

(Translation)

Minutes of the 6th Meeting of
Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (5/24-25)

Date: 19 December 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

Miss PANG Choi-ling

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

Mr TIN Siu-fung

Senior Health Inspector (Market
Management) Tsuen Wan, Food and

Ms WONG Fong, Fanny

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

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat Representatives

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

I Opening Remarks and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives from government departments to the 6th 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 5th Meeting held on 24.10.2024

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 Matters Relating to the Revitalisation of Tsuen Wan Market Street and Yeung Uk Road Market to Maintain Their Advantages

(TWDC FEHC Paper No. 17/24-25)

6. The Chairman stated that Ms HA Wing-ka 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) Miss PANG Choi-ling, Chief Health Inspector (Tsuen Wan)² (CHI(TW)²), FEHD; and
- (3) Mr TIN Siu-fung, Senior Health Inspector (Market Management) Tsuen Wan (SHI(MM)TW), FEHD.

7. Ms HA Wing-ka introduced the paper.

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

- (1) a Member suggested that stalls on the higher floors of the market should be rented out for use as cooked food stalls;
- (2) a Member was pleased to note that the FEHD had given positive response to the requests of stall operators during the meetings of the respective Market Management Consultative Committees, such as replacement of the large ventilation fans in Yeung Uk Road Market. The Member hoped that the FEHD could provide additional anti-skid devices in markets, and pointed out that the surface of the passageways near the fresh meat stalls on the second floor of Yeung Uk Road Market was often slippery due to the accumulation of greasy dirt, thereby requesting the FEHD to step up the cleansing work;
- (3) a Member pointed out that community living rooms were provided on the third and fourth floors of Tsuen Wan Market. However, stagnant water was often accumulated at the nearby passageways due to their close proximity to vegetable stalls. The Member requested the FEHD to provide anti-skid rubber mats to prevent the public from slipping and sustaining injuries; and
- (4) a Member enquired whether the FEHD could carry out inspection to the markets in the afternoon, as the environmental hygiene conditions in the markets in the afternoon were generally less satisfactory than that in the morning.

9. CHI(TW)² of the FEHD responded as follows:

- (1) the FEHD was always concerned about the operating environment, equipment safety and hygiene conditions in public markets. To enhance the facilities and improve the environmental hygiene of Tsuen Wan Market and Yeung Uk Road Market, the FEHD

had carried out minor refurbishment or improvement works for the aforementioned markets through the Market Modernisation Programme. The project items of which included repair and beautification works for some ceilings/walls/columns/pipes inside the markets, refurbishment of the existing fixtures/facilities (such as refuse collection points, refuse collection chambers and loading/unloading areas), and enhancement of anti-rodent measures;

- (2) at present, the occupancy rates of Tsuen Wan Market and Yeung Uk Road Market were 82% and 84% respectively. To attract more people to apply for renting stalls in the markets, the Headquarters Division of the FEHD had launched a pilot scheme of leasing public market stalls on a “first-come, first-served” basis since December 2024. There were 19 vacant stalls in Tsuen Wan Market available for application for rental;
- (3) the FEHD would review the operating environment of the public markets from time to time so as to formulate suitable and feasible improvement proposals. It would also carry out improvement and revitalisation works for public markets on a continuous basis. To attract users of the two community living rooms on the third and fourth floors of Tsuen Wan Market to patronise the market, the FEHD had arranged for the works of replacing signs and installing additional signs at various passageways and exits/entrances in Tsuen Wan Market;
- (4) the replacement works of large ventilation fans in Yeung Uk Road Market had commenced in late October 2024 and were expected to be completed before the Lunar New Year. The works would help improve the air ventilation of the market. Besides, the FEHD was seeking funding approval for carrying out the works to enhance the skid-resistant installations at various exits/entrances on the ground floor of Yeung Uk Road Market, which would tie in with the replacement works of the corroded staircase handrails at the centre of the market to further safeguard the safety of patrons of the market;
- (5) barrier-free access facilities (including handrails, ramps and tactile tiles, etc.) were currently provided at the exit/entrance of Tsuen Wan Market near Chuen Lung Street for use by those in need. The FEHD was in consultation with the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD), studying the feasibility of installing additional barrier-free access facilities in Tsuen Wan Market;
- (6) to enhance the hygiene condition of toilets in public markets, the FEHD had stepped up inspection to toilets, replaced the damaged facilities (such as toilet seats) and maintained adequate supply of hygienic items (such as toilet paper and liquid soap) in a timely manner, as well as repaired the ceilings and re-painted the directional signs in need. The FEHD would continue to review the toilet equipment and strengthen the monitoring of the performance of toilet cleaning services;

- (7) at present, in addition to the periods during the Lunar New Year, Tuen Ng Festival, Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival and Christmas, the Headquarters Division of the FEHD would from time to time conduct publicity and promotional activities at Tsuen Wan Market and Yeung Uk Road Market, aiming to attract more people to shop in the markets. The latest activity was organised by the FEHD on 1 October 2024, that is, the National Day, and its staff were deployed to distribute gifts at the five markets in Tsuen Wan district. Stall operators thereat also supported the activity by offering various kinds of discounts and concessions, such as offering a 25-percent-off discount on the National Day, which were well received by the public. The FEHD would distribute gifts, including monthly calendars, fai chuns and red packet envelopes, etc., at various markets in Tsuen Wan district before the Lunar New Year, hoping to share the festive joy with the public and boost the patronage of the markets as well; and
- (8) the FEHD would continue to monitor the operation of the public markets and timely organise publicity and promotional activities with a view to maintaining the advantages of Tsuen Wan Market and Yeung Uk Road Market.

10. SHI(MM)TW of the FEHD responded as follows:

- (1) there was a total of eight large ventilation fans in Yeung Uk Road Market, seven of which had already been replaced. In addition, the FEHD had borrowed five ventilation fans from the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, and would place them in Tsuen Wan Market during summer to improve the air ventilation there;
- (2) the FEHD would conduct inspection to the locations with damaged paving blocks as mentioned by Members, and would have further discussion with the Highways Department on the subject matter in a timely manner;
- (3) the FEHD had deployed additional manpower to carry out the cleansing work and had replaced the damaged facilities in the toilets of Tsuen Wan Market. The FEHD would also remind the contractor to step up cleansing services;
- (4) in addition to the activity held on the National Day, the FEHD had also distributed almanacs and desktop calendars of the coming year at Yeung Uk Road Market and Tsuen Wan Market on 18 December 2024 with a view to promoting the markets in Tsuen Wan district. Such activity had received positive response from the community;
- (5) after conducting inspection with the ArchSD to Yeung Uk Road Market, the FEHD planned to install non-slip nosing at the steps of the staircases constructed at the seven exits/entrances of the market and carry out refurbishment works at the five ramps in the market. The FEHD also planned to pave the ramp near Wo Tik Street with anti-skid materials. Besides, the FEHD had timely replaced the damaged facilities of

the toilets in Yeung Uk Road Market and reminded the contractors to strengthen the cleansing work of the environment; and

- (6) the FEHD would remind the cleansing contractors to pay special attention to the environmental hygiene conditions of the markets in the afternoon and increase the frequency of the cleansing work.

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

- (1) a Member proposed to carry out beautification of the external walls of the markets, especially that of Yeung Uk Road Market. It was because the market was near hotels and exhibition centres, and visitors would be more likely to notice its appearance. The Member also pointed out that illegal hawking activities might appear at locations near the markets during the period of the Lunar New Year, and therefore enquired whether the FEHD would take any corresponding measures to address the situation;
- (2) apart from being concerned about the situation of Tsuen Wan Market and Yeung Uk Road Market, a Member was also concerned about the situation of Heung Che Street Market. The Member suggested that the FEHD should conduct inspection to the hygiene condition of the markets concerned during peak hours;
- (3) a Member enquired whether the FEHD would consider installing air-conditioners in the markets;
- (4) a Member suggested that the FEHD should pay attention to the odour problem in the toilets of the markets and consider changing the types of the toilet paper provided, that is, replacing the existing toilet paper rolls with toilet paper products with single-sheet dispensing, to avoid wastage;
- (5) a Member suggested that barrier-free access facilities should be provided at the exit/entrance of Tsuen Wan Market near Chung On Street;
- (6) a Member suggested that the FEHD might distribute promotional gifts through various ways such as quiz games about the markets, or arrange for distribution on higher floors of the markets so that the public would have the opportunity to familiarise with the stalls on higher floors; and
- (7) a Member pointed out that there might be an increase in the amount of refuse inside the market and a large amount of styrofoam waste would accumulate outside the markets after the Winter Solstice and the Lunar New Year, thereby requesting the FEHD to make early arrangements for cleansing and transportation of refuse.

12. CHI(TW)2 of the FEHD responded as follows:

- (1) the FEHD would deploy internal resources and manpower to ensure that the toilets in the markets would meet the standards of public toilets;

- (2) jumbo roll toilet paper was the standardised toilet paper currently provided in the toilets of the markets, and the FEHD did not plan to change the types of toilet paper for the time being. The FEHD had taken note of Members' views on toilet paper;
- (3) the FEHD noted Members' views on barrier-free access facilities and would further discuss the feasibility with the ArchSD;
- (4) the FEHD would reflect Members' views on distribution of promotional gifts to the Headquarters Division; and
- (5) the FEHD had no plan of providing air-conditioning in the markets concerned at this stage because the installation works of air-conditioners would significantly affect the daily operation of the markets. The FEHD would focus on adopting measures to improve air ventilation.

13. SHI(MM)TW of the FEHD responded that as regards the possible accumulation of a large quantity of styrofoam waste outside the markets after the Winter Solstice and after the Lunar New Year, the Hawkers and Markets Section as well as the Cleansing Section of the FEHD would make early preparation for resource allocation and operational arrangement of grab-mounted lorries and refuse collection vehicles. Besides, the FEHD had discussed with the ArchSD and conducted inspection to the external walls of Yeung Uk Road Market. It had also planned to carry out repainting of the external walls. However, since closure of some parts of the road would be required whenever repainting of the walls was to be carried out, it would take dozens of times of repainting before completion.

V Item 4: Information Paper

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

(TWDC FEHC Paper No. 18/24-25)

14. 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. 19/24-25)

15. A Member pointed out that in addition to the footbridge network, on-street begging activities were also observed at locations near the markets in the district from time to time. Besides, the Member enquired whether the FEHD had planned to carry out any large-scale clean-up campaigns before the Lunar New Year. The Member also pointed out that offenders or stalls of unlicensed hawking activities might appear during the period around the Lunar New Year, thereby hoping that the FEHD would closely monitor the situation.

16. CHI(TW)2 of the FEHD responded that the FEHD would drive away persons engaged in on-street begging activities inside the markets. However, locations outside the markets were not managed by the FEHD.

17. CHI(TW)1 of the FEHD responded that the FEHD would organise a year-end clean-up campaign in the district starting from 6 January 2025 and would invite Members to jointly inspect the cleansing work to be carried out in the district. Besides, the FEHD had all along been collaborating with the Police to combat the illegal extension of business by shops and street obstruction. It would increase the frequency of operations against such offences before the Lunar New Year as well. The FEHD would also step up street cleaning when the year end was near.

VII Item 6: Any Other Business

18. A Member pointed out that recently there were monkeys foraging in Lei Muk Shue Estate and the situation was serious. It was presumed that the situation might be due to the difficulties encountered by the monkeys in seeking food after the legislation prohibiting feeding wild animals had come into effect. The Member also pointed out that a few dozens of monkeys had previously dashed out onto the carriageway in Lei Muk Shue Estate near Wo Yi Hop Road for snatching food. Hence, the Member hoped that the Tsuen Wan District Office (TWDO) would review the aforementioned situation with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Police. Lastly, the Member commended the FEHD for taking immediate follow-up actions after learning Members' views on the fouling of public places by monkeys.

19. Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan) of the TWDO responded that upon receipt of a report made by a Member on 7 December 2024 on the presence of monkeys at a location in Lei Muk Shue Estate near Wo Yi Hop Road, the TWDO immediately informed the AFCD and the FEHD. Nevertheless, the staff concerned did not identify any monkeys upon their arrival at scene. The TWDO noted that two rubbish bins had been knocked over at the location concerned, causing the monkeys to gather and forage in the vicinity. The FEHD had immediately removed the rubbish bins and took follow-up actions. The TWDO had also informed the Police of the situation. Moreover, the TWDO had always been in close liaison with the AFCD, which would attend the next meeting of the TWDO's Area Committee for discussion on the related issues.

20. CHI(TW)1 of the FEHD responded that the location mentioned by the Member was situated at the boundary of two areas respectively managed by the FEHD's Tsuen Wan District Environmental Hygiene Office and Kwai Tsing District Environmental Hygiene Office. Upon

receipt of the report concerned, the FEHD had immediately contacted the concerned staff in Kwai Tsing District for follow up. The rubbish bins placed at the location were removed at once to prevent the location from becoming a source of food for monkeys. Moreover, the newly designed wildlife-resistant refuse collection facilities had also been installed to prevent wild animals from easily rummaging through the rubbish bins for food.

21. A Member pointed out that the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), together with other relevant departments and Members, had recently conducted a joint inspection to the situation of the odour problem at Tsuen Wan harbourfront, finding that the problem had been reduced indeed. The Member commended the EPD for making strenuous efforts in taking the lead to reduce the odour problem at the waterfront by collaborating with other departments.

22. Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West)² of the EPD thanked Members for their continued support for the work of the EPD. The EPD would continue to review the situation of the odour problem at Tsuen Wan harbourfront. Apart from continuing the efforts to identify cases of misconnection of foul water pipes to stormwater drains, the EPD would also cooperate with the Drainage Services Department to clean up the sludge in the box culverts with a view to further reducing the odour problem.

23. The Chairman noted that many Members had participated in the publicity activity of “Mission P.” educational booths organised by the AFCD last week. He also called on Members to keep the subject matter in view and publicise the newly amended Wild Animals Protection Ordinance among residents in the district.

VIII Adjournment of Meeting

24. The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting was scheduled for 20 February 2025 (Thursday) and the deadline for submission of papers was 5 February 2025 (Wednesday).

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat
5 January 2025