

CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL (PORTOBELLO PARK) BILL

OBJECTION 66 – GILLIAN DUNN

I wish to object to the whole of the above Private Bill by the promoter City of Edinburgh Council.

I object to this Bill as I use this park regularly despite the council's neglect over the last few years. Both my sons have played football on the grass pitches before they were dug up two years ago and left unplayable. I am deeply concerned that the lack of use is now being used as an excuse to build on this park. The surrounding area has two local authority housing schemes whose green space will be reduced to practically nothing if this Bill is allowed to proceed. Most of these residents live in flats and will have access to very little green space, if park goes.

I regularly walk through this park and despite what the supporters of its destruction say, it's a beautiful open space with amazing views across the Forth and Arthur Seat. Its loss will not only be to me personally, but to everyone in the area who currently enjoys it.

I do not believe that a proper Traffic Impact Survey has been carried out by CEC. The implications of putting such a huge school next to this busy road have not been fully investigated. There remain a number of unanswered questions regarding the traffic.

The Inner House of the Court of Session, Scotland's highest court, ruled that the council cannot build on this land. I believe that ruling should be honoured and respected, and one of the alternative brownfield sites identified by CEC, used to build the new PHS. I believe other local authorities will use this method to develop other parks in the future if Bill is allowed to go ahead.

My personal interest will be adversely affected in a number of ways. The loss of amenity - I will no longer be able to enjoy the space and views. There is plenty evidence which proves that parks and open green space is good for our physical and mental health and well-being. I believe my health, and that of my family and wider community, will be the worse for the loss of this park.

22 June 2013