

The minutes were confirmed on 27.5.2025 without amendment.

**Minutes of the Eighth Meeting of the Seventh Term Yuen Long District Council**  
**Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**

Date: 25 March 2025 (Tuesday)  
Time: 2:30 p.m. to 6:50 p.m.  
Venue: Conference Room, Yuen Long District Council, 13/F., Yuen Long Government Offices,  
2 Kiu Lok Square, Yuen Long

**Present**

Chairman : Mr WU Tin-yau, Gordon, JP  
Members : Mr MAN Yick-yeung  
Mr MAN Luk-sing, MH  
Mr MAN Ka-ho, Donald, JP  
Mr WONG Wai-leung  
Mr WONG Hiu-shan  
Mr 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 SHUM Ho-kit, BBS, JP  
Mr LAM Chung-yin  
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  
Mr TSUI Wai-ngoi  
Ms YUEN Man-yee, MH  
Ms MA Shuk-yin  
Mr CHEUNG Wai-sum  
Mr LEUNG Ming-kin  
Mr LEUNG Yip-pang  
Mr CHONG Kin-shing, MH, JP  
Mr KWOK Wing-cheong  
Mr CHAN Ka-fai  
Ms CHAN Yin-kwan, Yankie  
Mr CHAM Ka-hung, Daniel, BBS, MH, JP  
Mr TONG Tak-chun  
Mr CHING Chan-ming  
Mr FUNG Chun-wing  
Mr WONG Yuen-tai, MH  
Mr WONG Siu-chung  
Ms WONG Wai-ling  
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 TAM Tak-hoi  
 Mr SO Yuen

Secretary	:	Ms TAM Yu-yan, Maggie	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Yuen Long District Office
Assistant Secretary	:	Miss WONG Cheuk-ying, Cherry	Executive Officer I (District Council), Yuen Long District Office

In Attendance

Mr Hubert CRUZ	Assistant District Officer (Yuen Long) 1
Mr TSANG Churn, Roy	Assistant District Officer (Yuen Long) 2
Miss LAU Sze-nga, Vivicia	Senior Liaison Officer (1), Yuen Long District Office
Ms CHUI Po-ling, Polly	Senior Liaison Officer (2), Yuen Long District Office
Ms OR Lai-kum, Christina	Senior Liaison Officer (3), Yuen Long District Office
Mr LAU Hiu-lap, Frederick	Senior Liaison Officer (4), Yuen Long District Office
Mr NG Kam-leung, Julian	Chief Engineer/West 1, Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr KWOK Sin-hang, Kenny	Senior Engineer/4 (West), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr CHAN Chak-sum, Jason	District Lands Officer/Yuen Long (District Lands Office, Yuen Long), Lands Department
Mr CHEUNG Ho-man	Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Yuen Long), Lands Department
Mr WONG Chun-hung, Samuel	Chief Manager/Management (Tuen Mun & Yuen Long), Housing Department
Ms SO Lai-pik, Candy	Senior Property Service Manager/Tuen Mun & Yuen Long 2, Housing Department
Mrs SHEK CHAN Lai-wah, Judy	District Social Welfare Officer (Yuen Long), Social Welfare Department
Mr KWOK Ming-gon	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Yuen Long), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr CHAN Yun-kwan	Chief Health Inspector (Yuen Long)3, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Miss CHAN Kam-kuk, Tammy	District Commander (Yuen Long), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms LO Hoi-lam, Burcu	Police Community Relations Officer (Yuen Long), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms TAM On-kei, Susan	Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories North), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr LAM Chi-kin	District Leisure Manager (Yuen Long), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms YOUENG Wai-sze, Sally	Chief School Development Officer (Yuen Long), Education Bureau

Mr AU Hei-fan, Raymond	District Planning Officer/Tuen Mun & Yuen Long West, Planning Department
Mr CHEUNG Chi-yeung, Fabian	Chief Transport Officer/New Territories North West, Transport Department

### **Item II**

Miss MAN Ching-yee, Elena (transliteration)	Leader, Tin Shui Wai District Youth Outreaching Social Work Team, Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service—Hong Kong
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### **Item III**

Mr CHEN Ka-yin	Senior Engineer/Yuen Long, Drainage Services Department
Mr LEE Wai-chung	Engineer/Main River 3, Drainage Services Department

### **Item IV**

Mr CHEN Ka-yin	Senior Engineer/Yuen Long, Drainage Services Department
Mr TANG Kin-ming	Engineer/Yuen Long 3, Drainage Services Department
Mr TSUI Yat-him, Henry	Engineer/New Territories West (Distribution 3), Water Supplies Department

### **Item VI**

Mr CHAN Siu-yan, Stephen	Engineer/8, Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr LAW Ho-yin, Ronnie	Civil Engineer 16, Housing Department

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## **Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed Members and government department representatives to the eighth meeting of the seventh-term Yuen Long District Council (“YLDC”). In addition, he welcomed Mr Kenny KWOK, Senior Engineer/4 (West) of the Civil Engineering and Development Department (“CEDD”) to the meeting.

### **Item I: Confirmation of the minutes of the seventh meeting of the YLDC held on 21 January 2025**

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2. Members confirmed the minutes of the seventh meeting of the YLDC held on 21 January 2025.

## **Discussion Items**

### **Item II: Concern over the use and abuse of “space oil drug” among young people (YLDC Paper No. 16/2025)**

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3. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 16 and welcomed Miss Elena MAN, Leader of Tin Shui Wai District Youth Outreaching Social Work Team of the Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service—Hong Kong (“ELCSS-HK”), to the meeting.

4. Miss Tammy CHAN of the Hong Kong Police Force (“HKPF”) and Miss Elena MAN of the ELCSS-HK briefed Members on the paper.

5. Mr Daniel CHAM, BBS, MH, JP expressed concern regarding the situation of “space oil drug” abuse among young people. He noted that the Commissioner for Narcotics had indicated that a higher number of cases of “space oil drug” abuse had been recorded in districts with a higher youth population, including North District, Yuen Long and Tuen Mun. A survey conducted by the ELCSS-HK in Tin Shui Wai and North District also shown that the problem was more serious in Yuen Long District. He therefore urged the Police, the Education Bureau (“EDB”) and relevant non-governmental organisations (“NGOs”) to enhance their efforts in tackling the issue. Noting that only 23 secondary schools in the district had participated in the Healthy School Programme with a Drug Testing Component (“HSP(DT)”) implemented by the Narcotics Division of the Security Bureau (“SB”), he suggested that the Government encourage all schools to join the programme to enhance prevention. In addition, he expressed support for the “Together We Fight Against Drug Harms” – Anti-drug Charter Initiative planned by the Yuen Long District Fight Crime Committee (“YLDFFCC”), believing it could effectively raise awareness among schools and students about the harms of “space oil drug”. Regarding the funding support provided by the Governing Committee of the Beat Drugs Fund Association (“BDFA”) to District Fight Crime Committees for publicity and education work, he enquired whether the Yuen Long District Office (“YLDO”) planned to use the resources to strengthen publicity on the harms of “space oil drug”. Lastly, he suggested that the Government should introduce legislation to ban e-cigarettes, which he considered this to be conducive to curbing the use of vape sticks for inhaling “space oil drug”.

6. Mr TAM Tak-hoi commended the Police, the Social Welfare Department (“SWD”) and the SB for their swift legislative and enforcement actions against “space oil drug” within a few years of their emergence. Citing the experience of the trial scheme on compulsory school drug testing launched in 2009 against ketamine abuse, he suggested reintroducing similar measures. Besides, he pointed out that about 240 secondary schools in Hong Kong had participated in the HSP(DT) and urged the EDB to encourage more schools to join the programme. Furthermore, he commended the Police for introducing rapid test kits to support frontline enforcement and suggested extending such measures to school social workers to enable early identification of students in need of support. He further suggested enhancing education for parents to help them understand the harms of “space oil drug” and appropriate responses if their children were found abusing “space oil drug”. Lastly, he raised concerns that “space oil drug” abusers might be taken advantage of by criminals when they were incapacitated and unconscious under the influence of drugs, and enquired about support available to such victims.

7. Mr Ronnie TANG emphasised the far-reaching harm caused by taking “space oil drug” and stressed the need for countermeasures from all sectors of the community. To enhance publicity on the harms of “space oil drug” among the public and young people, he suggested that Members design and produce banners on their own for display near their offices.

8. Mr SO Yuen commended the Police and the SWD for their prompt response to the issue of “space oil drug” in the district. As public awareness of “space oil drug” was relatively low compared to traditional drugs like heroin, he emphasised the need for comprehensive publicity to curb their spread in the community. In this connection, he observed that relevant publicity materials had been displayed at railway stations and shopping malls in the district through different means, such as broadcasting warning messages on advertising screens. However, similar materials were less commonly displayed in public housing estates under the Housing Department (“HD”) and venues

under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (“LCSD”). Therefore, he suggested increasing the number of banners and posters in these locations to enhance public vigilance.

9. Ms YUEN Man-yee, MH observed from day-to-day handling of community requests for assistance that parents and the community generally had limited knowledge of “space oil drug” and found it difficult to identify their effects on users. She suggested strengthening publicity at both school and community levels to educate young people on the harms and legal consequences of “space oil drug” abuse, clearly conveying that such use was illegal to prevent young people from going astray due to ignorance.

10. Ms Fennie LAI pointed out that “space oil drug” had become prevalent among young people, who often came into contact with this substance out of curiosity or due to a lack of awareness. However, parents’ limited understanding of this drug often resulted in delayed detection of their children’s drug abuse. She suggested that the SWD and NGOs organise workshops for parents and students to thoroughly explain the harms of “space oil drug” and its specific effects on physical and mental health. In addition, she suggested that the Police provide rapid test kits to school social workers to facilitate early identification of students in need of support and to advance anti-drug efforts in schools.

11. Ms Yankie CHAN considered that the survey conducted by the ELCSS-HK on youth consumption of “space oil drug” in Tin Shui Wai and North District, covering only 80 students, had a limited sample size. She suggested conducting a large-scale survey at public transport stations to more accurately assess the situation of “space oil drug” abuse among young people in the district. In addition, she enquired about the penalties faced by adult and minor users and the current arrest statistics related to “space oil drug”. Furthermore, she suggested that the Government produce more publicity leaflets for distribution by Members and provide rapid test kits for use by NGOs such as the ELCSS-HK.

12. Mr CHUI Kwan-siu commended the Police and the SWD for their efforts in addressing the issue of “space oil drug”. He believed that schools were often the environment where young people first came into contact with “space oil drug”, and expressed concern that the current anti-drug publicity efforts were insufficient at the school level. He therefore enquired about the EDB’s role and specific measures, including whether information about “space oil drug” would be incorporated into the curriculum or relevant educational activities would be organised.

13. Mr SEI Chun-hing enquired whether secondhand smoke from “space oil drug” would have a significant impact on others, such as inducing an addictive reaction similar to that experienced by users. He also expressed concern that current testing tools might not keep pace with the evolution of such drug and urged the Police to address the challenges in detecting new types of drugs.

14. Mr YIU Kwok-wai, MH noted that recent news reports highlighted the severe spread of “space oil drug” in the community. While he acknowledged the efforts of the Police, the EDB and the SWD in curbing the spread of “space oil drug”, he considered that greater efforts were needed to address the issue. He suggested that the Police enhance intelligence gathering, while the HD and the LCSD strengthen monitoring of their respective estates and facilities. He hoped that the Government would introduce more effective strategies and raise public awareness of “space oil drug”.

15. Ms LAM Wai-ming pointed out that “space oil drug” was highly addictive, and young people were particularly susceptible to peer influence in experimenting with such drug. She opined that relying solely on the Police and the ELCSS-HK would be insufficient in addressing the issue and suggested that the EDB allocate funding for schools to organise their own activities and collaborate with NGOs to enhance anti-drug and rehabilitation efforts in the community.

16. Mr WONG Yuen-tai, MH stated that students might consume “space oil drug” due to peer influence and the ease of purchasing such drug online. He suggested that schools, the Police, and the SWD strengthen publicity on the harms of “space oil drug”. In addition, he suggested that the Police organise educational programmes in schools and work with social welfare organisations to help addicts in rehabilitation, thereby reinforcing the role of schools in education and support related to “space oil drug”.

17. Ms LAU Kwai-yung pointed out that recent news about “space oil drug” had caused significant concern among parents and commended government departments and the ELCSS-HK for their swift response to the issue in the district. She suggested that school social workers and discipline teachers use rapid test kits to screen students suspected of abusing “space oil drug”. In addition, she suggested producing a guide for parents on how to respond to their children’s use of “space oil drug” and available support channels, as well as setting up a dedicated hotline to gather intelligence and provide assistance to members of the public in need. She also urged Members and the local community to assist in anti-“space oil drug” publicity efforts.

18. Ms WONG Wai-ling suggested that the publicity materials on “space oil drug” should clearly state the penalties and the toxicity of secondhand smoke from the drug. She also suggested educating parents and students through schools and the community, highlighting that the abuse of such drug would affect others, and that it was necessary to be more vigilant and concerned about the situation in the neighbourhood. She thanked the EDB, the SWD, and the ELCSS-HK for their efforts in combating “space oil drug” and hoped for community collaboration to strengthen publicity and form a comprehensive defence.

19. Mr LAM Chung-yin enquired about the number of participants and the specific content of previous parents’ talks organised by the ELCSS-HK. He also suggested that the ELCSS-HK collaborate with the District Council to encourage parents’ participation through talks and activities, thereby enhancing public understanding of the harms of “space oil drug”.

20. Mr LEUNG Ming-kin pointed out that the low cost and easy accessibility of “space oil drug” had contributed to their prevalence among young people, placing significant pressure on the Police and the SWD. He emphasised the critical role of schools in preventing young people from coming into contact with drugs. Besides, he noted that most young people chose to use drugs in secluded locations such as homes or parks, making timely detection difficult. He advocated for stronger preventive measures to eliminate drug supply. He also expressed concern about the potential spread of “space oil drug” in rural schools and communities and urged relevant departments to strengthen preventive measures.

21. A consolidated reply provided by Miss Tammy CHAN of the HKPF was as follows:

- (1) “Space oil drug” had been listed as a dangerous drug, with penalties consistent with those for traditional drugs. Trafficking of “space oil drug” was liable to a maximum penalty of life imprisonment and a fine of HK\$5 million, while mere possession could result in a maximum penalty of seven years’ imprisonment and a fine of HK\$1 million, which was the same as those for heroin, cocaine, ketamine, and other dangerous drugs;
- (2) The Police recognised the importance of preventive measures. In addition to organising school talks, the Police had produced a publicity video on “space oil drug” for distribution to a number of primary and secondary schools in the district to facilitate timely broadcasting. To help students better understand the content and grasp the anti-drug message, the video was kept to five minutes in length. Given the large number of schools in the district and their busy schedules, it was believed that short videos would be more effective than traditional talks in disseminating relevant message;
- (3) The Police would further refine the content of publicity leaflets to include information on penalties, harms, and consequences, which was expected to be released later;
- (4) The Police emphasised the importance of intelligence in enforcement actions against “space oil drug” and urged the public to provide relevant leads. The Police was also considering setting up a dedicated hotline in the police district to receive reports and information;
- (5) Traditional drugs, which were easily identifiable by their appearance, did not require test kits for detection, and thus rapid test kits were primarily used for detecting “space oil drug”. While these kits could serve as a preliminary screening tool, all evidence must ultimately be sent to the Government Laboratory for testing to meet prosecution requirements;
- (6) Secondhand smoke emitted from “space oil drug” posed certain health risks, with the extent of harm varying depending on factors such as concentration, distance, and duration of exposure; and
- (7) The Police would continue to step up publicity, including organising a large-scale talk on 3 April this year. The event would invite participation from 200 principal representatives, teacher representatives and Parent-Teacher Association representatives in the district to educate attendees about the harms of “space oil drug”. In addition to anti-drug topics, the talk would also cover preventive measures against student suicide and offer support recommendations in light of recent cases. If necessary, the Police would consider organising additional sessions.

22. A consolidated reply provided by Miss Elena MAN of the ELCSS-HK was as follows:

- (1) To strengthen publicity on “space oil drug”, the ELCSS-HK had utilised funding provided by the SWD to produce information cards on “space oil drug”, which had been distributed to 39 secondary schools in the district. Feedback from teachers had been positive, and the cards had already been distributed to students and their parents;
- (2) The ELCSS-HK had organised a large-scale talk on “space oil drug” in December last year, which had been well-received. Subsequently, invitations from multiple schools to organise parents’ talks in schools had been received, and so far three talks had already been arranged through school social workers or counselling teachers. The ELCSS-HK would continue to hold such talks subject to manpower availability to meet schools’

demands;

- (3) To strengthen support for parents and young people in the district, the ELCSS-HK operated an outreach team and a late-night hotline service to provide round-the-clock assistance to those in need; and
- (4) The ELCSS-HK would continue to promote related education, school-based initiatives, and support services through platforms of the SWD and the “Project D – Love Ourselves More” working group. The ELCSS-HK also planned to collaborate with other NGOs to tackle the problem on an ongoing basis.

23. A consolidated reply provided by Ms Sally YOUENG of the EDB was as follows:

- (1) The EDB attached great importance to values education, with health education (including anti-drug education) being an important component. The EDB had been providing comprehensive support to schools by updating curriculum documents, producing teaching resources, organising training programmes for teachers, and holding student activities, aiming to help students cultivate proper values and positive attitudes towards life, and to stand firm against drugs;
- (2) The EDB, in collaboration with the ND, had organised the Anti-“Space Oil Drug” Week campaign from 24 to 28 February this year. All primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong were invited to participate in the campaign. Through talks and anti-drug videos, the campaign aimed to educate students about the harms of “space oil drug” and to strengthen their resolve to fight against drugs. A circular memorandum had been issued to all schools in Hong Kong on 12 February, urging them to actively participate in the campaign by displaying banners and posters in school premises. Most schools, including those in Yuen Long District, had followed the circular and organised relevant activities during the week, such as showing anti-drug videos, introducing the control of “space oil drug” and the techniques to decline it during weekly assemblies, displaying publicity materials provided by the ND at prominent locations in schools, and disseminating electronic flyers to parents and students. Some schools had also invited local police officers to deliver talks to enhance anti-drug education;
- (3) The EDB, in collaboration with the ND, encouraged all secondary schools in Hong Kong to apply for joining the HSP(DT) funded by the BDFA to implement school-based anti-drug education. The EDB would encourage schools in the district to join the programme through regular communications and school visits. Applications for the programme for 2025/26 school year were now open, and the EDB would work with the ND to promote participation; and
- (4) Publicity leaflets on “space oil drug” had been uploaded to the parent education page on the EDB’s website for parents’ reference. Meanwhile, schools were also encouraged to strengthen co-operation with parents to help young people foster good living habits and raise their anti-drug awareness.

24. A consolidated reply provided by Mrs Judy SHEK of the SWD was as follows:

- (1) In response to recent cases involving young people taking “space oil drug”, the SWD had co-operated with other units, such as liaising with the ELCSS-HK to confirm whether they recognised the youths concerned and to contact their families to explore further



support measures;

- (2) In addition to providing overnight and daytime outreaching services for young people in the district, the ELCSS-HK operated a Counselling Centre for Psychotropic Substance Abusers and an Integrated Children and Youth Services Centre, and offered the Community Support Service Scheme to provide comprehensive support to young people in need within the community;
- (3) Last year, the SWD had distributed over 30 000 information cards to publicise the harms of “space oil drug”. The “Project D – Love Ourselves More” working group would update the content of the cards to include information on the amended Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, and enhance co-ordination with the Police on publicity efforts;
- (4) On 6 December 2024, the SWD, in collaboration with the ELCSS-HK, Yuen Long District School Development Section of the EDB, and Primary and Secondary School Heads Association, had held a talk on “space oil drug”, which attracted enthusiastic participation;
- (5) In addition to prevention and enforcement, follow-up support for drug abusers was equally important. The SWD would explore ways to further assist young people struggling with drug addiction at the district level; and
- (6) In view of the recent rise in youth suicide cases, the SWD planned to collaborate with over ten youth service units and Primary and Secondary School Heads Association in the district to restructure the working group’s focus on anti-drug and mental health initiatives. The SWD would continue to work with stakeholders to support the healthy development of young people.

25. The Chairman concluded that the Government had amended relevant legislation to list “space oil drug” as a dangerous drug. Both the Government and NGOs had commenced publicity and education efforts prior to the legislative amendments. However, recent news indicated the need for closer collaboration between the two to strengthen these efforts. The YLDO, the Police, the SWD and the YLDFCC would jointly organise the “Together We Fight Against Drug Harms” – Anti-drug Charter Initiative with “space oil drug” as the theme, inviting participation from primary and secondary schools. The campaign would promote anti-drug efforts on multiple fronts, including strengthening anti-drug publicity in schools, identifying and following up on high-risk students, and creating a healthy school environment. He also invited Members to assist in promoting the latest regulations on “space oil drug” in the district and to gather intelligence for follow-up actions by the Police. Finally, he requested the EDB, the SWD and the Police to take note of Members’ views and allocate additional resources to continue guiding young people away from drugs.

**Item III: Mr Daniel CHAM proposed a discussion on “Dense mangroves at the downstream of Kam Tin River, Shan Pui River and Tin Shui Wai Nullah affecting the drainage efficiency and landscapes”**  
**(YLDC Paper No. 17/2025)**

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26. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 17 and the written replies from the Environmental Protection Department (“EPD”) and the Drainage Services Department (“DSD”). He also welcomed Mr CHEN Ka-yin, Senior Engineer/Yuen Long and Mr LEE Wai-chung, Engineer/Main River 3 of the DSD to the meeting.

27. Mr Daniel CHAM, BBS, MH, JP briefed Members on the paper. He pointed out that

the mangrove areas along the downstream sections of Kam Tin River, Shan Pui River and Tin Shui Wai Nullah were overgrown with dense mangroves and trees, reaching heights equivalent to two to three storeys and extending into the river channels, potentially affecting the structural integrity of the river channels. He considered that the overgrowth of mangroves and trees along both banks of the flood relief channels was the primary cause of reduced drainage capacity. He expressed concern that failure to address the current situation promptly could increase flood risks along the riverbanks during the rainy season. He suggested that the DSD formulate a concrete plan for regular clearance to enhance drainage capacity and the natural landscape.

28. Mr Allan WONG enquired whether the DSD had used drones or other technologies to monitor the growth of mangroves and conduct hydraulic modelling tests to assess the impact of mangroves on drainage capacity. Citing research findings from a local university indicating an 18-minute delay in peak flow during a rainstorm at Shan Pui River in 2018, he enquired whether the DSD had reviewed and tested the flood surge at Shan Pui River.

29. Mr WONG Siu-chung recalled that during the construction works at Shan Pui River in 2000, a heavy rainstorm caused severe flooding along Yuen Long Main Road. Subsequently, the DSD introduced air cushion barriers and flap-gate flood prevention facilities, which had proven effective. He said that extreme weather events had become more frequent in recent years, with backflow incidents occurring in Kam Tin North and areas near Deep Bay in Yuen Long. In addition, he considered that insufficient dredging of riverbeds and inadequate removal of waste along the riverbanks might affect drainage capacity.

30. Ms YUEN Man-yee, MH said that she had been concerned about the mangrove situation for many years. Recently, she observed that the overgrown mangroves and trees not only affected the landscape and drainage capacity of the nullah, but also led to the accumulation of waste. She suggested that the DSD leverage innovative technologies for clearance to enhance both the landscape and drainage capacity of the nullah.

31. Ms HO Hiu-man pointed out that the low-lying terrain of Yuen Long made it susceptible to flooding. While the Yuen Long Bypass Floodway currently collected large amount of rainwater for discharge into Kam Tin River, the area was overgrown with mangroves and weeds. She suggested that the DSD increase the frequency of weed and silt clearance and dredge the river to prepare for inclement weather during the rainy season.

32. Ms Fennie LAI enquired about the frequency and schedule for mangrove clearance, monitoring, and pruning along Tin Shui Wai Nullah. She pointed out that due to the rapid growth of trees, those spreading across the channels had nearly connected both banks, hindering flood discharge.

33. Mr LEUNG Ming-kin acknowledged the conservation value of mangroves but stressed the need to maintain the drainage capacity of river channels. He considered that failure to promptly prune the trees and weeds within the river channel would increase flood risks.

34. Mr YIU Kwok-wai, MH stated that the current national policy aimed to expand mangrove coverage. In addition, he expressed concern regarding the flood discharge capacity and landscape

of the river channels, and suggested that the DSD adopt macro-level measures, such as the provision of additional flood discharge facilities or viewing points, to strike a balance between ecological conservation and river management.

35. A consolidated reply provided by Mr CHEN Ka-yin and Mr LEE Wai-chung of the DSD was as follows:

- (1) The DSD had taken into account ecological and drainage needs when designing river channels. However, the rapid growth of mangroves and invasive plant species in recent years, particularly in intertidal zones, had posed challenges. While regular clearance works had been arranged, they could not keep pace with vegetation growth;
- (2) Challenges in mangrove clearance included unstable mudflat surfaces, tidal time constraints, and difficulties in using clearance tools. The DSD was exploring the use of machinery or small boats with contractors and had planned to trial amphibious machinery in the second quarter of the year, with priority given to clearing central sections of river channels where mangroves were relatively dense, followed by gradual regular clearance;
- (3) Tin Shui Wai Nullah served as a drainage channel. To maintain its flood discharge capacity, the DSD conducted annual desilting during the dry season, and would increase the frequency if necessary. The DSD would take immediate actions if waste was identified during routine inspections or complaints were received. The DSD would also send staff to inspect the growth of weeds near the nullah before and after the rainy season and arrange clearance works as necessary;
- (4) Considering the impact of river and mangrove clearance work on the ecology of river channels, the DSD would co-ordinate with green groups and other departments before carrying out clearance works and proceed with caution. The DSD anticipated that the ongoing drainage improvement works in the district would gradually enhance the flood discharge capacity in Yuen Long District. The DSD would maintain communication and co-ordination with relevant construction units to minimise the impact of construction works on the drainage system and river channels; and
- (5) The DSD's prime consideration was to ensure the drainage capacity of river channels, and priority would be given to clearing sections affecting flood discharge. If necessary, the DSD would consult relevant departments regarding mangrove coverage and invasive species.

36. In conclusion, the Chairman welcomed the DSD's plan to use innovative technology to assist in river channel clearance and requested the DSD to take note of Members' views and suggestions.

**Item IV: Ms LAM Wai-ming, Ms WONG Wai-ling, Mr CHAN Ka-fai, Mr YU Chung-leung, Mr Riben LI, Mr CHUI Kwan-siu, Ms Fennie LAI, Mr SZE TO Chun-hin, Mr LAM Wai-ming, Mr CHEUNG Wai-sum, Ms YUEN Man-yee and Mr TSUI Wai-ngoi proposed a discussion on "Matters relating to the ageing problem and maintenance of old pipes in Yuen Long District" (YLDC Paper No. 18/2025)**

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37. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 18 and the written replies from the Water Supplies Department ("WSD") and the DSD. He welcomed Mr Henry TSUI, Engineer/New

Territories West (Distribution 3) of the WSD and Mr TANG Kin-ming, Engineer/Yuen Long 3 of the DSD, to the meeting.

38. Ms LAM Wai-ming briefed Members on the paper. She stated that fresh water mains bursts had occurred on Fung Nin Road and Yuen Long Tai Yuk Road on 28 February and 1 March this year respectively, with the WSD attributing the incidents primarily to the ageing of water mains. It was noted that a significant number of fresh water mains, sewers and storm-water drains in the district had been in use for over 40 years. She thanked the WSD for promptly addressing the incidents but opined that prevention was better than cure. She enquired about the number of pipes with over 40 years of service lives in the district. Besides, she considered that the current inspection cycles of 18 months for the WSD and five years for the DSD were too long. She suggested shortening the inspection cycles to one to two years, expediting the rehabilitation of old pipes, and replacing pipes over 40 years old in phases. In addition, she noted that the asbestos cement (“AC”) pipes in Yuen Long District were in poor condition and urged the WSD to expedite their comprehensive replacement. Lastly, she hoped that the WSD could strengthen prevention of water mains bursts through the “risk-based asset management programme for water mains” rather than responding only after incidents occurred.

39. Mr Daniel CHAM, BBS, MH, JP noted from the WSD’s written reply that the total length of fresh water mains in Yuen Long District was 1 122 kilometres and enquired whether private water mains had been included in this figure. Besides, he pointed out that some water mains had been in use for over 40 years without proper maintenance, significantly increasing the risk of bursting. He suggested that the WSD adopt early preventive measures instead of waiting until the water mains were on the verge of bursting or had already burst before taking action. Noting that the WSD had established approximately 230 District Metering Areas (“DMAs”) in Yuen Long District, he enquired about the equipment and methods used for monitoring and suggested expanding the coverage to include more rural and urban areas to enable timely intervention before water mains bursts occurred. Furthermore, he pointed out that Yuen Long’s development history far exceeded 40 years, meaning that some of the early water mains had been in use for a long time. He therefore enquired whether these water mains were made of ductile iron and what their expected service lives were, and urged the WSD to advance replacement of water mains nearing the end of their service lives. Lastly, he enquired whether the WSD was currently using polyethylene or other plastic materials for water mains replacement. He also enquired about the service life difference and leakage risk between these materials and traditional metal pipes.

40. Ms WONG Wai-ling stated that incidents of water mains burst frequently occurred near the entrance of Tin Wah Estate in Tin Shui Wai, affecting the estate’s salt water supply and consequently the hygiene of the nearby Tin Shui Wai Hospital. She stressed the need for preventive measures and enquired about the details of the WSD’s maintenance and preventive work for water mains in Yuen Long District. She also enquired how technology was used to detect pipe safety and suggested increasing the monitoring frequency.

41. Ms YUEN Man-yee, MH stated that there had been several incidents of water mains burst and sewage backflow in Yuen Long recently, such as the sewage backflow at Ma Miu Road that blocked the drains and disrupted salt water supply. She suggested that the Government strengthen monitoring of pipes with over 40 years of service lives, such as introducing new equipment to assess high-risk areas and establishing a clear timeline to shorten the inspection cycle from five to two years to prevent pipe bursts.

42. Mr Riben LI stated that he frequently received complaints from residents about blockage of drains. He suggested that the DSD prioritise locations with recurrent complaints for improvement works and consider adopting the innovative trenchless technology for water mains replacement to reduce blockage of drains.

43. Mr LUI Kin, MH said that several sections along Fung Nin Road and Yuen Long Tai Yuk Road had been identified as main burst hotspots in recent years. Multiple water mains burst incidents had occurred there in 2018 and 2019, prompting the WSD to designate them as key DMAs. He enquired about the role of the Water Intelligent Network (“WIN”) in monitoring such hotspots. In addition, he suggested that the Government strengthen inspections in locations with repeated water mains bursts over the years, such as Fung Nin Road, Yuen Long Tai Yuk Road, the intersection of Kau Yuk Road near Sai Yu Street, and Sai Ching Street, with early replacement of pipes to prevent further accidents.

44. Mr SEI Chun-hing suggested that the DSD shorten the five-year inspection cycle to identify problematic mains earlier. Besides, he reported that sewage backflow incidents had occurred frequently in Yuen Long Town recently, particularly in areas such as Pau Cheung Square, Tung Lok Street, Tai Cheung Street, On Hing Street, Tung Tai Street and On Ning Road, which were caused by excessive water flow preventing proper drainage and consequently leading to backflow. In addition, he said that the building up of oils and grease in drains was serious. While the DSD dispatch staff immediately to handle complaints, the common approach of partial pipe clearance only temporarily reduced water pressure without resolving the problem at root. He suggested exploring ways to prevent restaurants from discharging oils and grease to the sewers to solve the drainage problem in Yuen Long Town at root.

45. Mr LEUNG Ming-kin enquired about the difference in cost-effectiveness between completely replacing old water mains and merely carrying out rehabilitation. He was concerned about the expected service lives of the new water mains after replacement. Besides, he enquired about the concrete implementation timetable for the WIN, the number of DMAs in rural areas, and whether the system could predict the risks of main bursts.

46. A consolidated reply provided by Mr CHEN Ka-yin of the DSD was as follows:

- (1) The DSD conducted regular inspections of public sewers to address ageing and potential leakage risks, including investigation in every five years to assess the structural conditions and potential issues, followed by risk-based classification to prioritise rehabilitation for high-risk drains; and
- (2) Regarding the recent blockage of drains in rear lanes and streets, the DSD had been maintaining close communication with Members and residents. Upon receiving reports of drain blockages, the DSD would take immediate follow-up actions. However, addressing blockage of drains required not only the DSD’s cleaning efforts but also co-operation from the public and restaurants. The DSD invited Members to assist in strengthening community publicity and education to prevent debris or grease from being discharged into sewers, thus reducing blockages. Besides, regarding issues of illegal connections of pipes or improper discharge of wastewater by restaurants, the DSD would co-ordinate with the EPD and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”) for follow-up actions.

47. A consolidated reply provided by Mr Henry TSUI of the WSD was as follows:

- (1) As of February this year, the total length of government fresh water mains and flushing pipes in Yuen Long District was approximately 1 122 kilometres and 93 kilometres respectively;
- (2) The WSD was currently implementing a risk-based water main asset management strategy to maintain the health condition of the water mains networks and reduce the risk of water main bursts and leaks. The risk of water main bursts or leaks was assessed based on factors such as the age and material of the water mains, past records of bursts or leaks, the surrounding environment, and consequences of bursts or leaks. High-risk water mains would be prioritised for improvement works, including the replacement or rehabilitation of the water mains, to minimise the risk of main bursts or leaks. In addition, the WSD would prioritise the replacement or rehabilitation of the water mains in main burst hotspots to reduce the risk of recurrent main bursts;
- (3) As of the end of February this year, the WSD had established approximately 2 400 DMAs, including about 230 in Yuen Long District. However, Fung Nin Road and Yuen Long Tai Yuk Road were not yet covered by the WIN. Taking into account various factors such as cost-effectiveness, traffic constraints in the district, and underground utilities, the WSD had commenced the enhancement of the WIN. Specifically, the WSD would expand the monitoring area of the WIN to include fresh water trunk mains and the remaining part of the fresh water distribution mains that were currently not covered by the WIN by adding sensors to monitor water flow and pressure at strategic locations to achieve more comprehensive coverage of the fresh water supply network. Besides, the water mains at Yuen Long Tai Yuk Road had earlier been included in the “risk-based” list, and the WSD planned to include the relevant water mains at Fung Nin Road in the same list. The WSD had initiated preliminary discussions with Yuen Long Theatre regarding the replacement of water mains, with the aim to minimise impacts of the works on the theatre’s car park access and major events. Subject to the theatre’s consent, replacement works were scheduled to commence in mid-April;
- (4) The WIN divided the fresh water distribution network into many discrete DMAs, adopting the strategy of “divide and conquer” and continuous monitoring to strengthen management of water supply network. Monitoring and sensing equipment were installed in each DMA to collect a tremendous amount of flow and pressure data as well as other associated network data. An intelligent network management computer system would be used for analysing the data collected to implement appropriate measures including active leakage detection, pressure management, speedy repair of water main leaks, and replacement or rehabilitation of water mains to maintain the healthiness of the water supply network;
- (5) Based on records from the past month, there had been two incidents of water main leakage in the district affecting the salt water supply in Yuen Long Town Centre. To minimise disruption to residents’ daily lives, emergency repair works were conducted in late night, avoiding peak consumption hours. Large housing estates were generally equipped with flushing water tanks, which retained sufficient reserves to maintain limited salt water supply during off-peak hours at night;
- (6) In 2000, the WSD launched a large-scale 15-year “Replacement and Rehabilitation of Water Mains” programme, covering about 3 000 kilometres of water mains in poor

condition. Most of the old pipes installed before the 1970s had already been replaced or rehabilitated;

- (7) The WSD would conduct regular leak detection on water mains, with a targeted inspection cycle of approximately 18 months. The cycle would be reviewed and adjusted based on actual circumstances. Besides, inspections were generally avoided during daytime when traffic was heavy and noise levels were high, as most pipes were often located below the ground, and quieter environments enhanced the accuracy of leak noise detection;
- (8) Regarding the WIN, taking Yuen Long Town Centre as an example, the existing network covered DMAs such as Castle Peak Road – Ping Shan near Shui Pin Tsuen, Shap Pat Heung Road, Wang Chau Road near Long Ching Estate, and Yuen Long Main Road near Rest Garden; and
- (9) The use of AC pipes in Hong Kong had been discontinued since January 1986. When handling, removing, transporting, and disposing AC pipes, the WSD would carry out the relevant work safely in accordance with statutory requirements. Under normal and undisturbed circumstances, AC pipes in use would not release asbestos fibres and therefore would not pose any risk to public health. Nevertheless, the WSD would continue to monitor the condition of water mains in the district.

48. The Chairman concluded that Members were concerned about the issue of aging pipes and hoped that the departments would minimise impact on residents when carrying out maintenance works and inspections.

**Item V: Mr SHUM Ho-kit proposed a discussion on “Impact of bicycle-sharing on the community”  
(YLDC Paper No. 19/2025)**

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49. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 19 and the written replies from the District Lands Office/Yuen Long (“DLO/YL”), the HD, the Highways Department (“HyD”), the YLDO and the Transport Department (“TD”).

50. Mr SHUM Hoi-kit, BBS, JP briefed Members on the paper. He said that bicycle-sharing was an issue worthy of re-examination, particularly in the context of the Northern Metropolis development. The successful experiences of overseas countries could serve as a reference for Yuen Long in promoting low-carbon commuting. At the end of last year, the TD had discussed with dockless bicycle-sharing operators about extending their services to Yuen Long, while the feasibility of establishing dedicated parking spaces, i.e. a docked bicycle-sharing system, was explored in the discussion. He opined that the Government should be guided by overall social benefits and encourage various government departments to consider the positive impact of bicycle-sharing on the community from a macro perspective.

51. Mr WONG Yuen-tai, MH noted that the country had a well-developed system for managing shared bicycles. For example, bicycle parking spaces in tourist areas were neat and tidy. He considered that this model could serve as a reference for Yuen Long and suggested establishing temporary bicycle parking spaces on roads with heavy bicycle traffic such as Kung Um Road and Tai Tong Road as a pilot initiative. He also hoped that the relevant departments would explore the feasibility of establishing bicycle parking spaces on idle land.

52. Ms Yankie CHAN agreed that shared bicycles could bring convenience to the public but worried that this might lead to illegal parking issues. She enquired whether fines for illegally parked shared bicycles would be borne by the users or operators, and whether the HyD would intervene if bicycles were parked on facilities beyond its purview, such as safety islands and parks. She said that she had recently received complaints about shared bicycles being abandoned in parks for over half a month and suggested that the Government co-ordinate with relevant departments to address the parking issues of shared bicycles, for example, by designating bicycle parking spaces.

53. Mr Daniel CHAM, BBS, MH, JP understood that various departments handled the illegal parking of shared bicycle in accordance with existing legislations but noted that without complaints, departments might not proactively address the issue. This could lead to accumulated problems that would become difficult to resolve, potentially sparking further public dissatisfaction. He said that bicycle parking was effectively regulated in the Mainland through “geo-fencing” and a charging mechanism, where bicycles not parked in designated spaces continued to incur charges. He suggested that the TD consider adopting similar approach. Additionally, he highlighted that private estates in Yuen Long, such as Central Park Towers, had designated public bicycle parking spaces outside their premises in accordance with relevant lease conditions to address the shortage of public bicycle parking spaces. He proposed that the Lands Department (“LandsD”) and the Planning Department (“PlanD”) require developers to include bicycle parking spaces in their new development projects to meet residents’ needs.

54. Mr LEUNG Ming-kin pointed out the development of bicycle-sharing in the Mainland had been very sophisticated. Typically, the operators would arrange dedicated personnel to monitor bicycle parking and operations, while foreign countries would impose high fines for improper parking of bicycles. He suggested reserving some land in the new development areas (“NDAs”) of Yuen Long for shared bicycle parking spaces. Additionally, he proposed designating sufficient bicycle parking spaces at transport hubs like MTR stations and establishing underground smart bicycle parking facilities.

55. Mr SEI Chun-hing stressed the importance of green commuting and considered that bicycle-sharing should be incorporated into the planning of NDAs in Yuen Long. Moreover, he suggested public-private partnerships to enhance ancillary facilities, such as providing bicycle parking spaces in shopping malls. Furthermore, he proposed that the Office of the Communications Authority (“OFCA”) address the issue of insufficient network coverage in rural areas to ensure the smooth operation of bicycle rental systems.

56. Mr SZE TO Chun-hin said that the TD had consulted Members’ views on automated dockless bicycle rental services at a Traffic and Transport Committee meeting last year. He said that since the bicycles were equipped with tracking devices, they should be removed if left behind for a prolonged period. However, the actual situation showed that the relevant mechanism had not been effectively implemented. He pointed out that the key to successful implementation of bicycle-sharing in foreign cities lay in the provision of fixed parking spaces, which facilitated point-to-point use for the public, and suggested that Hong Kong should take this as a reference. He also enquired about the TD’s communication with the operators, the number of bicycles removed in the past, and whether penalties had been imposed on the operators.



57. Mr WONG Siu-chung said that the TD had conducted a consultation on bicycle-sharing last year, but no tangible progress had been made. Users were often found parking their bicycles at locations most convenient for themselves, regardless of whether they would obstruct pedestrians or traffic. He observed that shared bicycles were often gathered and parked at specific locations at night, particularly near MTR stations. While this practice might be convenient for some users, it could affect other pedestrians or road users.

58. Mr TANG Ho-nin, MH considered that bicycle-sharing was unsuitable for Hong Kong's geographical environment and therefore the effectiveness of its implementation had been poor. He pointed out that due to the city's environmental constraints, foreign countries' multi-tier or elevated parking facilities were difficult to be implemented in Hong Kong. Moreover, the operation of such facilities was expected to be unprofitable due to limited demand. He therefore suggested discontinuing the bicycle-sharing service to avoid further controversy.

59. Mr CHONG Kin-shing, MH, JP agreed that importance should be attached to the issue of illegal parking of bicycles and suggested that relevant departments should enhance monitoring and control over the issue.

60. A consolidated reply provided by Mr Fabian CHEUNG of the TD was as follows:

- (1) On the premise of ensuring road safety and environmental sustainability, the TD remained committed to fostering a bicycle-friendly environment through the provision of additional cycle tracks and related facilities, improvement of existing ancillary facilities, and so on;
- (2) Since the introduction of dockless bicycle-sharing services in 2018, the TD had required the operators to adopt a responsible, self-disciplined and sustainable approach in their operation. Under current guidelines, if bicycles caused obstructions or disturbances, members of the public could report such incidents through operator hotlines, and the TD would conduct follow-up investigations; and
- (3) New development projects (such as those near railway stations) were required to comply with the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines ("HKPSG") by reserving bicycle parking spaces to meet demand. These parking spaces were provided for the convenience of residents and were accessible to all bicycle users, including users of shared bicycles.

(Post-meeting note: In response to Members' enquiry regarding improper parking of shared bicycles in Yuen Long District, the TD recorded 19 cases in 2023 and 29 cases in 2024, based on the information provided by bicycle rental operators. The TD further advised that members of the public might report any improper parking of automated bicycles to the relevant automated bicycle rental operator for prompt follow-up action, and the relevant government departments would remove illegally parked or abandoned bicycles according to established procedures.)

61. The Chairman concluded that the TD and relevant departments would continue the removal of illegally parked bicycles and the enhancement of bicycle management. He further requested the Secretariat relay Members' concern regarding the network coverage in rural areas to OFCA.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat had already forwarded the follow-up reply from OFCA to Members on 30 April 2025.)

**Item VI: Mr SZE TO Chun-hin, Mr LUI Kin, Mr YU Chung-leung, Mr CHAN Ka-fai, Mr TONG Tak-chun, Mr SO Yuen, Mr LAM Wai-ming, Ms CHIU Sau-han, Ms Fennie LAI, Ms MA Shuk-yin, Mr Riben LI and Ms WONG Wai-ling proposed a discussion on “Matters relating to the planning of the public housing development at Tin Wah Road, Tin Shui Wai” (YLDC Paper No. 20/2025)**

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62. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 20 and the written replies from the CEDD and the HD. He also welcomed Mr Stephen CHAN, Engineer / 8 of the CEDD, and Mr Ronnie LAW, Civil Engineer 16 of the HD, to the meeting.

63. Mr SZE TO Chun-hin briefed Members on the paper. He said that the public housing development at Tin Wah Road was currently undergoing foundation works. The foundation level of Phase I of the public housing development site would form a difference of approximately 1.5 meters with Sha Kong Wai Village, raising concerns about potential flooding in the village. He enquired about the schedule for the CEDD to lay a new stormwater drainage system and optimise the existing system. For Phase II, its site enclosure was less than one metre away from the dwellings in Sha Kong Wai Village, he enquired whether the boundary of the enclosure reflected the scope of the public housing development and whether stakeholders were consulted on the scope of development prior to the commencement. While the housing development would provide about 1 500 flats to accommodate 3 000 to 4 000 people, he expressed concern about the already overwhelmed transport network in Tin Shui Wai and enquired about future transport planning to accommodate the increased transport demand. Finally, he hoped that the department would timely consult the District Council on the design of Phase II development.

64. Mr TANG Che-keung, MH said that he had convened a meeting with about 30 residents of Sha Kong Wai Village with relevant departments to provide feedback on the works project. Due to the level difference between the formed platform of Phase II works and Sha Kong Wai Village which posed flooding risk, the residents requested the department concerned to lower the platform's height and convert the two-meter-wide nullah into a culvert to prevent garbage from clogging in the drainage channel. Moreover, he suggested that the department concerned should reserve additional roads under Phase II works to facilitate access by residents of Sha Kong Wai Village. He also said that five residential blocks would be constructed under the whole public housing project, among which three blocks to be constructed under Phase II were expected to create a wall effect which would affect the village's feng shui. He therefore suggested that the number of blocks should be reduced by raising or widening other blocks to increase the number of flats provided. Lastly, he enquired of the HD whether the project involved public rental housing or subsidised sale flats.

65. Mr Daniel CHAM, BBS, MH, JP proposed that the HD should adopt a cascading design for buildings to mitigate the wall effect, improve the ventilation and preserve the landscape of Sha Kong Wai Village. In view of the level difference of about 1.5 metres between the platform of Phase II and Sha Kong Wai Village, which posed flooding risk to the village, he suggested the CEDD to provide additional flood storage ponds outside the village to store the stormwater and divert it back to the river. On road planning, to cope with the additional traffic flow arising from future public housing and private developments along Sha Kong Wai Road, he suggested that the department should assess whether the proposed roundabout at the junction of Sha Kong Wai Road and Tin Wah Road could effectively divert the traffic flow from Sha Kong Wai Road and neighbouring roads.

Furthermore, the junction of Ping Ha Road towards Lau Fau Shan was currently not installed with traffic signals or directional signs. He suggested that the TD improve this junction by, for example, installing additional traffic signals and directional signs, while re-assessing the overall impact of the public housing and private developments on the demand for parking spaces and local traffic.

66. Ms CHIU Sau-han, MH expressed concerns about the impact of the public housing development at Tin Wah Road on nearby traffic. Considering that both the public housing and private developments along Tin Wah Road would commence one after another with an extended construction period, she enquired how the CEDD and the HD would shorten the works duration to minimise the impact of the works on the traffic and commuting of residents in the area.

67. Mr TONG Tak-chun pointed out the level difference between the site platform and Sha Kong Wai Village could potentially cause flooding, and enquired details about the proposed new stormwater drainage system and the enhancement of the existing system as mentioned by the CEDD. He also noted that the site enclosure, located less than three metres away from the dwellings in Sha Kong Wai, was affecting residents' access. Lastly, he said that the new housing estates were expected to increase the traffic pressure in the surrounding area and noted that the TD would build additional pedestrian crossings and adjust the traffic signals. However, he considered that the current traffic condition of Tin Wah Road was unsatisfactory and enquired about the TD's traffic signal planning and measures for coping future traffic demand.

68. Mr WONG Siu-chung raised concern about the drainage issue of the public housing development at Tin Wah Road. He opined that the existing pipes in Sha Kong Wai Village should be taken into account when planning the drainage ancillary facilities. In addition to the catchment area, he suggested that additional pumping stations be provided and connections to the village pipes be improved, and enquired how the CEDD could ensure effective interface of the drainage system.

69. Ms WONG Wai-ling pointed out that the junction of Tin Wah Road and Tin Ying Road was heavily traffic-ridden and traffic congestion often occurred during peak hours, with vehicle queues extending to the traffic lights on Tin Ying Road near Tin Wah Estate and a construction site. Noting that increasing number of works vehicles might further hinder commuting of the residents, she enquired how the CEDD and the TD would control the number of works vehicles to ease traffic congestion. She also highlighted that construction workers might head to the shopping malls near Tin Ying Road for meals during the construction period, which could aggravate the existing problem of pedestrians' reckless road crossing on Tin Ying Road and increase the safety risk in the future. She recommended enhanced Police enforcement to address the issue.

70. Mr SO Yuen raised concern about the foundation level difference of the public housing development at Tin Wah Road. Noting that the site enclosure boundary was adjacent to Sha Kong Wai Village and that the foundation might be above the roofs of the houses in the village upon completion, he was concerned that the flooding risk could increase during inclement weather, which could adversely affect the livelihood of the residents.

71. Mr TANG Ho-nin, MH said that the proposed two-metre wide flood relief channel, which connected to the nullah, was too narrow to cope with the drainage needs of multiple villages and housing estates. In case of inclement weather or high tide backflow, the nullah might not be able to withstand the pressure of the backflow, resulting in backflow and flooding risk. He therefore

suggested widening the flood relief channel by one to two metres to enhance its drainage capacity and prevent flooding risk.

72. Mr YIU Kwok-wai, MH said that the departments' current replies were primarily brief text descriptions and suggested that the departments should provide more precise information. Regarding the traffic design for Tin Ying Road and Tin Wah Road, he noted that the department's plan to provide additional pedestrian tunnels at the location. He questioned whether the current design would remain feasible if future traffic flow or pedestrian patterns changed. He suggested that the department provide more detailed information to enable the District Council to understand and participate in the discussion at an early stage so as to ensure that the traffic design could adequately meet future needs.

73. A consolidated reply provided by Mr Stephen CHAN of the CEDD was as follows:

- (1) The department was carrying out ground investigation works, site formation and engineering infrastructure works for Phase II of the public housing development site under a contract commencing in May 2024 for completion in the second half of 2028;
- (2) The height of the platform to be formed for the proposed Phase II public housing development (i.e. the western portion of the site) was 6.5 metres above Principal Datum, and about 5 metres for Sha Kong Wai Village, with a difference of about 1.5 metres. The department had discussed with the Ping Shan Rural Committee on the height of the platform and was reviewing the arrangement with the relevant departments;
- (3) The consultancy conducted a Drainage Impact Assessment and recommended the installation of a new stormwater drainage system and enhancement of the existing system to ensure proper discharge of stormwater into Tin Shui Wai Nullah to prevent flooding in Sha Kong Wai Village and its vicinity. Additionally, a temporary drainage system would be implemented during the works period to prevent stormwater from affecting Sha Kong Wai Village and Tin Wah Road;
- (4) The current enclosure area consisted of private land resumed in October 2024 under the Lands Resumption Ordinance for Phase 2 development. The department would liaise with the contractor and consultancy to conduct a site inspection reviewing the site boundary of the Phase II works. The contractor would be instructed to review whether the water barriers and plastic barriers hindered the access of the residents, and to discuss with affected villagers to improve access arrangements if necessary;
- (5) During the works period, the department would co-ordinate with the Police and the TD to implement temporary traffic arrangements, ensuring works vehicles would not disrupt local traffic. Publicity boards would also be installed at the sites to announce the temporary traffic arrangements and progress of works so as to minimise the impact on the residents; and
- (6) Tin Wah Road would be upgraded from its current two-lane carriageway to a dual two-lane carriageway, which was expected to significantly alleviate traffic congestion along this road section. For proposed junction improvements, the junction of Ping Ha Road and Lau Fau Shan Road would be converted into a roundabout, while the junction of Tin Ying Road and Tin Wah Road would be moderately widened. The department would provide specific details after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat forwarded the the CEDD's follow-up reply to Members on 17 April 2025.)

74. A consolidated reply provided by Mr Ronnie LAW of the HD was as follows:

- (1) The site area of the Hong Kong Housing Authority's public housing development at Tin Wah Road Phase I was about 1.02 hectares, which comprised two residential blocks providing about 1 400 flats, with parking spaces and other facilities provided with reference to the guidelines in the HKPSG, and the requirements of the SWD or other relevant departments. These facilities included kindergartens, child care centres, neighbourhood elderly centres, day care centres for the elderly and integrated community centres for mental wellness;
- (2) During the works period, the contractor co-ordinated works vehicles access via Ping Ha Road, Tin Wah Road and Sha Kong Wai Road to minimise the traffic impact on Tin Wah Road. Traffic marshals were stationed at the entrances and exits of the site to ensure smooth traffic flow; and
- (3) Detailed planning information for Phase I of the public housing development at Tin Wah Road would be provided after the meeting. The Phase II development works were currently in the preliminary design stage.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat forwarded the HD's follow-up reply to Members on 17 April 2025.)

75. The Chairman concluded the discussion and requested the CEDD and the HD to take note of Members' views and suggestions.

**Item VII: Mr LAM Wai-ming, Mr SZE TO Chun-hin, Mr YU Chung-leung, Mr LUI Kin, Mr Riben LI, Ms LAM Wai-ming, Mr CHUI Kwan-siu, Ms MA Shuk-yin, Mr CHEUNG Wai-sum, Mr CHAN Ka-fai, Mr TONG Tak-chun, Mr FUNG Chun-wing, Ms Fennie LAI and Mr SO Yuen proposed a discussion on "Matters relating to the enhancement of facilities at old refuse collection points" (YLDC Paper No. 21/2025)**

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76. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 21 and the written replies from the HD and the FEHD.

77. Mr LAM Wai-ming briefed Members on the paper. He pointed out that the environmental hygiene problems were particularly serious at refuse collection points ("RCPs") in old housing estates and rural areas in Yuen Long. He suggested that the HD and the FEHD adopt new technologies to enhance refuse collection arrangements. In addition, he suggested that the Secretariat solicit Members' views regarding the RCPs in the district requiring enhancement of refuse collection facilities, for referral to the relevant departments for follow-up actions.

78. Mr CHUI Kwan-siu enquired whether the new enclosed refuse collection facilities installed by the FEHD at around 90 rural locations in Yuen Long District were all solar-powered compacting refuse bins ("SCRBs") and requested information on their effectiveness. He was also concerned about the operational arrangements of the solar-powered mobile refuse compactors

("SMRCs") installed by the FEHD at nine rural locations in the district, such as whether there would be any refuse accumulation due to the need to manually empty the refuse into the SMRCs, and enquired whether the FEHD had any plan to install additional SMRCs. He also suggested that the cleansing work after refuse collection should be improved to prevent leaving refuse on the ground.

79. Ms Fennie LAI relayed residents' concern over the hygiene of RCPs, quoting the old RCPs were prone to rodent infestation and pest problems. She commended the FEHD for introducing enclosed electric refuse compactors ("compaction hoppers"), which had effectively improved the hygienic conditions. She suggested that the department progressively install these new refuse collection facilities in the district.

80. Ms LI Ching-yee expressed support for enhancing old RCPs and raised concerns about refuse collection in rural areas. She enquired whether Pat Heung South was covered in the pilot scheme conducted by the FEHD for application of SMRCs in rural areas from 2020 and its effectiveness. In addition, she suggested that the FEHD should consider introducing small SCRBs in rural areas or drawing reference from the design of underground refuse collection bins in other regions to devise more flexible refuse collection arrangements. Finally, she said that she had conducted a site visit to the RCPs in Pat Heung South with representatives of the FEHD in November last year, and enquired about the implementation progress of the enhancement programme.

81. Mr Allan WONG recognised the FEHD's efforts in improving refuse collection facilities. However, he considered that the department should endeavour to prevent hygiene problems in rural areas caused by exposed or accumulated refuse. To prevent refuse scattering on the ground during collection by refuse collection vehicles ("RCVs"), he suggested adopting enclosed or underground compacting bins and making reference to the crane-based automated refuse collection method used in overseas countries to enhance efficiency and improve the hygienic conditions of RCPs. In addition, he considered that the current use of hand-pushed refuse containers or compaction hoppers by cleansing staff was both cost-ineffective and inefficient, and suggested instead the adoption of enclosed facilities with automatic operation.

82. Mr SO Yuen said that the old public housing estates in Tin Shui Wai (such as Tin Tsz Estate) still collected refuse in a traditional manner, where contractors arranged refuse collection in the early morning hours every day. This process was time-consuming and caused noise nuisance to residents. It was suggested that enclosed compaction hoppers be used instead. In addition, he enquired about the HD's schedule for enhancement of RCPs in public housing estates in Tin Shui Wai. He suggested that priority be given to one to two housing estates for pilot use of compaction hoppers and assistance to the contractors in re-planning the collection routes and time to avoid late-night or early morning refuse collection. Finally, he raised concerns about traffic congestion caused by RCVs parked on one-way roads during refuse collection in rural areas. He hoped that the new facilities could effectively address the problem.

83. Mr YIU Kwok-wai, MH noted that several housing estates in the district still adopt old refuse collection methods. For example, residents of Grandeur Terrace had to dispose of refuse through refuse chutes, after which the refuse would be transported to central refuse collection points in refuse containers which emitted a foul odour during the transportation. Although Tin Heng Estate had implemented a centralised vacuum refuse collection system, the frequent clogging and difficult maintenance of vacuum pipes rendered the system ineffective for satisfying the actual demand. Meanwhile, the RCP at Tin Yan Estate was often full of refuse containers and emitted a foul odour,

affecting residents' daily lives. He suggested introducing a new type of enclosed compaction hopper to reduce the environmental hygiene problems caused by exposed refuse and to create space for additional recycling facilities at the RCP.

84. Mr LEUNG Ming-kin commended the FEHD for effectively utilising technology to improve refuse collection facilities in rural areas. However, citing a fire incident at a solar-powered RCP, he suggested that the FEHD should conduct an in-depth investigation into the cause of the fire. Noting that compaction hoppers could help increase the capacity of refuse collection, he suggested installation of compaction hoppers at more locations to reduce refuse collection by RCVs as well as the impact on the traffic and residents in rural areas. Finally, he hoped that the new enclosed refuse collection facilities would improve the rodent infestation situation.

85. Mr Daniel CHAM, BBS, MH, JP said that he had inspected the operation of compaction hoppers and found them to be highly functional in handling a large quantity of refuse and could significantly reduce environmental hygiene problems. He pointed out that some private housing estates still adopt the old refuse collection methods and enquired if the EPD would include in the lease conditions the requirement for developers to install refuse compacting devices, such as compaction hoppers, in their private residential developments. Besides, he enquired about the operational arrangement of SMRCs in rural areas and raised concern about the need for residents to deposit refuse into the SMRCs and the safety risks associated with it. Since most of the RCPs in rural areas were located at roadsides, RCVs had to park on the traffic lane for refuse collection, causing traffic obstructions. He therefore recommended enhancing the design of the RCPs and associated roads, and adopting SCRBS and lorries with demountable containers to streamline the collection process.

86. Mr SEI Chun-hing supported deploying SCRBS to improve hygienic conditions at RCPs in rural areas. He noted that most existing RCPs used a flap-gate design, which could easily become a breeding ground for mosquitoes, flies and rodents, seriously affecting the environment. He suggested further reducing the refuse yield in rural areas by installing food waste dispensers, subject to enhancement of supporting facilities for electricity and water supply. He said that he had discussed with Towngas and the EPD about subsidy applications to fund installation of additional food waste dispensers in rural areas. He suggested that the FEHD should participate in the negotiation to resolve electricity and water supply issues in order to optimise refuse management.

87. Mr LEUNG Yip-pang reported that RCPs in rural areas were often found to have litter accumulation and hygiene issues due to scavenging activities at night. Further to previous enforcement actions taken by the FEHD, he recommended installing additional closed-circuit televisions at RCPs to achieve a deterrent effect.

88. Quoting the RCP at Ha Chuk Yuen in Tam Mi as an example, Mr YU Chun-leung said that the refuse yield at the site was overwhelmingly high for SCRBS, which often resulted in overflow of refuse and environmental issues. He further enquired about the compaction efficiency of the compaction hopper and its use at locations with high refuse yield to assess the potential for wider use of such device.

89. Mr SZE TO Chun-hin enquired whether the HD had developed any solutions to address the situation where some old RCPs could not accommodate compaction hoppers due to constraints

of their original design. He suggested that the HD should explore the possibility of modifying the structure of the RCPs concerned, such as removing part of the walls, increasing the building height of the RCPs or adjusting the plot ratio to create space for installation of new facilities. He highlighted that hand-push refuse containers were still being used in some housing estates, which made the refuse collection process not only time-consuming but also hindered residents' access or vehicle access. He hoped that the HD would propose specific modification plans to modernise refuse collection and achieve a high efficiency.

90. A consolidated reply provided by Mr KWOK Ming-gon of the FEHD was as follows:

- (1) At present, there were ten permanent off-street RCPs in the Yuen Long District, six of them were equipped with compaction hoppers. The department planned to install a compaction hopper at the Hung Yuen Road RCP, which was commissioned at the end of last year, to provide suitable refuse collection services. The Ping Shun Street RCP adopted a "mixed development" design (i.e. with residential units above the RCP). The department was exploring the feasibility of adopting compaction hoppers in consultation with the relevant stakeholders before taking follow-up actions. the department had no plans to introduce compaction hoppers at the two RCPs near the border due to their relatively low refuse yield;
- (2) To improve the refuse collection facilities in rural areas and enhance local environmental hygiene, the department had started testing different types of new enclosed refuse collection facilities since 2018, including SCRBS and solar-powered/foot-pedal type aluminium RCPs at suitable rural locations;
- (3) In 2020, the FEHD launched a pilot scheme by placing SMRCs at rural RCPs with a high refuse yield. Each SMRC could handle and store around four to eight tonnes of household refuse each time (equivalent to the capacity of 40 to 80 standard 660-litre waste containers), significantly reducing storage space. The enclosed design could effectively prevent pest infestation and remove odour. SMRC with this design was suitable to be placed at rural locations with a high refuse yield and sufficient space available. At present, the department had placed SMRCs at nine suitable rural locations to handle household refuse for nearby residents more effectively;
- (4) Where feasible, solar-powered/foot-pedal type aluminium RCPs would be installed alongside with SMRCs to achieve synergy. Members of the public could continue disposing domestic waste at these RCPs as usual. For safety reasons, department staff would transfer the refuse collected from the bins in the RCP into the SMRC, which would then be transported to the landfill by a lorry with demountable container for dumping;
- (5) The department had installed the fully-enclosed refuse collection facilities with new design (including SCRBS and solar-powered/foot-pedal type aluminium RCPs) at approximately 90 rural locations. Equipped with a solar sensor or foot pedal for touchless inlet control, these refuse collection facilities were more convenient and hygienic than conventional containers with lids. The fully enclosed design also prevented pest infestation and eliminated odour problems that typically occurred if the lids of conventional containers were not properly closed;
- (6) SCRBS featured a compacting function that would activate when the refuse yield reached a certain level in order to store up to twice the refuse yield, i.e. two buckets of refuse could be compressed into one bucket. Multiple SCRBS were usually used in combination to handle different refuse yields. The choice of facilities depended on the



location. For example, SCRBs were used in locations with low refuse yield, while compaction hoppers or fully-enclosed aluminium RCPs were used in locations with high refuse yield to ensure operational flexibility and efficiency;

- (7) The department would take into account the volume of refuse collected in the neighbourhood, the spatial conditions of the proposed site, as well as factors such as sufficient sunlight and safe operation to ensure that the provision of the new enclosed refuse collection facilities would meet the actual needs;
- (8) Cleaning of the ground after refuse collection by RCVs was the responsibility of the contractors and the department would step up monitoring;
- (9) Improvement programme for the Pat Heung South RCP would commence within 2025/26;
- (10) The department needed to further study the feasibility of the proposal of underground refuse containers installation, given existing space limitations, cost considerations and local regulatory constraints. Reference would be drawn from the experiences of Macao, the Mainland and the Netherlands in exploring suitable options for refuse collection;
- (11) To tackle the problem of scavenging, the department could prosecute offenders under Section 11 of the Public Cleansing and Prevention of Nuisances Regulation (Cap. 132BK). Any person who breached the regulation was liable to a maximum fine of \$5,000 on a first conviction, and to a maximum fine of \$10,000 on a subsequent conviction. The department had installed multiple Internet Protocol cameras in the Yuen Long District and investigated fly-tipping activities by analysing the information obtained from the footage. In future, the department would continue to deploy resources appropriately to further combat such activities; and
- (12) The department remained committed to enhancing the refuse collection facilities at rural locations and would continue exploring the use of technology to improve RCPs and other refuse collection facilities. Members might propose specific locations for improvement. The department would conduct site inspections to assess the needs.

91. A consolidated reply provided by Mr Samuel WONG and Ms Candy SO of the HD was as follows:

- (1) The department attached great importance to the environmental hygiene of public housing estates. All RCPs were installed with equipment including foot guards and rodent meshes at ventilation openings. These RCPs were also equipped with refuse bin cleaners, ventilation system and filtration system to improve hygienic conditions. To further prevent pest and rodent problems, RCPs remained closed during non-collection hours. Cleansing contractors performed daily cleaning and regular disinfection, while refuse was collected at regular intervals to prevent overflowing of refuse collection bins;
- (2) Regarding the loud noise emitted by cleansing contractors during refuse collection in the early morning hours, the department would look into the situation and discuss with the FEHD with a view to adjusting the time of refuse collection by giving priority to non-early morning hours so as to minimise the impact on residents;
- (3) While the department recognised that the use of enclosed compaction hoppers could help improve the environmental hygiene of RCPs, in particular its fully-enclosed design was

effective in minimising odour, pest and rodent problems, some conventional RCPs in housing estates could not be converted to provide the necessary space for the installation of compaction hoppers due to space and structural constraints; and

- (4) The department would conduct feasibility studies on RCPs with space available and work with the FEHD to assess the feasibility of switching to the use of compaction hoppers for refuse collection, including the pilot use of lorries with demountable containers along access routes. For RCPs with insufficient space for the installation of compaction hoppers, raising the building height or demolition would not be considered at this stage, as these measures involved structural safety concerns and would cause prolonged disruptions to refuse collection services.

92. The Chairman concluded that he was pleased to note the positive response from the FEHD and the HD in promoting the new refuse collection facilities. He requested the Secretary to convey to the EPD the view that developers should be required under lease conditions to install refuse compacting devices, such as compaction hoppers, in private residential developments. He also asked the Secretary to collect Members' views on the district's RCPs requiring enhanced refuse collection facilities for follow-up by the relevant departments.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat forwarded Members' views to the EPD on 16 April 2025 for information. Separately, after collecting Members' views on 11 April 2025, the Secretariat forwarded their feedback to the relevant departments on 15 May 2025 concerning RCPs in the district requiring enhanced refuse collection facilities.)

#### **Item VIII: Study on issues of community concern and collection of public views (YLDC Paper No. 33/2025)**

93. The Chairman referred Members to Paper No. 33. To assist the Government in keeping its finger on the pulse of the community and planning district services more effectively, the YLDC collected public views on the district's environmental hygiene issues last year, identifying over 200 hygiene issues. He thanked relevant departments for their proactive follow-up efforts, which had improved the district's environmental hygiene. He expected that the YLDO would continue collecting residents' views on specific issues this year, including (1) whether certain pavements and pedestrian crossing facilities in the district required improvement, and (2) potential locations in the district suitable for plant maintenance, greening initiatives, or flower viewing spots.

94. The Chairman requested the Secretary to invite Members to consult the public on one of the aforesaid issues within six weeks and submit a report to the Secretariat.

#### **Report Items**

##### **Item IX: Progress Reports of Committees and Working Groups**

- (i) **Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee (YLDC Paper No. 22/2025)**
- (ii) **Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (YLDC Paper No. 23/2025)**
- (iii) **Town Planning and Development Committee (YLDC Paper No. 24/2025)**
- (iv) **District Facilities and Works Committee (YLDC Paper No. 25/2025)**
- (v) **Community Affairs Committee (YLDC Paper No. 26/2025)**
- (vi) **Housing Committee (YLDC Paper No. 27/2025)**
- (vii) **Traffic and Transport Committee (YLDC Paper No. 28/2025)**
- (viii) **Social Welfare and Labour Committee (YLDC Paper No. 29/2025)**

(ix) **Working Group on Boosting Local Economy (YLDC Paper No. 30/2025)**

(x) **Working Group on Mass Transit Services (YLDC Paper No. 31/2025)**

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95. The Chairman referred Members to the ten progress reports of the Committees and Working Groups as set out in Paper Nos. 22 to 31.

96. Members noted the aforesaid progress reports.

**Item X: Hong Kong Police Force's report on the district's law and order situation and crime figures between January and February 2025**

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97. The Chairman invited Ms Tammy CHAN of the HKPF to report on the law and order situation and crime figures in the district.

98. Ms Tammy CHAN reported on the law and order situation and crime figures in the district between January and February 2025.

99. Mr WONG Siu-chung said that several village heads had recently reported an increase in the number of fixed penalty notices ("FPNs") issued by the Police for illegal parking in rural areas. As far as he knew, some of the enforcement locations were remote and unaffected by traffic congestion, he was concerned whether the above situation reflected a change in the Police's enforcement strategy.

100. Mr Daniel CHAM, BBS, MH, JP raised concern over the significant increase in the number of juvenile and young offenders arrested between January and February 2025 as compared with the same period last year, and enquired about the major types of offences involved. In addition, he quoted a recent case where the Police arrested an individual for illegally using an electric mobility device ("EMD"), commonly known as "wind turbine", in Locwood Garden outside Kingswood Richly Plaza in Tin Shui Wai. Noting frequent public complaints about such offences, he urged the Police to step up enforcement actions to ensure public safety.

101. Mr SZE TO Chun-hin reported receiving complaints from several kindergartens in the district about objects being thrown from height during dismissal times of school. He quoted an incident as reported from Yuen Long Merchants Association Kindergarten where a parent was struck by a falling object. Similar case happened to a teacher from Christian Alliance Chen Lee Wing Tsing Memorial Kindergarten. He suggested that the Police enhance communication with schools to handle this type of incident.

102. Mr WONG Yuen-tai, MH commended the Police for their proactive efforts in launching anti-fraud publicity activities in schools, including a recent basketball match with the theme of anti-fraud at a secondary school. Noting that participating police officers wore uniforms with anti-fraud logos and that the basketball match incorporated anti-fraud messages, he acknowledged these activities had effectively raised young people's awareness of fraud prevention.

103. Mr Riben LI commended the Police for their relentless efforts in combating crime and the noticeable results. Citing a recent case where the Police had detected for the first time a vehicle theft case committed by culprits using a "vehicle key matching device", he enquired whether the case

represented an emerging modus operandi for vehicle theft and whether syndicated criminal activities were involved.

104. Mr TANG Sin-hang reported receiving feedback from villagers that the Police issued FPNs to vehicles parked on private land during enforcement in rural areas, forcing vehicle owners to lodge appeals in order to have the FPNs dismissed. He suggested that police officers should make reference to the relevant maps to ascertain whether the land on which the vehicles were parked was private land before taking enforcement actions to avoid incorrectly issuing FPNs.

105. A consolidated reply provided by Ms Tammy CHAN of the HKPF was as follows:

- (1) In rural areas, the Police mainly focused their enforcement actions at locations where complaints about illegal parking had been received, such as vehicles parked in locations obstructing the access of fire and emergency vehicles. Prior to enforcement actions, the Police would make reference to the maps of the LandsD to ascertain whether the locations were on private land. If members of the public had any queries about the FPNs issued by the Police, they could approach the Central Traffic Prosecutions Division where the relevant FPNs could be dismissed in accordance with the procedures. In order to prevent traffic obstructions, the Police recommended the village heads and the villagers discuss on parking arrangements through consensus-building to achieve a win-win situation;
- (2) Arrests of juveniles and young offenders during the reporting period were primarily related to wounding, serious assault, selling bank accounts, shoplifting, and miscellaneous thefts (such as theft of backpacks or telephones from courts);
- (3) In addition to routine patrols targeting illegal use of EMDs, the Police had mounted special operations and would continue to step up enforcement actions;
- (4) Regarding a recent case involving a child throwing objects from height, the Police had issued warnings to both the child and parents, and notified the HD for follow-up action. The Police would step up patrols to prevent recurrence of such incidents; and
- (5) In the vehicle theft case detected by the New Territories North Region, the culprits employed a “vehicle key matching device” sold on the Internet to decode the electronic functions of the vehicle. This device primarily targeted old vehicle models (such as seven-seater cars) and motorcycles. The Police would keep a close watch on this new modus operandi for vehicle theft.

106. The Chairman concluded the discussion and requested the Police to take note of Members’ views.

#### **Item XI: Report on the work progress of District-led Actions Scheme**

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107. The Chairman invited Mr Hubert CRUZ, Assistant District Officer (Yuen Long) 1, to report on the latest progress of the District-led Actions Scheme (“DAS”).

108. Mr Hubert CRUZ introduced the DAS and its work progress.

109. Mr Daniel CHAM, BBS, MH, JP reported that numerous abandoned bicycles were found in the bicycle parking spaces at Ginza Plaza. He enquired whether these abandoned bicycles fell within the scope of DAS and, if not, whether the TD could dispose of them in accordance with the prevailing ordinances.

110. Mr YIU Kwok-wai, MH reported that persistent illegal shopfront extensions by a store at Grandeur Terrace and suggested that the Government take enforcement action by conducting inter-departmental joint operations.

111. Mr CHONG Kin-shing, MH, JP commended the successful improvement of the illegal parking of bicycles at the footbridge at the exit of YOHO Mall II under the DAS. However, since the footbridge was closer to the MTR Yuen Long Station than the nearby bicycle parking spaces, many people still parked their bicycles at the footbridge for the sake of convenience. He considered continuous follow-up on the situation necessary.

112. Ms HO Hiu-man reported that an abandoned vehicle had remained in the vicinity of Super King Court in Kam Tin for over a year, and enquired of relevant departments the time required for removal of the said vehicle.

113. Mr Fabian CHEUNG of the TD said that the department had planned to designate a public bicycle parking area near Yau Tin Road East and had conducted local consultation on the proposed provision of additional bicycle parking spaces.

(Post-meeting note: Following the positive response to the local consultation on the proposal to designate a public bicycle parking area near Yau Tin Road East, the TD would issue a Notice of Commencement to the HyD for taking forward the project.)

114. A consolidated reply provided by the Chairman was as follows:

- (1) Government departments would take actions as appropriate to address illegally parked or abandoned bicycles within their respective purviews. The TD and the DLO/YL would conduct joint clearance operations against illegally parked or abandoned bicycles at public bicycle parking spaces. While the YLDO was responsible for co-ordinating the work of the DAS, departments should prioritise their actions based on actual situation and available resources, given the district's numerous black spots of illegal bicycle parking or abandoned bicycle,
- (2) The YLDO would collaborate with the FEHD and the HD to address the illegal shopfront extension at Grandeur Terrace and step up enforcement actions and co-ordination where necessary; and
- (3) The YLDO would follow up on the abandoned vehicle case at Super King Court in Kam Tin.

**Item XII: Any other business**

**Item XIII: Date of next meeting**

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115. The Chairman said that the ninth meeting of the YLDC would be held in the conference

room of the YLDC at 2:30 p.m. on 27 May 2025.

116. There being no other business, the Chairman announced that the eighth meeting of the seventh term YLDC closed and thanked Members and the department representatives for their attendance.

Yuen Long District Council Secretariat  
May 2025