

(Translation)

Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of  
Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (3/24-25)

Date: 22 August 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

Ms HA Wing-ka

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

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 2

Mr LEUNG Yau-tak, Richard	Housing Manager/Wong Tai Sin, Tsing Yi & Tsuen Wan 7, Housing Department
Ms LAM Hang-ling, Sara	Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing), Lands Department
Ms LEE Wing-chau, Cynthia	Deputy District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan)2, Leisure and Cultural Services Department

#### For discussion of item 3

Mr YAU Wai-yip	Senior Property Services Manager/Sham Shui Po & Tsuen Kwai, Architectural Services Department
Mr TSE Ho-yeung, Peter	Property Services Manager/Tsuen Wan, Architectural Services Department
Ms LAM Hang-ling, Sara	Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing), Lands Department

#### For discussion of item 5

Mr CHAN King-tung, Tony	Fauna Conservation Officer (Enforcement), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Mr LIU Hung-wai, Philip	Senior Field Officer (Avian Influenza), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Mr LEUNG Yau-tak, Richard	Housing Manager/Wong Tai Sin, Tsing Yi & Tsuen Wan 7, Housing Department

### I Opening Remarks and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives from government departments to

the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (FEHC). He introduced Ms HA Wing-ka, who attended the meeting for the first time as a co-opted Member.

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 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting held on 20.6.2024

4. The Chairman stated that the Secretariat had not receive 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

### Paragraphs 6 to 17 of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20.6.2024: Concern about the Infestation of Mosquitoes and Biting Midges in Tsuen Wan District and Request for Enhanced Efforts to Control Mosquitoes and Biting Midges

5. The Chairman stated that the representatives from the departments responsible for giving responses were:

- (1) Mr SO Yeung-fung, Chief Health Inspector (Tsuen Wan)<sup>1</sup> (CHI(TW)<sup>1</sup>), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD);
- (2) Ms LEE Wing-chau, Cynthia, Deputy District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan)<sup>2</sup> (DDLMTW)<sup>2</sup>, Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD);
- (3) Mr LEUNG Yau-tak, Richard, Housing Manager/Wong Tai Sin, Tsing Yi & Tsuen Wan 7 (HM/WT&T7), Housing Department (HD); and
- (4) Ms LAM Hang-ling, Sara, Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing) (AA/Lands (DLO)), Lands Department (LandsD).

6. CHI(TW)<sup>1</sup> of the FEHD stated that as for the survey areas of mosquito infestation in Tsuen Wan district, the Area Gravidtrap Indices for Aedes albopictus (AGI) in June and July for Tsuen Wan West were 12.5% and 4.8% respectively, which had returned to Level I (i.e. the lowest

level), and that for Sheung Kwai Chung were 5.7% and 0.9% respectively. In July, the AGI for Tsuen Wan Town Centre and Ma Wan were 6.1% and 2% respectively. The above data reflected that the FEHD's mosquito control work had been effective. During the period from June to July, the FEHD had contacted various venue managers, including the LCSD, HD and property management companies, reminding them to take anti-mosquito measures and providing them with relevant technical advice. The FEHD had also conducted 14 joint inspections and organised small-scale exhibitions and talks to enhance the public's knowledge on the prevention and control work of mosquitoes and biting midges.

7. DDLM(TW)2 of the LCSD responded that the LCSD had installed three additional "IN2CARE" Traps (the "Traps") in Tsuen Wan Park (along the road towards MTR Tsuen Wan West Station) and two Traps at other locations in the park, thereby increasing the total number of Traps in Tsuen Wan Park from 25 to 30. The LCSD had also arranged for trimming of the flower beds on Kwan Mun Hau Street on 25 June and 13 August 2024. The LCSD would continue to monitor the growth of vegetation and weed and carry out pruning on a regular basis.

8. HM/WT&T7 of the HD responded that the HD would continue to implement targeted mosquito control measures by carrying out intensive anti-mosquito work in various public rental housing (PRH) estates in Tsuen Wan district. Contractors engaged by the HD would inspect and clean up potential mosquito breeding sites (parks, sitting-out areas and slopes in particular) every week. They would also apply larvicide sand, spray mosquito larvicidal oil and conduct fogging operations to eradicate adult mosquitoes. In addition, the HD would install mosquito trapping devices at appropriate locations, conduct regular trimming of vegetation grown in planters and on slopes, step up the clearance of dead leaves and refuse to prevent blockage of drainage channels, level off uneven ground surface and arrange for filling of holes. Apart from the cleansing inspections conducted at regular intervals daily, estate offices would also deploy additional patrol teams to inspect the public places of the respective estates weekly, targeting at black spots of mosquito infestation, such as manholes, nullahs, gullies, rooftops, podiums and slopes, and clearing stagnant water which was favourable for mosquitoes to breed and proliferate. Besides, estate offices would participate in the FEHD's meetings on anti-mosquito work and joint operations on a regular basis, so as to examine the anti-mosquito measures in the estates and review their effectiveness together with the FEHD, as well as seek the FEHD's technical advice in this regard. The HD would continue to disseminate the messages of observing good hygiene and taking precautions against mosquito infestation to residents through various channels, including publicity leaflets, posters, the HD's information channels and activities jointly organised with non-profit making organisations.

9. AA/Lands (DLO) of the LandsD responded that there were about 80 grass-cutting sites

under the management of the LandsD in Tsuen Wan district, the details of which were available in the website of the LandsD. The Special Duties Task Force of the LandsD would regularly carry out grass-cutting work and spraying of mosquito larvicidal oil at these sites about once a month.

(Post-meeting note: The LandsD updated the information that there were a total of 119 grass-cutting sites in the districts of Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing, and that the LandsD would arrange grass-cutting work and spraying of mosquito larvicidal oil to these sites on a need basis.)

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

- (1) a Member pointed out that the area between Tsuen Wan Road downward direction and the roundabout at Tai Chung Road was overgrown with weed and vegetation. The Member enquired whether the location concerned was included in the monthly grass-cutting exercise undertaken by the LandsD;
- (2) a Member enquired about the reasons for the LandsD to enclose some of its sites for a long period of time (such as the piece of land off Hong Kong Adventist Hospital - Tsuen Wan) and considered that it would obstruct the FEHD from carrying out cleansing and anti-mosquito work at the sites concerned; and
- (3) a Member stated that during a joint inspection with the HD staff to learn about the mosquito problem in Lei Muk Shue Estate, the HD had given many opinions on the subject matter. The Member noted that the slopes adjacent to the three primary schools in Lei Muk Shue Estate were overgrown with weed and vegetation and, as a result, pupils were prone to mosquito bites. The Member therefore hoped that the departments concerned could follow up the situation.

11. The Chairman noted that the HD would deploy staff to clear the stagnant water on the canopies in Fuk Loi Estate. He stated that, as reflected by some residents, it was also necessary to step up the clearance of the gutters beside the canopies, requesting the HD to pay more attention to and provide assistance in this regard. The Chairman enquired whether members of the public could report to the LandsD through the government hotline “1823 Citizen’s Easy Link” (1823) if they noticed that some grass-cutting sites were overgrown with weed.

12. HM/WT&T7 of the HD responded that the HD would communicate with the estate office of Fuk Loi Estate and would follow up the situation with the Chairman after the meeting.

13. AA/Lands (DLO) of the LandsD responded that the responsible section of the LandsD would arrange for spraying of mosquito larvicidal oil at the same time when carrying out grass-cutting work. Regarding Members’ views raised on certain locations, the LandsD would follow

them up with Members after the meeting. As regards the locations of the slopes mentioned by Members, the LandsD would seek further details from Members after the meeting to confirm whether the lots concerned fell within the purview of the LandsD. Moreover, District Lands Offices of the LandsD would enclose the government land that had been subject to unlawful occupation continuously. The LandsD would conduct review of the need to enclose the land concerned in a timely manner. Lastly, the LandsD would receive public comments on the environmental hygiene of the enclosed land (such as overgrown weed and vegetation and identification of dangerous trees) through 1823 and take follow-up action as appropriate.

(Post-meeting note: The District Land Office had followed up with Mr KOO Yeung-pong and Mr LAU Chung-kong after the meeting on the locations where pruning of vegetation was required.)

14. The Chairman stated that the captioned item would not be included under Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting for discussion.

IV Item 3: Repeated Request for Improvement to the Outflow of Wastewater onto Pavement  
(TWDC FEHC Paper No. 8/24-25)

15. The Chairman stated that Mr CHAN Sung-ip submitted the paper. The representatives from the departments responsible for giving responses were:

- (1) Mr YAU Wai-yip, Senior Property Services Manager/Sham Shui Po & Tsuen Kwai, Architectural Services Department (ArchSD);
- (2) Mr TSE Ho-yeung, Peter, Property Services Manager/Tsuen Wan (PSM/TW), ArchSD;
- (3) Mr SO Yeung-fung, CHI(TW)1, FEHD; and
- (4) Ms LAM Hang-ling, Sara, AA/Lands (DLO), LandsD.

16. Mr CHAN Sung-ip introduced the paper.

17. PSM/TW of the ArchSD responded as follows:

- (1) the ArchSD had received several complaints about blockage of the manholes concerned in 2024. During the clearance of the manholes concerned, the ArchSD's staff had found that there had been pollutants (including grease and suspected construction waste) improperly disposed of therein;
- (2) during an investigation of the manholes in the vicinity, the ArchSD's staff had identified that the blockage of the manhole system might be caused by the discharge of grease from restaurants or improper disposal of domestic pollutants from residents in the upper reaches; and

- (3) upon inspection, the ArchSD's staff had confirmed that the manhole system concerned was in normal condition. The ArchSD advised that the departments concerned should enhance their efforts in educating nearby residents and operators of the restaurants and promoting the proper ways of discharging sewage.

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

- (1) blockage of the manholes concerned had been identified during the FEHD's inspections conducted in January, June and early July 2024, which were immediately referred to the ArchSD for follow-up. During routine inspections, if the FEHD's staff identified outflow of wastewater in public places, which would adversely affect environmental hygiene, they would arrange for clearance as soon as possible;
- (2) upon the inspections conducted recently, the FEHD suspected that some foul water pipes of the four licensed food premises in the vicinity might have been misconnected to the manholes concerned. Among these four food premises, two were issued with a General Restaurant Licence, whereas the other two were issued with a Light Refreshment Restaurant Licence. The FEHD would require all applicants to install grease traps at their restaurants when issuing restaurant licences. The FEHD had inspected the sewage discharge systems of the above four restaurants on 9 August 2024 and confirmed that the sewage discharge facilities of the restaurants concerned were in normal operation and demonstrated a certain degree of grease trapping capacity; and
- (3) restaurants were required to hand over waste cooking oil (WCO) to WCO collectors for proper treatment according to the related requirements and were not allowed to directly discharge WCO into communal sewers. The FEHD would continue to conduct inspections to prevent improper discharge of sewage by restaurants.

19. AA/Lands (DLO) of the LandsD responded that the public toilet at the location concerned was constructed by Sun Hung Kai Properties Limited. With no water and electricity supply, the toilet was not open for public use at present, and it was situated on a piece of enclosed government land. During routine inspections conducted between June and August 2024, the LandsD's staff had not found any outflow of wastewater onto pavement at the public toilet.

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

- (1) a Member enquired whether the FEHD would require applicants who was applying for a licence to install equipment for grease treatment at their restaurants, and whether the FEHD had the enforcement power to instigate prosecution against restaurants for illegal discharge of sewage; and
- (2) a Member pointed out that blockage of the manholes concerned often occurred on Saturday and Sunday. It was hoped that the Drainage Services Department (DSD) or

the departments concerned would provide a hotline to facilitate the report of any identified blockage by Members and residents as quickly as possible. It was also hoped that the departments concerned would assist the relevant contractors in obtaining a prohibited zone permit so that the vehicles used for manhole clearance could travel to and from Ma Wan when needed.

21. CHI(TW)1 of the FEHD responded that when the FEHD was to issue a licence to a restaurant, it would require the restaurant to discharge sewage into the Government's sewerage system. Besides, wastewater discharged from wash-up sinks in restaurants had to pass through a grease trap first to ensure that the grease in wastewater was trapped before it was further discharged into drains. Larger food remnants should also be filtered through a screen and properly disposed of to prevent them from discharging into the drains. If the wastewater generated by restaurants had been separated from grease and waste before discharging into the drains, it should not have caused drain blockage. It was an offence to directly discharge restaurant wastewater into public places or through stormwater drains, and offenders were liable to prosecution. Upon receipt of reports, the FEHD would conduct inspections to the restaurants concerned. For restaurants suspected of illegal discharge of sewage, such as restaurants having the problems of misconnection of foul water pipes to stormwater drains or malfunction of grease trapping equipment, the FEHD would carry out investigation and, where appropriate, refer the cases to the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) for follow-up.

22. Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West)2 (SEPO(RW)2) of the EPD responded that pursuant to the Water Pollution Control Ordinance, water flowing into stormwater drains should be uncontaminated, and sewage discharged into foul water pipes should comply with the requirements set out in the related technical memoranda, i.e. the grease content in the sewage should not exceed the established limit. Besides, the EPD, DSD and FEHD had set up a joint working group to conduct a targeted review of the grease content in sewage discharged from restaurants across the territory. Regarding the locations mentioned by Members in the paper, the EPD would conduct timely inspections and remind the restaurants nearby to properly manage and regularly clean their grease traps. If discharge of excessive grease from restaurants was identified, the EPD would gather evidence and follow up on the situation.

23. PSM/TW of the ArchSD further responded that members of the public having identified blockage of manholes and outflow of wastewater onto roads might report the situation to the ArchSD at 1823. The ArchSD had also contacted the secretariat of the Ma Wan Rural Committee for direct liaison and provision of assistance in such matters. Under normal circumstances, it would take one day for the ArchSD to complete the clean-up work. Besides, the ArchSD considered that the blockage of manhole system might be caused by the discharge



of grease from restaurants in the upper reaches, hence the situation would be more likely to occur during holidays and busy periods of the restaurants. The ArchSD had conducted inspections to the manholes nearby again on 14 August and confirmed that the manhole system concerned was in normal condition.

V Item 4: Proposal for Provision of a GREEN@COMMUNITY Recycling Store in Tsuen Wan Northwest

(TWDC FEHC Paper No. 9/24-25)

24. 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) Ms WONG Fong, Fanny, SEPO(RW)2, EPD; and
- (2) Mr SO Yeung-fung, CHI(TW)1, FEHD.

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

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

- (1) a Member hoped that more GREEN@COMMUNITY Recycling Stores (the “recycling stores”) and nighttime self-service recycling facilities would be provided in Tsuen Wan Northwest. The two recycling stores currently provided in Tsuen Wan district were too far away for residents in Tsuen Wan Northwest and it was very inconvenient for them to take their recyclables to these recycling stores by vehicles, and;
- (2) a Member hoped that the recycling stores could be opened on holidays to facilitate the recycling of waste by people who had to go to work on weekdays. The Member cited Sham Tseng as an example, pointing out that the recycling spot providing service for the area only operated once a week and could hardly meet the residents’ demand for recycling services;
- (3) a Member opined that in addition to providing a recycling store in Tsuen Wan Northwest, the EPD should also provide another recycle store in Tsuen Wan Southeast because the recycling capacity of the two existing recycling stores in the district were almost saturated;
- (4) a Member suggested that in addition to the initiative of GREEN@COMMUNITY, the EPD should be in collaboration with large housing estates for setting up recycling stores. The Member also recommended the provision of recycling stores at major refuse collection points (RCPs); and
- (5) a Member pointed out that, as reflected by some people, it was difficult to redeem the

popular gift items, such as rice and cooking oil, with GREEN\$ points.

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

- (1) the EPD had rolled out a number of waste reduction and recycling schemes with a view to improving the community recycling network progressively. Among them, the Programme on Source Separation of Waste had covered more than 90 housing estates/residential buildings in Tsuen Wan district, providing residents with waste separation bins for free and encouraging them to participate in clean recycling. The EPD reviewed the distribution of waste separation bins placed in various areas and would retain most of the waste separation bins in rural areas to facilitate waste recovery by residents there;
- (2) the EPD was extending the community recycling network of GREEN@COMMUNITY in all districts across the territory in a progressive manner. At present, there were two recycling stores provided in Tsuen Wan district, namely, GREEN@YI PEI SQUARE and GREEN@LO TAK COURT, as well as two recycling stores provided in PRH estates, namely, GREEN@SHEK WAI KOK and GREEN@LEI MUK SHUE;
- (3) in addition to providing recycling service at fixed locations, the operators of GREEN@YI PEI SQUARE and GREEN@LO TAK COURT also provided collection-at-door service which covered the areas of Tsuen King Circuit, Sham Tseng, Tsing Lung Tau and Belvedere Garden. The recyclables for collection included paper, metals, regulated electrical equipment, glass containers, plastics, small electrical appliances, fluorescent lamps and tubes, and rechargeable batteries, etc. The operators of GREEN@COMMUNITY would then deliver the collected recyclables to downstream recyclers for proper handling. If collection-at-door service was needed, residents might contact the operators of GREEN@YI PEI SQUARE and GREEN@LO TAK COURT. Residents might also make use of the recycling spots in the district for recycling;
- (4) at present, all the facilities of GREEN@COMMUNITY were open all year round, including Sundays and public holidays (with special arrangement made for individual days only). Nighttime self-service recycling facilities were also provided at most of the recycling stores to facilitate the working public's participation in recycling outside the operating hours of the recycling stores (such as at weekends and at night). In response to the public demand for recycling services, the EPD had adjusted the operating hours of most recycling stores in PRH estates, which would be from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. after adjustment. The operating hours of all recycling stores would also be extended gradually by three hours this year, which would be from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. after extension;

- (5) the EPD was actively piloting the provision of new nighttime recycling spots with operating hours from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The operation of the nighttime recycling spots on Hong Kong Island and in Kowloon had commenced in June and July 2024 respectively. Such service would soon be extended to the New Territories to further improve the ancillary recycling facilities at district level; and
- (6) the EPD would reflect Members' concerns and views on community recycling facilities, GREEN@COMMUNITY and GREEN\$ points to the responsible sections. The EPD would also continue to review the operation of and specific demand for recycling facilities in various districts across the territory, with a view to making effective use of resources for extending the community recycling network of GREEN@COMMUNITY and actively considering the enhancement of recycling services in the district. In this way, residents would be enabled to participate in recycling more conveniently.

28. CHI(TW)1 of the FEHD responded that on treatment of solid waste, the FEHD was mainly responsible for refuse collection. The FEHD would actively complement the EPD's recycling work and had designated space at major and minor RCPs in the district for the placing of waste separation bins by the EPD. As regards the recycling of food waste, the FEHD had provided space at Heung Che Street RCP and Luen Yan Street RCP in the district for the EPD to set up food waste recycling points.

29. The Chairman pointed out that the recycling capacity of the existing recycling stores in the district was almost saturated. Hence, he hoped that the EPD could provide additional recycling stores in areas around Belvedere Garden, Sham Tseng and Ting Kau. He also suggested that the EPD should consider providing more mobile spots to facilitate the redemption of gift items with GREEN\$ points by the public, such as using mobile vans to provide the service of gift redemption.

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

- (1) a Member opined that the operators of GREEN@COMMUNITY were efficient in restocking gifts after redemption. However, some people would abuse the GREEN\$ Electronic Participation Scheme (the "Scheme") through its loopholes. For example, some people would keep on obtaining the physical GREEN\$ smart cards to redeem gift items. The Member hoped that the EPD could plug the loophole regarding the redemption of gift items under the Scheme;
- (2) a Member hoped that the EPD would co-operate with private housing estates or the village office of various villages so that residents could participate in waste recovery within a shorter walking distance; and

- (3) a Member urged the EPD to allocate more resources to set up additional recycling stores in Tsuen Wan district to facilitate the recycling of waste by resident. In addition, the Member hoped that the EPD would offer extra support for the operators since they had provided additional recycling services which exceeded the requirements as stipulated in the original agreement. The Member requested the EPD to advise whether there were plans to establish additional recycling stores in the future.

31. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded that the EPD would reflect Members' concerns and views to the responsible sections. Regarding the plans for establishing additional recycling facilities in the future, the EPD would continue to review the recycling needs of the residents in the district and the operation of the facilities concerned, and would make timely adjustment and enhancement, such as increasing the number of recycling spots and extending the operating hours of the recycling facilities.

VI Item 5: Request for Enhanced Efforts to Prohibit the Feeding of Pigeons and Tackle the Issues Relating to Monkeys and Wild Boars in Tsuen Wan District  
(TWDC FEHC Paper No. 10/24-25)

32. The Chairman stated that as the paper of captioned agenda item was submitted by him, he asked the Vice Chairman to take over the chair temporarily.

33. The Acting Chairman stated that Mr KOT Siu-yuen and Ms HA Wing-ka submitted the paper. The representatives from the departments responsible for giving responses were:

- (1) Mr CHAN King-tung, Tony, Fauna Conservation Officer (Enforcement) (FCO(E)), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD);
- (2) Mr LIU Hung-wai, Philip, Senior Field Officer (Avian Influenza) (SFO(AI)), AFCD; and
- (3) Mr LEUNG Yau-tak, Richard, HM/WT&T7, HD.

34. Mr KOT Siu-yuen and Ms HA Wing-ka introduced the paper.

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

- (1) a Member pointed out that there were many black spots of feral pigeon congregation in Tsuen Wan district, including the areas outside Serenade Cove, Tsuen Kam Centre, Discovery Park and Lok Shue House of Lei Muk Shue Estate. The congregation of feral pigeons would not only adversely affect environmental hygiene but also cause rodent infestation. The Member wanted to learn more about the Wild Animals Protection (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 (the "Amendment Ordinance") and the enforcement actions taken by the departments concerned after the Amendment

Ordinance had come into effect;

- (2) a Member pointed out that wild pigs often appeared on Yi Pei Chun Road near Sam Tung Uk Village in search of food at night. Despite the follow-up actions taken by the departments concerned, wild pigs continued to appear at the location concerned, causing nuisance to residents nearby. The Member also pointed out that there were monkeys at the bus stops on Wo Yi Hop Road, and hoped that relevant departments would remind the public of the points to note when they encountered monkeys;
- (3) a Member pointed out that wild pigs had been found in Shing Mun Valley Park near Shek Wai Kok Estate, and the incident had caused panic among the residents in the vicinity. Members hoped that the departments concerned would try their best to control the population growth of wild pigs or guide them to live in other places in the rural areas;
- (4) a Member hoped that the AFCD and HD would strengthen their collaboration so as to educate the public on the proper ways to treat wild animals through various channels (such as displaying promotional banners in PRH estates); and
- (5) a Member suggested that the AFCD should set up a reporting hotline against illegal feeding of wild animals in future to enhance deterrent effect.

36. SFO(AI) of the AFCD responded as follows:

- (1) the AFCD had all along been adopting a multi-pronged approach to reduce the nuisance caused by feral pigeons to the residents. It had implemented various measures such as launching the Trial Programme of Using Contraceptive Drug on Feral Pigeons. The AFCD was pending the research report to be submitted by the City University of Hong Kong for reviewing the effectiveness of the contraceptive drug. As droppings of feral pigeons might increase the risk of transmission of human diseases, the AFCD would collect samples from black spots of feral pigeon congregation for testing the viruses of avian influenza;
- (2) the AFCD was committed to educating the public and had displayed banners to publicise the feeding ban of feral pigeons at 500 locations or so across the territory (about 20 of which were in Tsuen Wan district). The AFCD would organise educational talks in the community and would set up publicity booths at Discovery Park or Belvedere Garden in November; and
- (3) as the Amendment Ordinance had come into effect on 1 August 2024, the AFCD would make adjustment to manpower deployment in a timely manner to step up law enforcement. The AFCD received a total of 52 complaints against illegal feeding of feral pigeons from 1 to 12 August 2024. The AFCD had conducted 44 inspections and distributed relevant publicity leaflets to the public at more than 30 black spots of feral pigeon congregation.

37. FCO(E) of the AFCD responded as follows:

- (1) the AFCD had launched a series of publicity and education campaigns themed “All For No Feeding” since the first quarter of 2024, such as placing large advertisements on various kinds of public transport and playing promotional videos on televisions installed at the lobbies in private housing estates or PRH estates;
- (2) after the Amendment Ordinance had come into force, the FEHD, HD and LCSD would take enforcement actions at venues under their management. There would be a one-month grace period immediately after the commencement of the Amendment Ordinance. During this period, if staff of the AFCD identified illegal feeding of wild animals by the public, they would first give verbal advice to the offenders and would take prosecution actions against them in the case of ineffective advice. Since the commencement of the Amendment Ordinance, no prosecution cases had been recorded. From 1 September onwards, staff of the AFCD would no longer give verbal advice to person who was found feeding wild animals illegally and would instigate prosecution immediately. The AFCD expected that the penalties under the Amendment Ordinance could pose sufficient deterrent effect;
- (3) the AFCD would continue to monitor the locations where wild pigs were found as mentioned by Members, arrange staff to conduct inspections and display large publicity banners to remind the public not to feed wild pigs. The AFCD had instigated prosecution against a person for illegal feeding of wild pigs in the vicinity of Hilltop Road successfully and carried out operations to capture wild pigs in Tsuen Wan district. Apart from instigating prosecution against offenders for illegal feeding of wild pigs, the AFCD would also adopt the approach of humanely dispatching to reduce the number of wild pigs and the nuisance caused by wild pigs to residents;
- (4) the AFCD did not observe any illegal feeding of monkeys by the public during its inspections in Tsuen Wan district. Although country parks were the main habitat of monkeys, some monkeys might mistakenly enter urban areas. Even so, they would leave on their own after realising that there was no food. Members of the public were advised to keep a safe distance from the monkeys and avoid playing with or feeding them. The AFCD would promote the related messages and set up an on-street booth for publicity in Cheung Shan Estate in October;
- (5) residents should avoid disturbing wild animals when hiking. When encountering monkeys, they should remain calm, avoid looking at the monkeys directly and leave quietly; and
- (6) the public might refer the relevant complaints or reports to the AFCD via 1823 which would assign the cases to the responsible departments for follow-up.

38. HM/WT&T7 of the HD responded that the HD had stepped up publicity on the message of “All For No Feeding” in late July and early August, including the display of promotional banners and distribution of relevant publicity leaflets. Regarding the location outside Lok Shue House of Lei Muk Shue Estate as mentioned by a Member, the HD would liaise with the estate office concerned for understanding the situation and follow up with the Member after the meeting. If Members identified any suspected illegal feeding of wild animals in PRH estates in Tsuen Wan district, they might directly contact the estate offices concerned.

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

- (1) a Member pointed out that landslip had occurred at the slopes near Sheung Kwai Chung Village and Lei Muk Shue Estate during the adverse weather earlier. After investigation carried out by the Slopes Section of the Civil Engineering and Development Department, it had been found that the soil at the locations concerned had been loosened as a result of digging by wild pigs, which could then be easily washed away by stormwater. The Member urged the AFCD and HD to closely monitor the safety of the slopes at the locations concerned;
- (2) a Member opined that that stringent enforcement would be more effective than persuasion. Having pointed out that some non-Chinese persons had engaged in illegal feeding of monkeys at Shing Mun Reservoir, the Member suggested that the departments concerned should prepare publicity materials in different languages;
- (3) a Member stated that, as mentioned in the paper, the total population of monkeys in country parks remained at 2 000 or so in the past three years. The Member enquired whether the figure referred to a total number of 2 000 monkeys over three years or in each year. The Member opined that it would be inevitable for monkeys to enter urban areas to forage for food since country parks were too close to urban areas. Besides, the Member enquired whether the AFCD would perform neutering operations on wild pigs;
- (4) a Member commended the AFCD for its publicity work, but was concerned that it would be difficult for the departments concerned to take enforcement actions if illegal feeding of feral pigeons took place in private lots. The Member enquired whether the AFCD would consider concentrating the feeding of feral pigeons at certain locations with a view to reducing the chance of feral pigeons searching food in urban areas;
- (5) a Member enquired whether prosecution actions would be taken against persons for feeding stray cats and dogs under the Amendment Ordinance, and whether the HD could take enforcement actions against persons who were not PRH tenants but engaged in feeding wild animals in PRH estates;
- (6) a Member suggested that the AFCD should print on relevant publicity banners and posters the message of encouraging the public to report the behaviour of illegal feeding

through 1823; and

- (7) a Member worried that some people might keep feral pigeons as pets, and therefore suggested that the HD should conduct inspections to check whether feral pigeons were kept by PRH tenants.

40. FCO(E) of the AFCD responded as follows:

- (1) the AFCD was studying the production of publicity materials on the subject matter in different languages;
- (2) the AFCD had been performing neutering operations for monkeys since 2007, and the number of monkeys having received neutering operation was more than 2 000. Owing to the death of some neutered monkeys and the newborn monkeys which had not received neutering operations during this period, the total population of monkeys was around 2 000 over the past three years;
- (3) the AFCD had attempted to perform neutering operations on wild pigs but the results were not satisfactory. Even if some wild pigs had been neutered, they would still forage for food everywhere and it was difficult to catch them as well. Since wild pigs were more widely distributed across the territory and monkeys mainly gathered in the central parts of the New Territories, the AFCD would adopt the approach of humanely dispatching as the major means to reduce the number of wild pigs;
- (4) as the AFCD aimed to reduce the number of feral pigeons, the method of gathering feral pigeons by feeding them at designated locations was not recommended. It would also be difficult to control feral pigeons and have them stay at designated locations for a long period of time. The AFCD would explore different ways to reduce the number of feral pigeons;
- (5) upon the enactment of the Amendment Ordinance, the FEHD, LCSD and HD were empowered for enforcement actions within the areas under their management. The Amendment Ordinance also covered private lots. If the jurisdiction of certain sites was too complicated, the AFCD would make arrangement for conducting joint operations;
- (6) the AFCD would consider Members' suggestion of including the reporting hotline on posters; and
- (7) it was stipulated in the Amendment Ordinance that the feeding ban was extended to cover all wild animals (including wild pigs, monkeys and bats) and also feral pigeons. However, it did not prohibit the feeding of stray cats and dogs.

41. SFO(AI) of the AFCD further responded that according to the opinion of the AFCD's Veterinary Officers after assessment, it would be costly and risky for performing neutering operations on feral pigeons due to their small size. Neutering operation was therefore not



recommended.

42. HM/WT&T7 of the HD further responded that after the commencement of the Amendment Ordinance, the HD was given the power of law enforcement and could instigate prosecution against offenders in breach of the feeding ban directly without the need to give verbal warnings first. The HD believed that the pigeons congregating in PRH estates were wild animals and would conduct investigation in the case of suspected keeping of feral pigeons as pets by any households.

VII Item 6: Information Paper

Work Report on Environmental Pollution Control in Tsuen Wan District (1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024)

(TWDC FEHC Paper No. 11/24-25)

43. Members noted the content of the captioned paper.

VIII Item 7: Information Paper

Work Report on Environmental Hygiene in Tsuen Wan District

(TWDC FEHC Paper No. 12/24-25)

44. The Chairman was concerned about the situation of rodent infestation in Tsuen Wan district and hoped that the FEHD would step up its anti-rodent work at all markets in the district.

IX Adjournment of Meeting

45. The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting was scheduled for 24 October 2024 (Thursday) and the deadline for submission of papers was 8 October 2024 (Tuesday).

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat

5 September 2024