

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

Date: 5 August 2024 (Monday)

Time: 2:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

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

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

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

Members : Mr MAN Yick-yeung

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

Co-Opted : Mr MAN Kwai-sau

Members:

Mr CHEUNG Kwok-choi  
Mr TSANG Ka-yiu  
Mr YEUNG Siu-fai  
Mr TANG Ngar-lok  
Ms TAM Kam-lin, MH

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

In Attendance

Mr Hubert CRUZ	Assistant District Officer (Yuen Long)1
Mr CHEUNG Ho-man	Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Yuen Long) Lands Department
Mr MOK Ka-chun	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Atg.), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr CHAN Yun-kwan	Chief Health Inspector (Yuen Long)3, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr MAK Hing-on	Chief Health Inspector (Yuen Long)1 (Atg.), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr CHAN Chi-him, Bill	Engineer/Yuen Long 1, 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

Mr LEUNG Ho-tsung, Frankie	Senior Engineer/Project Management 4, Drainage Services Department
Mr WONG Tun-wing, Clement	Engineer/Project Management 18, Drainage Services Department

### Absence

Mr MAN Luk-sing, MH (Absent due to sickness)  
Mr TANG Cheuk-lun

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### **Welcoming Remarks**

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

2. The Chairman also welcomed Mr CHAN Yun-kwan, Chief Health Inspector (Yuen Long)<sup>3</sup> of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), and Mr CHEUNG Ho-man, Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Yuen Long) of the Lands Department, who respectively took over the work of Ms NG Wing-mei, Elizabeth and Mr CHU Lap-hung, to their first meeting. He also thanked Ms Elizabeth NG and Mr CHU Lap-hung for their assistance rendered to the FEHC in the past.

3. Besides, the Chairman welcomed Mr MAN Kwai-sau, Mr CHEUNG Kwok-choi, Mr TSANG Ka-yiu, Mr YEUNG Siu-fai, Mr TANG Cheuk-lun, Mr TANG Ngar-lok, and Ms TAM Kam-lin, MH on becoming Co-opted Members of the FEHC.

4. The Chairman announced that the Secretariat had received an application for absence from the meeting from Mr MAN Luk-sing, MH due to sickness before the meeting. According to Article 64 of the Standing Orders of the Yuen Long District Council, any member who could not attend a meeting because of sickness, attendance at a meeting of an advisory body or organisation appointed by the State or the Government, or other reasons considered reasonable by the meeting could submit an application to the committee for absence from a meeting, while the committee had to decide whether consent would be given to the relevant application for absence at the beginning of the meeting. The Chairman asked if Members consented to the application for absence from Mr MAN Luk-sing, MH.

5. Since no Member opposed, the Chairman announced that the FEHC consented to the application for absence from Mr MAN Luk-sing, MH. In addition, Mr TANG Cheuk-lun was not able to attend the meeting due to circumstances.

**Item I: Confirmation of minutes of the third meeting of Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (“FEHC”) in 2024 held on 17 June 2024**

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6. Members unanimously confirmed the minutes of the third meeting of the FEHC in 2024 held on 17 June 2024.

**Questions raised by Members:**

**Item II: Mr CHAM Ka-hung, Daniel proposed a discussion on “Request for CLP to improve power supply system and its management to minimise the occurrence of power interruptions”  
(FEHC Paper No. 38/2024)**

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7. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 38, and the consolidated reply from the Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB) and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, as well as the written reply from CLP Power Hong Kong Limited (CLP). He reminded Members that two representatives from CLP were listening to their opinions in the public gallery.

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

- (1) There had been multiple power interruptions since 2024, resulting in residents being trapped in elevators and needing to contact technical personnel to restart the elevators in many buildings in the district, causing inconvenience to residents’ daily access. In addition, a Member inquired about the number of power supply system interruptions in the district in recent years;
- (2) As overhead lines were equipment that often caused power interruptions, the authorities were suggested to consider reserving underground space for the power company to lay underground cables;
- (3) The power company was suggested to strengthen monitoring of the wear and tear of power equipment for timely replacement, and regularly inspect the condition of trees next to high-voltage cables for timely pruning;
- (4) It was believed that replacing the elevators in old buildings with new elevators

equipped with voltage drop protection devices could avoid elevator shutdown caused by voltage drops;

- (5) CLP or government departments were suggested to arrange emergency mobile power supply vehicles for buildings and businesses in the event of a sudden drop in electricity, in order to alleviate the urgent needs of residents and businesses;
- (6) Due to the possibility of damage to pylons and high-voltage cables caused by wildfires and lightning strikes, the power company was suggested to install lightning conductors on important power supply devices;
- (7) It was reflected that the small transformers on rural power installations were often covered by climbing plants. It was hoped that CLP would strengthen the daily maintenance of rural power installations to avoid affecting the stability of power supply due to long-term disrepair of the installations;
- (8) To cope with the impact of extreme weather, a Member supported CLP in formulating long-term emergency measures to strengthen the ability of the power supply system to withstand thunderstorms and other adverse weather conditions. On the other hand, a Member hoped that CLP would accelerate the repair work in case of power supply interruptions, in order to restore power supply as soon as possible and reduce the impact on the public; and
- (9) Although it was understandable that cable failures might occur due to uncontrollable or unexpected causes, it was hoped that CLP could strengthen its emergency response capabilities, properly prepare manpower and equipment, in order to deal with problems as soon as possible in the event of power supply interruptions.

9. Dr LAW Chi-wing of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) replied that he would forward the opinions of Members to the EEB.

(Post-meeting note: The EPD conveyed the opinions of Members on the supervisory work and measures of CLP to the EEB on 7 August 2024.)

10. In his conclusion, the Chairman requested the representatives of CLP to forward the opinions and suggestions raised by Members to the relevant divisions for further study and consideration.

**Item III: Mr CHAM Ka-hung, Daniel proposed a discussion on “Design and details of the works with the focus on developing Yuen Long Nullah into a flower viewing hotspot for the beautification of the city as proposed in the Policy Address”  
(FEHC Paper No. 39/2024)**

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11. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 39 and the amended written reply submitted by the Drainage Services Department (DSD) at the meeting. He also welcomed Mr LEUNG Ho-tsung, Frankie, Senior Engineer/Project Management 4, and Mr WONG Tun-wing, Clement, Engineer/Project Management 18 of the DSD, to attend the meeting.

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

- (1) A Member inquired about how the revitalisation project of the nullah would complement with the project of developing flower viewing hotspots mentioned in the Policy Address, and inquired about the location where the Department planned to plant flowers;
- (2) Regarding the “Shining City Project”, a Member inquired whether the DSD would plant flowers and plants in the Yuen Long Nullah while the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) handled the work as a large-scale landscape project, or the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) would plant the existing flower beds on both sides of the nullah;
- (3) It was observed that a large amount of rainwater would flow into the nullah through the upstream channels on Kung Um Road and Tai Shu Ha Road West when it rained. A Member was concerned that the plants planted in the nullah and on both sides of it might be submerged or even be washed away during rainstorms, and the beautified drainage facilities would also be damaged by flood influx;
- (4) A Member inquired whether planting plants in the nullah would affect its flood relief function and suggested that the Department consider planting

different plants on both sides of the nullah as a flower viewing hotspot. If the Department planned to plant plants at the bottom of the nullah, a Member suggested that the Department could choose to plant flowers instead of laying ordinary turfs to achieve the purpose of beautifying the nullah;

- (5) It was believed that the landscaping elements to be planted at the bottom of the nullah might lead to the accumulation of sediment, silt and pig manure, which would be difficult to clean. In addition, the time and frequency of cleansing the nullahs arranged by the Department were already quite tight. A Member was concerned whether the Department would have sufficient manpower to cope with the increased cleansing work and daily maintenance of plants after the completion of the beautification project;
- (6) A Member inquired about the rainy and dry seasons in Hong Kong, and was concerned about whether the collection of some river water by dry weather flow interceptors and box culverts during the dry season would affect the growth of plants in the nullah;
- (7) The Department was suggested to arrange on-site inspections with DC members for the improvement project of the nullah;
- (8) The Department was urged to actively address the current odour and river hygiene issues of the Yuen Long Nullah;
- (9) Due to the fact that the Yuen Long Nullah was a flood relief channel, a Member inquired whether the Department's plan to add stairs to the nullah to allow the public to enter the area would pose a safety hazard, and suggested that the Department should set up a monitoring system upstream to issue warnings when there were floods;
- (10) It was believed that beautifying the nullah would attract more pigeons to linger around the area, and urged the Department to assess the impact of the project on the surrounding environment and birds, as well as study how to deal with the problem of pigeons gathering around the nullah;
- (11) The DSD was suggested to consider adding a cover to the Yuen Long Nullah and setting up parking or other public spaces at the location of the cover to create a landmark in Yuen Long District;
- (12) It was noted that the Department had consulted the District Council (DO) on

the project before, but he hoped that the Department would further consider the opinions raised by Members on the beautification project;

- (13) The Youth Community Building Committee had discussed adding virtual reality elements to landmarks in Yuen Long (including the Yuen Long Nullah). As it had been observed that different departments were carrying out various beautification projects at different locations of the Nullah, it was suggested that a single department should be responsible for coordinating the work;
- (14) Building a footbridge above the nullah to facilitate residents' travel between Long Ping Station and Ma Tin Tsuen was suggested; and
- (15) Based on the experience of planting turfs on both sides of the river in Shui Tsan Tin in Pat Heung, the Department was suggested to reserve sufficient maintenance access points to enter the river for clearance work after adverse weather conditions. In addition, it was hoped that the Department would consider constructing pedestrian walkways or jogging tracks on both sides of the river for public use.

13. Mr Frankie LEUNG of the DSD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (1) The DSD currently had 2 public works projects, namely the Yuen Long Barrage Scheme (178CD) and the Improvement of Yuen Long Town Nullah (town centre section) (161CD). In the first phase of the project, a barrage and dry weather flow interception system would be constructed, while the revitalisation of the nullah would be carried out under the second phase of the project. The first phase of the project started on 29 May 2023, and upon completion, it would enhance the flood protection capacity of the Yuen Long Nullah and improve environmental issues. The second phase of the project was expected to commence in mid-2028. The entire project was expected to be completed by 2030;
- (2) In terms of revitalising design, the Department had conducted a series of public involvement activities with design thinking as the main axis for the above-mentioned project from 2020 to 2021, including interviews, street counters, co-creation workshops, community tours, and focus groups. Since 2020, over 500 stakeholders had participated in them, including Yuen Long residents, visitors, community organisations, youths, elderly, ethnic minorities, green groups, and representatives from professional sectors.



After analysing the opinions of various stakeholders, the Department designed an outline plan for the revitalisation of the nullah from the barrage to the Shap Pat Heung Road section;

- (3) To cope with extreme weather, the Department had launched the Yuen Long Barrage Scheme project to improve the problem of seawater backflow in Deep Bay and enhance the flood protection capacity of Yuen Long District. On the other hand, some of the polluted dry weather flows flowed into the Yuen Long Nullah through its outlet, causing water pollution and creating odours and environmental problems. In this regard, the Department would construct a dry weather flow interception system to divert these polluted dry season flows into underground box culverts, which would then be sealed and transferred to the Yuen Long Effluent Polishing Plant for treatment and discharge, in order to improve the odour, water quality, and environment of the nullah in Yuen Long Town Centre:
- (4) Due to the rise in sea level, seawater from the Deep Bay downstream flowed back along the nullah, increasing the risk of flooding in the area of Yuen Long Town Centre. A barrage could prevent seawater from flowing back into the nullah;
- (5) The Department planned to carry out appropriate revitalisation to the nullah after completing the construction of the barrage and enhancing the flood prevention capacity. The relevant plan was also in line with the opinions collected during public consultation. In the design drawings of the Department, plants would be planted at certain locations along the bottom of the river. The Department fully understood the concerns of councillors and members of the public regarding green maintenance work and had therefore carried out optimisation work by adopting more concise designs for the revitalisation to simplify maintenance work. In addition, the Department also had experience in river bottom greening in other places and would choose some varieties with a high survival rate after heavy rain to reduce maintenance work after rainstorms. The Department hoped to strike a balance between the flood prevention function and aesthetics of the nullah. In addition to flood prevention, it could further improve the environment of Yuen Long Town Centre;
- (6) The dry weather flow interception system could help improve the water quality of the Yuen Long Nullah and reduce sediment accumulation;

- (7) In terms of covering the nullah, the Department explained that a certain number of piles had to be built to support the cover, which would have a significant impact on the drainage capacity of the channel; relatively speaking, planting in moderation at the bottom of the river would have a lower impact on the flood relief capacity of the nullah. In addition, the Department pointed out that an open nullah could relieve flood effectively, and during heavy rain, it could effectively collect rainwater runoff from the land on both sides of the nullah;
- (8) The Department added that the second phase of the nullah revitalisation project was expected to commence in 2028. Therefore, the project team had launched a new round of public involvement activities in the first quarter of 2024 to collect public opinions on the nullah revitalisation project, in order to optimise the design of nullah revitalisation and create a shared vision for the public for the Yuen Long Nullah. The Department cordially invited councillors and members of the public to participate in the above-mentioned public involvement activities or conduct on-site inspections to jointly construct the revitalisation plan; and
- (9) The Department stated that the Legislative Council (LegCo) had approved the funding for these two projects. Regarding the details of consultation with the previous term of the DO, the Department had to review the records before providing a response.

(Post-meeting note: In line with the concept of “riverside city” proposed in the 2019 Policy Address, the DSD had initially optimised the design of the Improvement of Yuen Long Town Nullah (town centre section) project in 2019 to enhance the environmental quality and ecological value of the area. On 9 November 2020, the Department had consulted the Environment, Climate Change, Agriculture and Fisheries Committee under the Yuen Long District Council (YLDO) regarding the design of the revitalisation project of the Yuen Long Nullah, and on 22 April 2021, had consulted the Working Group on Footbridge Planning and Improvement of Nullah under the YLDO. After analysing the opinions collected from the DO and other public consultation activities, the Department had optimised the design by appropriately reducing green planting and selecting local species suitable for growing in a river to reduce the risk of siltation of the drainage system. Moreover, the DSD had successfully implemented several projects such as the Ho Chung River, the Jordan Valley Nullah, and the Kai Tak River, demonstrating the feasibility of appropriate river bottom greening. The

optimised design had been included in the discussion papers of the Panel on Development and Public Works Subcommittee of the LegCo respectively on 22 November 2022 and 22 February 2023. The funding application for the project was approved by the Finance Committee on 5 May 2023.)

14. The Chairman concluded that the previous term of the DO had discussed the Yuen Long Barrage Scheme (178CD) and the Improvement of Yuen Long Town Nullah (town centre section) (161CD) projects, and the concerns raised by the then Members were similar to those pointed out by the current Members. However, when submitting the funding application to the LegCo, the DSD had not adopted the suggestions of the DO in the project design. Therefore, he hoped that the DSD could actively follow up on the opinions and suggestions put forward by Members. In addition, he requested the relevant departments to provide further details on the plan.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat forwarded a written reply from the LCSD to the FEHC on 20 August 2024. With the agreement of the Chairman, the relevant issues would be further discussed at the next meeting of the FEHC.)

**Item IV: Mr LAM Wai-ming, Ms LAM Wai-ming, Mr YU Chung-leung and Ms LAI Yuet-kwan, Fennie proposed a discussion on “Request for heightened attention to the hygiene and cleanliness in rear lanes of buildings”  
(FEHC Paper No. 40/2024)**

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15. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 40 and the written reply from the EPD as well as the written reply submitted by the FEHD at the meeting.

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

- (1) Many restaurants in the district (such as in the area around On Ga Building at Chun Yin Square) illegally discharged food waste and sewage into nearby rainwater nullahs and connect restaurant pipes to the nullahs, resulting in the accumulation of grease and other sediments, affecting the water quality and hygiene of the nullahs, and seriously affecting the city’s appearance. A Member hoped that the FEHD and the EPD would pay attention to issues such as the placement of miscellaneous articles in rear lanes and illegal treatment of sewage and food waste;

- (2) Since it was summer at present, the odour generated by the accumulated sewage and food waste in nullahs could attract mice and cockroaches, resulting in poor hygiene conditions; and
- (3) Mosquitoes and pests were more likely to lay eggs in hot weather and environments with accumulated sewage, exacerbating mosquito infestation.

17. Mr MOK Ka-chun and Mr CHAN Yun-kwan of the FEHD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (1) The FEHD was very concerned about the hygiene situation in rear lanes in the district. In addition to daily hygiene and cleaning, the Department had also carried out a series of cleaning measures in the rear lanes of On Ga Building at Chun Yin Square and Yen Tsui Gardens at Po Lok Square. Multiple inspections had also been conducted in July, and collaborations had been made with the EPD to improve the situation;
- (2) In terms of street cleansing, the Department had been cleansing the streets once a week in relevant areas. In terms of pest and rodent control, the Department had been conducting prevention and control work in a 4-day cycle, which was more frequent than the technical indicator of conducting such work once a week. It had also strengthened cleansing and sweeping of streets, as well as cleared miscellaneous articles, targeting the three fundamental survival conditions of rodents, namely food, harbourage and passages. The Department issued 22 Notices to Remove Obstruction and collected approximately 34 kilograms of abandoned items to prevent miscellaneous articles from obstructing street cleansing work in July;
- (3) In terms of enforcement measures, the Department would ensure that the sewage facilities in food premises were properly installed and operated during inspections. The Department had sent letters to restaurants in relevant locations in July reminding them to properly handle issues such as food waste and sewage discharge and conducted a series of surprise inspections. It was found that the drainage pipe of the grease trap in one of the restaurants was improperly connected, resulting in the possibility of grease such as from dishwashing water being discharged into the nullah in the rear lane, causing blockage and providing a food source for insects and rodents. The Department had ordered the violator to rectify immediately, and the pipe had now been sealed;

- (4) The Department would occasionally conduct thematic surprise operations and would pay special attention to the hygiene black spots at Chun Yin Square in the future; and
- (5) The Department had noticed damage on the surface of the relevant nullah and found siltation. It had been referred to relevant departments for follow-up to strengthen the improvement of environmental hygiene.

18. Dr LAW Chi-wing of the EPD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (1) Regarding the illegal discharge of sewage into nullahs by restaurants, the EPD mainly enforced the law according to the Water Pollution Control Ordinance. During a special inspection in July, the Department found that 1 restaurant had installed an overflow pipe in its sewage system near the rear lane of On Ga Building at Chun Yin Square, which allowed sewage to flow into the rear lane through the overflow pipe. Although no sewage discharge was observed during the inspection, a written warning was immediately issued to the relevant restaurant, requesting it to make improvements as soon as possible;
- (2) As for the area near the rear lane of Yen Tsui Gardens at Po Lok Square, during the inspection, the Department noticed a small amount of clear water in the nullah, but no illegal discharge or blockage of the nullah was found; and
- (3) The Department would strengthen inspections of the above two places and explore improvement measures. If any violations were found, law enforcement actions would be taken.

19. In his conclusion, the Chairman requested the FEHD and the EPD to closely monitor hygiene black spots and strengthen inspections and law enforcement to improve the situation.

**Item V: Ms LAI Yuet-kwan, Fennie proposed a discussion on “Cleaning of the area outside +WOO under Fortune Malls”  
(FEHC Paper No. 41/2024)**

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20. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 41 and the written reply from the FEHD.

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

- (1) It was reflected that residents had noticed that a fruit stall opposite +WOO under Fortune Malls had placed foam boxes and cardboard boxes on the roadside, which had not been cleaned up until the following day. Although the Department replied that no relevant situation had been found, it was hoped that the Department would continue to pay attention to whether the problem of piling of foam boxes at the above-mentioned location would happen again; and
- (2) It was observed that the FEHD would clean up the foam boxes in the vicinity of Chun Yin Square in the morning, but after the clearing, the merchants would place another batch of foam boxes outside their shops, occupying the entire Chun Yin Square. A Member believed that cleaning up foam boxes was the responsibility of the merchants and that government resources should not be wasted on clearing foam boxes for shops. It was hoped that the government could explore improvement plans.

22. Mr MOK Ka-chun of the FEHD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (1) The hawker concerned had always been selling fruits at that location, and the Department had always adopted a more considerate approach towards licensed itinerant hawkers that it would usually issuing warnings first before enforcing the law;
- (2) The Department had strengthened inspections at the location concerned in July and not found any cases of itinerant hawkers disposing of waste during the inspections. However, the Department had also initiated prosecution for obstruction caused to the public by the hawker’s selling activities. The Department would continue to monitor the relevant situation and strengthen inspections and law enforcement if necessary; and

- (3) The Department would strengthen education and advise the hawker concerned to properly dispose of foam boxes or cardboard boxes.

23. The Chairman concluded that the accumulation of foam boxes on the roadside was a long-term hygiene problem that had to be solved. At present, the speed of recycling foam boxes from shops was generally slow, so there was often the problem of foam box accumulation. He requested the FEHD to follow up on the situation and explore long-term solutions.

**Item VI: Ms KWOK Wing-cheong and Ms LI Ching-yee proposed a discussion on “Enquiry about promotion of environmental protection work and the suggestion on provision of additional recycling facilities and services”  
(FEHC Paper No. 42/2024)**

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24. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 42 and the written reply submitted by the EPD at the meeting.

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

- (1) The reason why the “Pilot Programme on Smart Recycling Systems” currently implemented by the Department in Sa Po Village, Kam Tin had not been extended to other rural areas;
- (2) Regarding the written reply from the Department stating that GREEN@COMMUNITY provided door-to-door recycling services to a total of 24 villages in Yuen Long District, a Member asked for a list of these 24 villages. On the other hand, a Member reported that many villagers were unaware of the establishment of a Recycling Store under GREEN@COMMUNITY in Pat Heung, and suggested that the Department strengthen publicity;
- (3) The Department was suggested to proactively contact rural committees or village heads to implement the arrangement of the Food Waste Recycling Scheme, and include Pat Heung in night-time “Food Waste Recycling Spots”;
- (4) At present, only 9 villages in Yuen Long rural areas had food waste recycling machines. A Member inquired about the implementation schedule of the

Department's plan to extend it to other villages in the district. To expand the service scope of each food waste recycling machine, the Department was suggested to consider installing larger food waste recycling machines in the rural areas of Yuen Long to increase capacity;

- (5) It was believed that the recycling bins currently set up in rural areas were unable to meet the needs of residents and often were often fully loaded. However, the Department had not arranged for the service contractors to clear the recycling bins every day. In addition, a Member suggested that the Department should make good use of existing resources in rural areas and set up recycling bins and food waste facilities on idle lands;
- (6) Although mobile recycling stations had a wide reach, their recycling capacity was relatively low, and some villagers were unable to grasp the service hours and locations of the mobile stations. Therefore, it was believed that the concept of mobile recycling stations was not applicable to rural areas;
- (7) Rural areas had a vast territory, and a Member suggested that the Department should refer to the practice in the Mainland and set up large smart recycling bins in rural areas, allowing recycling service providers to monitor the real-time status of recycling bins through signals on cloud, and arrange for clearing when the bins were almost full;
- (8) At present, the recycling services in rural areas were operated by 3 GREEN@COMMUNITY operating organisations in Yuen Long District. Due to the need for these organisations to simultaneously operate the recycling points at street counters in Yuen Long Town, it was difficult for them to simultaneously provide recycling services in rural areas, which affected the effectiveness of mobile recycling spots in rural areas; and
- (9) It was believed that the Department's promotion of environmental awareness had decreased with the suspension of the implementation of municipal solid waste charging. The Department was suggested to continue to promote publicity and education on waste classification and environmental recycling and improve recycling facilities to promote environmental protection work.

26. Dr LAW Chi-wing of the EPD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (1) In terms of supporting recycling in rural areas, the Department had set up over



200 roadside recycling bins in public places in rural areas to facilitate villagers in recycling the most common recyclables. The Department had also implemented various measures to strengthen support, such as launching the “Pilot Programme on Smart Recycling System” in Sa Po Village. The Department would continue to review the recycling measures in various districts, actively expand the recycling network of GREEN@COMMUNITY, and strengthen services in Yuen Long District. The operating organisations of GREEN@COMMUNITY had also set up about 5 Recycling Spots and Add-on Recycling Spots near villages with a high population density in Yuen Long in June, making it convenient for nearby rural residents to recycle. In addition, with the support of the Rural Committees of Kam Tin, San Tin, and Shap Pat Heung, the Green Outreach and the operating organisations of GREEN@COMMUNITY had jointly launched Add-on Recycling Spots at the gathering points of people in each village, while conducting publicity and education activities;

- (2) Currently, 9 villages in Yuen Long District had launched smart food waste recycling services. In addition, 2 villages (including Yuen Kong Tsuen and Yuen Kong San Tsuen) were using traditional pedal food waste recycling bins to collect food waste. The EPD would increase the number of public food waste recycling points in the coming year, including installing smart food waste recycling bins in government premises for nearby residents to use;
- (3) Under the “Pilot Programme on Smart Recycling System”, the EPD had gradually equipped some Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores with smart recycling bins starting from the end of 2022. Subsequently, the coverage of the smart recycling system had gradually been expanded to housing estates, courts, and villages;
- (4) At present, there were designated Recycling Spots under GREEN@COMMUNITY operating on a regular basis in six heungs in Yuen Long. The Department would further strengthen publicity in different rural areas and discuss with rural representatives to find suitable places to set up recycling spots; and
- (5) The Department noted the opinions of Members and would forward them to the relevant divisions for follow-up. The Department would provide information on the 24 villages that were provided door-to-door recycling services as requested by the relevant Member later.

(Post-meeting note: The EPD forwarded the opinions and suggestions of Members to the relevant divisions for follow-up after the meeting and provided supplementary information to the relevant Member.)

27. In his conclusion, the Chairman requested the EPD to follow up on the opinions and suggestions raised by Members.

**Reports of government departments:**

**Item VII: Statistics regarding inspections on and warning letters issued to farms in Yuen Long by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department**  
**(May to June 2024)**  
**(FEHC Paper No. 43/2024)**

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28. Members noted the above report.

**Item VIII: Progress report on environmental hygiene issues by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department**  
**(May to June 2024)**  
**(FEHC Paper No. 44/2024)**

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

- (1) The effectiveness of the FEHD in cracking down on illegal extension of business was affirmed; and
- (2) Considering the current market situation, it was hoped that the Department could consider exercising discretion when handling shops illegally expanded their business but had not affected pedestrian access which demonstrated a cooperative attitude and enforce the law through verbal warnings as much as possible.

30. Mr MOK Ka-chun of the FEHD noted Members' opinions and would reflect them to the headquarters.

31. The Chairman concluded that cracking down on illegal extension of business by shops had been a key task of the Government in the past two years, and the results of

the work were evident to all; in addition to law enforcement, he hoped that merchants in the district could be self-disciplined when doing business and not occupy pedestrian walkways.

**Item IX: Enforcement activities and prosecution statistics of livestock waste control by the Environmental Protection Department (“EPD”) (May to June 2024) (FEHC Paper No. 45/2024)**

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32. Members noted the above report.

**Item X: Yuen Long District Air Quality Health Index for May and June 2024 by the EPD (FEHC Paper No. 46/2024)**

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33. Members noted the above report.

**Item XI: Progress report on recycling in Yuen Long District by the EPD (April to June 2024) (FEHC Paper No. 47/2024)**

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34. Members noted the above report.

**Item XII: Report on community food waste recycling in Yuen Long District by the EPD (April to June 2024) (FEHC Paper No. 48/2024)**

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35. Members noted the above report.

**Item XIII: Any other business**

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36. A Member said that there was insufficient space for the Recycling Stores under GREEN@COMMUNITY in Tin Heng Estate, Tin Wah Estate, and Tin Yan Estate. It was hoped that the EPD and the Housing Department (HD) could discuss and release more units for operating organisations to carry out recycling work. In addition, a Member hoped that the operating organisations of Recycling Stores could turn off the light signs outside the door during non-operating hours to avoid affecting nearby residents on lower floors.

37. Dr LAW Chi-wing of the EPD replied that he would forward the opinions of Members to the relevant divisions for follow-up.

(Post-meeting note: The EPD has forwarded Members' opinions to the responsible divisions for follow-up after the meeting. Regarding the issue of insufficient space for Recycling Stores under GREEN@COMMUNITY in Tin Shui Wai, the HD has been in discussions with the operating organisations regarding using some storage rooms in the estates. Details would be announced when they are confirmed. In addition, regarding the light signs of Recycling Stores, after discussions between the EPD and the operating organisations, starting from the end of August, the light signs outside Recycling Stores under GREEN@COMMUNITY in Tin Heng Estate, Tin Wah Estate, and Tin Yan Estate in Tin Shui Wai had been arranged to be turned off after 8:00 p.m. to reduce the impact of the lights on nearby residents on lower floors.)

38. In his conclusion, the Chairman requested the EPD to follow up on the opinions and suggestions raised by Members.

**Item XIV: Date of next meeting**

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39. The Chairman announced that the fifth FEHC meeting in 2024 would be held in Conference Room, Yuen Long District Council at 2:30 p.m. on 14 October 2024.

40. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Yuen Long District Council Secretariat  
September 2024