

(Translation)

Minutes of the 8th Meeting of
Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (1/25-26)

Date: 16 April 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

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

Mr HO Yu-on Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing & Pest Control)
Tsuen Wan 1, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr CHAN Tsz-choi Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing & Pest Control)
Tsuen Wan 2, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Ms OR Ting-ting, Ashley Senior Health Inspector (Environmental Hygiene) Tsuen Wan 1,
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

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

In Attendance:

For discussion of item 5

Dr CHIM Pak-wing	Senior Medical & Health Officer (Emergency Preparedness and District Relations)2, Department of Health
Dr LO Hoi-ying	Medical & Health Officer (Emergency Preparedness and District Relations)1, Department of Health

For discussion of item 6

Mr CHAN King-tung, Tony	Fauna Conservation Officer (Enforcement), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Mr LAU Fei	Neighbourhood Police Co-ordinator, Police Community Relations Office, Tsuen Wan Police District, Hong Kong Police Force

Absent:

Mr NG Chun-yu

I Opening Remarks and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives from government departments to the 8th meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee.

2. 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 7th Meeting held on 20.2.2025

3. 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

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

IV Item 3: Cleaning Pedestrian Walkways to Improve Cityscape

(TWDC FEHC Paper No. 1/25-26)

5. 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) Mr SO Yeung-fung, Chief Health Inspector (Tsuen Wan)1 (CHI(TW)1), FEHD;
- (2) Mr HO Yu-on, Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing & Pest Control) Tsuen Wan 1, FEHD; and
- (3) Mr CHAN Tsz-choi, Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing & Pest Control) Tsuen Wan 2, FEHD.

6. CHI(TW)1 of the FEHD introduced the paper.

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

- (1) a Member enquired about the frequency of cleansing of standard roads and rear lanes by cleansing service contractors. The Member pointed out that daily cleansing of rear lanes might not be necessary and suggested that the FEHD should increase the frequency of cleansing of pedestrian walkways near wet markets and refuse collection points;
- (2) a Member had seen that mini street washing vehicles were deployed by cleansing service contractors for street cleansing, and considered the cleansing effect satisfactory;
- (3) a Member pointed out that there were stubborn stains on the surface of some pedestrian walkways outside the industrial estate on Castle Peak Road and at Chai Wan Kok Cooked Food Market. The Member suggested that the FEHD should enhance the cleansing of such road surfaces;
- (4) a Member enquired whether the FEHD would regularly update the list of designated locations in which mini street washing vehicles were deployed for carrying out cleansing work. In addition, the Member enquired whether the views on the

designated locations could be conveyed to the FEHD so that mini street washing vehicles could provide services at different locations; and

- (5) a Member suggested that priority should be given to the pedestrian walkways at Lo Tak Court if the Highways Department considered replacing paving blocks or resurfacing walkways in the future.

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

- (1) the FEHD noted Members' views on the service locations of mini street washing vehicles. Members might also contact the FEHD's staff after the meeting to suggest other locations in need of cleansing services;
- (2) the frequency of street washing varied on a case-by-case basis. If there was improvement in the cleanliness of those locations in which mini street washing vehicles were deployed, the FEHD might not wash those streets again within a short period of time, and vice versa; and
- (3) the FEHD would review the cleanliness of the locations in which mini street washing vehicles were deployed and make planning for the subsequent working locations of mini street washing vehicles.

V Item 4: Combating Air-conditioner Water Dripping to Improve Community Environment
(TWDC FEHC Paper No. 2/25-26)

9. The Chairman stated that the paper was submitted by the FEHD. The representatives from the department attending the meeting were:

- (1) Mr SO Yeung-fung, CHI(TW)1, FEHD; and
- (2) Ms OR Ting-ting, Ashley, Senior Health Inspector (Environmental Hygiene) Tsuen Wan 1, FEHD.

10. CHI(TW)1 of the FEHD introduced the paper.

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

- (1) a Member enquired about the benefits gained by property management agents (PMAs) from participating in the Scheme of Participation by Property Management Agents in Tackling Dripping Air-conditioners (the "Scheme");
- (2) a Member enquired whether the FEHD could provide examples on successful prosecution against the offenders on whom a fine was imposed, and the maximum fine imposed before; and
- (3) a Member hoped that the FEHD could conduct targeted inspections at more air-conditioner water dripping blackspots in the district, especially areas with a high concentration of old buildings, such as Yeung Uk Road and Tai Pa Street;

- (4) a Member enquired whether the FEHD would conduct inspections at air-conditioner water dripping blackspots during evening hours;
- (5) a Member considered that the FEHD had made satisfactory progress in dealing with air-conditioner water dripping cases. In addition, the Member enquired what measures the FEHD would adopt when uncooperative occupants were met during inspections by refusing to turn on the air-conditioners in front of the staff; and
- (6) a Member enquired whether the Government would provide subsidies to the owners' corporations (OCs) for carrying out improvement works if the buildings lacked proper drainage facilities.

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

- (1) under the Scheme, the communication and co-operation between PMAs and the FEHD would be strengthened. The FEHD could communicate with PMAs directly without going through caretakers to speed up message delivery and investigation process. The PMAs and the FEHD could also centralise the handling of complaint cases in an effective manner;
- (2) in case the FEHD found that nuisance was caused by water dripping from air-conditioners, it would issue a Nuisance Notice to the occupants (i.e. users of air-conditioners) or the owners of the residential unit which was the source of water dripping, requiring the abatement of nuisance within a specified period of time. Upon unsuccessful entry to the premises for an investigation, the FEHD would leave an appointment notice to the occupants or owners, asking them to contact the investigators to arrange the date and time of inspection. In case the owners or occupants refused to co-operate, ending up that the investigation could not be conducted due to the failure in accessing the premises concerned, the FEHD would apply to the court for a warrant authorising its staff to enter the premises for an investigation. If it was necessary to break into the premises, the FEHD would seek assistance from contractors and the Police;
- (3) according to the prosecution records of the Tsuen Wan District Environmental Hygiene Office the year before, the magistrates' courts would usually impose a fine of about \$1,500 (for general reference only) (Note: Persons failing to comply with the Nuisance Notice shall be prosecuted and subject to a maximum fine of \$10,000 and a daily fine of \$200 as long as the nuisance continued.);
- (4) The FEHD would conduct investigations mainly in the early morning and evening and arrange the time of investigation accordingly based on the circumstances of each case. Generally speaking, upon entry into the premises, the FEHD's staff would request the occupants to turn on the air-conditioners for 15 minutes or more to observe whether there was water dripping;

- (5) as the water dripping situation of the air-conditioners in the same premises might recur, the FEHD would assign its staff for ongoing observation. In addition, the FEHD would urge the public to check their air-conditioners regularly through publicity campaigns; and
- (6) the FEHD encouraged owners to install drains at buildings, but failure to do so did not constitute a breach of the law. Owners or OCs could apply for subsidies from the regular maintenance programmes of the Buildings Department and consider the installation of the relevant drains.

VI Item 5: Concern about Effectiveness of the HPV Vaccination Programme in Schools and Proposals for Improvement

(TWDC FEHC Paper No. 3/25-26)

13. The Chairman stated that the paper was submitted by Mr CHENG Chit-pun and Ms LAM Yuen-pun. The representatives from the department responsible for giving responses were:

- (1) Dr CHIM Pak-wing, Senior Medical & Health Officer (Emergency Preparedness and District Relations)² (SMHO(EPDR)²) of the Department of Health (DH); and
- (2) Dr LO Hoi-ying, Medical & Health Officer (Emergency Preparedness and District Relations)¹, DH.

14. Mr CHENG Chit-pun and Ms LAM Yuen-pun introduced the paper.

15. SMHO(EPDR)² of the DH responded as follows:

- (1) the DH actively promoted the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Catch-up Programme (the “Programme”) at schools and contacted the schools in the territory to enquire about their willingness to participate in the Programme. More than 510 schools (approximately 98% of eligible schools) had responded or indicated that they would participate in the Programme, among them, all eligible schools in Tsuen Wan district had confirmed their participation. Currently, seven eligible secondary schools in Tsuen Wan district had carried out vaccination activities. Female students who were unable to attend the catch-up vaccination activity arranged by schools could receive vaccination at the sub-offices of the School Immunisation Team under the DH or at the Student Health Service Centres;
- (2) the DH called on Members to promote the benefits of receiving HPV vaccination and health information to the public. Members could also obtain publicity materials from the DH;
- (3) the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases (SCVPD) under the Centre for Health Protection of the DH had appraised the local situation and the data from overseas studies. It was expected that there would be minimal incremental

benefit from adding HPV vaccine to the immunisation programme for boys, therefore the SCVDP did not recommend including HPV vaccine in the immunisation programme for boys at this juncture. The SCVDP would regularly monitor the relevant data and scientific evidence; and

(4) nine-valent HPV vaccine was currently provided by the Government.

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

(1) a Member suggested that the DH should conduct study on the provision of HPV vaccination services to boys for free as there were quite a number of instances in the Mainland;

(2) a Member suggested that the DH should step up publicity at schools and in the community, so that members of the public would have an in-depth understanding of the benefits of receiving HPV vaccination;

(3) a Member enquired about the percentage of the HPV vaccines provided for girls out of the total HPV vaccines purchased by the Government;

(4) a Member enquired whether the eligible schools that had not yet conducted vaccination activities would participate in the Programme in the future, or they had already indicated that they would not participate;

(5) a Member enquired whether the HPV vaccines available for boys in the market were also nine-valent HPV vaccines;

(6) a Member enquired whether the DH would consider extending the Programme given that the Programme only covered secondary school girls for a period of two years;

(7) a Member was aware that the Hong Kong Anti-Cancer Society had recently visited a boys' school to provide HPV vaccination to male secondary school students, and one-third of the students were willing to receive vaccination. The Member opined that boys would also like to receive HPV vaccine subsidised by the Government; and

(8) a Member believed that devoting resources early to prevent cancers from childhood would relieve the medical burden on the Government in the long run.

17. SMHO(EPDR)2 of the DH responded as follows:

(1) the DH noted Members' views on enhancing publicity efforts and would convey the views to the relevant section;

(2) the Government had purchased about 14 000 doses of HPV vaccine at present. For the quantity of vaccine used under the Programme and self-arranged vaccination, the coverage rates for the first and second doses of HPV vaccination were 73.7% and 16.3% respectively at present;

(3) the DH was making arrangements for vaccination activities for the eligible schools

in Tsuen Wan district which has not yet conducted any vaccination activities before; and

- (4) the Programme was a catch-up programme in nature which targeted at school girls aged 18 or above. For school girls under the age of 18, HPV vaccine was covered under the Hong Kong Childhood Immunisation Programme. It was expected that no catch-up vaccination would be required in the future.

VII Item 6: Concern about the Presence of Snakes in Tsuen Wan District

(TWDC FEHC Paper No. 4/25-26)

18. The Chairman stated that the paper was submitted by Mr WONG Kai-chun, Mr WONG Wai-kit, Mr TSANG Tai, Ms LAM Yuen-pun, Mr CHENG Chit-pun, Mr FUNG Cheuk-sum and Mr CHOW Sum-ming. 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); and
- (2) Mr LAU Fei, Neighbourhood Police Co-ordinator (NPC), Police Community Relations Office, Tsuen Wan Police District, Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF).

19. Mr WONG Kai-chun introduced the paper.

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

- (1) a Member pointed out that snakes were seen at several locations in the district, such as the staircases of Sea Crest Villa Phase 1, a location near the garage in Tsing Lung Tau New Village, the road section near Shak Chung Shan Memorial Catholic Primary School in Tsuen Wan Riviera Park, the car park of Riviera Gardens, the road section near Ho Fung College (Sponsored by Sik Sik Yuen) in Cheung Shan Estate. The Member hoped that the AFCD would remind the government departments or the PMAs responsible for the management of those locations to put up warning notices, and provide publicity materials to Members for distribution to nearby residents;
- (2) a Member enquired why snakes were seen in the urban areas and non-rural locations. The Member enquired what measures could be adopted by members of the public when they encountered snakes;
- (3) a Member enquired whether the AFCD could provide Members with publicity materials or promotion videos for assisting in educating the public the proper ways of dealing with snakes; and
- (4) a Member enquired whether the AFCD had kept records of the types of venomous snakes found in Hong Kong.

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

- (1) most species of snakes were wary of humans, and they rarely disturbed humans or stayed within areas of human activities unless provoked or acted out of defending their territories. Generally speaking, snakes would not attack humans actively unless they were under the threat of humans. When the public encountered snakes, they should remain calm and keep a distance from snakes to leave room for snakes to retreat on their own;
- (2) snakes mostly inhabited vegetated areas. The presence of snakes was common in places with tall grass and bushes. To reduce the presence of snakes along roadside, weeds should be trimmed regularly and a clean environment should be maintained;
- (3) snakes appeared primarily for predation and they preyed on small animals like frogs, lizards and rats. It was easier for snakes to find food in dirty environment, causing them to appear in such places to hunt;
- (4) snakes would be washed down to drain outlets during rainy days, thereby reaching the urban areas. The vegetation on the slopes next to Tsuen Wan Riviera Park provided a suitable environment for the habitation of snakes. In addition, there was a chance that snakes entered Tsuen Wan Riviera Park from Gin Drinkers Bay;
- (5) in case of a snake-related emergency, the public should immediately contact the nearest police station or call the “999” hotline for assistance;
- (6) if any locations were of particular concern to Members, the AFCD would assign staff to inspect the locations concerned and provide suggestions on preventive measures. After consolidating the publicity materials, the AFCD would send them to Members; and
- (7) in general, most snakes in Hong Kong were non-venomous, with a small number of non-native snake species being venomous.

22. NPC, Police Community Relations Office, Tsuen Wan Police District of the HKPF responded that the Police had received a total of 206 reports on snake sightings from April 2024 to March 2025. Among these cases, 73 cases had been dealt with by professional snake catchers, 36 cases involved the delivery of snakes to Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden and 97 cases ended up with the leaving of snakes before the arrival of the Police. Among the 206 cases, one person had been bitten by a snake in one case. From the HKPF’s records, snakes usually appeared near the hillside on Route Twisk, rural areas, village houses and the hillside along Sham Tseng Village.

VIII Item 7: Information Paper

Work Report on Environmental Pollution Control in Tsuen Wan District (1 January 2025 to 31 March 2025)

(TWDC FEHC Paper No. 5/25-26)

23. Members noted the content of the captioned paper.

IX Item 8: Information Paper

Work Report on Environmental Hygiene in Tsuen Wan District

(TWDC FEHC Paper No. 6/25-26)

24. A Member enquired why the data on Rodent Absence Rate were not provided in the captioned paper. In addition, the Member enquired whether the year-on-year increase in the number of rodents caught was the result of an increase in the frequency of anti-rodent actions by the FEHD or an increase in the number of rodents in the district.

25. CHI(TW)1 of the FEHD responded that the FEHD would conduct rodent activity surveys (RAS) twice a year, which were in the first half and the second half of each year. The RAS for Tsuen Wan district in the first half of the year had been completed in March. The FEHD expected to report the survey findings at the next meeting once they were published. The increase in the number of rodents caught was mainly due to the overnight rodent control roving teams set up by the FEHD. There was a significant increase in the effectiveness of rodent trapping compared with the placing of rodent baits at day time.

X Item 9: Any Other Business

26. The Chairman said that a letter from the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health had been received earlier, inviting the TWDC to be a supporting organisation of the 16th “Quit to Win” Smoke-free Community Campaign to enhance publicity at the district level. The Chairman enquired whether Members agreed that the TWDC should be a supporting organisation of the abovementioned campaign. Members unanimously agreed to the arrangement.

XI Adjournment of Meeting

27. The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting was scheduled for 18 June 2025 (Wednesday) and the deadline for submission of papers was 3 June 2025 (Tuesday).

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat

7 May 2025