

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the
District Facilities and Works Committee under
the 7th Term of Wong Tai Sin District Council

Date: 30 January 2024 (Tuesday)
Time: 2:30 p.m.
Venue: Conference Room, Wong Tai Sin District Council,
6/F, Lung Cheung Office Block,
138 Lung Cheung Road,
Wong Tai Sin, Kowloon

Present:

Chairman:

Mr. LEUNG Tang-fung WTSDC Member

Vice Chairman:

Mr. LAI Wing-ho, Joe, MH WTSDC Member

Member:

Mr. CHAN Wai-kwan, Andie, MH WTSDC Member

Mr. CHAN Ying, Leonard, MH WTSDC Member

Mr. FUNG Kin-lok WTSDC Member

Mr. HUNG Chor-ying, Edmond WTSDC Member

Ms. LAU Yuen-ye, Janus WTSDC Member

Mr. LEE Tung-kong WTSDC Member

Mr. LI Dennis WTSDC Member

Ms. LUI Kai-lin, Wendy, MH WTSDC Member

Mr. MOK Kin-wing, MH WTSDC Member

Mr. NGAI Shi-shing, Godfrey WTSDC Member

Mr. POON Cheuk-bun WTSDC Member

Ms. TANG Man-wai WTSDC Member

Mr. YAU Yiu-shing, MH WTSDC Member

Mr. YEUNG Nok-hin WTSDC Member

Ms. YEW Yat-wa, Deannie WTSDC Member

Mr. YUEN Kwok-keung, MH WTSDC Member

Mr. YUET Ngai-keung WTSDC Member

Absent with Apology:

Ms. TAM Mei-po WTSDC Member

In Attendance:

Mr. WU Kui-wah, Thomas, JP	District Officer (Wong Tai Sin)	WTSDO
Miss HO Wing-tung, Bonnie	Assistant District Officer (Wong Tai Sin)	WTSDO
Miss WONG Wai-fong, Bonnie	Senior Liaison Officer (2)	WTSDO
Ms. TANG Kit-wah, Fanny	Senior Executive Officer (District Management)	WTSDO
Ms. CHAN Wai-chi, Ida	Senior Executive Officer (District Council)	WTSDO
Mr. LEE Chun-hung, Roy	Architect (Works)2	HAD
Ms. CHEUNG Yee-mei, May	Chief Leisure Manager (Kowloon)	LCSD
Ms. LAM Yee-mei, Evelyn	District Leisure Manager (Wong Tai Sin)	LCSD
Ms. LI Man-ha, Judy	Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Wong Tai Sin	LCSD
Mr. NG Cheuk-hang	District Engineer/Wong Tai Sin (Acting)	HyD
Mr. MA Chun-hang, Dennis	Engineer/Kowloon (Distribution 3)	WSD
Ms. LUI Yee-yan	Senior Engineer/7 (East)	CEDD

Secretary:

Miss WONG Mei-po, Mabel Executive Officer (District Council) 2 WTSDO

The Chairman welcomed all Members and representatives of government departments to the 1st meeting of the District Facilities and Works Committee (“DFWC”) under the 7th term of Wong Tai Sin District Council (“WTSDC”).

Report on Absence

2. The Secretary reported pursuant to Order 64(4) of the District Council Standing Orders that a Notification of Absence from Meetings had been received prior to the meeting, which stated that a Member was unable to attend the meeting as she had

to attend the 4th meeting of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference 14th Kaiping Municipal Committee.

3. Members unanimously gave their consent to the above application for absence.

I. Terms of Reference and Membership List of the District Facilities and Works Committee of Wong Tai Sin District Council, and Government Representatives Attending Committee Meetings
(WTSDC DFWC Paper No. 1/2024)

4. Members noted the Paper.

II. Report on the Management of Facilities in Wong Tai Sin by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department
(WTSDC DFWC Paper No. 2/2024)

5. The representative of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (“LCSD”) presented the Paper.

6. The views and enquiries of Members are summarised as follows:

- (i) Members enquired about the use of “porous drain covers”;
- (ii) Members enquired about the collaboration mechanism between LCSD and other government departments in handling fallen trees, and suggested the relevant department optimise such procedures;
- (iii) Members enquired whether the entrance of the hiking trail near Lion Rock Park was within the scope of the department’s regular patrols;
- (iv) Members reflected that the horticultural management of Chuk Yuen Road’s carriageways was unsatisfactory; and

- (v) Members enquired if LCSD had conducted a study on whether the existing facilities were sufficient to meet the cultural and leisure needs of the district.

7. The representative of LCSD gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (i) LCSD had not received any reports of flooding at LCSD's leisure facilities recently. As for the use of "porous drain covers", LCSD would provide the relevant information after the meeting;

(Post-meeting note: Based on LCSD's observation during the extreme weather in 2023, the drainage efficiency of "porous drain covers" was no different from other drain covers at the venue.)

- (ii) Currently, LCSD and other government departments had a set of established procedures for handling fallen trees. LCSD would regularly inspect roadside trees under its management. If fallen trees were found, LCSD would remove the tree expeditiously and arrange to replant new trees. If the location of the fallen tree was no longer suitable for planting new trees, LCSD would consult stakeholders' opinion to facilitate further studies;

(Post-meeting note: LCSD was mainly responsible for maintaining trees located on unleased or unallocated government land near non-expressway public roads (i.e. within 10 metres of the kerbs) outside country parks. The department had a set of established procedures for handling fallen trees. For fallen trees or trees that presented potential danger to a large area, frontline staff would remove them immediately to ensure public safety.

When considering planting suitable trees, LCSD would thoroughly examine all relevant factors including the proposed location, size of the space for planting trees nearby, viability of planting on the roadside, sustainability and the resources required for tree maintenance etc. based on the professional guidelines and information provided by the Development Bureau. The actual condition of the site would also be taken into account. If there was insufficient space for trees to grow at the relevant location, LCSD would consider planting fewer trees.)

- (iii) LCSD would inspect the entrance of the hiking trail near Lion Rock Park later to see if there were any fallen trees. If the location of the fallen tree was not under LCSD's management, LCSD would refer it to the relevant departments for follow-up;

(Post-meeting note: LCSD had inspected the Lion Rock Park area, especially the spot near the entrance of the hiking trail, on 23 February and no fallen trees were spotted.)

- (iv) LCSD would arrange for contractors to prune trees and grow more plants on Chuk Yuen Road to beautify the community environment; and
- (v) LCSD would examine the usage of recreational and sports facilities in the district from time to time. New recreational and sports facilities would be progressively completed in the district for the locals' use. Among such facilities were two new sports centres under construction, namely a new sports centre in the re-provisioning project of Ma Chai Hang Recreation Ground, which was expected

to be completed by the end of this year, and a new Kai Tak East Sports Centre, which was expected to be completed in Q2 2026.

(Post-meeting note: LCSD would examine the supply of recreational and sports facilities in the district from time to time. Before studying the need of adding new recreational and sports facilities, the department would refer to the “Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines” as well as consider all relevant factors including the existing sports centres in Hong Kong, policy objectives of sports development, utilisation rate of existing facilities, population change, views of District Councils, land availability, technical feasibility etc.)

8. The further views and enquiries of Members are summarised as follows:
- (i) Members enquired about the progress of the reprovisioning works of Ma Chai Hang Recreation Ground and proposed that a jogging trail be added at Tsz Wan Shan Estate Central Playground in the second half of the year;
 - (ii) Members proposed that LCSD should let schools or organisations use the archery ground during non-peak hours in order to boost its utilisation rate;
 - (iii) Members enquired about the general planning of Choi Hung Road;
 - (iv) Members enquired whether LCSD had regularly maintain the turf of its football pitches;
 - (v) Members asked if LCSD would continue using mosquito trapping devices (“MTDs”) or if the department was only using them on a

trial basis;

- (vi) Members suggested artificial turf be paved at the seven-a-side football pitch on Hammer Hill Road;
- (vii) Members suggested adding a jogging trail in Chi Choi sub-district to provide more sports and recreational facilities there;
- (viii) Members suggested improving the online booking system in a way that required users to select both peak hours and non-peak hours when booking sports facilities;
- (ix) Members suggested that LCSD could also provide the utilisation rates when reporting the admission figures of swimming pools at the next meeting;
- (x) Members suggested turning one of the football pitches at Morse Park into a natural grass football pitch in order to reduce the wear and tear on the turf of the football pitch on Hammer Hill Road; and
- (xi) Members suggested that LCSD could build or delineate a jogging trail at Tsz Wan Shan Estate Central Playground without reducing the playground area.

9. An attendee said some schools and sports groups had reflected that they found it difficult to book LCSD's venues. The attendee asked if LCSD could allow schools and local organisations to book available venues as substitutes so as to better utilise the existing sports facilities.

10. The response of LCSD's representative to the opinions above is as follows:

- (i) Due to the physical restrictions of Tsz Wan Shan Estate Central Playground, adding a jogging trail might mean that the playground area had to be reduced. For example, the standard basketball court might have to be replaced by a three-a-side basketball court.

LCSD invited Members to a site visit. LCSD also noted Members' view on building a jogging trail in Chi Choi sub-district;

(Post-meeting note: LCSD conducted a site visit with five Members on 8 March 2024.)

- (ii) LCSD noted Members' views and would explore feasible plans to boost the utilisation rate of sports facilities during non-peak hours;
- (iii) LCSD said that Choi Hung Road Playground involved the redevelopment of a sports centre. The project was led by the Energizing Kowloon East Office ("EKEO"), and LCSD had learned that the existing facilities would be kept. As for the proposed new facilities, LCSD would have to consult the relevant department before making a reply;

(Post-meeting note: EKEO stated that the redevelopment project of Choi Hung Road Playground and Sports Centre (including Choi Hung Road Market) would involve reprovisioning and upgrading the existing facilities (including the multi-purpose arena, badminton courts, multi-purpose activity rooms, children's play room, table tennis rooms, fitness room etc.) so that they would match the standard specifications. A government complex would also be built under the principle of "single site, multiple use" to accommodate new recreational and sports facilities as well as a new five-a-side indoor football pitch cum handball court, social welfare facilities, district health facilities, a public library and a public car park. During the consultation period, EKEO received from the district demands for a public library in the proposed complex.

EKEO subsequently liaised with LCSD and obtained the department's consent to replace San Po Kong Public Library with a new public library so as to optimize the library services and facilities in the district.)

- (iv) LCSD's records showed that the department had tried to introduce Bermuda grass and increase the grass replacement frequency at the seven-a-side football pitch at Hammer Hill Road Sports Ground, but the result was not impressive. Therefore, LCSD was planning to replace the real turf there with artificial turf and would consult DWFC in time;
- (v) LCSD would continue to use MTDs at its venues, and new MTD models and energy-saving MTDs would also be used in due course;
- (vi) LCSD noted Members' views on improving the online booking system and would continue optimizing the system; and
- (vii) LCSD would provide information on the utilisation rate of swimming pools at the next meeting.

(Post-meeting note: After discussing the matter with LCSD, Members agreed that the time swimming pool users spent in the pools might vary, and it would be difficult to accurately record the utilisation rates and analyse the relevant data. Members also agreed that LCSD was to include the maximum capacity of swimming pool facilities in future reports or papers for reference.

11. Members noted the Paper.

III. Gathering Views on Flood Prevention

(WTSDC DFWC Paper No. 3/2024)

12. The Chairman presented the Paper.

13. The discussion and opinions of Members are summarised as follows:

- (i) All WTSDC Members were conducting a survey with 25 Wong Tai Sin Care Teams to collect the public's view on the flooding black spots in the district and the preventive measures;
- (ii) Members were concerned about whether the redevelopment projects of Ngau Chi Wan Village and Chuk Yuen United Village would involve drainage planning;
- (iii) Members enquired whether the hillside of Chui Chuk Street was managed by the Civil Engineering and Development Department ("CEDD"), and suggested that CEDD should adopt preventive measures for intercepting sand and stones before the rainy season;
- (iv) As most areas in Wong Tai Sin District were built on hillsides, low-lying areas were susceptible to flooding. Therefore, the relevant departments should focus on increasing the capacity of the existing drainage and water retention facilities and remove silt more frequently to enhance the flood discharge capacity of the district; and
- (v) DFWC was communicating with professionals (including civil engineers and surveyors) for arranging site visits to help tackle flooding.

14. The representative of CEDD answered that CEDD would have to confirm whether the slope at Chui Chuk Street was under its management before replying to Members.

(Post-meeting note: The Highways Department ("HyD") replied that the department

was currently responsible for repairing and maintaining the slope at Chui Chuk Street (Slope No.: 11NE-A/C317), and the main cause of flooding was that the debris from the natural slopes higher up were washed down by heavy rain towards the catch pits on downstream man-made slopes, causing blockage in the drains and compromising their drainage capacity. Therefore, HyD would work harder to clear the debris deposited inside the catch pits concerned before and during the rainy season to avoid flooding caused by blockage of catch pits and downstream drainage pipes.)

15. An attendee supplemented that it would take time for DFWC to consolidate the results of the survey and the views of the experts. The relevant departments would be invited to discuss the specific measures or proposed flooding black spots in the future.

(Post-meeting note: WTSDC had a meeting with the relevant government departments on 9 February 2024 and exchanged views on the short, medium and long term measures to prevent flooding in the district.)

16. The Chairman supplemented that after completing the questionnaire survey and consulting experts, DFWC would prepare an investigation report on the flooding black spots as well as the proposed long and short term improvement measures. He believed that the relevant departments could complete the preparatory work before the rainy season.

17. Members' further comments are summarised as follows:

- (i) Members suggested inviting representatives from the Housing Department and the Drainage Services Department ("DSD") to attend the next meeting;
- (ii) Members expected that DSD could improve the drainage design of Choi Hung Estate and the nearby Wing Ting Road and Prince Edward Road East when planning for the redevelopment project; and

- (iii) Members were concerned over the collaboration arrangements between the MTR Corporation and government departments on flooding prevention, and suggested that relevant parties should prepare splash plates and sandbags beforehand.

18. The Chairman noted Members' views and thanked them for their contributions. DWFC was gathering views from the public and advice from professionals. The Secretary would soon compile a summary of such views and submit an information paper at the 2nd WTSDC meeting for discussion.

(Post meeting note: The survey report about flood prevention in Wong Tai Sin District was discussed at the 2nd WTSDC meeting on 8 March 2024.)

19. Members enquired whether the government department concerned could provide data on the functioning of drains for reference.

20. An attendee added that the Wong Tai Sin District Office ("WTSDO") would meet with the relevant departments and discuss the matter. Since the data provided by works departments were mostly technical information, it might be difficult to assess the effectiveness of the proposed measures based on such data alone. WTSDO would keep communicating with the relevant departments about Members' opinions.

V. Any Other Business

21. Members enquired about the progress of the lift retrofitting works on Hammer Hill Road (KF77) and whether the works would affect Hammer Hill Road Swimming Pool.

22. LCSD's representative answered that the department would communicate with HyD and obtain the details of the relevant works before giving a reply.

(Post meeting note: LCSD replied that the works would only affect a small part of the slope at Hammer Hill Road Swimming Pool and would not affect the operation of the swimming pool. HyD replied that the lift

retrofitting works at the footbridge across Lung Cheung Road near Hammer Hill Road (structure no.: KF77) had been included in the works contract. The said works contract had already commenced in July 2023, and the works were expected to be completed in Q4 2026.)

23. Members raised no other issues.

V. Date of Next Meeting

24. The 2nd Meeting of DWFC would be held at 2:30 p.m. on 19 March 2024 (Tuesday) in the Conference Room of WTSDC.

25. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Wong Tai Sin District Council Secretariat
March 2024