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(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Thursday, 8 April 2021, at 2:30 pm
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP (Chairman)
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS
Hon MA Fung-kwok, GBS, JP
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP
Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, BBS, JP
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding
Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan, JP
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN
Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH
Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP

Member absent : Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP

Public Officers attending : Item IV

Mr Jack CHAN Jick-chi, JP
Under Secretary for Home Affairs

Ms Sheila WONG Pui-yee
Acting Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs
(Culture)2

Ms Linus FUNG Wai-fan
Assistant Director (Performing Arts)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Ms Fionn YEUNG Wai-fong
Chief Manager (Performance Venues Management)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Ms Phyllis SO Kit-ye
Chief Executive Officer (Planning)³
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr Victor TAI Sheung-shing
Project Director 3
Architectural Services Department

Mr Joe LAM Sam-ching
Senior Project Manager 337
Architectural Services Department

Item V

Mr Jack CHAN Jick-chi, JP
Under Secretary for Home Affairs

Ms Zorina WAN Hiu-yan
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Recreation
and Sport)²

Mr Horman CHAN Ming-cheong
Assistant Director (Leisure Services)¹
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr Michael CHIU Yat-on
Chief Executive Officer (Planning)¹
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr Victor TAI Sheung-shing
Project Director 3
Architectural Services Department

Mr Gary WONG Shek-wah
Senior Project Manager 325
Architectural Services Department

Item VI

Mr Jack CHAN Jick-chi, JP
Under Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr Vincent LIU Ming-kwong, JP
Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Ms Linus FUNG Wai-fan
Assistant Director (Performing Arts)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Clerk in attendance : Ms Shirley CHAN
Chief Council Secretary (4)5

Staff in attendance : Ms Shirley TAM
Senior Council Secretary (4)5

Ms Carol WONG
Council Secretary (4)5

Ms Zoe TONG
Legislative Assistant (4)5

Miss Mandy LUI
Clerical Assistant (4)5

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I. Application for late membership
[LC Paper No. CB(4)733/20-21(01)]

Members accepted the application for late membership from Mr YIU Si-wing in accordance with rule 23 of the House Rules.

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II. Information papers issued since the last meeting

[LC Paper Nos. CB(4)693/20-21(01), CB(4)732/20-21(01) and (02)]

2. Members noted that the subject information papers had been issued since the last meeting.

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[LC Paper Nos. CB(4)690/20-21(01) and (02)]

3. The Panel agreed to discuss the following items proposed by the Administration at the next regular meeting on 10 May 2021 at 4:30 pm:

- (a) The support of the Government on the development of Arts Technology in Hong Kong;
- (b) Progress Report on East Kowloon Cultural Centre; and
- (c) Use and management of public open spaces managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD").

IV. Renovation and improvement project for the Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre

[LC Paper No. CB(4)690/20-21(03)]

4. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Under Secretary for Home Affairs ("USHA") briefed members on the proposed renovation and improvement project for the Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre ("SWHCC"). Details of the briefing were set out in the paper provided by the Administration (LC Paper No. CB(4)690/20-21(03)).

Discussion

Application of Arts Technology in SWHCC

5. Mr MA Fung-kwok said that he had been urging the Administration to upgrade and improve the stage equipment of performing arts venues under the purview of LCSD for six years. He remarked that the Chief Executive had indicated in the 2020 Policy Address that the Administration would actively promote and support the development of Arts Technology ("Arts Tech") as a new initiative. He was concerned about how the Administration would put Arts Tech in place. Although the improvement project of SWHCC was not a massive one yet SWHCC was an important performing arts venue in the district, he would like

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to know if Arts Tech was applied in the project apart from upgrading the existing facilities.

6. USHA replied that after the Chief Executive's announcement in the 2020 Policy Address about the development of Arts Tech, relevant policy bureaux had been actively pursuing the matter. The Administration would provide an update on the Administration's efforts in promoting the integration of arts and technology in the next Panel meeting in May 2021. Arts Tech would be applied in the SWHCC project, e.g. the installation of immersive projection and sound systems, a projection mapping system, a tracking enabled audio-visual-light system, a 4K live streaming system, upgrading of stage lighting to light-emitting diode ("LED") lights and computerized moving lights, and provision of a large LED wall, etc. He added that Arts Tech would also be applied in the facility upgrading project of the Tai Po Civic Centre ("TPCC") discussed in the last Panel meeting in March 2021.

7. Mr MA Fung-kwok commented that the facilities mentioned by USHA were only basic and essential in the prevailing standard of a modern stage. While he noted that LED wall could save costs in producing backdrops for performances, a 4K live streaming system was nothing new in his eyes. He opined that Arts Tech should go further than the above mentioned by USHA. For example, technical panels should be compatible with different inputs and the venue should be spacious enough for users to bring in other Arts Tech equipment.

8. USHA replied that the Administration would equip relevant hardware in SWHCC for application of Arts Tech as mentioned by Mr MA Fung-kwok. For example, the counterweight flying system would be upgraded to a computerized flying system. Appropriate space would be reserved for users to bring in other Arts Tech equipment.

9. Mr MA Fung-kwok asked whether the Administration had consulted the arts industry or the arts organizations which used SWHCC frequently on their needs concerning the upgrading of stage equipment and application of Arts Tech.

10. USHA replied that the Administration kept frequent contact not only with the industry but also other organizations, e.g. concern groups for the disabled for barrier-free facilities in the SWHCC project.

11. Assistant Director (Performing Arts) ("AD(PA))", LCSD agreed with Mr MA Fung-kwok that Arts Tech was a complicated topic, involving both hardware and software. The Administration had taken the lead to connect arts organizations, artists and technology personnel to exchange their ideas on the ways that artists could apply technology in artistic creation to enhance content and

delivery to the audiences with relevant hardware. Several activities had been organized to engage arts organizations, artists and technology personnel to interchange ideas in using technology to push the boundaries of arts, as well as providing comments to the Administration regarding the software and hardware support for the development of Arts Tech. Apart from the upgrading projects of SWHCC and TPCC, Arts Tech would also be applied in other LCSD venues, especially the East Kowloon Cultural Centre.

Demand for civic centres and upgrading projects for other performance venues

12. Mr KWOK Wai-keung supported the submission of the proposed renovation and improvement project for SWHCC to the Public Works Subcommittee ("PWSC") for consideration. He said that the demand for civic centres was overwhelming all the time, no matter among professional or amateur arts organizations. Graduation ceremonies of schools were also held in civic centres. However, he noticed that not all districts were provided with civic centres. At present, there were only two civic centres on Hong Kong Island, i.e. SWHCC and Sheung Wan Civic Centre ("SWCC"), with no civic centre in the Southern District. He was dissatisfied with the frosty response of the Administration to the proposals of building more civic centres.

13. Mr Wilson OR noted that \$20 billion had been set aside in the 2018-19 Budget for the improvement and development of cultural facilities, including projects for SWHCC, Hong Kong City Hall, Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Yau Ma Tei Theatre, TPCC and New Territories East Cultural Centre. He asked if the Administration had any plan to upgrade and improve other performing arts venues, especially Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre ("NCWCC").

14. USHA said that the Administration noted the keen demand for civic centres, therefore \$20 billion had been set aside in the 2018-19 Budget for the improvement and development of cultural facilities. The pre-construction activities for the New Territories East Cultural Centre, which would be a hub for cultural activities in the district, would be completed in the first quarter of 2022 and the main works would commence afterwards subject to the approval of funding by the Finance Committee. The Administration was also undertaking the facility upgrading of TPCC, which was discussed in the last Panel meeting in March 2021. Furthermore, the Administration had started the preparation for the upgrading project of Hong Kong City Hall. The East Kowloon Cultural Centre in Ngau Tau Kok would open soon to serve the citizens and art organizations in the Kowloon East District.

15. AD(PA), LCSD supplemented that NCWCC had been renovated about ten years ago and its Cultural Activities Hall had been converted and upgraded into a

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facility that operated as a Black Box Theatre. The user experience of the Black Box Theatre had been satisfactory. There was no urgent need at present to renovate NCWCC which might bring an impact to the industry.

Project scope, estimate and timetable

16. Mr KWOK Wai-keung said that the location of SWHCC was convenient with well-connected public transportation. As SWHCC had been serving the neighbouring community for a long time, he believed that the community would support its renovation and improvement project. He opined that it was too long to take two years to complete the construction works. He asked if the time required for construction works could be shortened to minimize the impact on the nearby residents and arts organizations.

17. Mr Wilson OR and Mr LUK Chung-hung supported the proposed renovation and improvement project for SWHCC. They also raised the same concern about the project duration as Mr KWOK Wai-keung. Mr OR further asked if the construction works could commence in parallel and whether SWHCC could be re-opened by phases. Mr LUK commented that the project estimate was costly, the construction period of the project was too long as compared with other similar projects and the Administration's paper did not provide enough information, e.g. floor plans, for discussion. He requested the Administration to provide adequate details of the renovation project of SWHCC in its submission to PWSC, including floor plans, expenditure by subheadings and information on high tech equipment.

18. Project Director 3, Architectural Services Department ("PD3, ArchSD") replied that the construction works involved were complicated involving different facilities and technical equipment, e.g. replacement of lifts, addition of lifting platforms as one of the barrier-free access facilities, enlargement and addition of toilets, refurbishment of the Theatre and replacement of stage equipment. All construction works had been arranged to commence in parallel to shorten the project duration.

19. USHA explained that the Administration aimed to brief members about the policy initiatives and concepts of the renovation project of SWHCC in this Panel meeting. Therefore the paper did not equip with detailed floor plans. Once the Panel's support was sought on the project, the Administration would submit detailed floor plans of each floor and construction design of this project to PWSC and the Finance Committee. He emphasized that it was a large-scale upgrading and improvement project which would bring a total upgrading of SWHCC. The investment in stage facilities, e.g. computerized flying system and latest equipment of Arts Tech, amounted to about \$60 million. Ancillary facilities would also be

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refurbished, e.g. addition of many female toilet cubicles. He believed that each and every cent would be used effectively in this project.

20. Expressing her support to the project, Ms YUNG Hoi-yan asked if the Administration had ever considered redevelopment of SWHCC as SWHCC was opened in 1990 with no major renovation or improvement works carried out since its opening. She believed that redevelopment might allow releasing plot ratio restrictions of the land to make optimal use of land resources. Redevelopment might also allow addition or enlargement of the Theatre and Cultural Activities Hall which could benefit various types of performing arts groups such as Chinese orchestras, classical music orchestras and Cantonese opera troupes in facilitating them to acquire performing arts venues.

21. USHA replied that the location of SWHCC was extremely convenient adjoining the Sai Wan Ho MTR station and bus stops. There were also a large number of residential buildings nearby. It would be difficult to search for another suitable site for redevelopment within the area. He further explained that SWHCC was part of a multi-purpose composite building linked with the Sai Wan Ho MTR Station and the Sai Wan Ho Municipal Services Building with a wet market and a sports centre. A private housing estate, Felicity Garden was built above the composite building. Therefore, an in-situ redevelopment project was technically impossible as it would affect the building structure of the composite building and the Felicity Garden.

22. USHA added that currently, the Cultural Activities Hall was mainly for rehearsal purpose or simple performances. Its technical equipment, including the sound and lighting systems, would be upgraded so that performing arts groups could also hold small-scale performances there. Besides, comprehensive upgrading of stage equipment and refurbishment of backstage facilities would be carried out for the Theatre. One of the Art Studios would be converted into a rehearsal room. The other Art Studio and the two Music Practice Rooms would also be refurbished for use by arts groups and the community at large. The Administration would also put many resources in improving the public and accessible facilities of SWHCC, e.g. addition of toilet cubicles and upgrading of existing barrier-free access facilities. Extra lifting platform would be provisioned on the ground floor to improve the barrier-free access to other floors. An additional passenger-goods lift would also be provided to enhance operational efficiency.

Arrangement during the closure of SWHCC

23. Mr KWOK Wai-keung was concerned about the referral arrangement during the closure of SWHCC. SWCC and NCWCC were always in high demand. As

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the hire charges of Youth Square were far higher than those of SWHCC, he asked how the Administration would attract potential hirers to switch to Youth Square. He also asked whether the Administration would discuss with Youth Square the feasibility of offering concessions to SWHCC users to enjoy the same price level as SWHCC. As local arts organizations generally had limited funding, it would be beneficial to them if the cost of hire charges remained the same.

24. Mr Wilson OR was also concerned about the referral arrangement. He wondered whether the arts organizations could bear higher hire charges. Since the venues mentioned by the Administration for referral, i.e. Youth Square, community halls and other civic centres, were always in high demand, he was worried that arts organizations might not be able to compete for a venue. He urged the Administration to consider reserving spaces in other LCSD venues in advance for frequent users of SWHCC. He also called on the Administration to monitor the booking of performing arts venues scrupulously during the closure of SWHCC given the intense demand for performing arts venues in the Eastern district.

25. Ms YUNG Hoi-yan remarked that as SWHCC would not be reopened by phases, she hoped that the Administration could assist performing arts organizations in hiring performing arts venues by providing other alternatives during the closure of SWHCC.

26. USHA replied that the Administration would provide referral services to potential hirers during the closure of SWHCC. Potential hirers would be referred to other civic centres with facilities of similar size such as SWCC and the seven community halls in the Eastern District. The Administration had been investing plenty of resources in upgrading and improving the facilities of community halls in recent years, e.g. stage facilities, lighting and sound output. He was confident that the quality of the hardware provided by community halls would meet the technical requirements for small-to-medium scale cultural activities. The Administration would discuss with the management of Youth Square on the referral arrangement. As far as he understood, there were still booking capacity in Youth Square and the overall usage rate of the seven community halls managed by the Home Affairs Department in the Eastern District was 60% to 70%.

27. AD(PA), LCSD replied that LCSD had consulted the troupes which were frequent users of SWHCC about the arrangement during the closure of SWHCC. The troupes reflected that they would prefer to perform in other LCSD venues with a similar size and hire charges as SWHCC. Therefore there would not be a huge difference in the cost to be borne by the troupes.

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Improvement of facilities

28. Mr Wilson OR noticed that one of the two Art Studios in SWHCC under the renovation and improvement project would be converted into a rehearsal room as mentioned in paragraph 13 in the Administration's paper. He asked whether the usage rate of the Art Studio to be converted was very low in the past. He also enquired whether the conversion would affect the existing users of Art Studios and whether the Administration had consulted the users regarding the conversion.

29. USHA replied that the Art Studio to be converted had a low usage rate of below 20%. It would be converted into a rehearsal room required by the performing arts groups in preparation for performances. At present, there was no rehearsal room in SWHCC.

30. AD(PA), LCSD supplemented that the two Art Studios in SWHCC were 67m² and 37m² with usage rate 16% and 31% respectively. The 67m² Art Studio would be converted into a rehearsal room while another one would remain. She believed that the conversion could satisfy the need of the industry for rehearsals while no impact would be brought to users of the Art Studios.

31. After discussion, the Chairman said that members supported the submission of the proposed renovation and improvement project for SWHCC to PWSC for consideration.

V. Open Space at Hoi Fan Road, Tai Kok Tsui
[LC Paper Nos. CB(4)690/20-21(04) and (05)]

32. At the invitation of the Chairman, USHA briefed members on the proposal to develop an Open Space at Hoi Fan Road, Tai Kok Tsui ("the Open Space"). Details of the briefing were set out in the paper of the Administration (LC Paper No. CB(4)690/20-21(04)).

Discussion

Local demand for open spaces and odour issue

33. Mr Vincent CHENG expressed support for the proposed development of the Open Space to provide extra open space to nearby residents in spending their leisure time. He considered that the Administration should provide more open spaces for recreational use by the public given the increasing population in the neighbourhood. Referring to the odour coming from the seawater along the waterfront promenade on Hoi Fai Road which had been hazing over the nearby

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residents for years, he enquired if the Administration would also address the problem under this project to encourage the use of the Open Space.

34. USHA replied that the Yau Tsim Mong District was densely populated with around 328 000 citizens living within. The Administration noticed a strong demand for open spaces within the area and considered that the Open Space would be beneficial to the nearby residents. Regarding the odour problem brought by the seawater, he advised that relevant government departments had been assiduous in solving the problem. He would follow up with departments concerned on measures to alleviate the odour.

Football pitch

35. Mr Vincent CHENG noticed from the Administration's paper that a 7-a-side artificial turf football pitch would be included in the Open Space. According to the 2021-2022 Budget, the Administration would earmark \$318 million to implement a five-year plan for upgrading football pitches under the management of LCSD, including increasing the number of 5-a-side football pitches meeting international standards. He would like to know the justifications of building a 7-a-side artificial turf football pitch in the Open Space, instead of a 5-a-side football pitch or a 7-a-side hard-surface football pitch.

36. Mr LUK Chung-hung welcomed the proposal to develop an Open Space at Hoi Fan Road as the project site had been left unused for many years. It could benefit the nearby residents by providing an extra leisure venue. He shared a similar concern with Mr Vincent CHENG on the type of the football pitch to be provided in the Open Space. In his point of view, a 7-a-side hard-surface football pitch would be more popular as it was free of charge and citizens could enter the football pitch anytime unless it was booked. For artificial turf, 11-a-side was always the more preferable one. He reckoned that the project site should be spacious enough to accommodate one 11-a-side or two 5-a-side football pitches, and that a 7-a-side artificial turf might not be the best option.

37. USHA advised that the Administration understood the international trend of promoting 5-a-side and 11-a-side football. However, there was not sufficient space in the project site for an 11-a-side football pitch. In addition, having two 5-a-side hard-surface football pitches in the Open Space would obliterate the chance of providing a 7-a-side artificial turf football pitch in the district. After local consultation, the Administration considered that a 7-a-side artificial turf football pitch would address the needs of the district as there were five 5-a-side hard-surface, one 7-a-side hard-surface and one 11-a-side artificial turf football pitches in the district. Meanwhile, the 7-a-side artificial turf football pitch at Cherry Street was very popular with a usage rate near 100%, which reflected the

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genuine need for a 7-a-side artificial turf football pitch in the district. The local demand for 7-a-side artificial turf football pitches should therefore not be overlooked.

38. Regarding the suggestion that an 11-a-side football pitch should be built horizontally in the Open Space to utilize the space, PD3, ArchSD advised that such suggestion was not feasible as all space would be used up and there would be no space for other facilities in the South, e.g. training shed, service block, plant room and toilets. The emergency vehicular access would also be blocked.

39. The Chairman was satisfied with the design of the Open Space to provide a piece of greenery in the area with hustle and bustle, in which even pets could also enjoy it. He also appreciated the distribution of facilities and the design of the jogging track in the site plan. He agreed with Mr LUK Chung-hung's comment that 7-a-side and 5-a-side hard-surface football pitches were more popular as they were free of charge. Anyone could enter these football pitches anytime except they were booked. 7-a-side artificial turf football pitches were relatively less popular as prior bookings were required and walk-in was not possible. To increase the utilization of the 7-a-side artificial turf football pitch in the Open Space, he asked if the Administration could consider exempting the related booking fee.

40. Mr Holden CHOW expressed support for the proposal. He concurred with the views of the Chairman and Mr LUK Chung-hung on the popularity of different types of football pitches. In his point of view, 7-a-side hard-surface football pitches would be more favoured as no prior booking was required. He asked if the Administration had studied the local demand for football pitches and explored the possibility of opening the 7-a-side artificial turf football pitch in the Open Space for free for certain timeslots to maximize its usage. USHA undertook to study the feasibility of opening the football pitch in the Open Space without hire charges.

Management of the Open Space

41. Mr Vincent CHENG drew the Administration's attention to the issue of street sleepers in the Nam Cheong Street which was within reach of the Nam Cheong Park. He requested the Administration to keep an eye on this issue in the management of the Open Space in the future.

42. The Chairman was concerned about the potential noise pollution caused by the public using the facilities in the Open Space to the nearby residents of the Long Beach and Olympian City One, e.g. playing basketball at night and Tai Chi in the

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early morning with background music. He called on the Administration to pay attention to the noise management of the Open Space.

43. USHA replied that the Administration was aware of the potential noise and light nuisance to the nearby residents and schools. The Administration had paid specific efforts in the design of the Open Space to alleviate the noise problem by planting more trees. The angle of lighting would also be adjusted to minimize the impact on the surroundings. The football pitch, basketball/volleyball courts and pet garden would be surrounded by fences. They would be opened within a designated time and no one could enter at midnight. Although the Tai Chi Area would not be enclosed, he believed that the experience of LCSD in dealing with noise nuisance would help in the management of the Open Space. The Administration had stepped up the efforts in regulating noise nuisance in parks managed by LCSD and the situation had been ameliorating.

Connectivity of the Open Space to the surroundings

44. Dr Junius HO supported the proposed Open Space which would benefit nearby residents. He noticed that there was a footbridge connecting the Nam Cheong Park and Lin Cheung Road, which was not far from the North entrance/exit of the Open Space. To enhance the connectivity of the surrounding area, he suggested extending the footbridge to the Open Space or modifying the North entrance/exit of the Open Space to connect the footbridge.

45. In response to Dr Junius HO's suggestion of extending the existing footbridge to the Open Space, USHA advised that there was a 30-metre drainage reserve crossing the project site with a big canal underneath which made the construction works not possible technically. The entrance/exit at the North of the site would have to remain as it was connected to the emergency vehicular access. He would explore other possible ways to enhance the connectivity between the Open Space and the footbridge.

Pet garden and "Inclusive Park for Pets"

46. Dr Junius HO proposed that apart from the pet garden, the Administration should also open certain parts of the landscaped area for pets with suitable restrictions, e.g. pet owners were required to use muzzles on dogs and clean up faeces of pets, with a view to enhancing the enjoyment of park users with pets while keeping the impact to other park users to a minimum.

47. USHA replied that after local consultation, a fenced pet garden would be more preferable in the project site. He added that six parks under the purview of LCSD were opened for members of the public to enter and use with their pets

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under the trial scheme of "Inclusive Park for Pets" launched in 2019. The Administration would keep an eye on the local demand and discuss with the community whether the Open Space would also be included as one of the inclusive parks for pets after its completion in the future.

Cafeteria, refreshment kiosk and other facilities

48. Dr Junius HO put forward an idea of having a refreshment kiosk or a cafeteria in the Open Space to enhance the public's enjoyment of the facilities provided in the Open Space. He proposed providing a cafeteria on the second floor of the plant room, toilets and service block which were planned as a single-storey structure. Park users could enjoy refreshments while watching football matches on the second floor with their pets, similar to the restaurants at the West Kowloon Waterfront Promenade in which pets were allowed to enter. Photovoltaic panels could still be installed on the rooftop.

49. USHA replied that eatery facilities would not be provided in the Open Space due to limited space on the project site. A sizeable shopping mall was just across the street with numerous restaurants and shops, where park users could buy food and beverages. He would, however, consider providing vending machines in the Open Space. He also advised that during local consultation, it was reflected that two-storey structures might create nuisance to the residents nearby. PD3, ArchSD added that barrier-free access such as ramps or lifts would be required for two-storey structures. The construction of ramps might occupy the space for emergency vehicular access of the Open Space and the cost-effectiveness of providing lifts in this project should also be carefully considered.

50. After discussion, the Chairman said that the Panel supported the submission of the proposed development of the Open Space for PWSC's consideration.

VI. Leisure and Cultural Services Department Online Programmes and Improvement Works during the Epidemic
[LC Paper No. CB(4)690/20-21(06)]

51. At the invitation of the Chairman, USHA and the Director of Leisure and Cultural Services ("DLCS") briefed members on the online resources on a one-stop platform launched by LCSD and facility improvement works carried out at LCSD venues during the pandemic with the aid of a video presentation. Details of the briefing were set out in the paper provided by the Administration [LC Paper No. CB(4)690/20-21(06)].

Discussion

Promotion and contents of the Edutainment Channel

52. Mr LUK Chung-hung appreciated the rich contents of the one-stop online learning platform, Edutainment Channel ("the Channel"), which featured the 101 Academy. He considered that instead of being formal and preaching, contents of online videos should be fun and down-to-earth to reach a wider audience. He was concerned about the promotion strategies of the Channel as he noticed that the subscribers of 101 Academy YouTube channel were only around 1 500. To promote the Channel and encourage public participation, he suggested that the Administration should organize large scale online and offline promotional activities including posting posters in public housing estates, hanging banners on the roadside railings, utilizing social media platforms and allowing members of the public to upload content reviews monitored by LCSD.

53. Mr Holden CHOW showed appreciation for the contents and quality of the 101 Academy videos produced by LCSD. He suggested that apart from broadcasting the videos online, the Administration should consider collaborating with schools to broadcast the videos to students. For example, videos about Chinese traditional musical instruments could be shown to students to provide them with basic knowledge in ancient Chinese music history.

54. Mr Vincent CHENG commended the contents and quality of the videos produced by LCSD which were uploaded to the Channel, though in his opinion the general public might prefer joining physical events instead of watching online videos. He noticed that although the total number of views of the 500 videos was about 1.5 million, the average number of views for each video was in fact unsatisfactory. To raise public awareness of these videos, he called on the Administration to explore more means, e.g. advertisements and collaborations with YouTubers/Key Opinion Leaders and athletes, to broaden the reach of these videos to viewers. He also suggested increasing the number of sports videos as these videos usually attracted a larger number of views on YouTube than the videos on sedentary activities.

55. Pointing out that the average number of views for one single video under the Channel was only around 1 500, Dr Junius HO suggested that LCSD should seek assistance from the Radio Television Hong Kong and Information Services Department to promote the Channel.

56. DLCS said that all videos of 101 Academy had been uploaded to YouTube. The views on YouTube did not reveal the total reach of the videos. The major views were from the social media accounts operated by LCSD which were related

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to arts, performing arts and museums, with a large number of followers. The Administration had released the videos through these accounts to attract a vast amount of audiences. The view count of the videos had accumulated to 1.5 million. The videos would also be shown through the televisions installed in LCSD venues. The Administration attached great importance to the promotion of the Channel and took note of members' suggestions in this regard. A series of promotional materials were produced to distribute to the members of the public. The Administration would further step up the publicity of the videos uploaded to the Channel through social media channels and follow up on members' suggestion of promoting the videos of 101 Academy to students.

57. DLCS further explained that in addition to the 101 Academy series, the Channel also launched the "vis-à-vis +01" series to create interactive experiences that participants were able to share their experience and ask questions in a real-time setting. As viewers might not prefer long videos on YouTube, the videos of 101 Academy were mostly within five minutes, apart from those videos introducing the rules and skills of sports which would be within 10 minutes.

58. USHA welcomed members' suggestions related to promotion efforts of the Edutainment Channel. LCSD would follow up these suggestions with relevant government bureaux/departments. As the online programmes of LCSD received an overwhelming response, he believed that LCSD would continue to run the programme to provide high-quality leisure activities to the public.

Expenditure and operation model of the Edutainment Channel

59. Dr Junius HO enquired about the expenditure and manpower involved in rolling out the Channel. DLCS replied that the development of the Channel cost about \$400,000. The cost of producing each video of the 101 Academy was about tens of thousands of dollars. The costs for producing cultural and sports training programmes varied depending on the contents and the number of performers/guests to be invited. LCSD deployed existing staff in developing the Channel and hired two contract staff to manage the relevant social media accounts. The Administration was currently exploring new topics for 101 Academy and would keep developing the Channel in the coming year under the budget of around \$20 million. The Administration would decide the future development of the Channel having regard to the public response.

60. Dr Junius HO appreciated that LCSD was willing to branch out into new initiatives. He was however concerned about the sustainability of the various programmes under the Channel and proper use of public money. To reduce the costs incurred, he suggested that the Administration should consider commercializing the programmes under the Channel to attain a breakeven or even

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making a profit. DLCS explained that one of the major missions of LCSD was to provide quality leisure and cultural services for Hong Kong people. Profit-making was not the department's goal. All online programmes provided by LCSD were free of charge with a view to deepening public understanding and interests in arts, culture, recreation and sports.

Improvement works during the pandemic

61. Mr Holden CHOW agreed with LCSD's approach in expediting several enhancement projects during the closure of venues due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") pandemic to upgrade the venue facilities. Referring to paragraph 24 of the Administration paper that the twin-track approach adopted for online and in-venue performance had become a new normal and that venues of LCSD were upgraded to provide high-speed and secure data transmission services to support live streaming performances, he enquired whether practitioners or members of the public would still be able to rent LCSD venues for live streaming performances without audiences or rehearsal once social distancing measures were eased.

62. DLCS replied that before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, there were only around two to three LCSD performance venues equipped with high-speed data transmission services for live streaming performances. Over the past year, nearly all performance venues were installed with optical fibre broadband facilities. Therefore, arts organizations now would be able to do live streaming performances in LCSD venues. LCSD had taken a series of anti-pandemic measures at its venues according to the development of the COVID-19 pandemic. During the peak of the local wave, all LCSD venues were closed. As the local wave subsided, arts organizations were allowed to rent LCSD venues for rehearsal or video recording with a limited number of users.

63. The Chairman recognized the efforts of the Administration in the online programmes during the epidemic and wished the Administration to continue pulling out all the stops on it.

VII. Any other business

64. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:18 pm.