

(Translation)

Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the District Facilities and Works Committee
7th Term of Wan Chai District Council
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Date: 3 September 2024 (Tuesday)

Time: 3:50 p.m.

Venue: District Council Conference Room, Wan Chai District Office,
21/F Southorn Centre, 130 Hennessy Road, Hong Kong

Present

Arrival

Departure

Chairperson

Ms LAU Pui-shan, MH

3:50 p.m.

4:20 p.m.

Vice-Chairperson

Mr LEE Man-lung, Joey, MH

3:50 p.m.

4:20 p.m.

Members

Mr NG Chak-sum, Sam

3:50 p.m.

4:20 p.m.

Ms LEE Pik-yee, Peggy, MH

3:50 p.m.

4:20 p.m.

Mr CHOW Kam-wai, BBS, MH

3:50 p.m.

4:20 p.m.

Mr LAM Wai-kong, MH

3:50 p.m.

4:20 p.m.

Mr SUN Tao-hung, Stanley, JP

3:50 p.m.

4:20 p.m.

Ms MOK Ruby

3:50 p.m.

4:20 p.m.

Mr MUK Ka-chun

3:50 p.m.

4:20 p.m.

Co-opted Member

Ms SUNG Chih-ling

3:50 p.m.

4:20 p.m.

Representatives of Core Government Departments

Ms MAK Wai-ying, Candace

Liaison Officer i/c (South)/Wan Chai, Home
Affairs Department

Mr LO Chun-man, Jonathan	Executive Officer (District Management)/Wan Chai, Home Affairs Department
Mr LAU Wai-choi	Senior Inspector of Works (Hong Kong), Home Affairs Department
Mr WONG Bun	Inspector of Works (Hong Kong)1, Home Affairs Department
Mr WONG Man-wong	Chief Leisure Manager (Hong Kong East), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr LEE Pao-wan, Ken	District Leisure Manager (Wan Chai), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr MA Che-kong, Edwin	Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Wan Chai, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms CHEUNG Pui-yee	Senior Librarian (Wan Chai), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr CHAN Chi-keung, Kaizer	Executive Officer (Planning) 11A, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr LI Yick-chun	Senior Engineer/9 (South), Civil Engineering and Development Department (Atg.)
Mr CHEUNG Man-chung, Tim	District Engineer/Wan Chai, Highways Department
Mr LO Kin-on, Calvin	Engineer/Eastern 1, Drainage Services Department
<u>Secretary</u>	
Miss LO Lok-man, Daisy	Executive Officer I (District Council) /Wan Chai, Home Affairs Department

Opening Remarks

The Chairperson welcomed all Members and representatives of government departments to the 5th meeting of the District Facilities and Works Committee (“DFWC”) of the 7th Wan Chai District Council (“WCDC”), and welcomed Ms SUNG Chih-ling, who had just been appointed as a Co-opted Member, to attend the meeting for the first time.

Item 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the District Facilities and Works Committee

2. The Chairperson said that the Secretariat had not received Members’ proposed amendments to the minutes of the 4th meeting.
3. With a motion moved by Mr CHOW Kam-wai and seconded by Mr LAM Wai-kong, the minutes of the 4th meeting were confirmed.

Item 2: Management and Works Progress of Recreation and Sports Facilities in Wan Chai District by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department **(DFWC Paper No. 10/2024)**

4. Mr LEE Pao-wan, Ken, District Leisure Manager (Wan Chai) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (“LCSD”), introduced Paper No. 10/2024.
5. Members had the following comments and questions:
 - (i) It was found during the site inspection that despite the water dispensers installed in East Coast Park and Victoria Park were designed to be used by three people at a time, they were often unable to function as intended due to low water pressure.
 - (ii) Residents reported that the drinking water from the water dispensers in the Electric Road Sitting-out Area had an odour, which was suspected due to the water pipes being located close to the Causeway Bay Market. The situation was confirmed after an on-site inspection, hence requesting the department to follow up;
 - (iii) Members were concerned whether there were sufficient current mosquito control

facilities in the parks in the district to combat the mosquito problem effectively;
and

- (iv) Members enquired the reasons for the low usage rate of the fitness room at Lockhart Road Sports Centre.

6. Mr LEE Pao-wan, Ken, District Leisure Manager (Wan Chai) of LCSD, responded as follows:

- (i) In recent years, the department had gradually replaced the existing “drinking fountains” with “bottle-filling dispensers”. The bottle-filling dispensers would be more hygienic, and encourage the public to bring their own bottles, which was in line with environmental protection goals. As for the water pressure of the water dispensers, the department would arrange inspection of the concerned facilities and adjust the water pressure if needed;
- (ii) The water dispensers at the venues under the department's management were equipped with filtration systems and were regularly inspected. Regarding the suspected odour from the water dispensers at the Electric Road Sitting-out Area, the department would conduct an inspection;

[Post-meeting note: Department staff had inspected the water dispensers at the Electric Road Sitting-out Area and had not found any abnormalities. Department staff would continue to closely monitor the condition of the facilities.]

- (iii) At present, mosquito control devices of different types had been installed in most parks, and the department would also arrange mosquito fogging at locations with more serious mosquito problems. If Members find particular parks with serious mosquito issues, they may report directly to the department for follow-up action;
and
- (iv) The usage rate of the fitness room was calculated based on the capacity of the fitness room, and took into account both peak hours and non-peak hours. This calculation method was different from other recreational facilities', which was based on the actual usage hours. The present usage rate of the fitness room at the Lockhart Road Sports Centre was acceptable. The department would step up the promotion of the fitness room with, for example, the “Fitness Room Monthly Ticket Scheme” that had been launched, to attract members of the public to use

the facility.

7. There being no questions from Members, the Chairperson invited Members to note the above paper.

Item 3: Any Other Business

8. Members thanked the Highways Department (HyD) for completing the pavement enhancement works at the Happy Valley Tram Terminus ahead of schedule, and the repair works on the pavement on Wong Nai Chung Road towards Happy Valley had also commenced. However, there were still many uneven road surfaces in the district, and the following questions and comments were raised:

- (i) Uneven surfaces of pavements were commonly found in the district, such as Tai Hang Road, the pavement outside the Empire Hotel Hong Kong, the Moreton Terrace Flyover, and the vehicular section of the Canal Road Flyover outside Aberdeen Tunnel, etc. In particular, the road surface of the Canal Road Flyover was often covered with gravel. Even though the department had arranged repairing works, the problem often reappeared shortly afterwards. Members had conducted on-site inspections during the weekends to record the locations of uneven surfaces in the district, and requested the department to follow up as soon as possible;
- (ii) The department had previously stated that the contractor inspected the road conditions regularly, but the problem persisted. Members then asked for the concrete arrangements for the inspection and repair work, the name of the responsible contractor, and a list of the trunk roads in the district.
- (iii) From time to time, there were pedestrians tripping over protruding manhole covers on the streets in the district. There were also ponding problems due to damaged manhole covers. It was understood that each pipe might belong to a different public utility company, such as a broadband company, the relevant manhole covers were also maintained by the respective public utility company. However, the protruding manhole covers were currently posing a potential hazard to pedestrians, the department was urged to step up monitoring by requiring each public utility company to report to the department after completing repair works and provide the relevant Members

with a completion report. In addition, Members also asked whether the department or individual public utility company would be held responsible if a pedestrian tripped over a protruding manhole cover and had an accident.

- (iv) Members noticed that whenever it rained, black plastic bags would be hung on the railings outside Cathay Lodge on Wan Chai Road to prevent the water on the road from splashing into the shops along when vehicles passed by. Those plastic bags were indeed unsightly; and
- (v) The department was requested to regularly report to the Committee on the works progress of the elevator system project connecting Lau Sin Street and Tin Hau Temple Road.

9. Mr. CHEUNG Man-chung, District Engineer/Wan Chai of HyD, responded as follows:

- (i) The department engaged contractors to carry out regular road inspections and maintenance work. The trunk roads in the district would be inspected once a week, while other roads would be inspected once every one to six months. Besides, a detailed inspection would be carried out every six months to collect information about road surface and structural conditions for planning medium and long-term maintenance work. If Members noticed any situation of uneven road surfaces, they were welcome to contact the department directly;
- (ii) The trunk roads in the district were the busier roads in the district, such as Gloucester Road and Wong Nai Chung Road. The department would provide information on the trunk roads in the district after the meeting as requested by Members;

[Post-meeting note: In general, trunk roads could handle higher traffic volumes and connect busy roads in various areas and districts, such as Gloucester Road, Victoria Park Road and Canal Road Flyover.]

- (iii) Maintenance works were carried out under the supervision of HyD and were generally divided into two levels according to the condition of the road damage: if there was immediate danger to road users, such as pot holes on the carriageway or damaged traffic signs, the contractor would arrange for repairs as soon as possible and submit a completion report to the department upon

completion. If the road damage did pose an immediate danger, such as minor cracks in the road surface that might deteriorate, the department would plan the maintenance works according to the on-site traffic conditions of the road section, the impact on road users, and the complexity of the required repair procedures, and arrange for contractors to carry out timely repairs;

- (iv) Other medium and long-term maintenance works were to be carried out in order, subject to the availability of resources. Due to the busy traffic conditions in some locations, it was difficult for the department to implement long-term enclosure measures and repairing work plan needed to be prepared carefully. In the short term, only temporary filling works could be carried out, which was why the road conditions mentioned by Member were often noticed. The department would pay more attention to the relevant road conditions and carry out repair works in a timely manner.
- (v) In the past two to three months, the department had carried out a number of major road resurfacing works in the area (O'Brien Road near Lockhart Road, Tai Hang Road near Tai Hang Drive, Link Road and Causeway Road near Tung Lo Wan Road), as well as pedestrian pavement resurfacing works (Lockhart Road near MTR Exit D1 and Wong Nai Chung Road).
- (vi) The contractor responsible for regular inspections and maintenance of the roads in the district was Shun Yuen Construction Company Limited.

[Post-meeting note: The contractor responsible for regular inspections and maintenance of roads in Wan Chai District was originally Paul Y. Construction Limited. With effect from 1 July 2024, the responsible contractor was changed to Shun Yuen Construction Limited.]

- (vii) Regarding the problem of protruding manhole covers, the department had required the relevant public utility companies to complete the repair works as soon as possible; relevant companies might encounter restrictions on resources etc. the department would urge them more often. If the situation was found to be serious, the department would carry out temporary repairs or enclosure works near the protruding manhole cover to minimise the impact on road users. After the meeting, the department would find out whether the public utilities companies had reported to the department after completing the repair works, and examine whether they can provide relevant Members with

the completion report;

[Post-meeting note: If a manhole cover was found to be damaged, HyD would require the relevant public utility company/departments to arrange for repairs and report to the department upon completion of the restoration works. In addition, HyD could, upon request by Members, reply them individually regarding the completion date.]

- (viii) If any member of the public had an accident due to a protruding manhole cover or damaged road, they would generally seek compensation from the government. The department would seek advice from the Department of Justice and take appropriate follow-up action;
- (ix) Regarding the problem of plastic bags being hung on the railings on Wan Chai Road during rainy days, the Department would look into the situation and cause of ponding of water at that location, hoping to solve the problem at the source; and

[Post-meeting note: Regarding the ponding of water on the relevant road section, HyD had arranged for the contractor to carry out road resurfacing works, which were completed on 10 September this year.]

- (x) As for the works progress of the lift and pedestrian access system connecting Lau Sin Street and Tin Hau Temple Road, Members' requests for regular updates would be conveyed to the relevant divisions.

[Post-meeting note: HyD would continue to conduct investigation studies and preliminary designs for the lift and pedestrian access system connecting Lau Sin Street and Tin Hau Temple Road, and actively handle related technical issues to ensure the feasibility of construction. HyD would follow established procedures and make appropriate adjustments to the implementation process in light of the latest developments, including policy developments and the government's financial situation.]

10. In response to Members' concerns about pet facilities at the Wan Chai Temporary Promenade, Mr LEE Pao-wan, Ken, District Leisure Manager (Wan Chai) of LCSD, said that he would look into the situation and report back to Members.

[**Post-meeting note:** The department had contacted the relevant Members to understand the situation and follow up on their concerns.]

Item 4: Date of Next Meeting

11. The Chairperson announced that the next meeting would be held on 12 November 2024 (Tuesday) at 3:00 p.m.

12. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Wan Chai District Council Secretariat
November 2024