

CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL (PORTOBELLO PARK) BILL

OBJECTION 5 – PAULINE COWAN

I would like to object to the whole of the above mentioned private bill promoted by the City of Edinburgh, City Chambers, Edinburgh, EH1 1YJ.

I object to the bill as it aims to redefine the use of Portobello Park from inalienable to alienable common good land with the sole purpose of building a new school on the Park. This would set a precedent regarding the protection that the definition of inalienable common good represents. The law has found the use of the park for building a school to be illegal and using the park for the school would cause the loss of open space in the area. The proposed replacement open space is a fraction of the whole Portobello Park site so not like for like. In any case this is unlikely to become available to use before demolition of the present school and demolition and rebuild of St John's Primary school on an adjacent site which could be many years.

I regard the loss of the park as green open space as a personal amenity loss since I live nearby. Beautiful views to the north and west would be interrupted, trees will have to be removed and the little piece of park proposed to be left for the general public is likely to be overrun with up to 1400 school children in break times. The school would be situated on a very busy main road and I am concerned about the traffic problems and general safety around the proposed school. This includes vehicles moving in and out of the school grounds and drop off by parents. The school, if built will have no room for change or expansion which happens to all schools regardless of population changes. There is the possibility of purchase of an alternative brown site for the school or rebuild on current site but these choices are not being considered as a priority. Green space is precious and we should strive to preserve it within our towns.

13 June 2014