Thank you Mayor and Councillors,

I am here today working for those before us and our current Horticultural Society and Affiliate members. The people before us gave something very special to the community of Lower Hutt at the time of the depression years. They gave their personal money to acquire land and a practical community hall for everyone to use. We feel responsible to preserve the Hutt Valley Horticultural Society rights for hosting shows in the Hutt Valley.

On the 13th of January 2026 the Hutt City Council wrote:- We have reviewed the MoU at our end. The only change we would like to make is that we would like you to utilise the Walter Nash Centre rather than the Events Centre for your annual show. This would apply to shows from 2027 on.

In the intervening months from 11 February to 1 May the HCC looked for a suitable replacement venue for the HVHS Spring Show.

On 1 May the council said Walter Nash isn't going to work due to availability. We will revert to the Events Centre. I will get our legal team to prepare the deed.

11 May Council told the society they would put a termination date in ten years time to the deed. This was only 15 working days before the expiry date of the 2019 deed.

This late addition to the deed didn't leave much time for both parties to come to an agreement.

On both 25th and 29th of May the Society said they did not agree to a termination date.

There was no word from the Hutt City Council before the 31 May when the Deed expired.

The reason for the deed expiring without a solution was not the society's fault, we were very open for discussion.

4 of June after the expiry date...Council wrote to say it wanted a termination date in 10 years time saying they believed it was more than fair and reasonable.
9 and 10 of June HVHS said were not ready to sign and why.

The society would like to know why the council changed its position from:- 13th of January, when the council only wanted to change to not using the Events Centre for the next 5 year term to on the 11th of May the council were willing to fund the HVHS for 10 more years with a termination date.

And now the officers recommendation to the council was to vote for option C? No use of facilities at all.

We can't see the justice in this decision just because we said we didn't want a termination date but were will to negotiate.

In conclusion
The society would be agree **<u>to not</u>** use the Lower Hutt Event Centre and not hold a Spring Show after 123 years. We would like to create an agreement with Council that would be sustainable for both parties.
We are not viable to host shows in the future without council support. We feel we need some support after gifting the land and the equivalent of $300,000. to the council back in 1957.

Thank you Mayor and Councillors

The society would like to know why the council changed its position from:- not using the Events Centre for the next 5 year term in January 2026 to wanting a termination date on the 11th of May, and to now wanting the current officers recommendation:-
of **no** further terms as in option c

The Society cannot see the justice in this decision! Is this recommendation just because we said we didn't want a termination date as part of the agreement, we were not given a formal democratic right of discussion & negotiation as part of the 2019 deed, as requested by the society and declined by the Council legal team.

The Council legal team believes the deed had expired.

In actual fact there is no expiry date in the deed. The 31st of May was the end of the initial term of 7 years and the deed had provision for further terms of 5 years. The council was still engaging after the 31st of May, instructing the Society to sign, without siting the full deed, we had to request that. The council was operating outside the first initial term. The Council did not warn of us the consequences if we did not comply with the termination date. This was unreasonable. The Society was willing to negotiate and cut the Events Centre once we found out our case had gone to the assets committee, the council staff said they would pass that that information on.

In conclusion
The society would agree **to not** use the Event Centre and not hold a Spring Show.

We would like to create an agreement with Council that would be sustainable for both parties.

The society would not be viable to host shows in the future without council support. We feel we need some support after gifting the land and the equivalent of $300,000. today to the council back in 1957.

Councillors Hutt City Council.

Re: Hutt Valley Horticultural Society.

Kia ora koutou katoa Councillors,

The Hutt Valley Horticultural Society recently met and we ask the Hutt City Councillors not to endorse **Option C, to conclude financial support to the Hutt Valley Horticultural Society by not renewing the deed of Covenant;** from the Connected Communities, Climate and Resilience committee meeting on the 15th of September.

Instead we would like to propose that:

1) - The Hut Valley Horticultural Society (HVHS) would like to forgo the use of the Lower Hutt Event Centre.

2) - The HVHS would like to continue with a single 5 year agreement.

3) - The HVHS would like the Hutt City Council to honour the confirmed bookings for all our shows and meeting dates.

The Hutt Valley Horticultural Society has and would still like to provide the residents of the Hutt Valley with flower and vegetable shows along with horticultural meetings that would teach and encourage the families and people of the Hutt Valley to grow food for themselves in this very difficult economic climate. We think that it is the society's responsibility to provide this information as it has done for the last 123 years.

Signed by
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