

CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL (PORTOBELLO PARK) BILL

WRITTEN SUBMISSION FROM FIONA HUFFER

1. The bill if it becomes law it will set a precedent and provide an easy route for other local authorities, which they would undoubtedly use, to appropriate common good land for other purposes, putting open space and common good land across Scotland at risk.
2. The law has already ruled that building on the Park is illegal and this ruling should be respected.
3. The City of Edinburgh Council has identified suitable brownfield alternative sites for the school, which would provide excellent educational facilities and involve no loss of green space. One of these should be used.
4. 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.
5. I seriously doubt that the proposed "replacement park" on the existing school site would ever materialise. Even if it did, it is not as large as the existing park and would be situated alongside an existing large park, taking away green space from one area and adding it to an area that already has plenty.
6. It is questionable as to whether the Scottish Parliament should be getting involved in local issues such as the provision of a new school.

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