

(Translation)

Minutes of the 8th Meeting of the District Facilities and Works Committee
7th Term of Wan Chai District Council
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Date: 11 March 2025 (Tuesday)

Time: 3:00 p.m.

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

Present

Arrival

Departure

Chairman

Ms LAU Pui-shan, MH

3:00 p.m.

3:40 p.m.

Vice-Chairman

Mr LEE Man-lung, Joey, MH

3:00 p.m.

3:40 p.m.

Members

Mr NG Chak-sum, Sam

3:00 p.m.

3:40 p.m.

Ms LEE Pik-yee, Peggy, MH

3:00 p.m.

3:40 p.m.

Dr CHOW Kam-wai, BBS, MH

3:00 p.m.

3:40 p.m.

Mr LAM Wai-kong, MH

3:00 p.m.

3:40 p.m.

Mr SUN Tao-hung, Stanley, JP

3:00 p.m.

3:40 p.m.

Ms MOK Ruby

3:00 p.m.

3:40 p.m.

Mr MUK Ka-chun

3:00 p.m.

3:40 p.m.

Co-opted Member(s)

Ms SUNG Chih-ling

3:00 p.m.

3:40 p.m.

Representatives of Core Government Departments

Mr CHEUNG Ho-yat, Steven	Assistant District Officer (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
Ms NG Sau-ling, Steffi	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 LEUNG Ho-san, Tony	Senior Engineer/9 (South), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Ms DENG Shinuo, Snow	District Engineer/Wan Chai, Highways Department
Mr MA Kin-yee, Kent	Senior Engineer/Eastern, Drainage Services Department
Mr LO Kin-on, Calvin	Engineer/Eastern 1, Drainage Services Department

Secretary

Mr TSOI Kam-tak, Jacky

Executive Officer (District Council)1/Wan Chai,
Home Affairs Department

Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed members and representatives of government departments to the 8th meeting of the District Facilities and Works Committee (DFWC) of the 7th term Wan Chai District Council (WCDC), and welcomed Ms NG Sau-ling, Steffi, Chief Leisure Manager (Hong Kong East) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), attending the meeting for the first time.

Item 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 7th Meeting of DFWC

2. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had received no proposed amendments to the minutes of the 7th meeting from members.
3. With a motion moved by Mr MUK Ka-chun and seconded by Mr Stanley SUN, the minutes of the 7th meeting were confirmed.

Item 2: Management and Works Progress of Recreation and Sports Facilities in Wan Chai District by LCSD
(DFWC Paper No. 3/2025)

4. Mr Ken LEE, District Leisure Manager (Wan Chai) of LCSD, briefed members on DFWC Paper No. 3/2025.
5. Members raised questions as summarised below:
 - (i) “SmartPLAY” statistics on residents’ utilisation of sports and recreation facilities in Wan Chai District; and
 - (ii) The Department was enquired about the reasons for under-utilisation of some sports and recreation facilities, including the Fitness Room at Lockhart Road Sports Centre, Hockey Ground (artificial turf pitches) and rugby pitches at Happy

Valley Recreation Ground.

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

- (i) SmartPLAY, the sports and recreation facilities booking system of LCSD, did not maintain statistics on residents' utilisation of sports and recreation facilities in Wan Chai;
- (ii) As the equipment provided in the Fitness Room of Lockhart Road Sports Centre was restricted by the size of the venue, members of the public might prefer to use the Fitness Room at Harbour Road Sports Centre, which was larger in size. Besides, there were quite a number of private fitness gyms in the vicinity of Lockhart Road Sports Centre, thus affecting the utilisation rate of its Fitness Room. LCSD had stepped up the promotion of Lockhart Road Sports Centre, like organising more fitness training courses with a view to increasing the utilisation rate of the venue; and
- (iii) As rugby and hockey were team sports, there were fewer groups being able to gather enough participants to play the sports during non-peak hours (e.g. working hours on weekdays). In addition, since it was difficult to open up the rugby and hockey pitches for other sports, the utilisation rate of these facilities at Happy Valley Recreation Ground would be lower during non-peak hours. LCSD would encourage schools in the district to consider using the venues for relevant sports activities during non-peak hours so as to optimise the use of resources.

Item 3: Written Request from DFWC members of Wan Chai District Council – Progress of Improvement of Drainage System in Wan Chai District and Preparations for the Rainy Season
(DFWC Paper No. 4/2025)

7. Mr Kent MA, Senior Engineer/Eastern and Mr Calvin LO, Engineer/Eastern 1 of the Drainage Services Department (DSD), said that a written response to DFWC Paper No. 4/2025 on “Progress of Improvement of Drainage System in Wan Chai District and Preparations for the Rainy Season” had been submitted, and their report was consolidated as follows:

- (i) In response to the exceptionally heavy rainstorm in 2023, DSD had completed formulating a series of improvement measures in 2024, including stepping up

inspections and clearance of the drainage system, inter-departmental joint gully clearing operations, construction of additional road gullies and trials of a new type of covers for gullies; and

- (ii) DSD would continue its deployment for the rainy season in 2025, which included regular inspections and drains clearance, inter-departmental joint clearance operations and expansion of the scope of trials of new covers for gullies. Through continuous collaboration with relevant departments, DSD would review the drainage system in Wan Chai and optimisation measures in a timely manner to further reduce the risk of flooding in Wan Chai.

8. Members made comments and raised questions as summarised below:

- (i) In respect of the areas which were prone to flooding in Wan Chai such as Thomson Road and Tung Lo Wan Road near Moreton Terrace, DSD was requested to take measures to improve the situation before the rainy season;
- (ii) There were concerns about the operation of new manhole covers and gullies. Although the new manhole covers installed near Wan Chai Market could prevent tree branches and large garbage from entering the gullies, the garbage might also float with the water to other places, and the Department was asked whether they would increase the frequencies of the clearing work. In addition, there were still large areas of stagnant water in the vicinity of hawker stalls in Wan Chai Market when amber or red rainstorm warnings were issued due to uneven road surfaces or unsuitable locations of drainage channels, and DSD was requested to propose a solution to this problem;
- (iii) The situation was unsatisfactory as odours were often emitted when water accumulated in gullies;
- (iv) DSD was enquired about its regular cleansing and maintenance of the connecting drains, and for example, in the case of Tai Yuen Street, the failure to clear the connecting drains in time had led to flooding, and it was hoped that the Department would step up the relevant work; and
- (v) DSD was asked whether the Department would step up inspections of flooding blackspots in the district during typhoons or heavy rainstorms, and the

Department was enquired whether there were alternatives for members of the public to report emergency flooding to DSD currently apart from calling the 24-hour hotline for drainage services.

9. Mr Kent MA, Senior Engineer/Eastern and Mr Calvin LO, Engineer/Eastern 1 of DSD, responded as follows:

- (i) When there was a forecast of rainstorm by the Observatory, DSD would deploy teams to inspect locations susceptible to flooding due to blockage caused by debris such as rubbish or dead leaves and conduct clearance work so as to reduce the risk of flooding;
- (ii) The new covers for gullies were mainly designed for places such as markets where more debris was generated and accumulated in order to prevent rubbish from being washed into the drains causing blockage. Therefore, not all gullies were required for replacement of new manhole covers. Instead, relevant considerations would be made according to actual needs. DSD would also communicate with relevant government departments to step up the clearing work of gullies and connecting drains;
- (iii) Furthermore, the causes of accumulation of water on road surfaces were not necessarily related to the road drainage system. The problem needed to be examined and tackled in a holistic manner from various perspectives; and
- (iv) If members of the public encountered drainage problems, they could call the 24-hour hotline of DSD, whose staff would receive the calls for assistance and take follow-up actions. They could also reflect the problems through the 1823 hotline and DSD would follow up as soon as possible.

10. Regarding members' concerns about the accumulation of water in the vicinity of hawker stalls in Wan Chai Market, Ms Snow DENG, District Engineer/Wan Chai of the Highways Department (HyD), said that accumulation of water could be attributed to a number of causes and it would be referred to the Maintenance Section and contractors to find out the causes and take corresponding improvement measures. The Department noted members' concerns about the cleansing of the connecting drains and would remind the contractors to clean and maintain the connecting drains at Tai Yuen Street on a regular basis.

[Post-meeting note: HyD provided supplementary information after the meeting, stating that the Department deployed staff to conduct a site inspection in the vicinity of hawker stalls in Wan Chai Market on 21 March 2025, and discovered that some road sections accumulated water due to uneven surfaces. The Department had arranged contractors to carry out repairs on 22 March 2025. In addition, HyD arranged contractors to undertake drainage clearance work at Tai Yuen Street on 22 March 2025. DSD would continue to monitor the conditions of road surfaces and drains, and arrange maintenance and clearance work in a timely manner.]

Item 4: Any Other Business

11. Members enquired about the causes of the flooding occurred at Hennessy Road earlier on 27 September 2024. They pointed out that the response of DSD was relatively slow then as it arrived at the scene to deal with the situation approximately two to three hours after the incident.

12. Mr Kent MA, Senior Engineer/Eastern of DSD, said that the above case was a water mains burst incident which was not within the purview of DSD. In view of the relatively large scale of the incident, the relevant departments had taken follow-up actions as soon as possible to minimise the inconvenience caused to the public.

13. Members stated that there were still many uneven road surfaces at various locations in the district and they raised the following questions and comments:

- (i) There were occasional cases of pedestrians tripping over raised manhole covers on streets, including major pavements or footpaths such as Lockhart Road and Hennessy Road. Members requested DSD to explain the future improvement plans and enquired whether the Department had conducted regular inspections on road conditions so as to follow up the problems of uneven or depressed road surfaces; and
- (ii) Members expressed concerns over the defective conditions of pavements or footpaths along Wan Chai Road. Despite the fact that DSD had arranged for repairs of them, problems often arose again shortly after completion of the repairs.

14. Regarding members' concerns about uneven road surfaces in the district, Ms Snow DENG, District Engineer/Wan Chai of HyD, said that the Department carried out regular road inspections and maintenance work through term contracts. HyD had also put in place a comprehensive road inspection and maintenance mechanism, under which contractors carried out maintenance works under the supervision of the Department to ensure that they discharged their duties properly. Regarding those common locations with uneven road surfaces and manhole covers as mentioned by members, if damaged road surfaces or uneven manhole covers were identified, HyD would deploy staff to conduct inspections and arrange appropriate repairs according to actual circumstances and needs in order to protect the safety of road users. Furthermore, if the responsibility of maintenance for the uneven manhole covers lay with public utilities, HyD would require the companies concerned to arrange repairs and make a report to the Department upon completion of the works.

[Post-meeting note: According to the supplementary information provided by HyD after the meeting, in respect of the repair and maintenance of uneven road surfaces and manhole covers in Wan Chai District, the Department planned to arrange resurfacing works for pavements with more obvious damage at Hennessy Road to further improve the pavement conditions. Taking into account the impacts of the works on the public, the works would commence subject to the approval of the relevant departments/stakeholders, and part of the resurfacing works for pavements at Lockhart Road had been completed in February 2025.]

15. With regard to members' concerns over repairs of road surfaces at Wan Chai Road, Ms Snow DENG, District Engineer/Wan Chai of HyD, remarked that behaviours of road users such as moving trolleys with heavy loads on pavements or walkways, might lead to repetitive damage to road surfaces. HyD would remind contractors to pay attention to locations of frequently damaged pavements along Wan Chai Road and put more efforts to strengthen inspections.

[Post-meeting note: HyD provided supplementary information after the meeting, stating that contractors were arranged to repair the relevant pavements and the works had been completed on 11 March 2025.

Item 5: Date of Next Meeting

16. The Chairman announced that the next meeting would be held at 3:00 p.m. on 20 May 2025 (Tuesday).

17. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Wan Chai District Council Secretariat

April 2025