

(Translation)

Minutes of the 9th Meeting of the District Facilities and Works Committee
7th Term of Wan Chai District Council
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Date: 20 May 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

Chairman

Ms LAU Pui-shan, MH

Arrival

3:00 p.m.

Departure

3:54 p.m.

Vice-Chairman

Mr LEE Man-lung, Joey, MH

3:00 p.m.

3:54 p.m.

Members

Mr NG Chak-sum, Sam

3:00 p.m.

3:54 p.m.

Ms LEE Pik-yee, Peggy, MH

3:00 p.m.

3:54 p.m.

Dr CHOW Kam-wai, BBS, MH

3:00 p.m.

3:54 p.m.

Mr LAM Wai-kong, MH

3:00 p.m.

3:54 p.m.

Mr SUN Tao-hung, Stanley, JP

3:00 p.m.

3:54 p.m.

Ms MOK Ruby

3:00 p.m.

3:54 p.m.

Mr MUK Ka-chun

3:00 p.m.

3:54 p.m.

Co-opted Member(s)

Ms SUNG Chih-ling

3:00 p.m.

3:54 p.m.

Representatives of Core Government Departments

Mr CHEUNG Ho-yat, Steven

Assistant District Officer (Wan Chai), Home Affairs
Department

Miss CHAN Sum-yee, Rita	Senior Liaison Officer (Community Affairs)/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
Ms CHAN Man-ki, Fion	Engineer/7 (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 9th meeting of the District Facilities and Works Committee (DFWC) of the 7th term Wan Chai District Council (WCDC), and welcomed Ms Fion CHAN, Engineer/7 (South) of the Civil Engineering and Development Department, attending the meeting for the first time.

Item 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 8th Meeting of DFWC

2. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had received no proposed amendments to the minutes of the 8th meeting from members.
3. With a motion moved by Mr MUK Ka-chun and seconded by Mr Stanley SUN, the minutes of the 8th 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. 6/2025)

4. Mr Ken LEE, District Leisure Manager (Wan Chai) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), briefed members on DFWC Paper No. 6/2025.
5. Members raised questions and comments as summarised below:
 - (i) Members expressed appreciation to LCSD for introducing smart fitness equipment to Victoria Park, and they suggested that the Department could arrange staff to assist the public in using the equipment having regard to the number of users during different time sessions, and install water dispensers adjacent to the equipment to facilitate the public to replenish water in hot weather;

- (ii) Members hoped that LCSD would pay attention to the problem of rodent infestation at Victoria Park and requested the Department to clean the temporary toilet at South Pavilion Plaza of the Park more frequently so as to avoid emission of unpleasant smell;
- (iii) Noting that plenty of foreign domestic helpers gathered at the Sugar Street Amenity Plot during holidays, members expressed concerns about whether the facilities in the district were insufficient and whether LCSD would consider sealing off the Amenity Plot; and
- (iv) Members requested LCSD to explore the possibility of carrying out landscape improvement works in Wan Chai District to develop photo-taking spots for the public.

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

- (i) There were a total of 12 sets of smart fitness equipment in Victoria Park, most of which were for weight training. The differences between these tools and those commonly found in other venues were that its resistance could be adjusted and the training data could be viewed and downloaded. LCSD had arranged staff to give guidance to members of the public on the use of the equipment on the spot in the mornings from Monday to Friday and in the afternoons at weekends, and the Department would make adjustments according to their utilisation;
- (ii) A number of water dispensers were already available in Victoria Park. LCSD would further study the proposal of providing additional water dispensers near the smart fitness equipment;
- (iii) Since the beginning of this year, LCSD had been stepping up rodent control work in Victoria Park and regularly reviewing the effectiveness of the work in consultation with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). The Department also attached great importance to the hygienic conditions of the temporary toilet at South Pavilion Plaza and would increase the frequency of toilet cleaning to ensure good hygiene standards;

- (iv) LCSD was mainly responsible for the maintenance of the plants at the Sugar Street Amenity Plot only, while other management issues would be followed up by the relevant departments; and
- (v) To tie in with the National Games held later this year, LCSD would carry out major landscape improvement works at Victoria Park, the waterfront of the Wan Chai Temporary Promenade (the area near Golden Bauhinia Square) and the Lung Hop Street Amenity Plot. The Department was still working out the planting arrangement for the above venues in the hope that the landscaping works would bring a fresh new look to the public upon completion.

Item 3: Written Questions from Members of DFWC – Request LCSD to Report on the Progress of Improvement Works at some Leisure Venues in Wan Chai District
(DFWC Paper No. 7/2025)

7. Mr Ken LEE, District Leisure Manager (Wan Chai) of LCSD, said that a written response to DFWC Paper No. 7/2025 on “Request LCSD to Report on the Progress of Improvement Works at some Leisure Venues in Wan Chai District” had been submitted, and he gave a consolidated report as follows:

- (i) The improvement works for Stone Nullah Lane Garden had been completed in the fourth quarter of 2024. In light of comments, LCSD had also added yellow markings on the edges of staircases in the Garden to alert members of the public when using the facilities;
- (ii) The enhancement works for the play equipment in Tung Lo Wan Garden were expected to commence between the second and the third quarter of 2025, and anticipated for completion in the fourth quarter of 2025. The actual date of commencement of the works had to be further explored with the contractors;
- (iii) The beatification project at Hennessy Road Playground was in good progress and expected to be completed in mid-2025; and
- (iv) The beautification project of the basketball court and enhancement works for the play equipment at Kwai Fong Street commenced as planned and were completed ahead of schedule on 19 December 2024 and 25 February 2025 respectively.

8. Members' comments and questions were summarised below:

- (i) Members indicated that cleansing of the staircase between Tin Hau Temple Road and Dragon Terrace was currently scheduled at about 8 a.m. on every Monday morning. Since the said period fell within the peak hours for commuting to work and many people around would go to MTR Tin Hau Station through this staircase, the cleansing work had indeed affected their commuting to a certain extent. It was hoped that the Department could communicate with the contractor to adjust the cleansing time to avoid overlapping with the peak commuting hours, thereby minimising the impact on the commuters;
- (ii) Members were concerned that some members of the public had used water bottles hanging on the railings at Hennessy Road Playground for disposal of cigarette butts, and they enquired whether the problem had been improved after the refurbishment of the Playground;
- (iii) Members requested the Department to follow up as members of the public reflected that the pool in Tin Hau Temple Road Park had not been filled with running water for some time;
- (iv) Members enquired about the feasibility of setting up walking tracks in Wan Chai Park; and
- (v) Members suggested that the Department should organise seminars to educate the elderly in the district about fall prevention.

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

- (i) LCSD stated that the Department would co-ordinate with the relevant service contractor to ensure that the cleansing work of the staircase between Tin Hau Temple Road and Dragon Terrace would not affect the commuters;
- (ii) The problem of cigarette butt disposal by the public at Hennessy Road Playground had been improved. The Department would also co-ordinate with FEHD to step up the monitoring of cigarette butt disposal in the vicinity;

- (iii) The Department would follow up the maintenance work of the pool in Tin Hau Temple Road Park;
- (iv) A number of jogging tracks had been provided in local leisure venues for the public to engage in jogging and walking activities. Although there might not be sufficient space in Wan Chai Park to provide a complete walking track, the Department would still educate the public on how to make effective use of the leisure venues for walking exercise through organising activities such as “QualiWalk” on a regular basis; and
- (v) Although it was not common for LCSD to organise health seminars directly, the Department would help the elderly learn about muscle-building exercises by organising free fitness training courses or fun days specially designed for the elderly.

Item 4: Written Questions from Members of DFWC – Enquire the Drainage Services Department (DSD) about the Latest Position of Implementation of “Wading Line System”, and whether DSD will Implement the “Wading Line System” at Flooding Blackspots in Wan Chai and Comprehensively Improve the Drainage System in the District
(DFWC Paper No. 8/2025)

10. Mr Kent MA, Senior Engineer/Eastern and Mr Calvin LO, Engineer/Eastern 1 of DSD, said that a written response to DFWC Paper No. 8/2025 had been submitted and they gave a consolidated report as follows:

- (i) The 5 pilot locations announced by the Government in April 2025 were all roads with higher risk of flooding, where vehicles had been rendered inoperable due to damage caused by the more serious flooding during the extreme rainstorms in September 2023, and Wan Chai was not included in the Pilot Scheme on “Wading Line System” for the time being. The “Wading Line System” was a new scheme which drew on the relevant experience of the Mainland and Macao, involving collaboration among various government departments including DSD, the Highways Department (HyD), the Transport Department and Hong Kong Police Force. The Government would review the effectiveness of the Pilot Scheme after the rainy season in 2025;

- (ii) The Department had completed a number of drainage improvement projects in Wan Chai District in 2024, including working in conjunction with HyD for construction of additional road gullies at various locations vulnerable to blockage, and installing a new type of covers on a trial basis for road gullies in areas with more markets and hawker stalls to prevent debris from falling into the gullies, so as to minimise the blockage caused by the accumulation of obstructing materials in gullies and connecting drains;
- (iii) DSD would inspect and clear the drains in the district regularly, especially before the onset of rainstorms or typhoons, while continuing to implement the “just-in-time” arrangement by deploying manpower to inspect locations susceptible to blockage by debris and silt and clear blocked drains with a view to reducing the risk of flooding; and
- (iv) In addition, DSD also actively participated in community activities to promote knowledge of flood prevention, such as working in conjunction with other government departments to organise “Hong Kong Island Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Day” in which booths and display panels were set up to explain to the public the flood prevention strategies, day-to-day work of DSD as well as the contingency measures taken during heavy rainstorms with a view to enhancing public awareness of disaster preparedness.

11. Members’ comments and questions were summarised below:

- (i) The unevenness of some of the ground in Wan Chai District reduced the drainage capacity of roads surface, constituting flooding problems. Vehicles passing over these uneven surfaces during rain would splash water and affect the pedestrians;
- (ii) The new manhole covers, which had smaller gratings for drainage and were mostly installed in streets near hawker stalls or markets, were particularly prone to be stuck by debris. Failure to perform clearing in time might affect the normal operation of the drainage system;
- (iii) Members were concerned about the problem of ageing drains in the district and enquired whether the Department would conduct surprise spot checks to replace aged sewers;

- (iv) Members were concerned about the duration of the Pilot Scheme on “Wading Line System” and the criteria for establishing “Wading Line System” in the district, and suggested that DSD should notify the media and more government departments when there was flooding in the district, or make use of the existing applications for dissemination of information, so as to enable members of the public to have real-time information on road conditions in the district; and
- (v) Members enquired whether DSD would use a real-time data monitoring system to monitor the flooding situation on road surfaces, and whether it was possible to extend the system to cover footpaths or other places not having direct impact on vehicular traffic, so as to monitor and report on the flooding situation in a more comprehensive manner, thereby alerting members of the public in the district.

12. Mr Kent MA, Senior Engineer/Eastern of DSD, responded as follows:

- (i) The unevenness of road surfaces involved a number of factors and the relevant government departments would follow up the conditions of road surfaces on a case-by-case basis;
- (ii) The design of new manhole covers was mainly targeted at locations where markets or hawker stalls having accumulated more miscellaneous objects, with a view to preventing blockage of drains due to washing of refuse into the drains. Therefore, replacement of this new type of manhole cover was not required for all gullies in all places, but would be considered on the basis of actual needs. DSD would also communicate with relevant government departments to step up the cleaning of road gullies and connecting drains so as to minimise the accumulation of refuse or debris on new manhole covers;
- (iii) DSD had been conducting regular inspections of the public drainage and sewerage systems in the district and arranging for the maintenance of ageing drainage facilities on a risk-based basis; and
- (iv) The “Wading Line System” included the installation of water level sensors called Flood Monitoring Devices (FMD) at the lowest point of the pilot road section to collect real-time water level data. When FMD detected that the

water level on the road had reached the warning level, the monitoring system would immediately alert relevant government departments. DSD and HyD would then promptly deploy emergency response teams to inspect and clear blocked drains to reduce the risk of flooding. The Pilot Scheme of the “Wading Line System” would be implemented during the rainy season in 2025. The Government would review its effectiveness upon completion of the pilot scheme and optimise it as necessary.

Item 5: Any Other Business

13. Members’ comments and questions were summarised below:

- (i) Regarding the frequent accumulation of water along the flyover next to Moreton Terrace, members enquired the departments concerned how that situation could be improved;

[Post-meeting note: The Department was exploring feasible options to improve the problem of accumulation of water at relevant road sections. Meanwhile, the Department would continue to step up cleansing of road drainage facilities in the vicinity to ensure smooth drainage.]

- (ii) There were currently many dogs in Tai Hang but lack of suitable space for their activities. It was proposed to convert some of the public space into a pet garden in order to provide a safe and comfortable environment for dogs and their owners;

- (iii) The road surfaces of carriageway at the junction of Pennington Street and Yee Wo Street were worn out. That road section was a turning point and the road surfaces were in poor condition, particularly in wet weather, which might easily cause vehicles to skid and pose safety hazards, and members enquired about the progress of the relevant road resurfacing works carried out by HyD; and

[Post-meeting note: HyD had arranged relevant contractors to conduct skid resistance tests on road surfaces, which were expected to be completed by the end of June 2025. Based on the test results, the Department would arrange appropriate maintenance work in a timely manner.]

- (iv) They proposed to review the locations and numbers of dog gardens in Wan Chai, thereby benefitting residents in the district.

14. Ms Snow DENG, Regional Engineer/Wanchai of HyD, said that regarding the area of Tai Hang Road Flyover around Moreton Terrace, a maintenance engineer had been referred by the Department to follow up the problem and confirmed that there were sufficient gullies at the site for drainage purpose, but it was possible that some weeds caused blockage and reduced the efficiency of drainage, so HyD conducted a major cleansing operation to clear the channels in the relevant area on 13 May 2025, hoping that the problem could be resolved. Regarding the worn-out road surfaces of carriageway at the junction of Pennington Street and Yee Wo Street, HyD had to refer the matter to the maintenance engineers of their Department for investigation.

15. Mr Ken LEE, District Leisure Manager (Wan Chai) of LCSD, said that when considering opening up a pet garden, LCSD would take into account various factors, including the size of the venue, ancillary facilities and surrounding environment, etc. At present, there were already some pet gardens and parks for pets in Wan Chai District such as Wan Chai Temporary Promenade, which was open to pets, and owners could bring their pets on a leash to use the facilities there. The Department would continue to explore the possibility of opening up more venues as pet gardens or parks for pets to ensure that these venues were suitable for use by the public and pets.

Item 6: Date of Next Meeting

16. The Chairman announced that the next meeting would be held at 4:00 p.m. on 24 June 2025 (Tuesday).

17. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

Wan Chai District Council Secretariat
June 2025