

BID4Oban Corona Virus Update 5 24th March 2020

We are trying to keep businesses update with the latest information regarding the outbreak of Corona Virus.

Considering the latest announcement from the government concerning lock down, we are now entering an unprecedented spell for the business community and townsfolk of Oban. BID4Oban are doing their best to keep everyone updated with as far as possible daily updates to the business community through email and social media. We are in daily contact with Argyll and Bute Council and Tourism organisations. It goes without saying that the safety of our local population is of the utmost importance. We still have essential businesses open including butchers, supermarkets, chemists, petrol stations and small local shops across Argyll and Bute. We would urge everyone visiting these facilities to show respect and consideration for the staff and comply with social distancing etc. It is a surreal situation we are in and it seems a lifetime ago but only three weeks when we were planning and discussing events for the summer months. I know at this stage it is easy to type stay positive, but we need to look out for each other and get through this. Looking to the future, we will come out of this and when we do, we need to work hard to bring everyone back together, plan to bring our visitors back and promote everything that is great about Oban and Argyll.

Please share any information you have regarding your business on Facebook – Love Oban or Twitter. We will forward to our sites.

Above all, stay safe.

Previous updates available on <http://www.bid4oban.co.uk/>

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BID4Oban Statement regarding accommodation and travel:

Oban BIDs recognises that this is not the time for visitors to come to Oban on holiday. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic both the UK and Scottish Governments

have issued strong advice to limit the spread of the virus by asking people to stay at home and not to undertake any unnecessary travel. This includes travel to rural areas of Scotland, including Oban, where our local health services have limited capacity to deal with additional numbers of people becoming ill. It should also be noted that all pubs, restaurants, visitor and leisure attractions together with many retail and hotel businesses are closed for the foreseeable future. All public events have also been cancelled. In addition, Cal Mac have taken the decision not to accept bookings to our island's communities except for the delivery of essential goods and the transportation of island residents.

Refuse Collections:

Argyll and Bute Council will suspend and cancel on a temporary basis Refuse Collections for businesses that have closed. Please see process - In order for us to temporarily close accounts, can you ask any business you are in contact with affected to email us at commercial.refuse@argyll-bute.gov.uk providing their business reference number (if available), business name and full address.

BANKS – Up to date advice

Clydesdale

<https://secure.cbonline.co.uk/personal/coronavirus-information/>

Bank of Scotland

<https://www.bankofscotland.co.uk/helpcentre/coronavirus.html>

Royal Bank

<https://personal.rbs.co.uk/personal/support-centre/coronavirus.html>

Scotrail/travel

https://www.scotrail.co.uk/coronavirus-travel-information?utm_source=service&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=300955_COVID-19%20Timetable%20Changes

Argyll and Bute Council

<https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/coronavirus-help-and-advice>

STA – Scottish Tourism Alliance – Daily Updates Q&A

<https://scottishtourismalliance.co.uk/sta-update/>

Scottish Government Information

<https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>

UK government advice

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-guidance-for-employees>

BBC Podcast

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/series/p05299nl>