

CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL (PORTOBELLO PARK) BILL

WRITTEN SUBMISSION FROM JOAN BEATTIE

As a concerned citizen and council tax payer of Edinburgh I feel that, if the City of Edinburgh Council (Portobello Park) Bill becomes law, it will set an unwelcome precedent and provide an easy route for other local authorities to appropriate common good land for other purposes - putting open space and common good land across Scotland at risk.

The law has ruled that building on the Park is illegal and this ruling should be respected.

I believe that the Council has identified other suitable brownfield sites for the school, which would provide excellent educational facilities and involve no loss of green space. This solution would also not require a bill to go through Parliament, in order to circumvent the ruling of the courts, on Common Good. One of these alternative sites should be used.

I feel that this bill would act as a disincentive to others thinking of bequeathing land to the council for Common Good, knowing that their wishes could be overturned.

Lastly Parliament should not interfere retrospectively with the ruling of the courts on Common Good.

23 August 2013