

## **CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL (PORTOBELLO PARK) BILL**

### **CONSIDERATION STAGE – WRITTEN EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT ORIGINAL OBJECTION**

#### **ALAN AND SHEILA FLETCHER (OBJECTION 18)**

In addition to our original objection re the school on the park we would like to add the following:-

1) The Golf Course will suffer with 1300 children using it as a shortcut going to and from school.

2) The volume of road traffic the A1 leads to the conclusion that ECC did not carry out a proper survey. The accident risks to school children is a genuine concern.

3) In 2003 the Council had two proposals to rebuild the school on the existing site at an estimated cost of between £18.8m-£22.2m.

4) Now because of the Council's determination to build on Portobello Park and refusal initially to contest the right to build on common good land in court and eventually contesting the decision of the three judges the estimated cost of building the school is now £38m.

5) The result is a community has been split and Edinburgh ratepayers are having to fund an extra £16m. This excludes the personal contribution of time and money from many many people acting democratically.

6) In their efforts to prove that the only place that the school could be built was on Portobello Park the Council carried amateurish surveys involving not only the parents with a vested interest, but also school children. What chance did Portobello have when viable alternatives were dismissed out of hand?

7) We would also like to point out that Portobello will lose 25% of their Green Space and not 3% as quoted by the Labour MSP,s

8) We understand that despite the Council's assertion that a decision in their favour would not set a precedent for other Councils, a recent letter in the press contradicted this statement as already another Council is endeavouring to take over Common Good Land.

9) So in conclusion, having considered all the facts, the Scottish Parliament should reject this Bill.

5 February 2014