

CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL (PORTOBELLO PARK) BILL

OBJECTION 39 – PAMELA CARR

I am writing to object to the City of Edinburgh Council's Private Bill lobbying to allow a new Portobello High School to be built on Portobello Park. I strenuously object to the whole of the Bill. I am a resident of Portobello (contact details above).

I am objecting on the grounds that there ARE other options for the new Portobello High School, options that have been rejected by the Council solely for reasons of expediency. Building on the Baileyfield site would provide urban renewal for an area of Portobello that is currently an eyesore. This would also ensure that the amenity provided by Portobello Park continues for generations to come.

I live less than a mile away from the Park. As the owner of two dogs, I am a regular user of the Park and will lose this valuable amenity if the Council is allowed to build on the Park. Large open green spaces are an increasingly scarce resource in Edinburgh and are important for our well being and health.

I am also concerned about the precedent that will be set if the Council is allowed to proceed. The Council's plans have been subject to a rigorous and time consuming legal process at the end of which the Courts decided that plans to build on a park, gifted to the Council on condition that it was not to be built upon, were illegal. The Council is now attempting to circumvent this legal decision. If successful, this will set a dangerous precedent for Councils everywhere to exploit.

I recognise that Portobello has need of a new High School. However, there are alternatives, which include rebuilding on the school's existing site or using available brown field sites elsewhere in Portobello. It is therefore possible to improve the educational facilities for our young people without a loss of green space and without resorting to overturning the decisions of the Courts.

13 June 2013