

CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL (PORTOBELLO PARK) BILL

OBJECTION 31 – TREVOR LAFFIN AND 10 OTHERS

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

We wish to object to the Portobello Park Private Bill in its entirety as our use and enjoyment of Portobello Park will be severely restricted or lost entirely if the new school is built on the park. Some of us are dog walkers who regularly use the large open space for exercising our dogs and others use the park for other recreation purposes. This will be taken away from us.

The use of the private bill to overturn or circumvent protection of common good open space is objected to as if the bill is successful then it sets a precedent for others to follow the same course of action even though the council says the golf course is safe in the future but this is not guaranteed. Passing this bill could affect common good land all over Scotland.

The open views to the south from some of our properties will be affected by the large white block of the school building rather than the pleasant avenue of tall mature trees. The thought of further industrialisation of our open spaces in East Edinburgh detracts from why people live here in the first place.

Another aspect of intrusion into our enjoyment of where we live is the increase in traffic that will use Stanley Street and Park Avenue for the school run. The proposed site for the new school is less convenient for many and this will result in more pupils than present being dropped off. Stanley Street can only be used by cars in one direction due to parking and the City of Edinburgh Council conveniently overlooks this problem. We feel that, should the school be built here, it would not be long before parking restrictions are introduced that further impinge on our rightful quiet and peaceful enjoyment of our property. The council refuses to take our concerns seriously.

We support a new school being provided for Portobello and have been shown, by the council, alternatives to building on Portobello Park. If this bill is passed the council will be able to take our parkland without providing replacement open space when it does not need to.

For all of the above reasons we ask you not to allow this bill to progress to legislation.

23 June 2013