

(Translation)

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of Sham Shui Po District Council (7th Term)
of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Date : 12 March 2024 (Tuesday)

Time : 9:30 a.m.

Venue : Conference Room, Sham Shui Po District Council

Present

Chairman

Mr WONG Yan-yin, Paul, JP

Members

Mr HO Kwan-chau, Leo

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 Wai-ming, BBS, MH, JP

Mr CHAN Kwok-wai, MH

Mr CHAN Lung-kit

Ms CHEN Lihong

Ms CHUM Pik-wa

Mr WONG Chun-hung, Hanson

Dr WONG Chung-leung, JP

Ms LAU Pui-yuk, MH

Ms CHUNG Ching-may, MH

Mr LO Chi-chiu

Dr PONG Chiu-fai, MH

In Attendance

Miss LAI Ho-ting, Ally	Assistant District Officer (Sham Shui Po) 1
Miss FUNG Yi-ching, Janice	Assistant District Officer (Sham Shui Po) 2
Miss CHIN Wai-sheung, Doris	Senior Liaison Officer 1, Sham Shui Po District Office
Ms CHAN Siu-ping, Daphne	Senior Liaison Officer 2, Sham Shui Po District Office
Ms WONG Yu-hang, Anita	Senior Liaison Officer 3, Sham Shui Po District Office
Mr KWONG Ka-kuen	Senior Liaison Officer 4, Sham Shui Po District Office
Mr SIT Siu-chi, Simon	Chief School Development Officer (SSP), Education Bureau
Mr YU Wai-yip, Ricky	District Social Welfare Officer (Sham Shui Po), Social Welfare Department
Ms MAK Siu-ling, Iris	Chief Manager/Management (KWS), Housing Department
Ms MOK Oi-him, Joyce	Police Community Relations Officer, Sham Shui Po Police District, Hong Kong Police Force
Mr WAN Chi-shun	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sham Shui Po), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr LAM Chun-ho	Acting Chief Health Inspector (Sham Shui Po) 3, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr WONG Man-wong	Chief Leisure Manager (HKE), 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 YEUNG Chong-tak, Clarence	Chief Engineer/S1, Civil Engineering and Development Department
Ms TAM Pui-wah, Alice	Chief Transport Officer/Kowloon 1, Transport Department

Secretary

Ms HO Kam-ping, Jennifer	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Sham Shui Po District Office
--------------------------	---

Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives from government departments to the 2nd meeting of the 7th term Sham Shui Po District Council (“SSPDC”).

Item 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the 7th Term Sham Shui Po District Council (SSPDC)

2. The minutes of the 1st meeting were confirmed without amendment.
3. The Chairman added that (i) the success of the “Something Special @Sham Shui Po” showcased the positive outcome of organising activities at Ki Lung Street and in the space under Tung Chau Street flyover. It was hoped that the utilisation of the space would create synergy with the soon-to-open Design and Fashion Base and the beautified Fabric Market, thereby strengthening Sham Shui Po’s positioning as a region for creative and cultural industries, which would bring about long-term economic benefits to the district; (ii) there would be an additional Community Living Room in the district; and (iii) the Lai Wan Market was officially opened. It was hoped that better communication and co-operation regarding the market operation among Members, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”) and the market operator would help encourage spending in the market.

Item 2: Annual District Plans 2024-25 by Core Departments of the SSPDC (Part 1)

(a) Home Affairs Department - Sham Shui Po District Office Action Plan 2024-25 (SSPDC Paper No. 11/2024)

4. The Chairman introduced Paper No. 11/2024 and added that: (i) thematic activities would be organised to tie in with the Police’s anti-fraud policy with a view to raising public awareness; (ii) under the Household Smoke Detector Scheme, the District Office (“SSPDO”) had installed smoke detectors for households in some old buildings in the districts, and planned to distribute firefighting equipment to households in due course to enhance fire prevention awareness; (iii) time slots were reserved for large-scale activities in Sham Shui Po Sports Centre (“SSPC”), and organisations were encouraged to apply for them. He also suggested additional direction signs be provided near SSPC for easy wayfinding; and (iv) Members were expected to make use of their own resources and professional expertise to contribute to the districts, and it is also hoped that under the new organisation structure, all government departments, District Council members and the Care Teams would work together in a harmonious

manner for smooth operations.

5. Mr CHAN Wai-ming expressed support for the work of SSPDO and suggested that apart from using the web-based platforms, event information could be disseminated through government resources to enhance publicity.

6. Ms LAU Pui-yuk expressed the following views: (i) was glad that the “Lighting Duet @Sham Shui Po” drew a considerable crowd of participants, and suggested holding activities with the theme of characteristic streets in collaboration with local shops to promote the economy; (ii) enquired whether the District-led Actions Scheme (“DAS”) could address the issues of unlicensed hawkers displaying their goods on the street ground and in the vehicles; and (iii) suggested that SSPDO should timely invite the partner organisations of the Signature Project Scheme to the Council meetings to introduce their work plans and services, so that Members could make appropriate referral for the needy.

7. The Chairman responded that: (i) the Home Affairs Department would post event information on social media platforms in a timely manner. He shared the same view for the need to strengthen publicity, and noted Members’ suggestion for SSPDO to create social media accounts. Due to limited resources, event promotion still largely relied on the assistance of stakeholders and cost-effective publicity methods would be explored; (ii) agreed that streets with special characteristics would be the direction of the discussion for the Working Group, and suggested selecting suitable streets for in-depth travel or citywalk; (iii) the contract renewal with Po Leung Kuk under the Signature Project Scheme was in process and the organisation’s work plan would be provided in due course; (iv) DAS under SSPDO mainly involved commissioning contractors for support services, while the street hawking issues had to be addressed by enforcement authorities; and (v) to facilitate the fire drill exercise by FEHD and Fire Services Department, SSPDO would notify the neighbouring residents and shops through various channels as early as possible to minimise impact, and Members were requested to assist in disseminating relevant information.

8. Mr LEUNG Ping-kin expressed the following views: (i) enquired about the effectiveness of the Building Management Professional Advisory Service Scheme and Phase 1 of the Household Smoke Detector Scheme, as well as the support to ethnic minorities and sub-divided unit (“SDU”) tenants under these schemes; (ii) suggested that the Working Group should explore economic activities with the theme on buildings with distinctive characteristics in the district; and (iii) enquired about the celebration focus for the 27th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special

Administrative Region (“HKSAR”) and the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China, so that Members and local organisations could better assist with event promotion and organisation, cultivating national awareness.

9. The Chairman responded that: (i) in Phase 1 of the Household Smoke Detectors Scheme, about 400 smoke detectors were installed for households in old buildings. For Phase 2, distribution of firefighting equipment to households was planned. The target service groups were mainly SDU households, and SSPDO would explore ways to enhance liaison and support for ethnic minorities; and (ii) service targets of the Building Management Professional Advisory Service Scheme were met at that stage. It was expected that more owners’ corporation (OCs) would be formed and SSPDO would provide assistance to new OCs to facilitate rationalisation of their daily operation.

10. Mr KWONG Ka-kuen provided additional details on the rate of service targets met: the target for forming OCs through SSPDO was exceeded, with 13 OCs formed; the target for procurement of third party risks insurance by three-nil buildings was over 200%; the target for building assessments and home visits were 100% met, with 81 assessment reports and 65 home visits; and the target for the recruitment of Resident Liaison Ambassadors was 82% achieved, with 107 Ambassadors recruited.

11. The Chairman said that SSPDO commissioned contractors under the DAS to provide one-off refuse removal and cleansing services for the common areas of three-nil buildings in a safe manner. However, due to lack of public access to the light wells or structural problems in some buildings, the services could not be provided. He expressed that the problem of refuse accumulation at light wells had existed for a long time, and SSPDO had been trying different approaches in the hope of changing the habitual behaviour of residents at source. Stakeholders were encouraged to give constructive views on this issue.

12. Mr Hanson WONG suggested that SSPDO should take the opportunity to display the national flag during large-scale activities like highlight events and “Night Vibes Hong Kong” events in the district, with the aim of enhancing public awareness of national identity.

13. Dr PONG Chiu-fai reflected that there was insufficient publicity for small and medium-sized activities, making it difficult to attract participation of citizens and tourists. He suggested that SSPDO should disseminate event information or posters to Members in advance for promotion, with a view to enhancing community cohesion.

14. The Chairman responded that (i) SSPDO would, as usual, organise regular celebration events for the establishment of the HKSAR; (ii) SSPDO was considering how to blend in the characteristics of Sham Shui Po with the events for the 75th Anniversary of the National Day, such as linking up with the fashion design competitions to be held in the fourth quarter of the year at the newly-opened Design and Fashion Base, or with the unique culture of fabric and knitting in Sham Shui Po district; and (iii) he recognised the need to strengthen public awareness of national identity, but reminded that legal compliance was required in the use of national flag to avoid negative effects.

(b) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department - Strategies and Work to Improve the Environmental Hygiene of Hong Kong (SSPDC Paper No. 12/2024)

15. Mr WAN Chi-shun introduced Paper No. 12/2024.

16. Mr CHAN Wai-ming expressed the following views: (i) expressed concern about the problem of illegal disposal of refuse and suggested that FEHD should step up enforcement in addition to publicity and education, specifically pointing out the accumulation of refuse on Un Chau Street and Wing Lung Street at night; and (ii) expressed concern about the unsatisfactory operation of Po On Road Market and suggested that FEHD should enhance the competitiveness of the market and help the tenants cope with the operational challenges.

17. Ms LAU Pui-yuk expressed the following views: (i) pointed out that hawker stalls in Sham Shui Po were mainly located in seven streets, and suggested having adequate communication with the hawker associations before conducting the fire drill to avoid confusion; (ii) enquired about FEHD support measures for the collection of refuse from three-nil buildings following the implementation of municipal solid waste charging (“MSW charging”), and expressed concern about the potential rodent infestation due to improper handling of refuse; and (iii) enquired about the details of FEHD’s trial scheme which allowed food premises to place large refuse containers at their rear lanes for temporary storage of refuse before collection.

18. Mr LEE Wing-man reflected that the rodent infestation in the district was still serious and suggested that FEHD should consolidate its resources to carry out trial schemes, such as distributing glue traps to the public, including three-nil buildings where FEHD had no right to access for rodent control and private buildings with OCs, with a view to coping with the peak period of the rodent infestation as early as possible.

19. Mr WAN Chi-shun gave a consolidated response: (i) to address the problem of refuse accumulation at night on Un Chau Street and Wing Lung Street, FEHD had deployed plain-clothes staff to take enforcement action against fly-tipping in that area. It was noted that the cleansing staff of some private refuse collection contractors would temporarily pile up the collected refuse at the roadside for collection by refuse collection vehicles. This was found to be causing misunderstanding. FEHD would strengthen communication with the contractors to improve the situation; (ii) FEHD had stepped up publicity for Po On Road Market during festivals, such as giving out souvenirs and Chinese New Year items. Po On Road Market was not an outdated design and its inclusion in the renovation plan had not been confirmed yet; (iii) FEHD was in discussion with FSD regarding the fire drill for hawker stalls, and would issue notices to hawker associations and notify the vendors once the date was confirmed. The purpose of the drill was to enhance the fire prevention awareness of vendors and to ensure the passage of fire engines through the streets with fixed hawker stalls within a reasonable period of time; (iv) upon the implementation of the MSW charging, three-nil building households would be required to use designated bags for refuse, and the existing 660-litre waste containers provided by FEHD near three-nil buildings would continue to be available, and the number of containers would be reviewed according to the actual situation; (v) there were eight rear lanes on the list of priority rodent black spots, and FEHD would strengthen anti-rodent efforts in collaboration with Members and the local community. There was a de-listing mechanism under which local community and other departments were invited to give feedback and streets would be removed from the list only when the rodent situation improved; and (vi) FEHD's anti-rodent work was targeted at public places, while technical support and advice would be provided for rodent control in private places. There was no measure in place to supply glue trap to the public. FEHD was very cautious about using glue trap, given the potential harm to other animals. Glue trap would only be used as an additional anti-rodent measure in selected indoor venues with serious rodent problems, such as public markets and refuse collection points.

20. Mr CHEUNG Tak-wai expressed the following views: (i) enquired about the effectiveness of the thermal cameras in the district and the factors considered when deciding where to install them; and (ii) raised the issue of street sleepers occupying the footbridge areas near Tonkin Street and Lai Tsui Court for the attention of the relevant departments.

21. Mr LEUNG Ping-kin expressed the following views: (i) suggested additional FEHD support to the three-nil buildings to avoid refuse accumulation in the light wells, which would affect the overall environmental hygiene of the community and cause rodent infestation; (ii) enquired about the effectiveness and work flow of the irregular

change of the camera locations in the districts, and suggested improving the efficiency of the practice to maintain the effectiveness of the measure; and (iii) FEHD's attention was drawn to the fact that the 660-litre waste containers near three-nil buildings were used not only by the residents but also by shops, resulting in them being frequently full.

22. Mr CHAN Lung-kit expressed the following views: (i) reflected the concern of Sham Shui Po residents about street hygiene, and suggested that departments should be more proactive in providing information and support to the public on MSW charging; and (ii) suggested FEHD provide other means to help address water seepage issues, as the public reflected that there was no further follow-up on the complaints if the initial seepage test result was not more than the specified moisture content.

23. Mr WAN Chi-shun gave a consolidated response that: (i) the initiative of thermal cameras was co-ordinated by the FEHD Headquarters, with 200 to 300 cameras placed in each district with serious rodent infestation to collect environmental data. The statistics obtained would be shared with the FEHD district offices for reference and comparison, constituting a clearer picture of the changes in rodent infestation figures; (ii) the situation of street sleepers and the related environmental hygiene was kept in view through close collaboration with SSPDO; (iii) efforts would be made to change the cameras to the most suitable location in a timely and expeditious manner for greater deterrent effect, alongside with enforcement actions in a bid to change the habitual behaviour of littering; (iv) the use of 660-litre waste containers for the three-nil buildings had been constantly monitored. Enhanced efforts would be made to educate the public if misuse was found, and additional waste containers would be considered in response to the demand; (v) publicity on MSW charging had been coordinated by the FEHD Headquarters; and (vi) FEHD staff would measure the moisture content of ceilings on site upon receiving requests from Joint Offices for the investigation of water seepage complaints ("JOs"). The cases would be filed if the moisture content measured 35% or above, based on the professional advice from the Buildings Department ("BD"). That was an established practice adopted by FEHD.

24. Mr Hanson WONG expressed the following views: (i) suggested increasing the number of waste separation bins in rear lanes as reports of insufficient bins were received from the public; and (ii) enquired about FEHD's measures to tackle the problem of flooding during rainy seasons.

25. Ms CHUNG Ching-may suggested a wider use of technology by FEHD apart from colour water testing to investigate the sources of water seepage, as well as additional resources from JOs to provide the public with more information that helped

resolve water seepage problems at an early stage.

26. Dr PONG Chiu-fai expressed the following views: (i) suggested that FEHD should work out methods to tackle hygiene black spots at source, such as allowing well-lit and spacious rear lanes to be used as passageways to increase pedestrian flow and reduce refuse accumulation; (ii) suggested that FEHD should look into the Mainland's practice of beautifying districts with community facilities; (iii) opined that thermal detectors were not helpful in solving the rodent problem in private premises and suggested that FEHD should co-operate with Members to distribute rodent disinfection kits to households or businesses in private premises, with a view to enhancing the anti-rodent motivation; and (iv) suggested that FEHD should co-operate with the building OCs to place video cameras in their light wells for greater deterrent effect.

27. Mr WAN Chi-shun gave a consolidated response that: (i) waste separation bins were managed by the Environmental Protection Department ("EPD"); (ii) FEHD was responsible for clearing debris on the surface of stormwater drains while accumulated debris at the drain bottom causing blockages was handled by the Highways Department and the Drainage Services Department; (iii) the BD was responsible for providing technical support to the JOs for case investigations and liaising with the contract service providers. It was noted that BD found infrared thermography and microwave tomography effective to obtain images for identifying the water seepage source, and would continue the application; (iv) the public could visit the Water Seepage Resource Centre at 4/F, Pei Ho Street Municipal Services Building for materials on water seepage causes; (v) FEHD would keep an eye on the compliance with requirements for doors, windows and rodent meshes in food premises; and (vi) FEHD had no plan to install video cameras in private premises.

(c) Report by Leisure and Cultural Services Department on Recreation and Sports Programmes for Sham Shui Po District in 2024-25 (SSPDC Paper No. 13/2024)

28. Ms LAM Pui-ling introduced Paper No. 13/2024.

29. Dr WONG Chung-leung suggested that the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD") should, before finalising the year-round programme, invite Members to participate in the formulation process such as observing and assessing specific programmes/activities with elements like Chinese culture and national education. He also enquired about the details of the district sports activities with local characteristics.

30. Mr Leo HO expressed concern about the maintenance and repair of the facilities in LCSD venues, and suggested that the Department should do a better job in recruiting lifeguards before the swimming season to avoid closure of swimming pools due to the lack of duty lifeguards.

31. Ms LAM Pui-ling responded that: (i) to ensure that the variety, quantity and quality of programmes could meet the expectations and needs of local residents, LCSD would take into account the district demographic changes, the demand for recreation and sports activities, the availability of facilities, the development direction of “Sport for All” and the views of DC, etc., in planning the district year-round programmes, so as to maintain the service standard; (ii) the feedback from the public and DC members were consistently collected in organising district recreational activities, and the implementation were closely monitored for appropriate adjustments; and (iii) regarding district sports activities with local characteristics, LCSD would develop and promote sport-specific activities based on factors like age distribution, geographical environment, community characteristics and supporting facilities. With Sham Shui Po district having comparatively more gateball sport facilities, such as the natural turf gateball courts in Lai Chi Kok Park, Sham Shui Po Park and Tai Hang Tung Recreation Ground, gateball had been a characteristic sport activity for the district. The 45 district sports activities mentioned in the paper include adult gateball training courses, gateball fun days, elderly gateball training courses and gateball competitions, etc.; (iv) LCSD staff would regularly inspect the usage of sports facilities, and would timely notify the works departments to follow up on the maintenance and repair works; and (v) apart from civil service lifeguards, LCSD also employed non-civil service contract lifeguards based on seasonal and operational needs to provide lifeguard service at its water sports facilities. Lifeguard recruitment was in progress and LCSD was stepping up publicity to ensure enough lifeguards could be recruited keep swimming pool facilities open.

32. Ms WU Sze-wan expressed the following views: (i) suggested LCSD provide in the paper the feedback from the participants on the qualifications of coaches and the contents of the programmes to reflect participants’ sense of well-being and level of satisfaction; and (ii) suggested including figures of the previous year for comparison to help indicate the reasons for any changes in the year-round programmes.

33. Ms KWOK Yin-lai expressed the following views: (i) suggested including in the paper the figures of the previous year for comparison; (ii) enquired about the contents of the programmes for the elderly, persons with disabilities and low-income earners; and (iii) enquired about the methods used for projecting the number of participants in various programmes.

34. Ms LAM Pui-ling gave a consolidated response: (i) LCSD would continue to organise a wide range of recreation and sports activities in the community, including “urban sports” for young people, such as 3-on-3 basketball, skateboarding and breaking, etc., with a view to encouraging the public to engage in regular exercise; (ii) the Department would formulate an annual programme of activities according to the demographic changes of the districts and adjust the number of such activities. The number of recreation and sports activities to be organised in the coming year would be 16 more than that of last year, and the additional items would mainly include fitness training courses, parent-child badminton fun day, hiking scheme, etc.; and (iii) activities for the elderly include hydro-fitness exercise, Tai Chi, social dance and table tennis, etc.

35. Mr Hanson WONG suggested that the LCSD should promote more new sports, such as roundnet and molkky. Requiring less equipment and being simple to operate, these sports were suitable for the elderly and were also popular among young people.

36. Ms LAM Pui-ling responded that LCSD took note of members’ views, including the suggestions on the promotion of new sports, etc.

(d) Housing Department District Plan for Sham Shui Po 2024/2025 (SSPDC Paper No. 14/2024)

37. Ms Iris MAK introduced Paper No. 14/2024.

38. Mr CHAN Wai-ming expressed the following views: (i) reflecting residents’ comments that door bells of public rental housing (“PRH”) flats were often broken, enquired whether it was due to material problems and whether support would be provided to elderly households for repairing door bells; (ii) suggested introducing smart access control systems in PRH estates to reduce manpower; and (iii) enquired whether the Housing Department (HD) would assign a reference number to each request for assistance and record the complete information so as to facilitate follow-up actions by the residents.

39. Mr Leo HO expressed the following views: (i) enquired whether HD would step up publicity on the tenant-to-pay (“TTP”) repair items and items which HD is responsible under the Total Maintenance Scheme for PRH estates so as to avoid misunderstanding by the residents; (ii) suggested that HD should provide maintenance assistance to the elderly singletons and families of elderly doubletons; (iii) suggested that HD should provide a regular channel of communication so as to facilitate the local

District Council members or the Care Teams in expressing their views and keeping themselves informed of HD's items and developments; (iv) enquired whether HD would consider providing rent assistance under the "Trial Scheme on Full Rent Exemption for Elderly Under-occupation Households" (the "Scheme") for elderly households which were not under the category of "under-occupation households"; and (v) enquired about the number of Notices-to-Quit issued by HD to combat PRH tenancy abuse.

40. Ms Iris MAK gave a consolidated response: (i) HD would be responsible for repairing the facilities in the flats if they were subject to natural wear and tear; if they were subject to man-made damages, the tenants would be charged for the repair costs. If tenants had maintenance needs, they could report to the estate office for sending staff to carry out repairs; (ii) HD was studying the Smart Access Control System and would reflect Members' views to the relevant sections of HD; (iii) HD had a computerised system to follow up on tenants' cases, and tenants would be issued with numbered receipts after inputting their case information into the system to facilitate future enquiries. HD would remind colleagues and/or management companies to make sure that they use the system for record-keeping purposes; (iv) notices on TTP repair items had been posted at the ground floor lobbies of the blocks and estate offices, and colleagues would be reminded to post the notices at conspicuous places; and (v) HD would continue to communicate with the local District Council members and the Care Teams.

41. Ms WU Wanqiu expressed the following views: (i) suggested strengthening the guidelines and training for contractors on home maintenance; (ii) suggested integrating technology under the Drainage Enhancement Programme to detect the problem of ageing drains for timely replacement; (iii) suggested improving or replacing baits to enhance the effectiveness of rodent prevention and control; (iv) there were cases which the elderly had waited for a long time for transfer and had continued to live in a cramped environment, which the situation was unsatisfactory; and (v) suggested that HD should consider setting aside funds under the Scheme as an incentive for the elderly to move out.

42. Ms WU Sze-wan expressed the following views: (i) agreed to the introduction of innovative technologies to assist in the day-to-day management of PRH estates; (ii) she suggested making reference to the property management industry in the Mainland in the use of technologies such as robots, Bluetooth, face recognition, etc., to make up for the shortage of manpower; and (iii) as regards the upcoming MSW charging, the Mainland had been practising waste separation for many years, and it was suggested that reference should be made to the practice of the Mainland in property management

to help residents adapt to such a large-scale scheme.

43. Ms KWOK Yin-lai enquired whether HD had made arrangements in PRH estates to cope with MSW charging.

44. Ms Iris MAK gave a consolidated response: (i) in recent years, HD had concerned about the use of baits for rodent prevention and control and encouraged contractors to change baits from time to time, which was quite effective; (ii) upon successful transfer under the Scheme, eligible tenants would be offered a one-off Domestic Removal Allowance on top of the full rent exemption to alleviate the burden on tenants; (iii) HD had been liaising and co-operating with EPD to introduce various environmental pilot schemes and publicity activities to promote “Use Less, Waste Less” and enhanced residents’ awareness of waste reduction and source separation. HD had commenced preparatory work for MSW charging, such as enclosing junk collection points in PRH estates, installing CCTV system at junk collection points and/or hygiene black spots, deploying staff to attend the EPD’s seminars on statutory requirements and guidelines, discussing with relevant service contractors in advance on the arrangements for additional manpower to cope with the Scheme, as well as complementing the EPD’s rolling out of the expansion programme of installing food waste smart recycling bins (“FWSRBs”) in PRH estates. The target was to cover all PRH estates in Hong Kong.

45. Ms CHUM Pik-wa expressed the following views: (i) when District Council members or local organisations were aware of cases of child abuse and domestic violence in PRH estates and wished to intervene, HD would often not disclose the information of the flats concerned, and therefore, it was hoped that HD could co-operate with government departments on various aspects, so as to enable timely handling of cases and avoid the occurrence of unfortunate incidents; (ii) it was reflected that quite a number of promotional and even preaching activities claimed to had approved by HD were found in PRH estates , causing nuisance to the residents, and therefore expected HD to join hands with other government departments and local organisations to enhance residents’ awareness through publicity; (iii) suggested that HD should co-operate with the local community and members of the Care Teams to organise consultation sessions or increase publicity activities on MSW charging, and add display boards on the details of MSW charging in the estate offices; and (iv) suggested that HD should communicate with the tenants of Lai Kok Shopping Centre to open up convenient access to the Caritas Elderly Centre - Lai Kok on 3/F of Lai Ho House to avoid the need for the elderly to use staircases and ramps to reach there.

46. Mr Hanson WONG enquired (i) whether HD had examined with the cleansing

contractors the work arrangements after the implementation of MSW charging; and (ii) whether HD had discussed with the outsourced managers on how to deal with the operational problems of the FWSRBs in the estates, such as the lack of manpower to dispose of the overloaded FWSRBs, the piling up of food waste at the side, and the frequent breakdown of the FWSRBs.

47. Ms CHUNG Ching-may enquired about the number of surplus flats for sale in the two Sham Shui Po estates under the Tenants Purchase Scheme (“TPS”) and the strategy of HD in attracting tenants to buy flats.

48. Ms CHEN Lihong expressed the following views: (i) reflecting residents’ request for setting up a refuse collection point in Sham Shui Po East; (ii) reflecting that public toilets in PRH estates had hygiene problems and dilapidated facilities and enquiring whether there would be any refurbishment programme; and (iii) enquiring whether there would be any measures to arrange for the transfer of elderly people living in lift-less floors who were willing to be transferred to smaller flats within the same estate so as to facilitate their adaptation.

49. Ms Iris MAK gave a consolidated response: (i) on the provision of residents’ information, HD had to strike a balance in protecting the personal data privacy of PRH tenants. In fact, the Department had been liaising and co-operating with relevant government departments, such as the Social Welfare Department, to provide appropriate assistance and services to tenants in need; (ii) there were noticeboards at the ground floor lobbies of all blocks in PRH estates where notices about MSW charging and related information were posted; (iii) there should be a lift near the Caritas Elder Centre – Lai Kok, and would ask the relevant colleagues of the estate to contact the Member to understand the situation; (iv) as the cleansing industry was most affected by MSW charging, HD had discussed with the estate cleansing service contractors in advance on the manpower and other arrangements to be made; (v) the staff concerned would be urged to step up the cleansing of the FWSRBs; and (vi) in case there were vacant flats from TPS estates, HD would freeze the letting of recovered flats and sell them after refurbishment. Nam Cheong Estate and Lei Cheng Uk Estate were both TPS estates with about 10% to 20% of the flats currently occupied by tenants, i.e. about 80% of the flats in these two estates had been sold; (vii) all public toilets in PRH estates under HD’s purview would be refurbished by HD; and (viii) HD may, according to tenants’ needs and preference, arrange for transfer to suitable flats with lifts to the floors. In general, HD would endeavour to arrange internal transfer as far as possible, taking into account the preference of the tenants. However, if no suitable flat was available in the estate, the tenants would be advised to consider transferring to other estates.

Item 3: Opinions Collected by Members on “Making Good Use of Public Spaces and Idle Sites in the District” (SSPDC Paper No. 15/ 2024)

50. The Chairman introduced Paper No. 15/2024. He thanked Members for collecting public views in various forms and invited five of them to give a briefing.

51. Mr CHAN Wai-ming expressed the following views: (i) the number of ethnic minority families in the district had been increasing in recent years. It was suggested that the provision of play area, such as cricket ground, in the vacant passageways underneath the flyovers would be conducive to the promotion of social integration; (ii) it was suggested that the old single-storey community halls and community centres which had good geographical locations be re-planned and redeveloped in accordance with the principle of “single site, multiple use”, which would be conducive to releasing more space for activities in the long run; (iii) it was suggested that the community halls and community centres be utilised for organising job fairs for young people, providing support on gerontechnology, and organising community performances and competitions, so as to enhance the residents’ sense of belonging to the community; (iv) suggested the organisation of thematic bazaars at the Cheung Sha Wan Promenade in the evenings of holidays to attract visitors; and (v) organised bazaars or activities with community characteristics in the public space of the large shopping malls adjoining the MTR stations to foster collaboration with the business sector and to promote the development of the community.

52. Mr Leo HO expressed the following views: (i) suggested converting the ageing and under-utilised playground equipment in the district into inclusive play equipment; (ii) suggested providing pet-friendly facilities and special “check-in” spots in the park, e.g. collaborating with local comics artists to adopt cartoon characters as the theme; (iii) suggested arranging decorations of the park according to the seasons or festivals to enhance the festive ambience; (iv) suggested the optimal use of open space outside the community hall and community centre, e.g. consolidating the car park site at the back entrance of the Cheung Sha Wan Community Centre, and using one part as a car park with fencing, and the other part for additional outdoor leisure facilities or sports venues; (v) suggested that government departments and community organisations should jointly organise sports activities or competitions for students at community halls or community centres, so as to enable young people in the district to have more exposure to sports activities, which were beneficial to both body and mind; and (vi) suggested converting the premises of the closed school at Kwong Lee Road, Cheung Sha Wan, into a large-scale cultural, recreational and sports centre with parking spaces or a rest garden, so as to provide more leisure and sports facilities for the residents.

53. Ms WU Sze-wan expressed the following views on the unused land: (i) simple installations were proposed to be erected in the open space outside the Lai Chi Kok Park Swimming Pool for use as a street performance venue with designated leisure areas; (ii) a gateball court with lower height requirement was proposed to be provided underneath the bridge on Ching Cheung Road opposite to Nob Hill; (iii) the headroom of the flyover at Tung Chau Street fronting the D2 Place at Liberte was relatively high, and it was proposed to be used for a 3-on-3 basketball court or 5-a-side football pitch; and (iv) mirror installation was proposed to be installed underneath the flyover for beautification through light and shadow effects to attract the public to “check in”.

54. Ms CHUNG Ching-may expressed the following views on the two idle sites at Cornwall Street Park located in front of Exit H of the East Rail Line and outside the Squash and Table Tennis Centre respectively: (i) suggested organising thematic activities such as bazaars, carnivals, mini-performances, sharing sessions, etc., as well as arts and cultural activities such as street performances, arts fairs, etc.; (ii) suggested providing additional covered walkways and facilities for children; (iii) suggested stepping up anti-mosquito efforts; (iv) suggested improving the smoking problem in the open space in front of the MTR exits; (v) indicated that the open space in front of the MTR exits was sometimes used by youths for street performances and suggested designating part of the area for street arts performances at specific times; and (vi) suggested co-organising bazaars, small-scale performances, flash mob “check in” activities, etc. with schools, the City University of Hong Kong, or shopping malls in the district.

55. Mr LO Chi-chiu expressed the following views: (i) considered that the attractiveness of community halls and community centres to young people should be enhanced, and suggested organising different types of courses and workshops, such as street dance, modern dance, instrumental performance, board game battles, e-sports competitions, etc., and forums, exhibitions, concerts, etc. could also be organised in conjunction with youth associations, as well as conducting regular surveys on young people’s satisfaction with and views on the activities so as to enhance the contents of the activities. This would help enhance young people’s sense of belonging to the community; and (ii) reflected that most members of the public were not clear about how to rent idle site, it was proposed that the procedures be streamlined for the convenience of the public.

56. Ms HO Po-chu responded that (i) an outdoor 7-a-side hard-surface football pitch was available in Lai Chi Kok Park (Stage III) for booking and simple cricket activities; (ii) groups or organisations were welcome to apply for hiring the LCSD venues for holding different activities, e.g. an organisation had earlier hired the Cheung Sha Wan

Promenade to hold a carnival, which also featured singing performances and instrumental music sessions. She added that applicant organisations were required to submit their applications to LCSD two months prior to the event so that LCSD could consult the relevant government departments on the applications and process the applications; (iii) LCSD would brief the District Facilities and Works Committee on its transformation project on public play spaces of Shun Ning Road Recreation Ground at its meeting on 21 March, and Members' views were welcome; (iv) noted the proposal of setting up "check in" spots in the parks in the district to attract visitors, and that decorations would be added at appropriate locations; and (v) took note of the suggestion of providing additional covered walkways and children's facilities, etc. in the Cornwall Street Park.

57. The Chairman responded that (i) non-governmental organisations could apply to the Lands Department for renting idle government sites on short-term tenancies, but some vacant spaces in the district did not fall into the above category, for example, the space underneath the flyover at Tung Chau Street, which was adjacent to the Sham Shui Po Design and Fashion Project, which was a FEHD site and would not be open to the public to apply for its use, whereas the earlier activities held underneath the flyover were organised under the mode of use in which SSPDO was the organiser. The circumstances of individual idle sites varied and it was not possible to standardise the application mechanism; and (ii) suggested that Ms WU should explore the possibility of organising singing performances in the open space outside the Lai Chi Kok Park Swimming Pool to tie in with the theme of the site being formerly known as the Lai Yuen Amusement Park.

58. The Chairman's conclusion: (i) thanked Members for putting forward various proposals on optimising the use of public space and idle land in the district, reflecting that different locations in the district had different development potentials; (ii) suggested that proposals with fewer changes, such as beautifying the space underneath flyovers, could be implemented as a start; (iii) agreed that more community activities should be organised in the public space adjoining the large-scale shopping malls, e.g. SSPDO would soon organise a bazaar in collaboration with D2 Place and V Walk, which would not only help increase visitors but also boost the local economy; and (iv) agreed that "single site, multiple use" was a long-term development goal. Although there was no plan to redevelop the community halls and centres in the districts at the moment, the suggestion of maximising the plot ratio of the sites so as to release more space for activities was still worthy of reference.

Item 4: To Study Issues of District Concern and Collection of Public Opinions (SSPDC Paper No. 16/ 2024)

59. Assistant District Officer 2 introduced Paper No. 16/2024.

60. The Chairman concluded that the study of itineraries of in-depth travel with special characteristic in the district was a long-term plan, and suggested that Members should co-operate and unleash their creativity and imagination in devising a number of itineraries of in-depth travel. Members who were familiar with different areas in the district could also co-operate with each other to integrate the diversified characteristics of the district, which were a blend of the old and the new, to unleash the potentials of the Sham Shui Po district in order to attract more tourists.

Item 5: Reports of Committees and Working Group Directly under the SSPDC (SSPDC Paper No. 16/ 2024)

- (a) District Facilities and Works Committee
- (b) Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee
- (c) Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee
- (d) Traffic and Transport Committee
- (e) Housing, Planning and Social Welfare Committee
- (f) Youth, Community Development and Innovation Committee
- (g) Working Group on Boosting Local Economy

61. The meeting noted and approved the contents of the above report.

Item 6: Any Other Business

62. There were no other issues raised by Members.

Item 7: Date of Next Meeting:

63. The next meeting would be held at 9:30 am. on 7 May 2024 (Tuesday).

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

District Council Secretariat
Sham Shui Po District Office
April 2024