

(Translation)

Minutes of the 7th Meeting of
Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (6/24-25)

Date: 20 February 2025

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 CHU Po-yin, Christine Chief Health Inspector (Administration & Development) Special
Duties, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr LI Kai-lun Senior Health Inspector (Administration & Development)
Special Duties, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr CHAN Yip-wai, Edward Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West)2,
Environmental Protection Department

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat Representatives

Miss LEUNG Wai-ching, Clementine	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 7th meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (FEHC). The Chairman introduced Mr CHAN Yip-wai, Edward, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West)2 (SEPO(RW)2) of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), who replaced Ms WONG Fong, Fanny and attended the meeting for the first time.

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 6th Meeting held on 19.12.2024

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 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: Overview of Green Burial 2025

(TWDC FEHC Paper No. 20/24-25)

6. The Chairman stated that the paper was submitted by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). The representatives from the department attending the meeting were:

- (1) Ms CHU Po-yin, Christine, Chief Health Inspector (Administration & Development) Special Duties (CHI(A&D)SD), FEHD; and
- (2) Mr LI Kai-lun, Senior Health Inspector (Administration & Development) Special Duties (SHI(A&D)SD), FEHD.

7. CHI(A&D)SD and SHI(A&D)SD, of the FEHD introduced the paper.

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

- (1) a Member was pleased to note that the FEHD had provided new green burial commemorative facilities and services. The Member enquired whether the FEHD would provide support and take follow-up action if elderly singletons would plan to use green burial services; and
- (2) a Member enquired whether family member was required to make an advance application for scattering cremated human ashes at sea, and whether sea scattering had to be carried out in designated areas in Hong Kong waters.

9. SHI(A&D)SD of the FEHD responded as follows:

- (1) the FEHD did not provide any services for after-death arrangements for elderly singletons. The relevant hospice care services were provided by social welfare organisations instead; and
- (2) any members of the public wishing to scatter cremated human ashes at sea must obtain prior approval from the FEHD, and sea scattering could only be carried out in three designated areas in Hong Kong waters. The applicant should provide the date and time for sea scattering to the FEHD. The date of scattering could be changed through the online system at any time up to four days before the scattering, if the free ferry service for scattering cremated human ashes at sea provided by the FEHD was used. The applicant could check online immediately whether the modification was accepted without the need to go through the procedure in person at the relevant office.

10. The Chairman appreciated the new green burial commemorative facilities and services and considered that under the arrangement, due regard was given to the dignity of the deceased and the feeling of the family member of the deceased was respected, which also provided a sense of ritual. The Chairman enquired the FEHD whether green burial services would be promoted to young people in addition to the elderly.

11. SHI(A&D)SD of the FEHD responded that the FEHD would organise guided tours for the public (especially the elderly) and engage professionals to introduce how to make life and death planning in a timely manner. Recently, many tertiary institutions had invited the FEHD to co-organise life and death education activities and introduce green burial. In 2024, the FEHD had also invited secondary and tertiary students to participate in the life and death education activities organised by its service contractors.

V Item 4: Matters Relating to the Provision of Additional Service Points of Reverse Vending Machines in Tsuen Wan District

(TWDC FEHC Paper No. 21/24-25)

12. The Chairman stated that the paper was submitted by Ms HA Wing-ka. The representative from the department responsible for giving responses was Mr CHAN Yip-wai, Edward, SEPO(RW)2, EPD.

13. Ms HA Wing-ka introduced the paper.

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

- (1) a Member pointed out that reverse vending machines (RVMs) were welcomed by members of the public who would obtain an instant rebate through recycling plastic beverage containers (PBCs), and considered that this initiative would help raise the public's awareness of environmental protection;
- (2) a Member pointed out that the PBCs produced by some local manufacturers could not be recycled through the RVMs given that the product codes were not printed on the PBCs directly, which rendered automatic scanning impossible. The Member suggested that the EPD should encourage beverage manufacturers to print product codes directly on the bottle caps to prevent the abovementioned situation; and
- (3) a Member enquired about the number of PBCs each RVM could collect, and whether the quantity of PBCs recovered by the RVMs could be increased.

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

- (1) to implement the Producer Responsibility Scheme (PRS) on Plastic Beverage Containers and Beverage Cartons, the EPD had rolled out three stages of pilot scheme from 2021 to 2023 to test out the actual use of RVMs for collecting PBCs. A total of 120 RVMs had been set up at public places, government facilities and shopping centres with suitable pedestrian flow. An instant rebate (\$0.1 per PBC) was provided via e-payment platforms with a view to encouraging the public to take an active part in the recovery of PBCs;

- (2) eight RVMs were set up in Tsuen Wan district, namely AEON Tai Wo Hau Store, D-Park, KOLOUR·Tsuen Wan I, Lei Muk Shue Estate, Luk Yeung Galleria, Nina Mall 1, Shek Wai Kok Estate and Tsuen Wan Plaza. The EPD was aware of the keen public demand for RVMs, yet the scale of service was limited due to the nature of the pilot scheme. To further promote the concept of “turning waste into resources”, the EPD would establish a common legislative framework for the PRS and was making legislative amendment proposals, intending to introduce the relevant Bill to the Legislative Council (LegCo) in the first half of 2025. After the common legislative framework was established, the EPD would first introduce the PRS on PBCs and Beverage Cartons under a market-led approach, with a view to encouraging the industry to take an active part in waste recycling. Upon the implementation of the PRS, the EPD expected that more recycling facilities would be available on the market to facilitate the recycling of PBCs and beverage cartons by the public in a bid to meet the statutory recovery target set by the Government;
- (3) the EPD would continue to monitor the operation of RVMs in Tsuen Wan district and timely identify the locations suitable for setting up RVMs with high pedestrian flow for relocation of the RVMs with low recovery rate, with a view to bringing convenience to the public for taking part in the pilot scheme. Meanwhile, the public could return the PBCs to the RVMs operated by private organisations. In addition to RVMs, the public could also return the PBCs to other recycling points, such as the recycling facilities in GREEN@COMMUNITY, a community recycling network under the EPD. By doing so, the public showed their support to environmental protection while earning GREEN\$ Points for redemption of daily necessities, which would be a win-win situation. The recycling spots nearby could be found via the GREEN\$ Mobile App of the EPD;
- (4) the RVMs were equipped with a round-the-clock automatic monitoring function, the system would alert the contractor when the storage of the PBCs reached its maximum capacity, so that the contractor could arrange for the collection of PBCs from the RVMs. According to the operation records of the RVMs in Tsuen Wan district (including Nina Mall, D-Park and Tsuen Wan Plaza) in January 2025, the contractor was able to collect the PBCs within an hour during the service period (i.e. 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight) upon the RVMs reaching the storage threshold. The EPD would review the utilisation of RVMs on an ongoing basis and arrange the collection of PBCs according to actual needs. The public could also browse the relevant thematic website before recycling the PBCs to learn about the service hours and real-time operation of the RVMs;

- (5) positive responses had been received from the public since the roll-out of the pilot scheme. As at end-January 2025, more than 156 million PBCs had been collected through the RVMs. The EPD would closely monitor the operational performance of the RVMs in different districts and timely carry out publicity work, such as putting up posters at the housing estates with RVMs nearby, arranging for service ambassadors to carry out promotion and educate the public to use RVMs, publicising via the thematic website, and so on; and
- (6) the location of product codes on PBCs might be restricted due to technical constraints. The EPD would convey Members' views on the product codes of PBCs to the relevant section.

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

- (1) a Member said that some members of the public would pour the liquid in the PBCs near the RVMs which affected environmental hygiene, and hoped that the EPD would carry out publicity to draw public attention to the importance of environmental hygiene in the vicinity of the RVMs;
- (2) a Member cited a case in which the RVM was occupied for returning a large quantity of PBCs at one time in order to obtain rebate, making it impossible for other members of the public to use the RVM;
- (3) a Member wished to know the future development of RVMs and GREEN@COMMUNITY; and
- (4) a Member said that PBCs without packaging (commonly known as "label-less") were available on the market in recent years, and suggested that the EPD should encourage beverage manufacturers to print the product codes directly on the bottle caps.

17. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded that the pilot scheme served as a trial run of the PRS on PBCs and Beverage Cartons. The PBCs collected from the RVMs and GREEN@COMMUNITY would be delivered to the recyclers for treatment.

18. The Chairman said that many members of the public voiced their support for the increase in the number of RVMs in Tsuen Wan district and hoped that the EPD would provide more supplementary information to Members after the Bill was introduced into the LegCo in the first half of 2025.

VI Item 5: Proposal for Placing More Fully-enclosed Refuse Collection Facilities with New Design in Tsuen Wan District

(TWDC FEHC Paper No. 22/24-25)

19. The Chairman stated that the paper was submitted by Mr WONG Kai-chun, Mr WONG

Wai-kit, Mr TSANG Tai, Ms LAM Yuen-pun and Mr CHENG Chit-pun. The representative from the department responsible for giving responses was Mr SO Yeung-fung, Chief Health Inspector (Tsuen Wan)1 (CHI(TW)1), FEHD.

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

21. A Member expressed support for the provision of more fully-enclosed refuse collection facilities with new design in Tsuen Wan district in a bid to improve environmental hygiene. The Member enquired if there would be any new changes to the design apart from the addition of automatic sensor function.

22. CHI(TW)1 of the FEHD introduced the proposals for improvement to waste collection facilities. The FEHD would give priority to the provision of fully-enclosed refuse collection facilities with new design at rural locations, including solar-powered type aluminium refuse collection points (RCPs), foot-pedal type/electronic foot-pedal type aluminium RCPs and solar-powered compacting refuse bins.

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

- (1) a Member cited the example of the refuse collection facilities at Heng Keng Village, Dongguan, China and suggested that the FEHD should provide wash-hand basins, closed-circuit television systems, solar-powered lamps and waste separation systems at refuse collection facilities;
- (2) a Member suggested that fully-enclosed refuse collection facilities with new design should be provided at suitable locations in Ma Wan and Sham Tseng (near Tsing Lung Tau); and
- (3) a Member enquired whether wild animals had wandered into RCPs or foraged for food nearby.

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

- (1) the FEHD noted Members' suggestions and would convey the views to the relevant section of the FEHD;
- (2) the FEHD would actively consider the locations for providing fully-enclosed refuse collection facilities with new design suggested by the Member; and
- (3) the FEHD had not received any report about wild animals wandering into its refuse collection facilities or foraging for food at the RCPs in Tsuen Wan district. Regarding the locations with the sighting of wild animals, the FEHD would also consider replacing conventional lidded waste containers with sensor-operated easy-

thrown waste containers with new design. In addition, the FEHD and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department had rolled out wildlife-resistant waste containers and would consider providing those waste containers at suitable locations with a view to avoiding wildlife nuisance.

VII Item 6: Information Paper

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

(TWDC FEHC Paper No. 23/24-25)

25. 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. 24/24-25)

26. Members noted the content of the captioned paper.

IX Item 8: Any Other Business

27. A Member had received complaints from shop operators and residents on 19 February 2025 regarding the construction works at Ho Pui Street in which water-filled barriers were placed at the location near the carriageway and the pavement near Yeung Uk Road Market, resulting in obstruction to the delivery of goods by shop operators and passage by residents. The Member believed that the works were a part of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme of the Drainage Services Department (DSD) which would last for six months with a target completion date in August 2025. During the works period, large water-filled barriers were placed on the carriageway and even occupied some sections of the pavement, which affected the traffic flow there. The Member was worried that the works could not commence as scheduled after road closure which would affect public perception. Some shop operators indicated that they had no prior knowledge of the road closure and considered that there was a lack of comprehensive consultation about the time of works commencement and the area to be enclosed. The Member suggested that large water-filled barriers should be moved back to the carriageway and smaller barriers should be used instead, to minimise the impact on the shop operators nearby. The Member learnt from the DSD that the works were mainly about the connection of a sewer at Wo Tik Street to Ho Pui Street. While the DSD had consulted the shop operators at Ho Pui Street near the enclosed area, the works had affected the shop operators at Yeung Uk Road Market as well. The Member opined that an extensive area was enclosed to implement the works, but there was a lack of comprehensive consultation with the shop operators nearby. The Member hoped that a site visit would be conducted with the relevant department, shop operators nearby and Yeung Uk Road Market Management Consultative Committee to learn

about the detailed arrangements about the works. In addition, the Member pointed out that Ho Pui Street was marked with double-yellow lines because of the works and works materials (such as poles) were placed on the carriageway, thus making it impossible for shop operators to load and unload goods, nor identify suitable locations for the loading and unloading of goods, which had in turn increased the traffic load. The Member also enquired whether the Market Management Consultative Committee of the FEHD could invite the DSD to attend the meeting to discuss the implementation details of the works with the shop operators in a bid to strike a balance between works commencement and business operation by shop operators.

28. Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan) of the Tsuen Wan District Office (TWDO) responded that the TWDO would forward the Member's views to the DSD for follow-up and would assist in making arrangements for site visit if necessary.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat had conveyed the Member's views to the DSD by email on 21 February 2025.)

29. CHI(TW)1 of the FEHD responded that the FEHD would invite the representative from the DSD to attend the meeting as necessary depending on the date of meeting of Yeung Uk Road Market Management Consultative Committee.

X Adjournment of Meeting

30. The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting was scheduled for 16 April 2025 (Wednesday) and the deadline for submission of papers was 31 March 2025 (Monday).

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat
5 March 2025