

AWARDS ENTRY AND NOMINATIONS GUIDELINES

These awards are open to all businesses and customers in or around the Weymouth and Portland area. Businesses may also enter from outside this area providing they can show it's a major trading area of that business.

Business Entries: Businesses can enter as many categories as they wish, but only one entry per category. Sponsors may not enter categories they are sponsoring.

Nominations: Awards are NOT given based on the number of nominations. Nominations are judged on what they say about a business, just like business entries. We understand that they won't have as much information as a business entry. Judges will instead look for examples of customer service, atmosphere, quality and range of products, and friendliness.

How the judging works: We have created a judging system that is simple and unbiased. We pick between five and ten judges who are based around the awards area.

The judges are independent and don't know who the other judges are. All judging is done online. The judges each receive judging guidelines and instructions.

The judges confidentially get a copy of all entries and a voting spreadsheet. Each judge has up to 100 votes per entry, so if there are six judges that's up to 600 votes per entrant. This figure is high to ensure we have clear cut winners rather than a tie.

The judges fill in their voting spreadsheet and email it back by the deadline they are given. Their voting spreadsheet is copied onto the master voting sheet which adds up the total scores per entrant. That gives us the winners in each category.

One other thing. We never have a judge voting who has any financial or family links with an entrant. Also, we don't have a judge who is involved in any type of business that competes with any of the sponsors.

CATEGORY GUIDELINES

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. We know the pandemic will have changed the way you work but tell us how the business has taken steps to take care of employees and customers.

RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR

This category recognises and rewards the local restaurant that constantly focuses on improving every aspect of their business, changing to fit customers tastes.

CAFE, PUB, ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

This award is open to Caterers, Pubs, Inns and Entertainment venues. Entrants should demonstrate excellence across every aspect of their business, outlining

their long term aims to continue to improve their customer experience.

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 AWARD

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 and their roles

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 or individual that has included environmental improvements as part of their core business model.

HEALTH, BEAUTY AND FITNESS AWARD

This category is open to local businesses ranging from hair and beauty to fitness, yoga to aromatherapy. Local businesses in this sector need to show innovation, using quality products and equipment, while focusing on staff training and the latest techniques. Also dedication to customer service and client satisfaction, with an ongoing commitment to excellence.

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.

LOCAL ARTISANS, MANUFACTURES AND TRADERS

The winner of this category will sell or produce food products, clothing and accessories, jewellery, art, interior and lifestyle products, books, drinks, carpentry work, furniture, gardening equipment, plants, baby products, confectionery, leather goods, perfumes & make up, candles, soaps, photos, and pet supplies to name a few. The list is endless. The winning business will be able to demonstrate customer satisfaction and what makes them different.

NEW BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Entrants are invited from businesses less than three years old (as of November 2021), 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.

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SUPPORT

This award is open to businesses or individuals who have gone the extra mile supporting other businesses or individuals during the recent issues. The winner of this category will be a business or an individual that has consistently helped others with dedication and commitment. Entries should give examples of what has been done. Entries can be nominations from other businesses for a business or individual or from a business for an individual within that business.

PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS SERVICES PROVIDER

This award acknowledges outstanding provision of contracted-out facilities services. Awarded to an organisation that has demonstrated market-leading performance in service delivery, innovation and value for money. Businesses entering this award will come from service supplying areas such as accountants, the legal profession, IT support or in fact any business offering support to other businesses.

RETAIL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

The winner of this award will need to show the judges how the retailer is succeeding in a sector under pressure from online competition. They will need to understand the strategy behind the retailer's success. The judges will also be looking for examples of excellent service, customer care, the retailer's range of products and their staff training.

NEW ENTREPRENEUR-RISING STAR

We are looking for nominations for this award, whether from a business or an individual. The nominee should be between 16 and 35 years old, showing initiative, focus, hard work and adaptability. The individual can be a young entrepreneur setting up their own business, working within a family business or working within any business operating in or around the Weymouth/Portland area.

OVERALL WINNER

The overall winner will be chosen from the winners in the above categories.