

CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL (PORTOBELLO PARK) BILL

WRITTEN SUBMISSION FROM DR JIM HASTIE

As a resident in the largest of Scotland's cities, I am writing to object - in the strongest possible terms - to the steps being taken by Scotland's Parliament to assist an urban local authority to site a school on existing open space and common good land. This Private Bill must be opposed and defeated in Scotland's Parliament. My objections are;

1. The local authority has suitable brownfield alternative sites for the new school.
2. The local community is opposed to the loss of a sizeable and well-used green space within the city boundary. The Courts have supported the community against the local authority view. The Parliament should respect the Court's judgement.
3. Parliament must not be seen to be in cahoots with local authorities across Urban Scotland to dictate their will against the Courts and local communities - especially to change an existing and well established and used open space in Scotland's Capital City.

I trust that this written objection will be copied to all MSP's and the Chair of the Committee. Along with all objectors, I trust that time will be afforded to verbal evidence; and representations/presentations during the essential site visits by the Parliamentary Committee.

Kindly acknowledge and advise me of Committee personnel; timescales for proceedings; and contact details for the Clerks servicing this contentious and disappointing Bill.

22 August 2013