

Please read the Terms and Conditions as well – they are on the website.

REMEMBER ITS NOT THE NUMBER OF NOMINATIONS OR ENTRIES THAT WILL WIN AN AWARD BUT WHAT THEY SAY SO PLEASE GIVE US LOTS OF DETAIL

My Favourite Business Award

The award is very much for nominations as its encouraging residents/business owners to put forward the business they love the most in town. Tell us why they are so special – is their customer service exceptional, are their products fantastic, do they go the extra mile to make the experience one to remember. The more you tell us the more chance they have of winning!

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.

Hospitality

The category is defined in these awards as including

Food and Beverage Providers so restaurants, cafes, bars, pubs, nightclubs, take-aways etc, tearooms etc.

What makes you special – ahead of the competition. Is it the food you create, use of local produce and suppliers, your team and their excellent customer service. Do you score highly in reviews/social media and have you won any other awards. Please tell us why you are worthy of this award.

New Business of the Year

Entries are invited from businesses less than three years old) 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.

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 ethical and socially responsible. The award is open to any local business, organisation, or individual that has included environmental improvements as part of their core business model and reducing waste.

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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. With stresses in recent years from Covid to rising running costs tell us how the business has taken steps to take care of and help employees and customers.

Family Business of The Year

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.

Community Support

Open to any business, individual or organisation that can demonstrate commitment to the local community through services, fund raising or physical or mental support. In fact, any support or actions for their community's benefit that are legal. So it could be a business that organises regular events to fundraise for its community or local charity, or a parent fundraising for their child's school. It could be a church helping the homeless or a foodbank. The winner of this category will be a business, organisation or an individual that has consistently helped others with dedication and commitment. Entries should give examples of what has been done.

Retail Business

This is open to online and town centre retail businesses – what makes you so special – is it what you offer, your customer service, your range of products, your pricing, your website or a mixture. Tell us about your current trading success and plans for the future. How do you adapt and innovate to attract new customers and maintain existing ones. Give us details on your understanding of the market in which you operate.

Independent Business of the Year

Open to any business that can demonstrate excellence across the board through 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. Demonstrate enterprise, vision, innovation, and entrepreneurial spirit that make you a leading independent business.

Best Use of Social Media

If social media channels are at the heart of your marketing and your growth strategy, then this is the category for you.

This award will recognise creative, well-executed campaigns or strategies that have used social media to connect with audiences, grow awareness and support your business goals across multi platforms. i.e. LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, X, YouTube etc.

We want to hear about the creative and strategic execution, audience engagement, and the impact on your business. The more detail you give us the better

B2B Business of The Year

Open to any business that creates products and/or services for other businesses so that could include businesses that operate in accountancy, commercial legal work, IT and cyber security, car leasing, business funding, websites and marketing, sales training, hospitality supplies, security, insurance, telecommunications etc. The entrants need to demonstrate how their services stand above their competitors, how they achieve excellent customer satisfaction and what makes them an award winner.

Young Entrepreneur/Rising Star

Open to anyone under 40 at the time of entering who either works for themselves or is employed by a local business. Open for entries from anyone running their own business or working for a local company. If you run your own business inspire our judges by telling us all about the business you run, why you launched it, the successes so far and your vision for its future. If you are an employee why are you a rising star have you been fast tracked for promotion, do you inspire your colleagues with your achievements?

Employee of the Year

Open to any person in any sector and of any age. This is for someone who has really stood out in the workplace showing initiative, enthusiasm and a 'can do' attitude. Someone who carries out their duties with diligence showing support for their colleagues.

Overall Business – the judges choice so cannot be entered