

Progress Report of the 10th Meeting of the
District Facilities Management Committee under
Wong Tai Sin District Council held on 28 May 2013

Proposed Funding Allocation for the Implementation of District Minor Works
(WTSDC DFMC Paper No. 32/2013)

Members endorsed the proposed funding allocation and noted the arrangements for central payment of consultancy and resident site staff fees.

Progress Report on District Minor Works in 2013-14
(WTSDC DFMC Paper No. 33/2013)

2. With respect to the decision made in the previous meeting of the District Facilities Management Committee (DFMC) to write to the Development Bureau (DEVB) and the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB), Members enquired about the progress. Besides, they were also concerned about the progress of a number of district minor works projects.

3. The meeting was told that Wong Tai Sin District Office (WTSDO) had written to the two bureaux. The Secretariat of Wong Tai Sin District Council (WTSDC) received two written replies from the Home Affairs Department (HAD), under delegated authority of the HAB, and the DEVB on 5 June and 18 June 2013 respectively. The replies were forwarded to Members for reference.

4. Members agreed in principle that certain rules and principles should be applied in drawing up the list of priorities. However, if works projects with lower budgets were given higher priority, it would be difficult for approved projects which cost higher to complete as scheduled. It was true that part of the unspent funds of the shelved projects could be used elsewhere. Members asked the WTSDO to consolidate a list of works projects that had been endorsed in principle and re-affirm the feasibility of these projects before adding the list to the agenda items for discussion at the next meeting.

Proposed Funding Applications for the Implementation of District Minor Works in 2013-14

(WTSDC DFMC Paper No. 34/2013)

5. Members endorsed a proposed funding application, namely, Improvement Works of Facilities under WTSDC (WTS-DMW 147), with a grant of \$580,000.

6. Members also endorsed in principle seven funding applications for the following works: “Retrofitting of Two Rain Shelters off Shun Tin House in Shatin Pass Estate” (WTS-DMW 148); “Retrofitting of a Covered Walkway on the Access Ramp off Wing Ting Road” (WTS-DMW 149); “Retrofitting of Roof Cover over Pedestrian Walkway outside Ching On House in Tsz Ching Estate” (WTS-DMW 150); “Retrofitting of Roof Cover over Pedestrian Walkway outside Ching Fai House in Tsz Ching Estate” (WTS-DMW 151); “Retrofitting of Rain Shelter Opposite to Pang Ching Court at Chui Chuk Street” (WTS-DMW 152); “Extension of Rain Shelter on Po Kong Village Road (outside Grand View Garden) (WTS-DMW 153); and “Improvement Works in Rest Garden on Junction Road/ Fu Keung Street” (WTS-DMW 154).

Application for Funding from the District Facilities Management Committee for the Implementation of New Promotional Activities in Public Libraries in Wong Tai Sin in 2013-14

(WTSDC DFMC Paper No. 36/2013)

7. Members endorsed a funding of \$14,832 to the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) for the implementation of new promotional activities in public libraries in Wong Tai Sin in 2013-14. Together with the funding endorsed at the 8th Meeting of DFMC held on 22 January 2013, a total of \$89,124 had been granted to the LCSD for promotional activities in libraries. In addition, \$7,380 was earmarked in the provision for 2014-15 to meet the expenditure of activities to be carried out in March 2014.

Report on Recreational and Sports Activities Organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in Wong Tai Sin and Management of Facilities

(WTSDC DFMC Paper No. 37/2013)

8. The LCSD reported on the progress of the Morse Park heated swimming pool project. The Architectural Services Department was finalising the design which, upon completion, would be subject to internal vetting. Report and consultation on the design were expected to be put forth at the DFMC meeting by September this year. As for the Morse Park improvement project, the facilities enhancement of the amphitheatre at the Morse Park (No.4) had been included in the Signature Projects. In this regard, the LCSD submitted to the HAB the revised scope of improvement project for vetting.

9. The LCSD reported on the management of Nan Lian Garden. The first meeting of the Working Group to Study the New Mode of Management of Nan Lian Garden was held on 25 March 2013. During the meeting, working group members gave a lot of advice and requested the Department to provide more details in two areas, i.e. how to incorporate the entity for managing the facilities and the experience in managing the Historic Centre of Macao, in order to help shape the new mode of management of the Garden. According to the LCSD, research was underway and the second meeting was expected to be called within six months.

10. Members were concerned about the nuisance caused to the public by the Cotton Tree floss and asked the LCSD to consider removing all the unripe seed pods of the tree. Members also requested the Department to provide guidance on how to handle Cotton Tree floss for reference of the Council.

11. The LCSD expressed that Expert Panel on Tree Management had been consulted on handling Cotton Trees. As it is a natural life cycle for the trees to bloom and produce fruits, the Panel advised against removing unripe seed pods of the trees. Hence, the Department would not do so for the time being. Instead, the LCSD would monitor the situation after the seed pods burst and would work together with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to enhance the cleaning up work. The LCSD had also consulted the Department of Health and the Hong Kong Medical Association on the impact of Cotton Tree floss on physical health. Both parties indicated that there was no medical evidence to support the claim that exposure of the floss would have any significant impact on human health. Members of the public were therefore advised to use other means to deal with the problem, such as wearing a mask. Cotton Tree and fruit tree were two different species, with the latter bearing fruits for consumption.

12. The Secretariat received relevant materials from the LCSD on 10 June 2013, including “A Guide on Handling of Cotton Tree Seed Pod” from the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section under the DEVB, and “Handling of Cotton Tree Floss” from the LCSD. The materials had been forwarded to Members for reference.

The 4th Hong Kong Games

(WTSDC DFMC Paper No. 38/2013)

13. The LCSD reported that Wong Tai Sin District had made a lot of achievements in the 4th Hong Kong Games (HKG). The Department thanked for the assistance given by the WTSDO and the WTSDC, and pledged that it would keep up the efforts in the next two years for better achievements and break-through in the next Games.

14. Members opined that the WTSDC, the WTSDO, the LCSD and all departments concerned had rendered tremendous support to the 4th HKG. In particular, inputs from staff of LCSD should be recognised in full. Members gave a heartfelt thanks to the Department. Regarding the achievements of Wong Tai Sin District in the Games, it was not the luck that came into play but the hard practice and preparation. It was believed that with even more preparation and support, say organising a cheerleading team, Wong Tai Sin District could make outstanding achievements on various fronts in the 5th HKG to be held two years later.

Any Other Business

15. Members mentioned that lifts near Hsin Kuang Centre for accessing the footbridge across Lung Cheung Road broke down frequently, and seam leakage was also noticed on the bridge. Members asked if the maintenance and repair of the lifts be undertaken by the Highways Department. This matter was referred to the Traffic and Transport Committee for follow up actions.

Wong Tai Sin District Council Secretariat
June 2013

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