

Summary of the Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the Tsuen Wan District Council

The 2nd Meeting of the Tsuen Wan District Council (TWDC) was held on 30 January 2024. The major issues discussed were summarised as follows:

Briefing on Municipal Solid Waste Charging by the Environmental Protection Department

2. The representatives of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) introduced the paper. Members were aware that the EPD would launch a demonstration scheme to demonstrate the implementation of Municipal Solid Waste Charging (MSW charging) in government buildings and some other buildings. A Member suggested that the EPD should invite “three-nil” buildings and single-block buildings interested in joining the demonstration scheme to play a part such that residents of these buildings could gain a better understanding of MSW charging and details of the operational arrangements. Many Members shared the views that property management companies and cleansing workers remained uncertain about MSW charging and its enforcement, and requested the EPD to conduct more briefing sessions for the relevant staff and strengthen its publicity efforts by making more short videos on MSW charging. In addition, Members pointed out that food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs) were installed in some housing estates, but residents held that the FWSRBs were prone to breakdowns and located in rather inconvenient spots, resulting in low utilisation rate. Some Members enquired of the EPD about the reasons for not distributing 20 free designated bags (DBs) to the residents of private residential premises every month and requested the EPD to give out free DBs to these residents as well, as they believed that free DBs would encourage residents to reduce waste at source. The representatives of the EPD responded that on-site demonstrations of the implementation of MSW charging would be carried out in government buildings and some other buildings to serve as publicity and public education such that the public could have a more concrete idea of MSW charging and be prepared for possible situations that they might encounter. Concerning the aforementioned demonstrations, the types of buildings, locations to be implemented and scope of the scheme should be further reviewed by the EPD and Members’ suggestions in this regard were welcomed. As for the publicity on MSW charging, the EPD would shorten the time of the promotion videos and prepare more infographics and “condensed info-packs”, making it easier for the public to have a better grasp of the content. Also, the EPD would send its Green Outreach teams to strengthen promotion of MSW charging in rural areas and educate villagers about the importance of waste reduction at source. The EPD noted Members’ views on FWSRBs and mentioned that the installation of FWSRBs at over 100 public housing estates would be completed before Chinese New Year. The EPD would step up inspections of the FWSRBs to ensure they were in working order and increase the maintenance frequency of the FWSRBs or replace the malfunctioned ones if necessary. The EPD understood that it would also take time for the residents of private residential premises to get used to the new practice of using DBs, and therefore encouraged the property management companies and owners’ organisations of these private residential premises to apply to the EPD for bulk purchase of DBs and distribute them to the residents. The EPD emphasised that it was definitely not its intention

to generate additional revenue for the Government nor to punish the public by implementing MSW charging. Through implementing this new policy, the EPD hoped to encourage the public to cherish resources and practise waste reduction at source, in order to reduce the overall quantities of MSW being disposed of.

Progress Report on Major Works in Tsuen Wan

3. The representative of the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) introduced the paper. The Chairman stated that according to the practice of the last-term TWDC, the CEDD would report to Members on the progress of the major works in Tsuen Wan regularly. Upon discussion with the Chairmen of the Committees under the TWDC, the Chairman proposed that the captioned document should be perused by the Members of the District Facilities and Works Committee (DFWC) for more in-depth discussion at meetings of the DFWC since representatives of various works departments were in regular attendance of such meetings. A Member agreed with the arrangement and suggested the works departments concerned to provide a briefing on the works which were of primary concern for Members of the new-term TWDC such that they could better catch up on the details and progress of the works.

Development of Ma Wan Park Phase 2

4. The representatives of the Sun Hung Kai Properties Limited (SHK) introduced the paper. A Member proposed that economic incentives could be provided to indigenous villagers of Ma Wan and invite them to be the local guides of guided tours to share stories and history of Ma Wan to visitors. Other Members suggested to provide more catering facilities in Ma Wan and operate home-stay lodgings in old buildings in Ma Wan to attract and encourage visitors to stay overnight. In addition, Members were concerned about whether the existing transport systems of Ma Wan would be adequate to accommodate the increased passenger flow upon the completion of Ma Wan Park Phase 2. The representatives of the SHK responded that Ma Wan Park Phase 2 was expected to officially open in September 2024. A new bus route no. 230R plying between Kowloon and Ma Wan would be introduced by the Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited on 3 February 2024. The bus route operated on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays, offering an additional option for passengers getting to or leaving Ma Wan. In addition, according to the lease conditions, the pier at Ma Wan Park Phase 2 would be open to the public 24 hours a day. The SHK would also try to identify ferry operator who was interested in providing regular ferry services. The representative of the Transport Department (TD) supplemented that the TD would give consideration to strengthening the service of the abovementioned bus route having regard to passenger demand.

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat
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