

Table 1
ITEM No 3.2(c)

Sent: 20 December 2006 10:54
Subject: DEPUTATION - 21 DECEMBER

Hi Carmel

Portobello Park Action Group would like to make a deputation to the council meeting tomorrow.

The presenters will be Ros Sutherland and Stephen Hawkins.

Thanks

Diana

20/12/2006

**PORTOBELLO PARK ACTION GROUP DEPUTATION TO FULL COUNCIL,
21 DECEMBER 2006 - SUMMARY**

- 1 The consultation of residents and parents shows that the majority of people oppose building on either the Park or Golf Course and also support a re-build on site for Portobello High School.** Parents' views were counted twice or more as they took part in other sections of the consultation. Portobello Park Action Group has more than 700 signatures on its online petition and 3,000 in total. PFANS who want the school on the Park has only just over 200 signatures on its online petition.

- 2 There is a lot of uncertainty about whether the council is entitled to build on the Park.** Roy Martin QC, Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, has provided a legal opinion to say the Park and Golf Course are common good land and, if this is found to be the case in court, that there would be limitations upon the entitlement of the Council to alienate the land forming the Park. No decision should be made until a resolution is found to the issue of whether the land is common good and whether it can legally be developed.

- 3 There is no mention of where the green space lost would be replaced.** There is nowhere big enough in Portobello to replace the lost green space. **It seems highly likely that, if built on, the green space lost from Portobello Park will be lost to the community forever.**

At the moment, the Park is casually accessible to all at any time of day or night. If the school is built on it, its facilities will be fenced off and if an ordinary member of the public wants to use them, they will have to pay for the privilege. **This park is widely used and enjoyed not just by people in Portobello but also by people in the Christians and Magdalene who have very little green space available to them.**

- 4 It was considered perfectly acceptable to re-build PHS as a 1450 pupil school on site under the PPP2 project and this would be going ahead if the money had been available.** Would there have been a campaign to stop the rebuild on site? There has been no adequate explanation given as to why the rebuild on site for both schools was once acceptable and now is not.

A rebuild on site of PHS could be achieved without a decant if St John's moved. This has been put to the council on several occasions but has been completely been ignored.

Cont.

- 5 **The traffic generated by this plan will cause congestion, pollution and accidents in an area not able to cope with large volumes of traffic.**

- 6 **There is a high risk of a build on Portobello Park not getting planning permission, as acknowledged by the council's consultants.** The council may find itself back at square one in a few years' time if planning consent is not secured. This will put back the replacement of the school(s) by several years.

We ask that you heed the views of the majority of people in Portobello in that Portobello Park should not be built on. At the very least we ask that you to defer your decision until such time as there is certainty on matters such as the legality of building on the land and how the project is to be funded instead of wasting everyone's time going down a possible blind alley.

*Portobello Park Action Group
20th December 2006*