

These awards are open to businesses in or around the Purbeck area of Wareham, Swanage, Corfe Castle etc Businesses not based there but within a 3-mile radius may enter if it's 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 comments on why the company is being nominated so that the judges can appreciate why you have nominated them and gain an understanding of why they are worthy of the award. **It is not the number of nominations the judges will consider but the quality of the nomination.**

The ActionCOACH Scale-Up Award (Outstanding Business Growth)

ActionCOACH Scale up award. The scale up award recognises and celebrates high-growth businesses and the entrepreneurs that run them. This award showcases businesses that have navigated tough conditions by innovating, creating jobs, achieving growth, and supporting their communities. This award is open to growing companies with at least 10 employees and that have grown by 20% or more in the last 3 years.

The judges will be looking for a demonstration of investment to build a strong team, evidence of a growth mindset and commitment to building collaborations, and strategy around plans for further expansion.

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.

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 you 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.

Best Café, Pub, Casual Dining.

This award is open to cafes, coffee shops, bars, beachside bars, pubs, etc - and any business that provides food and drink in a social area. Entrants should demonstrate excellence across every aspect of their business, outlining their long term aims to continue to improve their customer experience.

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.

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 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

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 and the business can be any size from a one-man band to large local employer.

New Business of the Year

Entrants are invited from businesses less than three years old (as of April 2023), 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

Young Entrepreneur/Rising Star

Entrepreneur A young person is defined as under 35 – 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 showing excellent performance, a real hands-on approach, initiative, and entrepreneurial spirit.

B & B/Guest House Business of the Year

Open to all B & B's and Guest houses with 12 guest/bed rooms or less. The judges will be looking for excellent customer service, high standards right across the business from cleanliness, breakfasts, décor, bathrooms etc. Tell us what makes you stand apart from your competitors and demonstrate why your customers are at the forefront of everything you do. What makes your business a warm and welcoming one that guests will **want to return to and will happily recommend? Tell us about any other awards etc.**

Restaurant of the Year

Entrants are invited from dining establishments that can demonstrate a consistently creative and well received menu plus great customer service and a welcoming ambience. Serving delicious and tasty dishes they must have overall excellent feedback from diners. This is more about a fine dining experience rather than casual dining. Locally sourced produce and awards will impress our judges.

Tourism Business/Attraction of the Year

This award is open to all businesses that operate services primarily aimed at visitors to the area, although if local residents also use the business, it does not exclude the business entering. The sort of businesses would be animal parks, walking tours, sea fishing, heritage centres, kayaking and canoeing, paddle boarding, railways, aquariums, outdoor adventure parks, nature reserves, sailing clubs etc. The business must demonstrate they provide a truly memorable visitor experience, high levels of customer service and an innovative approach to keeping ahead of their competitors. The judges will be looking for excellence in every aspect of the business.

Self Employed/Freelance of the Year

Open to any person that is self-employed or a freelancer in any business sector as we know you are one of the most hardworking and important groups contributing to the local economy. The award will recognise the achievements made by you in your business so details of growth, development, innovation, achievements will help our judges. There is no age limit in this category and the business could be anything from a market trader, local crafts producer, jewellery maker, food or cheese producer to a plumber, electrician, garden designer, bookkeeper, counsellor, HR provider, marketing /design company, PR. The list is endless but tell us what makes you stand out from the crowd and why you think you are better than competitors.

Green-Eco Business of the Year

The judges will be looking for steps you have taken to reduce your businesses carbon footprint, initiatives to reduce waste, use less plastic and generally 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.

Overall Winner

This is decided by the judges who are asked to vote for their 1st, 2nd and 3rd businesses and then the one that gets the most overall 1st votes is our winner. If voting is very close there will be a runner up (s)