

## **CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL (PORTOBELLO PARK) BILL**

### **OBJECTION 30 – RICHARD FORBES AND KAREN MAXWELL**

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

Please take this letter as a personal objection to the whole of the above named bill. Our reasons for objection are both local and national – the loss of a local park when there are viable alternatives is unacceptable and the idea that a council can go to the Scottish Parliament in an attempt to overturn a High Court ruling sets a dangerous precedent for Common Good land throughout Scotland.

We also believe the public consultation was flawed and misleading. Many households near the park received documents late or not at all, and the inclusion of a pledge to turn the current school site into a new park on the consultation document was clearly designed to win support for the council's plans, even though this pledge was not part of the Promoter's bill.

We live directly opposite Portobello Park and the proposed school buildings would be directly opposite our house. This would have many negative impacts on our quality of life – we can currently see all the way to Fife from our sitting room, this would be replaced by a large concrete building, floodlit till late in the night. The local traffic is already very heavy and the addition of vehicles bringing well over 1000 pupils and staff to the school will stretch the infrastructure almost to breaking point and lead to a pollution hotspot. We are also concerned by the proposed loss of mature trees required to build the school and the loss of a large green space where our children can run and play.

On a national level this bill, if passed, will affect me and the rest of the country by opening the door to local authorities who wish to develop Inalienable Common Good Land. This will be the thin end of the wedge and if the Scottish Parliament passes this bill it could have a devastating effect on protected green space throughout the country.

23 June 2013