



## **BLACKMORE VALE AWARDS ENTRY GUIDELINES 2021**

These awards are open to businesses in or around the North Dorset area (we know, it's a loose area; we incorporate the towns of Verwood, Wimborne, Dorchester and Sherborne, up to the A303 corridor). Businesses can enter as many categories as they wish, but only one entry per category.

The judges will look for documentary evidence; facts, figures and stories. Be honest, be factual and include anything you think will strengthen your application... be mindful of the 500-word limit per application.

- **Large Business of the Year**

This award is open to businesses with more than 30 employees who show flexibility, responsibility, and both excellent customer service and employee care. This category is open to dynamic modern businesses that are standard-bearers for success across the region.

- **Small Business of the Year - less than 30 employees**

This award is open to businesses with less than 30 employees who show flexibility, responsibility, and both excellent customer service and employee care (if relevant). They need to demonstrate a high level of customer satisfaction, ways in which they have served their local community over the last year, and enhanced their employees work/life balance. This award is open to all small business holders; production businesses on an industrial estate, local hospitality teams through to individual freelancers such as caterers or photographers.

- **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. The pandemic will have changed the way the business works; tell us how the business has taken care of its employees.

- **Business Leader of the Year**

This special award recognises individuals at the helm of a business, those that have made a real contribution to both the business and the employees. People that have created,

influenced and supported local initiatives whilst driving the success of their own business, and looking after their staff. We are looking for nominations of those that have gone the extra mile to help or support the local business economy, or perhaps has quietly provided much-needed support for employees through the last year. He/she will demonstrate strong leadership qualities, integrity and commercial ability.

- **Employee of the Year**

An opportunity for managers and business owners to recognise an outstanding employee who serves as a role model for others - one who shows commitment to excellence, is consistently dependable and has a positive attitude to both colleagues and customers. Perhaps this employee has made a notable contribution to the business, or excels in their knowledge and expertise.

- **Local Producer-Artisan Business of the Year**

We are looking for nominations of those businesses that can show they produce a quality product and are available to purchase locally; online, through local outlets or their own craft stall. Entrants can include locally produced food & drink products, as well as artists and craftspeople.

- **Young Business of the Year**

Entrants are invited from businesses launched after September 2019, 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 ventures.

- **Best Digital Innovator of the Year**

Digital is deeply embedded in all we now do – we're looking to highlight businesses that have adapted the way they work to make the most of the potential of digital. Perhaps the business has identified new ways of reaching and serving customers, used an exciting new digital approach to improve a traditional market, or simply adapted to make the most of a social media platform and considerably grown the business reach and audience.

- **Young Entrepreneur of the Year**

Recognising that young entrepreneurs are the innovative zest of business; digital-literate, socially savvy sharers with inspirational energy and enthusiasm. Aged 30 or under, the Young Entrepreneur of the Year will have used these traits to achieve a level of business success that belies their age, and will be a beacon of inspiration to business people irrespective of age and industry.

- **Green/Eco Business of the Year**

This award is open to local companies of any size that can demonstrate a successful commitment to managing their social and environmental obligations, with sustainability at the core of their business.

The award is open to businesses operating in the low carbon economy, or those outside it running green programmes, or have launched a sustainable product or initiative

- **Community Heroes Award**

This award is open to individuals or not-for-profit groups who have gone the extra mile supporting their community over the last 12 months. The winner will be an individual or group that has consistently helped others with dedication and commitment. Entries should give examples of what has been done.

**OVERALL WINNER – The BV Business/Person Of the Year**

The overall winner will be chosen from the winners in the above categories, judged on their impact on life in the region.

***Who's behind the BV Awards and who should I contact with any questions?***

The Blackmore Vale Awards are run by Bluebean Publishing Ltd, in partnership with Marketing West Events. You can contact them with any questions on [BV Awards@theblackmorevale.co.uk](mailto:BV Awards@theblackmorevale.co.uk) or 01258 472572