From: Claire Bibby <cbibby426@gmail.com>
Sent: 05 October 2026 12:38
To: DemocraticServicesTeam <DemocraticServicesTeam@huttcity.govt.nz>
Subject: Please forward to Cnrs for meeting 6 Oct

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Dear Councillors,

I am writing in support of the letter sent to you from the following groups concerning the Hutt Valley Horticultural Society (HVHS) Deed of Covenant.

- Claude Poulsen, President, Hutt Valley Horticultural Society
- Janice Brown, President, Wellington Orchid Society
- Thomas Bell, President, Wellington Lower Hutt Cactus and Succulent Society
- Garth Lippitt, President, Wellington Bonsai Club
- Yolands Carr, President, Wellington Begonia Club
- Ana Clulee, President Hutt Valley Rose Society
- Frances Burrus, President Wellington Fuchsia Society
- Cheryl Harrison, President, Lower Hutt Floral Art Group.

I lead the Heritage Gardener volunteers at the historic Halfway House in Glenside. I am a member of the HVHS, exhibit at their Shows and support them as a guest speaker. One of our volunteers supports with judging.

- HVHS is inclusive and fosters school age children interest into a horticultural career through entering and visiting their Shows.
- HVHS Shows provide eminent horticulturalists and volunteer garden groups an opportunity to exhibit their plants and network with the ordinary person, who might never otherwise meet and have contact.
- HVHS is the only group in the Hutt that brings affiliated groups together at their Shows, to share their horticultural expertise with each other and to the general public.

My understanding is that the Council staff no longer want the HVHS to use the Event Centre as a venue and HVHS is open to discontinuing use of the Events Centre for future

shows however asks Council to honour the confirmed venue bookings through the end of 2027. This is ethically fair.

I understood it is a Council function to support groups in the arts, cultural and sporting world who use Council facilities, and treat those facilities well and look after them, and have agreements or Memorandum of Understanding with them. Therefore, the HVHS is reasonable in asking for a transition period for the Society to explore alternative funding and venue arrangements, which may be Council premises.

The HVHS do not wish to end their agreement or relationship with the Council, which has lasted for more than 100 years, and have written they are open to reviewing this collaboratively. Please direct that Council staff work collaboratively with the Society, ideally a staff member who is experienced in community liaison and provision of community services.

Thank you,

Claire Bibby

Heritage Gardeners, Historic Halfway House

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