

April 6th, 2020 BID4Oban Corona Virus Update 10

Today's update on supporting businesses:

Important NEWS – COVID-19 Business Improvement £1M Resilience Fund

The Scottish Government has made available a fund of £1M for Business Improvement Districts for example BID4Oban Ltd. This is to support BID companies get our local business community through the current crisis. There are several projects we are working on including, highlighting which local businesses are trading through the crisis. This will include the obvious ones like supermarkets, butchers, takeaways, petrol stations, news agents and mini markets. We are working with The Oban Times, Oban FM and various social media sites. We also plan to highlight the work of voluntary organisations and what services they have on offer at present I.E Dove Centre, Rockfield Centre etc.

We have started work with the Oban Times and there is information on their website. Part of this plan is a two-page spread each week for the next eight weeks to highlight the business community and social partners.

To enable us to gain the maximum benefit for both the business community of Oban and its residents we urgently need details of any businesses that are trading and or supplying emergency services. We are looking for information from trades electricians, joiners, plumbers, builders, garages, builders' merchants etc. We are also looking for information from solicitors, accountants and other professional services. We also want to hear from any retailers that are still working and providing services online. Please be advised we will not advertise any business that was not up to date with its levy payments as of 28th February 2020 where applicable. Please contact us via email, or social media with updates on any businesses that are trading and want included in advertising. There is no charge for this. We are open to applications for funding from community groups that are providing essential services in the community.

We are also starting to plan for the future as to how we can best service our levy payers for the remainder of the year. We are currently working with Oban and Lorn Tourism Alliance and Argyll and Bute Council. We are looking for ideas from the business

community so we can apply for additional funding to support Oban. .

We have been advised that the first Government Grants will be paid out this week to businesses that have applied for them.

For all updates please visit our website:

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<http://www.bid4oban.co.uk/>

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