FRIENDS OF FINDHORN BAY - March 2018

1. Was the scheme adhered to or not and what evidence do you have to support this.

No – absolutely not.

Our data attached clearly shows it was not adhered to.

2. If the scheme did not work what is your view on why this was the case.

The shooting groups seemed determined not to even trial this agreement before it started. It seems most of the shooting groups do not get on between themselves and are therefore unable to agree on anything.

The shooters relied on vagueness of Mean High Water mark, foreshore boundaries, difficulty in prosecution and a general desire to not to work with MC or FBLNR.

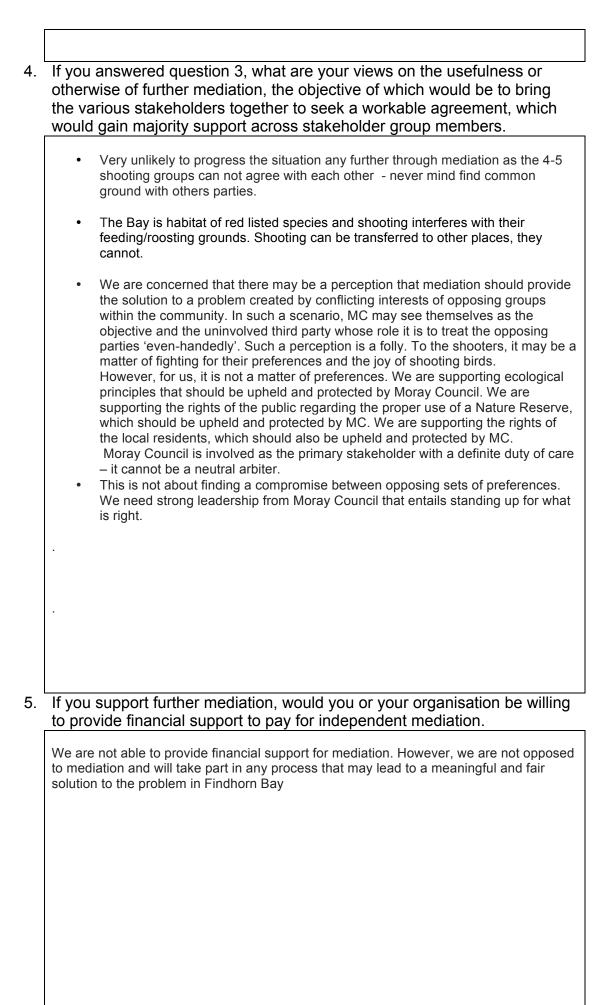
It was voluntary and it seems the shooters will only comply if a legal requirement.

Shooting tourists have little vested interest in making compromises work on their 'holiday'.

3. Do you have any alternative proposals or amendments to the current scheme that you think would work better.

The only other option that would work better is a ban on all shooting on FBLNR. A full ban on the Bay would allow eco friendly activities year round and is, in the long term, the most low cost effective and enforceable option (see 6)

We cannot see how any alternative schemes would be affordable or enforceable, especially as prosecution of litter/foreshore issues are so difficult to bring to court. Anything less than a clear, legal law will be ignored by the shooters- like this trial was.



6. Any other comments

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	Residents are discouraged from accessing the bay during the shooting season because of intimidation by shooters- this seriously needs addressing.
•	Having set up the Nature Reserve to protect wildlife the MC will have shown utmost hypocrisy by their non-action to protect red listed species such as the curlew.
•	10 of the 12 quarry species for shooting are on the birds of conservation concern list, compiled by RSPB and SNH.
•	Moray Council should be lobbying SNH and National government on these points to add their weight to the argument, for protection of flora and fauna.
•	Turning FBLNR into a National Reserve would be an excellent way forward regarding banning the shooting.
•	Bird watching tourism, wildlife tourism, eco tourism, educational use, recreational use, outdoor sports, rambling, water sports, dog walking, etc. can all live simultaneously side by side, and can be expanded to benefit each other. Shooting inhibits all of these happening for 6 months of the year.
•	If you want to increase revenue through shooting - which is unlikely to be a reality - it will increase conflicts of interest and create more problems that need MC time and resources to police.
•	Plastic litter is now a global problem and needs to be addressed quickly; the attitude of the shooters re this is appalling. Why should shooters, who simply don't care, abuse our local environment?
Findho benefic Bay int more r	ndhorn Foundation already attracts year-round eco tourism. Advertising rn Bay Nature Reserve in cooperation with others such as the FF may be a sial financial avenue. With little financial effort from MC it can make Findhorn ernationally well known as a tourism highlight, and will make almost certainly evenue than the comparatively few shooters- but, for this to happen, the Bay to be safe all year round.

response to be anonymous.

7.

No, we do not need our report to be anonymous. This was compiled by Friends of Findhorn Bay. We would request no individual personal names are used though.