

(Translation)

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the Development, Planning and Transport Committee
6th Wan Chai District Council
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Date : 29 September 2020 (Tuesday)
Time : 10:00 a.m.
Venue : District Council Conference Room, Wan Chai District Office.
21/F, Southorn Centre, 130 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

Present

Chairperson

Mr MAK-King-sing

Vice-Chairperson

Ms CHAN Yuk-lam

Members

Ms Clara CHEUNG
Ms KOO Kwok-wai, Sabina
Mr LAM Wai-man, Anson
Ms LAW Wai-shan, Susi
Ms LEE Pik-yee, Peggy, MH
Mr LEUNG Pak-kin
Mr LI Wing-choi
The Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
Ms YAU Man-shan, Cathy
Miss YEUNG Suet-ying, Clarisse

Absent with apology

Mr WONG Wang-tai, Ivan, MH

Representatives of Government Departments

Miss MAN Ching-in, Vanessa	Assistant District Officer (Wan Chai), Home Affairs Department
Mr MAK Hon-sum, Ronnie	Senior Estate Surveyor/HKE(2), Lands Department
Mr LUK Kwok-on, Anthony	Senior Town Planner/Hong Kong 3, Planning Department
Ms MAK Sze-wai	District Operations Officer (Wan Chai), Hong Kong Police Force

Mr FU Chun-yip	Police Community Relations Officer of Wan Chai, Hong Kong Police Force
Ms CHIM Mei-sze	Assistant Police Community Relations Officer (Youth Engagement) of Wan Chai, Hong Kong Police Force
Mr LEE Nai-yeung, Eric	Officer-in-charge, District Traffic Team (Wan Chai), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr LAI Sing-chuen, Gary	Senior Transport Officer/Wan Chai, Transport Department
Mr TANG Weian, Mark	Engineer /Wan Chai 3, Transport Department
Mr LEE Hon	Senior Engineer/9 (South), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr CHAN Kai-yin	District Engineer/Wan Chai, Highways Department
Mr YEUNG Chun-kit	Engineer/ HK (Distribution 4), Water Supplies Department

Representatives of Other Government Departments and Organisations

Mr TSE Sai-kit, Eddie	Convener, Save Lantau Alliance
Mr LAI Man-lok, Oscar	Project Officer, Justice & Peace Commission of the H.K. Catholic Diocese
Mr NG Wai-chiu	Management Committee Member, Hong Kong Christian Institute Ltd
Ms CHAN Hong-kei, Eunice	Community Organiser, Concerning Grassroots' Housing Rights Alliance
Mr LEE Chi-yung	Community Organiser, Alliance Concerning CSSA
Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho	Member, Islands District Council
Mr Theodore ALGIRE	Executive Director, The Servicemen's Guides Association
Ms KING WONG Chow-hing, Judy	Executive Council Member, The Servicemen's Guides Association
Mr Thomas FARNEN	Executive Council Secretary, The Servicemen's Guides Association
Mr Charles Nicholas BROOKS	Advisor, The Servicemen's Guides Association
Mr MAK Chi-wung	Personal Assistant to Advisor, The Servicemen's Guides Association
Mr M.F. TAM, Alan	HC II Project Controller – Construction, Hopewell Construction Company Limited
Mr James KWOK	Associate Director – Civil, Arcadis Design and Engineering Limited
Mr CHENG Ka Ho	Assistant General Manager, Hopewell Holdings Limited – Corporate Communications Department
Miss FONG Fung-kuen, Shirley	Senior Liaison Officer (Building Management)2, Home Affairs Department

Mr Charles MOK	Principal Estate Officer/Hong Kong East (2)
Ms YU Hin-pik	District Lands Office/Hong Kong East
Ms CHAN Ying, Crystal	Director, Future Research Limited
Mr TANG King-wah, Eddie	Convener, Public Health Research Collaborative
	Officer-in-charge, District Traffic Team (Eastern District), Hong Kong Police Force

Secretary

Mr KO Chin-hung, Simon	Executive Officer (District Council) 3, Wan Chai District Office, Home Affairs Department
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Action

Opening Remarks

The Chairperson welcomed Members and representatives of government departments to the third meeting of the Development, Planning and Transport Committee (DPTC) of WCDC.

2. The Chairperson drew Members' attention to the papers and agenda with suggested discussion timeframes placed on the conference table. To ensure efficiency, the proceedings of the meeting would each be subject to a suggested timeframe. Each member could speak for a maximum of two times on an agenda item, with a time limit of three minutes each time.

Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of DPTC

3. The Chairperson said the Secretariat received one proposed amendment from Miss Clarisse YEUNG prior to the meeting.

4. Since no other proposed amendment was raised by members present, minutes of the 2nd DPTC meeting were confirmed by means of a motion moved by Ms Susi LAW, and seconded by Ms CHAN Yuk-lam.

Item 2: Summary of Major Temporary Traffic Arrangements in Wan Chai District (DPTC Paper No. 34/2020)

5. Mr Gary LAI of the Transport Department (TD) briefed members on the paper.

6. Miss Clarisse YEUNG noticed in the paper there was no temporary traffic arrangement in the district and asked whether the epidemic situation was the reason for that.

7. Mr Gary LAI of TD replied that the department had not received any applications for temporary diversion.

8. The Committee noted the above paper.

Item 3: Major Small-scale Traffic Improvement Works Completed, Underway or being Planned in Wan Chai District by Transport Department/ Highways Department in Past Two Months and their Schedules
(DPTC Paper No. 35/2020)

9. Mr CHAN Kai-yin of the Highways Department (HyD) briefed members on the paper.

10. Miss Clarisse YEUNG raised the following enquiries:

- (i) How was the work progress of the bus shelter at Illumination Terrace?
- (ii) What was the implementation timetable for the provision of pedestrian crossing at the junction of Percival Street and Hennessy Road?
- (iii) Regarding the plan to convert the two-lane traffic into one on the section of Tai Hang Road turning right into Tung Lo Wan Road, would the Government conduct a review since the previous-term DC had not been consulted on the matter in advance. She noticed that quite a number of vehicles had to occupy the section with yellow hatched marking when turning into Tung Lo Wan Road during the peak hours.

11. Ms Susi LAW enquired about the traffic impact of the improvement project for the pedestrian crossing at the junction of Johnston Road and Fleming Road (Project No. HK/13/02302). Since the section concerned was very popular, she wished to know more about the project duration and the arrangements for pedestrian during the works.

12. Mr Gary LAI of TD replied that among the various views the department received from the consultation held earlier for the erection of bus shelter at Illumination Terrance, most of them were positive. The department would instruct the bus company to continue the works after reviewing the situation.

13. Mr CHAN Kai-yin of HyD said the traffic improvement work of the pedestrian crossing outside Tai Yau Plaza at the junction of Johnston Road and Fleming Road had been completed. The remaining part would be finished alongside the tram track replacement works by Hong Kong Tramways in the vicinity. The department would minimise the traffic impact in the area when formulating temporary traffic measures.

14. Mr Mark TANG of TD made the following replies:

- i. Following the district consultation on the provision of pedestrian crossing at the junction of Percival Street and Hennessy Road, the department was processing the opposite views received. If everything went smoothly, the department would ask HyD to commence the work.
- ii. As for the project to convert the two-lane traffic into one on the section of Tai Hang Road turning right into Tung Lo Wan Road, its feasibility was under review.

15. Miss Clarisse YEUNG made the following comment and enquiry:

- i. She commented that the works for erection of the bus shelter at Illumination Terrace was too slow, adding that it had been in progress for more than six months. As far as she knew, TD had already processed all the opposite views. She thus requested the department to complete the work the soonest possible.
- ii. She would like to know whether the proposal to convert the two-lane traffic into one on the section of Tai Hang Road turning into Tung Lo Wan Road had already been confirmed. She also asked the department whether consultation regarding this would be held; if yes, she wished to know about the consultation period and the trial timetable.

16. Ms Peggy LEE said TD had earlier conducted a district consultation on the removal of “Turn Right” traffic sign near the carpark of The Avenue at Amoy Street and most of the members were supportive of the proposal. She asked the department about the work progress of the removal.

17. The Chairperson made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. Apart from that at the junction of Percival Street and Hennessy Road, the Committee also suggested in last meeting that a pedestrian crossing should be provided at the junction of Causeway Road and Tung Lo Wan Road. He wished to know the work progress of the relevant study.
- ii. He also asked about the work progress of the enhancement measures for Central-Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor (the enhancement measures).

18. Mr Mark TANG of TD replied as follows:

- i. Regarding the plan to convert the two-lane traffic into one on the section of Tai Hang Road turning right into Tung Lo Wan Road, he did not have any

detail on hand.

- ii. As for the removal of “Turn Right” traffic sign near the carpark of The Avenue at Amoy Street, the department was processing the opposite views received from property owners nearby during the consultation period. The department hoped to remove the sign concerned shortly.

19. With regard to the work for erection of bus shelter at Illumination Terrace, Mr Gary LAI of TD responded that voices from both sides received during the district consultation were similar. It thus took the department some time to come up with a proposal that could strike a balance. After assessments, the department decided to maintain the original proposal to erect the bus shelter and would explain the reasons to the stakeholders in writing. TD would also request the bus company to put forward the project as soon as possible.

20. Mr CHAN Kai-yin of HyD replied that the enhancement measures were under planning. The officer in charge of the matter would provide supplementary information after the meeting.

21. Miss Clarisse YEUNG added that she noted in the meeting with representatives of TD and HyD held the previous week that consultation would be soon conducted for the provision of pedestrian crossing at the junction of Causeway Road and Tung Lo Wan Road. She hoped the departments concerned would also study and examine whether the diversion point at the turning from Yee Wo Street into Tung Lo Wan Road would induce traffic accidents and congestion, specifically because of its curvature.

22. Members noted the above paper.

Item 4: Summary of Works in Wan Chai District
(DPTC Paper No. 36/2020)

23. Mr LEE Hon of Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) briefed members on the paper.

24. Ms CHAN Yuk-lam said Page 11 of the aforesaid paper showed there were waterworks projects in progress or to be carried out by the Water Supplies Department (WSD) in the following six months at Tin Hau Temple Road or Anderson Road Service Reservoir. But no further information about them was furnished in the paper. She asked the department for the details.

25. Miss Clarisse YEUNG made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. During a site inspection at the junction of Lai Tak Tsuen and Yee Wo Street

conducted by her and the department on 23 September, she spotted large muddy puddles after downpour and believed it was attributed to the soil washed down from the ill-maintained slopes.

- ii. She subsequently wrote to CEDD to request for an immediate examination of the slope concerned but the department replied that no specific problem was found during the inspection on 23 September. Discontented with the reply, she urged the department to examine the slope with all possible means, be it inspection by drone or personnel. To prevent any devastating consequences of landslide caused by poor maintenance of slopes, the department must address the problem squarely.

26. Mr YEUNG Chun-kit of WSD replied that he had no relevant information on hand and would provide the supplementary information after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: After the meeting, WSD submitted to the Committee the corrected map of waterworks sites in Wan Chai, which had been circulated to members by the Secretariat. The corrected map showed that no waterworks projects had been planned at Tin Hau Temple Road or Anderson Road Service Reservoir in the following six months.)

27. Mr LEE Hon of CEDD replied that he would relay Miss YEUNG's opinions to colleagues in charge of the slope matters.

28. Miss Clarisse YEUNG added that various government departments might be involved in the maintenance of slopes. Subsequent to her previous inspection, she had requested a number of departments to review and follow up the slopes within their ambit. With regard to the worrisome condition of the slope with soil erosion, she hoped the relevant departments would look into those slopes in concerted efforts as soon as possible.

29. Ms Susi LAW commented that SCL work dealt a severe blow to the operation of Star Ferry, adding that the patronage of the latter had dropped by 10% or more. She hoped the needs of the ferry users would be taken into consideration when the Government planned the coming works. Noting the temporary bus stop at the location in discussion, she asked the department concerned to speak on the ancillary facilities for ferry users.

30. Mr Gary LAI of TD replied that he did not have information about ferry service on hand.

31. Members noted the above paper.

Item 5: Written question: Impact of Lantau Tomorrow Vision on Wan Chai
(DPTC Paper No. 44/2020)

32. The Chairperson said several concern groups visited the DC this morning to submit petitions before the meeting. Since these groups had always been concerned about the Lantau Tomorrow Vision (LTV), he thus invited the following representatives to the discussion:

Mr Eddie TSE	Convener, Save Lantau Alliance
Mr LAI Man-lok, Oscar	Project Officer, Justice and Peace Commission of Hong Kong Catholic Diocese
Mr NG Wai-chiu	Representative, Hong Kong Christian Institute
Ms CHAN Hong-kei, Eunice	Representative, Concerning Grassroots' Housing Rights Alliance
Mr LEE Chi-yung	Representative, CSSA Alliance
Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho	Member, Islands District Council

33. Miss Clarisse YEUNG briefed members on her written question:

- i. As a matter of fact, WCDC once discussed LTV at the meeting held on 5 May 2015, and it was mentioned that all Hong Kong citizens would be affected by the development project. She opined that WCDO should be held responsible for failing to include the written motion in the agenda right after the Chairperson's approval.
- ii. The written question focused on the impacts of LTV on the traffic and planning of Wan Chai. But government departments provided no statistics in their written replies, showing their lack of preparations. As the Government was likely to go ahead with LTV after 1 October, it was necessary for the departments involved to address the concerns.

34. Mr Eddie TSE of Save Lantau Alliance made the following comments:

- i. In 2014, the then-Chief Executive Mr C Y LEUNG proposed the development of the East Lantau Metropolis. The then-Government conducted consultations in all the 18 districts, implying that the proposal would affect people from all walks of life in the society. Originally, the Government would not manage to propose funding application for preliminary study from the Finance Committee for LTV as the term of the LegCo came to an end. But given the extension of the LegCo term, the

Government might be able to do so. Thus, the discussion at this WCDC meeting was of great significance.

- ii. Many findings of recent researches conducted by concern groups proved that LTV was absolutely unsuitable for the current situation of Hong Kong.
- iii. According to the study conducted by Greenpeace and Professor Andy KWAN, the Government would record a serious structural fiscal deficit. In view of the ageing population, the heavy Government expenditure on elderly care and social welfare would be unavoidable, on top of the education budget for young people. With the diminishing labour force, structural deficit would be inevitable.
- iv. Due to the epidemic, the fiscal reserves of Hong Kong had already been adjusted downward from \$1,100 billion to \$800 billion. While it was unlikely that the economy of Hong Kong would recover in the near future, recession would undoubtedly aggravate.
- v. Regarding land supply, the Government said Hong Kong needed an extra 1 200 hectares of land. But a study conducted by the Task Force on Land Supply identified other effective approaches to generate 3 200 hectares of land resources, which were more than enough to satisfy the city's demands for land and housing. Also, the latest statistics published by the Census and Statistics Department indicated that the Hong Kong population would decrease from 8.22 million to 8.1 million. All these showed that LTV would not be the best option as it would offer no immediate solution to satisfy the pressing need of the society. If the Government was determined to solve the housing problem, it should strive to develop brownfield sites.

35. Mr Oscar LAI of Justice and Peace Commission of Hong Kong Catholic Diocese (HKJP) made the following remarks:

- i. In June and July, HKJP interviewed around 1 400 Catholics, including Catholics living in Wan Chai District. More than 90% of the interviewees expressed opposition to LTV because of its traffic impacts. They were also worried about the probable financial replenishment in the Government reserves to put on their shoulders as taxpayers.
- ii. HKJP expressively disapproved of LTV. They hoped that the Government could utilise the existing brownfield sites in the city. While HKJP and other local organisations endeavoured to relay to the DC the voices of grassroots citizens about the transport and housing planning of

Wan Chai, some people took advantage of the housing needs of the grassroots to promote LTV. In fact, developing brownfield sites with five to ten years was obviously a much quicker means than constructing an artificial island with 20 or even 30 years.

- iii. He submitted a petition to every WCDC Member before the meeting. It contained the study conducted by Greenpeace and Professor Andy KWAN, as well as articles about LTV published by HKJP in the past. He hoped that Members, specifically the Hon Paul TSE, who was concurrently a LegCo Member, would convey their views to the Government.
- iv. While the Secretary for Development did not give a direct response on LTV, he hoped WCDC Members could rally local supports and express their opinions to the Government.

36. Mr NG Wai-chiu of Hong Kong Christian Institute made the following comments:

- i. WCDC Members and Wan Chai residents should consider the impacts of LTV on the ecology and habitats of various species in the East Lantau waters. According to studies conducted by different organisations and institutes, a myriad corals and rare species were found in the area and they needed conserving. Lantau Island was so conveniently accessible for Wan Chai residents that a trip to Central for ferry only took 15 minutes. The sacrifice of the beautiful marine environment for the reclamation work of LTV would definitely be a tremendous loss.
- ii. It was just a pipe dream that LTV could help solve the housing problem. The development of Hong Kong had always relied on reclamation, land sale and the policy of high land price. If the Government held to this mindset of urban planning, grassroots citizens would continue to bear expensive property prices and unaffordable rent, creating a vicious cycle.

37. Ms Eunice CHAN of Concerning Grassroots' Housing Rights Alliance made the following comments:

- i. According to the Government, the main objective of LTV was to raise the public housing production by increasing land supply. Pointing out that there were many inadequate housing and grassroots residents in Wan Chai, she doubted whether the Government had conducted public consultation and gauged the views of Wan Chai residents for the proposed development.

- ii. The proposed development of LTV would take 30 years to complete and the waiting time would be too long for grassroots citizens. Besides, public housing production declined every year, taking applicants five to ten years to be allocated with a Public Rental Housing unit. During the long wait, they could only live in subdivided units or places with very poor living environment. Given so many brownfield sites and thousands of hectares of idle sites available for the construction of public housing, she criticised the Government's decision of creating new lands by reclamation, which was time-consuming and harmful to the natural environment.
- iii. That Hong Kong was short of land resources was a false premise. Lee Tung Street in Wan Chai was precisely a case in point to show that the city still had lands for public housing development. She urged that WCDC Members should make it clear to the Government that it was unnecessary and unjustifiable to put forward the proposed development of LTV.

38. Mr LEE Chi-yung of CSSA Alliance made the following remarks:

- i. Since he could not find a separate index solely for the situation in Wan Chai, he cited the territory-wide statistics for illustration. In 2018, the poor population of Hong Kong was 1.4 million and the poverty rate of Wan Chai was about 14.2%. The unemployed population was around 250 000 and the number of the underemployed was about 150 000. Also, there were around 700 000 persons with disabilities and over 1.2 million seniors in the city.
- ii. Every year, many elderly applicants passed away when waiting for a public housing unit. There had also been tragedies involving the disabled and their caregivers from time to time. Thus, he opined that the billions of public money the Government planned to spend on LTV should use to meet the pressing needs of the underprivileged instead.
- iii. He had interviewed many Wan Chai kaifongs and asked them whether they supported LTV. Most of them preferred the Government to spend the funding on supporting their daily necessities instead.
- iv. Pointing out the fact that a lot of grassroots citizens were still struggling to meet their basic needs, he questioned why the Government opted to spend billions of dollars on a time-consuming development project that might not even benefit the public. He hoped that WCDC would support the use of public funds on aiding the grassroots, the poor population, seniors and people with disabilities.

39. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho of Islands DC made the following comments:

- i. Given that WCDC was able to table the matters about LTV for discussion, he hoped that Members could speak on its impacts on the environment and traffic condition of Wan Chai District. Islands DC conducted a total of nine briefings and discussions on questions/motions about LTV from 2016 to 2019. In this DC term, Ms YUNG Wing-sheung, an Islands DC Member, raised a written question about LTV, but it was refused by the Chairperson of Islands DC on the ground of overstepping the terms of reference of the DC.
- ii. Considering the fact that the artificial islands of LTV would be constructed in the Islands District, he was perplexed by the claim of the Chairperson of Islands DC and DO(Islands) that the discussion was unnecessary.
- iii. He would like to know whether uniform standards were adopted by all the DOs and ADOs. He hoped the other 17 DCs could continue to hold discussions of LTV in accordance with their terms of reference.

40. Mr LEE Hon of CEDD made the following comments:

- i. The Government's plan to develop artificial islands around Kau Yi Chau was to harness the enormous advantages of LTV, including increasing public housing supply, relieving traffic congestion and creating employment opportunities.
- ii. He noted the concerns raised by Members and local organisations in different aspects of the development proposal. The Government aimed to commence the study of building artificial islands in the Central Waters and would formulate a development plan as early as possible. They would carry out multi-pronged assessment on the proposal and would continue to collect views from the public.

41. Mr Mark TANG of TD replied that the department would maintain close liaison with Development Bureau (DEVB) and CEDD. TD would provide professional advice on traffic matters to ensure a timely implementation of transport infrastructures and traffic improvement measures in line with the development plan.

42. The Chairperson opined that this matters involved many departments. But so far only CEDD and TD had submitted a brief reply. He emphasised that DEVB and PlanD had the responsibility to answer the subject written question, yet DEVB refused DPTC's invitation to send a representative to this meeting. He asked if the PlanD

representative had any comments on the matter.

43. Mr Anthony LUK of PlanD said as mentioned by CEDD, no information was available at the moment since the relevant study had not yet commenced. PlanD had no further comment on the issue.

44. Ms Susi LAW made the following remarks:

- i. She was astonished by the fact that the discussion of LTV was restricted by WCDO, though the development project was a matter of great concern to Wan Chai residents. Since relevant papers were not uploaded to WCDC's website until the night before the meeting, Members did not have sufficient time to prepare for the discussion. It was regrettable that the discussion of matters concerning LTV raised at Islands DC was suppressed.
- ii. Many shop owners in Wan Chai shut down their businesses and a lot of people were unemployed/underemployed. She doubted why the Government still insisted on squandering \$600 billion, out of the remaining \$800 billion fiscal reserves, on a development project which might not be effective, or even worse, vulnerable to typhoons or left uncompleted.
- iii. The matter should come under the spotlight. The policy direction of LTV was misguided. She wondered why the Government was reluctant to use their resources for developing brownfield sites. Instead, it wasted public purse and pressed on with the project amid the pandemic, leaving seniors in Wan Chai unsupported.

45. Miss Clarisse YEUNG made the following comments:

- i. She thought government departments would provide more information. But much to her disappointment, TD did not answer whether the \$550-million research would cover the impacts of LTV on the rail transport network and traffic in Wan Chai. While CEDD claimed that no information was available because the relevant study had not yet commenced, she asked whether CEDD would include the items mentioned in her written question in their study scope.
- ii. She agreed with Ms Susi LAW that the direction of the feasibility study of LTV was misguided in the first place. Given the strong objection from the society, the Government should withdraw its funding application for the preliminary study of LTV from the Finance Committee of the LegCo,

not least because the concern groups present had long relayed public views to the Government.

- iii. The Government refused to listen to public opinions but forcibly introduced the development project. With great reluctance, the Government agreed to let WCDC become the first DC to bring LTV up for discussion at meetings. However, much to her dissatisfaction, it was merely a half-hearted gesture for the departments to hear stakeholders speak without taking real action to address their concerns.

46. Ms Clara CHEUNG made the following remarks:

- i. She thanked the concern groups for their rational analysis. Without doubt, Hong Kong's population was ageing. Given the post-pandemic global recession, Hong Kong would be burdened with heavy debt if the Government insisted on spending a fortune on LTV. Besides, no study would come up with a solution to remedy the irreversible damages to the environment and marine ecosystem created by the reclamation.
- ii. Some concern groups already did the research for the Government and found there were indeed other better options to increase land supply, such as utilising idle land resources and developing brownfield sites.
- iii. She would like to know the reasons why the Government pressed on with LTV. In her opinion, the only reason behind was to make money from the city's natural resources and to please the Chinese government with every penny of Hong Kong's fiscal reserves.
- iv. The concern groups made rational remarks and gave cogent arguments in the above discussion. She hoped the Government could stop disguising the sale of Hong Kong's natural resources as a solution to the housing problem. Otherwise, the living environment of the future generations would be ruined. She also foresaw that more officials would become the sanction targets, and such a situation would not be ideal.
- v. She urged government officials to think thrice and cease all studies of LTV.

47. Ms CHAN Yuk-lam made the following comments:

- i. The preliminary study of LTV already cost a sum of \$550 million. While the departments had no clue as to whether the livelihood matters in Wan Chai were covered, it was absolutely absurd for them to seek public

support for the project.

- ii. As the concern groups just summarised, the development proposal had many drawbacks. Rather than spending a great amount of money on studies and researches, the Government should make better use of the resources to improve the livelihood of citizens. Land shortage was always a false premise. The Government could invest the money in revitalising existing land resources in Hong Kong, such as brownfield sites, vacant factory buildings and idle industrial estates, so as to increase land supply and enhance the living conditions of the people.
- iii. As her views were similar to others', she was strongly against LTV.

48. Mr Eddie TSE of Save Lantau Alliance made the following remarks:

- i. He appreciated that Members hoped to offer a platform for rational discussions and exchanges of ideas regarding LTV, so as to coordinate the formulation of public policy. But the departments' half-hearted effort disappointed him.
- ii. The so-called feasibility study was in fact a planning and engineering study for the implementation of a Category A project. Many other feasibility studies, such as financial analysis, all pointed to the same fact — it was not a wise decision to devote such a great amount of money to LTV, given the economic strain of Hong Kong.
- iii. The Government's claim that the development would generate sizeable returns was nonsense because such projections were based on the high property price recorded in 2018 and 2019. If the Government planned to maintain the policy of high land/property price, it would continue to make life impossible for the public.
- iv. According to the analysis of Associate Professor YIU Chung-yim, Edward, LTV would result in severe traffic congestion on Hong Kong Island.
- v. He hoped that everyone could see that Hong Kong had sufficient land resources. The crux of the matter was whether the Government wanted to develop existing sites.
- vi. Considering the price of marine sand had doubled over the last couple of years, the development project might end up costing more than \$1,000 billion. He hoped the Government could take the well-being of the

future generations into serious consideration. He said LTV was likened to “cancer cells” to the marine environment and the reclamation work must not be carried out at all.

49. Mr LEE Chi-yung of CSSA Alliance made the following comments:

- i. The departments concerned gave no practical opinions on improving the livelihood matters in Wan Chai.
- ii. The poverty rate of the district climbed from 13.4% in 2017 to 14.2% in 2018. While the Government insisted on conducting the study of LTV at this most trying moment, he wondered whether the government officials had ever realised it was their responsibility to draw up effective plans for the benefits of Wan Chai residents.
- iii. He would like to know whether the Social Welfare Officer and DO(WC) would propose any pragmatic approaches to foster the development of Wan Chai.

50. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho of Islands DC asked Assistant District Officer (Wan Chai) (ADO(WC)) that if the 18 districts shared a uniform set of guidelines to determine whether a matter could be discussed by DCs. Taking the written question concerning traffic matters in Wan Chai in discussion as an example, he asked whether its discussion was permitted.

51. Mr LEUNG Pak-kin made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. He expressed opposition to LTV and hoped that WCDO could invite the departments concerned as far as practicable to answer Members’ enquiries at DC meetings. It was not fair for the Government to send representatives to meetings only when it wished to introduce a new policy, but refuse to communicate with the DC when Members wished to speak on the policy.
- ii. Given the severe blow to the globe dealt by the coronavirus outbreak the previous year, he asked if the Government had considered thoroughly whether the tremendous investment in LTV was still worth it.
- iii. It was time to review whether Hong Kong should continue to rely on its demographic dividend to fuel the economic growth. The population of the city decreased rather than increased for the first time since records began. Thus, the Government should give some thought to the future development of Hong Kong when facing global issues.

- iv. With the falling fertility rate, longer life expectancy of Hong Kong and growing number of people planning to move abroad in recent years, the population was likely to age in the next decade. He urged the Government again to think through whether LTV was the project to be prioritised.

52. Ms Sabina KOO made the following comments:

- i. Many local organisations and concern groups already explained their viewpoints by citing different statistics and facts. Everybody in the society should be responsible for the future generations. She asked whether the Government had ever realised that the LTV proposal was a long-term policy and social matter in essence which would affect the generations to come.
- ii. She hoped that other DCs could take a stance and raise opposition to this senseless development project after this discussion. She also hoped that ones would think about their responsibilities and obligations to the community.

53. The Hon Paul TSE made the following remarks:

- i. He thanked Mr LAI for submitting the petitions. As the subject matter would probably be tabled to the Finance Committee of the LegCo for discussion again, he could see everybody's eagerness in discussing the matter. In his opinion, HAD might see the need to keep the gate to prevent discussions of subject matters outside the terms of reference of the DCs, lest improper handling and discussion of certain matters might give rise to violation of the terms of reference by other DCs. He had no particular comment on the discussion of LTV, but he could appreciate it was necessary for the Government to handle the matter meticulously, given that there could be a chance of judicial review.
- ii. WCDC Chairperson Miss Clarisse YEUNG raised her written question strategically as she presented the focus as the traffic condition of Wan Chai, rather than LTV itself. Fellow members who wished to raise similar written questions could learn from Miss YEUNG, so that the subject matter could be included in the agenda and discussed at WCDC meetings without violating the terms of reference. Upholding the rule of law, the Government would not limit any discussions as long as Members followed the rules.

- iii. Ms CHAN Yuk-lam might have been misled. He clarified that the LegCo had not yet granted approval to the funding application of the preliminary study. The Government was still trying to obtain the research funding so the details such as matters of Wan Chai District had not been finalised in the study scope. Besides, the financial and technical feasibilities were under studying. Therefore, Members needed not worry that the LTV project would be carried out right away.
- iv. He disagreed that the subject matter had been thoroughly and rationally discussed, as Ms Clara CHEUNG commented. Quite the contrary, the discussion at this meeting was neither thorough nor rational. Many comments were given on the basis of personal perception.
- v. As for the use of brownfield sites and the possible issues involved, the Government still needed to study on the details. Broadly speaking, the problem of land shortage could not be tackled simply by developing brownfield sites. The Government already devoted lots of time and efforts in exploring the development of brownfield sites in the past. The Advisory Committee formed by the Government in this regard also concluded that reclamation was one of the options which could create a vast amount of lands. But of course, it was still uncertain whether the reclamation would go ahead.
- vi. If the Government had not been determined in developing new towns, City One Shatin and Tseung Kwan O would not have existed. All government officials present would not have worked so hard to put forward such a controversial development project if they had not cared about the benefits of the future generations. He hoped the discussion at this meeting was only a start, and members would allow possibilities in the discussion.

54. Ms CHAN Yuk-lam made the following comments:

- i. She clarified her remarks earlier that the \$550-million funding request for the preliminary study of LTV had been passed by the Public Works Subcommittee of the LegCo with 20 members voted for, and 16 members voted against it.
- ii. Given the approval of \$550 million, a definite study scope should have been available for the preliminary study. She was disappointed that the concerned departments gave no reply to the questions as to whether the study would cover the traffic and livelihood matters in Wan Chai.

55. The Hon Paul TSE added that the Public Works Subcommittee was just one of the committees which handled the funding procedures. The funding application would not be considered officially approved until the Finance Committee endorsed it. He hoped that Ms CHAN could pay more attention to the work of the LegCo, adding that it would also be helpful to her work in WCDC.

56. The Chairperson made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. He agreed with other Members that the grounds against LTV raised by concern groups were sufficient and cogent. He hoped the departments concerned would not be scared by the broad issue and dodge Members' questions and opinions. In his opinion, all of the views raised by Members were absolutely sensible.
- ii. The concern groups cited statistics of Wan Chai to illustrate their viewpoints. On the contrary, the departments concerned did not provide any figures at all. In fact, it was the duty of the government departments to collect data and take censuses as evidence to convince WCDC and residents.
- iii. Considering the probable significant impacts of LTV on the traffic condition in Wan Chai, he asked the representatives of PlanD and CEDD for a definite answer to the written question. Besides, DEVB should take the initiative to consult the 18 DCs about the development project. Neither the DCs nor the concern groups should be the one to urge for a formal discussion.
- iv. He hoped that the scenario of WCDC would not happen again in the future. He did not want to see any more DCs being restricted from discussing matters of public interest, even though the discussions were in compliance with the rules.
- v. WCDO was the one who did not go by the book. Pointing out the fact that Miss Clarisse YEUNG submitted the written question a week before the meeting, he asked the ADO(WC) on what grounds WCDO forbade discussion of a written question that complied with the terms of reference of WCDC. He hoped the incident would not happen at the other 17 DCs. Otherwise, the effectiveness of DCs as a forum for discussion would be impaired.

(The Hon Paul TSE left the meeting at 11:10 a.m.)

57. ADO(WC) replied as follows:

- i. The Secretariat handled the written question as soon as it was received. The Government had to review whether the subject matter complied with the terms of reference of DCs as specified in the District Councils Ordinance. As it was concluded that the written question was appropriated to be included in the agenda, the subject matter could be discussed at this meeting.
- ii. Since she had no idea about the situation at the Islands DC, she could not tell if it was the same as in WCDC, or whether the handling methods were consistent.

58. Mr Anthony LUK of PlanD said he had nothing else to add.

59. Mr LEE Hon of CEDD noted the concerns raised by Members and the concern groups. In the preliminary study, CEDD would assess different aspects, including transport and planning.

60. Mr Mark TANG of TD said he had nothing else to add.

61. Miss Clarisse YEUNG made the following remarks:

- i. The focus of her written question was on transport and planning issues in Wan Chai District. The government departments had been giving answers irrelevant to the questions or claiming they had no idea.
- ii. The Central and Western DC had maintained a regular agenda item for which departments had to keep the DC updated by submitting information from time to time about the impacts of LTV on the traffic in the Central and Western District. She noticed that one of the discussion papers titled “Lantau Tomorrow Vision Latest Progress of Studies related to Artificial Islands in the Central Waters” (C&W DC Paper No. 107/2020) was submitted by CEDD. Yet, CEDD did not introduce the paper to WCDC.
- iii. As the heart of Hong Kong Island, Wan Chai was the destination of many commuters every day. If LTV was taken forward, the artificial islands would connect with Wan Chai via the pier in Sai Wan. The paper mentioned that on top of extensive public consultations and different public engagement activities to be organised, CEDD would also provide more comprehensive information to the Central and Western DC. She requested CEDD to make the same arrangements for WCDC and conduct consultations on a regular basis.

- iv. She noted PlanD's reply that they had nothing to do with the matter. She pointed out that PlanD published a report titled "Hong Kong 2030+: Towards a Planning Vision and Strategy Transcending 2030", which included a traffic study. According to the overview of the report, the traffic capacity of the north shore of Hong Kong Island was close to saturation, and the Government was seeking solutions to alleviate the traffic burden. Though the report did not cover the traffic impact of LTV on Wan Chai District, it showed apparent contradictions in the traffic planning of LTV. PlanD's advance planning for the city was essential to remedy the worrisome situation. Thus, it must not use ignorance as defence and sit on their hands. After all, Wan Chai, as a central business district, would be the destination of many commuters. Therefore, PlanD had an undeniable responsibility to comment on the matter.

62. Referring to Mr Eddie TSE's remarks of the superficial feasibility study, Ms Susi LAW pointed out that the Government paid no regard for the financial constraints. In this regard, she asked Mr LEE Hon of CEDD why the department still agreed to conduct the study along such line, bringing dire consequences to Hong Kong.

63. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho of Islands DC made the following comments:

- i. DCs were degraded and only discussions on district matters were permitted. On 25 February 2019, the Islands DC discussed a written motion as follows:

"The Islands DC supports the Lantau Tomorrow Vision promulgated in the 2018 Policy Address and the launching of a study immediately on reclamation near Kau Yi Chau and Hei Ling Chau for the construction of artificial islands to solve Hong Kong's housing problems in the long term, enhance the external transport links for Lantau Island (including the construction of transport corridor linking the artificial islands to the northern shore of Lantau via Mui Wo) and other outlying islands nearby to promote long-term economic development of Hong Kong."

Half of the matters mentioned in the written motion were challenges facing by Hong Kong as a whole, but their discussions were permitted at Islands DC back then.

- ii. At that meeting, Islands DC Member Mr Holden CHOW once mentioned the land shortage issue of Hong Kong and suggested increasing the land supply. Considering that Mr CHOW was allowed to comment on

internal affairs of the wider Hong Kong back then, all could see that the Government had more stringent standards as to the matters suitable for discussion at DC meetings this time around. He hoped that subject matters of similar nature could be handled in accordance with the past arrangements of the DCs. He requested WCDO to follow up the issue.

64. Mr Oscar LAI of HKJP raised the following remarks:

- i. When the government departments tried to comment on the study of LTV, some people said that WCDC should not discuss LTV at all because it was a political matter. In fact, all 18 DCs discussed and supported the framework of the “831 Decision” in the past, even though it was a political matter.
- ii. He asked whether the departments concerned could squarely answer Members’ enquiries raised at the meeting, including the traffic issues mentioned by Miss Clarisse YEUNG. Since Wan Chai was part of Hong Kong, it was unreasonable to say that Wan Chai played no part in the development of LTV and a feasibility study was unnecessary. He stressed that a feasibility study was, on the contrary, indispensable.
- iii. The \$550-million preliminary study might only cover the study of the waters near Lantau Island and would not evaluate the impacts on the 18 districts, especially the traffic condition in Wan Chai.
- iv. Given their ignorance about the study, representatives of government departments must have had a tough time attending this WCDC meeting. Such a situation showed the Government’s attitude towards Members of all the 18 DCs.

65. Mr Anson LAM said he could understand the concerns raised by the concern groups regarding the impacts of LTV on Wan Chai. But Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho should ask the DO(Islands) or ADO(Islands) about the reasons why the Islands DC was unable to discuss the matter concerned. Officials of Wan Chai were not supposed to handle matters of the other 17 DCs after all.

66. Mr Eddie TSE of Save Lantau Alliance made the following comments:

- i. Regarding the Hon Paul TSE’s remark that the DCs should only discuss district matters, he pointed out that the Government had raised many matters concerning the future development of Hong Kong for DCs’ discussions in the past. He wondered if it meant that Mr TSE had

broken the law all these years.

- ii. Over the year, many territory-wide matters were of public interest and the Government had to gauge views from different DCs. It was ridiculous that only the Government could conduct consultations while Members were forbidden from asking questions.
- iii. For most construction projects, the Government would first assess whether the project was technically and financially feasible. It would then carry out the planning and the engineering feasibility study. But now the Government skipped the financial feasibility study and jumped the gun to push forward LTV. He did not think a feasibility study conducted by an executive-led government would advise against the development project proposed by the government.
- iv. He hoped that WCDC could relay their stance on LTV to the Government explicitly after collecting public views.

67. The Chairperson said what Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho, Island DC Member, wanted to ask was whether matters of significance could not be discussed at the DC level. He would like to know why WCDO always tried all means to prevent WCDC from discussing important subject matters. How WCDO handled the written question was time-wasting. He believed that everyone could see the cooperation between the Government and the DCs over the past nine months was far from satisfactory.

68. Mr LEE Hon of CEDD replied that the Government was applying for funding to conduct a comprehensive research, comprising the drafting of a development plan and assessments in various aspects, such as traffic, planning, engineering, economy and finance.

69. ADO(WC) replied as follows:

- i. As mentioned earlier, it took time for the Government to ascertain whether the subject matter complied with the terms of reference of WCDC. She repeated that the matter concerned had been approved and its discussion was in progress at the moment.
- ii. She clarified that WCDO did not attempt to avoid the issue. The Secretariat handled the written question upon its receipt. If necessary, the Secretariat could provide supplementary information in this regard.

70. The Chairperson asked the Secretary to provide further explanation.

71. The Secretary added as follows:

- i. According to the Standing Orders of WCDC, all written questions, motions and papers for discussion at a meeting must be submitted to the Secretary ten clear working days before the meeting.
- ii. Take this meeting as an example. “Ten clear working days” before that day (29 September) was 14 September.
- iii. The Secretariat received the written question in the evening of 20 September (Sunday). As mentioned by the ADO(WC), the Secretariat started processing the written question on the following working day and informed the Chairperson as soon as the decision was made.

72. The Chairperson said he received an impromptu motion moved by Miss Clarisse YEUNG and seconded by Ms CHAN Yuk-lam and Ms Sabina KOO at the meeting. He asked members to refer to the paper.

(Note: The impromptu motion moved by Miss Clarisse YEUNG was as follows:

“That DPTC opposes the Government’s funding request to the Legislative Council for the preliminary study of ‘Lantau Tomorrow Vision’ due to the following reasons: the project will waste huge amounts of public money; the Government fails to thoroughly consider the impacts on Wan Chai District as the proposed artificial islands will aggravate the traffic load of Hong Kong Island; and the Government did not consult Wan Chai District Council and disregards the views of Wan Chai residents.”)

73. Miss Clarisse YEUNG briefed members on the written motion. She was deeply disappointed that the departments concerned failed to answer Members' enquiries. Specifically, PlanD did not answer the questions about the study report "Hong Kong 2030+"; TD did not reply to the enquiries about road traffic; and CEDD did not answer the questions concerning the infrastructures of LTV. She requested the departments concerned to submit relevant information after the meeting and conduct public consultations to gauge views of Wan Chai residents. She reiterated that the preliminary study was misguided.

74. The Chairperson asked members to resolve the aforesaid motion by a show of hands. The voting results were as follows:

YES: 9 Votes (Ms CHAN Yuk-lam, Ms Clara CHEUNG, Ms Sabina KOO, Ms Susi

LAW, Mr LI Wing-choi, Mr LEUNG
Pak-kin, Mr MAK King-sing, Miss
Clarisse YEUNG and Ms Cathy YAU)

NO: 0 Vote

Abstain: 2 Votes (Mr Anson LAM and Ms Peggy LEE)

75. The Chairperson announced that the motion was passed.

76. Miss Clarisse YEUNG suggested that DPTC should write to DEVB and the Finance Committee of the LegCo to declare the stance of WCDC.

77. The Chairperson thanked the representatives of the concern groups for attending the meeting.

(Representatives of the concern groups left the discussion after the meeting.)

(Mr LEUNG Pak-kin left the meeting at 11:40 a.m.)

Item 6: Written question: Reprovisioning Proposal of Fleet Arcade at Fenwick Pier

(DPTC Paper No. 30/2020)

Item 7: Written question: Tenancy Termination of Servicemen's Guides Association

(DPTC Paper No. 32/2020)

78. The Chairperson suggested combining the discussion of the two agenda items and welcomed the following representatives to the meeting:

The Servicemen's Guides Association

Mr Theodore ALGIRE Executive Director

Ms KING WONG Executive Council Member

Chow-hing, Judy

Mr Thomas FARNEN Executive Council Secretary

Mr Charles Nicholas Advisor

BROOKS

Mr MAK Chi-wung Personal Assistant to Advisor

79. Miss Clarisse YEUNG spoke on her written question:

- i. She was concerned about the eviction of tenants at Fleet Arcade because the Arcade's relocation had been approved by TPB.
- ii. She questioned whether it was because of the Government's plan to demolish Kong Wan Fire Station and combine three buildings in Wan Chai for development. The written reply from the Fire Services Department (FSD) stated that the Government planned to relocate Kong Wan Fire Station and was identifying a suitable site. But they did not reply to the question of whether the site of Fleet Arcade had been assessed to be suitable for fire services.
- iii. Lands Department (LandsD) replied in its written reply that the site concerned could serve other purposes. She asked the department what other purposes they would suggest, besides relocation of the fire station.

80. Ms Susi LAW briefed the meeting the written question. She would like to know about the impact of relocating Kong Wan Fire Station on the existing service. Since the fire station near the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC) mainly served the Hennessy area, she anticipated there would be a delay of two to three minutes in fire service for the area upon the relocation.

81. Mr MAK Chi-wung of the Servicemen's Guides Association (SGA) made the following comments:

- i. SGA was founded as early as 1953 and had been serving the servicemen at the existing venue since 1970. As the only organisation in Hong Kong to provide hospitality to naval visitors from all nations, SGA offered counselling service, shopping and travelling guide. Given that many navy fleets came to Hong Kong for replenishment, SGA undoubtedly helped spur Hong Kong's economic growth. With its prolonged service for the Hong Kong community, SGA had become a landmark in Wan Chai District and a collective memory of Hong Kong people.
- ii. As early as 2009, SGA intended to redevelop the existing venue to serve naval visitors with new facilities and open some of its facilities to the general public. In 2015, SGA submitted a redevelopment plan to the TPB, in the hope to continue its operation at the present venue and redevelop it by private treaty. The plan was approved in 2016.
- iii. During the negotiation with the Government, SGA's proposal was supported by various government departments, including the Land and

Development Advisory Committee and the Harbourfront Commission, which agreed that the redevelopment would enable waterfront revitalisation and continue to serve Wan Chai District.

- iv. SGA was astonished by the Government's plan to relocate Kong Wan Fire Station at the Fleet Arcade. They thus commissioned a designer to study the technical proposal with reference to similar examples overseas, such as buildings housing fire stations on the ground floor and residential properties on the upper floors in Washington and Virginia in the United States. SGA would be willing to work with the Government and share the premises with the relocated fire station, given the fact that the proposal would effectively preserve Fenwick Pier, protect the public interest and make a good use of land resources.

82. Ms Judy KING WONG of SGA opined that the Association had been serving as an ambassador, a role the Government should have taken up, for the incoming servicemen of other countries. SGA should thus be reserved.

83. Mr Ronnie MAK of LandsD said the department had replied in writing and had nothing more to add.

84. Mr Anthony LUK of PlanD responded as follows:

- i. The site located on the Government land was granted to SGA by short-term tenancy for offering reception service to visiting naval personnel.
- ii. According to the information available, the site concerned might be used in the plan to relocate public utilities. Details were yet to be confirmed, subject to further study by relevant bureaux or departments.
- iii. The department would dovetail with the development policies and terminate short-term tenancies as necessary if the site concerned was assigned with a long-term use.

85. The Chairperson said FSD had submitted a written reply but sent no personnel to the meeting.

86. Ms Susi LAW made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. Why did LandsD ignore the opinion from SGA? The department paid no attention to the need of the Association during the course of planning.

Did it imply that the ambassador duties taken up by SGA were no longer necessary? She opined that would jeopardise a partnership that had been maintained for decades.

- ii. She suggested writing to the relevant departments in the name of the Committee for replies to members' enquiries.

87. Miss Clarisse YEUNG made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. She asked if the redevelopment plan for SGA had been shelved. She also criticised the bureau and departments involved in the matter: DEVB for skipping the consultation with SGA and other stakeholders of Wan Chai when formulating the plan; LandsD for providing limited information, that the site would be for relocation of public utilities, while the exact utility to be relocated was left undecided; FSD, the most relevant department of the relocation plan, for failing to send a representative to answer enquiries at the meeting. All the above problems rendered the discussion that day a waste of time. She opined that DEVB should take care of the needs of various stakeholders. The measures to be in place must not erode the Association's right to continue their use of the venue or disregard their contribution to Hong Kong.
- ii. She suggested the Committee write to DEVB and requested for a reply to the enquiries.
- iii. She asked LandsD whether fire station was the public utility they referred to and how they planned to consult the DC. She would also like to know about the procedure in details.
- iv. Strongly discontented with PlanD's reply, she pointed out that a lot of issues discussed at the DC that day were related to PlanD, such as the site for SGA and the possible relocation of the fire station. She opined that the department should know very well about the entire planning of Wan Chai North. She questioned whether PlanD would use the same tactic as in the planning for Caroline Hill Road and keep the Committee in the dark until the die was cast.

88. Mr MAK Chi-wung of SGA said if the departments concerned had not confirmed the relocation proposal for any particular facilities, it would be a good time to consider a plan to keep both SGA and the public utilities, allowing the Association to continue its services for people in Hong Kong and overseas customers at the existing

venue.

89. Ms Susi LAW raised the following enquiries:

- i. How many stakeholders had SGA served over the decades and how significant was the impact of the Government's refusal to their proposal?
- ii. How would SGA comment on Government's arrangement?

90. Mr Theodore ALGIRE of SGA gave the following comments:

- i. SGA had been providing service to the international sailors visiting Hong Kong since 1953.
- ii. The existing site was granted by short-term tenancy since 1997. The Association had been working in good faith for the past 12 years on looking at the redesign proposal of the site, which was approved in 2016. The plan had been supported by the bureau concerned.
- iii. The Association was deeply disappointed to hear that they would lose the site from the end of 2021 and would not be able to provide the service. He stressed that the reason why their redevelopment plan was approved by TPB and gained support from Harbour Commission was that it could enhance the waterfront and serve Wan Chai residents and visitors, which would be beneficial to visiting servicemen and people of Hong Kong.

91. Ms Judy KING WONG of SGA added that the Association served thousands of millions of visiting servicemen per year. Many of them kept coming back after retirement because they liked the city and enjoyed the SGA's service. She opined that the Association could foster the Hong Kong economy as well as its good international image. Servicemen and their families from all over the world, including the United States, France, Australia, Thailand and other countries in the Southeast Asia would visit Hong Kong for this reason.

92. Mr Theodore ALGIRE of SGA gave the following comments:

- i. At a meeting in November, they were told that the service provided by the Association was no longer needed in Hong Kong. There had been a decreasing number of ships visiting Hong Kong in recent years but it was normal that numbers kept going up and down throughout the years.

He thus considered the situation temporary.

- ii. Hong Kong was so popular with sailors because of its rich culture and history. At the same meeting in November, he asked if it was not the Association, which organisation would provide transportation, free local SIM cards to call home, answers to questions of where to go, eat and shop for the sailors. He got zero response at the meeting.
- iii. He opined that the service they offered was very important to a unique brand of tourists. The redeveloped site would be open to everyone and enhance the waterfront, a function that the relocated fire station would not be able to serve.

93. Mr Ronnie MAK of LandsD replied that the department received the application from SGA in 2016 for a 21-year lease by private treaty. But the support from the bureaux concerned was a prerequisite for individual organisations to lease Government land by private treaty. Given the lack of support from the relevant bureau, LandsD issued an official refusal to SGA last December.

94. Regarding the development of Wan Chai North, Mr Anthony LUK of PlanD replied that Chief Executive announced in her 2018 Policy Address that the site where three government towers in Wan Chai North and Kong Wan Fire Station were located would be redeveloped into facilities and office buildings of HKCEC. FSD also mentioned in their written reply that they were identifying a suitable site for the relocation. If the outline development plan needed revising for the relocation of the three government towers in Wan Chai North, the department would consult WCDC in accordance with established procedures.

95. Ms CHAN Yuk-lam asked SGA whether they had communicated with the Government. Would the Association accept the suggestion of relocation if the Government proposed so; if yes, would they have any particular requests on the site for reprovisioning.

96. Ms Clara CHEUNG raised opinions and enquiries as follows:

- i. Given that the planning permission concerned expired on 8 January 2020, she asked PlanD whether SGA could apply for an extension of validity of the permission. If yes, what were the procedures?
- ii. As from the discussion, the government departments seemed to be ignorant of the other uses of the site concerned. She asked LandsD whether SGA could still continue to lease the site by short-term tenancy

if the use was yet to be confirmed.

97. Miss Clarisse YEUNG made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. Disapproving of PlanD's saying that public consultation would not be conducted unless the outline development plan was revised, she criticised the department for being bent on having its way. She considered the department's failure to consult WDC, the public and stakeholders in due course a dereliction of duty.
- ii. The issue was tabled for discussion in the hope that PlanD could see the great importance DC attached to the development of the site concerned. Despite TPB's support, the Association's proposal was rejected simply because the bureau did not support it. SGA's long history and contribution were disregarded altogether.
- iii. She asked LandsD whether the site occupied by SGA was favourable for the fire station to render its service in the area. If FSD decided not to take the site and the Government could yet determine its specific use, the DC should convey SGA's need for that particular site to the bureau before any public facilities were built.
- iv. She asked SGA about the criteria of a suitable site for reprovisioning in case the Government pressed on with the relocation.

98. Ms Sabina KOO made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. She said developments of a community should be diversified and items with great historic interest should be preserved. She asked the departments concerned whether they would consider the proposal raised by the Association to keep both SGA and the public utility.
- ii. Having served the community for a long time, SGA was well recognised in the Hong Kong history. She asked the Association whether the Government had ever contacted them to negotiate on relocation.

99. Mr MAK Chi-wung of SGA said the Association was told when they submitted their application in 2015 that TPC supported the redevelopment plan and that they could continue to provide service to sailors and Wan Chai residents. They thus did not expect the Government would relocate the Association. The Government had never proactively got in touch with the Association to discuss the relocation even after they heard about the relocation of the fire station.

100. Mr Anthony LUK of PlanD replied that the planning permission expired on 8 January 2020, as stated in the written reply. Under the relevant guidelines of TPB, applicants should file an application to extend the validity of the planning permission six weeks before its expiry date. Otherwise, the planning permission would be invalid after the date and the applicant had to make a new application.

101. Mr Ronnie MAK of LandsD replied as follows:

- i. The short-term tenancy of SGA was still valid. LandsD would not notify the Association of their departure date until the use of the land was confirmed.
- ii. LandsD could not provide information regarding the catchment area of the fire station.

102. The Chairperson asked PlanD whether they had informed or contacted SGA six weeks before 8 January 2020.

103. Mr Anthony LUK of PlanD replied as follows:

- i. PlanD would not take the initiative to inform applicants. But in application approval notifications, TPB would remind applicants of the validity period of planning permission, in the hope that applicants would implement the development proposals for facilities, buildings or planning permission within a reasonable time frame.
- ii. During the validity period of planning permission, applicants could apply for extension if they needed more time for the construction or the designing process. But the extended period would not be longer than the original validity period of the planning permission.

104. Ms Susi LAW raised the following comments and enquiries:

- i. Referring to PlanD's saying that SGA had to submit the extension application six weeks before 8 January 2020, she asked the department whether they had notified SGA of the need to apply for extension in late 2019. If not, was that not tantamount to driving SGA away?
- ii. SGA had been granted the site for decades. The Government's request for SGA's departure was in complete disregard for their past efforts and the future need of the community, not to mention the new use of the land was yet to be decided. She hoped the parties concerned would

recognise SGA's contribution.

105. The Chairperson requested PlanD to get in touch the Association proactively and handle their new application or offer other solutions to the matter.

106. Ms CHAN Yuk-lam asked LandsD when they notified SGA of the termination of tenancy and questioned whether the department deliberately postponed the notification until the application period for the extension ended.

107. Mr Ronnie MAK of LandsD made the following replies:

- i. He clarified again that the short-term tenancy of SGA was still valid. LandsD would notify the Association of the termination of tenancy in accordance with the terms and conditions stipulated in the tenancy contract only when the long-term use of the site was determined.
- ii. The matter about the extension of validity of the planning permission was outside the purview of LandsD.

108. Miss Clarisse YEUNG made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. PlanD mentioned that a reasonable amount of time was necessary to ascertain whether the planning application met the requirement, but it did not give the Association any time to reply, particularly on technical issues. She commented that the Government failed to take care of the Association's needs.
- ii. She opined that schemes regarding vacant government land launched recently by DEVB were obviously targeted at non-governmental organisations. While the Government gave zero consideration to the existing tenants, it even attempted to evict them by administrative means.
- iii. Given that SGA's short-term tenancy was still valid but the department refused to extend the validity of their planning permission, she asked the department what the Association could do.

109. Mr Theodore ALGIRE of SGA made the following comments:

- i. When TPB approved their planning application, he was told that they would be granted the land with private treaty the following year. Despite so, the major work could not commence before the completion of Shatin-Central Link. SGA thus decided not to start the redevelopment, which would cost US\$30 to US\$50 million, during the

short-term tenancy. They thought the land would be granted by private treaty, as they were told.

- ii. A criterion for TPB's approval of planning application was that the redevelopment work should commence before January 2020. In the second half of 2019, SGA expressed the interest to a local contractor and requested them to be the project manager for the redevelopment. All the details had been documented and he believed having such process commenced before the planning permission expired would satisfy the expectation of TPB.

110. Mr MAK Chi-wung added that SGA hoped WCDC would agree that a permanent site in Wan Chai should be granted to SGA as a long-term approach to maintain the service for servicemen and Hong Kong people.

111. The Chairperson recapped as follows:

- i. DEVB gave no direct response to the questions raised in the two agenda items and failed to send a representative to the Committee meeting to answer enquiries.
- ii. The Committee would write to DEVB after the meeting to request for a clarification on the questions.
- iii. The Committee hoped the Government would stop hindering the Association and evicting them from the site in the name of administrative procedures.

112. The Chairperson thanked SGA representatives for attending the meeting.

(SGA representatives left the meeting after the discussion.)

Item 8: Written question: Vacant Premises of Wan Chai School
(DPTC Paper No. 31/2020)

113. Ms Susi LAW briefed the meeting her written question:

- i. She was concerned about the vacancy situation of Wan Chai School premises over the years and was disappointed that the Education Bureau (EDB) did not send any representative to the meeting.
- ii. Wan Chai School was situated at a prime location. She asked EDB for the timetable for redevelopment of the school premises or for other

developments after the completion of land reversion in April 2018.

- iii. EDB replied that they were reviewing whether the vacant premise could satisfy the estimated demand for school places. What was such demand? For what reasons were so many abandoned school premises in Hong Kong left idle?

114. Miss Clarisse YEUNG made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. The vacancy of school premises had been a long-standing issue. She asked EDB when the advance works for the construction of new school premises would commence and complete. What was the timetable to submit funding application to the LegCo and the building cost of the new school premises? Would it exceed \$30 million?
- ii. If the advance works had not been started, meaning the school premises would be vacant for two to three more years, she opined that the premises could be made available for other temporary uses. An organisation so happened to be looking for a premise.
- iii. She asked EDB whether they had assessed the structural safety of Wan Chai School premises. If they were still safe to use in the coming decades but failed to meet the standards for the new school, its demolition would be a waste of public money and create unnecessary construction waste, jeopardising the environment.
- iv. She took the example of the to-be-demolished Hong Kong Christian Service Pui Oi School in Tuen Mun, which was as large as Mrs Cheng Yam On Millennium School, and hoped the Government would not repeat the mistake at Wan Chai School.
- v. She would like to know which school was to take the site of Wan Chai School. Was it a secondary, primary or international school? She also asked why the DC was yet to be consulted, adding that parents in the district were highly concerned.
- vi. Given that Wan Chai School premises had been vacant for more than a decade, residents found it difficult to believe that EDB had a thorough plan to reserve the premises.

115. Since no EDB representative was present at the meeting, the Chairperson asked WCDO whether they had any reply.

116. ADO(WC) said WCDO had no relevant information on hand and thus no further comments could be provided.

117. Miss Clarisse YEUNG made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. She thanked Ms Susi LAW for raising the written question, pointing out that the Government was aware of the numerous idle sites in Hong Kong and she had suggested using the fund in the schemes for vacant land, amounting \$1 billion, for refurbishing these sites. But since she was not allowed to conduct any site visit, she could not ascertain whether Wan Chai School premises were suitable for non-profit making organisations, adding that the premises had been vacant for more than a decade.
- ii. The Government should review the situation the soonest possible and determine whether EDB had wasted the land resources. She advised Community Building and Housing Affairs Committee to follow up the matter.
- iii. Considering the site a rare one in Wan Chai District, she opined it should not be wasted for nothing and suggested the Committee conduct a site visit to decide the best use of it.

118. Ms Susi LAW gave the following comments:

- i. She hoped the Committee would write to EDB again to follow up the issued raised at this meeting.
- ii. Yat Sin Street, the street that surrounded Wan Chai School, was a hygiene blackspot. Worrying that the vacant school premises would become the hotbed of rodent infestation, she urged EDB to give a detailed reply as soon as possible.

119. The Chairperson agreed to write to EDB again and request for a site visit at Wan Chai School premises.

Item 9: Written question: Construction Works and Latest Progress of Hopewell Centre II
(DPTC No. 39/2020)

120. The Chairperson welcomed the following representatives to the meeting:

Hopewell Construction Company Limited

Mr TAM Ming-fai, Alan Project Director (Works),
Hopewell Centre II (HCII) Project
Arcadis Design & Engineering Limited
Mr KWOK Chun-wai Vice President (Engineering)
Hopewell Holdings Limited (Corporate Communications
Department)
Mr CHENG Ka-ho Assistant General Manager

121. Ms Peggy LEE briefed members on her written question:

- i. She had been asking the department concerned about the submission time of the project to the Executive Council, since she would like to lobby members of the Executive Council before they scrutinised the project. But to her disappointment, the project had already been submitted to the Executive Council when she received the department's reply.
- ii. She noted that the department concerned was scrutinising the road improvement works. In this regard, she asked TD whether the project was in compliance with the relevant guidelines, in terms of the sight distance, gradient, superelevation and width. She would also like to know the progress of the review and whether the most up-to-date drawings of the road works would be provided to DPTC after scrutinisation.
- iii. According to the relevant papers, approval was not yet granted to the road improvement works. But it came to her notice that China Overseas had already been conducting condition survey. She would like to know more about such arrangements and whether they were in line with the established practice.
- iv. In view of the three old and valuable trees in the construction site, she asked LCSD if they would disclose the report of the tree inspection conducted in early 2020.
- v. The construction works had been in progress for years, causing severe nuisances to residents of the surrounding area. Starting from few days ago, the dump trucks commenced operation as early as 7 a.m., generating serious noise pollution by the disposal of construction waste. Noise complaints from residents would come in from 7 a.m. on weekdays or 7:30 a.m. at weekend. She hoped the developer could honour their promise to the community and the EPD and start the works after 8 a.m. on weekdays as far as practicable.

122. Mr CHENG Ka-ho of Hopewell Holdings replied that they would instruct the contractor to follow up on the matter and find out the cause of the noise nuisance. They aimed to strike a balance between maintaining the works progress and fostering a good community relation.

123. Mr KWOK Chun-wai of Arcadis Design & Engineering Limited replied as follows:

- i. Hopewell already submitted the detailed design plan and received in September the Government's approval for the overall layout, road alignment and part of the retaining wall. Hopewell would continue to follow up on the rest of the design with the Government and take forward the approved construction works.
- ii. For a better understanding of the conditions of buildings in the surrounding area before the commencement of the works, condition survey was conducted, which was a common practice for works in general.

124. Mr Ronnie MAK of LandsD replied as follows:

- i. The road improvement works concerned were gazetted in accordance with the Roads (Works, Use and Compensation) Ordinance (Cap. 370), and opposition was received. Since the objector maintained the objection after a meeting was convened, such opposite views and the Government's reply had to be submitted to the Executive Council for consideration.
- ii. As the submission date to the Executive Council was confidential, LandsD was unable to notify Members or the objectors in advance. After the Executive Council gave the green light to the works in June 2020, the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) already informed the objectors of the decision.
- iii. Regarding the detailed design of the works, as explained by LandsD at a WCDC meeting in early 2019, government departments would follow up on the scrutinising work upon the Executive Council's approval for the works. The Government would scrutinise relevant layout plans batch by batch in accordance with the order of implementation.
- iv. In September, the Government already approved the overall layout, road alignment, the design of part of the slope and retaining wall of the

improvement works. These tasks were advance works of the project, and thus the developer would carry them out as soon as possible. As for the remaining layout plans, the developer could start the construction works only after the Government gave consent.

- v. About the tree inspection report, to his knowledge, two trees at the construction site were managed by LCSD and one was by HyD. The contractor reported the health conditions of the trees to the departments concerned on a regular basis.

125. Mr Mark TANG of TD replied that the design parametres used by the developer in the planning of road works, including sight distance, superelevation, gradient and width, were in line with the standards and requirements established by the Government.

126. Mr CHAN Kai-yin of HyD replied that Tree T305 LandsD just mentioned was maintained by the developer at present. The developer had to submit reports to HyD on a regular basis and the latest report showed that the tree concerned was in good health.

127. Ms Peggy LEE made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. She asked whether the inspection report of the old trees could be disclosed.
- ii. Since the Government already approved the road alignment and design of the retaining wall, the approved plans could be publicised. She asked whether there were any differences between the approved designs and those gazetted earlier. She stressed that residents had the right to know about the works underway in their neighbourhood. After all, the construction project was located in the public area though it was a private development.
- iii. She hoped the developer would take the initiative to report the works progress to members without being asked at DPTC meetings, so as to keep the public informed.
- iv. She urged the developer to handle the noise nuisance problem seriously, with a view to ensuring a quiet living environment for residents.

128. Miss Clarisse YEUNG made the following remarks and enquiries:

- i. Regarding the green park in Hopewell Centre II, which would be open to the public, she would like to know how the works progress was

affected by the outbreak of coronavirus.

- ii. Would the department concerned provide more detailed information about the tree inspection report?
- iii. The developer should provide complete sets of documents concerning the construction works. The information on hand was not enough for WCDC to answer questions from the public and protect their right to know.

(Mr Anson LAM left the meeting at 12:40 p.m.)

129. Mr Ronnie MAK of LandsD replied as follows:

- i. Since the tree inspection report and design drawings might be subject to copyright protection, the developer should decide whether to submit such information.
- ii. As far as he could see, the developer would approach Members and residents of the constituency concerned prior to the commencement of works. He invited the developer to give more details.

130. Mr KWOK Chun-wai of Arcadis Design & Engineering Limited replied as follows:

- i. The road improvement works at Kennedy Road was conducted in accordance with the overall design gazetted earlier, thus there was no change in the works location.
- ii. Hopewell had submitted the design plans to WCDC in the past. They could likewise explain the scope and nature of the road works to residents in the time to come if necessary.

131. The Chairperson thanked the representatives of Hopewell Holdings for attending the meeting.

Item 10: Written question: Management of Thomson Road in Wan Chai
(DPTC Paper No. 38/2020)

132. The Chairperson welcomed the following attendee to the meeting:

WCDO

133. Ms Sabina KOO introduced the written question as follows:

- i. Many requests for assistance had been received from residents in Thomson Road, Wan Chai, which was interspersed with public lands and private lands in its section near O'Brien Road, with the latter lands being accessible to all members of the public.
- ii. The surfaces of different spots along the road section were uneven and many elderly persons had stumbled as a result.
- iii. The owners' corporations (OCs) in the vicinity were rather helpless, as they had no control over who used the private lands. How many more elderly persons would need to stumble before the HyD took actions? The problem was urgent and must be rectified immediately.

134. Ms Susi LAW asked if the Government would consider re-activating the Private Street Resumption Programme. If the answer was negative, she would like to know how government departments would help the residents to cope with this problem in the private lands there, as many elderly residents might not necessarily be able to manage such lands.

135. Mr CHAN Kai-yin of HyD replied as follows:

- i. The main responsibility of HyD was to build and repair/maintain the public roads and associated road facilities under its ambit.
- ii. Private streets were private properties, the management and repairs of which should be the responsibility of the landowners concerned. In general, the Government would not interfere with the management of private properties. It might offer assistance to the landowners concerned only in special circumstances or when major public interests were at stake.
- iii. When the Government received a complaint about broken road surface in a private street, it would issue a rectification notice to the landowner. If the landowner was unable to arrange any emergency repair works, government departments might, having regard to the exigency of the case, carry out the required emergency repair works for the sake of public safety.
- iv. After carrying out the required emergency repair works having regard to

the exigency of the case, the Government would recover the works costs and related charges from the landowner.

136. Mr Ronnie MAK of LandsD replied as follows:

- i. Private streets were private lands, the management and repairs of which should be the responsibility of the landowners concerned.
- ii. LandsD would pitch in if there was the support of new policies. If not, it would be difficult for the department to interfere with the management of private streets.
- iii. When LandsD received a complaint concerning a private street, it would remind the landowner concerned to discharge its responsibility of carrying out repairs.

137. Miss Clarisse YEUNG made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. The Government had set up the Private Street Resumption Committee (PSRC) chaired by the Director of Home Affairs (DHA) and comprising representatives from nine other policy bureaux and departments.
- ii. Had PSRC convened any meetings recently? What was the latest progress of the Private Street Resumption Programme (PSRP)? As 11 land lots (including two private lands in Thomson Road) had been deleted from PSRP, she wished to know whether there was any mechanism under PSRC for examining the reinstatement of the deleted land lots or the inclusion of other private lands in Wan Chai, such as Yik Kwan Avenue.
- iii. In a paper submitted to the Legislative Council in 2000, HAD said it would explore the idea of resuming private roads and issuing licences for protruding balconies. At the time, the Bureau claimed that it lacked the manpower to undertake the work required. As two decades had already elapsed, she wished to know whether the Government would have the manpower to undertake the work.
- iv. In a written reply to the LegCo in 2018, the Home Affairs Bureau said that FEHD had been providing street cleansing services for nine private streets in Wan Chai. Which were these nine streets?
- v. How did HyD define the special circumstances and major public interests? Why couldn't it do the required repairs first, and then

recover the costs from the landowner or even impose any encumbrance if necessary afterwards?

- vi. DPTC was advised to invite HAD to attend the discussion on this item, so as to ensure that the right remedy could be administered.

138. Ms Susi LAW made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. HyD should point out the meaning of exigency and the number of urgent cases in the past where repairs were done before the recovery of works costs.
- ii. Some owners of private streets might have passed away already, thus compounding the problem and worsening the situation in private streets.
- iii. WCDO should take stopgap measures to alleviate the problem. Also, she wished to know how much funding was reserved annually for the management of public places, and whether there could be any spare funding for providing assistance in the management of private streets.

139. Miss Shirley FONG of WCDO replied as follows:

- i. WCDO had no information about the resumption of private streets.
- ii. OCs had been set up in many private buildings to take charge of building management work in accordance with the relevant Deeds of Mutual Covenant (DMCs) or building leases. In case any OCs required any assistance in building management issues, WCDO would offer its help. At the same time, WCDO would continue to encourage “three-nil buildings” to set up OCs.

140. Mr CHAN Kai-yin of HyD replied as follows:

- i. HyD would make timely repairs of any broken public road surfaces on Thomson Road.
- ii. He noted from the replies of the Land Registry and WCDO that most of the buildings on Thomson Road had set up their OCs. Owners of private streets had the obligation to co-ordinate the repairs of their properties.
- iii. HyD would offer appropriate assistance if the OCs concerned were in need of technical advice on their repair works.

141. The Chairperson said that members could contact FEHD after the meeting for further information about the cleansing of private streets.

142. Ms Sabina KOO made the following comments:

- i. She could not quite see what HyD meant by exigency and would like to point out that many OCs had approached her about the serious situation in Thomson Road.
- ii. She would like to know if it was possible to come up with some sort of co-ordination between HyD and WCDO, so that the question of responsibility could give way to prompt emergency repairs.

143. Miss Clarisse YEUNG made the following comments:

- i. She hoped that WCDO could assign other officials to answer members' questions, rather than asking a Liaison Officer responsible for OCs to do so. She wished to know if ADO(WC) had any knowledge of the issue, adding that shifting the responsibility to others would only expose a lack of commitment.
- ii. It was a great pity that the problem in Thomson Road and Yik Kwan Avenue could not be swiftly rectified, as private streets had been a long-standing problem.
- iii. All knew that it was the obligation of OCs set up under DMCs and building leases to ensure that the physical conditions of the roads outside their buildings were safe for use. But in practice, many OCs were unable to do so. She wished to know if it was possible for WCDO to give assistance to buildings that could not deal with the management of their private streets.
- iv. She hoped that resources could soon be made available for repairing the unsafe road surfaces on Thomson Road. DPTC would later invite PSRC chaired by the DHA to answer questions from WCDC. She maintained that the same problem had repeated itself many times in the private streets of Wan Chai. The district could ill afford any further delay.

144. ADO(WC) replied that she did not have any information about PSRC on hand. She would look into the situation later on.

145. The Chairperson remarked that it was doubtful whether PRSC was still in

operation, and he hoped that HAD could give a concrete answer. DPTC would write to the DHA after the meeting, enquiring whether more resources could be made available to re-activate PRSC, offer other forms of assistance to OCs facing multiple ownership, or provide funding to HyD for the repair works.

146. The Chairperson thanked the representatives of WCDO for attending the meeting.

147. The Chairperson announced a lunch break for the meeting. To minimise the risk of virus infection in the community, the conference room would be closed for sanitisation during the lunch break. Members were requested to return to the conference room punctually at 2 p.m. to continue with the meeting.

(Mr LI Wing-choi left the meeting at 1 p.m.)

(The meeting resumed at 2 p.m.)

Item 11: Written motion: Follow-up on inadequate and substandard “through zone” of footpaths in areas with high pedestrian volume
(DPTC Paper No. 40/2020)

148. Ms Susi LAW introduced the written motion as follows:

- i. The vicinity of Wan Chai Road in the Oi Kwan area was full of narrow pavements posing hardship to wheelchair-bound and elderly pedestrians.
- ii. It was requested that a table be formulated to set out all the substandard pavements in Wan Chai. The departments concerned were asked whether they would take any actions to rectify the problem of narrow pavements. She believed that other areas in Wan Chai would likewise face a scarcity of land for pedestrian movements.
- iii. It was hoped that the departments concerned could fill in the table in the Annex to the discussion paper.

149. Mr Mark TANG of TD replied that his department had also replied in writing to the written question. He would follow up the case further with Ms LAW after the meeting.

150. Miss Clarisse YEUNG made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. Increasingly, more people had been voicing the view that the installation of railings along certain road sections was not necessary. The

departments might as well take the opportunity to also re-examine the need for railings at various sections of pavements.

- ii. The Chief Executive introduced Walk in Hong Kong in 2017, and TD had also launched a pavement widening scheme. Yet, she could observe that only the sections of pavements along Percival Street and Canal Road had been widened. She wished to know the latest progress and the timetable of the scheme.
- iii. She would like to know whether there were any other areas in Wan Chai where pedestrian precincts, for example, could be set up for inclusion in “Walk in Hong Kong”.

151. Ms CHAN Yuk-lam made the following comments:

- i. In response to TD’s reply, she had done some research and read DPTC Paper No. 29/2018. She noticed that not many pavements in Wan Chai were covered by TD’s scheme.
- ii. She and Ms Susi LAW had put forward the motion in the hope of compiling a table setting out the substandard pavements in Wan Chai. She hoped that TD could render assistance.

152. Mr Mark TANG of TD replied as follows:

- i. Members’ views were noted, and the necessity or otherwise of roadside railings would be reviewed.
- ii. One proposal under the Study on Pedestrian Connectivity between Wan Chai and Sheung Wan was the enhancement of the pedestrian path along the section of Jaffe Road between Tonnochy Road and Percival Street. The enhancement work would cover pavement widening, the construction of pedestrian refuge islands and pedestrian crossing improvements.
- iii. TD was at the moment phasing in the implementation of the proposed works. The widening of the pedestrian path along the section of Jaffe Road between Canal Road and Percival Street was already completed in January this year.
- iv. The pavement widening and improvement works underneath Marsh Road Flyover were expected to commence in early 2021. The remainder of the proposed works was expected to commence between

late 2021 and early 2022.

- v. TD had been receiving pavement improvement proposals from residents from time to time. When examining the pavements in the district, TD would take account of pavement widths, but it would also consider a whole basket of other objective factors before making decisions on pavement widening.
- vi. As regards the compilation of a table setting out the pavements in need of improvement, TD had studied the practice of the Southern District and Central/Western District as advised by Members and residents.

153. The Chairperson asked whether TD could supply the required pavement information in the table annexed to Ms LAW's written motion.

154. Mr Mark TANG of TD replied that Members and residents were welcome to offer advice on pavements in need of enhancement for the purpose of compiling the required table.

155. Ms Susi LAW made the following comments:

- i. She wished to know if members had any views on the types of information required by the table.
- ii. The Southern District had done a very good job in improving its pavements, as it had reduced the number of pavements with inadequate or substandard "through zone" from 46 to 11. She hoped that Wan Chai District could phase in similar improvements.
- iii. Members were advised to name the pavement sections in need of urgent repairs, so that the department could take follow-up actions.

156. Ms CHAN Yuk-lam proposed that after the meeting, members might try to find out which pavements in their respective constituencies would require improvements. The pavement information collected from members by email could be forwarded to TD for follow-up and inclusion in the table under discussion.

157. Miss Clarisse YEUNG remarked that the accessibility of a pavement would also depend on the availability of a dropped kerb to facilitate the movements of wheelchair-bound persons. Her office and the department were at the moment exploring the feasibility of providing a dropped kerb along a pavement section of Wun Sha Street. She hoped that thoughts could be given to the accessibility of the entire pavement network in the district.

158. The Chairperson referred to Ms CHAN Yuk-lam's proposal, agreeing that members should be asked to submit their pavement information by email after the meeting. He hoped that TD could do a professional inspection of the pavements in the district. He also said that a separate column should be added to the table to indicate the availability or otherwise of a dropped kerb.

159. Mr Mark TANG of TD replied that members' advice was noted, and members were welcome to name individual pavements for special inspection.

160. The Chairperson asked Ms Susi LAW to read out the motion.

161. Ms Susi LAW read out the motion as follows: "That DPTC requests HyD and departments concerned to follow the practice of Southern District Council and establish a list of footpaths in areas with high pedestrian volume that have substandard or inadequate 'through zone'; and, to follow up the matter on a regular basis and report on the progress to DPTC as a regular agenda item."

YES:	7 Votes	(Ms CHAN Yuk-lam, Ms Clara CHEUNG, Ms Sabina KOO, Ms Susi LAW, Mr MAK King-sing, Ms Cathy YAU and Miss Clarisse YEUNG)
NO:	0 Vote	
Abstain:	1 Vote	(Ms Peggy LEE)

162. The Chairperson announced the passage of the motion and requested the Secretariat to collect information about problematic pavements from members by email after the meeting.

Item 12: Written motion: That DPTC urges for immediate removal of abandoned motorcycles in Wan Chai
(DPTC Paper No. 41/2020)

163. The Chairperson welcomed the following attendee to the meeting:

LandsD

Mr Charles MOK Principal Estate Officer/Hong Kong East (2)

164. Ms Susi LAW introduced the written question as follows:

- i. The problem of abandoned motorcycles in Oi Kwan Road, Wan Chai, was very serious, resulting in pavement obstruction, illegal occupation of parking spaces and formation of stagnant puddles.

- ii. She had been corresponding with the relevant departments ever since April this year, in a bid to grasp the problem and the difficulties involved. Yet, HyD, LandsD, Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) and WCDO had all failed to give any definite reply.
- iii. Hennessy area was facing a similar problem. The Committee should work out a solution.

165. Mr Charles MOK of LandsD said that he had nothing to add concerning the written reply of his department.

166. Mr Mark TANG of TD said that the relevant information had been tabulated clearly in the written reply of his department.

167. Mr FU Chun-yip of HKPF replied as follows:

- i. Road safety was one of the operational targets of the Commissioner of Police. In response to a Director of Audit's report in 2000 and based on subsequent legal advice, the police had formulated and consistently followed a set of guidelines on handling complaints about abandoned vehicles.
- ii. In general, when the parking of a vehicle caused any immediate danger or serious obstruction to other road users, the police would immediately tow away and detain the vehicle under the Road Traffic Ordinance irrespective of whether it had been abandoned, so as to maintain smooth traffic flow and ensure the safety of other road users.
- iii. Upon receipt of a complaint about vehicle abandonment, a police officer would first call at the site concerned to ascertain whether the vehicle had indeed been abandoned as alleged. Generally, a vehicle would be determined as being abandoned if it was in a state of disrepair, or if it had been parked at the location for at least 72 hours. If practicable, the police officer concerned would check the records to make sure that the registered owner of the vehicle had not reported its loss. If there were no suspicious circumstances, and if the vehicle concerned did not cause any immediate danger and serious road obstruction, the police would make a referral to an appropriate department as determined by the circumstances of the case.

168. Mr CHAN Kai-yin of HyD said that his department had given a written reply to the question.

169. Ms Sabina KOO made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. Would the police check whether there was still any remaining fuel in a motorcycle before putting a cordon tape on it? She feared that people smoking beside one such motorcycle might set off any explosion.
- ii. When would towing take place after a motorcycle was first found parked at a certain location? Why had there been instances where a motorcycle was still not towed away after being cordoned off for a year, or even two?
- iii. In many cases, abandoned motorcycles in the district were found outside vehicle repair garages; many residents complained that such motorcycles had been abandoned by the repair garages nearby. She wished to know if the police would stage any prosecution.

170. Miss Clarisse YEUNG made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. This topic was a typical example of how government departments attempted to shift responsibility around. LandsD should have the biggest responsibility, but it had kicked the responsibility to TD and HKPF by saying that the problem of abandoned motorcycles should be treated as a traffic problem on public roads.
- ii. The existence of abandoned motorcycles in the district was a fact; she wished to know whether LandsD had ever followed the established procedure of posting notices on abandoned motorcycles.
- iii. In case abandoned motorcycles still contained fuel, the public would be worried about their own safety; she wished to know whether the police would agree that they should take actions.
- iv. Abandoned motorcycles were put on public road facilities, causing obstruction to pedestrians. She thought that HyD had the responsibility to tackle the problem.
- v. The three departments as aforesaid should join hands to eradicate the blackspots of abandoned motorcycles. They must take immediate actions, not least because Ms Susi LAW had already set out all the required information clearly. WCDO should pitch in by coordinating inter-departmental efforts, rather than leaving the job to Members and watching with folded arms how the departments shifted the

responsibility around.

171. Ms Clara CHEUNG enquired about the vehicle abandonment cases received by the police. She wished to know which government departments had been the usual referrers. She also wanted to know whether the police had instead received most of such cases through the direct reports by the public or Members.

172. Ms CHAN Yuk-lam made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. This issue could be included in the Action Checklist of District Issues for follow-up.
- ii. What was the use of a cordon tape on an abandoned motorcycle? Would a motorcycle be towed away if no one claimed ownership of it after a specified period of time?

173. Ms Susi LAW made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. She wrote to WCDO the week before, asking it to tell her who should be responsible for removing the abandoned motorcycles in the district, and requesting it to convene an inter-departmental meeting on the problem.
- ii. Appendix 6 to DPTC Paper No. 37/2020 was about the depositing of building construction waste in streets. This problem and the abandonment of motorcycles were similar in nature, and it should be noted that WCDO did play a part in coordinating the efforts of different departments to tackle the former problem years before.
- iii. What measures was WCDO going to adopt this time around?

174. ADO(WC) replied as follows:

- i. WCDO was not a department responsible for taking enforcement actions against abandoned vehicles. It had no statutory powers in this regard.
- ii. WCDO could further explore the possibility of coordinating the efforts of different departments, but the support of the latter would be a prerequisite.

175. Mr Charles MOK of LandsD replied as follows:

- i. LandsD was of the view that if vehicles were abandoned on any public roads the maintenance of which was the responsibility of HyD (such as

pavements and public parking spaces), the problem should be one of traffic regulation and thus outside the ambit of LandsD as a lands regulator. Such cases should be referred to the relevant departments, such as HyD.

- ii. If vehicles were abandoned on any Government lands not used as public roads, such as unleased and unallocated Government lands, LandsD would assist in handling the abandoned vehicles having regard to practical circumstances. As appropriate, LandsD would follow the general procedures of handling unlawful occupation of Government lands. The Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 28) would be invoked under the procedures applicable at the time.
- iii. As regards whether LandsD had ever followed the procedure of posting notices on motorcycles abandoned on public roads, he hoped the member could appreciate that such cases were not the responsibility of LandsD.

176. Mr FU Chun-yip of HKPF replied as follows:

- i. In general, when a frontline police officer received a complaint, he would follow the procedure as aforesaid and visit the alleged site, so as to ascertain whether the vehicle had indeed been abandoned. If yes, he would put a cordon tape on the vehicle and refer the case to the relevant departments.
- ii. If an abandoned vehicle posed an immediate danger to the public, such as petrol leakage, the officer concerned would take immediate actions.
- iii. According to past experience, most complaints about abandoned vehicles were made by members of the public through the “1823” and “999” hotlines.

177. Mr CHAN Kai-yin of HyD replied as follows:

- i. The management and repairs of pavements were the responsibility of several different departments. HyD, as a works department, was chiefly responsible for the construction, repairs and upkeep of the public roads and associated road facilities under its ambit.
- ii. The issues of environmental hygiene, land use/regulation and traffic control relating to public roads were outside the scope of responsibilities

of HyD.

- iii. The enforcement and clearance work relating to vehicle abandonment on public roads and the resultant unlawful occupation of Government land were the responsibilities of other government departments. However, HyD would be happy to take joint actions with other departments and offer its assistance as and where appropriate.

178. The Chairperson dismissed all this as typical bureaucratic red tape and requested WCDO to initiate inter-departmental actions, with a view to tackling the problem.

179. Ms Sabina KOO made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. As every motorcycle must be licensed, could TD find out who the owners were and then take enforcement actions?
- ii. Would the police hold talks in repair garages to advise them that abandonment of vehicles was prohibited under the law?
- iii. Would the police check whether abandoned vehicles still contain any unused petrol? Abandoned vehicles might contain unused petrol and would be like time bombs in the community if left unattended to.
- iv. How long would the HKPF take to handle an abandoned vehicle after it had been cordoned?

180. Ms Susi LAW made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. According to TD's reply, there were 685 roadside motorcycle parking spaces in Wan Chai at the moment, and 18 of them were located on Oi Kwan Road. But as could be shown by any visual count, the road was often packed with several dozen illegally parked motorcycles.
- ii. As at October the year before, authorised motorcycle parking spaces in Hong Kong numbered 36 000 only. But the number of motorcycles required to hold a licence stood at 60 000. She estimated that even if the "dead" ones were disregarded, there would still be 40 000 left.

This showed that parking spaces were in short supply and there must be something wrong with the relevant policy.

- iii. She wished to ask WCDO and the departments concerned what difficulties were involved in the course of tackling the problem. She also wanted to know how much was needed to dispose of abandoned motorcycles. She was of the view that all abandoned motorcycles could in fact be removed straight away within one day by a towing truck. She thus wondered why this problem should have existed in the district for so many years.

181. Miss Clarisse YEUNG made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. She hoped that the departments concerned would not wait until motorcycles were abandoned on the carriageways before they finally took enforcement actions.
- ii. In its reply to the Islands DC in August, the Islands District Office said that the relevant policy bureau was conducting a review of this problem. WCDO should find out the progress of the review.
- iii. This problem had affected the well-being of residents in the district, so civil servants were duty-bound to take actions. There was a need to coordinate the efforts of different departments, and the ideal coordinator must be WCDO.
- iv. DPTC was advised to write to the relevant policy bureaux, i.e. the THB and the DEVB, and it should also bring the problem to the attention of the Audit Commission. The problem must be tackled as early as possible within this year, and there must not be any further delay. It should be made a regular agenda item of DPTC meetings, so that it could be discussed and followed up regularly. Government departments should take immediate actions.

182. ADO(WC) responded that WCDO was not vested with any enforcement authority, but she would explore whether it could coordinate the efforts of other departments.

183. Mr Charles MOK of LandsD said that he had nothing further to add.

184. Mr Eric LEE of HKPF replied as follows:

- i. Upon receipt of a public complaint, the police would check whether the vehicle concerned was an abandoned vehicle. If there was any immediate danger, such as petrol leakage, the case would be referred immediately to the FSD for follow-up.
- ii. If there was no immediate danger, a cordon tape would be put on the abandoned vehicle. The police would then check the vehicle owner's records with TD, so as to see if he or she could be located. If yes, he or she would be warned and requested to remove the vehicle right away.

185. The Chairperson asked whether TD could approach the vehicle licence-holder based on the relevant vehicle registration information, asking him or her to remove the abandoned motorcycle.

186. Mr Gary LAI of TD replied that while the department had records of registered vehicle owners, it did not have any enforcement authority.

187. The Chairperson hoped that WCDO could play the leadership role in handling this problem and formulate a schedule of joint operations after this meeting.

188. The Chairperson asked Ms Susi LAW to read out the motion.

189. Ms Susi LAW read out the motion as follows: "That DPTC urges government departments to immediately handle the matter of abandoned motorcycles in Wan Chai District and remove such motorcycles once they are found; and, in order to combat illegal parking and disposal of motorcycles sustainably and effectively, departments concerned should conduct at least one joint inspection at illegal-parking blackspots in the district, such as motorcycle parking spaces and back alleys, every quarter; and, report on the progress as a regular agenda item at every DPTC meeting."

YES: 7 Votes (Ms CHAN Yuk-lam, Ms Clara CHEUNG, Ms Sabina KOO, Ms Susi LAW, Mr MAK King-sing, Ms Cathy YAU and Miss Clarisse YEUNG)

NO: 0 Vote

Abstain: 1 Vote (Ms Peggy LEE)

190. The Chairperson announced the passage of the motion and requested the departmental representatives to take note. He also thanked the representative of LandsD for attending the meeting.

Item 13: Written question: Follow up Project Implementation of “Hillside Escalator Links and Elevator Systems” in Wan Chai District
(DPTC Paper No. 42/2020)

191. Ms CHAN Yuk-lam introduced the written question as follows:

- i. She also raised this written question at the previous meeting. The department said at the time that a reply would be available within this year.
- ii. The next DPTC meeting to be held on 24 November would be the last one this year. She asked whether the department would give a reply at or before the last meeting. She hoped that there could be a more definite timeframe.
- iii. This issue had been under discussion since 2016, and there must be no further delay.

192. Mr Mark TANG of TD said he knew that Members and residents all very much looked forward to receiving the assessment outcome. He would request the staff concerned to proceed as quickly as possible, so that WCDC could be consulted before the year drew to a close.

193. Miss Clarisse YEUNG made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. TD should provide a definite date.
- ii. The project was closely connected with the problem of dilapidated slopes in the district, as the pedestrian walkway from Lin Fa Kung Street East to Lai Tak Tsuen Road was located on a slope. The site was a low-lying one along the hillside, and it was flooded during the last downpour. If the elevator system was to be built at this site, a

study should be conducted with a view to improving the road surface conditions there. Owing to the urgency of the case, it was hoped that the department could proceed as early as possible.

194. Mr Mark TANG of TD noted members' proposal and their strong request for the implementation of HK131 "Pedestrian Walkway from Lin Fa Kung Street East to Lai Tak Tsuen Road".

195. Ms CHAN Yuk-lam hoped that TD could give a more definite date of reply.

196. Mr Mark TANG of TD replied that he would request the staff concerned to reply to Ms CHAN as early as possible.

Item 14: Written motion: Provision of Hong Kong Island Coastal Trail
(DPTC Paper No. 43/2020)

197. Ms Sabina KOO introduced the written motion as follows:

- i. The motion advocated the formation of the Hong Kong Island Coastal Trail, a 65-km shoreline promenade linking up all the waterfront corridors and pedestrian walkways on Hong Kong Island. The Wan Chai section of this coastal trail would stretch from the Harcourt Road waterfront to Victoria Park Road underneath the Island Eastern Corridor, routing past Gloucester Road along the way.
- ii. The proposed coastal trail would cut across some 70 scenic spots including monuments, beaches, seaside promenades and hiking trails, which would be of interest to all people irrespective of their ages.
- iii. It was hoped that the coastal trail could adopt a uniform system of signage and ancillary facilities, and at the same time allow the entry of pets.
- iv. As shown by an online poll, nearly 80% of the 1 200 respondents supported the proposed coastal trail. She was of the view that the pavement section along Hung Hing Road in Wan Chai would need enhancement to ensure the total connectivity of the coastal trail.

198. Mr CHAN Kai-yin of HyD said that the planning of pedestrian walkways and seaside promenades should be a matter for other departments to reply to. On its part, HyD would be happy to provide any necessary technical advice on road construction.

199. Ms Susi LAW made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. She was for the proposed coastal trail, as it could provide people interested in leisure walking with a convenient seaside option.
- ii. Many hoardings were erected around the Wan Chai waterfront. As she could not quite hear any construction noises every time she walked past the area, she would like to ask if it was absolutely necessary to erect the hoardings there. She hoped that the design of the hoardings could be improved to make the waterfront thoroughly accessible.
- iii. She hoped that walkability in Wan Chai could be enhanced and asked if the Harbour Office would have more information.

200. Miss Clarisse YEUNG made the following comments:

- i. She was for the proposal. She thought that there was a need for inter-district cooperation to achieve uninterrupted pedestrian accessibility. In this way, people could just walk along the trail and relish the waterfront scenery without the aid of any transportation means.
- ii. Inter-district cooperation aside, inter-departmental collaboration would also be necessary. At the moment, she did not know much about the progress of waterfront development; she hoped that members could receive regular updates in this regard, such as bimonthly progress reports, in which those items requiring Members' assistance in public consultation were set out, along with the progress and schedule of every item of work.
- iii. She remembered that at the time of the previous-term WCDC, the authorities concerned wanted to display a sculpture resembling a pawn shop at the waterfront, leading to strong public outcries. Members of the public were against the exhibition of the sculpture, but the

departments responsible simply went ahead with the works without further consulting WCDC. A situation like this was highly unsatisfactory.

- iv. The formation of a coastal trail would need the cooperation of government departments and DCs. And, the idea should be supported if it could enable the public to use the waterfront facilities.

201. The Chairperson invited HyD to reply to the member's question on the hoardings in Hung Hing Road.

202. Mr CHAN Kai-yin of HyD said the question could best be answered by CEDD.

203. Mr LEE Hon of CEDD replied that the DEVB had already requested the department to make arrangements for the removal of the hoardings located between the new section of Hung Hing Road and the temporary traffic interchange, so as to make way for the Bureau's waterfront project works. The works were already underway.

204. Mr Mark TANG of TD said that TD would be happy to cooperate with other departments and offer traffic advice.

205. Mr Ronnie MAK of LandsD said that his department could provide advice on lands issues.

206. The Chairperson asked the PlanD whether it could conduct a study on forming the Hong Kong Island Coastal Trail.

207. Mr Anthony LUK of PlanD replied as follows:

- i. The development of the Wan Chai Waterfront Promenade had already progressed to the stage of finalisation. This development project was taken forward by the Harbour Office of the DEVB, with the design work undertaken by the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD). His department would be happy to relay members' views to the DEVB.
- ii. The DEVB and ArchSD had thrice consulted WCDC on the design of the Wan Chai Waterfront Promenade. If members had any views on

waterfront development outside of Wan Chai, he could also relay their advice to the Bureau.

208. Ms Susi LAW made the following comments:

- i. She was concerned about the construction of the Wan Chai Waterfront Promenade, because far too many hoardings had been erected around the waterfront since the commencement of the construction works, and public access to the waterfront had thus been hindered.
- ii. Access to the waterfront would turn more convenient once and if the hoarding problem was rectified.
- iii. As reported by some residents, a roadside skip was even found beside the construction site of the Wan Chai Waterfront Promenade earlier on, indicating that the site was practically unmanned. The progress of the works was altogether unclear, and the scenic waterfront was thus left idle and wasted.

209. Ms Sabina KOO made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. Which works items of the Wan Chai Waterfront Promenade were still outstanding?
- ii. The construction site of the Wan Chai Waterfront Promenade was actually a patch of vacant ground sealed off by water barriers. If the water barriers could be realigned, room for a pedestrian path could be made immediately available. This should be done as soon as possible.
- iii. Which department(s) would be responsible for installing notice boards and drinking fountains along the waterfront in the future?

210. Mr CHAN Kai-yin of HyD said that he had nothing to add.

211. Mr LEE Hon of CEDD said that since the temporary traffic interchange was higher in level than the pedestrian path, two steps and a ramp would be built at the location for the convenience of pedestrians. The hoardings concerned had already

been removed, and the building of the steps and ramp was underway.

212. Mr Mark TANG of TD said that he had nothing to add.

213. Mr Anthony LUK of PlanD said that as recorded in paragraph 91 of the minutes of the second DPTC meeting, the DEVB would welcome members' advice on the modes of placemaking, and members were also welcome to give their advice on the design of fittings in the waterfront development.

214. The Chairperson asked Ms Sabina KOO to read out the motion.

215. Ms Sabina KOO read out the motion as follows: "That DPTC urges for the provision of essential ancillary facilities by the Government to connect existing promenades and walkways to create a unique footpath along the shoreline, so as to complete the Hong Kong Island Coastal Trail."

YES: 8 Votes (Ms CHAN Yuk-lam, Ms Clara CHEUNG, Ms Sabina KOO, Ms Susi LAW, Ms Peggy LEE, Mr MAK King-sing, Ms Cathy YAU and Miss Clarisse YEUNG)

NO: 0 Vote

Abstain: 0 Vote

216. The Chairperson announced the passage of the motion and requested the departments to take note.

Item 15: Application for WCDC Funds: Study on health impact of air pollution in Wan Chai

(DPTC Paper No. 45/2020)

217. The Chairperson reminded members to fill out the "Registration Form for Declaration of Interests in Respect of the Use of DC Funds for the Implementation of Activities/Programmes" as necessary, and to notify him and withdraw from the meeting as appropriate when discussing the relevant funding applications.

218. The Chairperson welcomed the presence of Ms YU Hin-pik, Director of the Future Research Limited, and Ms Crystal CHAN, Convenor of the Public Health Research Collaborative.

219. The two organisation representatives as aforesaid took turn to brief members on the funding application.

220. The Chairperson asked the Secretary if he had anything to add concerning the funding application.

221. The Secretary spoke on the funding application as follows:

- i. According to the briefing given by the organisation representatives just then, 12 air pollutant samples would be collected for gas chromatography mass spectrometry. This was at variance with the figure of 27 stated in the funding application.
- ii. The scheduled commencement date of the activity would be 10 November. If this funding application was endorsed by DPTC, it would be put before the FGAC meeting on 3 November for approval. He thus advised the organisation that advance payment of funding could be applied for and made only after the approval of the activity and before its commencement. The organisation was reminded that the whole administrative process would take three weeks generally.
- iii. The estimated expenditure item on pre-test work might involve the procurement of test samples. Under the Guidelines on the Use of WCDC Funds (Guidelines), the organisation must submit a detailed breakdown of all estimated expenditure items. The organisation was therefore requested to furnish additional information about the details of test sample procurement, so as to satisfy the accounting requirements in regard to the application for reimbursement of WCDC funds after the completion of the activity.
- iv. Since the activity was scheduled to complete on 31 March, which was also the last day of this financial year, he reminded members that the expenses incurred for this activity would be rolled over to the following financial year.

222. Ms YU Hin-pik, Director of the Future Research Limited, replied as follows:

- i. There was a mistake in the funding application. The number of air pollutant samples to be collected for gas chromatography mass spectrometry should be 12.
- ii. The commencement date of the activity had been fixed based on the past experience of other organisations. The schedule was admittedly tight, but the idea was to complete the whole research before the end of this financial year. Should approval be given, her organisation would kick-start the research as early as possible.
- iii. As a wide range of test samples were involved and it was necessary to complete a whole series of pre-test studies and interviews before professional consultants could be requested to determine which samples to test, it would not be possible to give any exact list of test samples at the moment.

223. Ms CHAN Yuk-lam wished to know why the research was to focus on the indigent areas of the district. She also wished to know the relationship between poverty and the level of air pollution.

224. Ms Peggy LEE made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. The population of Wan Chai was 180 000, but the basis of the research would just be 35 interview cases, meaning that the sample size was merely 0.019% of the population in the district. How could such a research project possibly shed any light on the overall health conditions of Wan Chai residents and make any constructive recommendations? She had reservations about its usefulness.
- ii. The organisation must consult HyD on the locations of test tube collectors or even file an application with the department. She wanted to know who should be held responsible in case the test tubes fell and caused injuries to residents. She also wished to know for how long the test tubes would be placed at the locations concerned.
- iii. There was no breakdown for many expenditure items in the funding application. As the activity would involve the spending of public money, the organisation should give a detailed breakdown for every

expenditure item. In the case of pre-test work, for example, specific information must be given regarding required hours and the number of workers to be hired, along with the recruitment procedures. As regards laboratory services, the criteria for selection must be set out, together with ways of verifying the professional qualifications of the chosen laboratory and whether there would be any invitation to tender/price quotation.

- iv. What improvement measures/recommendations would the organisation expect the research report to put forward? And, which departments would it approach for following up the improvement measures/recommendations put forward?
- v. How was the organisation going to select the 35 interviewees? Had it held any initial consultation with the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the district, inviting them to assist in identifying the interviewees? It should be noted that such NGOs would have a better idea of the sizes and characteristics of different community groups in the district. Their input would increase the credibility of the research report.

225. Ms Susi LAW made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. How was the organisation going to identify the 35 interviewees?
- ii. Although the number of cases to be covered by the research was by no means large, one should realise that its sharp focus on a limited number of cases would still give people a basic understanding of how the situation was like.
- iii. WCDC could only provide very limited funding support. The responsibility of conducting a larger research project should fall on the Government, the Hospital Authority or the EPD.
- iv. It was hoped that the research report could put forward some concrete recommendations which WCDC could consider or even adopt in the course of implementing district minor works. One example would be the erection of certain devices to prevent air pollutants from drifting

straight into the residential settlements near the Canal Road Flyover.

- v. As regards the proposal of tree planting, she hoped that the organisation could approach the Tree Management Office (TMO) or LCSD, so that its study could make gain access to official statistics and information and integrate with the tree planting policy and small-scale potted plant projects in the district.

226. Ms Clara CHEUNG reminded the organisation to submit a full financial report on or before 31 March, and to allow sufficient time for the administrative formalities of advance payment application. She hoped that besides online release, the organisation could also distribute copies of the report to public libraries for their retention.

227. The Chairperson said that the activity could be launched as soon as FGAC gave its approval. But it must be noted that it would take three weeks to process an application for advance payment of funding. The Chairperson asked the Secretary to further explain the procedures of advance payment application.

228. The Secretary gave more information as follows:

- i. The activity could be launched once it had received approval.
- ii. Advance payment of funding could be applied for and made only before the commencement of an approved activity. It would not be possible to start an activity and apply for advance payment of funding all at the same time. No advance payment could be made once after an activity had commenced.
- iii. Generally, the administrative processing of an application for advance payment would take at least three weeks to complete, especially in cases where an organisation applied for the first time to co-organise an activity with WCDC. Applicant organisations wishing to apply for advance payment were therefore advised to consider allowing three weeks for the administrative processing of their applications.

229. Ms Susi LAW made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. Assuming that FGAC gave its approval on 3 November, could one say

that the organisation must not start the activity before 4 December (i.e. a month later) if it wished to receive advance funding?

- ii. The completion date of the activity would be the last day of the current financial year. In that case, when should the organisation submit its reimbursement application and the related documents?
- iii. What was meant exactly by “activity commencement date”?

230. The Secretary replied as follows:

- i. The activity commencement date should be the date inserted under Item D (Date/Period of Implementation) in Section 3 (Details of the Proposed Project) of the funding application form. This meant that the commencement date of this activity would be 10 November 2020.
- ii. It should be reiterated that the activity could in fact commence once it was given approval. But if the organisation would like to apply for advance payment of funding, it must allow three weeks for administrative procedures. Otherwise, it might not be possible to complete the processing of the application in good time.
- iii. Even if an activity ended on 31 March, the day when the account for a financial year was to close, the grantee organisation could still apply for reimbursement of funding, only that WCDC would treat the activity as an item rolled over to the following financial year.
- iv. Generally, if an organisation that had finished an activity wished to complete the reimbursement process before 31 March, the Secretariat would advise it to submit all the required application documents and invoices in late February or before. This would allow sufficient time for processing.

231. The Chairperson asked the Secretary whether the organisation would need to change the date of implementation in the application form to late November if it wished to apply for advance payment of funding.

232. The Secretary replied that the organisation could make such a change if it so

desired and if members found this appropriate.

233. Ms YU Hin-pik, Director of the Future Research Limited, replied as follows:

- i. The advice of members and the Secretariat was well taken, and the organisation would defer the implementation date of the activity for three weeks to 24 November.
- ii. As regards the quantity of study cases, it should be pointed out that the funding from WDCD was limited and thus could not support the conduct of a massive quantitative study. A qualitative study would thus be conducted. And, the usual sample size of a qualitative study on public health would be 35 cases, as this was already sufficient for a more focused and thorough study of individual cases.

234. Ms Crystal CHAN, Convenor of the Public Health Research Collaborative, replied as follows:

- i. Owing to limited funding, “purposive sampling” was recommended for the study. Hence, three groups of people in the population of three areas in the district would be selected for sampling.
- ii. The validity of a qualitative study would depend on “data saturation”, and as explained by existing literature, the study of 35 cases in a qualitative study could already attain a “data saturation” rate of 80%.
- iii. According to existing literature, the study of 35 cases could roughly depict the health impact of air pollution on 80% of the population in the district, and this should be acceptable given the limited funding available.
- iv. Given sufficient funding and more time, a quantitative study could be conducted in the future.
- v. In the case of a district-based quantitative study, for example, the conduct of 1 200 telephone surveys would need at least \$250,000, and there were still other expenses such as consultancy fees and report compilation costs.

- vi. Indigent people were chosen as the focus of this study for the reason that due to inadequate medical care and their social status, these people were more vulnerable to harmful health impacts. For instance, the underprivileged living below the poverty line and depending on Comprehensive Social Security Allowance should be more susceptible to health risks than those who earned an average income, because these two groups of people actually faced different healthcare obstacles and the healthcare options available to them were likewise different. Besides, internationally, it was the usual practice of such studies to focus on the indigent population. Hence, in line with the international practice, this study would likewise focus on the indigent population.
 - vii. Members were welcome to offer their advice on this study to enable it to better reflect the conditions in the district.
235. The Chairperson asked the representative of the applicant organisation to respond to Members' questions.
236. Ms YU Hin-pik, Director of the Future Research Limited, replied as follows:
- i. On where test tube collectors were to be placed, her plan was to put them beside WCDC notice boards, at tram stations and on the street lamp posts of HyD, because at these locations, more accurate data could be gathered and collectors could be installed more securely. The applicant organisation would ensure the secure installation of all the test tube collectors. The test tube collectors would also bear the contact details of the organisation. In case of any accidents, the responsibility would be borne by the organisation.
 - ii. As for the 35 sample cases, the organisation would enlist the cooperation of St. James' Settlement and other community organisations to identify suitable interviewees.
 - iii. After completion of the research project, the organisation would collate the results of the study and the findings of its international literature review. Practical suggestions would then be put forward to government departments such as TMO, with a view to bringing prompt

improvement to residents' health. She hoped that the study could be completed before March, in good time for WCDC and government departments to carry out the recommendations in the new financial year.

- iv. On expenditure breakdown, it should be pointed out that in the case of certain expenditure items, it would not be possible to know what materials would have to be purchased until after the study had started. The organisation would ensure strict compliance with the Guidelines. The procurement of consultancy/laboratory services and the recruitment of researchers would all abide by the principles of fairness, impartiality and openness.

237. The Chairperson enquired if the organisation could distribute copies of the study report to public libraries for retention.

238. Ms YU Hin-pik, Director of the Future Research Limited, replied in the affirmative.

239. Ms Peggy LEE made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. What were the time arrangements for the placing of test tube collectors?
- ii. WCDC was one of the co-organisers of the project, meaning that in case of any accidents, it would also be held responsible.
- iii. The organisation must give a breakdown for every expenditure item (e.g. the manpower and the number of work hours required for pre-test preparation), so that the public could know how the public money was spent.

240. Ms YU Hin-pik, Director of the Future Research Limited, replied as follows:

- i. The expenses on pre-test preparation were for hiring researchers to collate information, write up case-specific interview scripts and conduct initial analysis. The expenses were also for hiring professionals to analyse data and determine the scope of testing.

- ii. Nitrogen Dioxide collectors would be placed at the chosen locations for two weeks. Organisations like the Greenpeace and the Clean Air Campaign had conducted similar studies, and this was a common international research practice.
- iii. The organisation would do its utmost to ensure that nothing would go wrong with the test tube collectors. The occurrence of accidents would be highly unlikely.

241. Ms Crystal CHAN, Convenor of the Public Health Research Collaborative, replied as follows:

- i. In the first version of the funding application, hourly rates were in fact set out clearly, but at the advice of the Secretariat, the expenses on manpower were later consolidated as one single item.
- ii. Referring to the interview expenditure as an example, she explained that each sample case would involve two hours of interview, three hours of analysis and 10 hours of verbatim transcript production. The interview and analysis process would be undertaken by one interviewer with training in qualitative study, at an hourly rate of \$150. The hourly rate of verbatim transcript production would be \$60, in line with the hourly rate for a student helper in a tertiary institution. Thus, the total interview expenditure would be 35 times the cost of one interview case.

242. The Secretary replied as follows:

- i. Over the past week, a revised application had been received from the applicant organisation practically every day. It was indeed true that in one old version of the application, the respective expenses on interviews, verbatim transcript production and verbatim transcript editing were all set out.
- ii. In the aforesaid old version, the respective estimated expenses on interviews, verbatim transcript production and verbatim transcript editing were set out in detail, and it was said that each of these three

tasks would be undertaken by five researchers to be recruited under the principles of fairness, impartiality and openness. It was also said that these three tasks would be undertaken at different times, and that the total number of researchers hired for all the tasks would be five. But the Secretariat considered that the organisation could not possibly recruit the same five researchers under the principles of fairness, impartiality and openness for all these three tasks, bearing in mind that they were to be undertaken at different times. Hence, the Secretary deemed it necessary to ask the organisation to clarify whether the number of paid researchers to be recruited was to be five, or 15.

243. Ms Peggy LEE noticed that the organisation was set up as recently as 2020 and asked whether it had ever undertaken any research and released any reports regarding air pollution. She said she would like to know the background and past experience of the organisation.

244. Ms Clara CHEUNG said that in recent years, many people wanting to serve the community had set up many new organisations with the aim of assisting the community in different aspects of its work. She thought that the representatives of the two organisations would help members a great deal if they could describe the career backgrounds of their staff before the founding of their organisations.

245. Ms YU Hin-pik, Director of the Future Research Limited, replied as follows:

- i. There was a factual error in the funding application, as the Future Research Limited was set up in 2019. Besides, the researchers of the organisation, many of whom had a master's degree or above, were all experienced in social policy and town planning research.
- ii. She herself was a geographer by training who, over the past five or six years, had been working for various community organisations, including green groups. She was knowledgeable about social policies, environmental issues and air quality.
- iii. She hoped that her organisation could join hands with other organisations with professional expertise to carry out expert studies in the time to come. This joint project involving the Public Health Research Collaborative was one such example.

246. The Chairperson thanked the representatives of the two organisations for attending the meeting.

(The representatives of the two organisations exited, whereupon the meeting proceeded to closed-door discussions)

247. Ms Peggy LEE said that the proposed project was conducive to improving air quality, and she did not have any strong views on it. But she also pointed out that some expenditure items in the funding application were lacking in details. The organisation should set out the breakdowns of these expenditure items, so as to comply with the Guidelines, otherwise she would be unable to judge whether the money would be properly spent. The organisation was advised to furnish more information.

248. The Chairperson said the organisation might have revised the funding application because it did want members to get the wrong idea that there would be 15 researchers. She asked the Secretary whether he also thought so.

249. The Secretary replied as follows:

- i. The Secretariat noticed that in one version of the funding application submitted by the organisation, the expenditure item on interviews was divided into three sub-items, respectively on interviews, verbatim transcript production and verbatim transcript editing. A different hourly rate was set out under each sub-item, along with the remark that five researchers each to be responsible for seven sample cases would be hired under the principles of fairness, impartiality and openness. He therefore saw the need to clarify with the organisation the number of researchers to be recruited for the whole project --- whether it should be five, or 15.
- ii. The organisation subsequently revised the funding application into this latest version, but he did not know why the organisation had chosen this new presentation approach. About the estimated expenditure on interviews, he noted the organisation's statement that manpower recruitment would be based on the principles of fairness, impartiality and openness. The organisation, he said, had presumably taken note of the relevant provisions in the Guidelines, which stated that the

maximum manpower spending of a project must not exceed 25% of the total project funding.

- iii. As regards the estimated expenditure on data analysis, pre-test preparation and other services, the organisation had confirmed that all these services would be obtained in the form of procurement. In this connection, he had reminded the organisation that it must obtain the number of price quotations as required under the relevant provisions of the Guidelines.

250. Ms Clara CHEUNG thanked the Secretary for its thorough explanation. She advised the organisation to revise its project content and provide more details about the expenditure items for scrutiny by circulation of papers after the meeting.

251. Ms Susi LAW remarked that the funding for a research-type project could not possibly be treated and processed as if it were an ordinary community activity. In the case of the aforesaid one-off services procurement, for example, the organisation could not possibly know the breakdowns (e.g. the number of workers and hours required) until it proceeded to the actual process of procurement. In the long run, WCDC would need a paradigm shift, and it would also need to rethink the procedures of processing research-type projects if its intention was to encourage the conduct of such activities.

252. The Secretary added more information as follows:

- i. On the difference between hiring workers and hiring services for a project, he had to point out that the former must follow a fair, open and impartial process. In this regard, the applicant organisation might, for example, consider advertising the posts on the platforms provided by the Labour Department, so as to inform the public.
- ii. As for the hiring of services, the applicant organisation must obtain the required number of price quotations. It must also be noted that no services must be procured from the applicant organisation itself and any co-organisers of the activity in question.

253. The Chairperson asked members if they would agree to approve the funding application by circulation of papers following its revision by the applicant organisation, as proposed by Ms Clara CHEUNG. He hoped that approval could be given before the

upcoming meeting of FGAC.

254. Members had no objection to the aforesaid proposal.

(Post-meeting Notes:

- i. The funding application was revised by the organisation after the meeting as per the advice of DPTC, with the amount of funding applied for remaining unchanged.
- ii. The revised funding application was approved by DPTC by circulation of papers on 23 October 2020.)

255. The Secretary would request the organisation to revise their application and asked members whether expenditure items and breakdown should be furnished.

(Ms Peggy LEE left the meeting at 4:20 p.m.)

256. Ms Clara CHEUNG made the following comments:

- i. She agreed with Ms Susi LAW that WCDC should exercise discretion in processing research-type projects, because in such cases, it would be impossible for an applicant organisation to have any exact price quotations until the stage of actual implementation. Therefore, in the case under discussion, it might not be feasible to require the applicant organisation to give any breakdowns of its expenditure items at this stage.
- ii. The Secretariat was advised to inform the organisation that it should provide more details if possible. But she did not think that this would be DPTC's sole criterion of assessing the application.

257. The Chairperson agreed with Ms Clara CHEUNG that the organisation should furnish more background information about the various services to be procured (e.g. rough estimated expenditure items based on projected prices). The Chairperson asked members if they still had anything they would like the organisation to clarify.

258. Ms Susi LAW likewise agreed with Ms Clara CHEUNG. She said that this funding application actually involved the procurement of seven types of services.

Requiring the organisation to provide price quotations for these seven types of services at this stage would be unfair. The reason was that the requested funding had yet to be approved and the scope of research had not been finalised either. That being the case, it would be difficult for the organisation to know the exact figures at this moment. She went on to say that she herself was appreciative of the information and statistics provided by the organisation so far.

259. The Secretary added more comments as follows:

- i. He agreed with the Chairperson. In the case of the Government, before it began a procurement exercise, it would first set down all the service standards and specifications required for the services to be procured, and it would also make estimations of the prices.
- ii. In response to members' advice, he would request the organisation to supplement its application by providing service standards and specifications for the services to be procured, and to show how it would compute the estimated prices of these services.

260. The Chairperson said that if members had no objection, the funding application would be followed up in this direction. Turning to the installation of test tube collectors in streets, he asked if HyD had anything to add, as the organisation must presumably apply for permission to the department.

261. Mr CHAN Kai-yin of HyD replied that should the department receive an application, it would offer its advice from the perspective of road repairs. Speaking on the installation of test tube collectors on street lamp posts proposed by the representative of the applicant organisation, he said that the organisation would need to enquire with the Lighting Division of HyD, which would inspect and offer advice on the safety design of the devices.

Item 16: Report on Progress of Matters Arising of DPTC of WCDC
(DPTC Paper No. 37/2020)

262. The Chairperson welcomed the following attendee to the meeting:

Hong Kong Police Force

Mr TANG King-wah Officer-in-charge, District Traffic Team (Eastern)

263. The Chairperson invited members to voice their views on the Action Checklist of District Issues.

264. Miss Clarisse YEUNG made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. What was the progress of TD's studies on enhancing the bus services between Tai Hang and Sheung Wan following the shelving of the re-routing scheme for Citybus Route 5X? Would the department consider the idea of introducing section fares for Route A11 and Route 914 along their Sheung Wan-bound routeings?
- ii. A disruption of tram service between Causeway Bay and Tin Hau occurred on 1 September and 2 September. What were the causes of the service disruption? Did the disruption have anything to do with the power substation at Causeway Bay Tram Terminus?
- iii. She and Ms CHAN Yuk-lam had written to TD, requesting the department to consider the introduction of section fares for the section of Citybus Route 41A between Lai Tak Tsuen/Tai Hang and North Point both bounds. She would like to know the progress.
- iv. Illegal taxi parking outside Sogo Department Store had re-emerged. Would a "no parking" stand be re-erected there? Would the departments concerned introduce any rectification measures? Had the police taken any enforcement actions?

265. Ms CHAN Yuk-lam made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. There had been a high incidence of traffic accidents at the zebra crossing outside Tsuen Wing Lau at Lai Tak Tsuen Road. She wished to know whether TD would consider the laying of a road hump at the location, in addition to putting up a "slow down" sign.
- ii. The location was a single-lane road section where vehicles frequently made dangerous attempts to overtake the buses pulling up before them. She wished to know whether TD would change the lane markings there into double white lines, so as to achieve a stronger deterrent effect.

266. Mr Gary LAI of TD replied as follows:

- i. He would relay members' views on Citybus Route 5X to his colleagues in the Bus Development Division of the department.
- ii. TD would explore with the bus company the feasibility of introducing section fares along the Sheung Wan-bound routeings of Route A11 and Route 914.
- iii. He would follow up the tram service disruption mentioned above with the Hong Kong Tramways Limited, with a view to ascertaining what had happened.
- iv. TD was considering the proposal of introducing section fares for Citybus 41A both bounds. A reply would be given to members after the meeting.
- v. TD would issue a written reminder to the various taxi associations concerning the problem of illegal taxi parking outside Sogo Department Store. In case of any public complaints, TD would request the police to step up enforcement actions.

267. Mr Mark TANG of TD replied as follows:

- i. The section of Hennessy Road outside Sogo Department Store had already been designated as a 7 a.m.-midnight "No-stopping Restriction Zone" delineated by appropriate traffic signs and road markings, with a view to preventing illegal parking and traffic obstruction. TD had also erected a "No Waiting" sign therein to remind motorists.
- ii. Besides requesting taxi associations and taxi radio call centres to remind drivers not to park at the location and cause obstruction to bus operation, TD had also reviewed the pedestrian signs therein and come up with a plan to put up appropriate signs to direct pedestrians to the taxi stands at Paterson Street and Lockhart Road. HyD had been entrusted with task of carrying out the required works.

- iii. As regards Ms CHAN Yuk-lam's proposal of laying a road hump and painting double white lines on the section of Tai Hang Road under discussion, TD would explore the feasibility.

268. Mr Eric LEE of HKPF replied as follows:

- i. The police were very concerned about the traffic situation outside Sogo Department Store. Patrols at the location were enhanced in September, and motorists contravening the Road Traffic Ordinance were issued fixed penalty tickets.
- ii. Apart from stepping up enforcement, the police had also advised TD to carry out various traffic improvement measures, such as the designation of a bus-only lane along Hennessy Road and a rationalisation of the bus routes stopping outside Sogo Department Store.
- iii. The NWFB Route 8P bus stop next to the pedestrian crossing outside Sogo Department Store was frequently obstructed by taxis queuing up for passengers. The police would advise relocating the bus stop to the outside of Hong Kong Mansion.

269. Miss Clarisse YEUNG made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. She was referring to the need for enhancing the service of Citybus Route 5 from Tai Hang to Sheung Wan, rather than Route 5X. She was not satisfied with TD's answer and requested a prompt reply within one month.
- ii. She wished to know the feasibility of designating the road section outside Sogo Department Store as a bus-only lane from 12 noon to midnight. It looked like the problem just could not be rectified solely by people's self-discipline and police enforcement.

270. Ms Susi LAW said that the progress report mentioned the depositing of building construction waste in streets — a problem raised in 2018. She hoped that the report could also mention how other similar problems, such as how abandoned motorcycles, were being handled.

271. Ms CHAN Yuk-lam remarked that the numbers of lost trips recorded for NWFB Route 26 and Route 81 in Appendix 2 were smaller than what she had expected. She said that these figures were not accurate, as the complaints she had received indicated far bigger numbers. She asked whether it was possible to include complaint figures in these statistics.

272. Ms Clara CHEUNG made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. She hoped that the bus routes programme for Wan Chai mentioned in Item 17 of the Checklist could also include the proposals she made at the first DPTC meeting in the current term, i.e. the re-organisation of Citybus Route 8X and Route 19 and their introduction of Tai Koo-bound special services during the morning peak. TD replied at the time that it would explore the proposals, but it had not provided any further information so far. She hoped that TD could study her proposals seriously.
- ii. She hoped that TD would review the service provision of Citybus Route 1P, saying that she had been receiving many complaints about the erratic service of this bus route.
- iii. She hoped that the Checklist could include the relocation of the Happy Valley Driving Test Centre and the adjustment of the driving test route, two of the issues discussed at the previous meeting. Earlier on, some people were seen conducting traffic counts in Happy Valley, and these people claimed that they were the staff of an outside contractor. She wished to know the name of the project for which these traffic counts were conducted. She also wished to know whether the authorities were in fact gauging the traffic conditions in Happy Valley, with a view to reassessing the suitability of operating the driving test centre in its existing site.

273. Ms Sabina KOO made the following comments:

- i. Many vegetable shops were located in the area around Johnston Road turning into Wan Chai Road, and the problem of illegal parking for unloading of goods at this location was very serious.

- ii. As the aforesaid road section was the main route leading to Ruttonjee Hospital, she hoped that the departments concerned could consider how to improve the traffic therein. She said that this issue should be included in the Checklist.

274. Ms Cathy YAU made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. She noted that the police had indeed stepped up enforcement and issued more fixed penalty tickets against illegal parking outside Sogo Department Store. But frontline police officers could not possibly be stationed at the location 24 hours a day, nor could police vehicles be so deployed to disperse illegally parked vehicles.
- ii. TD had already put up various signs and notices at the location, such as a “No Waiting” sign. The warning must already be very clear. But the problem was that people would usually hop in as soon as they saw a taxi, and taxi drivers were often tempted by convenience to await passengers there. As no taxis could possibly park at a pedestrian crossing, she thought that widening the pedestrian crossing outside Sogo Department Store might be a solution. She wondered whether this was possible.
- iii. The pedestrian precinct should be retained, but people carrying bagfuls of shopping usually would not want to walk over to Paterson Street for a taxi. She hoped that the departments concerned could work out a solution. In the meantime, the police should continue to take enforcement actions to somewhat ease the problem.

275. Mr Gary LAI of TD replied as follows:

- i. In response to the advice of the police on NWFB Route 8P, TD would consider an adjustment to the bus routes calling at the two bus stops in question.
- ii. The statistics regarding Citybus Route 26 and Route 81 were all based on surveys of their actual operation on the roads. TD would keep monitoring their operation and examine whether they could provide

satisfactory services to the public.

- iii. TD and the bus company were exploring the proposed reorganisation of Citybus Route 8X and Route 9, and the study was in full swing.
- iv. As regards the lost trips of Citybus Route 1P, TD would arrange an investigation into the operation of the bus route. The bus company would be requested to rectify any problems detected.
- v. As for the traffic counts referred to, it should be pointed out that the various divisions of TD would from time to time arrange different surveys to collect road traffic statistics, such as traffic throughput. In the absence of any facts and accurate information, it would be difficult to ascertain the name of the project for which the traffic counts concerned were conducted.

276. Mr Mark TANG of TD added that the designation of a bus-only lane was no simple issue, but TD had noted and would study Members' proposal.

277. Mr Eric LEE of HKPF replied that besides the Wan Chai District Traffic Team, the Patrol Sub-unit of Wan Chai and Traffic Hong Kong Island would likewise step up enforcement actions in the vicinity of Sogo Department Store.

278. Ms Clara CHEUNG hoped that the next time when TD wanted to collect traffic statistics in the district, it could notify the Members representing the relevant constituencies, so as not to cause any anxieties among kaifongs.

279. Mr Gary LAI of TD replied that public transport surveys were supposed to be surprise checks, so no prior notice should be given to anyone. This was also the case with traffic throughput surveys, as there was a need to ensure that the traffic conditions at the time of survey were normal and usual.

280. Ms CHAN Yuk-lam proposed to update the Action Checklist of District Issues after the meeting.

281. Miss Clarisse YEUNG said that the Members should be given the liberty to name the concerns in their respective constituencies. Members, on the other hand, could also raise district-wide issues, and WCDO should collate all such issues raised by

different Members. A deadline should be set for deciding which items were to be included in the Action Checklist. Following this, the departments concerned should be requested to take follow-up actions.

282. The Chairperson proposed that members' suggested items for inclusion in the Checklist could be collected by email after the meeting. He also asked whether members had any views on the format of the Checklist.

283. Miss Clarisse YEUNG made the following comments:

- i. The column of "Issues to Follow Up" in the Checklist, as it was worded at the moment, might be unable to keep up with the times. One example was that the superstructures at the Caroline Hill Road site had already been demolished, but this was still set out as a concern of Members in the column.
- ii. She proposed that Members of individual constituencies should be allowed to decide how to change the wording of the "Issues to Follow Up". And, the columns of "DPTC Request" and "Departments/Organisations Responsible and Their Responses" could be retained.

284. The Chairperson agreed to Miss YEUNG's proposal. He asked the Secretary to divide the Issues to Follow Up into different groups based on the involvement of individual constituencies. The groupings should then be emailed to the Members of the respective constituencies, so that they could take follow-up actions and check whether any updates of items were required.

285. The Secretary replied as follows:

- i. The Action Checklist of District Issues had been in use since many years before, long before he was appointed the Secretary of DPTC. As he understood it, the "Issues to Follow Up" were identical in wording to their corresponding matters arising in the meeting agendas years back. The relevant meeting dates and agenda item numbers were set out in the second column from the left of the Action Checklist of District Issues.
- ii. As regards the proposal of allowing Members of individual

constituencies to change the wording of the “Issues to Follow Up”, he said that in some cases, the issues might indeed be wholly constituency-specific, but sometimes, several constituencies might be involved. One example of such issues was the Wan Chai bus routes programme. In such cases, many Members might be involved and they might have divergent views. As a result, discussions in DPTC meetings might be necessary.

- iii. The Chairperson proposed to collect members’ suggestions on which items were to be included in the progress reports of DPTC meetings. He responded that after each meeting, he would need to take care of three checklists, and there was an avalanche of work to do within a very tight schedule. Following each meeting, he must sort out the three checklists and then hasten to approach the relevant departments to ask for their replies. Hence, it was highly unlikely that the suggested items collected after one meeting could immediately receive the replies of the relevant departments at the next meeting to be held.
- iv. He noted that members had not said much on altering the format of the checklists. He therefore advised keeping the existing checklists unchanged. Members’ suggested items could be collected by email after a meeting, and at the meeting to follow, members could decide whether all the suggested items were to be included in the checklists.

286. The Chairperson approved of the Secretary’s suggestion. He added that when suggesting items for inclusion by email, members could also comment on the wording of the existing ones. He remarked that the grouping of items based on constituencies might not be quite so appropriate, as most of the issues dealt with by DPTC actually cut across various constituencies. The Chairperson then invited members to speak on the Action Checklist of Illegal Parking Blackspots.

287. Ms CHAN Yuk-lam made the following comments:

- i. Item 33 showed that the number of prosecutions in Tung Lo Wan Road rose drastically between July and August, but there was no marked increase in patrols during this period. She hoped that the police could increase the number of patrols there.

- ii. Many drivers left the engines of their vehicles idling while they were waiting. This would impact the residents of nearby buildings in various ways, one example being worsening air quality. The police should step up enforcement.
- iii. Item 51 showed that the number of fixed penalty tickets issued in the vicinity of Dragon Terrace was on steady decline. But this was not the case with the number of complaints she had been receiving. She understood that uniformed officers' enforcement actions might have been hindered by a police district boundary problem. She hoped that the police could take a look at the problem and keep up the efforts to combat illegal parking in the vicinity of Dragon Terrace.

288. Ms Susi LAW made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. Item 29 showed that Oi Kwan Road topped the list in the number of fixed penalty issued. On the other hand, Item 21 showed that the fixed penalty tickets issued at "Hennessy Road (section between Canal Road West and Tin Lok Lane)" were just one-tenth of those issued at Oi Kwan Road. She asked why a smaller number of penalty tickets should have been issued at a road section having a much larger traffic throughput. She also wished to know the reason why as many as 500 fixed penalty tickets had been issued at Oi Kwan Road, which was a much quieter place.
- ii. Would the illegal parking on Oi Kwan Road cause obstruction to rescue vehicles bound for the hospital there? Was there any long-term plan to designate more metered parking spaces along Oi Kwan Road? Would the authorities explore ways to reduce the incidence of illegal parking?

289. The Chairperson made the following comments and enquiries:

- i. Item 21 showed that in August, only 63 fixed penalty tickets were issued at "Hennessy Road (section between Canal Road West and Tin Lok Lane)". As the traffic along this road section was busy and the illegal parking there had also caused obstruction, he would like to know why the number of fixed penalty tickets was so low.

- ii. Item 22 showed an increase in the number of fixed penalty tickets issued at “Road Section between Leighton Road and Gloucester Road underneath Canal Road Flyover”. This indicated the strong efforts of the authorities to combat illegal parking. But he said that illegal parking of lorries was also seen on the road section near Times Square. He hoped that the authorities could pay attention to the entire stretch of the road.

290. Mr Mark TANG of TD referred to the provision of metered parking spaces along Oi Kwan Road and replied that besides room availability, the department must also consider many other objective site constraints, e.g. whether the operation and bend-turning movements of vehicles on the road would be affected.

291. Mr Eric LEE of HKPF replied as follows:

- i. Oi Kwan Road was a relatively quiet neighbourhood where it was common to see illegal parking of vehicles without drivers. On the other hand, Hennessy Road and Canal Road were routes with busier traffic, and the vehicles parked illegally over there were usually not without drivers. In such cases, the police would only employ the dispersal tactic.
- ii. The number of prosecutions saw an increase in August because the epidemic at the time showed signs of easing and many more people thus went out.
- iii. To deal with the impact of illegal parking on the ambulance depot, the police would step up enforcement actions.
- iv. He would draw the attention of Happy Valley Police Station to the situation in the vicinity of Dragon Terrace.

292. The Chairperson invited members to speak on the Action Checklist of Noise Nuisance Blackspots. He added that representatives of the EPD were supposed to attend the meeting. He requested the Secretariat to enquire with the department why no EPD representatives were present.

293. Miss Clarisse YEUNG made the following comments:

- i. It was necessary to denounce EPD, as it had repeatedly failed to assign appropriate representatives/subject officers to attend the meetings of this committee. She did not know why no EPD representative was present at this meeting to answer questions on noise nuisance.
- ii. She wondered whether EPD simply disdained to attend the discussions of WCDC. She advised DPTC to send a written enquiry to EPD.

294. The Chairperson agreed to send a letter to EPD in the name of DPTC, in a bid to find out the reasons for its absence. He said that actually, at the first and second meetings of DPTC, members already stressed the importance of having EPD representatives at their meetings.

Item 17: Any Other Business

295. Members raised no other business for discussion.

Item 18: Date of Next Meeting

296. The next meeting would be held at 10:00 a.m. on 24 November 2020 (Tuesday).

297. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Wan Chai District Council Secretariat
November 2020

These minutes of meeting were confirmed on 24 November 2020.