

Dear Mayor Laban and Councillors of the Connected Communities and Climate Resilience Committee, Hutt City Council.

Reference: Hutt Valley Horticultural Society and renewal of the Deed of Covenant

My name is Dianne Purdie the Secretary of the Hutt Valley Horticultural Society.

Please see the below oral submission for the Connected Communities and Climate Resilience Committee meeting on the 15th of September 2026 to be tabled.

My name is Dianne Purdie the Secretary of the Hutt Valley Horticultural Society.

In the early hours of the morning of 12th of April 1957 the Horticultural Society's Hall caught fire. There had been a social evening for the council workers as a follow on from the civic ball which celebrated the opening of the newly constructed Town Hall a fortnight before. The hall was lost. This is why we are here today, fighting for our rights, and we should not have to. After all the Event Centre would not be where it is today without the gifting the land to the Council.

The Horticultural Society wishes to have a new Deed with the Council for the next 5 years, retaining the right of renewals. The Horticultural Society wishes to negotiate the Deed with the Council.

The Horticultural Society understands the Council is under a lot of financial constraints and wishes to work with the Council to lower any costs of the Deed. The Horticultural Society would like to continue to service the community as it has for the last 123 years, and we are very proud of that. We have been a backbone of the community.

It would lower cost to the Council if all the shows and our show equipment was stored at the same venue.

An agreement could be reached with no direct costs to the Council.

We were blindsided by the agenda for this meeting and the report. The Council has refused discussion and negotiation as required by the 1957 and 2019 Deeds. We would welcome discussion and negotiation.

The Council receives income from the land that Event Centre is on. This land was gifted by the Horticultural Society. Without this gift the Council would not have the Event Centre next to the Town Hall. This income associated with the land should far exceed the value of the Deed. If not, something is very wrong.

The Horticultural Society asks that you please vote against endorsing the recommendation in the report, to not renew the Deed with the Horticultural Society. The Horticultural Society also asks that you do not vote for the other options in the report.

Please do make the honourable choice, we ask that the Council to have an agreement with the Horticultural Society.

The Horticultural Society has been part of the fabric and culture of the Hutt Valley community for a very long time. It has provided encouragement and shared gardening knowledge with the community, especially those that cannot afford to frequent a garden centre. The society's involvement in the community is greatly appreciated.

We would like to continue our good relationship with the Council.