

SAVE PORTOBELLO PARK - COMMENT NOW ON SCHOOL PLANNING APPLICATION (10/02830/FUL)

www.portygreenkeepers.org.uk

Portobello Park Action Group is a group of local residents who object to the loss of our park to development when there are other options open to the council in the area. We do not object to the principle of a new school for Portobello.

If you also object to the loss of the park then you need to write to the council by extended deadline of 5 November. Other reasons why you might wish to object to the application may include:

- **The irretrievable loss of a major public open green space**, which is a freely accessible park and very well used by people of all ages for a wide variety of purposes.
- The Council promised to replace the open space lost by building on the park. This was voted for at a full council meeting and now they have overturned that decision.
- Compensation for the loss of open space is completely inadequate and amounts to no more than a few paths around the park and golf course.
- **The golf course would be unlikely to survive next door to the school** and its future is in question as it is on a hit list of possible sports facilities closures. This could lead to the wholesale development of the area.
- **The school could be rebuilt on its current site** and the council planned to do this under the PPP2 project. During the 2006 educational consultation, the current school site was on the shortlist of the three most suitable sites. Another possible site is the former Lismore school site, which would not involve the loss of any green space.
- **Traffic - Siting a high school on a main arterial A-road into the city is a recipe for major traffic congestion, delays and accidents.** Roads such as Park Avenue, Stanley Street and Hope Lane will be used to access the school, and for parking for pick-up and drop-off. These narrow residential streets cannot cope with the high volumes of traffic associated with a school for 1400 pupils.
- **Loss of trees** on the site will lead to loss of amenity and there may be little screening to protect the privacy of residential properties from the school.
- **Loss of the protected view of Arthur's Seat, plus other public views to the Forth.**
- **The land is common good land and the council has not obtained the necessary permissions from the courts to build on it.**
- The council has acknowledged that building on the park is highly contentious. It also stands to gain financially from the sale of the current school site. In the interests of fairness and transparency the application should be called in for a **public inquiry**.
- **Please add any other points you can think of.**

IMPORTANT

Even if you wrote in during the pre-planning application consultation you still need to write to object formally now otherwise your objection will not be counted.

You need to say that you **object** to the application and give your full postal address. Every member of your household can object and you also need to **quote the planning application no which is 10/02830/FUL. The new closing date for objections to be submitted is Friday 5 November.**

The address to send your letter of objection to is:

John Bury, Head of Planning, City Development, City of Edinburgh Council,
Waverley Court, Market Street, Edinburgh, EH8 8BG

e-mail address: john.bury@edinburgh.gov.uk