



August 2014 Issue

BID4Oban Monthly Newsletter

Recent Markets in Station Square

Once again we have had a number of contacts regarding the recent markets located in Station Square. I can once again advise you that we, BID4OBAN Ltd, do not support the format of these markets.

Unfortunately, BID4Oban had no knowledge that these recent markets were going to take place on either of the last two weekends, however as soon as we saw them being set up, we contacted the Licensing Department of Argyll & Bute Council and were told that the market had been granted a temporary licence which does not require any advertising. Hence we at Bids, our Local Councillors and all the businesses did not know anything about it.

These markets are unlike the event earlier in the year where a Continental Market group applied for a license and because this went before the PPSL it had to be advertised. Therefore we knew all about and were able to let you know. Our Local Elected members on that committee recommended that the application be refused which was supported.

In the past when we have been consulted, we have made it very clear that BID4Oban Ltd will support any activity that drives footfall into Oban and stimulates trade for the Oban business community. However, we also made it clear that if a 'Continental Market', or such event, were to be held in Oban they should not conflict with existing businesses. Furthermore, stalls should be vetted and the quality of such an event should be controlled. We also requested that the council engage with us in the planning of such an event so that we could influence all of the above. As a Board and organisation made up of local traders, and as a company dedicated to the enhancement of the town and its businesses, we take this matter very seriously.

An interim solution would be that the Licensing Committee introduces a new condition for a temporary license which would mean that the when receiving a Temporary license application the Local Elected Members who serve on that Committee would be consulted along with the local Community Council this would avoid any repetitions of recent weeks

A possible long term solution would be that a Bye Law be created whereby a market has to be provided by an organisation representative of local businesses like Bids, Chamber of Commerce or similar thereby the community would have control of who what and when such an event might take place.

Earlier this year we asked if there was an appetite for a Bid led local market - this would need support from local businesses as well. Please let us know how you feel contact neil@bid4oban.co.uk

There are a number of concerns surrounding these markets such as quality of product, proximity to established businesses supplying similar products, and traders being allowed to park their vehicles sometimes overnight on what is normally a pedestrian area, to name but a few. If businesses wish to air their views regarding the markets, please send an email to the BID office admin@bid4oban.co.uk and we will pass them directly on to the council.

Bid4Oban Office Telephone: 01631 569 915 Email: admin@bid4oban.co.uk

Nic Jones: Project Manager nic@bid4oban.co.uk

Neil Mackay: Events & Marketing Manager neil@bid4oban.co.uk

Yvonne MacLean: Administrator yvonne@bid4oban.co.uk

Company No: SC435469



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Training Opportunity offer

We have had an offer of free FuelGood Diver Training for our members and/or friends and family to be held at SAMS. SAMS has scheduled two days of training on the 12th August and the 18th September for their staff, and they are offering to run consecutive days alongside these dates for our members, family or friends. They just need a minimum of 6 people per day to qualify for the funding.

So if any of our members / their friends and family are interested, please contact Yvonne at the BID office 01631 569915 or Yvonne@bid4oban.co.uk by **Friday 15th August**. The first scheduled day for non-SAM's staff is full but there are spaces available for the second day. Thank you to those who have taken up the offer already.
Places will be allocated on a 1st come 1st served basis (Minimum of 6 names per session required)

The FuelGood Driver Training information

- These are **fully** subsidised by the Scottish Government (commercial costs are generally around £40 per driver).
- Average savings for those undertaking the training can equate to 2 months' worth of fuel every year!
- Training is 50 min, 1:1 behind the wheel sessions with an Approved Driving Instructor
- You will complete a circuit twice, once before training and again after training. Miles per gallon is measured for both circuits to provide evidence of the effectiveness of the training, so you can see for yourself how much you can save.
- You will be sent a personalised certificate to show how much you could save each year, based on the reduction in fuel consumption achieved during your FuelGood training, your annual mileage and current car.
- 96% would recommend the training to others
- 85% have altered the way they drive since the training

FuelGood Training Terms and Conditions:

1. No driver disqualified for a period exceeding six months in the last three years or for a period exceeding three months during the past year, can undertake the training
2. The training is not available for any driver aged 20 or under
3. The training is not available for any driver that has held their licence for less than 12 months
4. If the individual has a photo card licence then both this and the paper part need to be presented on the day. Old style paper licenses need to be accompanied by photo ID, e.g. passport

For more detail please go to

<http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland/Travel/Driving/FuelGood/FuelGood-training-sessions>

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Promoting Your Business

Here at BID4OBAN Ltd we are always looking for new initiatives to raise the profile of both the town and the businesses within our town. We have a number of schemes currently under way including:

The Business Frontage Scheme

A grant to help with improvements to the frontages of existing businesses. The next round is due by the end of September.

Mi Love Oban FREE App and website

A way for *all* businesses - large, small, national, local, town centre or out with the town centre – to advertise and promote themselves, their products and promotions **FREE OF CHARGE**. Need more information please contact the office and we will arrange a meeting with you at the earliest opportunity.

Love Oban Voucher Scheme

FREE to sign up and easy redemption of the local gift vouchers and no fees. A £20.00 voucher = £20.00 to you etc.

Welcome packs for cruise ship visitors

FREE distribution of any fliers for your business, or promotions aimed at cruise ship visitors.

Welcome packs at events

FREE distribution of any fliers for your business, or promotions aimed at visitors and locals distributed at BID events or relevant events supported by BID4OBAN.

Oban Town Diary, What's On Notice boards and What's on Leaflets

FREE Advertising for your event digitally on the Oban Town Diary web site <http://www.bid4oban.co.uk/> and **FREE** advertising on the monthly What's On poster inside the BID information boards throughout the town, and **FREE** entry in the fortnightly What's on leaflet distributed by our Ambassadors to the public as well as in over 30 outlets in the town and as a PDF to local businesses

Empty premises

Contact us to see about our Empty Premises Grant to help decorate the windows with vinyl.

We are working hard to promote our businesses, so if you have any questions about any of the promotional schemes please contact the office and we will be happy to come and talk to you at a mutually convenient time.

Contact the office for further information admin@bid4oban.co.uk

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