

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

### **OBJECTION 58 – RICHARD AND LINDA PERRY**

We are writing to lodge our objection to the whole Bill being promoted by City of Edinburgh Council on the following grounds:

1. It will result in a reduction in the amount of open space in the area;
2. The implications of the precedent that would be set for other local authorities in Scotland to follow suit and acquire open space and common good land for development purposes.
3. That local authorities following suit would be encouraged to overcome prohibitions to building on open and green space by promoting similar Bills;
4. A precedent would be set for local authorities, as custodians of common good land, to acquire and give consent to themselves to build on common good land and green open space without any referral to independent planning or governing bodies

We are, therefore, writing to object to the Bill. Should the Bill be enacted, it would have an adverse affect on our interests by setting a precedent that would lead to other open space and common good land being encroached upon by local councils to the detriment of our well-being and health. For example, several green space 'common good' assets exist in Burntisland, including The Links, Kinghorn Road; Amenity Ground, Haugh Road; and Galahill. The local authority has already acquired and is building upon green open space common good land at the Toll Park, ultimately without challenge and without any independent scrutiny. It was able to be judge and jury in its own case since the costs of challenge through the courts were well beyond the resources of the local community and community council who objected strenuously to the development plan. The Portobello Bill could pave the way for future LA sponsored Bills designed to acquire further green space in the town.

17 June 2013