

CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL (PORTOBELLO PARK) BILL

WRITTEN SUBMISSION FROM EILEEN COOK

1. I have been worried, since 2006, about the Council's plans for the park. The original plan for the school included the sale of the rest of the Park to developers for private housing. This object has never really gone away.

The bill if it becomes law it will allow the sale in Edinburgh and will also set a precedent and provide an easy route for other local authorities who wish to appropriate common good land for other purposes.

2. There are other options for the much needed new school, which the Council has obstinately refused to consider (including the option of 2 smaller schools). The busy main road by the Park could be a danger to the pupils and the walking access from parts of Portobello is far from ideal. The Council should be looking at other sites.

3. Portobello Park is an important Community asset. The implications of the loss of a sizeable and well-used piece of green space (25% of Portobello's parkland) would have serious consequences for the health and wellbeing of local residents. Further there was a legal ruling that building on the Park is illegal and this ruling should not be overruled in this way.

21 August 2013