

**Andy Wightman** is an author and researcher on issues of land and democracy with a particular interest in community land rights. He has undertaken extensive research on Common Good and is considered to be the country's foremost authority on the subject. He met with PPAG supporters in 2006, helping them to determine that Portobello Park was Common Good land, a fact that City of Edinburgh Council was happy to acknowledge and accept.

**We asked Andy to take a look at PPAG's website and he made the following comments:**

**PPAG**

"The consequences of this decision are disastrous, in that it sets a precedent and gives carte blanche to councils to take and use common good assets in any way they wish without any checks and balances being applied."

**Andy Wightman**

"This is **misleading**..... All that has happened is that the law has been clarified."

**PPAG**

"If this judgement is allowed to stand, no-one will be able to challenge decisions to appropriate or alienate common good land in law."

**Andy Wightman**

"The second assertion is more than misleading - it is **simply incorrect**..... The Portobello decision has no bearing whatsoever on alienations."

**PPAG**

"This means that councils, especially in these cash-strapped times, could sell off, or appropriate for other uses, common good assets, riding roughshod over local opinion, and get away with it. This is no longer an issue for Portobello but for the whole of Scotland."

**Andy Wightman**

"It is **nonsense** to suggest that the ruling provides a green light for selling off common good assets. Sales will be governed by existing legal precedent and the Portobello case has no bearing on them."

"For what it is worth, I think any further appeal would turn on grounds that are extremely narrow and would be **unlikely to succeed**."

**Note.** These are excerpts. Full text at: <http://www.facebook.com/new.phs.park>