

## **CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL (PORTOBELLO PARK) BILL**

### **OBJECTION 3 - MR G G DI PONIO AND MRS I DI PONIO**

We object to the whole Private Bill for the appropriation of Portobello Park promoted by the City of Edinburgh Council.

We object to the loss of open space, the precedent being set for other councils to follow suit if this bill goes through, the ignoring of the Inner Court decision that building on Portobello Park is illegal and the fact that there are suitable brownfield alternative sites, previously identified by the City of Edinburgh Council, which would provide excellent educational facilities and involve no loss of green space. Further the site is at the very edge of the school's catchment area and is on a trunk road. The two adjacent streets are not suitable for larger vehicles and one of them is a recognised cycle path connecting Portobello to the city centre.

The park is a pleasant, traffic-free area to cross diagonally when walking to, for example, Portobello Baths and provides us with healthful exercise and views to Arthur Seat and Fife. The mature trees viewed from the street are also much appreciated. We also miss the football played by local clubs, including the encouragement of girls' football, and would hope that the Council will re-instate the facility for public access. We would also hope that the Council will permit the local picnics which they have abolished for unspecified "Health and Safety" reasons. These amenities will be lost for ever if the park is built on.

17 June 2013