

Absent with Apologies:

Ms. YEW Yat-wa, Deannie 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. CHAN Wai-chi, Ida	Senior Executive Officer (District Council)	WTSDO
Ms. CHENG Sze-long, Alice	Senior Executive Officer (District Management)	WTSDO
Miss NG Cheuk-yiu, Hya	Executive Officer (District Management)1	WTSDO
Ms. CHEUNG Yee-mei, May	Chief Leisure Manager (Kowloon)	LCSD
Mr. SHUM Kwok-wai	Deputy District Leisure Manager (Wong Tai Sin)2	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

In attendance for Agenda Item (III):

Ms. CHEUNG Nga Wun, Mimi	Architect (Works)9	HAD
Mr. TSUI Cheuk-man	Inspector of Works (Kowloon)1	LCSD

Secretary:

Miss WONG Mei-po, Mabel	Executive Officer (District Council) 2	WTSDO
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The Chairman welcomed all Members and representatives of government departments to the 6th meeting of the District Facilities and Works Committee (“DFWC”) under the 7th term of Wong Tai Sin District Council (“WTSDC”).

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. A Member was unable to attend the meeting as she was away from Hong Kong to participate in an activity of an organisation. As the above reason for application for absence from meeting did not comply with Order 64 of the District Council Standing Orders, the Chairman suggested that the Committee should withhold consent to the relevant application for absence.

3. The Committee declined to give consent to the above application for absence.

I. Confirmation of Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the District Facilities and Works Committee under Wong Tai Sin District Council held on 24 September 2024

4. The minutes of the 5th meeting of DFWC held on 24 September 2024 were confirmed without any amendment.

II. Progress Report of the 5th Meeting of the District Facilities and Works Committee under Wong Tai Sin District Council held on 24 September 2024 (WTSDC DFWC Paper No. 24/2024)

5. Members understood that the indoor swimming pool at Hammer Hill Road Swimming Pool had to be temporarily closed for emergency repairs due to concrete spalling on the wall. However, Members were concerned that the swimming pools in the district had been temporarily closed for emergency repairs from time to time in recent months, and they suggested that the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (“LCSD”) should take the initiative to conduct comprehensive inspections to prevent temporary closure of swimming pools caused by damaged facilities, in order to avoid causing inconvenience to the public.

6. The representative of LCSD replied that the department would conduct

comprehensive inspections in conjunction with the works departments during the annual maintenance of swimming pools, during which the ceilings and walls would be inspected by tapping on the tiles. If problems with the facilities were identified, the works departments would assist LCSD in carrying out emergency repairs. LCSD added after the meeting that Hammer Hill Road Swimming Pool was temporarily closed from 18 to 22 November 2024 for emergency repairs and re-opened on 23 November 2024 for public use.

7. Members noted the Paper.

III. Overview of projects under the District Minor Works Programme of the Wong Tai Sin District Office
(WTSDC DFWC Paper No. 25/2024)

8. The Chairman welcomed the representatives of the Home Affairs Department (“HAD”) who had attended the meeting for this agenda item.

9. The representative of Wong Tai Sin District Office (“WTSDO”) presented the Paper.

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

- (i) Members suggested that additional LED display panels should be installed for community halls, and that the measure should be first implemented in Wong Tai Sin Community Centre on a trial basis;
- (ii) Members hoped that WTSDO would arrange a site visit in a timely manner after the design of the walkway cover construction works at Ching Tak Street had been finalised, so that Members could understand the details of the works. In addition, Members suggested that additional signs should be installed at locations frequented by tourists, such as Wong Tai Sin MTR Station and Fei Ngo Shan Road, to provide tourists with clear instructions on their travelling routes;

- (iii) Members enquired whether the consultant responsible for the walkway cover works would give an account of the latest design, and whether WTSDO would provide a timetable for the walkway cover works to help Members understand the progress of the works and disseminate information on the works to residents;
- (iv) Members considered that tourists visiting Wong Tai Sin District would also drop by the public housing estates in the district, hence they suggested that resources should be deployed to beautify the facilities in the housing estates; and
- (v) Noting that two key minor works projects were expected to commence in the second quarter of 2025, Members suggested that the relevant departments should be invited to report on the final design and works arrangements at the next meeting. Furthermore, Members recognised the need to improve the ancillary facilities in the community to align with the policy objective of “tourism is everywhere”.

11. The representative of WTSDO gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (i) WTSDO noted the views on providing additional LED display panels for community halls;
- (ii) WTSDO would arrange a site visit for Members in a timely manner after the commencement of the walkway cover works and submit the proposed design for Members’ reference;
- (iii) WTSDO would consider installing directional signs at locations frequented by tourists such as Wong Tai Sin MTR Station and Fei Ngo Shan Road; and
- (iv) The consultant was communicating with various stakeholders and working out the details of the walkway cover works, which were expected to commence in 2025 as scheduled.

12. The Chairman hoped that WTSDO would report to Members on the progress of the works and provide the proposed design with details in a timely manner. He also requested the Secretariat to liaise with the relevant departments to arrange for a site visit after the commencement of the works.

13. Members noted the Paper.

IV. Trial Scheme for the Use of Cheering Materials during Hong Kong Premier League Matches at Hammer Hill Road Sports Ground
(WTSDC DFWC Paper No. 26/2024)

14. The representative of LCSD presented the Paper.

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

- (i) Members were of the view that as Hammer Hill Road Sports Ground was located in a quiet area near residential areas and Nan Lian Garden, consideration should be given to the possible impact on the residents and Nan Lian Garden. Members also enquired about the number of matches involved in the scheme;
- (ii) Members said that it was not always necessary for fans to express their support through loud noises. In particular, as matches of Hong Kong Premier League (“HKPL”) were held on school days, LCSD should take into account the schools nearby and consider replacing drumming with other means of cheering, such as whistles, inflatable cheer sticks and cheerleading teams, so that spectators could cheer for the teams without causing excessive noise nuisance to the neighbouring residents;
- (iii) Members believed that it would not be easy to balance the needs of both sides, and it was necessary to consider the timing of the matches in a holistic manner. Furthermore, Members suggested that views should be collected mid-season or on a bi-monthly basis. The department should also maintain communication with the

stakeholders in the neighbourhood and conduct in-person interviews to assess the effectiveness and impact of the aforesaid trial scheme;

- (iv) In view of the varying volume among different types of drums, Members enquired whether LCSD had stipulated the types of drums that could be brought into the venue. Members also pointed out that the sound of whistles might disrupt football matches;
- (v) Members pointed out that the match on 8 December was not a HKPL match, and considered that the cheering of fans might be even louder than the sound of drums. As such, setting a standard specifically for the volume of drums might not be very effective. Instead, more flexible measures should be adopted to avoid noise nuisance;
- (vi) Members reminded LCSD that the nearby Buddhist Hung Sean Chau Memorial College, East Kowloon General Out-patient Clinic and the residents living in Bay View Garden and Fortune Garden should be notified of the date and time of the match in advance;
- (vii) Members considered that the trial scheme reflected that LCSD had been attentive to the views and needs of the public. While recognising that drumming during matches might cause noise problems, Members believed that the measure was important to the promotion of sports development. Members pointed out that sports grounds had not imposed any restrictions on the use of cheer equipment for HKPL matches in the past, but the such arrangement had been subsequently revised in the light of public views. Members supported the trial scheme and considered that a limit should be set for the number of drums to be used by each team to minimise the impact on the residents, and that a post-match review on the relevant arrangements should be done in order to prepare for future matches; and
- (viii) Members considered that atmosphere was an integral part of sports activities, hence it would not be appropriate to impose excessive restrictions on the volume, which might discourage sports

organisations from holding sports events. LCSD might formulate guidelines to clearly define the acceptable use of cheer equipment so as to strike a proper balance between minimising the impact on nearby residents and promoting sports activities.

16. The representative of WTSDO summarised Members' discussion by pointing out that Members had emphasised the need to strike a balance between the atmosphere of the events and the impact on the neighbourhood. The representative of WTSDO agreed with Members' suggestion of measuring the decibel level. LCSD could collect volume data on match day and assess the noise level using an objective decibel measurement indicator, which, together with the views of the stakeholders involved, would be conducive to the formulation of appropriate noise guidelines in the future. As the match would be held at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, it was expected that the impact on the nearby residents would be relatively small. The representative of WTSDO also hoped that Members would support the event and suggested that LCSD could make use of an objective indicator to assess the effectiveness of the trial.

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

- (i) LCSD said that only one match (a Jockey Club Sapling Cup match) would be held at Hammer Hill Road Sports Ground before the end of this season. During the match, the home team and the away team would each be allowed to use one drum for cheering. At present, LCSD allowed football fans to use inflatable cheer sticks, but louder cheer items such as rattles and whistles were not allowed;
- (ii) LCSD said that it would collect the views of nearby residents on the match day and review the effectiveness of the trial scheme after the end of the current season;
- (iii) LCSD added that a total of 14 complaints about noise nuisance had been received in the past two years; and
- (iv) The trial scheme would also be implemented at Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground, North District Sports Ground, Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground and Tsing Yi Sports Ground, and LCSD would review the

effectiveness of the scheme at these venues altogether.

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

- (i) Members said that restricting the volume might affect the atmosphere of the events, which would in turn discourage spectators from attending the events and waste venue resources. Members were of the view that the choices of cheer equipment were becoming limited nowadays. For example, production of inflatable cheer sticks might be discontinued due to environmental legislation. As a result, the atmosphere of sports events had faded. Members therefore supported LCSD's proposal to allow spectators to use drums as a kind of approved cheer equipment, and considered that the department could review the effectiveness of the scheme and make timely adjustments taking into account the public's response;
- (ii) Members suggested that LCSD should consider relaxing the restrictions upon completion of this trial so as to encourage the district to align with the Government's efforts in promoting the idea of "vibrant city" by supporting major competitions and fostering a favourable sports atmosphere;
- (iii) Members pointed out that in recent years, Hong Kong athletes had performed well in international competitions, which had helped promote sports development in Hong Kong. Regarding the aforesaid trial scheme, Members believed that since LCSD had decided to conduct the trial scheme out of concerns about potential problems, the department should critically assess the effectiveness of the scheme after the match. Secondly, Members recognised the need to enhance the atmosphere to boost audience participation in all competitions. In the long run, the focus of sports development in Hong Kong should be on creating an atmosphere. Members suggested that LCSD should consider organising competitions in indoor venues or at locations far away from residential areas, or adopting sound-proofing measures to minimise the impact on residents, so as to promote sports development in Hong Kong; and

- (iv) Members pointed out that while the trial would only measure the peak noise level of a single event, LCSD should also consider the frequency of noise occurrence, i.e. the number of matches per year for which the use of cheer equipment would be allowed. In this connection, Members suggested that LCSD should study the views of the stakeholders in the vicinity of sports grounds on the noise of the events, and establish an advance communication mechanism for major events to minimise the impact on nearby residents.

19. The representative of LCSD replied that the department would notify owners' corporations of residential buildings, schools and clinics near Hammer Hill Road Sports Ground before the trial. On the day of the trial, LCSD would use instruments to measure the noise to assess its impact. LCSD understood Members' concern about noise nuisance and would reconfirm the types of drums to be used in due course. Lastly, the department said that it hoped to collect public views through the trial and then conducting a review.

(Post-meeting note: On 2 December 2024, LCSD sent photos of the types of drums to be used during HKPL matches at Hammer Hill Road Sports Ground through the Secretariat to Members for reference. The department also issued a notice to the stakeholders in the vicinity on the matter. The Sapling Cup match was successfully completed on 8 December at Hammer Hill Road Sports Ground and LCSD had not received any adverse comments on the noise of the match.)

20. The Chairman said in summary that DFWC was in favour of the trial scheme as a whole and was fully supportive of sports development in Hong Kong. He hoped that LCSD would further refine the scheme after taking into account the views of all parties concerned, with a view to achieving a balance between calm and dynamic atmosphere and enhancing the quality of matches. The Chairman also suggested that consideration could be given to enhancing the atmosphere through other means of cheering such as cheerleading performances. He hoped that Hammer Hill Road Sports Ground could be developed into a regular or designated venue for HKPL matches in the future.

21. Members noted the Paper.

V. Report on the Management of Facilities in Wong Tai Sin by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department
(WTSDC DFWC Paper No. 27/2024)

22. The representative of LCSD presented the Paper.

23. The representative of LCSD added that the indoor swimming pool at Hammer Hill Road Swimming Pool was temporarily closed from 18 to 22 November for emergency repairs due to spalling of concrete from a wall. During the closure period, swimmers could use the nearby Morse Park Swimming Pool.

(Post-meeting note: The indoor swimming pool at Hammer Hill Road Swimming Pool was re-opened on 23 November.)

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

- (i) Noting that quite a number of trees had been removed from Muk Lun Street Playground and Po Kong Village Road Sports Centre, Members enquired whether LCSD had any plan to replant trees at the two locations; and
- (ii) Members said that some members of the public had reflected that they were not accustomed to LCSD's new arrangement of postponing the opening of heated pools to 16 November, and considered that this measure would discourage swimmers from using the pools. It was hoped that LCSD would consider reverting to the original arrangement of opening the heated pools on 1 November.

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

- (i) LCSD said that considering the limited size of the original flower

beds in Muk Lun Street Playground and Po Kong Village Road Sports Centre, the department had no plan to replant trees for the time being; and

- (ii) LCSD said that in view of the warming weather, it had decided to defer the opening date of heated pools of all swimming pools in Hong Kong to 16 November from 2024 onwards in order to save energy. The representative of LCSD noted Members' views and would reflect them to the relevant section.

26. The Chairman expressed concern about greening and hoped that LCSD would consider planting vegetation at Muk Lun Street Playground and Po Kong Village Road Sports Centre.

(Post-meeting note: LCSD had identified alternative locations for replanting trees at Muk Lun Street Playground and was following up on the replanting arrangements, while arrangements would be made for planting of vegetation at Po Kong Village Road Sports Centre.)

27. Members noted the Paper.

VI. Trial Scheme on Opening up the Arena of Chuk Yuen Sports Centre for Booking by Individuals for New Sports Activities
(WTSDC DFWC Paper No. 28/2024)

28. The representative of LCSD presented the Paper.

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

- (i) Members supported the trial scheme and said that pickleball was mainly played underhand (below the waist), with relatively few running and jumping movements. It was suggested that LCSD should make additional efforts to promote pickleball to the elderly;

- (ii) Noting that most new sports did not require a lot of space, Members suggested that LCSD should consider opening up underutilised outdoor venues such as tennis courts for new sports activities, so as to make the best use of the recreational facilities in the district;
- (iii) Noting that mini-golf competitions were held in some shopping malls, Members asked whether LCSD had any plan to promote this sport;
- (iv) Members enquired whether the trial scheme would give users who played new sports priority in booking venues, thus making it difficult for other users to book the arena online for playing basketball and badminton; and
- (v) Members said that the Wong Tai Sin District Recreation and Sports Council had all along been supporting and promoting new sports, and enquired whether LCSD had provided the necessary equipment for the six new sports.

30. Pointing out that news sports were not confined to the six sports covered in the Paper, the Chairman enquired whether LCSD would allow individual bookings for other new sports after the conclusion of the trial scheme.

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

- (i) LCSD noted the suggestion of promoting pickleball;
- (ii) LCSD said that the department was only making arrangements for the trial scheme at Chuk Yuen Sports Centre for the time being. The department also noted the suggestion of opening up underutilised outdoor venues for implementation of the scheme;
- (iii) LCSD said that no promotional activities for the National Games had been arranged in Wong Tai Sin District so far;
- (iv) LCSD said that the users were required to choose the use of the arena

when making online bookings, and users who booked the venue for playing new sports did not have priority in booking; and

- (v) LCSD noted Members' views on providing new sports equipment and would study the arrangement with the relevant section.

(Post-meeting note: To facilitate the public's participation in new sports, LCSD had planned to procure for Chuk Yuen Sports Centre new sports equipment that was larger in size and difficult to carry around, such as frames for tchoukball and korfbal baskets. The venue staff would review the new sports-related usage of the venue during the trial scheme and consider acquiring other new sports equipment when necessary.)

32. The Chairman believed that the venue was already under heavy demand during peak hours. Therefore, he hoped that LCSD would review the feasibility of implementing the scheme on a long-term basis after the completion of the trial scheme, and consider opening up underutilised outdoor venues for new sports, so as to make the best use of recreational facilities. LCSD could also consider how to promote other new sports.

33. Members noted the Paper.

VII. Latest Progress of the Redevelopment of Choi Hung Road Playground
(WTSDC DFWC Paper No. 29/2024)

34. Members presented the Paper.

35. As the Energizing Kowloon East Office ("EKEO") did not send any representatives to the meeting, the Chairman asked Members to refer to the written reply submitted by EKEO (Annex I).

36. The views of Members are summarised as follows:

- (i) Members said that the facilities at Choi Hung Road Playground had deteriorated over the years and the redevelopment of the playground and the associated facilities would have a positive impact on the community. Members also shared the view as set out in the Paper that the design should make full use of the land and cater for future development needs, instead of merely restoring the number of existing facilities. Members called on EKEO to take into account the historical elements and the development needs of the community in the design, so that the redeveloped Choi Hung Road Playground could realise the people-oriented concept by highlighting the character of the community and fulfilling its practical functions at the same time;
- (ii) Members were pleased to note that the existing San Po Kong Public Library would be relocated to the proposed government complex as the location of Choi Hung Road Playground was very convenient for residents. Members also hoped that the relevant departments would submit regular reports on the project to DFWC so that Members could keep in view and follow up on its progress;
- (iii) Members found it difficult to gain a detailed understanding of the redevelopment based on the Paper alone, hence they suggested that representatives of EKEO should be invited to present the project in detail at the next meeting. Since Choi Hung Road Playground would become a large leisure facility for local residents, Members would like to obtain more information and facilitate exchanges among different parties on the project; and
- (iv) Members were concerned about the design of the redevelopment of Choi Hung Road Playground. However, Members could only find the drawings of the winning designs of the design competition from EKEO's website and had no way of finding out whether the facilities concerned had been finalised or whether the preliminary design had been completed. As Members had limited information about the project, they hoped that EKEO could send representatives to attend the meeting so that Members could gain a more comprehensive

understanding of the whole project. As Choi Hung Road Playground was the last open space available for development in Wong Tai Sin District, Members were very concerned about this project.

37. Referring to Members' concern about the detailed design of the redevelopment of Choi Hung Road Playground and the proposed timetable of the project, the Chairman requested the Secretariat to take note of Members' views and invite EKEO to update DFWC on the progress of the redevelopment of Choi Hung Road Playground in a timely manner.

(Post-meeting note: EKEO had a meeting with Members on 10 December 2024.)

38. Members noted the Paper.

VIII. Any Other Business

39. Members requested LCSD to provide an updated timetable for the works at Ma Chai Hang Recreation Ground. Members would also like to know the progress of the adjustment of the seats in Ma Chai Hang Recreation Ground.

40. The representative of LCSD replied that the acceptance process of Ma Chai Hang Recreation Ground was expected to commence in the first quarter of 2025, and that LCSD had inspected the seats in conjunction with the Highways Department and the MTR Corporation Limited at the end of October. The height adjustment for the seats in Ma Chai Hang Recreation Ground was expected to be completed by the end of 2024.

IX. Date of Next Meeting

41. The next meeting of DFWC would be held at 2:30 p.m. on 14 January 2025 (Tuesday) in the Conference Room of WTSDC.

42. The meeting was adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

Wong Tai Sin District Council Secretariat
December 2024

Chinese Version Only

(Please refer to:

https://www.districtcouncils.gov.hk/wts/doc/2024_2027/tc/committee_meetings_minutes/DFWC/DFWC_M6_M.pdf)