

(Translation)

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the District Facilities and Works Committee of
Sham Shui Po District Council (7th Term)

Date: 18 January 2024 (Thursday)

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room, Sham Shui Po District Council

Present

Chairman

Mr CHAN Wai-ming, BBS, MH, JP

Vice-Chairman

Ms CHUM Pik-wa

Members

Mr HO Kwan-chau

Ms WU Wanqiu

Mr LEE Wing-man, MH

Mr LAM Ka-fai, Aaron, BBS, JP

Mr LAM Wai-man, Raymond

Ms WU Sze-wan

Mr CHEUNG Tak-wai

Mr LEUNG Ping-kin

Ms KWOK Yin-lai, MH

Mr CHAN Kwok-wai, MH

Ms CHEN Lihong

Mr WONG Chun-hung, Hanson

Ms LAU Pui-yuk, MH

Ms CHUNG Ching-may, MH

Dr PONG Chiu-fai, MH

In attendance

Miss FUNG Yi-ching, Janice	Assistant District Officer (Sham Shui Po) 2
Miss LUI Miu-ling, Prudence	Senior Executive Officer (District Management), Sham Shui Po District Office
Mr LEUNG Fu-on, Adrian	Executive Officer I (District Management), Sham Shui Po District Office
Ms LEUNG Ka-ye, Carol	Liaison Officer i/c (District Facilities Management Committee and Lai Chi Kok), Sham Shui Po District Office
Mr LEE Kit-wai	Senior Inspector of Works (Kowloon), Works Section, Home Affairs Department
Mr TSUI Cheuk-man	Inspector of Works (Kowloon) 1, Works Section, Home Affairs Department
Mr CHIU Kwai-man, Edmund	Contract Deputy Project Team Leader / 1, Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr LII Kin-chiu	Engineer/Kowloon 7, Drainage Services Department
Mr SIU Kin-keung	Engineer/Kowloon (Distribution 2), Water Supplies Department
Mr CHANG Yiu-wa, Tony	Senior Engineer 14/Works, Highways Department
Mr LI Siu-cheong, Vincent	Project Coordination 14-2/Works, Highways Department
Mr NG Chun-ling	District Engineer/Sham Shui Po (Acting), Highways Department
Ms NG Lai-ling, Avis	District Engineer/Lai Chi Kok, Highways Department
Mr YEUNG Sau-man, Simon	Senior Executive Officer (Planning) 31, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Miss LAU Po-chu, Judy	Executive Officer (Planning) 31A, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Miss CHOW Mei-ye	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Sham Shui Po) 2, Social Welfare Department
Mr SIU Chun-ho	Engineer/Planning 1, Transport Department
Mr WONG Man-wong	Chief Leisure Manager (Hong Kong East), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms HO Po-chu	District Leisure Manager (Sham Shui Po), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms LAM Pui-ling	Deputy District Leisure Manager (Sham Shui Po) District Support, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr WAH Kwan-ping	Assistant District Leisure Manager (Sham Shui Po) District Support, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms CHAN Siu-ken, Catalina	Senior Librarian (Sham Shui Po), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
<u>Secretary</u>	
Ms LEE Hei-tung, Mandy	Executive Officer (District Council) 3, Sham Shui Po District Office

Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed members and representatives of government departments to the first meeting of the District Facilities and Works Committee (“DFWC”) of the seventh term of the Sham Shui Po District Council (“SSPDC”).

Item 1(a): Leisure and Cultural Services Department Report on Recreational and Sports Facilities Management in Sham Shui Po District (DFWC Paper No. 1/2024)

2. Ms LAM Pui-ling introduced Paper 1/2024, and introduced the enhancement work of Cheung Sha Wan Promenade with a slide presentation.

3. The views raised by members were consolidated as follows: (i) enquired about the theme of park greening works in the district, and suggested beautifying the environment with designs of different themes; (ii) enquired about the progress and expected completion date of the construction of additional lavatories and arbours in Nam Cheong Park; (iii) commended the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (“LCSD”) for adding water play equipment for children to the Shek Kip Mei Stormwater Storage Scheme, suggested adding parent-child elements and providing grassland for the public to have picnics, and hoped to know the works schedule and design concept plans; (iv) the fountain in Shek Kip Mei Park was unable to operate due to mechanical failure, and suggested to place flowers to beautify the environment; (v) to support the “Fête des Fleurs” activities, enquired whether District Minor Works (“DMW”) Nos. 667 and 668 horticultural beautification works in the district would be completed on schedule; (vi) enquired about the reason for the low usage rate of Cornwall Street Squash Centre; (vii) enquired about the exhibition hours of the special seats art installation in Cheung Sha Wan Promenade and suggested adding lavatories; (viii) the specific arrangements of cleansing contractors of the venues when the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) charging policy was implemented.

4. Ms LAM Pui-ling gave a consolidated response as follows: (i) according to the Greening Master Plan (“GMP”) for Sham Shui Po District, “Golden Kaleidoscope” was the greening theme for Sham Shui Po, Cheung Sha Wan, and Mei Foo, while “Scenic Vistas” was the greening theme for Shek Kip Mei. The Department would select suitable tree species and plants for the districts; (ii) the Architectural Services Department (“ArchSD”) was currently studying the addition of facilities such as toilets, seats, and arbours in Nam Cheong Park, and would regularly report on the progress; (iii) the Drainage Services Department (“DSD”) was in charge of the Shek Kip Mei Stormwater Storage Scheme and the relevant views would be conveyed to DSD for follow-up; (iv) the Department noted the suggestions of providing toilets at Cheung Sha Wan Promenade and placing flowers at the

fountain in Shek Kip Mei Park. It would study with relevant departments on the feasibility of providing toilets at Cheung Sha Wan Promenade; (v) DMW Nos. 667 and 668 horticultural beautification works in the district would be completed in March 2024 and would support the “Fête des Fleurs” activities to enhance the beautification effect; (vi) the usage rate of Cornwall Street Squash Centre had always been low, without any special reasons; (vii) for MSW charging, the Department had not yet made any detailed arrangements.

[Post-meeting note: LCSD previously commissioned the works department to conduct a feasibility study on providing additional toilets in Nam Cheong Park, and conducted site visits with the relevant works departments, MTR Corporation Limited (“MTRCL”) and some Members of SSPDC in January and February 2024 respectively. After the site visits, it was preliminarily suggested that toilets should be provided in the amenity plot near Gate No. 2 on Sham Mong Road in Nam Cheong Park. The relevant works departments and MTRCL were being consulted regarding the selection of the site and the plan, and their views would be submitted to the works departments for conducting further technical feasibility study.]

5. Ms HO Po-chu added that the featured exhibits/art installations at Cheung Sha Wan Promenade were managed and maintained by LCSD, and there was currently no end date for the exhibition. The Department would continue to look for different exhibits to beautify Cheung Sha Wan Promenade.

6. The views raised by members were consolidated as follows: (i) enquired about the maintenance progress of the facilities at Shun Ning Road Recreation Ground, Cheung Sha Wan Playground, and Maple Street Playground, and hoped that the renovation works would be carried out as soon as possible; (ii) suggested restricting the flow of people and adding water dispensers in Nam Cheong Park and Sham Shui Po Park; (iii) suggested installing an electronic display screen at the football pitch of Tai Hang Tung Estate Playground No. 1 to display the time and serve as a scoreboard; (iv) enquired about the maintenance progress of the basketball backstops at Po On Road Playground; (v) some residents reported that there were tree roots exposed on the road near Lucky Dragon Restaurant on Tai Hang Tung Road, which affected the safety of pedestrians; (vi) some swimmers were dissatisfied with the low temperature of the heated pool in Lai Chi Kok Park Swimming Pool; (vii) enquired the schedule for tree replanting and suggested taking measures before the wind season to prevent tree collapse; (viii) squash enthusiasts often used the venue at night, while the Cornwall Street Squash Centre was often used as a venue for competitions and training activities. It was hoped that the Department could retain the venue and use it for multiple purposes during

non-peak hours to increase usage; (ix) enquired about the touting activities of sports venues in the district; (x) enquired if any other decorations would be added to Cheung Sha Wan Promenade in addition to the 12-year animal cycle art installations during Lunar New Year. Adding seats and covers in the area was suggested. It was mentioned that there were citizens riding bicycles or skateboards on the promenade; (xi) enquired about the specific location of the roadside amenity plot greening works in Nam Shan Estate.

7. Ms LAM Pui-ling gave a consolidated response: (i) the progress of public play spaces transformation works would be reported later in Item 2; (ii) the Department noted the suggestions on installing water dispensers in Nam Cheong Park and Sham Shui Po Park, as well as installing an electronic display screen at the football pitch of Tai Hang Tung Estate Playground No. 1. The Department would study the feasibility with the relevant works departments, and would also follow up on the progress of maintenance of basketball court facilities at Po On Road Playground and the situation of exposed tree roots on Tai Hang Tung Road; (iii) according to the guidelines of LCSD, the temperature of the heated pool had to be maintained between 26 and 28 degrees Celsius. The Department would communicate with the venue staff to find out whether the temperature of the heated pool in Lai Chi Kok Park had been below the standard and follow up; (iv) there were still 182 trees arranged to be replanted in the first and second quarters of this year, while replanting of the remaining trees would be arranged according to the actual environment; (v) the Cornwall Street Squash Centre was a training base for schools and youths, and the usage of the venue would be reviewed in due course; (vi) the Department had not received any recent reports from the public about sports venue touting in the district.

[Post-meeting note: The maintenance works of basketball backstops at Po On Road Playground was completed on 3 July 2023. Besides, regarding the temperature of the heated pool in Lai Chi Kok Park Swimming Pool, the Department sent a reply letter to the relevant members on 30 January of this year. After measuring the water temperature on site and checking the water temperature records, the temperature remained within the target range (i.e. 26 to 28 degrees Celsius) during the opening period of the swimming pool. As for the exposed tree roots on Tai Hang Tung Road, the Highways Department (“HyD”) had cleared the loose road tiles around the tree roots on 5 February.]

8. The Chairman concluded that the Committee noted the content of the report and expected the Department to timely report on the progress of various works projects, which would help members report to residents on district works plans and make good use of the recreational and sports facilities in the district.

Item 1(b): Leisure and Cultural Services Department Report on Utilisation of Public Libraries in Sham Shui Po District (DFWC Paper No. 2/2024)

9. Ms Catalina CHAN introduced Paper 2/2024.

10. The views raised by members were consolidated as follows: (i) enquired about the service hours of mobile libraries and hoped that the maintenance progress would be accelerated and service locations be increased; (ii) suggested promoting fully automated book check-out services and establishing electronic libraries; (iii) suggested co-organising visiting activities and author meetings with schools to promote the culture of reading; (iv) suggested organising exhibition activities in collaboration with local non-governmental organisations through the Community Libraries Partnership Scheme; (v) enquired why the number of visitors to Po On Road Public Library and Sham Shui Po Public Library was not proportional to the amount of materials checked out; (vi) concerned about the use of libraries of ethnic minorities in the district; (vii) enquired about the usage of study rooms in the district and pointed out that some study rooms had poor environments and renovation was suggested.

11. Ms Catalina CHAN gave a consolidated response: (i) mobile libraries were open from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Mondays to Saturdays. They were close on Sundays and public holidays. The service hours at each site varied. If a mobile library required maintenance or encountered a traffic accident, residents would be notified as soon as possible. There were a total of 12 mobile libraries, providing services throughout Hong Kong, and a service schedule had already been established. The Department would consider factors such as parking space, safety, and convenience. If necessary, it would examine whether other locations would be suitable for providing mobile library services. Members could propose suitable locations for study; (ii) self-checkout machines were in place in libraries, and 24-hour self-service library stations were set up at Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Island East Sports Centre Sitting-out Area and Tsuen Nam Road in Tai Wai, for the public to check out books, pick up reserved books, and pay overdue fines. Self-service library stations required a larger space and would gradually be set up in various districts depending on financial conditions in the future; (iii) libraries would invite schools to arrange visits to libraries and participate in promotional activities, and would distribute promotional flyers to encourage students' participation. The mobile vehicles of the Library-on-Wheels Project would also be parked at schools for students to borrow books on the spot, and storytelling activities would be held. Members were welcome to promote the project to schools in the district; (iv) the Department had been encouraging non-profit organisations to establish community libraries and also welcomed applications from

Members' offices. The librarian of the district would conduct site visits at the offices and provide consultation services to introduce the operation of the service. Members could also choose the types of books. The Department welcomed community libraries to jointly organise promotional activities; (v) due to the fact that readers could use other services and facilities in a library, such as reading newspapers and magazines and using computers, browsing library materials and electronic resources online, as well as visiting exhibitions in a library, the number of visitors to a library might not necessarily be proportional to the amount of materials checked out; (vi) libraries would consider the procurement of relevant materials based on the population of ethnic minorities in each district, and the Central Library had a larger number of such books and newspapers; (vii) the utilisation rate of study rooms during non-exam seasons was about 50%, while most of them were fully occupied during exam seasons. The Department would carry out renovation works for the study rooms depending on circumstances.

12. The Chairman concluded that the Committee noted the content of the report and suggested strengthening mobile libraries and online reading services to promote the culture of reading. He then invited the representatives from LCSD, the Social Welfare Department ("SWD"), and the Transport Department ("TD") to report on the construction of Lai Chi Kok Sports Centre, hockey ground, and underground public vehicle park at Po Lun Street in Sham Shui Po.

13. Ms Judy LAU stated that: (i) the project "Construction of Sports Centre, Outdoor Leisure Facilities, Welfare Facilities and Public Vehicle Park at Po Lun Street, Lai Chi Kok" was located on the government site on Po Lun Street. The revised scope of development of the project included the construction of multiple sports, recreational and welfare facilities, and a public car park. It had received support from the District Facilities Committee under SSPDC on 5 September 2019, and a progress report had been made to SSPDC in September last year. The Committee was also consulted on the proposed addition of indoor facilities; (ii) at present, the preliminary traffic and noise impact assessment study for the project had been generally completed, and a technical feasibility study had been conducted in the third quarter of 2022. In response to the concerns from Members of the Legislative Council earlier that government projects failed to optimise land use, relevant departments had to study and revise the scope of development of the project, including considering possible additional facilities. A feasible revision of the scope of development was still at the stage of research. In addition, incinerators were installed at the project site in the 1960s, so environmental study and land assessment, including site investigation and analysis, were required to clarify whether ground decontamination works would be needed. Depending on the results of the environmental study and land assessment, a corresponding review of the scope of development and schedule of the project might be necessary.

14. Miss CHOW Mei-yee stated that: (i) the welfare facilities and services of the said project included a day care centre for the elderly, home care services for elders, neighbourhood elderly centre, and on-site pre-school rehabilitation services; (ii) the Department would continue to consider adding new items, including exploring the possibility of establishing a residential care home for the elderly that could provide 100 places, subject to the availability of financial resources and technology.

15. Mr SIU Chun-ho stated that the traffic impact assessment had been completed and it was expected that 790 parking spaces would be provided. ArchSD was currently studying the relevant design, while TD would continue to follow up.

16. The views raised by members were consolidated as follows: (i) the demand for recreational and social welfare facilities in the district was increasing day by day. The said project had been planned for years and was expected to be implemented as soon as possible with its progress to be reported regularly; (ii) suggested adding occasional child care services and indoor jogging trails; (iii) suggested setting aside space for the public or social welfare organisations to hold activities; (iv) enquired about the details of the traffic impact assessment; (v) enquired if there would be charging spaces in the underground vehicle park.

17. Mr Simon YEUNG responded as follows: (i) based on the principle of optimisation of land use, discussions with various departments had been held regarding the feasibility of different proposals, and the feasible revision of the scope of development was still at the stage of research; (ii) due to the installation of incinerators at the project site in the 1960s, environmental study and land assessment were required to clarify whether ground decontamination works and relevant proposals would be needed, as well as to study the impact of ground decontamination works on the duration, scope of development, and cost of the project. The consultant commissioned by ArchSD was conducting environmental study and preliminary land assessment, which might involve varying levels of site investigation in response to the results of the environmental assessment study.

18. Miss CHOW Mei-yee responded as follows: (i) there was currently a standalone child care centre (“CCC”) in Shek Kip Mei, and there were also 27 kindergartens with attached CCCs in the district that could provide daytime child care services; (ii) SWD had planned to add a standalone CCC in the Treasury Building, which was expected to be put into service in the first to second quarters of this year and could provide 100 places; a standalone CCC was also planned to be set up at 888 Lai Chi Kok Road, which could also provide 100 places.

19. Mr SIU Chun-ho responded as follows: (i) the traffic impact assessment had been completed, and the Department was considering the impact of various facilities upon completion; (ii) the Department would study with ArchSD on the suggestion about charging parking spaces.

20. The views raised by members were consolidated as follows: (i) concerned about the revised scope of the project, and hoped that the works schedule would be confirmed and the details of the environmental assessment would be disclosed as soon as possible; (ii) hoped that a special child care centre (“SCCC”) would be established to provide pre-school support services; (iii) there was a strong demand for child care services in the district, the Department was expected to consider providing child care services; (iv) suggested optimising the design of the vehicle park to facilitate parking for members of the public.

21. Mr Simon YEUNG responded as follows: (i) the environmental assessment involved site investigation and was yet to have preliminary results. The relevant departments would review the scope of development and schedule of the project based on the results; (ii) where technical and financial conditions permitted, research would be conducted to increase the proposed indoor facilities, including adding multi-purpose venues to provide the community with venues for urban/emerging sports and indoor sports like tennis , as well as adding billiards centres, and competition venues for badminton, volleyball and basketball. Children’s play and welfare facilities would also be provided.

22. Miss CHOW Mei-yee responded that SWD would consider the service demand of the district, size of population, and other multifaceted factors when planning social welfare services. Regarding the development project of Po Lun Street, the District Social Welfare Office would reflect to the relevant service branches of the headquarters to study the feasibility of providing child care services and SCCCs supporting services.

23. Mr SIU Chun-ho responded that the design of the vehicle park was based on the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines and departmental guidelines. The Department would discuss the size of the parking spaces with ArchSD.

24. The Chairman concluded that the Department was expected to timely report the project development and progress and address the needs of residents in order to optimise future planning developments of the community.

25. Ms HO Po-chu introduced Paper No. 3/2024 with a slide presentation.

26. The views raised by members were consolidated as follows: (i) enquired about the preliminary results of the Sham Shui Po Park questionnaire survey; (ii) enquired about the factors for consideration for purchasing different recreational and sport facilities; (iii) hoped that more hand washing and disinfection facilities, as well as clear first-aid guidelines, would be provided, so that parents and children could receive appropriate support; (iv) Sham Shui Po Park attracted many residents to visit, and attention should be paid to the repair and maintenance of facilities to avoid wasting resources; (v) enquired about the opening date of the water fountain; (vi) suggested adjusting the height of bicycle facilities for universal use; (vii) enquired about the works progress of other inclusive parks, hoping that each park would have its own features, and suggested that department representatives and members visit the site to inspect and collect opinions from people of different age groups for the optimisation of facilities; (viii) suggested adding snack carts to Sham Shui Po Park to attract visitors and help boost the local economy.

27. Ms HO Po-chu gave a consolidated response: (i) since the questionnaire survey would not be completed until the end of this year, the results would be reported to members after consolidation; (ii) the play space of Sham Shui Po Park provided facilities that included balance and coordination elements, as well as a fitness corner, dedicated to allowing people of different ages, abilities, and disabilities to play together, bringing them sensory and tactile experiences; (iii) the park had an office and security personnel on duty that could provide first-aid supplies to those in need; (iv) the contractor would be responsible for the repair and maintenance of facilities in the park within one year after completion of the works, and then the management of the facilities would be handed over to the works sections of the Department. There were currently no major facilities in the park that required maintenance; (v) due to the adverse weather conditions last year, the underground water pump and related components of the water play equipment in the park had malfunctioned and had to be reordered by the works department. It was expected that the water play equipment would be officially opened after installation and related testing were completed in the second quarter of this year; (vi) the Department would study the feasibility of adding bicycle facilities of different heights; (vii) the transformation works of Cheung Sha Wan Playground and Shun Ning Road Recreation Ground would be carried out first, while Maple Street Playground was still at the stage of views collection; (viii) the Department welcomed organisations to apply for booking of venues to hold events, but the event organisers had to hold the necessary government licences. If they would like to operate food trucks, they had to apply for relevant licences from the government departments concerned, including the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department.

28. The Chairman concluded that the Committee noted the content of the report on the transformation project(s) on public play spaces in Sham Shui Po District.

Item 3: The Walkway Cover Project on Fat Tseung Street, Cheung Sha Wan

29. Mr Vincent LI introduced the walkway cover project on Fat Tseung Street, Cheung Sha Wan with a slide presentation.

30. The views raised by members were consolidated as follows: (i) the walkway cover would be close to residential buildings, enquired about the materials used, cleansing arrangements, and the presence of lighting; (ii) the relevant road sections had facilities such as residential buildings, a fire station, and schools, with busy traffic and a large number of pedestrians. It was suggested that relevant stakeholders be fully consulted to reduce the impact of construction on them; (iii) enquired if feasibility studies had been conducted on the project; (iv) suggested installing solar panels on top of the cover; (v) the project had been under study for years and it was hoped that the construction could commence as soon as possible; (vi) suggested providing barrier-free facilities during construction to facilitate the access of wheelchair users.

31. Mr Vincent LI gave a consolidated response: (i) to ensure a better shading effect over the pedestrian walkway, the Department preferred using opaque materials and lighting would be installed on the cover; (ii) the Department would hire a consulting firm to formulate a detailed design and study the maintenance and cleansing arrangements; (iii) the Department would conduct public consultation, involving nearby residents; (iv) the Department had conducted underground investigation to ascertain the presence of underground pipeline facilities; (v) due to the limited length of the cover, installing solar panels might not be economically viable, and the consulting firm would be requested to conduct a study on it.

32. The Chairman concluded that the Department was expected to report on the progress of the project in a timely manner and fully consult the relevant stakeholders. The Committee would continue to monitor the progress of the project and hoped that the project would be implemented as soon as possible to provide convenience to residents.

Item 4: Any other business

33. Mr Adrian LEUNG introduced the progress of DMWs in Sham Shui Po led by the

Home Affairs Department (“HAD”) with a slide presentation.

34. The views raised by members were consolidated as follows: (i) enquired about the details related to the project “Beautification of Nam Cheong Street Sitting-out Area (no.6)”, including the government departments that would be responsible for the management upon completion of the project; (ii) reminded the Department to pay attention to the design of the seats for the project “Beautification of Nam Cheong Street Sitting-out Area (no.6)” to prevent street sleepers from occupying them; (iii) suggested adding texts in ethnic minority languages to the introduction boards in the sitting-out area; (iv) suggested using brighter colour tones in the beautification project of subways, and incorporating Sham Shui Po’s historical elements and the new mascot in the design to promote the image of the district.

35. Mr Adrian LEUNG gave a consolidated response: (i) the project “Beautification of Nam Cheong Street Sitting-out Area (no.6)” was led by the Works Section of HAD. After completion, the sitting-out area would be handed over to LSCD for management; (ii) the current seats were already designed to prevent occupation by street sleepers; (iii) the views on adding texts in ethnic minority languages to introduction boards and the beautification project of subways would be conveyed to the works consultancies for reference.

36. The Chairman concluded that the Committee noted the content of the project report.

Item 5: Date of next meeting

37. The next meeting would be held at 9:30 a.m. on 21 March 2024 (Thursday).

38. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:02 p.m.

District Council Secretariat

Sham Shui Po District Council

March 2024