



The Findhorn Village Conservation Company's Motorhome Stopover

About the Project

The Findhorn Village Conservation Company was formed in 2016, with a focus on purchasing village assets for the good of the local community. (Findhorn and its immediate surroundings have a population of just less than 1,000.) An in-depth "Planning for Real" consultation in the village in 2017 revealed that car-parking and sites for campervans, caravans and tents were priority concerns.

In 2020, concerns about campervans escalated: during the summer, with the COVID pandemic persisting, there were up to 60 campervans parked overnight in and around Findhorn. This was clearly more than the local infrastructure – for example parking spaces and waste disposal – could cope with.

A chance encounter with a funder alerted TFVCC to the fact that a grant was potentially available to fund development of a campervan site – but the application deadline was three days later! In December 2020 the funding was approved; groundwork at the site started in February 2021; and, remarkably, the first customer stayed overnight in May 2021. TFVCC does not have paid staff – project management of the development was done by volunteers, who liaised closely with contractors.

In December 2021 the site was awarded the title Aire of the Year 2021 by the Campaign for Real Aires. This award is based on nominations and votes from users of the site.

Developed appropriately, technology can contribute to reduced running costs

Planning permission for the site stipulated that it could take a maximum of 21 campervans, each staying for no more than two nights. In order to manage numbers, the site has online booking and a barrier activated by automated numberplate recognition. This can be managed without on-site staff, except for a part-time cleaner. Running costs are extremely low. IT support accounts for about 80% of costs, with small amounts for electricity and rubbish collection. The Aire is a stop-over, not a long-stay site, so it does not have electricity hook-ups.

The aire has proved economically beneficial to both TFVCC and the wider village. The automated system ensures that all stopover fees are paid. Many of the motorhome customers use the local shops and pubs extensively.

“We are proud to be a part of Community Tourism and the network of support of the newly established SCOTO. This Motorhome Stopover has been developed and is managed by volunteers. Being able to seek advice and support from others was a key element of the development and why we are proud to be part of the SCOTO network.”

Cathy Low, TFVCC



Location: Findhorn, Moray

Type: Stay

When Set Up: TFVCC was established 2016

How Funded: Income from fees, plus support from Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scottish Government Adapt and Thrive programme and Moray Council Coastal Communities Fund.

Beneficiaries: Customers, local businesses, residents who experience less of a problem of inappropriately parked motorhomes.

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