

CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL (PORTOBELLO PARK) BILL

OBJECTION 27 – CAROLINE HOSKING

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

I write to object to the whole Bill as above, and for the following reasons:

1. It will have a very detrimental effect on my amenities locally. I live in a tenement flat with no garden or back green. Many people in my part of Portobello, including families with children, live in tenement flats.

Portobello Park is the nearest park of its size to where I live so I will in future have to take a bus to enjoy any similar size park. As I work full time, this will be very difficult. I use the park at least once a week for walking, rest, relaxation and fresh air.

2. It will be detrimental to my health (for two main reasons) if the park is built upon:

a) I will no longer be able to use it – a walk around a school/golf course perimeter (probably fenced) will not be conducive to relaxation – I just wouldn't want to go

b) Pollution levels from carbon dioxide I believe are high in Portobello, particularly on the High Street. I found this out through a local campaign group who were told (by the council) that air pollution on Portobello High Street exceeds European levels of acceptability. I am not surprised, as the traffic is very bad and the black grime accumulates on my front windows but not at all on my back windows, away from the road. If the park is taken away/built on, pollution will be even worse without the trees to soak it up. The proposed replacement 'green' space is well away from Portobello so will not make up for this, even if (and I believe this is unlikely) the council replaced every single tree they will cut down. (And these are mature trees so very large, and it would be impossible to replicate such large, old trees.)

3. My amenity and health would be safeguarded, as I believe others' would also, if the council were not allowed to appropriate this area for building a school or anything else upon. There are at least two other very suitable sites, including as brownfield site at Baileyfield, near to where I live. If the council wish a tree-lined/woodland setting for Portobello High School, why not plant trees and build it there? This would improve the environment including contributing to combat pollution levels on Portobello High Street. I, and other residents I know, would be happy for it to be built near where I live. Alternatively, they can rebuild on site and plant more trees.

Finally, I would urge you to visit Portobello Park to see what I, and Edinburgh residents/visitors will lose, before you make a decision.

I hope you will take my concerns into full consideration. As you see, it does not affect my property value – I am just very concerned about the health impact on myself and others.

22 June 2013