

CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL (PORTOBELLO PARK) BILL

WRITTEN SUBMISSION FROM ANNE FERNIE

I am writing to register concern at the Private Bill promoted by City of Edinburgh Council to allow building on the inalienable common good land at Portobello Park.

Although I live several miles away from this park, and therefore did not lodge an objection through the formal objection process, I am unhappy with the principle of using a Private Bill when a court judgement has dictated that the City of Edinburgh Council are operating outwith the law. From media reports, I know that there are schools being rebuilt in Edinburgh on sites significantly smaller than the existing Portobello High School site. I therefore fail to see why an exception should be made in the case of Portobello when the school could be rebuilt on its existing site thus preserving the parkland and our common good assets.

I recently retired from a teaching career of almost 40 years, most of them in City of Edinburgh Council schools and I value the education of our children and am well aware of the benefits of good facilities. However, I am concerned about the possibility that other councils will be tempted to copy this type of behaviour and use the parliamentary process to evade the law and build on common good land which is currently protected.

I am a great believer in our Scottish Parliament, and I trust you will do the right thing to preserve the integrity and values expected from you as our elected representatives.

21 August 2013