

CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL (PORTOBELLO PARK) BILL

OBJECTION 40 – STEPHEN P CARR

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

I am writing to object to the City of Edinburgh Council's Private Bill introduced to allow the Council to build on Portobello Park. I object to the whole of the Bill.

I am a resident of Portobello and live about 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 the dangerous precedent that Councils everywhere may seek to exploit.

I recognise that Portobello badly needs 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

