

CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL (PORTOBELLO PARK) BILL

OBJECTION 24 – HUGH AND COLIN CORMACK

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

We, Hugh Mackay Cormack and Colin Reid Cormack, being brothers and both of [REDACTED] wish to object to the whole of the above Bill being promoted by the City of Edinburgh Council. Our objections are set out below.

We object to the loss of amenity. The open area is used by us both for relaxing and exercising. There would also be a considerable reduction in property values if the Park is to be built on.

We really like the long open unobstructed view westwards over the Park looking towards Arthur's Seat and then northwards down over the Firth of Forth to Fife. The panorama would be lost if the proposed changes took place. Likewise the recreational advantages afforded by the open space would disappear. We particularly like walking over this open space with real grass underfoot and no hard core paving. Here, it is pleasing to see the young folks playing football with a referee to assist, and with the organised matches there is real inter-generational interaction, with the older folks watching and the young people getting a lift from playing before an audience.

When walking over the grass it is fascinating to see the swallows, not so many now I'm afraid, dipping and diving to catch insects on the wing. This year a large expanse of buttercups provided an evocative landscape which was a real joy. There are few meadows left in Britain now, and having a small hay meadow like this here in town is a real treasure, helping our physical health and well-being with the opportunity to exercise in an unrestricted way. Late on, in the quiet of the evening, it is not unusual to see a fox streaking across the open space to reach the shelter of the trees. It lifts ones spirits to walk in living breathing open space.

Life in the early morning is birdsong in the Park. The birds and all nature find a home there. The Park itself is a school, teaching us about the environment and life. The land consisting of the Park has been given many years ago for all people including the residents of this and surrounding areas to enjoy freely. We object to the taking away of this privilege which has been much enjoyed for as long as we can remember. We object to this land being acquired.

20 June 2013