circuit near The Church of Christ in China Kei Wai Primary School. The Member requested the FEHD to step up inspections to black spots of dog fouling and provide the number of inspections in the work report.

20. The Chairman pointed out that many complaints against rodent infestation in public markets were received recently and hoped that the FEHD would provide the numbers of live rodents caught and dead rodents collected.

21. CHI(TW)1 of the FEHD responded that the FEHD had all along been concerned about the problem of dog owners allowing their dogs to foul the streets with excrement in the district. The FEHD would raise public awareness of maintaining environmental hygiene through publicity and education. The FEHD had reflected Members' views to the Headquarters that the contents of publicity materials should be presented in different languages, so as to remind expatriates and foreign domestic helpers of paying more attention to clean up the excrement of their dogs on their own. The FEHD would include the data on the number of inspections in the next work report and would consider conducting special inspections to combat the offence of allowing dogs to foul the streets. Besides, the FEHD would also provide the data on the numbers of live rodents caught and dead rodents collected in the next work report.

VII Adjournment of Meeting

22. The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting was scheduled for 22 August 2024 (Thursday) and the deadline for submission of papers was 7 August 2024 (Wednesday).

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat

5 July 2024