As we all know instead of maintaining the Horticultural Hall, the council demolished the hall and the Horticultural Society's rooms and erected the Event Centre.

The Society had written to Council pointing out that the Evening Post in 1957 was reporting that the scheme will serve as a permanent headquarters for the Society.

The Society was not asking for a Deed in perpetuity. All it sought was a Deed for the next 5 years, with any reference subsequent 5 year periods being the same as in the 2019 Deed. There was agreement between the Horticultural Society and Council on the next 5 year period. But, despite agreeing to the next 5 years, it was the Council, not the Horticultural Society, that refuse to sign an agreement for the next 5 year.

The Council said it wanted a termination of the Deed. There has been no discussion and negotiation on behalf of the Council, other than saying it was more than fair and reasonable. The Society has discussed why it is not. The Deed says if a dispute not be resolved satisfactorily by these means within 40 working days of the dispute being raised, the parties agree that they will engage in mediation. The Council refuses to do this. There has been no discussion and negotiation on what the Council is voting on.

In 2019 the Horticultural Society understood that it was entering into a long term Deed with the Council. The Horticultural Society understood that the reason for having an initial term of 7 years with further terms of 5 years was so that the details of the Horticultural Society's use of council facilities could be periodically reviewed. Councillor Tony Stallinger, who was involved in the process in 2019 as Chief Executive, stated that he understood that a long term agreement was being made by the Council, with renewals around the details, not that there would be a termination of support. The Deed should be interrupted as meaning what the parties to the Deed understood it to mean.

It came as a complete shock to the Society when the Council sought to end renewing the deed.