

CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL (PORTOBELLO PARK) BILL

OBJECTION 28 – ANNE AND ANTHONY KING

My Husband and I would like to express our objection to the whole of the above Bill.

Money was raised by those opposing the building of Portobello School on this Park to seek the judgement of three not one but THREE court of Session Judges who found that the park was Common land and could not be used for this purpose.

If the Councillors had sought legal advice as to the true status of the Park before promising the pupils and their parents that their new school would be built there, the ensuing bad feeling and delay which now exists would not have manifested itself. It is not the fault of the Parents and children that they are angry, it is because they have been promised something which was not within the Council's ability to fulfil.

When the THREE judges upheld the status of the park one would have thought that the Councillors would have accepted their findings instead of endeavouring to change a perfectly good conservation law to allow them to boost their standing. I can understand that, when necessary, an anachronistic criminal law may, after careful consideration, be changed, but to change a valuable Conservation Law especially in this day and age in this era of over concreting etc. and increasing rainfall, in my opinion is iniquitous.

My Husband and I being 83 and 77 years respectively are very, very fortunate to have friends from old to young the latter being second and third generation, who still visit us from near and far including U.S.A, Canada, France and Finland. Our greatest joy at these times is to show them round the places which we love. They are most impressed with the few parks in Portobello which are fringed with houses of various architectural periods which form an important part of the character of the area.

We love to hear them remark on how lucky we are to have these precious AMENITIES together with the beach etc. We have lived here for 46 years and enjoy doing so. We love to walk on Portobello Park and part of that pleasure, before the park became a bone of contention, was to stand and watch the games of football enjoyed by the young doing their own thing ie. practising their golf swing etc. sadly missed now that it has been made less inviting, as even the goalposts were removed. It is so important for our age group to be in contact with youngsters and that was a wonderful place to do so. That and the beach and the friendly people are part and parcel of our pride and pleasure in our community, erosion of these green spaces reduces the pleasure of those who use them.

In order to justify their plans to build on the park the Councillors and their supporters said that it was not used therefore would be no great loss. I can assure you it was a well-used park and I personally walked two or three times a week with friends when we accompanied our late friend who suffered badly from Parkinson's and indeed prior to his deterioration he was able to walk there himself as he felt safe. Years ago when we had a dog we exercised it in that park and the beach. My son learned to play golf there. Our daughter attended Portobello School and we were well pleased with the quality of education even although it was at the time mentioned in

the Guinness Book of records as having the highest amount of pupils. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. I wish people would appreciate the marvellous environment
in which we live. I, like everyone, want a new school, education is important but
there are other places on which to build and the aforementioned benefits of living
here should be preserved for future generations.

I hereby enclose an [REDACTED] to the value of twenty
pounds sterling made out to the Scottish Parliament being the fee demanded in
order to protest. This fee is the reason that many of my friends and acquaintances
who are against the building of the school in the Park and also the changing of the
law to enable the Councillors to do so, will not write to you as they either think it is
undemocratic or they simply do not have the spare cash to do so.

Living in hope that common sense prevails and our green spaces are left for us to
enjoy.

19 June 2013