



Oban Business Improvement District

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Press Release – BID4Oban Ltd 31st October 2020

Town Centre Regeneration Fund 2020/2021

Argyll and Bute Press Statement 22nd October 2020 <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/news/2020/oct/argyll-and-bute-benefit-share-town-centre-capital-fund>

BID4Oban are delighted to have been awarded £63,000 funding for Town Centre Regeneration. This is the largest single award the Business Improvement District has received to date and plans are in place to ensure the capital projects are in place for 31st March 2021. The award comes on the back of a £44,000 award for street signage that will be implemented within the same timescales. There was a delay in implementation due to the COVID Pandemic.

The primary award is for Business Improvement Grants with a total budget of £28,000 including a contribution from BID4Oban. These grants have been successful with £62,000 having been invested since 2012. This funding is available to businesses to improve their business signage or shop front grants. There is an expectation that local contractors should be used for any works. Guidelines are available on the BID4Oban website.

The new award will see improvements made to the approaches and entrance to McCaigs Tower with local voluntary group Keep Oban Beautiful. Plans are in place to cut back overgrown foliage, replace existing planting schemes with sustainable low maintenance plants. Provision has also been made for the installation of picnic benches.

Additional funding has been for new welcome signage to the entrance of the town on the A85 and A816 as well as the North Pier pontoons. An upgrade and extension of the town's WiFi system will also be completed linking it to the new Oban Town Directory. One of the most challenging projects is an award to provide waste disposal solutions for the many campervans and caravans that visit the town.

Commenting on the funding Andrew Spence of BID4Oban said he was absolutely delighted at the funding. It will make a significant impact to the town and give us a fighting chance for the start of next year's tourist season as well as improving the ambience and facilities in the town.

Ends

Andrew Spence