

Minutes of the First Meeting of District Facilities and Works Committee
under the Yuen Long District Council in 2024

Date: 2 February 2024 (Friday)
Time: 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Venue: Conference Room, Yuen Long District Council,
13/F., Yuen Long Government Offices,
2 Kiu Lok Square, Yuen Long

Present

Chairman : Mr SHUM Ho-kit, BBS, JP
Vice Chairman : Ms WONG Wai-ling
Members : Mr MAN Yick-yeung
Mr MAN Luk-sing, MH
Mr SZE TO Chun-hin
Mr YU Chung-leung
Mr LUI Kin, MH
Mr LI Kai-lap, Riben
Ms LI Ching-yee
Mr LAM Wai-ming
Mr LAM Tim-fook
Mr YIU Kwok-wai, MH
Mr SEI Chun-hing
Mr CHUI Kwan-siu
Ms YUEN Man-yee, MH
Ms MA Shuk-yin
Mr CHEUNG Wai-sum
Mr LEUNG Ming-kin
Mr LEUNG Yip-pang
Mr KWOK Wing-cheong
Mr CHAN Ka-fai
Ms CHAN Yin-kwan, Yankie
Mr TONG Tak-chun
Mr CHING Chan-ming
Mr WONG Siu-chung
Mr WONG Wing-ho, Allan
Ms CHIU Sau-han, MH
Ms LAU Kwai-yung
Mr TANG Che-keung, MH
Mr TANG Sin-hang
Mr TANG Ho-nin, MH
Mr TANG Yung-yiu, Ronnie
Ms LAI Yuet-kwan, Fennie
Mr SO Yuen

Secretary: Miss TANG Wing-yan, Executive Officer (District Council)4,
Chrishell Yuen Long District Office

In Attendance

Mr Hubert CRUZ Assistant District Officer (Yuen Long)1
Mr NG Chi-wai Senior Inspector of Works(1),
Yuen Long District Office

Mr YUNG Chi-wai	Senior Inspector of Works(2), Yuen Long District Office
Ms LEUNG Hiu-wai, Christine	Executive Officer (District Council)5, Yuen Long District Office
Mr LEUNG Siu-ming, David	Architect (Works)8, Home Affairs Department
Mr TO Kai-cho, Joe	Engineer/16 (West), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr POON Kam-lung	Engineer/New Territories West (Distribution 3), Water Supplies Department
Mr CHU Lap-hung	Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Yuen Long), Lands Department
Mr DAI Lap-phat, William	Senior Executive Officer (Planning)33, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr YAU Sai-yuen	District Leisure Manager (Yuen Long), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms CHAN Siu-lan	Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Yuen Long, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr PANG Lap-pun, Freeman	Senior Librarian (Yuen Long), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms LEE Wing-yee	Manager (New Territories West) Marketing & District Activities, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr TSE Chi-wai	Engineer/Yuen Long 4, Drainage Services Department
Ms CHAN Belinda, Patricia	Assistant District Engineer/Yuen Long (West), Highways Department

Items I to III

Mr HO Tai-wai, David	Senior Executive Officer (District Management), Yuen Long District Office
Mr KWOK Kwan-lim	Assistant Housing Manager/TNH 1, Housing Department

Item V

Mr LAU Wai-kin, Tony	Senior Architect/24, Architectural Services Department
Mr KAM Long-kwan, Ronald	Architect/211, Architectural Services Department

Item VII

Ms TANG Suet-fun, Joy	Senior Project Manager, WCWP International Limited
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Absence

Ms HO Hiu-man	(Absent with apologies)
Ms LAM Wai-ming	(Absent with apologies)

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Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed Members and department representatives to the first meeting of the District Facilities and Works Committee (“DFWC”) under the Yuen Long District Council (“YLDC”) in 2024.

2. The Chairman stated that the following two Members had submitted an application for absence prior to the meeting:

- (1) Ms HO Hiu-man could not attend the meeting because of attendance at the fourth meeting of the Eighth Dinghu District Committee of Zhaoqing of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference; and
- (2) Ms LAM Wai-ming could not attend the meeting because of attendance at the fourth meeting of the Sixth Qingxin District Committee of Qingyuan of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference.

In accordance with Order 64 of the Yuen Long District Council Standing Orders, any Member who could not attend a meeting because of attendance at a meeting of an advisory body or organisation appointed by the State or the Government might apply to the Committee for absence from a meeting. Members should decide at the commencement of the meeting whether consent should be given to the applications for absence. The Chairman invited Members to decide whether to consent to the absence of Ms HO Hiu-man and Ms LAM Wai-ming.

3. There being no objection from Members, the Chairman announced that the applications for absence submitted by Ms HO Hiu-man and Ms LAM Wai-ming were endorsed.

Discussion Items:

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| Item I: | Report on the Scheme on “Extension of Opening Hours for Community Halls/Community Centres in Yuen Long District” for 2023-24 and proposed arrangements for 2024-25
(DFWC Paper No. 1/2024) |
| Item II: | Report on the Scheme on “Reservation of the Conference Room in Long Ping Community Hall for Meetings Held by Owners’ Corporations/Management Committees/Rural Committees” for 2023-24 and proposed arrangements for 2024-25
(DFWC Paper No. 2/2024) |
| Item III: | Utilisation rate of community centres/community halls in Yuen Long District
(DFWC Paper No. 3/2024) |
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4. The Chairman said there would be a combined discussion of Items I to III since they were all related to the use of community halls/community centres in Yuen Long District. He also extended a welcome to Mr David HO, Senior Executive Officer (District Management) of the Yuen Long District Office (“YLDO”), and Mr KWOK Kwan-lim, Assistant Housing Manager/TNH 1 of the Housing Department, to the meeting.

5. Mr David HO of the YLDO briefed Members on the paper. He stated that, after consultations with relevant departments, there had been water seepage repair works carried out at Yuen Long Town East Community Hall since January this year. Given the complexity of works procedures involved, it was estimated that the repair works would take at least six months for completion. The YLDO would closely monitor progress of the repair works, with a view to opening the community hall for public use as soon as possible.

6. A Member suggested that the YLDO should communicate with the hiring organisations and make flexible adjustments to the opening hours of the community hall when it decided to turn it into a cold shelter/heat shelter for people in need.

7. Mr David HO of the YLDO responded that the YLDO would maintain communication with the hiring organisations on the opening day of the cold shelter/heat shelter. Subject to the agreement of the hiring organisations, the hall area of the community hall could be opened earlier for use by people in need.

8. In conclusion, the Chairman asked the YLDO to make flexible use of resources in community halls and community centres and provide assistance to those in need.

Questions Raised by Members:

Item IV: Mr CHEUNG Wai-sum and Mr CHUI Kwan-siu proposed a discussion on “Matters related to improving and beautifying the facilities and planters at Hung Tak Road Sitting-out Area No. 2” (DFWC Paper No. 4/2024)

9. After discussion, Members’ views and enquiries were summarised as follows:

- (1) The current design of planters at the sitting-out area was prone to rodent infestation and mosquito breeding. It was suggested that the department should improve the hygiene conditions with reference to the design of Yuen Long Jockey Club Town Square and beautify the planters to make them a feature of Hung Shui Kiu;
- (2) If the design of Yuen Long Jockey Club Town Square was to be adopted, which would require the laying of gravel on soil, a Member enquired whether it would affect tree growth and help in rodent control; and
- (3) Despite a number of rodent cage traps being placed near the planters, the effect had been very limited. A Member enquired about the current rodent infestation thereat and suggested that the department should consider employing other methods to capture rodents.

10. A consolidated reply provided by Mr YAU Sai-yuen of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (“LCSD”) was as follows:

- (1) The LCSD would step up inspections and monitor the management of contractors. It would also be looking to adopt the design of the Yuen Long Jockey Club Town Square and submit funding application next year for carrying out beautification works;
- (2) The LCSD would discuss with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department the feasibility of employing more effective rodent trapping methods at Hung Tak Road Sitting-out Area No. 2; and
- (3) The LCSD would assess the growing conditions of plants before arranging laying of gravel on planters, so as to avoid undue impact on tree growth and help forestall rodent infestation.

11. In conclusion, the Chairman asked the LCSD to fight for resources to improve the environmental hygiene of the sitting-out area and beautify the planters.

Item V: Ms LAI Yuet-kwan, Fennie proposed a discussion on “Request for early improvement to or restoration of community facilities and a follow-up to the commissioning of the swimming pool complex in Tin Shui Wai North” (DFWC Paper No. 5/2024)

12. The Chairman welcomed Mr Tony LAU, Senior Architect/24 of the Architectural Services Department (“ArchSD”), and Mr Ronald KAM, Architect/211 of the ArchSD, to the meeting.

13. After discussion, Members’ views and enquiries were summarised as follows:

- (1) A Member enquired about the expected completion date of the sitting-out facilities in Tin Sau Road Park which had been enclosed for a long time. In addition, the Member expressed concern about the safety of users because some of the facilities in the park had loosened bolts, but they were not being enclosed by relevant departments;
- (2) Some of the sitting-out facilities in Tin Shui Wai North had been left unusable due to prolonged disrepair or wear and tear, and it was suggested that the LCSD should renovate the facilities in a timely manner;
- (3) Despite LCSD’s earlier claim that the swimming pool complex in Tin Shui Wai North was expected to come into operation in the previous year, it had not yet been opened to the public. A Member thus enquired about the works progress and commissioning date of the swimming pool complex. As the heated pool and main pool were not connected, the Member enquired whether the LCSD would consider opening the heated pool to public first;
- (4) It was hoped that the LCSD would provide regular updates to Members on the latest commissioning date and other related information of the swimming pool complex in Tin Shui Wai North, so that they could keep the public informed;
- (5) If the ArchSD could deliver the site to the LCSD by the end of February as scheduled, a Member enquired the LCSD of the expected opening date of the swimming pool complex in Tin Shui Wai North for public use. Noting that it would take time for the LCSD to make preparations for the opening of the venue, such as purchasing supplies and recruiting staff, the Member suggested that the LCSD should start the preparation work as early as possible so that the venue could be opened for public use in time for the summer;
- (6) As regards the works delays of the swimming pool complex in Tin Shui Wai North due to the recent discovery of de-bonding of its wall tiles by the ArchSD, a Member enquired whether such cases were common and the reasons for the late discovery of the problem when the site was about to be delivered;
- (7) A Member enquired about the completion dates specified in the works contracts and whether the contractors were required to compensate the Government if they failed to complete the works as scheduled; and

- (8) In view of the local residents' eagerness for the swimming pool complex in Tin Shui Wai North, a Member suggested that the DFWC should continue to follow up on the works progress at the next meeting.

14. A consolidated reply provided by Mr YAU Sai-yuen of the LCSD was as follows:

- (1) The LCSD would deploy staff for regular inspection of the facilities and arrange for relevant works departments to carry out repairs once damage was found in the facilities. At present, there were two sets of recreation and sports facilities at Tin Sau Road Park pending repairs, including a damaged pulley of a pull-down machine and some loose bolts of a climbing frame. Since the pull-down machine could be accessed by two users at once, with the damaged pulley only affecting one of the user positions, the LCSD would only enclose the affected part. Also, the LCSD would review and have all the out-of-service facilities properly enclosed;
- (2) For the recreation and sports facilities in Tin Shui Wai North, the LCSD would provide a list to its Technical Section every year to facilitate planning of refurbishment works for the facilities in the coming year;
- (3) The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department would proceed with the wiring works if the swimming pool complex in Tin Shui Wai North could be delivered by the end of February. In parallel, the LCSD would need to prepare a booking system, purchase basic equipment for the venue operation and recruit lifeguards. The LCSD expected that the preparation work would take five to six months. If the preparation work went smoothly with a sufficient number of lifeguards recruited, the swimming pool complex could be opened in the third quarter, i.e. from July to September, of this year; and
- (4) Noting Members' views for early commencement of venue preparation work, the LCSD had already started the procurement process, particularly for equipment that needed to be purchased from overseas, and it would further explore with the ArchSD and relevant works departments the feasibility of shortening the preparation time. The ArchSD aimed to complete the preparation work within the third quarter and would open the swimming pool complex once everything was set.

15. A consolidated reply provided by Mr Tony LAU of the ArchSD was as follows:

- (1) The swimming pool complex had been largely completed. It was originally scheduled that the swimming pool complex would be delivered to the LCSD within the fourth quarter of the previous year. However, during the delivery process in early December, it was found that the wall tiles of the main pool were falling off. In view of this, the LCSD could not take over the swimming pool complex and immediately instructed the contractor to find out the cause of the de-bonding of wall tiles. In mid-January, the contractor found that the joints between the water outlets and the tiles of the swimming pool were poorly constructed, resulting in de-bonding of tiles at two locations of the main pool. The contractor had commenced rectification works for completion by the end of February, after which it would continue with the delivery process with the LCSD. The LCSD expected to complete the delivery process within the first quarter. As

to the commissioning date, it was expected to be opened to public within the third quarter; and

- (2) The defects were discovered outside the contract period but during the guarantee period. Therefore, the contractor had to carry out rectification works immediately and bear the costs incurred. Although there would be no direct penalty, the LCSD would make corresponding adjustments to the scores of the contractor, which would be taken into consideration in its future bidding of tenders. In view of the relative rarity of de-bonding of tiles, the LCSD had suspended delivery of a few other swimming pools and checked whether the same problem had occurred in these pools. No other defects were found.

16. In conclusion, the Chairman hoped that the LCSD could complete the repair works for the recreational and sports facilities as scheduled. As regards the swimming pool complex in Tin Shui Wai North, the Chairman hoped that the ArchSD and LCSD could complete the site delivery and related preparation work as soon as possible, so that the swimming pool complex could be opened to public before summer. The Chairman agreed with Members' suggestion that the DFWC should continue to follow up on the progress of the swimming pool complex in Tin Shui Wai North at the next meeting, and asked the ArchSD and LCSD to update Members on the latest progress at that time.

Item VI: Mr LI Kai-lap, Riben and Mr CHUI Kwan-siu proposed a discussion on “Request for service extension of mobile library/library van to Pok Oi Kong Ha Wai” (DFWC Paper No. 9/2024)

17. After discussion, Members' views and enquiries were summarised as follows:
- (1) With an increase in residential population in Kong Ha Wai, there was a growing demand for mobile libraries/library vans in the area. The LCSD had stated in its written reply that there were only 12 library vans across the territory. A Member considered that the demand for mobile library/library van in Yuen Long District would continue to rise with the future population growth in the district and enquired whether the LCSD would consider enhancing the relevant services;
 - (2) The LCSD had also mentioned in its written reply that library services in the district would be enhanced through various schemes or collaboration with non-governmental organisations (“NGOs”). A Member enquired what concrete plan the LCSD had for enhancing the book lending services in Kong Ha Wai;
 - (3) A Member welcomed the LCSD to examine the possibility of deploying the “Library-on-Wheels” to Kong Ha Wai to promote reading habit. In addition, the Member suggested that the LCSD should seek to build a more diversified collection and expend greater efforts to promote the use of e-library services in the district;
 - (4) Apart from Kong Ha Wai, there were also a number of transitional housing projects in Yuen Long Rural East. A Member enquired whether the LCSD would plan to provide mobile library/library van in the neighbourhood of such transitional housing projects. The existing mobile library stop at Fairview Park was the closest one for Kong Ha Wai area, but it might not be accessible by residents of Pat Heung or Kam Tin. A Member enquired whether the LCSD

could extend the service to cover these residents. Also, the Member enquired whether the LCSD would set up additional community libraries in rural areas;

- (5) A Member enquired about the locations of the four community libraries in the district. Although the collections of the community libraries were acquired by the LCSD, their daily operation did not fall under its purview. A Member enquired whether the LCSD would monitor the operation of these community libraries lest the operating organisations include inappropriate titles into their collections;
- (6) At present, only one community library in Tin Ching Estate was shown on the library page of LCSD's website. A Member enquired about the dates of establishment of the other three community libraries and the reasons for not uploading the relevant information onto the LCSD's website;
- (7) A new transitional housing project (The NAScenT) next to West Rail Kam Sheung Road Station would be completed. A Member suggested that the LCSD should consider setting up a "Library-on-Wheels" at The NAScenT. As The NAScenT would be open to the public, it would benefit nearby rural residents or other commuters alighting from the West Rail Station;
- (8) A Member enquired whether the LCSD would build additional district libraries or small libraries in Yuen Long in the future, in view of a growing population from new development areas in the district; and
- (9) A Member suggested that the LCSD should liaise with relevant Rural Committees in planning public facilities in rural areas, so as to understand the needs of rural residents and the geographical environment for better use of resources.

18. A consolidated reply provided by Mr Freeman PANG of the LCSD was as follows:

- (1) There were currently 12 library vans to serve over 110 locations across the territory. Among them, 12 service points were located in Yuen Long District. The LCSD would continue to make every effort to extend library service to cover more areas. The LCSD had also launched the "Joyful Reading in Your Neighbourhood: Library-on-Wheels" Project, which was different from mobile library/library van in that a "Library-on-Wheels" would provide reading activities and introduce electronic resources, and its services would allow for more flexible deployment;
- (2) To enhance the book lending services at Pok Oi Kong Ha Wai Village, the LCSD had made initial contact with the Management Office and sought to arrange a joint visit or a meeting as early as possible to see if the site could meet the operational requirements for setting up a "Library-on-Wheels", such as the supply of electricity and provision of adequate parking space for safe boarding and alighting of users;
- (3) As regards collaboration with NGOs, the LCSD would liaise with the service providers in Kong Ha Wai Village, including the elderly centres, family development centres and district recreation centres, to examine the feasibility of setting up a community library or providing a block loan service. Compared with the existing community libraries, a block loan service would be more flexible as the organisations concerned would save the need for setting up a library or a book corner, and each time about 200 books on loan from public libraries could

be provided for borrowing by users of the block loan service. A block loan service had been available at the family development centre in Kong Ha Wai Village from July 2023. Each time about 100 books on loan from public libraries would be provided for reading by members of the centre, and the LCSD would continue to develop other community libraries or provide block loan services in the district. Apart from Kong Ha Wai Village, the LCSD had also been in touch with nearby service providers in Kam Tin, such as Kam Tin Youth Centre and The Salvation Army Kam Tin Corps and Bradbury Community Centre, to follow up on the possibilities of extending services through setting up community libraries or providing block loan services;

- (4) In light of other transitional housing developments in the district, the LCSD would be looking to extend the library services in the district as far as possible. The LCSD would continue to assess the locations covered by the existing mobile libraries and the “Library-on-Wheels”. At present, the LCSD had already set up eight service points for the “Library-on-Wheels” in Yuen Long District and expected to further extend the service scope subject to availability of resources;
- (5) The LCSD had been committed to promoting e-book and e-database services. As at the end of last year, there were 17 e-databases consisting of Chinese and English books and audiobooks, with a collection of more than 500 000 e-books in total. There were also 82 e-databases, of which 41 were accessible via the Internet. In addition, the LCSD had been maintaining a Multimedia Information System and a “Hong Kong Memory” website. These electronic resources were being introduced to the public through regular user education sessions, schools’ and other organisations’ visits organised by Ping Shan Tin Shui Wai Public Library, Yuen Long Public Library and Tin Shui Wai North Public Library, as well as through the “Library-on-Wheels”. To further promote the use of e-resources, the LCSD would also distribute leaflets to visiting organisations to enhance publicity;
- (6) To examine the feasibility of setting up a community library in the area of Kong Ha Wai, the LCSD was liaising with a few centres operated by organisations within the purview of Pok Oi Hospital in Kong Ha Wai Village and two NGOs in Kam Tin for the time being, so as to continuously promote library services;
- (7) There were two community libraries in Tin Shui Wai and Yuen Long respectively. In setting up a community library, the LCSD would provide advice and assistance to the operating organisations and loan books to them. The organisations concerned would have to determine the operation mode based on their actual needs, such as deciding on what books should be available for loan or for reading inside the library only, since the LCSD did not have any specific requirements in this regard. In addition, the LCSD would pay regular visits to inspect the operation of community libraries, book conditions and whether there was any room for improvement. The LCSD would provide timely advice to the organisations concerned to help them make improvement;
- (8) Community libraries were operated by individual organisations, and the LCSD would provide advice and pay regular visits. Since community libraries would decide whether to display their information on the library page based on their actual needs, there was only one community library in the district which currently had its information uploaded onto the library page;

- (9) The LCSD would examine the feasibility of extending the “Library-on-Wheels” service to cover other transitional housing developments or other districts having regard to the time, resources and manpower arrangement;
- (10) As regards future development plan of libraries, the LCSD advised that Tin Shui Wai North Public Library would be reprovisioned, with a small library to be provided in Kam Tin South and a district library to be set up in Yuen Long Area 12; and
- (11) Members’ views had been noted. Subject to the availability of resources, Members and local organisations would be consulted for further extension of library services.

19. In conclusion, the Chairman suggested that the LCSD should enhance the provision of book lending services to residents of transitional housing in the district by increasing the provision of library vans or assisting NGOs in setting up community libraries. On a separate note, the Chairman suggested that the LCSD should upload the information of community libraries in the district to its website for easy reference by the public.

Item VII: Ms WONG Wai-ling proposed a discussion on “Enquiry about the progress of the provision of a walkway cover from Tin Wah Estate to Tin Shui Estate” (DFWC Paper No. 10/2024)

20. The Chairman welcomed Ms Joy TANG, Senior Project Manager of WCWP International Limited to the meeting.

21. After discussion, Members’ views and enquiries were summarised as follows:

- (1) In 2015, the YLDO conducted a feasibility study of the proposed works in response to the support expressed by the DFMC under the YLDC. A Member was glad to see that the YLDO resumed the works project and enquired about the current progress;
- (2) The proposed walkway cover would link Tin Shui Wai Hospital to the Chung Fu LRT station, and local residents were enthusiastic about the project. They hoped that the YLDO keep them informed about the progress of the project, and;
- (3) The YLDO was advised against the use of transparent designs for walkway covers due to their ineffectiveness in protecting pedestrians from sunlight exposure.

22. Mr Hubert CRUZ of the YLDO said that the consultants were evaluating the technical viability of various design options and negotiating the specifics of the works for the existing facilities with relevant government departments. He said that the YLDO would then determine the next step in taking the project forward, taking into consideration both the consultancy report and the availability of resources.

23. Ms Joy TANG of WCWP International Limited, said that the consultants were conducting a further review of the original design in order to advance the project following its resumption. In parallel, the consultants were conducting technical research on photovoltaic panels to assess their performance and pricing in order to ensure optimal results. Since the

location of the walkway cover overlapped the two existing street lights at the site, the consultants obtained the approval of the Highways Department to move them to a nearby location while the final pre-tender detailed design was being prepared.

24. The Chairman concluded by noting that the YLDO and the consultancy firm were currently engaged in the process of refining the design of the works project. Members hoped that the YLDO proceed with the works as expeditiously as possible and keep the DFMC informed of the works progress. Furthermore, the Chairman noted that some Members had requested information on the progress of other walkway cover projects in the district. He therefore suggested that they submit written questions at the next meeting for response and follow-up by the relevant departments.

Report Items

**Item VIII: Report on the management of the recreational, sports and leisure facilities by the LCSD
(February 2024 Issue)
(DFWC Paper No. 6/2024)**

25. Mr YAU Sai-yuen of the LCSD introduced the aforesaid paper.

26. After discussion, Members' views and enquiries were summarised as follows:

- (1) Following the positive response to the lantern lights installed by the LCSD on the walkway between Yuen Long Park and the Aviary Pagoda, it was proposed that the LCSD consider decorating other venues under its management to add to the festivities;
- (2) A request was made for the resurfacing of the grass pitch at the Yuen Long Park gateball court and for the installation of cooling fans in the park pavilion, in order to cope with the hot summer months;
- (3) A query was raised regarding the progress of the redevelopment project for Yuen Long Stadium;
- (4) The Community Garden Programme was viewed as an opportunity to offer members of the public a space to cultivate plants, which was conducive to facilitating community involvement. An enquiry was made to ascertain whether the LCSD would extend the programme to other parks than Tin Shui Wai Park;
- (5) A request for information was made to the LCSD regarding the current status of the beautification project at Chung Sing Path Playground, including an estimated completion date. Furthermore, the LCSD was requested to ascertain whether any similar projects were being carried out in other locations within the district. With regard to the basketball courts, the LCSD was requested to consider the potential impact of using bright colours on their surface, in terms of visibility for players; and
- (6) The LCSD was requested to confirm whether the damaged water pumps in the fish ponds at Dragon Park would be replaced and to provide a timetable for refilling the popular artificial lake at Tin Shui Wai Park in advance for public information.

27. A consolidated reply provided by Mr YAU Sai-yuen of the LCSD was as follows:

- (1) The LCSD would continue to arrange for new installations at Yuen Long Park, including murals, while also exploring similar enhancements for other suitable venues, subject to available resources;
- (2) Comments made by Members regarding the lawn area at the gateball court and the park pavilion at Yuen Long Park had been duly noted and would be addressed in due course;

(Post-meeting note: On 4 March, the LCSD conducted a minor maintenance operation on the lawn area at the gateball court. A more extensive lawn maintenance programme would be conducted from mid-June to late July, which would involve replacing a portion of the turf and levelling the ground. Additionally, the LCSD had requested its works unit to look for solutions to improve the ventilation of the pavilion.)

- (3) The redevelopment of Yuen Long Stadium was proceeding as planned and was scheduled for completion during the second quarter of 2026;
- (4) The LCSD was planning to construct a new community garden at Tin Sau Road Children's Playground. The garden would provide 60 garden plots for lease by nearby residents;
- (5) The Chung Sing Path Playground formed part of the Shining City project, as set out in the Policy Address. As part of the beautification programme, the basketball court would undergo enhancements, incorporating new artistic elements and a thematic design. The project would then be presented to Members for their input, after which the LCSD would seek advice from relevant NSAs;
- (6) The malfunctioning water pump at Dragon Park would be followed up by relevant works departments; and
- (7) The LCSD scheduled the replacement of the filtration system at the artificial lake in Tin Shui Wai Park. This would necessitate the replacement of the pump and the sand tank. The initial phase of the works involved the drainage of the artificial lake, where aquatic organisms would be temporarily hosted by an external contractor until completion of the works, scheduled for 30 April.

28. The Chairman concluded that Members had noted the paper and requested that the LCSD maintain its proactive approach to developing recreational and sports facilities in the district.

Item IX: Report on the usage of public libraries in Yuen Long District by the LCSD (DFWC Paper No. 7/2024)

29. Mr Freeman PANG of the LCSD introduced the aforesaid paper.

30. After discussion, Members' views and enquiries were summarised as follows:

- (1) A query was raised regarding the causes of the notable difference observed in utilisation rates between the mobile libraries in the neighbouring Tin Yuet and Tin Ching housing estates, as discussed in the paper;
- (2) It was noted that a number of mobile libraries had temporarily ceased operations during the reporting period for a variety of reasons while a number of library stops had recorded a relatively low utilisation rate. In order to enhance cost effectiveness, the LCSD was encouraged to explore alternative methods of book loaning. These included implementing an online booking service and a courier service for the delivery of books to borrowers;
- (3) It was hoped that the LCSD would furnish Members with statistical data on the utilisation of community libraries in the future; and
- (4) A query was raised regarding whether the LCSD would launch community promotion activities for library services in areas with relatively low utilisation and attendance rates at public libraries, as indicated in the paper.

31. A consolidated reply provided by Mr Freeman PANG of the LCSD was as follows:

- (1) In addition to mobile library services, the LCSD attached great importance to the promotion of e-books and e-databases. As of the latest count, there were in excess of 500 000 e-books and more than 80 e-databases in LCSD libraries, with the majority of these electronic resources accessible remotely. For instance, e-books could be read online or downloaded onto mobile phones and computers. Library users were able to access services remotely, without having to visit the premises. Furthermore, the LCSD was promoting community libraries and collective lending services, while implementing the “Smart Library System” project in phases to further improve library services; and
- (2) Regarding the utilisation of the mobile library services, it should be noted that mobile libraries were originally designed to serve residents in more remote areas. Consequently, it was not anticipated that high levels of attendance would be achieved at each mobile library stop. Nevertheless, the LCSD would continue to promote the mobile library services in order to attract a greater number of members of the public to use the services. Furthermore, the “Joyful Reading in Your Neighbourhood: Library-on-Wheels” Project was launched to extend library services to additional locations and populations.

32. The Chairman concluded that the Members had noted the aforesaid paper and requested the LCSD to consider Members’ views.

**Item X: Report on the usage of Yuen Long Theatre by the LCSD
(DFWC Paper No. 8/2024)**

33. Ms LEE Wing-yee of the LCSD introduced the aforesaid paper.

34. After discussion, Members’ views and enquiries were summarised as follows:

- (1) Schools in the district encountered difficulties in hiring Yung Long Theatre

("Theatre") for graduation ceremonies. Frequently, they had to resort to hiring venues at other schools within the district or in other districts, which caused inconvenience to students and parents. It was suggested that the LCSD accord priority to schools hiring venues for graduation ceremonies in Yuen Long District during the graduation season;

- (2) A query was raised regarding the annual maintenance costs for the stage facilities at the Theatre. While the maintenance costs for the revolving stage wagon in the Theatre could prove significant, the facility appeared to be poorly managed and prone to breakdowns. Furthermore, as the software used for the venue's subtitling machine was already obsolete, the LCSD was advised to update the computer system as appropriate;
- (3) It was noted that the LCSD had completed enhancements to the wireless networking and phone signal reception functionality at the venue. Members enquired whether the existing wireless network and phone signal at the venue covered the entire theatre;
- (4) In light of the overwhelming demand for the theatre venue, Members enquired about the feasibility of developing a new theatre within the Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area and whether early planning could be done. There was a concern that the shortage of performing venues in the Theatre would hinder the growth of arts and culture in the district;
- (5) The national flag-raising ceremony was a common occurrence at numerous events nowadays; however, there was a lack of equipment available for the ceremony. Members enquired the LCSD whether there were any alternative solutions and venue options for hirers wishing to raise a national flag at the venue; and
- (6) In light of the Theatre's current focus on local productions, Members enquired whether the LCSD would arrange other performances, such as English musicals or classical music concerts, to be presented at the venue. Members also pointed out that the dearth of photographs and posters on the Theatre's website might undermine publicity effectiveness.

35. A consolidated reply provided by Ms LEE Wing-yee of the LCSD was as follows:

- (1) The Theatre was primarily hired for the purpose of hosting graduation ceremonies in June or July. In response to this, the LCSD had taken relevant measures, such as prioritising applications for the venue for graduation ceremonies held during the daytime from Monday to Thursday in the mid-June to mid-July period over applications for the venue's use for other activities during the same period. However, the high volume of applications from schools had intensified competition among them. The Theatre would consider other factors, including previous attendance, while the LCSD would closely monitor the hiring situation and conduct timely reviews and follow-up actions;
- (2) Details about the maintenance cost for stage facilities would be updated by the LCSD later. The LCSD had been undertaking regular maintenance work for the revolving stage wagon and the subtitling machine, and would implement a refurbishment and enhancement project from mid-March until the end of June for about more than two months. This project would include the improvement and

enhancement of the stage facilities. The LCSD would relay Members' feedback to pertinent units for ongoing upgrading of the facilities;

(Post-meeting note: It was difficult to specify any particular maintenance cost of the Theatre, which was a consolidated amount covering different items of interrelated nature, such as technical and professional services, equipment and contract services. The LCSD had noted Members' concerns about facilities of the Theatre and expected that the Theatre could provide quality stage facilities upon completion of the enhancement works.)

- (3) The wireless network coverage area of the Theatre had been expanded to encompass both public and rented premises of the venue. Furthermore, an initiative undertaken by the Office of the Communications Authority had resulted in enhanced 5G mobile phone signal coverage at the venue;
- (4) The suggestion from a Member that consideration be given to the construction of a new theatre in Hung Shui Kiu had been duly noted and would be conveyed to relevant departments;
- (5) The LCSD did not provide portable flagpoles for use in the Theatre by hiring organisations for national flag-raising ceremonies, although they were allowed to bring their own flagpoles for this purpose. For organisations hiring the auditorium for holding ceremonies or playing songs, the LCSD would provide flagpoles on the stage for the display of the national flag at the request of the hiring organisations; and
- (6) The Theatre's programme offerings were classified into two categories. The first category included programmes that were organised or sponsored by the LCSD and coordinated by the programmes office. Members' feedback on programme types had been noted. The second category consisted of programmes arranged by the hiring organisation, which determined the programme type. The LCSD would closely monitor and review the hiring situation, and revamp the design of the Theatre's website to include more photographs with the aim of enhancing its visual impact and appeal to members of the public.

36. The Chairman concluded by requesting the LCSD to consider Members' opinions. He said that Members could share any further comments regarding Yuen Long Theatre programmes with the Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee.

Item XI: Any other business

Item XII: Date of next meeting

37. Members provided further opinions regarding Item IV on the agenda, namely the improvements and beautification works for the Hung Tak Road Sitting-out Area No. 2. Members expressed concerns over the potential negative impact on oxygen absorption by plants if the planters were covered in gravel, and suggested using wood chips instead. The Chairman requested the LCSD to conduct a site inspection of the planters with Members concerned.

38. Members provided further opinions regarding Items I to III on the agenda in

respect of community halls. It was noted that a significant number of paper forms were required to be printed and submitted to complete an application for hiring of a community hall. It was recommended that the YLDO review and streamline the existing application procedures. The Chairman requested that the YLDO to take note of Members' opinions.

39. The Chairman said that the second meeting of the DFMC in 2024 would be held on 12 April 2024 at 2:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the YLDC.

40. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:30 p.m.

Yuen Long District Council Secretariat
April 2024