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

**High St Impact**

The award is designed to recognise any business, team or individual that can demonstrate a significant impact in making Poole a more vibrant, welcoming or sustainable town. Our judges will recognise and reward initiatives that create high street jobs, attract local residents and visitors, revitalise the town centre, or raise the profile. Measures to make the town centre/High St more green, clean and mixed use spaces will also be recognised by our judges.

**My Favourite Business**

**You cannot enter this category as a business – it is for your clients and customers to nominate you and tell us why they love you so much – what it is that makes you so special. It could be your customer service, your products, your people. Just tell us and impress our judges.**

**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.

**B2B Business**

Open to any business that offers professional services to another business -the list is endless but it could be IT, HR, accountancy, legal, marketing, cyber security, insurance, recruitment etc. Tell us what your company does that makes you a cut above your competitors

**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?