

EXTRACT**立法會****Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(2)1102/05-06

(These minutes have been cleared with the Convenor)

Ref : CB2/DC/KS/05

**Minutes of LegCo Members' Meeting with
Kwai Tsing District Council Members
on Thursday, 8 December 2005 at 10:45 am
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building**

Members Present : Hon LEE Wing-tat (Convenor)
Hon Margaret NG
Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH

Attendance by invitation : **Kwai Tsing District Council members**

Mr LEUNG Wing-kuen (Vice-chairman)
Mr LAI Siu-tong
Mr LAM Kin-ko
Mr LAM Siu-fai
Ms LO Wai-lan
Ms POON Siu-ping, Nancy
Ms TAM Wai-chun
Mr TSUI Sang-hung, Sammy
Mr WONG Chi-kwan, MH
Mr WONG Yiu-chung

Staff in attendance : Mrs Percy MA
Chief Council Secretary (2)3

Ms Amy YU
Council Secretary (2)3

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II. When to implement the construction of recreational facilities in Area 9H in Tai Pak Tin Street, Kwai Chung

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9. Mr LAM Siu-fai said that residents in the district and K&TDC had been campaigning for the provision of recreational facilities at the site of Area 9H for years. However, to the great dissatisfaction of residents, the site had been left derelict for twenty odd years. Mr LAM informed Members that while the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) had recently indicated its intention to provide recreational facilities in Area 9H, HD had only indicated that it would defer the development of public housing at the site but had not confirmed whether it would deliver over the whole site for the construction of recreational facilities. He urged LegCo Members to discuss the development of Area 9H with LCSD and HD with a view to expediting the construction of recreational facilities at the site for use of residents, so as to put precious land resources into effective use.

10. Mr LAI Siu-tong said that recreational facilities in Area 9H could benefit residents in a number of estates, such as Shek Lei, Shek Yam and On Yam. The site had however been left idle, which was very unfair to those residents. He pointed out that while the progress of the matter had been delayed by HD, he also doubted whether LCSD could secure sufficient resources to construct in Area 9H the recreational facilities that residents had been hoping for. Mr LAI hoped that Members could help to break the current deadlock and assist the residents to get the resources required for the provision of recreational facilities at the site as soon as possible.

11. Hon Mrs Selina CHOW considered that first of all, it was necessary to find out whether LCSD had sufficient resources to construct in Area 9H the recreational facilities requested by the residents. She said that if LCSD did not put forward a plan for development of recreational facilities for the whole site, it would be difficult for HD to make a decision on whether it should abandon the plan to develop public housing at the site.

12. Mr LEUNG Wing-kuen advised that prior to the dissolution of the former Municipal Councils, the site in Area 9H had been reserved solely for the development of an indoor recreation centre. However, the plan had subsequently been changed to incorporate the development of both public housing and an indoor recreation centre at the site. The residents opposed the development of public housing in Area 9H. Although HD had deferred the plan to develop public housing in Area 9H, it had not undertaken to abandon it. He was of the view that HD should first be requested to indicate as soon as possible whether it would agree to return the whole site to LCSD, and K&TDC should then discuss with LCSD the implementation plan for the provision of recreational facilities at the site.

13. Mr LAM Siu-fai supplemented that K&TDC passed a motion at the meeting on 8 September 2005 requesting HD to abandon the public housing development plan in Area 9H. He informed Members that some K&TDC members had recently requested that the proposed indoor recreation centre should be replaced with outdoor recreational facilities such as jogging tracks,

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pebble paths for the elderly and a basketball court. In response to the motion, LCSD had planned to provide outdoor recreational facilities in the Area. LCSD had indicated that if HD agreed to deliver over to LCSD the relevant piece of land in the Area, LCSD would consult the District Council (DC) members concerned on the proposed outdoor recreational facilities as soon as possible. Mr LAM pointed out that as far as the residents were concerned, having some outdoor recreational facilities in the Area was better than leaving the land idle for a long time.

14. Mr LAI Siu-tong, however, expressed reservations about the proposed provision of outdoor recreational facilities such as a basketball court and pebble paths in Area 9H. He pointed out that outdoor tennis courts and basketball courts were already available near Area 9H in Shek Lei. Besides, a similar proposal was rejected two years ago. Mr LAI was of the view that they should continue to strive for the construction of an indoor recreation centre, which was what the residents had long hoped for.

15. Mr TSUI Sang-hung said that given that the Government Bureau concerned was following up the outstanding LCS projects of the former Municipal Councils and there had been improvements in the Government's financial deficit, he suggested that LCSD should first be approached to see whether it had sufficient resources to construct an indoor recreation centre. If this was indeed not feasible, other options would be acceptable.

16. Hon WONG Kwok-hing remarked that the best way to deal with the case was to convene a case conference with the two government departments concerned. Members present agreed that the case should be referred to the Complaints Division for follow-up.

Complaints
Division

VI. The development of Kwai Chung Park

35. Mr LEUNG Wing-kuen said that the development of Kwai Chung Park had been delayed for twenty odd years. The site earmarked for the Kwai Chung Park was on the Gin Drinkers Bay Landfill which had been closed for years. Because of the potential hazards of pollution and methane at the landfill, the development of Kwai Chung Park had once been shelved. After the restoration work by the Environmental Protection Department, the site was now suitable for recreational uses. However, according to LCSD, as the development of the whole park involved substantial resources, priority could not be accorded to the project for the time being. Mr LEUNG hoped that Members could help the residents to seek the resources needed to develop the park so that the site would not continue to be left derelict.

36. The Convenor informed the meeting that when the aftercare work of Gin Drinkers Bay Landfill was discussed at the meeting of LegCo's Panel on Environmental Affairs, the Administration advised that LCSD was currently considering to develop part of Kwai Chung Park as a minor works item. Some

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basic facilities such as lighting and seating would be built so that part of the park could be made available for public use as soon as possible.

37. Ms LO Wai-lan said that LCSD would hold a meeting with the Recreation and Culture Committee of K&TDC in that afternoon to discuss the scope of the project in view of the cap of \$15 million, being funding cost for each minor works item. Ms LO emphasized that the development of the park had been delayed for some twenty years and the Government should implement the development plan for the whole park as soon as possible. Mr LEUNG Wing-kuen shared the views of Ms LO and hoped that the whole Kwai Chung Park could be made available for public use.

Convenor

38. The Convenor said that when the Administration submitted the Gin Drinkers Bay Landfill aftercare work project to LegCo's Public Works Subcommittee for consideration, he would take the opportunity to reflect to the Administration DC members' views on the development of Kwai Chung Park and their keen expectation for the early opening of the whole park.

(Post-meeting note : A Subcommittee was set up under the Panel on Home Affairs in March 2005 to monitor follow-up actions taken by the Government in respect of the outstanding LCS projects of the two former Municipal Councils. 74 of these projects, including "Area 9H in Tai Pak Tin Street" and "Kwai Chung Park", were under further review. Since the Administration was currently consulting the District Councils on these 74 projects, the Convenor agreed after the meeting that the Secretariat should refer the views expressed at the meeting on items II and VI to the Subcommittee and the Administration for consideration.)

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