

(Translation)

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee of  
Sham Shui Po District Council (7th Term)

Date: 25 January 2024 (Thursday)

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room, Sham Shui Po District Council

Present

Chairman

Ms LAU Pui-yuk, MH

Members

Mr HO Kwan-chau

Ms WU Wanqiu

Mr LEE Wing-man, MH

Mr LAM Wai-man, Raymond

Ms WU Sze-wan

Mr CHEUNG Tak-wai

Mr CHAN Wai-ming, BBS, MH, JP

Mr CHAN Kwok-wai, MH

Ms CHEN Lihong

Ms CHUM Pik-wa

In attendance

Miss FUNG Yi-ching, Janice	Assistant District Officer (Sham Shui Po) 2
Mr LI Wai-tong	Senior Liaison Officer 3 (Acting), Sham Shui Po District Office
Dr LEE Yin-chun, Sally	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West) 5, Environmental Protection Department
Ms TAM Sze-chai, Cindy	Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West) 53, Environmental Protection Department
Mr CHEN Kin-wun, Edwin	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Waste Collection & Charging) 1, Environmental Protection Department

Dr LAM Kwok-lun, Alain	Waste Management Manager, Environmental Protection Department
Miss TAM Wan-chi, Bonnie	Assistant Environmental Protection Officer (Waste Collection & Charging) 13, Environmental Protection Department
Mr HUI Chi-ping, Edwin	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sham Shui Po), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr CHAN Pui-lun	Chief Health Inspector (Sham Shui Po) 2, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Ms MOK Oi-him, Joyce	Assistant Divisional Commander, Sham Shui Po Division Administration (ADVC ADM SSPODIV), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr LI Yiu-ming, Leo	Assistant Police Community Relations Officer, Sham Shui Po District, Hong Kong Police Force
Mr WONG Po-man	Commander of Task Force Sub-unit (Sham Shui Po District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr LEUNG Chi-kwong	Task Force Sub-unit (Sham Shui Po District), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms CHUNG Kit-sum	Community Liaison Officer (Sham Shui Po District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr LEE Chun-ho, Clovis	Principal Estate Officer/Land Control/Kowloon West (North) (District Lands Office, Kowloon West), Lands Department

Secretary

Ms YU Po-yan	Executive Officer (District Council) 4, Sham Shui Po District Office
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Absent with apologies

Vice-Chairman

Dr PONG Chiu-fai, MH

Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed members and representatives of government departments to the first meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (“FEHC”).

2. The Secretariat received a Notification of Absence from Meetings from member Dr PONG Chiu-fai prior to the meeting for he had to attend the meeting of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference in the mainland. According to Section 64(4) of the Sham Shui Po District Council Standing Orders, the Committee approved the application for leave submitted by Dr PONG Chiu-fai.

Item 1: Briefing on the implementation of municipal solid waste charging by the Environmental Protection Department

3. Mr Edwin CHEN introduced municipal solid waste charging (“MSW charging”) with the aid of PowerPoint presentation.

4. Dr Alain LAM introduced the proposed bill of regulation on the proper collection and handling of recyclables in residential buildings with the aid of PowerPoint presentation.

5. The views of members were consolidated as follows: (i) enquired if the Environmental Protection Department (“EPD”) could send personnel to promote and explain the details of MSW charging to the public, and suggested setting up street counters or visiting elderly centres to promote the scheme to the elderly; (ii) suggested that EPD utilise idle sites to increase “Recycling Spots” under “GREEN@COMMUNITY” and extend the opening hours of waste recycling stations; (iii) suggested that EPD increase the number of food waste bins and improve the calculation method for food waste recycling points; (iv) suggested that EPD strengthen its support for the recycling industry to complement the MSW charging policy, and enquired if there were supporting facilities for recycling recyclables; (v) enquired about the form and specific arrangements for distributing designated bags to residents of three-nil buildings, and suggested that EPD distribute designated bags to single-block private buildings (with owners’ corporations (“OCs”) but no

management companies); (vi) enquired if there were any guidelines or relevant training to teach cleaning staff how to handle waste disposed of in non-designated bags, and suggested that EPD should provide guidance or training to property management companies of private buildings; (vii) enquired if EPD would consider authorising shops selling plastic bags in the community to sell designated bags; (viii) enquired about the number of buildings that would pilot MSW charging and the charging method for solid waste in public housing estates.

6. Mr Edwin CHEN gave a consolidated response as follows: (i) EPD was deploying manpower and considering collaborating with other teams to promote and explain the work of MSW charging to the public in various districts. EPD was preparing promotional materials; (ii) at present, there were over 170 public collection points under “GREEN@COMMUNITY” in Hong Kong, and 50 small-scale “Recycling Spots” were gradually being established in public housing estates, including Sham Shui Po District; (iii) EPD was strengthening the supporting facilities for food waste recycling. In addition to the plan of installing smart food waste recycling bins in all public housing estates in Hong Kong this year, the Department would also install smart recycling bins in large private housing estates with the funding provided through the Environmental Campaign Committee; (iv) MSW charging provided incentives to encourage members of the public to recycle, which would be conducive to promoting the sustainable development of recycling related industries. EPD had established a recycling fund and assisted the recycling industry through various types of funding schemes. It had also communicated with the Lands Department to help identify sites for short-term lease with potential for waste recycling purposes. Comprehensive waste management facilities were currently under construction to incinerate and convert waste into energy and further reduce emissions; (v) EPD would arrange for contractors to distribute designated bags for free at three-nil buildings. If no one answered the door during distribution, the contractor would leave a “notification card” with a hotline and a QR code printed on it for members of the public to register for collection of the bags. The contractor

would then arrange for the designated bags to be delivered to smart lockers or self-pickup points chosen by the members of the public for collection. Subdivided unit tenants could also contact the contractor to arrange delivery of designated bags. Owner/resident organisations of a single-block private building, or property management companies, security companies, and cleaning service companies authorised by relevant owner/resident organisations, could apply to EPD for bulk procurement of designated bags and distribute them to residents for use. EPD would provide applicants with a service fee rebate equivalent to 3% of the statutory selling price of each designated bag to offset their additional operating expenses. The service fee would be refunded to the applicant in the form of a rebate through an invoice issued by EPD every month, encouraging residents to develop a new habit of using designated bags to dispose of waste, thereby improving the compliance rate; (vi) if residents handed over non-compliant waste (“NCW”) to cleaning staff in person, the cleaning staff could refuse to take it. If NCW from unknown sources was found, in order to ensure environmental hygiene, cleaning staff would wrap NCW in designated bags before disposing of it in a refuse collection vehicle. EPD was currently arranging training and online briefing sessions for property management companies and cleaning companies.

7. The views of members were consolidated as follows: (i) suggested that government departments and community organisations cooperate to strengthen waste reduction education and consider ways to promote environmental protection and recycling; (ii) enquired about the support for waste disposal and recycling facilities for single-block buildings with more than 100 households; (iii) enquired about the charging method for oversized waste; (iv) enquired if designated bags could be distributed in small-scale buildings through contractors; (v) enquired about the calculation method for providing MSW charging subsidy to Old Age Living Allowance (“OALA”) recipients, as well as the amount and distribution method of the subsidy to Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (“CSSA”) receiving families; (vi) enquired about the methods to deal with counterfeit designated bags;

(vii) suggested increasing recycling points as soon as possible to promote and advertise the conversion of waste into energy.

8. Mr Edwin CHEN gave a consolidated response as follows: (i) EPD would collaborate with the Education Bureau to distribute a 15-litre designated bag to each student and provide explanations for waste reduction education; in addition to EPD further optimising recycling facilities, the MSW charging policy would also encourage members of the public to actively participate in waste separation for recycling, thereby promoting the development of recycling related industries; (ii) if a single-block building with more than 100 households did not have enough public space for recycling bins, the person in charge could discuss and develop feasible recycling plans with EPD, and the Director of Environmental Protection would issue a notice specifying that the residential building could set up other recycling facilities, such as setting up one or more containers to collect the prescribed recycling materials on designated days, providing door-to-door recycling services on different days, or requiring residents to bring recyclables to “GREEN@COMMUNITY” collection points. Three-nil buildings were not subject to the new law, and EPD would provide support through “GREEN@COMMUNITY” and EPD’s “Green Outreach”; (iii) in public housing estates, oversized waste would mainly be collected through contractors of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”), and relevant oversized waste would be charged according to designated labels. Most private housing estates would collect oversized waste through non-compactor type refuse collection vehicles such as grab-mounted trucks operated by private waste collectors, and the relevant oversized waste would be charged by weight. Under the charge-by-weight model, residents needed not use designated labels, while property management companies would arrange for residents to share the gate fee for oversized waste; (iv) private buildings with less than 100 households and not classified as three-nil buildings could apply to EPD for bulk procurement of designated bags and receive a service fee rebate as support; (v) each recipient of CSSA or OALA could receive a MSW charging subsidy of \$10 per month, which

would be included in the subsidies distributed by the Social Welfare Department (“SWD”); (vi) EPD would regulate the sale of designated bags and supervise sales points, and pay attention to whether there were counterfeit designated bags circulating in the market. To reduce the circulation of counterfeit designated bags, sales points would only be shops that met certain conditions. EPD would also refer cases of counterfeit designated bags to the Customs and Excise Department (“C&ED”) to crack down on the sale of counterfeit designated bags.

9. The views of members were consolidated as follows: (i) enquired if tenement buildings which OCs had suspended operation would be included in the adaptation period arrangement of free distribution of designated bags.

10. Mr Edwin CHEN responded that the scope of the arrangement currently only covered three-nil buildings, and it would be difficult to screen out single-block private buildings which OCs were not operating normally in practice. Private residential premises with an OC could apply to EPD for bulk procurement of designated bags and distribute them to residents to assist them in adapting to MSW charging. However, he would also reflect to the Department the suggestion of Members to see whether single-block private buildings with less than 100 households could be included in the scope of the arrangement.

11. The Chairman concluded that the Committee noted the content of the report and welcomed the policy and would fully assist in its implementation. It was hoped that relevant departments could make good use of the adaptation period to explain the policy to local residents, listen to opinions, and dispel doubts.

Item 2: Strengthening efforts to tackle the problem of unlicensed hawkers in Sham Shui Po during the Lunar New Year period

12. Mr Edwin Hui introduced Paper 3/2024.

13. The views of members were consolidated as follows: (i) unlicensed hawker obstructing passageways could cause fire safety hazards. It was suggested that FEHD, the Hong Kong Police Force, C&ED and the Immigration Department (“ImmD”) jointly enforce the law and strengthen publicity to crack down on syndicated unlicensed hawking activities and illegal immigrant activities. If there would be any need for social welfare, the case could be referred to SWD and relevant departments; (ii) suggested to hold regular second-hand sales events on idle sites in the district, allowing members of the public to engage in second-hand transactions under regulated conditions; (iii) suggested FEHD and the Police to take action against unlicensed hawking of cooked food and parking of vans on the roadside for hawking causing obstruction to passageways; (iv) the problem of unlicensed hawking was severe during the Lunar New Year period. Members enquired if there was any information on the deployment of relevant actions for reference; (v) enquired if there would be a contact hotline available for members of the public to call for assistance.

14. Mr Edwin HUI gave a consolidated response as follows: (i) FEHD took out 129 prosecutions against unlicensed hawkers and seized over 900 items from them in 2023. The number of complaint cases in the fourth quarter of 2023 had decreased by 33% compared to the first quarter; (ii) FEHD would consider discussing with relevant departments the feasibility of holding second-hand markets or bazaars. (iii) FEHD was deploying joint operations with the Police at black spots of unlicensed hawking activities such as Yen Chow Street, Tai Nan Street, Nam Cheong Street, and Pei Ho Street. FEHD had been conducting targeted patrols and driving away unlicensed hawkers at multiple locations within the district and would continue to address the issue of unlicensed hawkers through different strategies. For the issue of obstruction of passageways, FEHD would pay attention to the relevant situation to ensure that fire engines could enter and exit any passageway. If suspected overstayers were found engaging in hawking activities during any operation, ImmD would be notified for handling; (iv) FEHD would carry out relevant publicity work



before the New Year and would discuss and make corresponding arrangements with the Police regarding the issue of unlicensed hawkers. FEHD had hung banners and distributed flyers, urging members of the public not to engage in unlicensed hawking or patronise unlicensed hawkers. FEHD would closely liaise with the Police to address the issue of unlicensed hawking during the Lunar New Year period and prosecute unlicensed hawkers. FEHD would also maintain contact with the Police and try to allocate resources to areas where the problem was serious.

15. Mr LEE Yiu-ming added that the Police would cooperate with FEHD in publicity and law enforcement and would also strengthen law enforcement before Lunar New Year. Regarding the issue of obstruction of passageways, the Police had been enforcing the law by issuing summons. If crimes were involved in the unlicensed hawking activities in the district during the Lunar New Year period, the Police would intervene immediately.

16. The Chairman concluded that the Committee noted the content of the report and would do its best to cooperate with the Police and FEHD in their publicity work.

### Item 3: Any other business

17. A member pointed out that some members of the public had complained about logistics companies occupying roads with trucks and making noise during loading and unloading at midnight causing disturbance. It was hoped that relevant departments would follow up.

18. Dr Sally LEE responded that EPD had sent personnel to conduct on-site inspections in the past few months and found that the noise was caused by shops moving and loading and unloading goods in public places outside the shops. This type of noise made in public places was regulated by sections 4 and 5 of the Noise

Control Ordinance (Cap. 400) and was primarily handled and followed up by HKPF. EPD had referred this case to the Police for handling.

19. Mr Julius LEE added that the Police had dispatched officers to inspect the scene late at night and issued no less than hundreds of summons regarding issues such as noise nuisance, obstruction of passageways by goods and vehicles. The number of complaints received in January 2024 had decreased, and it was believed that the situation had improved. The Police would continue to follow up.

20. Mr Edwin HUI stated that the reopening of Lai Wan Market was imminent, and stalls had been gradually handed over to stall owners for relevant preparation work starting from 4 January 2024. According to the progress of their respective preparation work, stall owners could arrange to open for business between 2 and 29 February. According to the latest assessment, the basic facilities of Lai Wan Market would be completed at the end of January or the beginning of February and be put into service on 2 February. The market would officially be put into use on 1 March 2024.

21. The Chairman concluded that the Committee noted the late night noise problem caused by logistics companies and the arrangement of reopening of Lai Wan Market.

Item 4: Date of next meeting

22. The next meeting would be held at 9:30 a.m. on 28 March 2024 (Thursday).

23. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 11:34 a.m.

District Council Secretariat  
Sham Shui Po District Office  
March 2024