

**Minutes of the Second Meeting
of Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee
of Yuen Long District Council in 2024**

Date: 15 April 2024 (Monday)

Time: 2:30 p.m. to 5:05 p.m.

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

Present

Chairman : Mr CHAM Ka-hung, Daniel, BBS, MH, JP

Vice- :
Chairman : Mr TANG Che-keung, MH

Members : Mr MAN Yick-yeung
Mr MAN Luk-sing, MH
Mr MAN Ka-ho, Donald, JP
Mr WONG Wai-leung
Mr WONG Hiu-shan
Mr YU Chung-leung
Ms LI Ching-yee
Mr LAM Chung-yin
Mr LAM Wai-ming
Mr LAM Tim-fook
Ms LAM Wai-ming
Mr YIU Kwok-wai, MH
Mr CHUI Kwan-siu
Ms YUEN Man-yee, MH
Mr CHEUNG Wai-sum
Mr LEUNG Ming-kin
Mr CHONG Kin-shing, MH, JP
Mr KWOK Wing-cheong
Ms CHAN Yin-kwan, Yankie
Mr CHING Chan-ming
Mr WONG Yuen-tai, MH
Mr WONG Wing-ho, Allan
Ms LAU Kwai-yung
Mr TANG Ho-nin, MH
Mr TANG Yung-yiu, Ronnie

Ms LAI Yuet-kwan, Fennie
Mr SO Yuen

Secretary : Ms LEUNG Hiu-wai, Christine Executive Officer (District Council)5,
Yuen Long District Office

In attendance

Mr Hubert CRUZ	Assistant District Officer (Yuen Long)1, Yuen Long District Office
Mr CHU Lap-hung	Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Yuen Long), Lands Department
Mr KWOK Ming-gon	District Environment Hygiene Superintendent Yuen Long), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Miss CHEUNG Fung-heung	Chief Health Inspector (Yuen Long)1, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr MOK Ka-chun	Chief Health Inspector (Yuen Long)2, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Ms NG Wing-mei, Elizabeth	Chief Health Inspector (Yuen Long)3, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr TANG Kin-ming	Engineer/Yuen Long 3, Drainage Services Department
Dr FAN King-wai, Keith	Agricultural Officer (Livestock Farm Licensing), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Dr LAW Chi-wing	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional North)2, Environmental Protection Department

Item III & IV

Mr TAI Wai-hin	Engineer/Main River 3, Drainage Services Department
Ms TAM Oi-fan	Deputy District Leisure Manager(Yuen Long)1, Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Item X

Mr LING Wai-chung,
Jackson

Senior Environmental Protection Officer
(Sewerage Infrastructure)4,

Environmental Protection Department

Mr LEUNG Wing-tak,
David

Senior Engineer/Special Duty 1,
Drainage Services Department

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Welcoming Remarks

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives of different departments to the second meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (FEHC), Yuen Long District Council in 2024.

2. The Chairman welcomed Mr KWOK Ming-gon, who took over the work of Mr LEE Kam-ho, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Yuen Long) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to his first meeting. He also thanked Mr LEE Kam-ho for his assistance rendered to FEHC in the past.

Item I: Confirmation of minutes of the first meeting of Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (FEHC) in 2024 held on 5 February 2024

3. The Chairman referred Members to the minutes of the first FEHC meeting on 5 February 2024, and said that the Secretariat had recorded replies of Environmental Protection Department (“EPD”) on municipal solid waste (“MSW”) charging in the minutes as per Members’ views raised in the last meeting.

4. Members endorsed the minutes of the first meeting of FEHC in 2024.

Questions Raised by Members:

**Item II: Ms YUEN Man-yea proposed a discussion on “Concern over the shortage of car parks equipped with charging facilities in public housing estates under the Housing Department in Yuen Long District”
(FEHC Paper No. 13/2024)**

5. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 13 and written reply of the Housing Department (“HD”).

6. Members’ views and enquiries were summarised as follows:

- (1) As only two parking spaces in Shui Pin Wai Estate Public Car Park were equipped with electric vehicle (“EV”) charging facilities, users needed to wait for a long time;
- (2) As the charging facilities were not fast chargers, some car owners would park their cars there and leave. Even EVs were fully charged, the parking spaces could not be used by other waiting users as the owners had already left the car park; and
- (3) A Member noted from the HD’s reply that as Shui Pin Wai Estate and Long Ping Estate were completed many years ago, the electric system might not be able to support additional EV charging facilities, but still wanted the Department to try its best to add charging facilities, in line with the increasing trend of EV.

7. The Chairman concluded that from the written reply of the HD, addition of charging facilities will be subject to technical feasibility, and suggested that the Department explore enhancing electricity supply. He asked the Secretary to relay Members’ views for the HD’s follow-up.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat relayed Members’ views on 29 April 2024 for the HD’s follow-up.)

Item III: Mr CHAM Ka-hung, Daniel proposed a discussion on “Issues relating to the environmental hygiene, anti-rodent work, and water quality and hygiene of the nullah in Tin Shui Wai”
(FEHC Paper No. 14/2024)

8. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 14 and written replies of the Drainage Services Department (“DSD”), Leisure and Cultural Services Department (“LCSD”), the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”) and the Highways Department (“HyD”), and welcomed the following representatives to the meeting:

Engineer/Main River 3, DSD

Mr TAI Wai-hin

Deputy District Leisure Manager(Yuen Long)1,
LCSD

Ms TAM Oi-fan

9. Members’ views and enquiries about this item were summarised as follows:

- (1) A Member noted DSD’s reply that clearing of silt and waste within Tin Shui Wai Nullah was frequently conducted, but Members still found the hygiene problem brought by presence of waste and silt accumulation in the nullah. Members wanted the Department to more actively follow up on the hygiene of the nullah to cope with the vision of the Development Bureau (“DB”) under the Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen New Development Area Plan, i.e. improving and revitalising Tin Shui Wai Nullah;
- (2) A Member asked whether DSD would enhance the clearing frequency in view of large amount of silt in the nullah at present;
- (3) A Member asked about the frequency of damage of the inflatable nylon dam in the nullah, and considered that silt accumulation in the nullah caused by damage of inflatable nylon dam from time to time was not ideal;
- (4) Regarding HyD’s reply that slabs at both sides of the nullah would be re-paved and the cavity at the base of trees would be enlarged, Members suggested that LCSD follow up altogether the tree transplanting arrangements;

(Post-meeting note: HyD said that currently paving works of slabs along Tin Shui Path (south of Tin Wah Road) were in progress and were expected to be completed in Q3 of this year; paving works of slabs in remaining road

sections (Tin Shui Path and Tin Ying Path, north of Tin Wah Road) would be carried out in phases later.)

- (5) Fruit shops in Kingswood Richly Plaza always occupied the pedestrian walkway outside for tidying up and placing goods, bringing out poor environmental hygiene near Locwood Light Rail Stop. Members wanted FEHD to follow up;
- (6) Coconut trees beside Locwood Stop were in poor condition and could not provide shelter for pedestrians. Members asked whether relevant departments would consider checking the trees and construct an arbour or a cover;
- (7) Uneven surfaces were found on handrails below the trees near Locwood Garden. Pedestrians were prone to trip and fall. Members suggested that the Department increase the height of handrails or flatten the road surface;
- (8) Overgrown weeds were found near Locwood Light Rail Stop. Members wanted FEHD to enhance cleaning. Moreover, waste accumulation and rodent problem were found near the Light Rail Stop. Rodents were crossing pedestrian walkways and shopping centres at night, but the cage traps collected by the Department failed to catch any rodents. Members wanted FEHD to follow up;
- (9) A Member asked whether FEHD would consider using other anti-rodent means, such as setting up traps along routes commonly used by rodents, installing chips in rodents to trace their whereabouts and routes, bringing poison to rodent groups through a rodent, etc., so as to effectively mitigate the rodent problem;
- (10) A public complaint about rodent problem near Kam Tin Market was received and considerable number of rodents entered nearby schools from the market, deteriorating environmental hygiene of schools; and
- (11) Similar environmental hygiene problems (i.e. waste accumulation and rodent problem near shops) were found in Tin Shui Wai North and Members wanted FEHD to follow up.

10. Mr KWOK Ming-gon, FEHD's reply was consolidated as follows:

- (1) Shops near Kingswood Richly Plaza were a black spot of shop front extensions which had caught the Department's attention. Shops always placed goods on pedestrian walkways, blocking passages and even causing environmental hygiene problem. The Department had been conducting irregular inspections, raid operations, joint enforcement actions with the Police, and instituted prosecutions. Moreover, since the fixed penalty for shop front extensions was raised to \$6,000 last year, the problem of shop front extensions was mitigated. Apart from that, the Department would keep a close eye on recycling arrangements of miscellaneous items (e.g. plastic basket) in daily operations and take appropriate actions. The Department verbally urged relevant parties to request for proper handling and avoid causing nuisance to the public. Street cleaning would be enhanced to keep passages clear and hygienic, and to prevent waste accumulation, unhygienic streets and rodent problem;
- (2) The Department had launched the first phase of anti-rodent movement of this year while the second phase would be carried out from 8 July to 13 September this year. Moreover, the Department deployed one more anti-rodent night team in Tin Shui Wai; a total of 100 rodents were killed or caught in these three months;
- (3) The Department was exploring to introduce new technology or technique to enhance quality of public services, including prevention, elimination and control of rodents. Thermal imaging cameras were introduced to collect rodent intelligence on the amount, whereabouts, areas of activity, etc. by placing the cameras in places with potential rodent problems or nearby restaurants. Intelligence collection helped the Department formulate more effective and targeted plan or anti-rodent means and allocate resources more flexibly. The Headquarters had conducted a trial of this technique in different locations with satisfactory results. Thermal imaging cameras would be installed in Yuen Long District also to try enhancing the effectiveness of traditional anti-rodent means by establishing an intelligence network;
- (4) Members' views and suggestions on anti-rodent means were noted. New technology would not fully replace traditional means and would only act as tools to facilitate anti-rodent work by combining experience and traditional

wisdom, such as alcohol rodent trapping device. Currently, the Department had been adopting alcohol rodent trapping devices in off-street refuse collection points; and

- (5) The problem of environmental hygiene in Tin Shui Wai was not confined to the area around Kingswood Richly Plaza. The Department attached great importance to the problem of environmental hygiene in Yuen Long as a whole and taking into account local circumstances, carried out enforcement and management work. At the same time, the Department would enhance publicity on anti-rodent and rodent control work to increase public awareness and participation.

11. Ms TAM Oi-fan, LCSD's reply was consolidated as follows:

- (1) To deal with the rodent problem near Kingswood Richly Plaza, apart from enhancing daily cleaning of Locwood Garden, the Department also engaged service contractors to carry out anti-rodent, including placing cage traps and baits, in the plaza. The Department had also reminded service contractors to check cage traps every day and the caught rodent needed to be dealt with immediately. Baits also needed to be timely replaced. The Department would continue to monitor the effectiveness of anti-rodent work and consult FEHD for its professional advice on the choice of anti-rodent means;
- (2) Trees near Tin Shui Wai Nullah fell earlier due to typhoon. The Tree Team of LCSD was following up on related matters. The Department knew that HyD would re-pave the slabs and enlarge the cavity at the tree base there. The Department would maintain communication with HyD to arrange tree replanting;
- (3) As for the tree issue near Locwood Stop, the Department would check tree growth later. As LCSD mainly took care of maintenance of plants and trees, Members' suggestion on roadside handrails required follow-up of other relevant departments; and
- (4) The Department would keep in view and follow up on overgrown weeds near Locwood Stop.

12. Mr TAI Wai-hin, DSD's reply was consolidated as follows:

- (1) The Department attached great importance to the hygienic problems of Tin Shui Wai Nullah and had been arranging contractors to regularly clear the nullah;
- (2) There was an inflatable nylon dam in Tin Shui Wai Nullah near Tin Shui Wai Hospital. The dam prevented waste and silt entering the nullah from Deep Bay. As currently the Department was repairing the nylon dam, hygiene of the nullah might be deteriorated by intruding waste and silt. As the repair works took time, the Department had arranged contractors to inspect and clear the nullah more frequently before completion of the repair works;
- (3) The effect of silt clearing was not obvious when the nylon dam was under repair, as silt would re-enter the nullah when the tide rises. The Department would try to complete the repair works of the nylon dam as soon as possible and then arrange large-scale silt clearing; and
- (4) The nylon dam needed to be deflated for a short period of time for regular maintenance every year. It was rather rare to have long repair works and the last time took place in 2007.

13. The Chairman concluded that silt accumulation in Tin Shui Wai Nullah was a long-standing problem and wanted DSD to increase the frequency of silt frequency after completion of the repairs of the nylon dam and thus improve environmental hygiene. He wanted FEHD to actively follow up on the problems of environmental hygiene near Locwood Light Rail Stop and Tin Shui Wai North as mentioned by Members, and consider designating those locations as hygienic black spots. As for handrails under the trees opposite Locwood Garden, he asked the Secretariat to relay Members' views to HyD.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat relayed Members' views on uneven handrail surfaces under the trees opposite Locwood Garden to HyD on 29 April 2024. HyD contacted the relevant members and completed the repair works on 8 May 2024.)

**Item IV: Ms LI Ching-yee proposed a discussion on “Blockage of rural drainage channels; planters overgrown with weeds, accumulation of refuse and trees with overgrown branches”
(FEHC Paper No. 19/2024)**

14. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 19 and written replies of the Lands Department (“LandsD”), LCSD, DSD and FEHD.

15. Members’ views and enquiries about this item were summarised as follows:

- (1) Although at present LCSD would clear weeds inside planters along Kam Sheung Road, a large number of weeds were still found beside planters. Members wanted relevant departments to help clear weeds outside planters and along pedestrian walkways to avoid problems in environmental hygiene such as mosquito and rodent problems;
- (2) A Member asked whether relevant departments had an exact timetable in place regarding regular weed clearing;
- (3) Residuals after clearing weeds were not yet removed and remained in planters after two weeks. Members suggested that LCSD clear residuals more frequently;
- (4) A Member asked whether the Government would carry out greening in Kam Sheung Road under the Shining City Project;
- (5) As overgrown weeds in rural areas were taken care by multiple government departments, members of the public did not know which department to go to when in need. Although currently the Tree Management Office (“TMO”) was responsible to coordinate tree work of departments, one needed to wait for 1-2 months before receiving a reply from TMO. Members suggested speeding up of case handling and coordination of different department’s work; and
- (6) Members knew that trimming was carried out by outsourced contractors in general while relevant departments determined trimming frequency for contractors. A Member observed that trimming by contractors was less frequent in summer and wanted the departments to increase trimming frequency in summer to solve the problem of overgrown weeds.

16. Mr CHU Lap-hung, LandsD's reply was consolidated as follows:

- (1) Clearing of planters was not under the purview of LandsD. The departments mainly followed the guidelines of Technical Circular No. 6/2015 in their division of work. A dedicated team was responsible for dealing with weeds opposite government lands;
- (2) In view of vast areas in the New Territories, the Department could not arrange regular trimming for all government lands. To better allocate resources, the Department would arrange more frequent trimming in summer when plant growth was rapid or at locations with more serious mosquito problems when necessary. Trimming of government lands was also arranged according to reports or complaints. The Department would keep in view the situation of government lands. Special reports could be made via 1823 or directly to the dedicated team of LandsD; and
- (3) The Department said that division of work of the departments in terms of weed work was stipulated in the technical circular. Members' suggestion of designating one single department in charge required overall consideration of DB.

17. Ms TAM Oi-fan, LCSD's reply was consolidated as follows:

- (1) LCSD mainly took care of plant maintenance on flower beds and would follow up on trimming of weeds or plants on flower beds when necessary;
- (2) Regarding road sections of Kam Sheung Road, LCSD inspected those locations earlier and performed trimming and weed clearing. The Department would continue to monitor plant growth; and
- (3) The Department always reminded service contractors to clear garden waste generated from trimming as soon as possible. Contractors usually wrapped the garden waste and placed it at the roadside for trucks to pick up. The waiting time should not be too long. The Department would continue to remind contractors to promptly clear garden waste.

18. Mr TANG Kin-ming, DSD said that the Department had been arranging

regular silt clearing or cleaning work for drainage channels in rural areas of Kam Tin. In case of referral of drainage issues at a specific location, the Department would immediately follow up and when necessary, arrange cleaning and silt clear to keep clear passages.

19. Mr KWOK Ming-gon, FEHD said that the Department had been arranging street cleaning whenever there was rubbish. The Department conducted street cleaning daily and when necessary, increase the frequency.

20. The Chairman suggested in his conclusion that DSD enhance inspection to ensure clear passage and avoid flooding or environmental hygiene issues caused by blockage of drainage channels. As for trimming in public areas, he asked the Government to note Members' suggestion on designation of one single department to coordinate the work, and he understood that the suggestion might involve government resources and policy considerations. To keep the environment clean and tidy, he asked the Department to increase trimming frequency when necessary, especially in summer.

**Item V: Ms LAM Wai-ming proposed a discussion on “Blockage of drainage surrounding the tenement buildings at Yuen Long Centre”
(FEHC Paper No. 15/2024)**

21. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 15 and written replies of DSD and FEHD.

22. Members' views and enquiries about this item were summarised as follows:

- (1) Residents of Shun Hing Building and Yuen Tung Lau complained that blockage and reflux of sewage channels were so common in their buildings, causing much disturbance. As reflux still occurred after clearing sewage channels of their buildings, they considered that the root cause might be related to blockage of public channels. However, after checking the street manhole, DSD said that reflux was not related to the public sewage discharge system. A Member asked DSD whether such situation was caused by blockage at the front section of the manhole, and wanted the Department to speed up its complaint handling in the future;
- (2) A Member considered that aging of drainage system was serious in Yuen Long District. A Member asked if DSD conducted drainage repair works in

Yuen Long District;

- (3) Residents wanted to know more about the wear and tear inside drainage channels and whether blockage was caused by presence of foreign items inside. A Member asked whether DSD would consider regular inspection and clearing of local drainage channels;
- (4) A Member reflected that the Tung Fat Building Owners' Corporation conducted 10 rounds of clearing of drainage channels from 26 February and 20 March this year. However, there was still blockage of drainage channels. As there were many restaurants near the building, pipe outlets were easily blocked by oily waste discharged by restaurants in winter. Members noted from discussion with DSD that the Department would try its best to arrange for more frequent clearing of drainage channels to avoid reflux;
- (5) Illegal discharge of oily waste into public drainage channels by local restaurants brought about serious blockage. Members wanted FEHD to enhance enforcement;
- (6) Reflux also occurred in Po Shing Building last year. As some of the manholes of the building were located inside a restaurant, DSD at that time said that it could not enter to clear the drainage channels. Moreover, a Member pointed out that blockage of sewage pipes was also found in a restaurant in Hi Yip Industrial Building. The restaurant solved the problem by redirecting the sewage pipe to other drainage channels. The Member asked whether DSD could enter the restaurant to clear the manhole inside the restaurant; and
- (7) Members thanked FEHD and DSD for their active and efficient response to the drainage problem.

23. Mr TANG Kin-ming, DSD's reply was consolidated as follows:

- (1) DSD was responsible for repair and maintenance of public sewage collection system and would arrange for replacement, repair and maintenance works in case of damage or blockage. Upon receiving a request for assistance, the Department would arrange for inspection and follow-up as soon as possible;
- (2) As for the problem near Yuen Long Pau Cheung Square, the Department had

enhanced inspection and clearing of drainage channels to ensure their proper functioning. The Department inspected Shun Hing Building earlier and if necessary, could give technical advice;

- (3) In general, a building was responsible for maintenance and repairs of the part of drainage system between the manholes inside the building and the public drainage system; DSD took charge of repairs of public drainage facilities. A management company of a building needed to regularly repair and maintain drainage facilities under its purview;
- (4) In case of blockage of public drainage channels, one could dial the 24-hour hotline of DSD. The Department would immediately follow up on the case to ensure smooth and normal functioning of the public drainage system; and
- (5) The Department did not provide details of drainage repair works in the meeting, but had been arranging regular inspection for different drainage channels and repair works according to the degree of wear and tear.

(Post-meeting note: Drainage repair works of DSD in Yuen Long District include: inspection and repair works of underground sewage and rainwater pipe - 1st phase (completed on 31 December 2022); and repair works of sewage pipes - 4th phase (in progress).)

24. Mr KWOK Ming-gon and Miss CHEUNG Fung-heung, FEHD's replies were consolidated as follows:

- (1) In applying for a food premise licence, FEHD would request the food premise to provide appropriate drainage system to ensure proper sewage discharge before issuing the licence. Upon issue of the licence, a food premise as still required to comply with conditions of issuing and holding the licence. Non-compliance with the conditions, i.e. improper functioning of sewage discharge system or illegal sewage discharge, would be referred to EPD for follow-up. The Department would also follow up on the non-compliance based on the warning letter system. Accumulation of adequate amount of warning letters would lead to suspension or even revoke of the licence; and
- (2) Regarding illegal connection of sewage pipes in Hi Yip Factory Building, the Department arranged a site inspection, and found that the sewage pipes of that food premise had been connected to the main pipe of the building and sewage

was properly discharged in accordance with licensing conditions. However, as the case involved suspected illegal connection of sewage pipes, the Department referred the case to the Buildings Department (“BD”).

25. In his conclusion, the Chairman asked DSD to provide relevant information on repair works of drainage channels to Members. As for suspected illegal sewage discharge, he asked FEHD and BD to follow up and enhance enforcement to avoid serious blockage of drainage channels in winter.

Item VI: Mr WONG Yuen-tai proposed a discussion on “How to promote the refined arrangements for municipal solid waste charging (MSW charging)” (FEHC Paper No. 16/2024)

26. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 16 and written replies of FEHD and EPD.

27. Members’ views and enquiries about this item were summarised as follows:

- (1) Members were disappointed that EPD did not send a representative to the meeting for this item and wanted the Government to listen more to public views to improvise its plan;
- (2) A Member considered that there were insufficient ancillary recycling facilities currently, so that recycling bins were always full. Moreover, the public was hard to separate waste at home due to limitations in their living environment;
- (3) Some villagers in the rural areas of Yuen Long disposed of their waste in refuse collection points, but the MSW Charging Demonstration Scheme did not include rural areas;
- (4) Considerable number of ethnic minorities lived in rural areas in recent years. They might not fully grasp the details of MSW charging. Members asked whether the Department would help them avoid violating the law inadvertently;
- (5) A Member suggested that the Government start from the easier part first before implementing the more difficult part when launching MSW charging.

MSW charging could be implemented in commercial buildings, large shopping centres, large public and private housing estates first, before extending to restaurants and finally three-nil buildings and rural areas;

- (6) EPD set up reverse vending machines over the territory in recent years to facilitate recycling of plastic bottles. Private and public organisations had been encouraging recycling of plastic waste. Gift redemption programmes were even offered which effectively encouraged green practices; and
- (7) Currently, 50 countries adopted a deposit system on one-time beverage packages. A Member wanted the Government to implement similar arrangements to encourage public participation in plastic bottle recycling campaigns.

28. The Chairman said that he contacted EPD before the meeting and noted that the MSW Charging Demonstration Scheme was in progress. An interim report was expected to be submitted to the Legislative Council (“LegCo”) in May this year. EPD said that a written report on MSW charging would be submitted to FEHC. He asked the Secretariat and EPD to follow up.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat relayed the written reply of EPD on the MSW Charging Demonstration Scheme to the FEHC on 12 June 2024.)

Item VII: Mr YU Chung-leung, Mr LAM Wai-ming, Ms LAM Wai-ming, Mr CHUI Kwan-siu, Mr CHEUNG Wai-sum, Ms LAI Yuet-kwan, Fennie and Mr SO Yuen proposed a discussion on “Provision of additional recyclable collection points at specific locations and community recycling vehicles in subdistricts”
(FEHC Paper No. 17/2024)

29. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 17 and written reply submitted by EPD in the meeting.

30. Members’ views and enquiries about this item were summarised as follows:

- (1) Currently, GREEN@COMMUNITY recycling stores needed to provide in-store, point-to-point recycling and street station recycling services. In view of the heavy workload, a Member received a complaint from a private

housing estate that point-to-point recycling could only be arranged once every week. The Member concerned that recycling bins there would be overburdened upon implementation of MSW charging which caused other problems of environmental hygiene;

- (2) If EPD could not increase recycling facilities, it might consider increasing recycling street stations by means of resource allocation. It might arrange setting up of a street station during weekends or at night on weekdays;
- (3) A Member suggested that the Department follow practices of other countries by introducing community recycling trucks in Yuen Long for recycling in different estates at different times. In view of vast space of rural areas, the effectiveness of introducing community recycling trucks could be more obvious;
- (4) Currently, only 20% of rural villages in Yuen Long had recycling facilities. The number of food waste recycling facilities were even lower. A Member suggested that EPD consider introducing smart or normal recycling bins to improve food waste recycling in rural areas;
- (5) About 2 000 tonnes of recyclables over the territory were expected upon implementation of MSW charging. However, according to a public report of GREEN@YUEN LONG, only about 20 tonnes of recyclables could be dealt with each month. A Member was of the view that solely GREEN@COMMUNITY could not cater for the increase in recyclables upon implementation of MSW charging, and suggested that the Government consider working with the industry to solve the recycling problem in the long run;
- (6) There was a total of 6 villages in San Tin but only two of them had waste separation facilities. Currently, waste recycling services were provided once in the morning and at night. A Member mentioned about a public complaint about waste accumulation and suggested that EPD provide more frequent recycling services and install surveillance cameras in recycling facilities to monitor the situation;
- (7) A Member once sent a letter to EPD to suggest introducing recycling trucks to carry out recycling work, but EPD rejected the suggestion in consideration of the environmental impacts brought by such recycling trucks. The Member considered that recycling trucks could help in point-to-point

recycling work and wanted the Department to consider such suggestion;

- (8) A Member reflected that not many members of the public were familiar with the locations of recycling facilities and suggested that EPD enhance publicity on the recycling facilities; and
- (9) 24-hour self-service stations of GREEN@COMMUNITY ran in the form of recycling bins. A Member concerned that the recycling bins would be overburdened in view of exceptionally high usage upon implementation of MSW charging, leading to accumulation of recyclables outside GREEN@COMMUNITY and rodent problem there.

31. Dr LAW Chi-wing, EPD's reply was consolidated as follows:

- (1) GREEN@YUEN LONG Recycling Station, 5 recycling stores of GREEN@YUEN LONG HUI、GREEN@LONG PING、GREEN@TIN WAH、GREEN@TIN YAN、GREEN@TIN HANG, 11 mobile recycling spots running at regular hours and locations, and 9 special recycling street stations were set up in Yuen Long to collect 9 types of common recyclables, targeting residential clusters (including single-block residential buildings and three-nil buildings) without the space for recycling facilities to encourage waste separation at source and clean recycling. Currently, GREEN@YUEN LONG also supported point-to-point recycling services for about 210 estates or single-block buildings, 29 rural villages, etc. The operating organisation provided hotlines and WhatsApp groups for estates to ask for additional point-to-point recycling services when necessary (The operating organisation provided 2 additional rounds of point-to-point recycling services for The Parcville during Lunar New Year);
- (2) The Government had been promoting the green culture of "Use Less, Waste Less", to encourage the public to consider how to make good use of more durable items or those with reuse value, such as clothing, before disposal. Examples include barter, resale, donation to charity organisations, etc. Recycling stations of GREEN@COMMUNITY had been organising various forms of green education events from time to time, such as workshops on reuse or upcycling of clothing and barter activities. Moreover, EPD also provides information on the locations of public recycling spots for different types of recyclables via its GREEN&\$ mobile application and the Hong Kong Waste Reduction Website;

- (3) EPD would continue to review the community recycling facilities and their operations, as well as the exact demand of individual communities for recycling facilities. EPD was actively exploring to carry out measures such as setting up of recycling mobile spots near public markets and three-nil buildings, extending service hours of recycling mobile spots, etc. The Department estimated that public collection spots over the territory would increase to about 500 by August 2024 to strengthen services of community recycling networks and help the public properly separate waste and recycle; and
- (4) He understood public needs and would relay views to relevant sections.

32. In his conclusion, the Chairman asked EPD to actively follow up on Members' views. Members considered that the provision of recycling facilities was still inadequate and wanted the Department to speed up the addition of local recycling facilities.

**Item VIII: Mr YU Chung-leung, Mr LAM Wai-ming, Ms LAM Wai-ming, Mr CHUI Kwan-siu, Mr CHEUNG Wai-sum, Ms LAI Yuet-kwan, Fennie and Mr SO Yuen proposed a discussion on “Enquiry about the application status of community food waste bins in housing estates in Yuen Long District and the call for expedited approval process”
(FEHC Paper No. 18/2024)**

33. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 18 and written reply submitted by EPD in the meeting.

34. Members' views and enquiries about this item were summarised as follows:

- (1) As there were a lot of single-block buildings and tenement buildings in Yuen Long, a Member suggested that EPD open a community recycling centre at a ground floor store to increase the number of food waste processors in Yuen Long;
- (2) Quite a number of owners' corporations reflected that their buildings could not apply for installation of food waste processors as there were less than 1 000 households. A Member asked whether the Department relaxed the relevant application criteria. Moreover, buildings or estates without 1 000

households might need to share a food waste processor with nearby buildings, causing management problems. The Member asked about application for food waste processor by small estates;

- (3) After the end of the first phase of food waste processor scheme, The Parcville Owners' Corporation needed to reapply to launch the second phase of the scheme. A Member wanted the Department to speed up and simplify vetting procedures;
- (4) Some of the private estates were not familiar with the means and procedures of applying for food waste processors. A Member suggested that EPD send representatives to help residents or arrange fast application;
- (5) A Member suggested that EPD set up food waste recycling spots in Yuen Long Town, or consider increasing mobile food waste recycling services or setting up a street station to enhance recycling services at night;
- (6) Currently, purple recycling bins fully filled with food waste were always placed beside smart food waste processors in some estates. Without service contractors handling the bins, environmental hygiene problems were caused which added burden to property cleaning services;
- (7) Long Ping Estate was neither private nor public. A Member asked whether the Department planned to set up a food waste processor in the estate;
- (8) Usage rate of food waste processors in estates was so high and the processors were always full. A Member suggested that the Department increased the frequency of food waste recycling or arrange contractors to enhance night recycling services;
- (9) A Member noted that food waste processors were always damaged and needed repairs, decreasing the number of food waste processors available. The Member suggested that the Department consider installing more processors;
- (10) As users could not place plastic bags together food waste inside processors, a Member asked whether the Department had carried out publicity on the usage and would follow up on the usage of processors;
- (11) Currently, food waste processors were still not yet installed in some public

housing estates in Tin Shui Wai. A Member urge the Department to speed up its food waste collection trial scheme in public housing estates, so that one processor could be installed in each building;

- (12) A Member suggested that the Department consider arranging recycling trucks for private housing courts without processors to recycle food waste every day at regular hours and locations;
- (13) A Member was of the view that capacity of current food waste processors was rather small. From his understanding, the gas company had rolled out a new type of processor which could turn food waste into energy (compost or natural gas) with a larger capacity. The Member suggested that the Department work with the gas company to install more processors in a limited space;
- (14) Currently, only two contractors participated in the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection. A Member suggested that the Department enhanced cooperation with the industry to make good use of its technology to increase the number of processors and recycling volume;
- (15) A Member asked about the management unit of common recycling bins of small housing courts and whether recycling bins in public areas were taken care by outsourced contractors of EPD;
- (16) A Member was of the view that traditional food waste recycling bins easily caused hygiene problems such as those of mosquito and rodent, and asked whether EPD would replace the existing recycling bins with smart food waste processors;
- (17) A Member considered that EPD should take the initiative to contact local estates to install food recycling facilities when implementing MSW charging, but not waiting for the housing courts to make an application;
- (18) A Member suggested that EPD consider adopting food waste trucks with tanks of larger capacity, providing an extra option for food waste recycling. This helped mitigate public hygiene problems and respond to public demand for recycling;
- (19) A Member asked whether the Department formulated a schedule for installation of food waste processors in 141 rural villages in the district; and

- (20) A Member asked about the exact locations of the 55 mobile spots of food waste recycling at night mentioned in EPD's written reply. As most of the citizens did not know about such services, he suggested that the Department enhance publicity.

35. Dr LAW Chi-wing, EPD's reply was consolidated as follows:

- (1) EPD mainly supported private residential buildings in installation of smart food waste processors through the solicitation theme of the Recycling Fund and Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Smart Recycling Bins in Private Housing Estates of the Environmental Campaign Committee ("ECC");
- (2) The solicitation theme on "Supporting Residential Buildings in Adopting Smart Bins Technology in Food Waste Collection and Recycling" was launched in end-2020. The objectives of this solicitation theme were to encourage and facilitate food waste collection and recycling in the domestic sector such as residential buildings; and to enhance the collection efficiency of food waste by using smart bins collection. To help applying organisations speed up their applications, the Secretariat of the Recycling Fund took the initiative to contact those organisations and answer their questions when necessary. At the same time, during the inspection before vetting, the Secretariat would help those organisations clarify relevant information, so that they could meet the application criteria for faster approval. Based on the existing mechanism, the Secretariat could at most hold an application for 6 months before submitting it to the Advisory Committee on Recycling Fund. The decision would be made based on individual circumstances. The Secretariat would notify the applying organisations of the results. Up till now, applications of two courts in Yuen Long, including Lynwood Court, Kingswood Villas and Park Signature, were approved. Food waste recycling had been started or was going to start soon;
- (3) At present, the 2-year Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Smart Recycling Bins in Private Housing Estates co-launched by ECC and EPD was in progress. Simplified application procedures were adopted in the scheme. Representatives of housing courts only needed to provide general information of their housing courts in the application forms. Such information included number of food waste recycling bins, suggested locations, estimated amount of food waste, etc. As at 28 March 2024, ECC received a total of 14 applications from housing courts in Yuen Long. Ping Yan Court and Sun

Yuen Long Centre were approved to install 4 and 2 smart food waste recycling bins respectively. The bins were expected to start operation between April and June 2024. Vetting of the remaining 12 applications were in progress. Vetting results would be announced about 1-2 months after receipt of all application documents. EPD was considering improvising the scheme and extend it to cover private housing courts with less than 1 000 households. Combined application with nearby small private housing courts which comply with the application criteria would also be accepted. Details would be announced later. Apart from smart food waste recycling bins, EPD provided traditional covered food waste recycling bins for private residential buildings through the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection. Currently, two housing courts in Yuen Long joined the scheme, including Wetland Seasons Park and Wetland Seasons Bay;

- (4) To promote food waste recycling in rural areas, EPD introduced the details of food waste recycling services to Heung Yee Kuk New Territories in November 2023 and invited rural committees and village representatives to join actively. As at March 2024, 9 rural villages in Yuen Long were using traditional or smart recycling bins in collecting food waste. 2 more rural villages were planning to do the same;
- (5) EPD would continue to explore installation of smart food waste recycling bins in green recycling stations near residential areas. Moreover, the Department currently set up food waste collection spots in 7 refuse collection points of FEHD. Nearby restaurants and residents could recycle their food waste there. EPD would continue to set up more public food waste collection spots in other suitable government venues;
- (6) Since November 2023, EPD had been setting up food waste recycling spots in areas where restaurants were concentrated. Those recycling spots ran at regular hours and locations to collect food waste generated from nearby homes and restaurants. The Department newly set up 55 food waste recycling spots in March and April this year which provided night collection service. More collection spots would be set up if local needs require, so as to provide more accessible recycling means;
- (7) Moreover, EPD was currently trying to collect food waste of “food and beverage clusters” where restaurants were concentrated in the form of mobile stations or mobile trucks in Yuen Long. The service areas included Ping Wui Street, Ping Cheong Path, Sai Yu Street, Fung Yau Street North and Fung

Kwan Street. Moreover, we were exploring to gradually extend the above “food and beverage clusters” services to domestic food waste nearby (including the waste from single-block buildings and three-nil buildings), providing a more convenient recycling means for the public;

- (8) Currently, EPD installed smart food waste recycling bins in 16 public housing estates in Yuen Long including Tin Hang Estate, Tin Yan Estate, Tin Wah Estate, Long Sin Estate, Long Ching Estate, Tin Yuet Estate, Tin Ching Estate, Tin Yat Estate, Tin Shui (1) Estate, Tin Shui (2) Estate, Tin Chak Estate, Shui Pin Wai Estate, Hung Fuk Estate, Tin Tsz Estate, Tin Yiu (1) Estate and Tin Yiu (2) Estate. Installation of food waste collection bins in Grandeur Terrace was scheduled for May. The Department would timely review the participation rate, collection volume and operational efficiency of different public housing estates and install more smart food waste recycling bins in individual estates when necessary. Information on latest food waste recycling services would be provided after the meeting; and
- (9) Members’ views were noted and would be relayed to relevant section. The Department would provide more information to Members when necessary.

36. In his conclusion, the Chairman asked EPD to provide supplementary information to the Secretariat after the meeting and actively follow up on Members’ views on food waste processors and food waste recycling.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat relayed EPD’s written reply on food waste recycling facilities and scheme schedule to FEHC on 3 June 2024.)

**Item IX: Mr WONG Wing-ho, Allan proposed a discussion on “Operation of the construction site of Yoho West during the early hours”
(FEHC Paper No. 25/2024)**

37. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 25 and written reply submitted by EPD in the meeting.

38. Members’ views and enquiries about this item were summarised as follows:

- (1) Apart from Central Park Towers, a Member also received complaints from Tin Chung Court Chung Ting House on noise and light pollution.

Complainants wanted to know the time when the works were being carried out and whether EPD could adopt more measures to block noise, avoid shock and block light. Moreover, complainants also concerned whether the works could be carried out on weekends to avoid disturbing daily life;

- (2) The Construction Noise Permit (“CNP”) of the works expired on 11 April this year. A Member asked whether renewal of CNP was granted and if yes, its validity period;
- (3) The reasons for carrying out the works in late night were understood but a Member wanted to know whether EPD could adopt appropriate measures to mitigate the impact on nearby residents;
- (4) A Member reflected that those living in Kenswood Court, which was rather distant from the site, were also affected by the works and wanted EPD to keep in view the situation; and
- (5) As the site location was near residential areas, daytime and late night noise problems caused disturbance to nearby residents. A Member wanted EPD to more actively discuss with the contractor to implement more noise reduction measures.

39. Dr LAW Chi-wing, EPD’s reply was consolidated as follows:

- (1) As the property construction works were located within the railway protection zones of Tin Wing Light Rail Stop and its light rails, operating signal cables were also found there. To avoid any serious accidents caused by running electric flow inside overhead cables, the works needed to be carried out outside operation hours of light rail. This protected passenger safety and avoid serious impact on daytime railway operations. Therefore, considering the professional advice of the Transport Department, the Police, HyD and MTRCL, EPD could only ask the construction contractor to carry out the works for four hours every night. The overall contraction time was also lengthened;
- (2) EPD granted various CNPs for the works but the Department had suspended its CNP. Noise was not created in late night during the last weekend;
- (3) In general, the Department did not allow night construction works.

According to the Noise Control Ordinance (“NCO”), the carrying out of construction work using powered mechanical equipment, or the carrying out of the prescribed construction work under the NCO during the restricted hours, that is between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. or at any time on a general holiday (including Sunday), required a valid CNP from EPD. According to the provisions in the technical memorandum, works involving special circumstances (e.g. daytime construction might severely hinder road, railway or other transportation means) might obtain a CNP from EPD which limited the construction at a specified period to reduce impact on the public;

- (4) Records showed that the noise mainly came from throwing of metal or shouting of workers. EPD would request the contractor to strengthen site management; and
- (5) EPD said that in case of future works within the light rail area, the Department would request the contractor to provide mitigation measures before works commencement to reduce the impact on daily life. Moreover, the Department would discuss with other departments when necessary. The Department also invited related Members and the contractor to have a meeting and improve communication.

40. The Chairman concluded that although the works were inevitable, EPD should discuss with the site contractor to reduce impact on those living nearby. He suggested that EPD consult local residents before issuing a CNP so that appropriate mitigation measures could be adopted to balance needs of different parties.

**Item X: Mr TANG Ho-nin proposed a discussion on “Request for expediting the implementation of sewerage connection works in Kam Tin”
(FEHC Paper No. 26/2024)**

41. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 26 and said that as the Secretariat received the questions only two clear working days before the meeting, EPD and DSD could not provide written replies before the meeting. He also welcomed the following department representatives to the meeting:

Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Sewerage Infrastructure)⁴, EPD Mr Jackson LING

42. Members' views and enquiries about this item were summarised as follows:
- (1) Construction of Kam Tin Trunk Sewerage was completed in 2006 and the branch sewerage works started in 2009 but were suspended due to technical issues. Subsequently, Members requested the Departments to complete the sewage connection works in rural areas of Kam Tin as soon as possible when the Kam Tin South Development project was being taken forward. However, the works were still not yet resumed;
 - (2) It was understood that the Government nearly finished its land resumption work in Ha Tsuen for its Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen New Development Area project. Land resumption only involved few rural villages in Kam Tin in view of the sewage connection works. Other land involved was mainly government land. EPD said that the sewage connection works could not be resumed due to land resumption issue. Members were of the view that the Departments might not actively follow up on sewage connection works in rural areas;
 - (3) A Member suggested that EPD and DSD provide a works schedule for their branch sewerage works in the six heungs so that Members could explain to the villagers;
 - (4) A Member asked how the Government planned to resume missing lots in rural areas, and was of the view that EPD and DSD should consider using means not involving land resumption in construction of sewage facilities;
 - (5) DSD received funding from LegCo for carrying out sewage works in Sap Pat Heung but the works only included construction of trunk sewerages. The costs of constructing branch sewerages were not covered;
 - (6) Currently, rural areas processed their sewage by septic tanks but there would be odour when it was hot. This severely affected environmental hygiene and villagers' health in rural villages. Members asked the Departments to speed up the sewage connection works;
 - (7) EPD said that 57 villages were covered in the village sewerage programme. A Member asked whether rural villages in Ping Shan Heung were included

and said that Ping Shan had been wanting to have sewage facilities for 20 years. The Member asked the Departments to speed up their works;

- (8) When the Government launched the village sewerage systems, rural committees greatly supported such project and helped identify land for construction of pumping stations. At present, pumping stations were completed in some rural villages such as Shui Tsiu San Tsuen. However, as the branch sewerage works were not yet completed, the pumping stations were still not yet in use;
- (9) Regarding objections of villagers of Pat Heung to the sewage connection works, Members added that the views were premised on the Department's proposal to construct only trunk sewerages and suggestion of asking villages to pay for the costs of connecting branch sewerages within the villages;
- (10) A Member once requested the department representatives to improvise sewage system in rural areas of San Tin when they conducted a site inspection for the San Tin Technopole project, but up till now there was no further update; and
- (11) The sewage works currently being implemented in Yuen Long were under the third phase. As the first and second phases ended for over 10 years, Members considered that the Government's reply that non-commencement of the third phase was due to land resumption problem was not ideal, and wanted EPD and DSD to speed up sewage works in rural areas.

43. Mr Jackson LING, EPD's reply was consolidated as follows:

- (1) EPD understood Members' concern about sewage facilities in Kam Tin. Currently, about 57 villages in the whole Yuen Long District were included in the village sewerage systems. Site inspection of 8 villages in Kam Tin Heung and 22 villages of Sap Pat Heung was just completed. The Department would discuss as soon as possible with other relevant departments how to arrange for implementation of those projects based on the inspection results and jointly consider how to take forward installation of sewage facilities of other villages altogether;
- (2) Village sewerage works usually involved land resumption, as public sewerage mains needed to be located within government lands to ensure that future

repairs would not be affected;

- (3) The Department was identifying rural villages which did not require land resumption for taking forward the sewerage works. Tung Tau Tsuen in Yuen Long was one of those villages which did not involve land resumption. The Department wanted to complete the design of sewerage system for Tung Tau Tsuen in Yuen Long and commence the works as soon as possible;
- (4) As the Department needed to take care of the overall planning of sewerage systems in rural villages over the territory, the works schedule for Yuen Long district could not be provided at this moment; and
- (5) 10 villages in Ping Shan Heung which were included in the village sewerage programme were Hang Tau Tsuen, Sheung Cheung Wai, Hung Uk Tsuen, Kiu Tau Wai, Shui Pin Wai, Tan Kwai Tsuen, Fui Sha Wai, Shan Ha Tsuen, Shui Pin Tsuen and Tai To Tsuen. The Department noted the views that Hang Mei Tsuen and Tong Fong Tsuen were also interested to have sewerage mains constructed.

44. Mr LEUNG Wing-tak, DSD's reply was consolidated as follows:

- (1) According to the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 358), sewerage works needed to be gazetted before applying for appropriation of LegCo;
- (2) In 2023, DSD completed site investigation for about 30 villages in Sap Pat Heung and Kam Tin Heung. Currently, the Department needed to discuss with other relevant departments the schedule for land resumption of lands in villages before arranging for gazettal and detailed design. Especially as works required resumption plans, but the Department had not yet received detailed information from relevant departments;
- (3) DSD generally took charge of site inspection, detailed design and construction of works. As for overall planning, the Department would prioritise the works based on the order set by EPD and the Environment and Ecology Bureau; and
- (4) Private lots needed to be resumed and converted into government lands before works commencement. During this process, relevant departments needed to provide information such as resumption plans to DSD. As the works

involved a lot of private lots, DSD believed that relevant departments needed time to process and thus works schedule could not be provided at this moment. The Department would continue to communicate with relevant departments.

45. The Chairman concluded that Members considered the works progress slow while the Department said that the works were hindered by land resumption. He suggested that the departments might coordinate with rural committees to speed up and smoothly implement sewage works in rural areas. He also asked the departments to actively follow up on Members' views.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat relayed consolidated written replies of EPD and DSD to the FEHC on 28 May 2024.)

Reports of government departments:

**Item XI: Statistics regarding inspections on and warning letters issued to farms in Yuen Long by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
(January to February 2024)
(FEHC Paper No. 20/2024)**

46. Members' views and enquiries about this item were summarised as follows:

- (1) There were only about 200 households near the farm at the back of Lin Fa Tei, but the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department ("AFCD") approved that farm to keep more than 1 000 pigs. The farm discharged the faeces into nearby natural rivers, causing much disturbance to nearby villagers. A Member asked why AFCD approved that farm to keep more than 1 000 pigs;
- (2) A Member was of the view that AFCD should know more about the arrangements of the farm's faeces disposal system before issuing a licence to avoid polluting nearby natural rivers; and
- (3) The Blueprint for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Fisheries mentioned about construction of multi-storey livestock farms which could significantly reduce pollution. Members received comments from various farm in-charges that they wanted to move to multi-storey livestock farms, and suggested that the Government speed up construction of the multi-storey livestock farms.

47. Dr Keith FAN, AFCD's reply was consolidated as follows:

- (1) AFCD once conducted a site inspection to the pig farm in Lin Fa Tei with village representatives in October last year, and knew that the farm had been discharging sewage from time to time. The Department contacted the holder of the farm licence in this regard and requested them to solve hygiene problems of their farm. The Department would also enhance inspection;
- (2) The Department had not allowed additional pigs since the initial issuance of the licence to the farm; and
- (3) The Department would understand the operation of faeces disposal system of farms and ensure their compliance with the licensing standards and requirements. Sewage needed to be processed before discharging into designated river channels. Apart from AFCD, EPD also supervised farm operations. The Department would further communicate with the Members to know more about the details.

48. In his conclusion, the Chairman asked AFCD to provide the required information to the Members.

**Item XII: Progress report on environmental hygiene issues by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (January to February 2024)
(January to February 2024)
(FEHC Paper No. 21/2024)**

49. Members' views and enquiries about this item were summarised as follows:

- (1) A Member asked about the operation mode of the community recycling centre inside the joint-user building at the junction between Hung Yuen Road and Hung Ping Road;
- (2) A Member recognised FEHD's efficiency in killing mosquitos in Lat Heung and wanted FEHD to carry out anti-mosquito work in Kam Sheung Road;
- (3) A Member thanked the previous and present superintendent of Yuen Long District for leading Yuen Long District Environmental Hygiene Office to

actively deal with the problem of shop front extensions. The problem was greatly improved. Increase in penalties also effectively reduced cases of illegal extension of business areas by restaurants;

- (4) A Member praised FEHD for its prompt response to cleaning issues in rural areas by improving the mosquito and rodent problems;
- (5) A Member concerned about recent flea problem brought by travelling;
- (6) A Member wanted FEHD to promptly clear waste and clean surfaces after receiving a report on local hygienic black spot; and
- (7) A Member noted that FEHD was using large anti-mosquito devices in Tin Shui Wai and asked whether the Department would use large anti-mosquito devices to deal with rural mosquito problems.

50. Mr KWOK Ming-gon and Ms Elizabeth NG, FEHD's replies were consolidated as follows:

- (1) The first phase of anti-mosquito campaign in 2024 had ended while the second phase would be conducted from 14 April to 16 June this year. The campaign covered Yuen Long, Tin Shui Wai and other rural areas. The Department would follow up on the locations which were mentioned by Members to be in need of stronger anti-mosquito work;
- (2) They thanked Members for their recognition of the Department's efforts made in the past. New penalties had great deterrent effect. Failure to pay for penalties would result in even higher amount of penalties as stipulated in law. The Department would continue to carry out enforcement and control on shop front extensions in the district;
- (3) The Hung Yuen Road Refuse Collection Point in Hung Shui Kiu, Yuen Long District consisted of 6 storeys. The ground floor was a refuse collection point while the first floor was a community recycling station set up by EPD. Second floor and above would be FEHD's office. The operation mode or operating organisation of the community recycling station could be determined only after completion of the whole facility;
- (4) The Department procured large anti-mosquito devices and related repair and

maintenance services in April this year. This device was mobile and could move automatically. A shooting device for spraying pesticides was installed on the top. In the past, colleagues needed to put on protective clothing with an anti-mosquito device on his back. The effect and coverage of the spray were limited. In contrast, these large anti-mosquito devices could spray at a wider area and a greater depth, which was suitable to kill adult mosquitoes in densely forested areas. Chances of heat stroke or injury would also be decreased. The Department would deploy this device to assist in existing anti-mosquito work during the peak season of mosquito; and

- (5) The Department stressed much on environmental hygiene such as street cleaning. Reports on this kind of issues would be dealt with as soon as possible to avoid mosquito and rodent problems in waste. Anti-mosquito campaign also includes clearing of waste to reduce the number of insects.

51. In his conclusion, the Chairman asked FEHD to note Members' views and follow up on use of anti-mosquito devices in rural areas.

**Item XIII: Enforcement activities and prosecution statistics of livestock waste control by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD)
(January to February 2024)
(FEHC Paper No. 22/2024)**

52. Members noted the above report.

**Item XIV: Yuen Long District Air Quality Health Index for January and February 2024 by the EPD
(FEHC Paper No. 23/2024)**

53. Members noted the above report.

**Item XV: Progress report on recycling in Yuen Long District by the EPD
(October to December 2023)
(FEHC Paper No. 24/2024)**

54. Members noted the above report.

Item XVI: Any other business

55. A Member received a public complaint that vehicle signals were reflected into residential units at night after installing transparent plastic boards at the nullah around the bend between Ma Wang Road and Ping Wui Street. The Member asked LandsD for the reasons for setting up transparent plastic boards there and asked the Department to reply later.

56. The Chairman asked LandsD to contact the Member and follow up on issues of public concern.

Item XVII: Date of next meeting

57. The Chairman announced that the third FEHC meeting in 2024 would be held in Conference Room, Yuen Long District Council at 2:30 p.m. on 17 June 2024.

58. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Yuen Long District Council Secretariat
June 2024