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

**My Favourite Business Award 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 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.

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**Casual Dining**

**Open to any restaurant/bar/wine bar/pizzeria etc- any eatery basically that offers dining in a casual way so not white table cloth /silver service.**

**Tell us what makes you so special and use of local produce/suppliers will impress our judges. Any awards or top reviews too.**

**Best Café, Tearoom**

This award is open to cafes, coffee shops, bar - 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.

**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.

**Retail Business of the Year**

**This can be any town centre/nearby or online business – just tell us what mnakes you so special, your achievements, customer testimonials, what attracts your customers to you – is it your product range, your prices, your customer service? List any previous awards and on line reviews.**

**B2B Business of the Year**

**Open to any business that supplies another business with services so that could be legal, accountancy, HR, business coaching, insurance, bookkeeping, employment/recruitment. The list is endless but make sure you tell us what makes your business stand out and why your clients are so impressed by you**