Mr Andrew Kerr
Chief Executive
City of Edinburgh Council
4 East Market Street
Edinburgh EH8 8BG

Please reply to CORA at ourbackgreen@gmail.com

28 March 2024

Dear Mr Kerr,

Re: Disposal of Council land and planning permission 23/01201/FUL at Eyre Place, Edinburgh.

Members of CORA (Canonmills Owners' and Residents' Association**)** were shocked and surprised to receive your response to our letter of 21 March 2024. To be frank, we found your response to be unacceptable, particularly as it failed to address any of our concerns (see our letter and your response attached).

Given the nature of your reply, it seems that you may be unaware of the long relationship between residents of 1-6 Canonmills and the garden ground which the Council is in the process of selling for development. You may also be unaware that the land in question was, in the late 1980s, enclosed by a stone wall, landscaped, planted, and designed by the Council as a drying green and garden for the use of neighbouring tenements.

CORA does not dispute the ownership of the garden ground and recognises that it is public land. Our concerns are with the process of the proposed sale and the handling of the planning application on the garden part of the combined site. We are particularly concerned that:

1. There appear to be serious errors and material omissions in the Disposal of Land report to the Finance and Resources Committee and in the Report of Handling presented to the Development Management Sub-committee. These are pending investigation by the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman.
2. Councillors on both the above committees may have been gravely misled by the errors and omissions in official documentation.
3. There has been a serious miscalculation of open space provision for the new development, in direct contravention of Edinburgh's Local Development Plan policy on Housing 3.
4. The Council appears to have conflated two entirely different sites (an unused building and a much larger green open space) and treated both as a single brownfield site.
5. Residents and owners of the neighbouring tenements have had no communication whatsoever from the Council about proposals to sell garden space which we have used continually for nearly 40 years.
6. The Council appears to have shown disrespect to our political representatives by failing to respond in an appropriate manner to representations made by them on behalf of CORA members.

As stated in our letter of 21 March, CORA implores the Council to **immediately halt the imminent sale of the garden ground until these matters have been investigated and resolved**. We are very keen to work with the Council on alternative solutions which might prove beneficial to all parties, such as sharing the space with a smaller development on the Smithies site.

Respectfully yours,

Julia Brown (Chair), Alison Munro (Secretary) and Daniel Hall (Treasurer) on behalf of CORA members.

Please note this letter has been copied to all interested parties, including the directors of Eyre Place Properties Ltd, MPs, MSPs and councillors.