立法會 Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)2492/09-10 (These minutes have been seen by the Administration)

Ref: CB1/SS/9/09

Subcommittee on Country Parks (Designation) (Consolidation) (Amendment) Order 2010

Minutes of the first meeting held on Tuesday, 22 June 2010, at 10:45 am in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building

Members present: Hon Tanya CHAN (Chairman)

Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan Hon IP Wai-ming, MH Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip

Members absent: Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee, GBS, JP

Hon CHAN Hak-kan

Public Officers attending

Agenda item II

Mr Joseph SHAM Chun-hung

Assistant Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and

Conservation

Dr Ellen CHAN Ying-lung

Assistant Director of Environmental Protection

Mr Lawrence LAU Ming-ching

Principal Environmental Protection Officer Environmental Protection Department

Miss Vivien LI Chim-wing Senior Administrative Officer

Environmental Protection Department

Ms Lonnie NG Wah-chi Senior Government Counsel Department of Justice

Clerk in attendance: Ms Debbie YAU

Chief Council Secretary (1)6

Staff in attendance: Mr KAU Kin-wah

Assistant Legal Adviser 6

Ms Angel SHEK

Senior Council Secretary (1)1

Action

I Election of Chairman

Miss Tanya CHAN was elected Chairman of the Subcommittee.

II Meeting with the Administration

(L.N. 72 of 2010 -- Country Parks (Designation)

(Consolidation) (Amendment) Order 2010 (the Amendment

Order)

Ref.: EP CR 9/25/15 -- Legislative Council Brief issued

by Environmental Protection
Department and Agriculture,
Fisheries and Conservation

Department

LC Paper No. CB(1)2283/09-10(01) -- Information paper provided by the

Administration

LC Paper No. CB(1)2283/09-10(02) -- Background brief prepared by the

Legislative Council Secretariat

LC Paper No. LS71/09-10 -- Legal Service Division Report

LC Paper No. CB(1)2283/09-10(03) -- Marked-up copy of the

Amendment Order prepared by the

Legal Service Division)

Action - 3 -

2. <u>The Subcommittee</u> deliberated (Index of proceedings attached at **Appendix**).

Follow-up actions

- 3. <u>The Subcommittee</u> requested the Administration to provide the following information: -
 - (a) complaint statistics of the past three years (i.e. 2007-2008 to 2009-2010) in relation to the South East New Territories (SENT) Landfill, with breakdown by the number, subject, and timing of the complaints made in each year; and the corresponding enhancement measures for the landfill facility taken in response to the complaints, with the timing for implementation and commissioning, as well as analysis of the effectiveness of these measures with reference to the trend of respective figures of complaint made in the subsequent periods;
 - (b) insecticides and pesticides used at the landfills for mosquitoes and flies control for the past three years, if available, together with assessment of impacts, if any, of these insecticides and pesticides on nearby residents and marine ecology;
 - (c) records on existing odour monitoring at SENT Landfill for the past three years, if available, in particular the results of odour patrols conducted independently together with input from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and detection results of e-noses, including the timing of data collection and the respective weather conditions including wind speed, wind directions and humidity;
 - (d) timeline of the life cycle of the 13 closed landfills, i.e. from opening, closing, restoration works, ground settlement, environmental monitoring to re-opening for beneficial afteruses;
 - (e) time table and progress of development of the Integrated Waste Management Facilities as well as various programmes to promote recycling of waste; and
 - (f) whether the design capacity of the Organic Waste Treatment Facilities (OWTF) under planning could cope with the projected daily amount of food waste generated from the commercial and industrial sector, and if not, the reasons for not enhancing the design capacity to meet the demand. The Administration was requested to brief Subcommittee members on the development of OWTF at a future meeting.
- 4. <u>The Administration</u> was also requested to discuss with the dedicated working group on odour control set up under the Sai Kung District Council (SKDC) more attractive compensatory measures for the betterment of the district to compensate the

encroachment of the SENT Landfill extension upon the Clear Water Bay Country Park.

5. The Subcommittee agreed to conduct a site visit to the SENT Landfill to enable members to better understand the Administration's odour control and other enhancement measures taken at the landfill. SKDC members would be invited to join the site visit. The Secretariat would inform Subcommittee members of the details after the meeting.

(*Post-meeting note*: With the concurrence of the Chairman, the site visit was scheduled for Monday, 26 July 2010, at 2:30 pm. Members were informed of the detailed arrangements on 25 June 2010 vide LC Paper No. CB(1) 2346/09-10.)

6. <u>The Subcommittee</u> also requested the Research and Library Service Division of the Legislative Council Secretariat to prepare a paper on whether the presence of the SENT Landfill was mentioned in the sales brochures of the residential properties built near the facility.

Invitation of public views and date of next meeting

7. <u>Members</u> agreed to invite the public to give views to the Subcommittee and meet with deputations on Tuesday, 13 July 2010, at 4:30 pm in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building. <u>The Subcommittee</u> also agreed that if necessary, an additional meeting to receive views from deputations would be held on Friday, 23 July 2010, at 2:30 pm.

Extension of scrutiny period

8. <u>Members</u> noted that the Chairman would move a motion at the Council meeting on 30 June 2010 to extend the scrutiny period of the Amendment Order to the first Council meeting of the 2010-2011 session, i.e. 13 October 2010.

III Any other business

9. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:20 pm.

Council Business Division 1
<u>Legislative Council Secretariat</u>
12 July 2010

Proceedings of the first meeting of the Subcommittee on Country Parks (Designation) (Consolidation) (Amendment) Order 2010 on Tuesday, 22 June 2010, at 10:45 am in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building

| Time marker | Speaker | Subject(s) | Action required |
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| 000000 – 000150 | Mr WONG Yung-kan Ms Cyd HO Ms Emily LAU Miss Tanya CHAN | Election of Chairman | |
| 000151 000516 | Chairman Ms Emily LAU Clerk | Invitation of public views | |
| 000517 – 000624 | Chairman Mr WONG Yung-kan | Extension of scrutiny period | |
| 000625 - 001719 | Chairman Administration | The Administration briefed the Subcommittee on the Country Parks (Designation) (Consolidation) (Amendment) Order 2010 (EP CR 9/25/15 and CB(1)2283/09-10(01)), and emphasized that the number of complaints from the local residents about odour emissions from the existing South East New Territories (SENT) Landfill had decreased after implementation of odour control enhancement measures, at a cost of \$50 million, at the landfill. The district inter-departmental working group convened by the District Officer (Sai Kung) had been coordinating the joint efforts of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), Home Affairs Department, Highways Department, Lands Department, Drainage Services Department in odour abatement. The Administration would also meet regularly with the Sai Kung District Council (SKDC) and management companies of the industrial estates and residential developments in the landfill vicinity to hear their concerns. | |
| 001720 – 002341 | Chairman Mr Albert CHAN Administration | Mr Albert CHAN considered that apart from odour abatement, the Administration should also put in place effective pest control measures at the landfill to eliminate flies and other pests. The Administration responded that — (a) to control odour emissions from the SENT Landfill, the active tipping area of the facility was limited to | The Administration to provide the information as requested in paragraph 3(a) and (b) of the minutes. |
| | | about 30 metres by 40 metres, which would be covered immediately after each disposal, with an additional cover on top in the evenings to minimize exposure of dumped waste and hence their environmental impact. Non-active areas, | |

| Time marker | Speaker | Subject(s) | Action required |
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| | | covering about 70% of the whole SENT Landfill, were sealed by impermeable plastic landfill liners. Subcommittee members were welcome to visit the landfill to gain a better understanding of the effectiveness of the odour control measures; and (b) on pest control, insecticides and pesticides were applied at the SENT Landfill and other operating landfills in the territory, and FEHD used to conduct regular inspections at the three strategic landfills to check that measures were in place to prevent the breeding of flies and other pests. Mr CHAN and the Chairman requested the Administration to provide the information as requested in paragraph 3(a) and (b) of the minutes. | |
| | | Mr CHAN also requested the Research and Library Services Division (R&LSD) of the Legislative Council (LegCo) Secretariat to prepare a paper on whether the presence of SENT Landfill was mentioned in the sales brochures of the residential properties built near the landfill. | R&LSD to provide the information as requested in paragraph 6 of the minutes. |
| 002342 – 003304 | Chairman Mr KAM Nai-wai Administration | Mr KAM Nai-wai expressed disappointment that the Administration appeared to be more proactive in implementing the mitigation measures in order to solicit support for the proposed SENT Landfill extension, but had not put in place these measures and monitored their effectiveness continuously. Mr KAM suggested that a site visit be conducted to the facility. | |
| | | The Administration responded that the landfill operator was required to carry out environmental monitoring as stipulated in the contract. Odour patrols were independently conducted twice daily in accordance with the relevant contract, and the odour panelists were professionally trained to conduct the odour patrols, with input from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (HKPU). Each of two e-noses was installed at the SENT Landfill and a housing estate in Tseung Kwan O (TKO) town centre respectively to enhance the objectivity in detecting odour and emission source. | |
| | | At the request of Mr KAM, the Administration agreed to provide records on existing odour monitoring at SENT Landfill for the past three years, if available, in particular the results of odour patrols and detection results of e-noses. | |
| 003305 – 004723 | Chairman Ms Emily LAU Administration | Ms Emily LAU highlighted the frequent complaints from the local residents about the persistent odour nuisance from the SENT Landfill, and queried how the findings of e-noses would be concluded if they were | The Administration to take follow up action as |

| Time marker | Speaker | Subject(s) | Action required |
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| | | different from those detected by the local residents. The Administration explained the operation and technology of e-nose which was put to trial implementation at the SENT Landfill taking into account SKDC's request. The device could be calibrated to identify specific chemical components of the odour(s) emitted from the landfill. Nevertheless, the Administration would still make reference to reports from local residents and the data collected by human noses during odour patrols. If necessary, it would conduct visits to the residents' homes to follow up on complaints. | requested in paragraph 4 and of the minutes. |
| | | Ms LAU doubted whether the measures recommended in paragraph 9 of EP CR 9/25/15 could adequately "compensate" the excision of the 5 ha land from CWBCP. She suggested the Administration discuss with SKDC more attractive compensatory measures for the betterment of the district, such as provision of more recreational amenities, and put in place more effective odour control measures at the SENT Landfill. Ms LAU said that it would be difficult for members to support the proposed SENT Landfill extension if SKDC remained unsupportive of the proposal. | |
| | | (a) on the suggestion of area-for-area compensation, the Administration had identified two sites, i.e. Siu Chik Sha in the vicinity of CWBCP and Razor Hill near Po Lam Estate. However, considering the inaccessibility of the site at Siu Chik Sha situated on a slope, it would not render much recreational value until after it was relegated to CWBCP together with the adjacent landfill area subsequent to restoration. While the site at Razor Hill had some aesthetic value, its proximity to a number of old tombs deemed it difficult to build roads for accessing the area. As such, these sites were considered unsuitable for addition to the CWBCP, which Country and Marine Parks Board (CMPB) also agreed after thorough consideration. Nevertheless, the total area of country parks in the territory was on the increase; and | |
| | | (b) the Administration had regularly updated SKDC on the environmental monitoring of the landfill. It would consult the dedicated working group on odour monitoring set up under SKDC on the compensatory measures, such as expediting the provision of recreational facilities at a closed landfill site near the LOHAS Park. In this connection, Ms LAU suggested that SKDC, in | |

| Time | Speaker | - 4 - Subject(s) | Action |
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| marker | Брешке | particular the working group on odour monitoring, be invited to join LegCo Members in visiting the SENT Landfill. | required |
| 004724-005805 | Chairman Mr IP Wai Ming Administration | Mr IP Wai-ming doubted the effectiveness of using only two e-noses in detecting different components of the odour emitted from the landfill, and considered it more practical to gauge the views of local residents in assessing the odour impact. Mr IP requested that the detection results of e-noses to be provided by the Administration should also include the timing of data collection and the respective weather conditions including wind speed, wind directions and humidity. | |
| | | The Administration emphasized that while the e-noses served as a means for monitoring odour, the Administration would continue to make reference to the reports from local residents and data collected during the odour patrols, and take follow-up actions accordingly. | |
| | | Mr IP queried the sustainability of the SENT Landfill extension by excising just 5 ha of land from CWBCP for the purpose. The Administration clarified that the SENT Landfill extension covered 50 ha in total, including 30 ha of piggy-backing over the existing landfill, 15 ha of the adjoining TKO Area 137, and an encroachment of the 5 ha of land of CWBCP. This proposal would maximize landfill space and achieve the targeted capacity which could serve up to six years, and only four years if the 5 ha of land of CWBCP was excluded. The extended landfill area would only commence operation after the existing SENT Landfill had approached its capacity by around 2013-2014 or later depending on the effectiveness of waste reduction and recovery in the territory. | |
| | | Mr IP pointed out that the closed landfill site adjacent to the LOHAS Park was near the SENT Landfill, and the environmental and odour nuisance from the latter might affect the patronage to the suggested recreational facilities to be built at the restored landfill. The Administration responded that it would consult SKDC in this regard. | |
| 005806- 011037 | Chairman Mr WONG Yung-kan Administration | Mr WONG Yung-kan declared that he was a CMPB member. He understood that while the Administration had sought to resolve the objections to the excision of 5 ha of land of CWBCP by designating more areas as country parks in other parts of the territory, it would take time to restore the landfill in future for afteruse. He considered more effective measures should be put in place to tackle the odour problem and other environmental impact as well as for waste management. He suggested: | |

| Time marker | Speaker | Subject(s) | Action required |
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| | | (a) planting more trees and vegetation in the landfill vicinity to absorb some of the odour; | |
| | | (b) monitoring the marine ecology in the landfill vicinity, as it might be affected by the residual pesticides and insecticides discharged from the landfill into the nearby waters; and | |
| | | (c) utilizing biological treatment technology, like composting or anaerobic digestion for treatment of food waste or livestock waste. | |
| | | The Administration responded that it would continue to implement a number of enhancement measures for odour and other environmental impact control, such as: | |
| | | (a) providing a mobile cover to the special waste trench, which was used for dumping animal corpses and other special wastes; | |
| | | (b) covering non-active landfill areas by impermeable liners; | |
| | | (c) enhancing the vehicle-wash system for cleaning waste trucks after unloading; | |
| | | (d) enhancing the landfill gas management system by installing vertical and horizontal landfill gas extraction wells; | |
| | | (e) using deodourizers to eliminate odour; and | |
| | | (f) using environmental-friendly pesticides and insecticides for pest control at the landfill. | |
| | | As for treatment of food waste, the Administration planned to develop Organic Waste Treatment Facilities (OWTF) in two phases, and the first phase was planned to be built in Siu Ho Wan. The Administration also welcomed the installation of food waste treatment facilities on smaller scale by private sectors in commercial buildings with many catering establishments. The Administration had also operated a livestock waste composting plant in Ngau Tam Mei. | |
| 011038- 012531 | Chairman Ms Cyd HO Administration | Ms Cyd HO enquired about the timeline of the life cycle of the closed landfills (e.g. those at Jordan Valley and Sai Tso Wan), i.e. from opening, closing, restoration works, ground settlement, environmental monitoring to re-opening for beneficial afteruses, and stressed the need to continue the environmental monitoring of the closed landfills, including prevention of discharge of surface water and groundwater from the facilities. | The Administration to provide the information as requested in paragraphs 3(d) and (e) of the minutes. |

| Time marker | Speaker | Subject(s) | Action required |
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| | | The Administration advised that many closed landfills were developed in the 1960's/1970's. Restoration works had been carried out to retrofit them with environmental control facilities such as leachate and landfill gas collection and treatment systems, whereas the three operating strategic landfills (i.e. the SENT Landfill, the North East New Territories Landfill and the West New Territories Landfill) had these facilities/systems built in before commissioning in early 1990s. All 13 closed landfills had now been restored. Stringent environmental monitoring was being implemented at the 13 restored landfills, including the monitoring of changes in the groundwater level and collecting landfill gas and leachate samples, etc. All closed landfills had been landscaped to provide a green zone with many of them developed or being developed into recreational facilities, such as baseball field, parks and BMX cycling ground etc. As for the SENT Landfill, greening works could be undertaken immediately at the 50-ha extended landfill site at the end of its six-year lifespan, and it would take about a year to develop the closed landfill into an open green site. | |
| | | Ms HO suggested that the Administration should select those species which could release negative ions to improve air quality under the ecological enhancement measures, as well as advise the local residents to grow suitable plants at their homes for improving indoor air quality. | |
| | | The Administration advised that EPD would consult the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and CMPB on the species to be adopted and their planting location in the ecological enhancement measures. | |
| | | At the request of Ms HO, the Administration would provide the timetable and progress of development of the Integrated Waste Management Facilities as well as various programmes to promote recycling of waste. | |
| 012532- 012949 | Chairman Ms Emily LAU Administration | Discussion on the capacity of the planned OWTF to meet the needs for treating source-separated food waste. | The Administration to provide information as requested in paragraph 3(f) of the minutes. |
| 012950- 013222 | Chairman Ms Emily LAU Mr WONG Yung-kan | Meeting and site visit arrangements | |

Council Business Division 1 <u>Legislative Council Secretariat</u> 12 July 2010