

CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL (PORTOBELLO PARK) BILL

OBJECTION 12 – ARCHIE BURNS

This objection was signed by the objector and reproduced in typed (electronic) form by the clerking team

I am writing to object to the whole of the above bill, which is being promoted by the City of Edinburgh Council.

I object to the whole bill for the following reasons:

- This bill is a latest imaginative method of a council desperate to develop Portobello Park;
- The council used the requirement for a new school to divide the community to further their aims of developing Portobello Park. There has always been an alternative to building on Portobello Park, it just didn't suit the council's agenda;
- Their endeavour to use a new high school to bribe the local community is underhand and divisive and has delayed the delivery of the school;
- The proposal in 2003 to rebuild the school on site was eagerly awaited by the school community but the council decided to use the school as an opportunity to develop Portobello Park, a decision which has delayed the re-provisioning of the school for many years;
- Alternative sites were available then and are still available now as detailed in the council's submission which is bias towards their preferred option;
- This bill will demonstrate a route to circumvent the current legal process when councils do not agree with the outcome of a court ruling;
- The council had the opportunity to appeal Supreme Court but instead have chosen the cheaper option of changing the law (I understand that all alternatives should be explored before a Private Bill is introduced).

The bill will affect me in the following ways:

- It will make Scotland a poorer and less equitable place for me to live by allowing Councils to bypass the law
- deprive me, as a citizen of Edinburgh, of a useful recreational asset which is currently ours in perpetuity
- show my children and other children a poor example (might over right)
- impact on my ability to enjoy my local park
- contribute to climate change by taking green space thus making the world less sustainable impacting on me in various adverse ways
- there will be less expenditure in Portobello town centre as the pupils will use closer alternatives and this will reduce the viability of local shops and the choice available to me.

22 June 2013