

The minutes were confirmed on 7.6.2024 without amendment.

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

Date: 12 April 2024 (Friday)
Time: 2:30 p.m. to 5:15 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
Ms HO Hiu-man
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
Ms LAM Wai-ming
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 YAU Chun-wai	Senior Inspector of Works(2), 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
Ms TAM On-kei, Susan	Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories North), 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 CHUNG Kan-hei	Senior Manager (New Territories West) Promotion, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms LEE Wing-yee	Manager (New Territories West) Marketing & District Activities, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms SY Wing-kei, Vicky	Engineer/Yuen Long 2, Drainage Services Department
Mr CHAN Chi-kwong	District Engineer/Works(North West), Highways Department

Item II

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

Item III

Mr LAU Wai-kin, Tony	Senior Architect/24, Architectural Services Department
Mr TAM Wai-kit, Ricky	Project Manager 372, Architectural Services Department

Item VII

Ms HO Wai-yan, Vivian	Senior Project Manager (Technical Section), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
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Mr LEE Chi-lung	Project Manager 1(Project Team), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms TSUI Yu-yan, Natalie	Director, Room 23 Limited
Ms NG Yuen-ting	Director, Room 23 Limited

Item X

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

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

2. The Chairman welcomed Ms Susan TAM, Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories North) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (“LCSD”) and Mr YAU Chun-wai, Senior Inspector of Works (2) of the Yuen Long District Office (“YLDO”), who succeeded Ms LO Lai-fong, Jackie and Mr YUNG Chi-wai respectively, and attended the meeting for the first time. He also thanked Ms Jackie LO and Mr YUNG Chi-wai for their assistance rendered to the DFWC in the past.

Item I: Confirmation of minutes of the first meeting of DFWC in 2024 held on 2 February 2024

3. Members confirmed the minutes of the first meeting of DFWC in 2024 held on 2 February 2024.

Discussion Items:

Item II: Utilisation rate of community centres/community halls in Yuen Long District (DFWC Paper No. 11/2024)

4. The Chairman welcomed Mr David HO, Senior Executive Officer (District Management) of the YLDO, Mr Simon FUNG, Executive Officer (Community Affairs) of the YLDO, and Mr KWOK Kwan-lim, Assistant Housing Manager/TNH 1 of the Housing Department (“HD”) to the meeting.

5. Mr David HO of the YLDO briefed Members on the paper.

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

- (1) Members expressed concern that owners’ corporations (“OCs”) in the district found it difficult to book community hall venues for OC meetings. They suggested that the YLDO should consider giving priority to OCs in booking

community centres or community hall venues, or reserving evening time slots for OCs to use;

- (2) As OCs might need to convene meetings in response to the Urban Renewal Authority's papers, they would submit venue applications as far in advance as possible, with a minimum of one month prior to the meeting. Depending on the number of attendees, OCs would normally use the hall for meetings;
- (3) Members enquired about the existing mechanism for the operation of priority hiring of community hall venues by residents' organisations; and
- (4) Members enquired about the progress of the maintenance at the Yuen Long Town East Community Hall and whether the hall and the conference room inside were undergoing maintenance works concurrently. If this was not the case, Members suggested that the YLDO should partially open the conference room for public use.

7. Mr David HO of the YLDO said that designated time slots for the conference room of the Long Ping Community Hall had already been reserved on Thursdays for residents' organisations to hold meetings, but some organisations had reflected that the conference room could not accommodate all attendees, necessitating a switch to the use of the hall for their meetings. The YLDO would conduct a further review of the situation, but at the same time had to ensure the needs of other district organisations in using the hall for organising activities were met. In addition, the flooring of the Yuen Long Town East Community Hall had been removed and related materials were being procured. As the multi-purpose hall and conference room of the Yuen Long Town East Community Hall were affected by water seepage problems and maintenance works, the whole community hall could not be available for public use for the time being.

8. In conclusion, the Chairman asked the YLDO to closely monitor the progress of the works at the Yuen Long Town East Community Hall, with a view to re-opening the hall for public use as soon as possible. He also asked the YLDO to actively consider Members' views on the hiring of community halls by residents' organisations.

Matters Arising:

Item III: Follow-up to the progress of commissioning of the swimming pool complex in Tin Shui Wai North (DFWC Paper No. 12/2024)

9. The Chairman welcomed Mr Tony LAU, Senior Architect/24 and Mr Ricky TAM, Project Manager 372 of the Architectural Services Department ("ArchSD") to the meeting.

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

- (1) Members enquired whether the department could move the opening of the swimming pool complex in Tin Shui Wai North to coincide with the peak summer holiday period in July this year;
- (2) Members enquired about the progress of the rectification works and the previously mentioned repair works for debonded wall tiles. Besides, Members enquired about the progress of the LCSD in preparing supplies for the opening of

the swimming pools and the recruitment of lifeguards. They expressed concern that the opening of the pools might be delayed due to the unfinished venue preparation work;

- (3) Members enquired about the number of licensed lifeguards in the venue and whether the number was sufficient to support all the swimming pools in the venue. Members also enquired about the department's strategy to increase the lifeguard manpower;
- (4) Members enquired about the department's publicity efforts in relation to the opening of the swimming pool complex and whether visits would be arranged for Members. To improve the facilities of the swimming pool complex, Members suggested that the department should organise exclusive open days for local residents and schools to gain first-hand experience of the facilities;
- (5) Members considered it unsatisfactory that the department did not consult the Hong Kong and Kowloon Life Guards' Union ("Union") until the completion of the works. Despite the suggestions put forth by the Union after the site visit regarding the location of the lifeguard lookout and the entrance to the first aid room, it proved challenging to implement the proposed improvements at this stage as the majority of the works had been completed. Regarding the lifeguards' inability to observe the situation of the Jacuzzi from the lookout, Members opined that even though the department had installed wide-angle mirrors at the relevant locations, the moisture inside the room might make it difficult for lifeguards to observe the situation of the Jacuzzi, thus posing a potential safety hazard;
- (6) Members enquired about the cost overrun for the works incurred by the extended construction period; and
- (7) Members enquired about the electrical and mechanical facilities that were not yet available in the existing venues.

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

- (1) Regarding the previously mentioned issue of debonded wall tiles, the ArchSD and the contractor had completed the repair works and no further follow-up action was required;
- (2) The ArchSD would meet with the contractor on a regular basis to monitor the progress of the works and evaluate the quality of the workmanship, with a view to completing the works as soon as possible. It was noted that signage was not in place and that the commissioning for certain electrical and mechanical facilities, including ventilation, lighting and security systems, had not been carried out, although the major construction works had been completed;
- (3) Regarding the situation of the lifeguard lookout, the design team had launched a study of the situation and had proposed some feasible solutions to address the problem. The department would proceed with the improvement works as soon as possible; and
- (4) As there was no cost overrun for the works project, no further supplementary appropriation would be required from the Legislative Council.

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

- (1) The LCSD had been conducting comprehensive system testing with relevant departments to ensure that the water quality was up to standard and the heated pools were functioning properly. Furthermore, the LCSD had been conducting tests on the electrical system, lighting system, security system, fire services system, ventilation system, turnstile system and public address system on a regular basis. However, more time was needed to ensure the smooth operation of the swimming pool complex. Regarding supplies procurement, the LCSD would purchase furniture, computers, cleansing equipment and first aid and resuscitation equipment as and when required at the venue. Supplies procured from overseas had been delivered to the venue in a staged manner. In addition, the facilities prepared by the department would be sufficient for organising a standard swimming gala;
- (2) Relevant human resources divisions under the LCSD were actively recruiting lifeguards. The department was also actively seeking to secure adequate manpower resources, while at the same time formulating emergency rescue plans and providing suitable training programmes for staff to familiarise themselves with the operation of the venues in order to provide the best possible services to the public. However, the Department was unable to provide the number of licensed lifeguards at this stage;
- (3) With the exception of the lifeguard lookout and the first aid room, the Union had positive comments on all aspects of the new swimming pool complex. The Department would take into account the input of the Union and study the matter with relevant departments; and

(Post-meeting note: The Union conducted a site visit with the venue staff on 4 March 2024 and they exchanged views on life-saving facilities.)

- (4) Although the Department was anticipating the opening of the swimming pool complex in August of this year, it would continue to explore with relevant sections the feasibility of an earlier opening. The Department would also study the possibility of arranging visits to the swimming pool complex for Members prior to its inauguration. Furthermore, the Information and Public Relations Section would disseminate information about the opening of the swimming pool complex through press releases in a timely manner.

13. In conclusion, the Chairman hoped that the LCSD would complete the preparatory work as soon as possible so that the swimming pool complex could be opened earlier. However, he also emphasised the necessity of ensuring that the safety of the venue was not compromised. To ensure the venue facilities were fully operational, he hoped that the LCSD would arrange for Members to visit the swimming pool complex.

Questions Raised by Members:

**Item IV: Ms YUEN Man-yee proposed a discussion on “Request for early improvement of the seating facilities under the footbridge near Shui Pin Wai Light Rail Station and Yuen Long Park”
(DFWC Paper No. 13/2024)**

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

- (1) As the iron chairs situated at the concerned location had been affected by rust with the armrests also exhibiting signs of wear and tear, it was suggested that the Department should replace these chairs with eco-friendly plastic chairs;
- (2) Given that the gate of the pet garden in the park exhibited signs of corrosion, it was hoped that the Department would promptly address the matter to ensure the safety of both pets and park users; and
- (3) Members suggested that the Department should install shelters for the chairs to protect the users against the elements.

15. Mr YAU Sai-yuen of the LCSD had taken note of Members' views and would look into the matter with relevant works sections.

(Post-meeting note: The LCSD had arranged for the works section to carry out the maintenance of the chairs in question and to plan for their replacement.)

16. In conclusion, the Chairman asked the department to actively consider Members' views and carry out the improvement works properly.

**Item V: Mr SEI Chun-hing proposed a discussion on “Provision of mobile stages/tent theatres in the district for vigorously promoting the development of arts and culture”
(DFWC Paper No. 14/2024)**

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

- (1) Members opined that the current shortage of venues within Yuen Long Theatre (“Theatre”) would hinder cultural development. It was therefore hoped that incentives could be provided to different landowners to open up their land for use as mobile stages or tent theatres, so as to increase the number of usable cultural venues. In addition, Members suggested the introduction of mobile stages and tent theatres in parks under the management of the LCSD;
- (2) Members enquired whether the LCSD would consider opening up the government land near the Theatre and the vacant Government site behind the Yuen Long Sports Centre for use as performance venues;
- (3) When organising arts and cultural activities, arts groups frequently had to invest heavily in stage construction. To enable arts groups to focus their resources on programme content, Members suggested that the LCSD should provide venue hirers with stage equipment and convenient space. For example, the Department could provide venue hirers of Ginza Plaza with stage set-up services and assistance in relocating large flower pots;
- (4) Members suggested that the LCSD and arts groups should conduct local consultation prior to selecting vacant land for use as performance venues;
- (5) Members enquired whether the LCSD would consider using either Government or private land when identifying suitable outdoor venues for organising arts and cultural activities; and

- (6) As arts groups were allowed to hire schools as rehearsal venues under the Pilot Scheme on the Use of School Venues by Arts Groups, Members enquired whether the LCSD would use the rehearsal venue in the Theatre as a Black Box Theatre in the future in view of the increase in the number of rehearsal venues.

18. A consolidated reply provided by Ms CHUNG Kan-hei of the LCSD was as follows:

- (1) The Department would try to reflect the problem of land use to the Bureau. If a theatre was to be erected in a park, a number of factors had to be considered, including the supply of electricity, the arrangement of access for emergency vehicles, and whether the performance would affect residents in the vicinity. Furthermore, the availability of resources would have to be examined. Having regard to the conditions, the Department would ascertain whether there were suitable parks or outdoor venues for setting up theatres and would actively identify suitable outdoor venues for staging cultural and recreational activities;
- (2) The feasibility of developing additional venues near the Theatre was relatively low. The Department was aware that the Yuen Long Town Hall or some community halls could provide performance space, but their audience capacity was relatively limited. In view of this, the Northern Metropolis Action Agenda proposed that about 15 hectares of land near the San Tin Station be reserved for the development of a cultural complex where the initial proposed facilities included a museum and a major performing arts venue. The project was still at the preliminary planning stage; and
- (3) The suggestion of using the rehearsal space of the Theatre as a Black Box Theatre was noted.

19. Regarding the venue arrangement of Ginza Square, Mr YAU Sai-yuen of the LCSD said that the Department would consider relocating the large flower pots concerned as appropriate to facilitate the organisation of activities by venue users.

20. Regarding Members' suggestion of using the site near the library (i.e. the Yuen Long Leisure and Cultural Building) entrance at Ma Tin Road as a performance venue, Mr CHU Lap-hung of the District Lands Office, Yuen Long stated that the site was privately owned under the New Grant and not government land.

21. In conclusion, the Chairman hoped that the relevant departments would adopt a flexible approach to formulating policies and take into account Members' views, such as increasing the number of performance venues through the construction of tent theatres, so as to tie in with the arts and cultural development of the District and the cultural development as outlined in the National 14th Five-Year Plan.

Item VI: Mr SZE TO Chun-hin, Ms WONG Wai-ling, Ms LAM Wai-ming, Ms MA Shuk-yin, Ms LAI Yuet-kwan, Fennie, Mr CHUI Kwan-siu, Mr LAM Wai-ming, Mr LEUNG Yip-pang, Mr TONG Tak-chun, Mr CHAN Ka-fai and Mr CHEUNG Wai-sum proposed a discussion on "Proposed replacement of the

flagpole at Ginza Square in Tin Shui Wai for performing a Chinese-style flag raising ceremony”
(DFWC Paper No. 15/2024)

22. After discussion, Members’ views and enquiries were summarised as follows:
- (1) The existing flagpole installations at Ginza Square were deemed unsuitable for Chinese-style flag-raising ceremonies. With increasing numbers of district teams and schools adopting Chinese-style flag-raising ceremonies, it was hoped that the department concerned would replace the flagpole with a suitable one as soon as possible; and
 - (2) Due to the unavailability of a suitable venue for flag-raising ceremonies in the Yuen Long town centre, it was proposed that the department concerned consider erecting a flagpole at Long Ngai Path.
23. A consolidated reply provided by Mr YAU Sai-yuen of the LCSD was as follows:
- (1) The Department would arrange for the ArchSD to inspect the flagpole at three-monthly intervals and prior to major flag-raising ceremonies to ensure that the equipment was functioning properly;
 - (2) The Department installed a cover on the flagpole in accordance with departmental instructions to prevent vandalism. However, as the cover might interfere with Chinese-style flag-raising ceremonies, the Department would communicate with the ArchSD and relevant stakeholders to conduct an on-site inspection in order to assess the feasibility of potential remedial options; and
 - (3) The LCSD was not in a position to respond to the proposal to erect a flagpole at Long Ngai Path as the area fell outside its purview.
24. The Chairman concluded that the Chinese-style marching style had become the de facto standard for unformed groups (“UGs”) in Hong Kong and expressed hope that the LCSD would engage in active collaboration with UGs in terms of venue facilities to promote patriotism education. The Chairman proposed that Members extend invitations to UGs to provide more information to the LCSD so as to make further improvements to the flagpole installations.

Report Items:

Item VII: Report on the management of the recreational, sports and leisure facilities by the LCSD (April 2024 Issue)
(DFWC Paper No. 16/2024)

25. The Chairman welcomed the following representatives to the meeting:

LCSD

Senior Project Manager (Technical Section)
Project Manager 1 (Project Team)

Ms Vivian HO
Mr LEE Chi-lung

Room 23 Limited

Director
Director

Ms Natalie TSUI
Ms NG Yuen-ting

26. Mr YAU Sai-yuen of the LCSD introduced the paper and invited Members to endorse the proposed naming of Kam Tsin Wai Tsuen Sitting-out Area at Kam Tsin Wai Tsuen, Pat Heung, Yuen Long as set out in the paper. Separately, Mr LEE Chi-lung of the LCSD and Ms NG Yuen-ting, Director of Room 23 Limited, introduced the paper on the public play space transformation projects at Tin Ho Road Playground and Yuen Long Jockey Club Town Square, respectively.

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

- (1) The proposal to designate the area as "Kam Tsin Wai Tsuen Sitting-out Area" was met with a positive response;
- (2) The designs for the public play space transformation projects at Tin Ho Road Playground and Yuen Long Jockey Club Town Square were considered innovative. The LCSD was commended for taking into account the needs and suggestions of the community during the design process. It was proposed that the LCSD consider the examples of Middle Road Park in Tsim Sha Tsui, Ping Shek Playground and parks in the Greater Bay Area when increasing the number of levels in play facilities and providing sand pits to optimise the use of park spaces and increase the level of enjoyment at play facilities;
- (3) It was recommended that the LCSD consider adopting designs for parks that were accessible at night and included pet-friendly facilities;
- (4) The design of a play space had to take into account the needs of the elderly and parents, as well as ensuring the presence of sanitary facilities. It was therefore recommended that additional seating should be provided in park areas, in addition to drinking fountains, hand-washing facilities and toilets;
- (5) It was suggested that the existing seating in Yuen Long Jockey Club Town Square be retained and that arbours be provided as an additional amenity. Furthermore, it was enquired as to whether sufficient seating would be provided at the clock tower and the performance square located there;
- (6) A proposal was put forth to transform the at-grade maze at Yuen Long Jockey Club Town Square into a three-dimensional structure to enhance the overall appeal of the attraction;
- (7) It was proposed that the design of the canopy over the pavilion at Tin Ho Road Playground be modified to prevent the accumulation of leaves, thereby improving the aesthetic quality of the surrounding area;
- (8) It was noted that the optimal use of play spaces could contribute to cultural development. This could be achieved by using parks as rehearsal spaces for night sky performances, or by using them to host video screenings and theatrical or dance performances so as to enhance the characteristics of play spaces;
- (9) A query was raised regarding the rationale behind the LCSD's decision to transform the play space at Tin Ho Road Playground, which had been relatively underutilised. It was also observed that the design of Tin Ho Road Playground did not appear to align with the Mysterious Mangroves theme;

- (10) The LCSD was advised to refer to the enhancements made to Sai Ching Street Children's Playground in the design of children's play facilities. There was a question raised about the possibility of reducing the construction period. Furthermore, it was observed that while Sai Ching Street Children's Playground was in high demand due to its open layout, the lack of railings along the footpath outside the playground presented a potential hazard, from which children could exit and run into the road. It was suggested that the Department construct a fence around the playground or alternatively that the Highways Department ("HyD") extend the railings along the aforementioned road section;
- (11) A query was raised regarding the costs associated with the public play space transformation projects; and
- (12) It was proposed that the LCSD should furnish data on the utilisation of the District's Community Garden Programme in the future. Furthermore, it was observed that the programme could facilitate the dissemination of the concept of urban farming.

28. A consolidated reply provided by Ms NG Yuen-ting of Room 23 Limited was as follows:

- (1) The design of Tin Ho Road Playground was oriented towards the creation of a creative and challenging play space for children. The design firm had considered the integration of elements related to rivers, water and sand in order to align with the Mysterious Mangroves theme. However, upon evaluation of the physical environment and the management mode of the venue, it was proposed that a sense of proximity to nature for children could be created through the use of other natural elements, such as colours, and of natural materials, such as timber, in some of the play facilities. Furthermore, the design firm hoped to concentrate resources on the facilities for children's leisure and thus opted to retain the original design of the pavilion. In order to provide shaded seating for elderly visitors and parents, the benches situated beneath the pavilion would be retained, and, if necessary, the number of seats would be increased;
- (2) With regard to the utilisation of space in Yuen Long Jockey Club Town Square, the design firm would seek to make efficient use of the original space in order to optimise the player experience. However, in light of safety concerns, an open design had not been selected for the playground to preclude children from exiting the area. The two climbing towers with slides in the playground would be two storeys high and connected by a bridge. There would be slides, a variety of sensory equipment (e.g. a megaphone) and diverse climbing opportunities. However, the provision of additional facilities be impossible due to a smaller play space resulting from the installation of play equipment, such as swings, which would require a larger safety area. In light of these considerations, the design firm would propose the addition of supplementary play equipment on the two climbing towers with slides, as well as patterns and mazes of varying designs on the ground level, with the aim of enhancing the overall play experience. Furthermore, Yuen Long Jockey Club Town Square would provide a diverse range of pavilions and seating areas for park users, situated not only at the clock tower and performance square, but also along the planters; and
- (3) In terms of the design suitable for accessibility at night, the design firm would consider the use of lighting effects to immerse patterns on the ground, thereby

creating a visual effect. Furthermore, the possibility of providing water dispensers would be explored in collaboration with relevant departments.

29. A consolidated reply provided by Mr YAU Sai-yuen and Mr LEE Chi-lung of the LCSD was as follows:

- (1) The Department would arrange for a cleaning company to remove the accumulated leaves from the pavilion at Tin Ho Road Playground;
- (2) The Department had considered the possibility of installing substantial flower pots around the periphery of Sai Ching Street Children's Playground so as to prevent children from exiting the playground and traversing the road. However, as tactile tiles had already been laid in this location, the Department would communicate with the ArchSD regarding the possibility of reprovisioning the path. Furthermore, the Department would consult with the HyD regarding the possibility of extending the roadside railings outside the playground to the adjacent trees. Additionally, the tree management section of the District would be consulted to assess the feasibility of implementing this proposal.

(Post-meeting note: The LCSD and the ArchSD had collaborated to assess the possibility of enhancing the playground entrance near Sai Ching Street. However, no modifications were eventually implemented due to the necessity to adhere to the standards for barrier-free facilities. Instead, the LCSD had already referred to the Transport Department ("TD") and the HyD for further study and consideration of the proposal to extend the roadside railings outside the playground.)

- (3) Regarding the projected costs of the public play spaces transformation projects, the exact total amount remained undetermined as the tendering process had not yet been completed. The expenditure would be financed through the Capital Works Reserve Fund; and
- (4) The primary objective of the works was to transform the existing play facilities to create a more engaging and challenging environment that would meet the diverse needs of contemporary children. Furthermore, the LCSD would study the possibility of installing water dispensers and handwashing facilities, as well as modifying the pavilion canopy, as proposed by Members.

30. Regarding the proposed extension of the roadside railings at Sai Ching Street Children's Playground, Mr CHAN Chi-kwong of the HyD said that the proposal to modify public road facilities would be referred to the TD for consideration.

31. The Chairman concluded by stating that he was gratified that the LCSD had taken on board the opinions of the community and children in the transformation of public play spaces. Members expressed hope that the design team would utilise the space effectively and provide additional facilities where safe and feasible to do so. In considering the enhancement of lighting effects in parks, the LCSD should also take into account whether the equipment would affect the residents in the neighbourhood. With regard to Sai Ching Street Children's Playground, he requested that the LCSD or the HyD install additional railings as deemed appropriate to ensure the safety of children.

Item VIII: Report on the usage of public libraries in Yuen Long District by the LCSD (DFWC Paper No. 17/2024)

32. Mr Freeman PANG of the LCSD presented the paper and noted that the mobile library stop at Sheung Tsuen Park had been temporarily suspended due to the improvement works there.

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

- (1) A query was raised as to whether the LCSD could increase the mobile library service to a minimum of one visit per week;
- (2) A query was raised as to whether the LCSD had conducted any analysis of the factors contributing to the relatively low utilisation of the mobile library services in Sheung Tsuen Park, Long Shin Estate and San Tin. It was suggested that greater publicity should be afforded to such services in order to increase usage;
- (3) The location of the mobile library stop in San Tin was considered to be less convenient. Therefore, it was suggested that the LCSD consider the loaning of books to schools for direct loaning by students or alternatively the relocation of the mobile library stop to the San Tin Rural Committee; and
- (4) A query was raised as to whether the LCSD would consider providing a book lending service in the vicinity of Pok Oi Kong Ha Wai Village. Furthermore, it was suggested that the LCSD include information about the "Joyful Reading at Your Neighbourhood: Library-on-Wheels" project in its report.

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

- (1) Due to the limited schedule of mobile library services, it was not feasible to augment their frequency. Nevertheless, the loan period of books in mobile library points was four weeks, which was two weeks longer than that of static libraries to meet the demand of readers;
- (2) The Department was also aware of the relatively low utilisation rates for the mobile library services at Sheung Tsuen Park, Long Shin Estate, and San Tin. In light of the relatively low patronage observed at the service point of Long Shin Estate, the Department would study enhancing publicity at this location. Concurrently, the feasibility of relocating the mobile library stop at San Tin to a more convenient location was being assessed; and
- (3) The Department had been liaising with Pok Oi Kong Ha Wai Village and would conduct a site visit with the management office the following week to ascertain the availability of parking spaces and the stability of electricity supply in the village. Should the requisite conditions be met, the Department would arrange for a trial run of the "Joyful Reading in Your Neighbourhood: Library-on-Wheels" project in the village.

(Post-meeting note: The aforesaid site visit was postponed until May at the request of the management office.)

35. The Chairman invited the LCSD to take note of the views raised by Members to increase publicity of mobile library services and to adjust the locations of the service points. Furthermore, he proposed that, where resources permitted, the LCSD consider the provision of library services in the vicinity of transitional housing.

**Item IX: Report on the usage of Yuen Long Theatre by the LCSD
(DFWC Paper No. 18/2024)**

36. Ms CHUNG Kan-hei of the LCSD presented the paper.

37. The Chairman concluded that Members noted the aforesaid paper.

**Item X: Overview of projects under the District Minor Works Programme of the
Yuen Long District Office
(DFWC Paper No. 19/2024)**

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

39. Mr Hubert CRUZ of the YLDO presented the paper.

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

- (1) Requests were made for details of the following works projects: the design and related information regarding the construction of the covered walkway from Tin Wah Estate to near Shui Sing House at Tin Shui Road, Tin Shui Wai (YL-DMW212), the dates of commencement and completion and related information regarding the construction of the covered walkway from Tin Ching Estate to Tin Yuet LRT Station, Tin Shui Wai (YL-DMW343), the location and related information regarding the rain shelter improvement works near lamp post no. DB3288 at Tin Shui Path, Tin Shui Wai (YL-DMW496), the reasons for deferring the commencement date of the Tin Shui Wai Swimming Pool Entrance Gate System Improvement Works - Phase 2 (YL-DMW492) and the duration of the works, and the progress of the rain shelter and bench installation works at lamp post no. FA8737 at Shan Pui River, Ping Shan Heung (YL-DMW504);
- (2) Enquiries were made about the latest progress on DMW projects that had previously been put on hold. These included the construction of a rest garden at Tai Tong Shan Road (near the pavilion), the construction of a covered walkway from the junction of Tin Kwai Road and Tin Lung Road to Tin Shing Road, Tin Shui Wai, the construction of a covered walkway from Tin Yiu LRT Station to near Tin Yiu Plaza, and the construction of a covered walkway from Tin Fu LRT Station to Tin Fu Court Entrance/Exit, Tin Shui Wai;
- (3) It was hoped that the YLDO would allocate more resources to take forward the Rural Public Works ("RPW") programme to improve facilities in rural areas. It was also hoped that the YLDO would balance the works needs of the RPW programme with those of the District Minor Works ("DMW") programme;
- (4) It was recommended that the LCSD should look at the practice of other regions and countries in providing fitness equipment in parks to meet the needs of people

of different ages; and

- (5) An enquiry was made as to whether the YLDO would consider giving priority to re-launching several of the shelved projects in the light of Members' views.

41. A consolidated reply provided by Mr Hubert CRUZ of the YLDO was as follows:

- (1) Regarding the projects that had been put on hold during the 6th YLDC, the YLDO had re-launched some of them based on the comments received at the district level and would decide whether to re-launch the remaining projects after taking into account the needs of the local communities, the resources available and the technical complexities of the projects;
- (2) Regarding Project No. YL-DMW343, the YLDO had recently requested the Home Affairs Department Works Section to re-launch the project and process the design. Further information would be provided in due course; and
- (3) The RPW and DMW programmes were each administered through different mechanisms, with funding for the former allocated exclusively to works projects designed to enhance rural communities.

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

- (1) The Department was approaching the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department with a view to commencing the works under Project No. YL-DMW492 in 2024-2025. The works would primarily involve the installation of screens in the venues to display the number of attendees in real time, which would also be visible on the LCSD website; and
- (2) Regarding the project to provide a rest garden at Tai Tong Shan Road (near the pavilion), the Department would provide relevant information after the meeting.

43. A consolidated reply provided by Mr NG Chi-wai of the YLDO was as follows:

- (1) With regard to Project No. YL-DMW496, the contractor was preparing the materials for the works, which were expected to be completed by May of this year, subject to the impact of rainy weather on the progress of the works. Separately, the YLDO had taken note of Members' enquiries as to the exact location of the works project and provided a location map of the works to Members for their reference after the meeting; and
- (2) For Project No. YL-DMW504, the rain shelter would be located in close proximity to the car park. Installation work was in progress and was scheduled for completion in May of this year.

44. Ms Joy TANG of WCWP International Limited said that the design of Project No. YL-DMW212 had previously been endorsed by the Advisory Committee on the Appearance of Bridges and Associated Structures. To facilitate a swift progress of the project, the design and colour scheme had been largely aligned with those of previous designs, with only minor

adjustments, such as the incorporation of solar panels, being implemented. The design firm would finalise the detailed design as expeditiously as possible, thereby enabling the commencement of the works by the end of the year.

45. The Chairman concluded that he believed that the YLDO would properly allocate the funding for the works in the rural and urban areas after balancing the needs of local communities. Members expressed satisfaction at the re-launching of some of the works projects that had previously been put on hold. They believed that the YLDO would re-launch the projects in an orderly manner following a comprehensive review. He additionally noted that should Members wish to enquire about the status of particular projects, they might do so at the subsequent meeting, thereby enabling the YLDO and the LCSD to prepare the pertinent data to brief them.

Item XI: Any other business

Item XII: Date of next meeting

46. The Chairman said that the 3rd DFMC meeting in 2024 would be held at the conference room of the Yuen Long District Council at 2:30 p.m. on 7 June 2024.

47. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 5:15 p.m.

Yuen Long District Council Secretariat
June 2024