

These awards are open to businesses in or around the Bridport area (a guideline is a five-mile radius). Businesses may enter from outside the area providing the five-mile radius is a major trading area of that business. Businesses can enter as many categories as they wish, but only one entry per category. **Sponsors may not** enter categories they are sponsoring. Nominations need to have some comments on why the company is being nominated so the judges can appreciate why you have nominated them and that they are worthy of the award.

Best Place to Work

This category is open to all businesses and organisations (public and private sector) that can demonstrate they have created an outstanding workplace based on a set of values that has led to a committed, effective, and motivated workforce. Tell us what sets the business apart and how that has benefited the business/organisation and its employees. We know the pandemic will have changed the way you work but tell us how the business has taken steps to take care of employees and customers.

Café, Pub, Casual Dining

This award is open to cafes, pubs, inns, and any hospitality business that offers casual dining. Our definition to differentiate between casual and fine dining is -

A casual dining restaurant is a full-service one but with a laid-back, comfortable, family-friendly ambiance and an affordable menu.

A fine dining restaurant has an upscale ambiance, a dress code, a chef-curated highly priced menu, and service to the "white tablecloth" standard.

The entrant will need to demonstrate customer service at the highest level, a creative menu and give details of any awards, reviews, customer testimonials that back this up.

Entrants should demonstrate excellence across every aspect of their business, outlining their long term aims to continue to improve their customer experience.

Excellence in Customer Service

This award is open to businesses that can show flexibility, responsibility, and a clear focus on their customer service. They need to demonstrate a high level of customer satisfaction, setting the bar for their competitors to follow. Also, businesses should, if possible, give examples of any customer service training they have given to their team, whether on a one-to-one basis or group training.

Family Business

The winner of this award will have family members currently working in the business. The judges are looking for businesses who can articulate why that matters to the success of the business, while acknowledging the pros and cons of a family structure. Entrants will demonstrate what it means to be a family business and how (if applicable) non-family leaders are integrated. Businesses entering this award will need to specify the current family members leading the business and their roles

Green/Eco Business of the Year

We are looking for local business entrants who show awareness of environmental issues and are working to be more environmentally friendly. Entrants will need to show they are focused on being ethically and socially responsible. The award is open to any local business

or individual that has included environmental improvements as part of their core business model and reducing waste.

Independent Business of the Year

This category is open to local independent businesses who can demonstrated enterprise, vision, innovation, and entrepreneurial spirit, which in turn is growing their business. Also, a strong record of serving local customers. The winning business will demonstrate excellence in all areas of the business.

Artisans and Market Vendors.

The winner of this category will sell or produce food and drink products (like wine, beer, cheese, jams, pickles vinegars etc) clothing and accessories, jewellery, art, interior and lifestyle products, books, drinks, carpentry work, furniture, gardening equipment, plants, baby products, confectionery, leather goods, perfumes & make up, candles, soaps, photos, and pet supplies to name a few. The list is endless. The winning business will be able to demonstrate customer satisfaction and what makes them different.

New/Start-up Business of the Year

Entrants are invited from businesses less than three years old (as of November 2021), that have demonstrated enterprise, vision, innovation, and entrepreneurial spirit when setting up a successful new business. Also, a clear vision as to how the business will develop in the future. We are looking for inspiring new businesses that will be seen as role models for other new businesses.

B2B Business of The Year

This award acknowledges outstanding provision of services to other businesses. Awarded to an organisation that has demonstrated market leading performance in service delivery, innovation, and value for money. Businesses entering this award will come from service supplying areas such as accountants, the legal profession, HR, employment agencies, IT support or in fact any business offering support to other businesses.

Retailer of The Year

Open to businesses selling products or services either online or in-store. Our judges will want to know how you are succeeding in retail and how you have changed to make that success happen over the last few years. What plans do you have to maintain profits or grow the business? Open to all size businesses that can demonstrate customer satisfaction , profitability, and entrepreneurship.

Rising Star- Young Entrepreneur

A young person is defined as under 30 – they can either be employed or run their own business, the judges will be looking for individuals who have demonstrated an exceptional contribution to the workplace or development of their own company. The judges will be looking for excellent performance, a real hands-on approach, initiative, ambition and entrepreneurial spirit.

Small Business of the Year (Less than 10 employees)

This category is open to all local companies with 10 or less employees that can demonstrate ambition and innovation in their business sector. Details on how your business stands out from your competitors and achievements in the last year or so. Details on where you want to be in the next year. The judges will be looking for achievement in all aspects of the company, excellent leadership, a good sales and marketing strategy, commitment to staff development and training.

My Favourite Business

This is open for nominations only from customers/clients, residents who can put forward their favourite business/organisation/charity in town.

You cannot enter your own business.

We need to know why they are a favourite – what makes them so special. Is it what they offer, their staff, their customer service.