



## GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

### OBAN BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT FRONTAGE GRANT SCHEME

BID 4 Oban Ltd was established on 31 October 2012 to deliver a five year Business Plan based on the priorities of the Oban business community identified through consultation. One of the BID's objectives is to:

*"Make the best first impression possible to visitors and shoppers to the town by helping provide a more attractive environment"*.

The Business Improvement Frontage Grant Scheme is one of several projects designed to deliver this objective and offers grant funding **up to £1000 including VAT** to any existing commercial business operating in the town which wishes to improve the appearance of its business frontage.

**There is an annual budget of £8,000 available for the Scheme, with 2 deadlines for funding applications annually (28 February and 30 September) with decisions made within 2 weeks of the closing date.**

### Criteria

#### You can apply if your business:

- Is located within the 30 mph speed limit of the town, the Oban BID boundary AND
- Is paying the BID Levy or an Associate Membership fee
- Has been in existence for or trading under the same name for 2 or more years.

#### You can apply for a grant for:

- *Improvements* to the physical appearance of the outside of your business premises; costs such as decoration, renewed signage (fixed to the building), outside lighting, awnings, and replacement of exterior features are all eligible;
- Up to 50% of the total costs of the improvements;
- A maximum of £1,000 (£833.00 ex VAT) towards the improvements.

BID4OBAN LTD, 43 Stevenson Street, Oban, Argyll PA34 5NA  
Tel. 01631 569915. [www.bid4oban.co.uk](http://www.bid4oban.co.uk)  
Chairman Graeme Bass Company no. SC435469 VAT 152327236





### You cannot apply for:

- 100% of improvement costs;
- Indoor /non-visible improvements;
- Funding for work already /being completed;
- A -Board signage.

### Before applying you should check:

1. That you have the owner's permission to undertake the work (we will need evidence to show this).
2. Whether you require planning permission for the proposed work:
  - Planning Permission is required for any alteration that 'materially affects the external appearance of a building, including canopies/awnings and external security features (and painting within Conservation Areas).'
  - Listed Building Consent may also be required in Conservation areas, or for original 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> Century shop frontages.
  - Many proposed signs require advertisement consent.

Guidance is provided at <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/planning-permission>.

Please contact the Planning Team at Argyll and Bute Council for further advice:

Email: [planning.olandi@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:planning.olandi@argyll-bute.gov.uk); 01546 605518

### ASSESSING YOUR APPLICATION

#### Your application will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Evidence of Need (current condition of property)
- Standard of work and design
- Visual impact

We will provide you with a decision within 14 days following the next available Board meeting. If your application is successful the grant awarded will generally be based on the lowest tender. Payment of the grant will be made on completion of the work and within 14 days of submission of invoice to BID. Works must be carried out within 6 months of grant award. Please note that any planning requirements and permissions must be sought prior to the grant being awarded and the works being carried out. This is the responsibility of the applicant and not BID4OBAN Ltd.

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