

### **Prestonfield Golf Club**

Prestonfield Golf Club made representations to the Inquiry Reporter appointed to hear objections to the Edinburgh City Local Plan.

Approx. 5 acres of land at Peffermill Road, which are surplus to the golf club's requirements, had been zoned *Greenbelt, Area of Great Landscape Value and Open Space*. In addition, the land was zoned as being part of the *Flood Plain*. The Council agreed at the Inquiry that approx. 2 acres of the land, immediately adjacent to the road, fell outwith the *Flood Plain* designation.

The Reporter supported the Council's position.

Prestonfield Golf Club (est. 1920) has 608 members resident within close proximity of the club. There is equality and non-discrimination of membership and a junior section, containing young people from schools in the local area. The club is a well established, "not for profit" organisation and has responsibly maintained a valuable provision within the community for a considerable period of time. We also provide employment for 7 full and 6 part-time staff. During the last 3 years the club has hosted a pro-am tournament which has raised £9,000 for the Royal Hospital for Sick Children.

Reflecting current times, membership numbers have declined during the last few years. We are 62 full members short of the maximum (670) allowed in our Articles of Association. In competition with other clubs within the City, standards of play and course improvements require to be provided to attract new members. Subscription levels (currently just under £700p.a.) require to be competitive at the same time as covering our costs including repaying a bank loan on our clubhouse and financing improved playing facilities, which have continued over the last few years. 6 greens have still to be renewed to USGA standards to provide year round play. Improved drainage is also required to combat the prevailing winter climate changes. This is over and above any necessary repairs to our clubhouse and green keepers shed. We also badly need to build an on course toilet facility.

The future of a number of local clubs is constantly in doubt and Duddingston and Torphin Hill Golf clubs face very similar pressures to survive in the current financial climate.

The sale of the identified surplus ground is the only remedy open to us to maintain the clubs historic future, employment level and the not insubstantial contribution that the playing area of the course makes to the planning designations within the City Local Plan.

The club would wish the Planning Committee to release the designation of part of the surplus ground to permit development for residential purposes. This part of the surplus land at one time contained 2 cottages and the foundations can still be seen today.