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

**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.

**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.

**New Business of the Year**

Entries are invited from businesses less than three years old (as of September 2024) 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.

**Young Entrepreneur/Rising Star**

This is a category where you can enter yourself or enter an employee and people can also nominate local businesspeople they feel meet the following criteria. The judges will be looking for a young person (35 or under) that can either be employed or runs their own business and they will be 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, and entrepreneurial spirit.

**Health & Wellbeing**

This award is open for entries and nominations from any business or organisation that offers services to aid health (including mental) and wellbeing. So that could be gyms, counsellors, spas, yoga, personal trainers, sports massage, chiropractic, Pilates, physiotherapy etc. Tell us why you are so special, what makes you better than the competition.  physiotherapy chiropractic, sports massage,

**Best Café/Tearoom**

This award is open to cafes, coffee shops, tearooms etc - Entrants should demonstrate excellence across every aspect of their business, outlining their long term aims to continue to improve their customer experience. They should detail any actions they have taken recently to cope with rising costs, staff shortages etc to remain successful and plans for the future. What sets you apart

**Casual Dining Experience**

Open for entries and nominations from any business that offers food in a casual way rather than a white tablecloth/wine waiter/silver service experience. So that include pubs, wine bars, garden centre restaurants, burger bars etc. Use of local ingredients and freshly prepared dishes will impress our judges as well as 5\* reviews.

**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 ell 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.

**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 Tech Business**

Entries and nominations open for any tech company that focuses on researching, developing, manufacturing, selling and supporting tech tools. So that could be computer hardware, software, websites or apps. Or online products and services from streaming networks to e commerce platforms. Is AI a growing feature of your offering? What makes you so special in comparison to the competition?

**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.

**B2B Business**

Open for entries and nominations for any business that offers another business professional service like HR, IT, recruitment, insurance, legal services, accountancy etc. Tell us why you are a cut above the competition. How you build trusted relationships with your business clients and details of any awards/reviews/testimonials.