

**Minutes of the 4th Meeting of
Yuen Long District Council in 2014**

Date: 2 September 2014 (Tuesday)

Time: 9:30 am-4:30 pm

Venue: Conference Room, 13/F, Yuen Long Government Offices, 2 Kiu Lok Square, Yuen Long

<u>Present</u>	<u>Time of joining the meeting</u>	<u>Time of leaving the meeting</u>
Chairman: Mr LEUNG Che-cheung BBS, MH, JP	(At the start of the meeting)	(4:10 pm)
Vice-chairman: Mr WONG Wai-shun	(At the start of the meeting)	(At the end of the meeting)
Members: Mr CHAM Ka-hung, Daniel, BBS, MH, JP	(At the start of the meeting)	(At the end of the meeting)
Ms CHAN Mei-lin	(At the start of the meeting)	(At the end of the meeting)
Mr CHAN Sze-ching	(9:40 am)	(At the end of the meeting)
Mr CHEUNG Muk-lam	(At the start of the meeting)	(2:00 pm)
Mr CHING Chan-ming	(At the start of the meeting)	(At the end of the meeting)
Ms CHIU Sau-han	(At the start of the meeting)	(At the end of the meeting)
Mr CHONG Kin-shing	(At the start of the meeting)	(At the end of the meeting)
Mr CHOW Wing-kan	(At the start of the meeting)	(2:00 pm)
Mr CHUI Kwan-siu	(At the start of the meeting)	(At the end of the meeting)
Mr KWOK Hing-ping	(At the start of the meeting)	(3:10 pm)
Mr KWOK Keung, MH	(At the start of the meeting)	(4:00 pm)
Mr KWONG Chun-yu	(At the start of the meeting)	(At the end of the meeting)
Mr LAI Wai-hung	(At the start of the meeting)	(3:30 pm)
Ms LAU Kwai-yung	(At the start of the meeting)	(At the end of the meeting)
Mr LEE Yuet-man, MH	(At the start of the meeting)	(At the end of the meeting)
Mr LEUNG Fuk-yuen	(9:45 am)	(12:40 pm)
Mr LUI Kin	(12:10 pm)	(2:35 pm)
Mr LUK Chung-hung	(At the start of the meeting)	(2:20 pm)
Mr MAK Ip-sing	(9:45 am)	(At the end of the meeting)
Mr MAN Chi-sheung	(At the start of the meeting)	(11:45 am)
Mr MAN Kwong-ming	(At the start of the meeting)	(At the end of the meeting)
Mr SHUM Ho-kit	(At the start of the meeting)	(At the end of the meeting)
Mr SIU Long-ming	(10:15 am)	(At the end of the meeting)
Mr TAI Yiu-wah, Robert, MH, JP	(At the start of the meeting)	(At the end of the meeting)
Mr TANG Cheuk-him	(9:45 am)	(At the end of the meeting)
Mr TANG Cheuk-yin	(At the start of the meeting)	(2:00 pm)
Mr TANG Hing-ip	(At the start of the meeting)	(At the end of the meeting)
Mr TANG Ho-nin	(At the start of the meeting)	(11:50 am)
Mr TANG Ka-leung	(At the start of the meeting)	(At the end of the meeting)
Mr TANG Kwai-yau	(At the start of the meeting)	(At the end of the meeting)
Mr TANG Kwong-shing, MH	(At the start of the meeting)	(At the end of the meeting)
Mr TANG Lai-tung	(At the start of the meeting)	(11:45 am)
Mr TSANG Hin-keung, MH	(At the start of the meeting)	(3:30 pm)
Mr TSANG Shu-wo	(At the start of the meeting)	(At the end of the meeting)
Mr WONG Cheuk-kin	(At the start of the meeting)	(At the end of the meeting)

Ms WONG Wai-ling	(9:45 am)	(At the end of the meeting)
Mr WONG Wai-yin, Zachary	(9:45 am)	(At the end of the meeting)
Ms YAU Tai-tai, BBS, MH	(At the start of the meeting)	(At the end of the meeting)
Mr YIU Kwok-wai	(At the start of the meeting)	(At the end of the meeting)
Ms YUEN Man-yee	(At the start of the meeting)	(At the end of the meeting)

Secretary:	Mr KONG Kwok-piu, Bill	Senior Executive Officer (District Council) Yuen Long District Office
Assistant Secretary:	Miss LAM Ka-hing, Alexis	Executive Officer I (District Council) Yuen Long District Office

In attendance

Mr MAK Chun-yu, Edward, JP	District Officer (Yuen Long)
Mr CHOI Chung-lam, Timothy	Assistant District Officer (Yuen Long) 1(Atg)/ Assistant District Officer (Yuen Long) 2
Miss CHENG Siu-mui, Cyndia	Senior Liaison Officer (Town), Yuen Long District Office
Ms SIU Mo-fei, Bridget	Senior Liaison Officer (Rural), Yuen Long District Office
Mr LAU Wing-kam	Chief Engineer/NTW 1(NTW) Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr CHAN Fu-man	Chief School Development Officer (Yuen Long), Education Bureau
Mr CHEUNG Pui-chung	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent(Yuen Long) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Ms SHIU Wan-yee	Yuen Long District Police Community Relations Officer, Hong Kong Police Force
Mr LEE Yeung-to	Chief Manager/Management (Tuen Mun & Yuen Long), Housing Department
Ms CHIU Lee-lee, Lily	District Lands Officer (District Lands Office, Yuen Long), Lands Department
Ms MOK Vivianne	Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Yuen Long), Lands Department
Miss CHEUNG Wai-ying, Olivia	District Leisure Manager (Yuen Long), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms CHIN Man-yi, Maggie	District Planning Officer/Fanling, Sheung Shui & Yuen Long East, Planning Department
Ms LAM Wai-yip, Michelle	District Social Welfare Officer (Yuen Long), Social Welfare Department
Mr LAI Sing-chuen, Gary	Senior Transport Officer (Yuen Long), Transport Department

Item 2

Ms LI Mei-sheung, Michelle, JP	Director of Leisure & Cultural Services
Mr MOK Man-kit, Keith	Senior Staff Officer (HQ) Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms OR Wai-yee, Wendy	Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories North) Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Miss HO Kwei-chu, Amanda	Chief Executive Officer (Planning)2(Atg) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Ms WONG Yee-sang, Dora	Chief Librarian (Operations and District Council Mgt) Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr CHAN Shing-wai	Head of Conservation Office Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr MA Kam-wing, Anthony	Senior Manager (NTW)Promotion Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Item 3(i)

Miss FU Ha-man, Dora, JP	Assistant Director (3) Home Affairs Department
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Item 3 (ii)-(iv)

Mr MA Siu-man, Herbert	Chief Engineer /Mainland North Division Drainage Services Department
譚傑帆先生	Senior Engineer /Drainage Maintenance Drainage Services Department

Item 4

Mr CHENG Yan-chee	Chief Corporate Affairs Officer and Executive Director Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority
傅鐵豪先生	經理(聯繫) Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority

Item 5

Mr CHUNG Kam-chung, Ken	Liaison Officer (Town 2)1, Yuen Long District Office
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Item 10

馬玉霞女士	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service Member, Age-Friendly Hong Kong Steering Committee 香港長者友善社區督導委員會委員
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Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives from government departments to the 4th meeting of the Yuen Long District Council (“YLDC”) in 2014. He also welcomed Mr KONG Kwok-piu, Bill, Senior Executive Officer who was the new Secretary of YLDC Secretariat, Mr LAU Wing-kam, Chief Engineer/NTW 1(NTW), the permanent representative of Civil Engineering and Development Department, Ms CHIN Man-yi, Maggie, District Planning Officer/Fanling, Sheung Shui & Yuen Long East, Planning Department in place of Mr LAU Wing-seung, District Planning Officer/Tuen Mun & Yuen Long East who was absent owing to office commitments and Mr LAI Sing-chuen, Gary, Senior Transport Officer (Yuen Long), Transport Department in place of Miss LEUNG Pui-yin, Chief Transport Officer/NT North West who was absent owing to office commitments.

2. The Chairman said that since the motion “This Council strongly requests the Government to implement the construction of the Northern Link immediately” moved by Mr Zachary WONG and seconded by Mr KWONG Chun-yu pertained to traffic and transport matters, it would be referred to the Traffic and Transport Committee (“T&TC”) for follow-up. Besides, since the item about “political participation of police officers” proposed by Mr Zachary WONG and Mr KWONG Chun-yu pertained to community and security matters, it would be referred to the Culture, Recreation, Community Service and Housing Committee (“CRCS&HC”) for handling. Members did not object to the arrangement.

3. The Chairman proposed to include a briefing on the designation system for the healthy cities (“HC”s), safe communities (“SC”s) as well as age-friendly cities and communities (“AFCC”s) under Agenda Item X “Any other business”. As the Chairman of Working Group on Building a Safe Community in Yuen Long (“WGBSC”), Mr LUK Chung-hung, had to leave the meeting ahead of time, the Chairman proposed Mr LUK to give an introduction of SCs first after lunch break. Members did not object to the agenda.

Item 1: Confirmation of the minutes of the 3rd meeting of Yuen Long District Council in 2014

4. The minutes of the 3rd meeting of the YLDC in 2014 were confirmed.

Item 2: Meeting with the Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

5. In addition to Miss Olivia CHEUNG, the regular representative of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (“LCSD”), the Chairman welcomed the following representatives to the meeting:

Director of Leisure & Cultural Services	Ms LI Mei-sheung, Michelle, JP
Senior Staff Officer (HQ)	Mr MOK Man-kit, Keith
Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories North)	Ms OR Wai-yee, Wendy
Chief Executive Officer (Planning)2(Atg)	Miss HO Kwei-chu, Amanda
Chief Librarian (Operations and District Council Mgt)	Ms WONG Yee-sang, Dora
Head of Conservation Office	Mr CHAN Shing-wai
Senior Manager (NTW)Promotion	Mr MA Kam-wing, Anthony

6. Ms Michelle LI, JP briefed Members on LCSD’s work in Yuen Long district, including major projects, recreation and sports facilities, public library service, arts venues and activities as well as conservation of monuments and cultural heritage. She hoped Members would put forward their views on the enhancement of local leisure and cultural services.

7. The Vice-chairman expressed recognition and appreciation towards the performance of Miss Olivia CHEUNG and Deputy District Leisure Manager (Yuen Long), Mr CHENG Kwok-kuen. He considered the pitch maintenance at Yuen Long Stadium was good and hoped that LCSD would keep up the efforts to properly manage the facilities, including the grass football pitch of Tin Shui Wai Sports Ground and other artificial turf soccer pitch which would open for public use shortly. He was concerned about the progress

of redevelopment of Yuen Long Stadium and said that a working group on the redevelopment works had been set up by the last-term YLDC to discuss the initial proposals of the project. He hoped that Yuen Long Stadium would become a landmark building in the district after redevelopment and he urged LCSD to implement the project soonest possible as well as to liaise closely with YLDC and local residents with regard to the project. Besides, he was concerned about the low utilization rate of the squash courts in the district. He pointed out that as various major residential developments in Yuen Long Town East had been completed in recent years, more facilities such as libraries, sitting-out areas and pet gardens should be provided. He also opined that priority should be given to the sports centre and local open space projects at Area 12, Yuen Long. He hoped that the Government would also consider providing more recreational facilities when planning for housing land development in Yuen Long district with a view to coping with population growth.

8. Mr Daniel CHAM, BBS, MH, JP reflected that swimming pools in Tin Shui Wai was inadequate to meet the needs of residents. Moreover, the swimming pool in the district open space at Area 107, Tin Shui Wai (remaining portion) (Tin Shui Wai Area 107 Swimming Pool) had been discussed for many years but not yet confirmed so far. He was disappointed at the Home Affairs Bureau's proposal to reduce the scope of the said swimming pool owing to financial constraints and its plan to enlarge the space of the proposed swimming complex. He strongly objected to the deletion of outdoor teaching pool and outdoor diving pool in the original plan, and urged LCSD to complete the project definition statement and implement the works schedule as soon as possible. He also proposed to convert the hard-surface soccer pitch in the district into an artificial turf soccer pitch. He hoped LCSD would implement the redevelopment of the Yuen Long Stadium, which had been opened for more than 40 years, for the purpose of attaining the standard of holding international tournaments. Regarding the issue of legionella being found in the cooling tower of Tin Fai Road Sports Centre earlier, he proposed LCSD to step up regular inspections and cleaning work. Besides, he reflected that recently some writers and publishers had expressed concerns about the free lending service of public libraries might involve lending right issue. He hoped LCSD would ensure the use of public resources by members of the public would not be affected.

9. Mr CHOW Wing-kan considered Yuen Long Theatre was provided with comprehensive facilities and its utilization rate was high. However, its practice room was always fully booked. He hoped that LCSD would provide more practice rooms/areas when constructing performance venues in future. He proposed to construct theatres in Tin Shui Wai and Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area ("HSKNDA") with a view to providing adequate cultural and recreational facilities for residents. Besides, he proposed to implement "Community Garden Programme" at idle government sites with the aim of enhancing the promotion of greening activities in the community.

10. Mr KWOK Keung, MH reflected that the water depth of Tin Shui Wai Swimming Pool and Ping Shan Tin Shui Wai Swimming Pool was relatively shallow. He urged LCSD to confirm the construction schedule of Tin Shui Wai Area 107 Swimming Pool with a view to providing standard swimming pool facilities for residents. Also, he expressed appreciation towards Miss Olivia CHEUNG's efforts in enhancing the greening and plant maintenance work around Tin Shui Wai Nullah (near Tin Shing Court and Tin Wah Estate), as well as the proper pitch maintenance at Yuen Long Stadium.

11. Mr KWOK Hing-ping urged LCSD to implement the construction of Tin Shui Wai Area 107 Swimming Pool as soon as possible, and the facilities should be provided to meet the requirements of a standard swimming pool for the purpose of holding major contests.

12. Mr KWONG Chun-yu thanked LCSD for providing fitness facilities at Yeung Uk San Tsuen Sitting-out Area. He reflected that a lot of housing development projects were being carried out in the vicinity of Long Ping Estate, including Wang Chau Public Housing Development. However, public cultural and recreational facilities thereat were not adequate to meet the needs of the newly increased population. He proposed LCSD to consider constructing recreational facilities such as parks at the formed “green belt” land adjacent to Long Ping Estate.

13. Mr LAI Wai-hung praised Miss Olivia CHEUNG for following up and handling matters in rural areas proactively and properly, including providing inputs in respect of works and stepping up inspections to address the issue of dog excreta at parks in rural areas effectively.

14. Ms LAU Kwai-yung expressed recognition and appreciation towards the performance of Miss Olivia CHEUNG and other staff of the LCSD. She was pleased to note that many leisure facilities had been completed by LCSD in Tin Shui Wai in recent years, including rugby pitch, soccer pitch and indoor sports centre in Tin Shui Wai North, with a view to enhancing the quality of life of residents. However, she was concerned about the Government’s proposal to reduce the scope of Tin Shui Wai Area 107 Swimming Pool. She urged LCSD to commence the construction of the facility as soon as possible.

15. Mr LEE Yuet-man, MH said as the Chairman of the District Facilities Management Committee (“DFMC”), he thanked and appreciated LCSD’s positive attitude in cooperating with the Committee which had facilitated the smooth progress of various projects. He was particularly impressed with the performance of Miss Olivia CHEUNG and Mr CHAN Shing-wai. He supported the proposed Conservation Institution in Tin Shui Wai Area 109 and urged LCSD to promptly implement the “Artwork in the community” policy in Tin Shui Wai since he believed that it would help enhance cultural ambience in the community and allow residents to appreciate culture and art. Besides, he proposed LCSD to provide more resources and policy support for “Green Ambassador” and hoped that it would promptly commence the construction of Tin Shui Wai Area 107 Swimming Pool as well as Tin Shui Wai Area 109 Sports Centre. He also hoped LCSD would identify a suitable site in Tin Shui Wai Central to build a public library as agreed by the former Director.

16. Mr LEUNG Fuk-yuen reflected that population of Yuen Long has been increasing rapidly in recent years as the housing developments in Yuen Long Town East, Yuen Long South and the surrounding areas had been completed. Though most of the private residential estates had provided clubs for the residents, public cultural and recreational facilities might not be adequate to meet the needs. He proposed LCSD to plan for sufficient facilities to cope with population growth. Besides, he reflected that many residents in Yuen Long South had to go to Yuen Long Town on foot. However, there was no shelter or sitting-out

facility along the road section. He therefore proposed LCSD to plant trees and to provide facilities such as bench and pavilion along the footpath with the aim of improving the environment for the pedestrians. Furthermore, he pointed out that the Yuen Long Stadium, which had been used for more than 40 years, was the main venue for holding major sports competitions as well as cultural and leisure activities in the district. He hoped LCSD would implement the redevelopment of Yuen Long Stadium as soon as possible with a view to providing a venue with a larger covered spectator stand for holding football tournaments of higher international standards and other major events.

17. Mr LUK Chung-hung expressed disappointment with the Government's proposal of reducing the scope of Tin Shui Wai Area 107 Swimming Pool time and again, resulting in the procrastination of works for years. Regarding public library service, he praised about the comprehensive facilities and services provided by the Ping Shan Tin Shui Wai Public Library. He proposed LCSD to launch relevant mobile applications serving as support service and incorporate search functions in respect of outline content/ table of contents to help readers search for books. Besides, he was concerned about the difficulty in booking for soccer pitches in the district which gave rise to touting activities. He hoped LCSD would provide adequate leisure facilities in light of residents' actual needs.

18. Mr MAK Ip-sing reflected that owing to the surge in population in the district, the existing leisure facilities including the Fung Kam Street Sports Centre could not meet the actual needs of residents. He hoped LCSD would provide comprehensive facilities in light of development and population growth, for example, to construct Yuen Long Area 12 Sports Centre and identify sites for provision of pet gardens. Furthermore, he proposed to use those indoor squash courts with low utilization rate for other purposes. For example, some venues in the Yuen Long Jockey Club Squash Courts could be converted into dance rooms if sound equipment and sound-proof fittings were provided. As such, residents would enjoy a wide range of leisure facilities.

19. Mr MAN Kwong-ming thanked LCSD for progressively facilitating DFMC in the implementation of various projects in San Tin Heung. He also hoped that LCSD would devote more resources in improving the overall leisure and cultural facilities in light of the ever-increasing population growth in the district.

20. Mr SHUM Ho-kit reflected that the demand for public library in Yuen Long had exceeded the supply and the Fung Kam Street Sports Centre might not be able to cope with the needs of the newly increased population in Yuen Long Town. He hoped LCSD would speed up the construction of public library and sports centre in Yuen Long Area 3. He also enquired about the works schedule of sports centre in Yuen Long Area 12. Besides, he appreciated the service and assistance provided by Miss Olivia CHEUNG and other staff of LCSD in various aspects and organising the Yuen Long District Sports Festival.

21. Mr TANG Cheuk-yin pointed out that the Government was conducting a major land use review of Kam Tin and Pat Heung at the moment, and it was anticipated that population would continue to increase rapidly. He was disappointed at LCSD's decision of not constructing a swimming pool complex in Kam Tin and he urged LCSD to accelerate the planning and implementation of Kam Tin Pat Heung Sports Centre project with a view to

coping with the development and population growth in the district. Besides, he proposed LCSD to revitalize the villages in Yuen Long and strengthen the conservation and promotion of historical relics and monuments in the district, for example, to improve the ancillary facilities for transport and cycle tracks in rural areas as well as to organise workshops. In so doing, public interest in and knowledge of historical relics and monuments would be enhanced.

22. Mr TANG Hing-ip thanked LCSD for its positive attitude in implementing various projects with YLDC and the Yuen Long District Office (“YLDO”) which had significantly improved the quality of life of residents in the rural areas. He praised Miss Olivia CHEUNG for her commitment in handling matters in relation to district leisure facilities. Besides, he was concerned about the scope of the redevelopment of Yuen Long Stadium, which would be limited by the size and environment of the site. He also pointed out that as many major housing land development projects were being carried out in the district, such as those in Kam Tin and Pat Heung, he proposed that more sites should be reserved in the new development area for constructing cultural and leisure facilities. He hoped LCSD would speed up the planning and construction of various projects, including the Kam Tin Pat Heung Sports Centre project, with a view to providing comprehensive ancillary facilities for the existing and newly increased population. Furthermore, he proposed LCSD to enhance horticultural maintenance efforts in the rural areas for the purpose of beautifying the environment.

23. Ms CHAN Mei-lin praised the performance of Miss Olivia CHEUNG, particularly in making great efforts to improve the growing of plants at Tin Tse Garden. She also reflected that swimming pools in Tin Shui Wai were not adequate to meet the demand and urged LCSD to construct Tin Shui Wai Area 107 Swimming Pool and retain the outdoor teaching pool and diving pool. She also proposed LCSD to step up and inspection and cleaning work of sports centres for the purpose of ensuring the cleanliness of venues and facilities under its management as well as public health. Besides, she supported the “Book Suggestion” scheme of the public libraries which could facilitate members of the public to borrow more types of books. She also proposed LCSD to organise cultural and arts activities at public libraries in all districts. Through encouraging residents to participate in these activities, public interest in arts would be promoted at community level.

24. Mr TSANG Hin-keung, MH expressed recognition and appreciation towards the work of LCSD. He said that Kam Tin Pat Heung Sports Centre project was proposed by the then Regional Council but it had not been implemented after so many years of discussion. He urged LCSD to upgrade the priority of the project and confirm the works schedule promptly. He also proposed LCSD to provide more cultural, recreational and leisure facilities in light of the major land use review of Pat Heung and Kam Tin with a view to coping with development and population growth.

25. Ms YAU Tai-tai, BBS, MH expressed recognition towards LCSD’s work in promoting leisure and cultural matters in Yuen Long. She praised Mr Anthony MA’s performance in cultural promotion which had enabled residents to appreciate and participate in different kinds of cultural activities. She also thanks the former and incumbent Leisure Manager (Yuen Long) for their contribution in the Hong Kong Games (“HKG”) in terms of technical support, selection of athletes and venue arrangements. She hoped LCSD would

continue to maintain close cooperation with YLDC in preparing for the 5th HKG with the aim of achieving the best results. Besides, she considered the capacities of various sports centres in the district and the Yuen Long Theatre inadequate. Moreover, there was no major sports centre in New Territories West. She proposed LCSD to plan for major new sports and performing venues in the district which could accommodate more than a thousand audiences, so that more residents would have the chance to appreciate quality programmes.

26. Mr Zachary WONG said that the Government was implementing various major housing land development in Yuen Long District and it was anticipated that the population would increase to 480 000 in the next decade. He hoped that LCSD would provide comprehensive cultural, recreational and leisure facilities in light of the development, including construction of the Tin Shui Wai Area 107 Swimming Pool, redevelopment of Yuen Long Stadium, provision of sports centres and enhancement of study room service. Besides, he proposed LCSD to provide bicycle parking spaces at monuments and heritage sites in the rural areas and to launch the “visitor passport” scheme with a view to attracting visitors to collect memories stamps at different spots. As regards the promotion of culture and arts, he considered the Venue Partnership Scheme could increase the attractiveness of performing activities. He hoped LCSD would enhance arts appreciation education and promote arts popularization. To fully utilize resources, he also proposed LCSD to adopt the development mode of “school village” and “sports village” at new development area so that residents could use the recreational and sports facilities in schools during spare time and holidays. Furthermore, he proposed LCSD to take measures to attract more members of the public to watch the competitions of HKG.

27. Mr YIU Kwok-wai was concerned about the planning progress of Tin Shui Wai Area 107 Swimming Pool and he urged LCSD to implement the project as soon as possible. Besides, he praised Miss Olivia CHEUNG and other staff for their efforts in improving the leisure facilities in the district. He proposed to provide a cyclorama in Tin Sau Road Park and hoped LCSD would redeploy resources to enhance community facilities.

28. Ms YUEN Man-yee was concerned about the works progress of the public library and sports centre in Yuen Long Area 3. She pointed out that the works had been delayed due to postponement of funding application submitted to the Legislative Council (“LegCo”) and presence of cavern in the project site. She urged LCSD to accelerate the progress and she hoped the works would be completed and the facilities would be commissioned by 2016 as scheduled with the aim of addressing the needs of the ever-increasing population for public library service. Besides, she praised Miss Olivia CHEUNG and Mr Anthony MA for their efforts in following up the leisure and cultural matters in the district.

29. Ms CHIU Sau-han praised Miss Olivia CHEUNG for implementing leisure facility projects such as Tin Yip Road Artificial Sand Pitch and Tin Fai Road Sports Centre proactively and she hoped to maintain communication and cooperation with LCSD closely in future. Besides, she enquired about the works commencement date of Tin Shui Wai Area 107 Swimming Pool, and whether LCSD would build a public library in Tin Shui Wai Central to replace the Tin Shui Wai Public Library which had been closed. Regarding the issue of legionella being found in the cooling tower of Tin Fai Road Sports Centre earlier, she hoped to know more about the disinfecting and cleaning work carried out in LCSD venues.

30. Mr CHAN Sze-ching praised LCSD for completing many leisure facilities in Tin Shui Wai in recent years and he hoped it would continue to provide suitable facilities for residents in light of population growth. Regarding the issues of accumulation of stagnant water and mosquito breeding in Ping Shan Tin Shui Wai Leisure and Cultural Building, he noted that LCSD had addressed the problems in collaboration with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”). He proposed LCSD to give due consideration to environmental hygiene aspects in building design in future. Besides, he reflected that residents had great demand for soccer pitch. In view of the extensive area required for constructing seven-a-side or eleven-a-side soccer pitches, he proposed LCSD to construct five-a-side soccer pitch which met international standards. He also enquired about the details of the “Venue Partnership Scheme” of Yuen Long Theatre.

31. Mr TANG Cheuk-him said that there were many completed and planned facilities in his constituency, for example, Tin Shui Wai North Sitting-out Area (with passive recreational facilities for pets), Tin Yip Road Park, Tin Yip Road Artificial Sand Court and Conservation Institution in Tin Shui Wai Area 109. He appreciated LCSD’s efforts in informing relevant Members of the works progress. He hoped LCSD would continue to maintain close communication with Members and residents for the purpose of providing cultural and leisure facilities which could their needs.

32. Ms Michelle LI, JP gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (1) She thanked Members’ appreciation towards LCSD’s work and hoped that it would continue to maintain close communication with YLDC. LCSD would adopt a proactive and practical approach in following up and responding to Members’ proposals;
- (2) She noted the proposals put forward by Members in relation to leisure and cultural services. Due to time constraint, she could not respond to them one by one. That said, she emphasized that staff of the Department would listen to Members’ views carefully and try to satisfy the needs of residents as far as possible subject to availability of resources;
- (3) The works progress of Kam Tin Pat Heung Sports Centre had been delayed previously owing to unauthorized occupation of land. However, milestones of progress had been achieved now. Home Affairs Bureau (“HAB”) had issued a revised project definition statement on 27 June this year and the Architectural Services Department (“ASD”) was carrying out technical feasibility study;
- (4) She understood the aspiration of Members and residents for swimming pools. She noted that Members of DFMC had discussed the proposed facilities of Tin Shui Wai Area 107 Swimming Pool for many times and at the meeting on 2 May, Members urged LCSD to complete the project definition statement by this year, or else they would not support the proposed deletion of outdoor diving pool. LCSD had relayed Members’ views to HAB in June this year and would invite ASD to carry out technical feasibility study once HAD had approved the revised project definition statement. The proposed facilities of the project included an

outdoor main pool with a spectator stand (700 seats), an outdoor training pool, an indoor heated training pool as well as an indoor jacuzzi pool, which could satisfy the needs of a majority of residents. She hoped Members could strike a balance between works progress and proposed facilities. She emphasized that LCSD would listen to Members' proposals on the construction of various facilities and consider the feasibilities of such proposals when new projects were being planned in future;

- (5) LCSD was planning the redevelopment project for Yuen Long Stadium in collaboration with other departments concerned proactively. The proposed works included relocation of a 11-a-side natural turf soccer pitch with floodlights, relocation of a 8-lane 400 m all-weather running track and relocation of a spectator stand with at least 5 000 covered seats. Additional ancillary facilities were being considered for the purpose of organising major international sports competitions;
- (6) LCSD would implement planning work in light of the aspirations of local people and YLDC's proposed priorities. It would also liaised closely with LegCo Members and hoped that the Public Works Subcommittee ("PWSC") and Finance Committee ("FC") of LegCo would approve the funding application so that the project would be implemented as soon as possible;
- (7) She clarified that the patient confirmed to be with legionnaires' disease recently had not been to LCSD Tin Fai Road Sports Centre nor had used the relevant facilities. She emphasized that regular inspections of the cooling towers of the venues had been performed by LCSD and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department ("EMSD") to ensure the hygienic conditions of the venues. Actually, when LCSD noted that the legionella bacteria was above the accepted limit in the cooling tower of Tin Fai Road Sports Centre, it had closed the Sports Centre immediately and the cooling tower involved was disinfected. The Sports Centre was reopened when the water sample had been found to be in compliance with the relevant standards. It showed that LCSD had attached great importance to the health and safety of members of the public;
- (8) LCSD had carried out appropriate works and arrangements at Ping Shan Tin Shui Wai Leisure and Cultural Building for the purpose of tackling mosquito breeding. The appearance and functions of a building would be given due consideration when the building design was being planned in future;
- (9) She noted Member's views on public library services and activities, which would be considered and followed up by LCSD. For the purpose of promoting reading culture at the community level, LCSD welcomed non-profit-making community organizations to participate in the "Libraries@neighbourhood – Community Libraries Partnership Scheme" to provide community-based library services in collaboration with the Hong Kong Public Libraries. Furthermore, foundation works for the Yuen Long Area 3 Public Library and Sports Centre had been completed and she hoped that the roof cover works could be completed on schedule. It was expected that the project would be completed by end of next year

and the facilities would be open for public use in mid-2016;

- (10) She noted that the utilization rate of Yuen Long Theatre was high and LCSD would plan for appropriate cultural and leisure facilities on the basis of residents' needs. Besides, two art groups became the venue partner of Yuen Long Theatre under the Venue Partnership Scheme;
- (11) As regards promotion on public art and culture, LCSD would consider Members' views thoroughly and select suitable items from the museum collection for display in the district. It was believed that the cultural ambience at the community level could be enhanced;
- (12) She thanks YLDC for its support given to LCSD's work, and LCSD would continue to facilitate the district minor works implemented by YLDC proactively. LCSD would also commence planning work for various cultural and leisure works according to their priorities and feasibilities with a view to providing suitable facilities for residents.

33. In conclusion, the Chairman thanked Ms Michelle LI, JP for attending the meeting and exchanging views with Members on matters of concern to them. He said that Yuen Long had experienced rapid population growth in recent years, and he hoped that YLDC would continue to cooperate with LCSD and other departments closely for the purpose of further improving various facilities and services in the district according to the actual needs of residents.

Item 3: Questions from DC Members

(i) Mr Zachary WONG proposed to discuss "Review of Honorarium Arrangements for District Council Members" (YLDC Paper No. 50/2014)

34. The Chairman asked Members to take note of the Paper No. 50/2014 and the written reply from the Home Affairs Department ("HAD").

35. The Chairman welcomed Miss Dora FU, JP, Assistant Director of Home Affairs (3), to the meeting to exchange views with Members of the captioned subject.

36. Mr Zachary WONG said that HAD had organised four focus group meetings in relation to review of honorarium and relevant arrangements in June and July this year with the aim of gauging Members' views. He wished to know about the content of discussion that day and HAD's response. He considered the focus group meetings ineffective in gauging opinions and he suggested HAD visit the District Councils ("DC"s) in 18 Districts to consult them on the above matters. Besides, he did not agree that the purpose of honorarium was to attract people of different sectors and classes to serve members of the public as DC Members. Moreover, he was concerned about the taxation arrangement of non-accountable provision of Miscellaneous Expenses Allowance. He also proposed HAD to enhance the Operation Expenses Reimbursement ("OER") for the purpose of facilitating Members to perform their duties.

37. Miss Dora FU, JP said that HAD would conduct review of honorarium arrangements for DC Members regularly to ensure that such arrangements were appropriate and update. On the basis of the last two reviews, HAD had invited DC Members of 18 Districts to attend focus group meetings in June and July this year with a view to listening to their views on the above matters. HAD could conduct consultation and in-depth discussion on the topics with Members in the form of focus group meeting. She thanked Members for attending the meetings and offering valuable opinions on the subject. If necessary, HAD would be happy to send representatives to attend DC meetings to exchange views with Members. Then she briefed the meeting on views collected in the focus groups and initial response of HAD.

38. Ms CHAN Mei-lin proposed HAD to include transportation cost incurred by printing of publicity materials in OER, and to streamline the application procedures for claiming OER.

39. Mr YIU Kwok-wai reflected that the non-accountable provision of Miscellaneous Expenses Allowance had always been used up to meet the expenses in performing DC-related duties. He hoped HAD would review the taxation arrangement and enhance the transparency of the system. He was also concerned about in the year when end-of-term gratuity was paid to DC Members, their income as well as tax burden would be increased significantly. He hoped HAD would further review details of the honorarium arrangements for DC Members.

40. Mr Zachary WONG reflected that the rental for ward offices had been on the increase in recent years, and since the statutory minimum wage had been in force, the salary expenses for their assistants had also been increased significantly. Even though OER had increased by 34% this year, it was not enough to meet the actual operating expenses of the office. He also pointed out that the non-accountable provision of Miscellaneous Expenses Allowance had always been used up to meet the expenses in performing DC-related duties and operating the ward office. However, these expenditure items were not reimbursable under OER, for example, cleaning goods, entertainment expenses and transportation expenses. Therefore, he considered it inappropriate to require Members to pay tax for OER. Therefore, he proposed to further increase OER and to stipulate that the reimbursable operating expenditure items would be modelled on those of LegCo Members, so that Members would have sufficient resources to perform DC-related duties. Moreover, he hoped HAD would formulate clearer guidelines on application for claiming various allowances and consider allowing DC Secretariat to exercise discretion in handling notes relating to incidental out-of-pocket expenses.

41. Mr KWOK Keung, MH opined that compared with the honorarium of \$80,000 for those LegCo Members who would wreak havoc rather than being constructive, the present level of honorarium for DC Members was relatively low. He proposed HAD to increase the honorarium to \$40,000 per month in consideration of DC Members' heavy workload. He also proposed HAD to provide additional allowance for senior Members who had to pay long service payment to their staff.

42. Mr CHAN Sze-ching hoped HAD would review the calculation method of honorarium for Members. He reflected that rental for ward offices was extremely high in recent years and OER could hardly meet the staff cost and other expenditures. Therefore, he proposed that special rental allowance should be paid to those Members who rent offices in private shopping malls or buildings.

43. Mr MAK Ip-sing considered the current system of claiming OER too complicated and stringent. For example, if other Members' photos had been shown on the publicity materials, the printing costs to be claimed must be adjusted proportionately. Therefore, he proposed HAD to draw up clearer guidelines to facilitate processing of the applications by DC Secretariat and Members.

44. Ms LAU Kwai-yung hoped that HAD would enhance the honorarium to a reasonable level. She also reflected that rental for ward office and prices of products were surging in recent years. Since OER was limited, she could not increase the pay for the staff which resulted in high wastage rate. She proposed HAD to consider further enhancing OER.

45. Mr TANG Hing-ip supported HAD's arrangement to adjust honorarium and OER in accordance with Consumer Price Index (A) annually. He also said that though the arrangement of non-accountable provision of Miscellaneous Expenses Allowance could lessen the workload of DC Secretariat in handling a large number of notes relating to incidental out-of-pocket expenses, the Allowance had always been used up to meet the expenses in performing DC-related duties. In view of this, he proposed HAD to provide a salaries tax concession of 20%-30%.

46. Miss Dora FU, JP gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (1) She thanked Members for their valuable views, and HAD would consider them carefully;
- (2) HAD would offer an appropriate remuneration package for DC Members in performing DC duties. However, there was no employment relationship between the Government and DC Members, and Members' honorarium was not wage;
- (3) She understood that some of the senior Members had to shoulder heavy burden in meeting the long service payment of their staff, and the relevant expenditure was counted as part of OER. Taking into account the surge in rental for ward offices and salaries for the assistants, HAD had completed a review of the honorarium arrangement. Starting from 1 January this year, the rate of accountable OER had increased significantly by 34% in real terms, and allowing any surplus from OER entitlement in one calendar year was allowed to roll over to the following year until the end of a DC term. It was believed that the arrangement would help Members meet the expenses of long service payment;
- (4) Members were not required to produce receipts to DC Secretariat if they

used non-accountable provision of Miscellaneous Expenses Allowance to meet DC duties-related incidental out-of-pocket expenses. This would also save a lot of efforts in handling notes of such expenses. HAD noted Members' views on the system of allowance and would consider them prudently;

- (5) Expenditure items covered by OER, such as rental for ward offices and salaries for staff, were tax deductible if the ceiling of claimable OER had been exceeded. Members would produce relevant proof or receipts to the Inland Revenue Department for applying tax deduction. If necessary, Members would make enquiries to HAD or DC Secretariat for details;
- (6) According to established practice, HAD would proceed to update the guidelines for remuneration package one year before the election of the new DC term started; and
- (7) Members could use OER for producing printed and publicity materials. However, the messages disseminated in such materials should not give an impression that any individual was being excessively advertised. In view of this, if Members jointly produced printed and publicity materials, they should state clearly the criteria and calculation methods for apportionment of costs when claiming for reimbursement. HAD noted Members' views on claiming of printing and publicity expenditure, and would review the arrangements concerned.

47. The Chairman said that if Members wished to give further comments in respect of remuneration package, they could liaise with HAD direct.

48. Mr Zachary WONG enquired whether the honorarium received by Members was regarded as income or bonus.

49. Miss Dora FU, JP said that the honorarium received by DC Members was not bonus. Pursuant to the Inland Revenue Ordinance, the honorarium was regarded as income.

50. In conclusion, the Chairman thanked Miss Dora FU, JP, for attending the meeting and responding to Members' enquiries. Members would continue to maintain communication with HAD in respect of honorarium and related arrangements.

(ii) Mr MAK Ip-sing requested prompt rehabilitation of the fabridam at the end of Yuen Long Nullah to prevent back-flow of sea water from Deep Bay and actions to alleviate the odour of refuse and sludge brought by back-flow of sea water which caused nuisance to the residents
(YLDC Paper No. 51/2014)

(iii) Mr Zachary WONG and Mr KWONG Chun-yu proposed to discuss "Damage and Rehabilitation of the Fabridam of Yuen Long Nullah"
(YLDC Paper No. 52/2014)

(iv) **Mr LUI Kin, Mr KWOK Keung, MH, Mr SIU Long-ming, Ms WONG Wai-ling and Mr CHUI Kwan-siu “requested the Drainage Services Department to resolve the problem of back-flow of sea water promptly” (YLDC Paper No. 53/2014)**

51. The Chairman asked Members to take note of the Paper Nos. 51/2014, 52/2014 and 53/2014, as well as the written reply from the Drainage Services Department (“DSD”). He suggested the above three items be discussed together since they were about the damage of fabridam at Tung Tau Wai, Wang Chau, Yuen Long, which had caused the water level of Yuen Long Town Nullah being affected by ebb and flow. Members had no objection to that.

52. The Chairman welcomed the following DSD representatives to the meeting:

Chief Engineer /Mainland North Division	Mr MA Siu-man, Herbert
Senior Engineer /Drainage Maintenance	譚傑帆先生

53. Mr Herbert MA reported the damage situation and related maintenance works, and said that DSD had taken various interim measures before completing the restoration works with a view to mitigating the impacts caused to the residents and environment.

54. Mr CHEUNG Muk-lam enquired about the number of fabridam currently in use in Hong Kong and whether those fabridams were made by the same Japanese manufacturer. Besides, he considered the interim measures taken by DSD ineffective. He reflected that the sand bags piled up at downstream of the Yuen Long Town Nullah had failed to prevent pollutants from flowing back to the town centre section. He proposed to use high-density debris containment booms for visual enhancement and to address the problem of odour.

55. The Vice-chairman reflected the damage of fabridam had caused serious bad smell problem and opined that the interim measures of DSD had failed to address the problem. He proposed that DSD should adopt more advanced technique to construct a new dam. He was also concerned about the turbid water and bad smell of Yuen Long Yau Tin East Road Nullah, which might be related to illegal discharge of sewage. He urged the relevant departments to follow up the issue and step up inspection. Besides, he hoped DSD to review the effectiveness of greening projects for the nullahs and to deck the Yuen Long Town Nullah for the purpose of alleviating the nuisance caused by the bad smell.

56. Mr CHONG Kin-shing said that he had conducted a site inspection with Mr Herbert MA and other DSD representatives earlier. He opined that DSD was very concerned about the problems brought by the damage. He hoped DSD would construct a temporary dam with a view to address the hygiene problems arising from back-flow of sea water and sewage. Besides, he reflected that many residents had concerns about breeding of mosquitoes resulting from growing of plants next to the nullah. He proposed DSD to assess the effectiveness of greening projects for the nullahs, and liaise closely with residents in this regard.

57. Mr LEUNG Fuk-yuen was concerned about the back-flow of sea water and

sewage to Yuen Long Town Nullah resulting from the damage of fabridam, which had caused odour problem. He pointed out that the plants by the sides of the nullah had been withered which led to adverse visual effects. The operations of the pump house had affected the environmental hygiene of residents in Shan Pui Tsuen. He supported the temporary measures taken by DSD and pointed out that the fabridam had been damaged in the past. Since the Japanese manufacturer had ceased the relevant business, he opined that DSD should draw up contingency plans and approach other manufacturers for backup and for avoidance of similar incidents.

58. Mr SIU Long-ming said that the damage of fabridam had caused back-flow of sea water to town centre section of the Yuen Long Town Nullah, and the odour problem had caused serious nuisance to the residents. He understood that owing to technical reasons and unavailability of accessories, maintenance works could not be carried out in the short term. He also noted that DSD had taken interim improvement measures and hoped that it would draw up better contingency plans to prevent adverse effects on environmental hygiene.

59. Mr TSANG Shu-wo reflected that the operation of the pump house concerned had caused bad smell and affected the environmental hygiene of Tung Tau Wai seriously. He proposed DSD to relocate the fabridam to the non-residential area near Shan Pui River and Nam Sang Wai.

60. Mr TANG Hing-ip was disappointed by DSD's response. He said that the fabridam had been damaged in the past and at that time, maintenance works had taken a long time to complete which had caused prolonged environmental hygiene impacts on the residents. He opined that DSD had not learnt from past experience. He urged DSD to complete maintenance works promptly, use more advanced materials and technologies to construct a new dam, as well as draw up contingency plans for avoidance of similar incidents.

61. Mr TANG Cheuk-yin said that several fabridams currently in use in Yuen Long district had been damaged in the past and maintenance works always took a long time. He suggested DSD consider using more advanced materials and technologies to construct a new dam, as well as draw up better contingency plans.

62. Mr Zachary WONG said that the fabridam had been damaged in 2000 and DSD had committed to stepping up inspection work at that time. However, the same situation happened again now. He proposed after completion of the repair works, part of the temporary dam should be retained to prevent the dam surface from being incessantly eroded by sewage in the future so that the risk of damage would be minimised. Furthermore, he pointed out that as only a small number of manufacturers were still running fabridam business, it would be difficult to find contractors to repair or replace the dam if it was damaged again in the future. He proposed DSD to replace fabridam with electronic watergate or use more advanced materials to construct a more reliable and durable dam.

63. Mr YIU Kwok-wai enquired about the number of fabridams currently in use in the territory and Yuen Long district. He pointed out that the function of fabridam was to prevent sea water and water of downstream from flowing into town centre section of Yuen

Long Town Nullah. Many problems would be resulted if it failed to function properly, for example, grave environmental hygiene problems had been caused by the damage of fabridam in question. He hoped to know if DSD had drawn up any contingency plans to prepare for the damage and aging of fabridam. Also, according to information obtained from the internet, fabridam normally required replacement after in use for 20 to 25 years. While the fabridam in question had been damaged for two times since commissioning in 1992, he was concerned whether the technology had become outdated.

64. Mr MAK Ip-sing said that the fabridam had been damaged many years ago and DSD had then committed to make improvement with a view to preventing the fabridam from being eroded by acidic pollutants. However, the same situation happened again now. He urged DSD to repair the fabridam as soon as possible and he enquired whether the same materials and technology would be used construct a new dam. He also reflected that with lots of pollutants in sea water, DSD should step up removing the refuse and sludge brought by back-flow of sea water to Yuen Long Town Nullah for the purpose of alleviating the odour problem. Besides, he proposed DSD to review again the feasibility of implementing beautifying and greening measures at Yuen Long Town Nullah.

65. Mr LIU Kin opined that DSD had not drawn up comprehensive contingency and backup plans, and he was concerned that fabridam technology might have become outdated. He pointed out that the damaged fabridam had brought grave environmental hygiene problems to residents in the district. He proposed DSD to replace fabridam with watergate for the purpose of addressing the odour problem promptly, as well as to step up removing the refuse and pollutants in Yuen Long Town Nullah. He also suggested DSD make reference to the experience of Shing Mun River, Shatin which had deployed biochemical processing works to address the odour problem caused by silt sedimentation. As regards sewage treatment, he proposed the sewage pumped from Shan Pui Pump House be treated in Yuen Long Sewage Treatment Works and then discharged into Kam Tin River or Shan Pui River with a view to alleviating pollution caused to the river channel. Besides, he enquired whether DSD would commence the Improvement of Yuen Long Town Nullah (Town Centre Section) project earlier for the purpose of addressing pollution in the upstream by provision of a low flow intercepting system.

66. Mr CHOW Wing-kan reflected that a lot of dead fish were found at Tin Shui Wai Nullah. DSD only knew it when receiving complaints lodged by residents and then it sent staff to remove them. He opined that DSD had not used the adjustment function of the fabridam properly, resulting in the back-flow of sea water and sewage into the nullah. He also thought that as the fabridam might not be repaired or replaced owing to technical problems or unavailability of accessories, DSD should replace it with watergate which was more reliable. Besides, he pointed out that numerous CCTVs were installed adjacent to Tin Shui Wai Nullah to monitor the wear and tear as well as vandalism. He suggested DSD apply this monitoring mode at other fabridams with the aim of enhancing maintenance work.

67. Mr Daniel CHAM, BBS, MH, JP proposed DSD to study other techniques which were more environmental-friendly, efficient and suitable for use in the Hong Kong environment, for example, electronic watergate, for replacing the fabridams. He said that as the Government was planning to implement housing development in Yuen Long Tung Tau Industrial Area, he proposed to relocate the fabridam and pump house to downstream of Yuen

Long Town Nullah to prevent hygiene nuisance caused to the residents in the area. He also hoped DSD would step up sewage treatment efforts at the upstream of Yuen Long Town Nullah and he proposed to cover the Nullah with a view to avoiding nuisance caused by bad smell as well as to increasing open space in the district. Besides, he reflected that pollution at Tin Shui Wai Nullah was serious and a lot of dead fish were found. He worried that it was related to the malfunction of the fabridam. He proposed DSD to step up the inspection of all fabridams and draw up long-term effective monitoring mechanism and solutions to address the problem. He also urged DSD to remove the sewage sludge in the Nullah on regular basis.

68. Mr Herbert MA gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (1) He thanked for Members' questions;
- (2) Of the ten fabridams owned by DSD, seven were currently in use. One of them was placed in Wu Tung River and the others were used in Yuen Long district;
- (3) When the fabridam was found damaged in 2000, DSD had started to conduct weekly inspection in accordance with the guidelines provided by experts for the purpose of ensuring its operational safety. DSD also engaged experts to review whether the fabridam required improvement works from time to time, as well as conducted minor repair works;
- (4) Since the fabridam of Tin Shui Wai Nullah was damaged in an arson case in 2007, CCTV had been installed by DSD for monitoring purpose;
- (5) In collaboration with the experts, DSD would study on the technical issues in respect of the fabridams with a view to deciding whether the materials and techniques should be used in future, as well as whether all fabridams should be replaced;
- (6) The fabridams currently managed by DSD were provided by two manufacturers. DSD had attempted to approach other overseas manufacturers, but so far none of them had indicated the intention to provide backup service;
- (7) He understood that the damaged fabridam would significantly affect the landscaping works of the Yuen Long Town Nullah. DSD would inform the unit responsible for the relevant works of the matter and examine how the design could be improved. DSD staff would also consult YLDC on the Improvement of Yuen Long Town Nullah project in due course. He hoped Members would continue to offer their views on the matter;
- (8) He emphasized that fabridam was a flood relief facility and not to be used for sewage discharge purpose. DSD, like Members, was also concerned about sewage discharge at the upstream of Yuen Long Town Nullah. DSD planned to construct a low flow intercepting system under the Improvement of Yuen Long Town Nullah project with the aim of relaying the sewage to the Yuen Long Sewage Treatment Works. DSD had all along been maintaining close communication with the Environmental

Protection Department (“EPD”) to facilitate the latter to carry out inspection and prosecution works;

- (9) DSD had deployed additional manpower to remove the silt sedimentation in the nullah and to clean the nullah during low tide with a view to alleviate the bad smell and environmental hygiene problems; and
- (10) Open drainage system was more effective in enhancing discharge capacity. In the meantime, DSD attempted to strike a balance between channel improvement works and natural environment conservation for the purpose of meeting the requirements of the Convention on Biological Diversity. It was hoped that through greening of the riverside, our local biological diversity could be better protected.

69. 譚傑帆先生 gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (1) DSD had taken various interim measures and would construct a temporary dam. It was hoped that restoration works would be completed as soon as possible;
- (2) DSD had placed sand bags at the outfall of Yuen Long Town Nullah but the measure had affected the flood relief capacity at upstream. At present, oil and debris containment booms were installed to prevent pollutants from flowing into the channel. DSD would remove silt sedimentation and refuse in the nullah more frequently to minimise the nuisance caused to the residents by the bad smell;
- (3) As the main cause of odour was not silt sedimentation, the biochemical processing works adopted at Shing Mun River would not address the problem. As drainage misconnection was present at the upstream which resulted in sewage inflow and bad smell, DSD had been studying rectification options with other departments concerned but to no avail. DSD hoped that the low flow intercepting system under the Improvement of Yuen Long Town Nullah project would improve the environmental hygiene effectively. DSD expected the project would be upgraded to Category B in September or October this year so that works would commence promptly;
- (4) He noted Members proposal of relocating the fabridam and pump house to the downstream. DSD would relay the views to the responsible unit with the aim of minimising the impacts on Tung Tau Wai residents; and
- (5) The presence of a lot of dead fish in Tin Shui Wai Nullah was related to the fire incident that occurred at a waste recycling yard in Tin Sam Tsuen. Since sewage flowed in from the downstream, oil containment boom had failed to intercept it effectively. DSD had sent staff to clean up the scene upon receipt of the reported case.

70. In conclusion, the Chairman thanked the representative of DSD for answering the questions raised by Members. He said that Members were generally concerned about the fabridam technology which might have become outdated. They also proposed to relocate the

fabridam and related pump house to other sites. He hoped DSD would thoroughly consider Members' views.

71. The Vice-chairman hoped to reflect the sewage problem to EPD in the name of YLDC and request EPD to step up inspection work in this regard.

72. The Chairman agreed the YLDC Secretariat to write to EPD for the purpose of relaying Members' views.

(Post-meeting note: YLDC Secretariat wrote to the Director of Environmental Protection on 8 September 2014 to relay Members' views. The written reply had been relayed to all Members on 8 October 2014.)

[The meeting was adjourned temporarily during lunchtime and would be resumed at 2:10pm.]

Item 10: Any Other Business

Report on the Certification of "Healthy Cities", "Safe Communities" and "Age-friendly Cities and Communities" Initiatives

73. The Chairman said that as Mr LUK Chung-hung, Chairman of the Working Group on Building a Safe Community in Yuen Long ("Working Group") had to leave the meeting early due to other commitments, he proposed Item 10 concerning the certification of "Healthy Cities" and "Safe Communities" initiatives be discussed first and there was no objection.

74. The Chairman said that the World Health Organization ("WHO") actively implemented the "Healthy Cities", "Safe Communities" and "Age-friendly Cities and Communities" initiatives throughout the world. These three global initiatives engaged local governments in health development and community participation through political commitment, institutional change, capacity-building, partnership-based planning and innovative projects. Various communities in Hong Kong, including Yuen Long district, had varying levels of participation. The Chairman invited the Secretary and Mr LUK Chung-hung to present the information on the participation of the YLDC and the recommendations of the Working Group respectively.

75. The Secretary briefly introduced the background information of the above three initiatives.

76. Mr LUK Chung-hung said that with the support of Members, community members and organisations, the Working Group had organised a number of activities to promote the message of occupational safety in the construction, cleansing and security industries. It had also organised the Cycling Safety Day to promote cycling safety through booth games, carnivals and performances and indicated that the number of cycling accidents in Yuen Long had all along been on the low side in recent years, which demonstrated the effectiveness of publicity activities. He said that to apply for certification from the WHO, applicants had to

bear the high fee of appointing overseas experts, e.g. expenditure on air tickets, food and accommodation while the certification fee for initial designation under the “Hong Kong Safe Community Programme” of the Occupational Safety and Health Council (“OSHC”) was \$30,000. In this regard, he proposed that an application be made to the OSHC to certify Yuen Long as a “Hong Kong Safe Community”, so as to continuously monitor the safety level in the district such that residents could work and live safely and healthily.

77. Mr Zachary WONG said that the YLDC had sent representatives to attend the meetings of the Yuen Long District Healthy City Association Limited (“Association”) to organise the activities concerned. However, he said that the Association had not held meetings or organised activities for a long time and it jointly organised activities with the Working Group in name only in recent years. In view of this, he enquired the YLDC of its role in the Association.

78. The Chairman said that the Association operated as a limited company. Although the YLDC had appointed representatives to join the company, the Association still took the lead in operation and thus it hoped the YLDO could assist in the liaison with the Association to enhance its operational efficiency so as to tie in with the application for the certification concerned for Yuen Long.

79. Mr Edward MAK responded that the certification of “Healthy Cities”, “Safe Communities” and “Age-friendly Cities and Communities” initiatives were implemented by the WHO. Yuen Long had not applied for the said certifications so far. He suggested the YLDO actively consider the suitability of Yuen Long in applying for various certifications and explore the implementation details with the relevant government departments and district organisations having regard to the rapid development and population growth in Yuen Long. The YLDO would make appropriate arrangement jointly with the district organisations and departments concerned.

80. Members unanimously agreed that the YLDC should apply to the OSHC to certify Yuen Long as a “Hong Kong Safe Community” and hoped that Yuen Long could obtain the certification concerned as soon as possible.

81. The Chairman said that the certification of the “Age-friendly Cities and Communities” initiative would be discussed at the later part of the meeting. The meeting would proceed according to the original agenda items for the time being.

Item 3: Questions from DC Members

(v) **Mr WONG Wai-yin, Zachary and Mr KWONG Chun-yu Proposed to Discuss “Political Participation of Political Appointees” (YLDC Paper No. 54/2014)**

82. The Chairman asked Members to refer to paper no. 54/2014 and the written response of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (“CMAB”) and said that the CMAB did not send any representatives to attend the meeting.

83. Mr Zachary WONG pointed out that the CMAB had simply quoted Chapter 4 of the Code for Officials under the Political Appointment System (“the Code”) in the written response for Members’ reference. However, the relevant articles only stipulated that politically appointed officials should make declaration on their involvement in political activities to the Chief Executive, but there was no reference to any similar requirement for the Chief Executive or explanation on the definitions of political activities and personal behaviours of politically appointed officials. Therefore, he considered that the CMAB did not directly answer all questions. Furthermore, he was of the view that the politically appointed officials who had involved in the recent “Anti-Occupy Central” petition openly had embarrassed other politically appointed officials who had not indicated their stance and pointed out that such behaviour had obviously violated Article 4.4(b) of the Code. He was also concerned that the Chief Executive, who had taken part in the petition in his own name, had given advance notice to the media via the Information Services Department and was accompanied by government officials when taking part in the petition. Therefore, he considered that it was difficult to judge whether the Chief Executive had indicated his stance in his capacity as a public servant or in his personal capacity. As such, he suggested that the Chairman invite the CMAB again to give a more detailed response to the questions and attend the meeting of the YLDC for explanation and discussion. He also hoped that the CMAB would respect the YLDC’s opinion.

84. The Chairman said that other Members had no comment on the aforesaid item and he considered that Mr Zachary WONG’s request only represented his stance but not the YLDC’s. He suggested that Mr Zachary WONG write to the CMAB directly to express his views or consider forwarding the letter to the bureau by the Chairman on his behalf.

85. Mr Zachary WONG considered that the YLDC should follow up the matter as the questions were on the formal agenda not involving any stance and the CMAB had not given any specific response to the questions.

86. Mr YIU Kwok-wai noted the definite response of the CMAB to the questions and said that since Members had different requests and expectations on responses, he agreed to the Chairman’s approach. He considered that there was no need for the YLDC to continue to follow up the aforesaid item.

87. The Chairman agreed to relay Mr Zachary WONG’s opinion to the CMAB and would again invite the CMAB to send representatives to the meetings of the YLDC.

(Post-meeting note: The YLDC Secretariat wrote to the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs to relay a Member’s comments on 8 September 2014. The CMAB replied to the Secretariat on 17 October 2014 that it was unable to send representatives to attend the meeting of the YLDC to be held on 28 October and tendered apologies.)

**Item 4: Reform of the MPF System: Public Consultation on “Core Fund”
(YLDC Paper No. 55/2014)**

88. The Chairman asked Members to refer to paper no. 55/2014 on the setting up of a standardised low fee default fund of all Mandatory Provident Fund (“MPF”) schemes, collectively referred to as a core fund, proposed by the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau and the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority (“MPFA”).

89. The Chairman welcomed the following representatives of the MPFA to the meeting:

Chief Corporate Affairs Officer and Executive Director Manager (Liaison)	Mr CHENG Yan-chee Mr Timothy FU
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90. Mr CHENG Yan-chee and Mr Timothy FU briefly introduced the captioned paper and hoped to seek Members’ comments on the core fund proposal.

91. Mr Zachary WONG was of the view that the general public might not be able to thoroughly comprehend the concept of the core fund and reflected that the major concerns of the general public were whether the savings accumulated under the MPF would offer adequate retirement protection and whether they would suffer loss if the trustee went out of business. He was concerned about the effectiveness of the core fund. He pointed out that a strategy that automatically reduced risk as members got closer to retirement was adopted in a number of funds and considered that reduction in fund fees might not help increase MPF returns and ensure the service quality of trustees. In this regard, he proposed that the Government be the semi-official trustee of the core fund to strengthen public confidence.

92. Mr MAN Kwong-ming reflected that many members of the public had insufficient MPF knowledge and they were concerned that the MPF fees were too high at present. In addition, he proposed to draw reference from the systems of other countries, in which MPF scheme members were allowed to withdraw part of the MPF benefits early under exceptional circumstances for life planning purposes such as marriage and home ownership, etc.

93. Mr CHONG Kin-shing supported the proposal in the paper. He pointed out that although the MPF system had been implemented for 14 years, many members of the public still did not know much about MPF investments. He thus supported the core fund with the strategy of automatic risk reduction as members got closer to retirement, and with fee control in order to enhance retirement protection. Furthermore, he suggested the MPFA formulate a better regulatory system and consider imposing heavier penalties so as to achieve deterrent effect.

94. Mr KWOK Keung indicated that if MPF scheme members made high-risk investments when they were young and resulted in serious losses, they might not have enough protection when they retired. Therefore, he opined that the core fund’s strategy of automatic risk reduction as members got closer to retirement was not feasible.

95. Mr SHUM Ho-kit enquired about the implementation details of the core fund, including whether the existing approved trustees would operate separately, or the Government

would separately appoint designated trustees based on other standards.

96. Mr CHENG Yan-chee gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (1) He thanked Members and noted their views on the core fund proposal, he also welcomed Members to continue to submit their views to the MPFA online during the consultation period;
- (2) The MPFA had not finalised the approach for implementation of the core fund so far. The MPFA was still consulting the industry and the public on this issue, including whether the existing approved trustees should provide their own core fund which met the set requirements, or whether all schemes should use a common core fund;
- (3) He noted that a Member suggested the Government be the trustee of the core fund. However, as the suggestion concerned involved a fundamental change to the MPF system, it would be subject to further review by the Government. The MPFA would truthfully relay the views concerned to the Government;
- (4) The MPFA conducted a survey with MPF scheme members in 2013. The results showed that about one-fourth of the members had never made a fund choice, the main reasons were that they did not know how to make a choice, they were too busy or they had no interest, etc. The experience of other countries was similar to that of Hong Kong, likewise a significant portion of members of the public were not inclined to make fund choices but relied on defaults. The core fund was exactly a standardised default arrangement for MPF scheme members who did not make any investment choice, the investment strategy would automatically reduce investment risk as members got closer to retirement, with a view to balancing long-term investment risks and returns. Another feature of the core fund was its fee control, the initial proposal was that the fee would be 0.75% of assets under management or less. The core fund would also operate in a cost-effective manner so as to lower costs. If more MPF scheme members invested in the core fund in future, the economies of scale generated would create room for further fee reduction. Therefore, the Government and the MPFA believed that the core fund could effectively improve the MPF system and better tailor to the needs of the public;
- (5) The MPF system aimed at ensuring that the public could enjoy a certain degree of retirement protection when they retired. As the current MPF contribution rate was rather low, the MPF savings concerned were not sufficient to fulfil purposes other than retirement protection, such as marriage and home ownership, etc. Although some people often compared the MPF system with the Singapore Central Provident Fund, the Central Provident Fund was not a pure retirement scheme, it was rather a multi-purpose social savings scheme. The total contribution rate of the employers and employees in Singapore was as high as 30% of income. The contributions were put into three separate accounts for healthcare, retirement as well as home ownership, education and insurance purposes. The above showed that there were some fundamental differences between the two systems, thus they were not comparable. As the suggestion of early withdrawal of benefits involved a fundamental change to the existing MPF system, consideration would only be given to this suggestion after a consensus was reached through extensive and thorough public discussion;

- (6) The World Bank suggested that pension design be based on a multi-pillar model. They were respectively the “zero pillar” (i.e. non-contributory retirement protection arrangement financed and managed by the Government), the “first pillar” (i.e. retirement protection schemes with mandatory contributions managed by the Government), the “second pillar” (i.e. employment-based pension systems with mandatory contributions managed by the private sector), the “third pillar” (i.e. voluntary personal savings and insurance) and the “fourth pillar” (i.e. informal support (e.g. family assistance) and other formal social protection (e.g. medical care and housing) as well as other personal assets (e.g. home ownership)). Accordingly, the MPF system, as the second pillar, had to be complementary to other pillars of retirement protection. Nevertheless, various sectors of the community, especially the grassroots, generally agreed that the MPF system could help enhance retirement protection;
- (7) MPF was a long-term investment involving the investment of contributions made at regular intervals over the whole of the working life which was typically over 40 years. Saving for retirement was completely different from shorter term retail investment. The focus of shorter term retail investment was on the gaining of short-term returns by identifying the market trend, which was vastly different from saving for retirement in terms of the factors of consideration and strategies in making investment decisions. Accordingly, it was inappropriate to compare the performance of MPF with that of other investments; and
- (8) The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development suggested that the default fund should be an age-dependant, life cycle or target date fund that automatically reduced investment risk. Such fund was suitable for saving for retirement as its investment approach could balance risks and returns of long-term investment. Moreover, the core fund should adopt passive, index-based investment strategies to lower costs.

97. The Chairman thanked the representatives of the MPFA for attending the meeting to briefly introduce the details of the core fund and listen to the views of Members. He hoped that the MPFA could continue to consult the public and members of the industry extensively, and conduct a comprehensive review and give due consideration to the views collected.

Item 10: Any Other Business

Report on the Certification of “Healthy Cities”, “Safe Communities” and “Age-friendly Cities and Communities” Initiatives

98. The Chairman said that as the representative of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service (“HKCSS”) had arrived, he suggested Item 10 concerning the certification of “Age-friendly Cities and Communities” initiative be discussed first and there was no objection.

99. The Chairman welcomed Ms MA Yuk-ha, Member of the Age-friendly Hong Kong Steering Committee (“Steering Committee”) of the HKCSS to the meeting.

100. Ms MA Yuk-ha briefly introduced the Age-friendly Community Project and suggested that an application be made for Yuen Long District to join the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities.

101. Mr MAK Ip-sing opined that the community should provide a living environment that better catered to the needs of the elderly such as installing lifts at footbridges. Hence, he supported the application for the above certification and hoped that the relevant government departments could make corresponding arrangement.

102. Ms CHIU Sau-han shared the vision of the Age-friendly Community Project and supported the application for the above certification. She hoped that the relevant government departments could make corresponding arrangement to encourage volunteers to promote age-friendly community at the district level more proactively with a view to providing a more suitable living environment for the elderly.

103. Ms LAU Kwai-yung supported the application for the above certification and was glad to know that the Steering Committee had all along proactively promoted the Age-friendly Community Project in Yuen Long and considered that this could help improve the living environment of the elderly.

104. Mr Zachary WONG said he was infuriated by the recent remarks that the elderly should avoid using public transport during rush hours and considered the culture of offering seats on public transport fading. He hoped to extensively advocate respect for and inclusiveness of the elderly in the community through the above certification and hoped that the Government could provide more facilities that catered to the needs of the elderly.

105. Ms CHAN Mei-lin was concerned with population ageing in Hong Kong in recent years and reflected that local facilities failed to satisfy the needs of the elderly. For example, residents had to access the Shui Pin Wai Light Rail Station via footbridges in the absence of a lift and the TD could not provide new pedestrian crossings to shorten the route due to technical issues. She hoped to promote the spirit of respecting the elderly in the community through the above certification and suggested that the MTR Corporation Limited step up promoting to passengers the message of taking the initiative to offer seats to improve the living environment of the elderly.

106. Ms MA Yuk-ha gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (1) She thanked Members for their support in the Age-friendly Community Project and in the application for Yuen Long District to join the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities;
- (2) Population ageing was a global concern and the Government had recently conducted a public consultation on population policy. It was therefore evident that the promotion of age-friendly community was important; and
- (3) Upon visit, the WHO commended the Age-friendly Community Project for its

effectiveness and the active participation of the elderly. The Steering Committee would make efforts to apply for the WHO's certification for all 18 Districts in Hong Kong before 2015 in two phases. Having regard to the better development and higher participation level of Yuen Long District in promoting an age-friendly community, it was proposed that the application for the WHO's certification and inclusion in the Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities should be made for Yuen Long District early.

107. The Chairman said that the Age-friendly Community Project had been implemented in Yuen Long District for several years and the YLDC had also been sponsoring the activities organised by the Yuen Long District Coordinating Committee on Elderly Services-Elderly Joint Function Working Group under the Social Welfare Department. The elderly in the district had actively supported and participated in the activities. In order to fulfil the application requirements set by the WHO, a select committee comprising representatives of relevant stakeholders, including the YLDC, the elderly in the district and government departments, should be set up for the promotion of age-friendly community in Yuen Long District. As such, the Chairman proposed setting up a standing Working Group on Age-friendly Community in Yuen Long District under the YLDC to be responsible for discussing and following up relevant application matters with stakeholders. Given that there were three standing working groups under the YLDC at present, he asked Members to pass the suspension of Order 40(1) of the YLDC Standing Orders, so that the YLDC could set up the said working group.

108. Members voted on the suspension of Order 40(1) of the YLDC Standing Orders by the show of hands and open ballot. Mr WONG Wai-shun, Ms CHAN Mei-lin, Mr CHING Chan-ming, Ms CHIU Sau-han, Mr CHONG Kin-shing, Mr CHUI Kwan-siu, Mr KWOK Keung, Mr KWONG Chun-yu, Ms LAU Kwai-yung, Mr LEE Yuet-man, Mr MAK Ip-sing, Mr MAN Kwong-ming, Mr SHUM Ho-kit, Mr SIU Long-ming, Mr Robert TAI, Mr TANG Cheuk-him, Mr TANG Hing-ip, Mr TANG Ka-leung, Mr TANG Kwai-yau, Mr TANG Kwong-shing, Mr TSANG Shu-wo, Mr WONG Cheuk-kin, Mr Zachary WONG, Ms YAU Tai-tai, Mr YIU Kwok-wai and Ms YUEN Man-yee voted for the suspension.

109. The Chairman announced that the YLDC passed the suspension of Order 40(1) of the YLDC Standing Orders by an absolute majority of votes with 26 for, 0 against and 0 abstained.

110. The Chairman asked Members to vote on the setting up of the Working Group on Age-friendly Community in Yuen Long District.

111. Members voted on the setting up of the Working Group on Age-friendly Community in Yuen Long District by the show of hands and open ballot. Mr WONG Wai-shun, Ms CHAN Mei-lin, Mr Daniel CHAM, Mr CHING Chan-ming, Ms CHIU Sau-han, Mr CHONG Kin-shing, Mr CHUI Kwan-siu, Mr KWOK Keung, Mr KWONG Chun-yu, Ms LAU Kwai-yung, Mr LEE Yuet-man, Mr MAK Ip-sing, Mr MAN Kwong-ming, Mr SHUM Ho-kit, Mr SIU Long-ming, Mr Robert TAI, Mr TANG Cheuk-him, Mr TANG Ka-leung, Mr TANG Kwai-yau, Mr TANG Kwong-shing, Mr

TSANG Shu-wo, Mr WONG Cheuk-kin, Ms WONG Wai-ling, Mr Zachary WONG, Ms YAU Tai-tai, Mr YIU Kwok-wai and Ms YUEN Man-yea voted for the setting up of the said working group.

112. The Chairman announced that the YLDC passed the setting up of the Working Group on Age-friendly Community in Yuen Long District by an absolute majority of votes with 27 for, 0 against and 0 abstained. The YLDC Secretariat would later write to invite Members to join the said working group.

113. The Chairman thanked Ms MA Yuk-ha for attending the meeting to brief Members on the promotion work for age-friendly community.

(Post-meeting note: The YLDC Secretariat wrote to all Members of the YLDC to invite them to join the Working Group on Age-friendly Community in Yuen Long District on 5 September 2014.)

**Item 5: Spring Reception by YLDC and Yuen Long District Office
(YLDC Paper No. 56/2014)**

114. The Chairman asked Members to refer to paper no. 56/2014. The YLDC was invited to co-organise the Spring Reception with the YLDO at an estimated expenditure of \$60,000 for the entire activity. It was now proposed that an amount of \$30,000 would be allocated by the YLDC, and the YLDO would pay the remaining \$30,000. If Members endorsed the said co-operation arrangement, they were invited to nominate one to two Members to discuss with the YLDO the preparation for the activity on behalf of the YLDC.

115. The Chairman welcomed Mr CHUNG Kam-chung, Liaison Officer (Town 2)1 of the YLDO to respond to Members' enquiries.

116. Mr Zachary WONG opined that the estimated expenditure for design and printing of name badge stickers for guests was relatively high, he thus proposed to consider the design of the invitation card that could be partly torn off as a name badge. Apart from cost reduction, it was also environmentally friendly.

117. Mr CHUNG Kam-chung responded that the YLDO would study the feasibility of the suggestion concerned with the contractor.

118. Members unanimously endorsed the co-organisation of the Spring Reception by the YLDC and the YLDO, and an allocation of \$30,000 for organising the said activity. In addition, Members endorsed the appointment of Mr CHUI Kwan-siu as the representative of the YLDC to discuss with the YLDO the preparation for the activity.

Item 6: Progress Reports of Committees

- (i) Yuen Long District Management Committee (YLDC Paper No. 57/2014)**
 - (ii) District Facilities Management Committee (YLDC Paper No. 58/2014)**
 - (iii) Culture, Recreation, Community Service and Housing Committee (YLDC Paper No. 59/2014)**
 - (iv) Environmental Improvement Committee (YLDC Paper No. 60/2014)**
 - (v) Finance Committee (YLDC Paper No. 61/2014)**
 - (vi) Town Planning and Development Committee (YLDC Paper No. 62/2014)**
 - (vii) Traffic and Transport Committee (YLDC Paper No. 63/2014)**
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119. The Chairman asked Members to refer to paper nos. 57/2014 to 63/2014 on the progress reports of committees.

120. Mr Edward MAK reported the progress of the Pilot Scheme on Enhancement of District Administration (“Pilot Scheme”):

- (1) He thanked Members for their support to the Pilot Scheme. Since the launch of the Pilot Scheme in April 2014, good progress had been made in handling the three district matters;
- (2) As for unauthorised shop extensions, following the notification procedure commenced by the YLDO together with the Lands Department (“LandsD”), the Buildings Department (“BD”), FEHD and the Hong Kong Police Force (“HKPF”) at Yu King Square and Hong King Street in April 2014, nearly half of the shops in breach of the law had removed floor slabs and other unauthorised structures on their own before the expiry of the notification period on 10 June 2014. Starting from July 2014, relevant enforcement departments had taken enforcement actions against shops in breach of the law that had not taken any follow-up action on their own and issued enforcement notice to the shops concerned. The YLDO would continue to conduct joint operations with relevant departments at the locations suggested by Members and agreed by the Yuen Long District Management Committee (“YLDMC”), including Hung Min Court, Mau Tan Street, Fau Tsoi Street and Sau Fu Street. Furthermore, the YLDO would later consult the Environmental Improvement Committee (“EIC”) on the work plan concerned;
- (3) Regarding the handling of illegal parking of bicycles, the YLDO, together with the LandsD, the FEHD and the HKPF, had completed the first round of joint operation at all the locations of illegal bicycle parking reported by Members. They were conducting the second round of operation to remove the illegally parked bicycles at the aforementioned locations again. In end August 2014, the YLDO hung banners and location maps at the locations of illegal bicycle parking in the public housing estates in Tin Shui Wai, so as to enhance promotion of the sites of designated bicycle parking facilities nearby. Similar publicity banners would be hung at other locations gradually. In addition, he thanked Members for their enthusiasm in proposing sites for provision of additional bicycle parking facilities in the district, the TD had planned to issue Works Request Forms to the relevant departments to arrange the provision of additional bicycle parking facilities at appropriate sites. The TD would also continue to study the feasibility of providing the facilities concerned at other suggested sites; and

- (4) In response to the confirmed cases of Japanese encephalitis in the district, the YLDO had adjusted the priority of action locations for mosquito prevention measures and grass-cutting to give priority to and step up grass-cutting at the location of confirmed cases. Moreover, the YLDO had carried out large-scale joint publicity activities with the YLDC at eight locations in Yuen Long town and Tin Shui Wai on 10 July 2014. He thanked Members for their active participation on that day.

121. Mr Timothy CHOI reported on the details of the work for the above three district matters carried out by the YLDO.

122. Mr Zachary WONG opined that the work strategy to handle unauthorised shop extensions at various locations in phases might not be able to effectively alleviate the existing problem of street obstruction by shops. He proposed publicity and education be launched in full scale at all local black spots and hoped that the FEHD could continue to take relevant enforcement actions proactively. Moreover, he pointed out that the TD would usually provide bicycle parking facilities in the vicinity of cycling tracks and public transport interchanges only and opined that it could better cater to the needs of the public to provide bicycle parking spaces in the vicinity of government facilities and markets. He also hoped that the YLDO could consider providing the facilities concerned if the TD could not implement the suggestions concerned.

123. The Chairman said that if Members had any enquiries on the above progress reports, they could raise their enquiries but no discussion would be carried out.

124. The Vice-chairman proposed providing bicycle parking facilities in the vicinity of public transport interchanges and hoped that the YLDO could reflect the views concerned to the TD.

125. Mr Edward MAK gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (1) The YLDO, together with the LandsD, the BD, the FEHD and the HKPF, had launched inter-departmental publicity and education at Yu King Square and Hong King Street early this year, and commenced the notification procedure for enforcement and posted notices to require shop tenants to remove floor slabs and illegal structures on their own. The FEHD had also handled street obstruction by shops and restaurants in response to Members' opinion. The relevant departments conducted inspection at the above locations upon the expiry of the notification period on 10 June. Over half of the shop tenants had removed the illegal structures on their own and the department would consider taking corresponding enforcement actions against shop tenants that failed to make improvements;
- (2) The YLDO and the relevant departments could not launch targeted publicity and education work at all selected locations of unauthorised shop extensions concurrently due to resources constraints but would adjust the priority of

publicity locations having regard to actual circumstances;

- (3) On the sites for providing bicycle parking facilities proposed by Members, the TD had conducted feasibility studies and had issued the Works Request Forms for half of the proposed sites. As for the criteria for providing the relevant facilities, he hoped the representative of the TD could provide response in this regard; and
- (4) As it was not appropriate to deal with issues with significant policy implications under the Pilot Scheme and the decisions made under the scheme could not go beyond the authority and responsibility of the department, the YLDO was unable to provide bicycle parking facilities having regard to the existing mechanism and resources allocation. The YLDC would conduct a mid-term review in the light of the practical experience from the Pilot Scheme and suggestions of Members to take stock of the experience, with a view to handling district matters more effectively.

126. Mr Gary LAI responded that the TD would generally consider providing bicycle parking facilities in the vicinity of cycling tracks and public transport interchanges but it had to study the feasibility of individual sites. It would also reflect to traffic engineers other sites proposed by Members to study the feasibility of the suggestions concerned.

[The Chairman left the meeting at 4:10 p.m. and the meeting was chaired by the Vice-chairman.]

127. Mr YIU Kwok-wai enquired about the progress report of the T&TC. He said that the TTC had passed the motion that “In respect of the details of the ‘Bus Route Development Programme of Yuen Long District for 2014-2015’, the Traffic and Transport Committee of the Yuen Long District Council urges the Transport Department and KMB to discuss the rationalisation of controversial bus routes including route nos. 264M, 265M, 269M, 69M, 265P and 269B with this Committee, as well as to conduct trial run immediately for the development proposals relating to those bus routes which are not controversial” at the meeting on 6 August this year. He opined that the TD failed to provide a specific response to the motion in its written reply on 27 August and enquired the TTC of the follow-up action. Moreover, it was recently reported that the YLDC objected to the above bus route development programme, he considered the allegations in the report unfounded and hoped that the TD could make clarifications.

128. Mr WONG Cheuk-kin, Vice-chairman of the TTC, responded that the said meeting was not chaired by him and thus suggested that Mr LUK Chung-hung, Chairman of the TTC, should respond to the enquiry instead.

129. Mr MAK Ip-sing considered that the TD should follow up the said motion which was passed by the TTC. The Chairman of the TTC should respond to Mr YIU Kwok-wai’s enquiry if the TD had followed up the matter and reported to the Chairman of the TTC already. However, since the Chairman of the TTC had left the meeting, he suggested that the representative of the TD should respond to the enquiry.

130. Mr Zachary WONG was of the view that Mr YIU Kwok-wai's enquiry should be forwarded to the TTC for follow-up as it was a follow-up item of the TTC and was irrelevant to the progress report.

131. The Vice-chairman proposed that the Chairman of the TTC take follow-up action after the meeting.

132. Members perused the progress reports of the YLDMC and the six committees under the YLDC and noted the latest progress of the Pilot Scheme.

**Item 7: Celebration Party for the 65th Anniversary National Day Extravaganza
(YLDC Paper No. 65/2014)**

133. The Vice-chairman asked Members to refer to paper no. 65/2014 on the HAD's invitation to the YLDC to jointly participate in this year's National Day celebration party to be held on 1 October.

134. Mr Timothy CHOI briefly introduced the details of the activity:

- (1) The YLDC was invited to take charge of the interesting interactive games, a game zone and the operation of activities, so that the participants could immerse themselves in the affection of the district;
- (2) The YLDC was invited to make arrangements for the disadvantaged in the district to participate in the activity on that day. Transportation services would be provided for participants when necessary at the expense of the HAD; and
- (3) The YLDC's logo would be displayed in the interactive game zone to indicate the participation of various DCs and District Offices.

135. Members unanimously endorsed that the YLDC would participate in the said activity and agreed that the HAD could use the YLDC's logo at the activity.

**Item 8: Invitation from the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups to YLDC as Supporting and Sponsoring Organisation
(YLDC Paper No. 64/2014)**

136. The Vice-chairman asked Members to refer to paper no. 64/2015 on the invitation from the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups to YLDC as supporting and sponsoring organisation of the New Year Gathering Banquet for the 18 Districts' Neighbourhood. The Vice-chairman said that according to preliminary information, all the YLDC funds for the current year had been appropriated already. As a result, the YLDC might not have sufficient funds to sponsor the said activity.

137. Members unanimously agreed that the YLDC would be a supporting organisation but would not sponsor the activity due to insufficient funds.

Item 9: Matters Relating to Members Joining the Committees under YLDC

138. The Vice-chairman said that Mr KWONG Chun-yu applied for joining the EIC and the Town Planning and Development Committee (“TP&DC”).

139. Members unanimously endorsed Mr KWONG Chun-yu’s application for joining the EIC and the TP&DC.

140. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Yuen Long District Council Secretariat
October 2014