

BID4OBAN Newsletter



BID4Oban Ltd

April 2013

Issue: 3

News from the BID Office!

BID4Oban's First Business Forum Meeting

BID4Oban held the first of its new Business Forum events in the town on Monday 11th March. It signalled the creation of the Forum - taking the place of the Chamber of Commerce for the town, and from the feedback received both at, and post the event, the evening was a great success.

Around 50 businesses and groups were represented at the event which had the theme of Adding Value.

The evening started with an update on the progress so far of BID4OBAN Ltd, its current work and future plans.

Following the update there were two presentations, the first of which was given by the event sponsor Business Mentoring Highland - a Scottish Chambers of Commerce and HIE initiative, on what a free business mentoring service - which offers free confidential support from experienced business people – can do for a business. For more information go to www.inverness-chamber.co.uk or call 01463 718131 alternatively you can send an email to info@inverness-chamber.co.uk.

This was followed by a presentation from The Business Advisory Service which showcased a utility procurement proposal, aimed at the possible reduction of business utility bills. For more information contact Jamie Newall on 0141 530 4150 or email bid4oban@advisorysupport.co.uk.

The evening ended with an opportunity for questions, and for networking.

Chairman of the Board John Forteith said 'We are delighted to not only see a good attendance at our first business forum but also have those attending be so interested and participative in the Q&A session that followed the presentation. This involvement is crucial to the success of the BID forum as without it the forums will not be productive. The feedback and contributions from those who attended will be used in future forums and also in the general activities of the BID4Oban Company.'

Thank you to our sponsor, our speakers, to Colin and Joan Felgate for the use of the Olive Garden, and to everyone who attended and supplied feedback.

The next Business Forum event will be later this year with the theme and date to be finalised.

Oban Town Diary

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Got an **EVENT**? Log on to the **Oban Town Diary Website** and you get:

- **FREE** listings of your event on the OTD website,
- **FREE** listings and **FREE** promotional help when you 'like' us:
www.facebook.co.uk/ObanTownDiary.
- **FREE LISTINGS IN THE NEW 'WHAT'S ON IN OBAN' GUIDE!**

You get all of this **FREE OF CHARGE** when you post your event on www.obantowndiary.co.uk!

BID4Oban are recruiting!

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OBAN TOWN AMBASSADORS

BID4Oban are looking for cheerful, helpful and reliable people who have a passion for Oban and are great communicators. The successful candidates will provide a positive and cheerful welcome to visitors out and about in the town and provide information on local attractions, events and businesses.

There are 4 part-time seasonal posts available, each working up to 20 hours per week. Evening and weekend work will be included.

For more information contact Jasmine on 01631 569915 or admin@bid4oban.co.uk

Closing date for applications: Monday 8th April 2013

The Big BID Beach Tidy

On Sunday 24th March BID4Oban held their first Big BID Beach Tidy. The event was incredibly successful with between 35 and 40 people lending a helping hand to clean the shoreline and help to improve safety on the beaches.

More than 70 bags of rubbish were lifted from the beaches in addition to wooden pallets and other such large objects that are regularly washed into the bay with the tide.

BID4Oban would like to send special thanks to the many volunteers and groups who took the time to help with the project including the Cubs, Beavers and Scouts from 1st Argyll and their parents, and also to the council for their swift removal of the waste collected.

Also we would like to thank Coasters for providing Tea and Coffee for all of the volunteers and Markie Dans for providing the much needed bacon rolls!

BID4Oban has plans to make the Big BID Beach Tidy a regular event with the hope of expanding the clean to other hard-hit areas around Oban.

If you or your business would like to get involved in any way, whether it is by donating refreshments, equipment, helping to advertise or you may want to get fully involved and volunteer in the clean-ups, please get in touch with Jasmine at the BID Office.

The Big Beach tidy was arranged by BID4OBAN Ltd as part of the plans for environmental improvement work throughout the town, which include working with groups to tidy Station Square and other areas of the town, working with businesses through the first round of the Business Frontage Scheme, and working with the council to clean the streets, planters and pavements pre-Easter.

As well as this there are a number of other environmental plans which are well under way and which include new for floral displays throughout the town to be in place by early summer.

Supplier Development Programme

Are you thinking of tendering for public sector contracts and would like some help getting started? Or have you been unsuccessful in the past? Alternatively, are you already supplying the public sector but want to do more? Whatever level you are at there's still time to register and book a place at one of two FREE Supplier Development Programme workshops.

Workshop 1 – Is the public sector right for you?

This introductory workshop is designed for businesses and third sector organisations that have had little or no experience of tendering for public sector contracts and would like to become 'tender ready'. This workshop will provide you with enough information to decide if this market is for you, give an overview of the tendering landscape and share some tips on successful tendering.

Spaces are still available at the workshops running on:

- **Thurs 11th April** – Argyll & Bute Council Chambers, Kilmory, Lochgilphead – 10.00-12.30
- **Fri 19th April** – Queens Hall, Dunoon – 10.00-12.30
- **Fri 26th April** – Corran Halls, Oban – 10.00-12.30

An informal '**Meet the Buyer**' networking event will follow each of the above workshops from 12.30-14.00. Come along and meet members of the Council's procurement team, ask questions and find out about opportunities to supply the Council.

Workshop 2 – Quality Management Policy.

This workshop is designed to ensure you have the correct Quality Management documentation in place when tendering. It is designed for companies and third sector organisations that do not have the standard required policy Documents in place but is also relevant for companies wishing to update their existing policies. The objective of this workshop is to show the standard of your business processes in relation to carrying out a contract and to improve your ability in the tendering process on the basis of quality management credentials.

Spaces are still available at the workshops running on:

- **Fri 24th May** – Argyll Hotel, Inverary – 10.00-13.30

To book your place, firstly register your business or third sector organisation at www.sdpscotland.co.uk. Once you have registered, you can book your workshop place via the Events section of website. If you have any questions please visit www.sdpscotland.co.uk or call the local Business Gateway Team on 01546 605 459.

Contact Us

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