

B A L L Y M E N A

BACK TO BUSINESS

Awards

CELEBRATING THE BEST OF BALLYMENA BUSINESS

PRINCIPAL SPONSOR



**Mid & East
Antrim**
Borough Council



2021

ORGANISED BY



Ballymena
Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry



TULLYGLASS
— HOTEL AND RESIDENCES —



Proud to Welcome you back



to Tullyglass House Hotel & Residence

Set in beautiful wooded grounds on the outskirts of Ballymena, *Tullyglass Hotel* is renowned for its relaxing atmosphere, quality of service and high quality food using local produce. The hotel is centrally located in Northern Ireland, adjacent to the spectacular Glens of Antrim and close to the Causeway Coast, both recognised for their outstanding scenery.

Tullyglass House Hotel and Residences

178 Galgorm Road, Ballymena, Co Antrim, N.Ireland, BT42 1HJ

Tel: +44 (0)28 2565 2639

Email: info@tullyglass.com – reservations@tullyglass.com



Welcome to the Ballymena Back to Business Awards

Ballymena Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry is delighted to present the 2021 'Ballymena Back to Business Awards'. This year's awards seek to give recognition to the hard work and dedication of businesses in the Ballymena area and give our businesses, their customers, suppliers and indeed our communities a sense of hope, normality and positivity.

Ballymena is widely renowned as the premier shopping town in Northern Ireland, but it is sometimes overlooked that Ballymena has a vibrant and successful industrial and agricultural base as well. These awards help to celebrate the huge contribution made by our business community. The economic environment has, to say the least, been very challenging in the last year, and these awards demonstrate both the commitment of individuals and the business excellence that exists in Ballymena and the local villages.

The Chamber of Commerce has for many years supported both established and new businesses in the area. There are 19 awards this year so there is a category to suit everyone – large or small businesses, retail, hospitality or industrial and individual awards as well.

I would like to thank Mid and East Antrim Borough Council for agreeing to be our principal sponsor once again this year. Chamber has an excellent working relationship with Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and I look forward to continuing and indeed building upon this relationship. I would also like to thank all other businesses who have sponsored awards or taken an advertisement in the awards brochure.

The judging this year will be carried out by Barbara Campbell Training and Consultancy, a company entirely independent of Chamber thereby ensuring the integrity of the awards.

Chamber will host a table for healthcare workers who have given so much to our communities during this crisis by providing critical care and support to so many families.

This year we have decided that it would not be appropriate to host an awards gala. Instead, we will celebrate the awards at a major Business Awards Lunch with tickets costing just £25. The lunch event will take place on Tuesday 19th October in Tullyglass House Hotel. This year's awards lunch will be a major event in the Ballymena business and social calendar, so put the date in your diary now. We promise you an excellent afternoon, so come along, renew old acquaintances and make new ones but most important – help us celebrate and reward all that is best about business in the Ballymena area whilst acknowledging the incredible care provided by our healthcare workers.

I wish all entrants every success.



Councillor Eugene Reid

President

Ballymena Area Chamber of
Commerce and Industry



NI Hospice Care is our
chosen charity for 2021

Council committed to economic growth and prosperity

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council are delighted to be once again supporting the hugely prestigious Ballymena Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry 'Back to Business Awards'.

Ballymena Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry has consistently demonstrated its dedication to a flourishing local economy that contributes positively to the overall economic development in the area and we as a Council are fully committed to supporting business growth and development, and promoting an environment that encourages and facilitates investment across Mid and East Antrim.

These awards celebrate the talent, entrepreneurship and ambition of our local business leaders and are the perfect way to highlight the achievements of individuals and the business excellence that exists in the Ballymena area.

Our businesses and industry leaders deserve to be recognised for their vision, innovation and commitment, and given the difficulties faced as a result of Covid-19, it is hoped these awards will give businesses and customers a sense of normality and positivity for the future as we move forward in welcoming people back to Mid and East Antrim.



The Mayor
Councillor William McCaughey
Mid and East Antrim
Borough Council

Customer Service Award Retail Sector

Sponsored by AIB

Shoppers are increasingly looking for a first-class shopping experience. This award recognises the retailers who can demonstrate individuality, quality service and innovative merchandising based on a keen understanding of their customer base. In particular, it rewards excellent, personable, face-to-face customer service.

This category will be judged by a **mystery shopper** who will be looking for evidence of:

- ✓ Delivery of excellent customer service
- ✓ Exceeding customer expectations
- ✓ Strong insight in product selection
- ✓ A strong visual impact in-store
- ✓ A strong understanding of the local customer base

Note:

- The judges' decision is always final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

AIB is delighted to sponsor the Customer Service Award Retail Sector.

We at AIB place major emphasis on building strong customer relationships and delivering a high quality service. We continue to invest in our people, who are our most important asset. This investment is by way of ongoing training and development to ensure that we maintain the high standards of customer service required to grow our business successfully.

We firmly believe that continued good service goes hand-in-hand with continued good business and this award, which will highlight the best of local business, is an ideal way for Ballymena companies to gain recognition, and be rewarded, for their best efforts.

To find out what we can do for your business locally please contact
Fiona McCoy at AIB, 78 Wellington Street, Ballymena.

Good luck with your entry.





Best Use of Digital Media, including Social Media/Website Award

Sponsored by Black Advertising

This award recognises organisations that demonstrate the best use of digital media, including social media / website to enhance loyalty, promote their services and interact with their customer base.

This category will be judged via an **interview** and the judging panel will be looking for evidence of the following:

- ✓ The establishment of clear objectives
- ✓ Innovation and creativity
- ✓ Tangible results
- ✓ An accessible and easy-to-use website
- ✓ Strong, relevant and engaging content on all digital media

Interviews will be held between September 27 and 29 either in person or via Zoom. Appointments will be forwarded to shortlisted candidates in due course.

Note:

- The judges' decision is always final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

At Black Advertising we understand how important it is for businesses to make the most of digital media.

The entire contemporary digital landscape is ripe with so many fantastic opportunities for those who can demonstrate an aptitude for harnessing its power.

It therefore gives us great pleasure to support the Ballymena Back to Business Awards, and in particular to recognise those companies who have shown excellence in the field of digital media.

black
A D V E R T I S I N G

Best Eating Establishment Award

Sponsored by Moy Park

The winning establishment in this category will offer customers an enjoyable eating experience whether they are a restaurant, bistro, hotel or bar. Judges will be looking for an industry leader where service and culinary standards are inspiring.

This category will be judged by a **mystery shopper**, who will be looking for:

- ✓ Excellent service and rapport with customers
- ✓ An appealing and varied food offering
- ✓ Great ambience and a welcoming atmosphere in the venue
- ✓ Exemplary housekeeping and evidence of excellent food safety

Note:

- The judges' decision is always final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

Building on over 75 years of agricultural heritage, Moy Park is one of Europe's leading food companies and Northern Ireland's largest private sector business.

With state-of-the-art facilities in Dungannon, Craigavon and Ballymena, Moy Park is a people focused organisation, committed to the wellbeing and success of the communities in which it operates.

Commenting on the Ballymena Back to Business Awards, Aaron Whiteman, Head of Complex at Moy Park Ballymena said:

"The food industry plays a vital role keeping our local restaurants and supermarkets stocked and we are thankful to our local towns, villages and team members who are part of this important effort. A quality experience is what we aim to achieve with all of our products, whether served up at home or in one of our outstanding local eateries. The quality and range offered by hotels, restaurants and cafés across the Ballymena area is second to none, and we are very proud to sponsor the 2021 Best Eating Establishment Award."



Best Small Eatery/Coffee Shop Award

Sponsored by firmus energy

This award is designed to attract applications from coffee shops, cafes, sandwich bars and fast-food outlets in the area. The successful venue will deliver excellent customer service and strive for great rapport with its customers. There will be a welcoming and appealing atmosphere in the venue and the premises themselves will be well organised and appealing. Also, there will be a tempting and diverse food offering well geared to the preference of the customer base.

This category will be judged via **mystery shopper**, who will be looking for evidence of:

- ✓ Excellent service and great rapport with customers
- ✓ An appealing and varied food offering
- ✓ Great ambience and a welcoming atmosphere in the venue
- ✓ Exemplary housekeeping and food safety.
- ✓ A delicious food offering

Note:

- The judges' decision is always final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

firmus energy is one of Northern Ireland's leading natural gas suppliers with over 105,000 customers across the province. Established in 2005, firmus energy has invested over £150 million in local communities outside of Greater Belfast, having laid over 1,800km of natural gas pipeline.

Michael Scott, Managing Director at firmus energy said, 'We are delighted to once again be sponsoring the Ballymena Business Awards. These prestigious awards recognise the quality customer service within the Borough. At firmus energy we pride ourselves on our customer service and are proud to have been recognised by Which? as the number 1 energy provider in Northern Ireland. Based in Antrim and with over 120 staff, we are dedicated to serving our 105,000 customers every day. Those already enjoying the significant benefits of natural gas include; private homes, Housing Executive properties, some of Northern Ireland's largest manufacturers along with many schools, hospitals and small businesses.'

Firmus energy is delighted to be part of the annual Ballymena Business Excellence Awards, we take this opportunity to congratulate all those nominated for an Award and thank you for your contribution to the local community.



Customer Service Award, Service Sector

Sponsored by Riada Resourcing

This award will be presented to the business that has best demonstrated their commitment to delivering exemplary customer service that generates positive, additional business.

If you are a service sector business that believes that the level of customer care you are offering to your client base is second-to-none, then this award is for you.

This category will be judged by **interview** and judges will be looking for evidence of:

- ✓ A warm welcome
- ✓ Exemplary customer service
- ✓ A friendly closure
- ✓ Expert, professional knowledge
- ✓ An attractive and appealing environment

Interviews will be held between September 27 and 29 either in person or via Zoom.

Appointments will be forwarded to shortlisted candidates in due course.

Note:

- The judges' decision is always final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

Riada are delighted to be a part of the 2021 awards. Riada has a long history of supporting local businesses and events across Northern Ireland and over the last year we all had to remain motivated and quickly adapt to a new way of doing business. We are proud to be part of the local community and The Back to Business Awards give us an opportunity to celebrate all that is good about business in the local area.

Riada employees are passionate, knowledgeable experts within their industries. We support the Temporary, Permanent and Contract recruitment needs of businesses within Accountancy & Finance, Administration & Business Support, Construction, Engineering, Industrial and Manufacturing. For 21 years Riada has demonstrated a commitment to excellence and hold accreditations with Investors in People Gold, BSI Quality and Environmental Management Standards.

Riada wishes you every success in these Awards.

We connect great people with great companies helping businesses thrive and careers progress. We can add value to your business, contact Gary Thompson on 028 2563 1555 or gary@riadaresourcing.com.

R Riada Resourcing

Customer Service Award, Hospitality Sector

Sponsored by Ballymena Chamber

This award will be presented to a hospitality business that has best demonstrated their commitment to delivering exemplary customer service that generates positive, additional business.

If you are a hospitality business that believes that the level of customer care you are offering to your clients is second-to-none, then this award is for you.

This category is judged by **mystery shopper** who will be looking for evidence of:

- ✓ A warm welcome
- ✓ A willingness to 'go the extra mile'
- ✓ Friendly closure
- ✓ An appealing environment
- ✓ Congenial and knowledgeable service
- ✓ A diverse and attractive product offering

Note:

- The judges' decision is always final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

When the Chamber was founded back in 1919 its objectives were to "uphold, protect and promote the general interests of manufacturers, merchants, traders, farmers, fruit growers, scotch mill owners, horse and cattle dealers of Ballymena and the surrounding areas". Whilst business life has changed dramatically the ideals of the Chamber remain as true today as they did over 90 years ago.

Ballymena is renowned for its mix of multi-national and independent businesses and these awards celebrate the best businesses and individuals in the local economy.

Chamber is delighted to sponsor the Customer Service Award, Hospitality Sector and would like to wish all entrants every success and looks forward to presenting the winner with their trophy at the Gala Evening.

Business Premises Award

Sponsored by Country Garage Ballymena BMW

The judges will be looking for a business premises design that is fit for purpose and exhibits design and layout excellence well matched to the requirement of its client base.

Competing business premises will be **visited by judges** by appointment in September.
The judges will be specifically interested in:

- ✓ The premise's initial visual impact
- ✓ Ease of access
- ✓ Design innovation
- ✓ How well does the premises serve the needs of its customers?
- ✓ How well does the premises serve the needs of its employees?
- ✓ Good use of the available space
- ✓ The quality and finish of the materials used in construction
- ✓ How construction materials have been used

Note:

- The judges' decision is always final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

With over 45 years experience working with the BMW brand The Country Garage, Ballymena is a family owned business which is sure to offer you the warmest of welcomes if you are looking for a New BMW or Approved Used BMW throughout Northern Ireland.

We showcase all the latest new BMW models available to test drive today from our Ballycowan Road showroom along with an extensive range of BMW Approved Used Cars and we are an authorised MINI Service dealer.

We know the needs of BMW and MINI drivers are highly specialised. Our commitment to our customers is to maintain the highest possible sales and service standards at all times, whether you are searching for a New or Approved BMW or MINI Service support you will always be able to rely on us to find what you are looking for.

So, if professional customer service matters to you, talk to us at the Country Garage, Ballymena.



59 Ballycowan Road, Ballymena, County Antrim BT42 3DW
Tel: 028 2589 1324 www.countrygaragebmw.co.uk

Skills Development Award

Sponsored by The Gallaher Trust

This award recognises an organisation which, through skills development, has made a significant improvement to its employees and to the performance of the business.

The award will be judged via **interview** and the judging panel will be looking for evidence of:

- ✓ The setting of objectives for skills development
- ✓ Effective implementation and management of skills development programme
- ✓ Impacts and benefits for employees
- ✓ Impacts and benefits for the business
- ✓ Innovation

Interviews will be held between September 27 and 29 either in person or via Zoom. Appointments will be forwarded to shortlisted candidates in due course.

Note:

- The judges' decision is always final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

Established in 2018, The Gallaher Trust is a registered charity which works alongside selected delivery partners to create jobs, develop skills and provide support to disadvantaged adults living in the Ballymena area.

Born out of a £5 million legacy which was donated by Japan Tobacco International (JTI), the Trust has already committed £1.1 million to the local community to support projects which aim to create over 240 jobs, develop skills for over 700 adults and help 975 disadvantaged adults by 2023.

Offering long-term support by working with charities, social enterprises and other non-profit organisations, the Gallaher Trust plans to commit a further £500,000 to suitable projects by the end of 2021.

More information is available on the website: www.thegallahertrust.org.

The Gallaher Trust is delighted to support the Ballymena Back to Business Awards and wish the entrants every success!



Right Place to Work Award

Sponsored by Galgorm

Is your company a great place to work? Businesses have to fight hard to recruit and retain people and this award aims to reward those businesses that have really put people at the heart of their overall strategy.

This award is open to all businesses, regardless of size and turnover, that are committed to supporting employees and enhancing employee satisfaction and who have demonstrated an overall commitment to employees at all levels.

It will be judged by **interview** and the judging panel will be looking at:

- ✓ Company culture and values
- ✓ Commitment to learning and development
- ✓ The recognition of skills and achievements
- ✓ People management structures
- ✓ Employee support mechanisms
- ✓ What makes the business a better place to work

Interviews will be held between September 27 and 29 either in person or via Zoom.

Appointments will be forwarded to shortlisted candidates in due course.

Note:

- The judges' decision is always final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

As previous winners in the prestigious Ballymena Business Excellence Awards, Galgorm is delighted to sponsor the Right Place to Work Award 2021. This highly coveted category enables businesses to showcase the considered initiatives, people management, and company culture that demonstrates a commitment to the learning and development of its employees; a mantra that Galgorm fully subscribes to.

Employee wellbeing is at the heart of Northern Ireland's premier luxury Resort. We focus on staff development, training, and wellbeing to retain talent as it really is our people who make the difference and play an intrinsic role in delivering a mission to leave each guest with a desire to return.

Employee wellbeing will continue to be an ever-increasing boardroom priority, as well as a key differentiator for employer branding. Going forward the focus needs to be on creating a business culture where people thrive, acknowledging the parity of mental and physical wellbeing.

As proud supporters of the Ballymena Business community, we are honoured to be involved in recognising and celebrating those who are committed to supporting their employees at all levels.

We would encourage businesses to enter and would like to take the opportunity to wish all entrants the very best of luck.

GALGORM

We're **Backin' Ballymena**

As we welcome the easing of restrictions, we will continue to support our local retailers and do all we can to grow a vibrant retail offering that is at the heart of our borough.

Together with our partners in the Town Centre Taskforce, the Chamber of Commerce, BID and the Department for Communities, our focus is on projects that will support retailers in these ever-changing times, and help to create a safe, welcoming town centre for shoppers to return to with confidence.

Projects include:

- ✓ Continued roll out of the Covid Confidence Scheme
- ✓ Webinars and training to increase digital skills and marketing opportunities
- ✓ Access to grants and financial support
- ✓ Launch of the ShopMEA app
- ✓ Improvement of the town centre through Public Realm works and the Town Centre Repurposing Pilot Grant Scheme
- ✓ Town Centre Play Days to attract families into urban spaces
- ✓ £1 for 5hours parking in council-owned car parks.

Throughout this difficult period, we have been blown away by the hope, resilience and community spirit of retailers and business people in Ballymena.

We would like to thank you for everything you have done and wish you every success moving forward.

For more information on any of our current projects, or how our Economic Development team can support you, please contact amplify@midandeastantrim.gov.uk



Shop Safe, Support Local

We have it
Ballymena

#RediscoverBallymena



www.midandeantrim.gov.uk

Most Promising New Business Award

Sponsored by Bank of Ireland UK

Have you started your own business in the last three years? Is it exceeding expectations? Is it going to be around for a while? Enter this award and tell everyone about the success you've had to date.

This award will be judged by **interview** and the panel will be looking at:

- ✓ The business profile and its objectives
- ✓ Levels of innovation and individuality
- ✓ The structure and management of the business
- ✓ The business's performance to date
- ✓ Sustainability into the future

Interviews will be held between September 27 and 29 either in person or via Zoom.
Appointments will be forwarded to shortlisted candidates in due course.

Note:

- To be eligible for this category, your business must NOT have existed prior to October 2018.
- Businesses entering the Best Small Business category are NOT ELIGIBLE for this award.

Bank of Ireland UK is delighted to be working in partnership with Ballymena Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry, contributing to the overall success of these Awards.

In supporting the "Most Promising New Business" Award we understand the importance of the SME and the wider business market to the local economy, and the Awards will highlight and reward the quality of local businesses and the individuals who strive for excellence within this environment.

Our involvement in these awards reflects our drive and commitment for continuous improvement in setting new and higher standards in business, playing our part in the success of our local businesses.

We take this opportunity to congratulate all those nominated for an Award and thank you for your contribution to the local community.

Bank of Ireland  UK

Best Small Business Award

Sponsored by Michelin Development Limited

This award celebrates the small business and its ability to exploit its size to its best advantage. The award will be presented to an organisation that demonstrates best practice while being dynamic and retaining its individuality.

The award will be judged by **interview** and judges will be looking at:

- ✓ The business strategy
- ✓ Sustainability going forward
- ✓ The business's performance
- ✓ Business and growth management
- ✓ Levels of innovation and individuality

Interviews will be held between September 27 and 29 either in person or via Zoom. Appointments will be forwarded to shortlisted candidates in due course.

Note:

- To be eligible, businesses must employ 20 people or fewer.
- The judges' decision is always final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

Michelin Development Ltd is proud to be associated with the Ballymena Back to Business Awards and to sponsor the 'Best Small Business Award'.

In the current economic climate, when businesses are facing challenging times, it is important to support and encourage entrepreneurship and innovation, as well as recognise and celebrate business achievement.

Michelin Development Ltd is dedicated to helping local economic development and job creation through provision of unsecured competitive loans and business advice free of charge to support SME growth.

Over the past 17 years, Michelin Development Ltd has provided financial support and expertise to 129 local businesses, helping them to potentially create over 680 new jobs in the area. We look forward to continuing this support in the future.

Best wishes to all the entrants in this year's Awards.



Family Business of the Year Award

Sponsored by Danske Bank

This award recognises a successful family business that has grown and adapted to serve present and future markets while maintaining the identity and ethos of the family.

This award is judged by **interview** and the judging panel will be looking at:

- ✓ The family ethos and culture of the business
- ✓ Business sustainability
- ✓ Levels of excellence and best practice in management
- ✓ The success of the business
- ✓ Succession planning

Interviews will be held between September 27 and 29 either in person or via Zoom. Appointments will be forwarded to shortlisted candidates in due course.

Note: This award is open to all multi-generational family businesses that have at least two family members in key positions in the business.

Family owned businesses are the backbone of the Northern Ireland economy and range from small businesses to some of Northern Ireland's biggest corporates.

At Danske Bank we are privileged to work with many of the Borough's family businesses every day and are delighted to continue our sponsorship of the Family Business of the Year category.

While almost every business in Northern Ireland has been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, we have seen so many examples of great entrepreneurial spirit and resilience in the face of adversity. Now we're seeing many businesses planning for growth and investment.

At Danske Bank we're committed to helping Northern Ireland grow again by supporting businesses with their growth ambitions.

Whether your business is just starting out or you are looking to take your business to the next level, our local team of Relationship Managers and Small Business Advisers is here to help. Talk to the team in Ballymena at any time to discuss how we could help support your business's plans.

We're delighted to continue our sponsorship of the Family Business of the Year Award and celebrate the many great family businesses in the Ballymena area. May I take this opportunity to wish all entrants every success.

Aaron Ennis, Head of North Business Centre in Ballymena
aaron.ennis@danskebank.co.uk Mob: 07771 835061

Danske Bank

Social Enterprise of the Year Award

Sponsored by Ballymena Business Centre

We want to celebrate Ballymena's most innovative, passionate and most successful social enterprises. If your organisation is fervent about achieving social or environmental change ahead of profit, then this is the award for you.

This category will be judged by **interview** and the panel will be looking for evidence of:

- ✓ A positive impact on society and/or the environment
- ✓ Clear leadership and management
- ✓ Innovation and individuality
- ✓ Sustainability and potential for future growth.
- ✓ Successful and measurable outcomes
- ✓ A clear breakdown of income

Interviews will be held between September 27 and 29 either in person or via Zoom. Appointments will be forwarded to shortlisted candidates in due course.

Note:

- The judges' decision is always final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

Ballymena Business Centre is a registered Northern Ireland Charity and Social Enterprise helping individuals to start and grow their business in the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council area.

- ✓ Inspiring people to be enterprising
- ✓ Ensure enterprise is accessible to all within our community
- ✓ Encouraging the creation of new business and social enterprise
- ✓ Supporting growth within existing businesses and business tenants
- ✓ Providing a nurturing environment for businesses to start and businesses to grow in our town centre, rural community and neighbourhood renewal areas
- ✓ Promoting our enterprise hub model in the project management of new employment space and the regeneration of existing employment space

To find out how we can help you and your business or to find out how you can support our charitable objectives contact...

Melanie Christie Boyle, Chief Executive, Ballymena Business Centre
www.ballymenabusiness.co.uk melanie@ballymenabusiness.co.uk Tel 079 3035 8982



Involvement in the Community Award

Sponsored by Coulter Weir Wealth Management

This award acknowledges individuals or businesses that have had an ongoing relationship with the community through their voluntary contribution.

This category will be judged by **interview** and the panel will be looking for evidence of:

- ✓ Involvement with the local community
- ✓ Impact and benefits for the local community
- ✓ Impacts and benefits to the business
- ✓ Level of commitment in time and resources
- ✓ A strategy for ongoing involvement with the community

Interviews will be held between September 27 and 29 either in person or via Zoom. Appointments will be forwarded to shortlisted candidates in due course.

Note:

- The judges' decision is always final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

Coulter Weir Wealth Management are a local Financial Planning firm based in Galgorm Castle. We provide bespoke financial advice to clients ranging from individuals to businesses and trustees.

Our services include Investment Planning, Retirement Planning and Tax and Estate Planning.

As 2019 winners of the Best Small Business Award we at Coulter Weir Wealth Management are delighted to be involved with the Awards.

Given the significant challenges faced due to Covid 19 we feel those who have contributed to help the local community are rightfully recognised.

We are therefore honoured to be sponsoring the Involvement in the Community Award.

We want to congratulate those nominated and thank you for your work in the community.



Best Young Person in Business Award

Sponsored by Northern Regional College

This award is open to individuals under the age of 40 who have established and developed an owner-led business. It will go to a hard-working, creative and innovative individual who has demonstrated vision, clarity and focus in responding to challenges.

The category will be judged by **interview** and the panel will be looking for evidence of:

- ✓ Innovation
- ✓ Entrant's track record in starting and running a business
- ✓ The design and implementation of a business strategy
- ✓ Vision and leadership
- ✓ Business achievements and financial success
- ✓ Sustainability and plans for the future

Interviews will be held between September 27 and 29 either in person or via Zoom.
Appointments will be forwarded to shortlisted candidates in due course.

Note:

- The judges' decision is always final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

Northern Regional College is one of six colleges of Further & Higher Education within Northern Ireland. It is the main provider of further education and training across a diverse catchment area which serves a population of approximately 576,000 from its campuses in Ballymena, Ballymoney, Coleraine, Magherafelt and Newtownabbey.

Courses are offered on a full-time and part-time basis within a range of professional and technical areas, including work-based learning such as apprenticeships, all designed to provide learners with a life-changing, supportive and innovative experience, which equips them with the skills to compete successfully in the global employment market.

The College also has a successful track-record in working with the business sector. This is focused on delivering a variety of funded training packages for employers of all sizes in order to ensure they can fill vacancies with skilled employees, and upskill those already working for them.

To talk to us about training or upskilling your workforce, please contact the Business Engagement Team at business.engagement@nrc.ac.uk

NORTHERN
Regional College

Employee of the Year Award

Sponsored by Robinson's of Ballymena

This award has a reputation as the hardest one to win each year! It's also, traditionally, the most difficult to judge. Has someone gone beyond the call of duty to help the business? Have you seen someone excelling in their day-to-day duties? Do you know of someone who has done something particularly noteworthy? If you can answer 'Yes' to any of these questions, then you might consider nominating that person for this award.

The category will be judged by **interview** and the panel will be looking for evidence of:

- ✓ How well the entrant has performed in their role
- ✓ How they have made a difference to the business
- ✓ How they are perceived by management, colleagues and customers
- ✓ Instances in which the entrant went above and beyond what was expected of them.

Interviews will be held between September 27 and 29 either in person or via Zoom.

Appointments will be forwarded to shortlisted candidates in due course.

Note:

- Entrants must have been in their current role for at least one year.
- Entrants **must be nominated** by their employer

Robinson's Supermarket on the Cullybackey Road today is an independent family-owned grocery store and petrol station offering customers a comprehensive range of products at the most competitive prices. Whilst in our 16th year in our current premises we have been serving the Carniny area and local community since 1986.

We strive to offer value for money and believe that being part of the Co-Op/Nisa group we can buy competitively whilst passing savings directly on to our customers. Our promotions are on par with major supermarkets and we complement our offering with over 500 Robinsons branded fresh and chill products, alongside an off sales and award-winning instore butcher in K&G McAtamney. Our buyers are committed to seeking out the strongest offers, keeping us relatively unique in what we do in the Ballymena area.

We try our best to cater for both the convenience and weekly shopper.

It has been a challenging 18 months for retailers in Ballymena but we have been fortunate in that our plans to redevelop and extend our business are still very much on track. 2021 is our fourth appearance at the Ballymena (Back To) Business Awards and we are delighted once again to be a category sponsor; this year – Employee of the Year.



Business Growth Award

Sponsored by Samuel Cumming & Son

Is your business managing to buck the trend despite the current difficult economic climate? Are your turnover or sales on the up? Is your business in growth mode despite all the present obstacles?

If the answer is 'yes', then this could be the award for you.

The category will be judged by **interview** and the panel will be looking for evidence of:

- ✓ Your business and marketing strategy
- ✓ Financial and growth performance
- ✓ Improved resource efficiency with reduced costs
- ✓ Management of the business and its growth
- ✓ Future sustainability

Interviews will be held between September 27 and 29 either in person or via Zoom.

Appointments will be forwarded to shortlisted candidates in due course.

Note:

- The judges' decision is always final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

The firm of Samuel Cumming & Son has been in practice in Linenhall Street, Ballymena since 1932.

In 2018 Karen Cherry took over the practice which is now known as Karen Cherry t/as Samuel Cumming & Son.

Karen Cherry t/as Samuel Cumming & Son provides clients with expert legal advice at affordable rates.

The firm deals with a range of legal services including residential and commercial conveyancing, Wills and Probate, litigation and matrimonial law.

Genevieve Cathcart joined the firm in 2020. Genevieve has a wide range of legal skills and in particular an expertise in both residential and commercial conveyancing.

Karen is delighted to sponsor this award and wishes all the entrants every success.

KAREN CHERRY
T/A SAMUEL CUMMING & SON SOLICITORS

Sustainability Award

Sponsored by Power NI

This award is open to any businesses that can demonstrate that they have practices which promote and support the protection and/or improvement of the environment embedded within their business or are delivering a product or service to customers with sustainable principles at their core. Any organisation, irrespective of size or sector can apply.

Judges will be looking for evidence of waste or emission reduction programmes; management support for sustainability initiatives within the business; or innovative products or services that are designed with a more sustainable future in mind.

This category will be judged by **interview**, and judges will be looking for evidence of:

- ✓ Waste reduction / efficiency
- ✓ Emissions reduction
- ✓ Innovative products / design with sustainability at their core
- ✓ Management support for sustainability initiatives

Interviews will be held between September 27 and 29 either in person or via Zoom.

Appointments will be forwarded to shortlisted candidates in due course.

Note: The judges' decision will be final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

Energy is essential and at Power NI, we believe in keeping it simple. You can trust us to give you great discounts, make it easy for you to manage your account and have expert, local support on hand when you need us. With 90 years of history and heritage here, we are Northern Ireland's largest energy supplier with around 40,000 business and farm customers.

Amy Bennington, Commercial Marketing Manager at Power NI, comments: "We're delighted to continue our support of Ballymena Chamber and sponsor the new Sustainability Award at this year's event.

"As part of Energia Group, Power NI is committed to innovating with the latest green products and technologies that transform the way our customers choose and use energy. We're here to help customers make smarter decisions, live more sustainably and save money.

Good luck to all entries and we look forward to a great event."



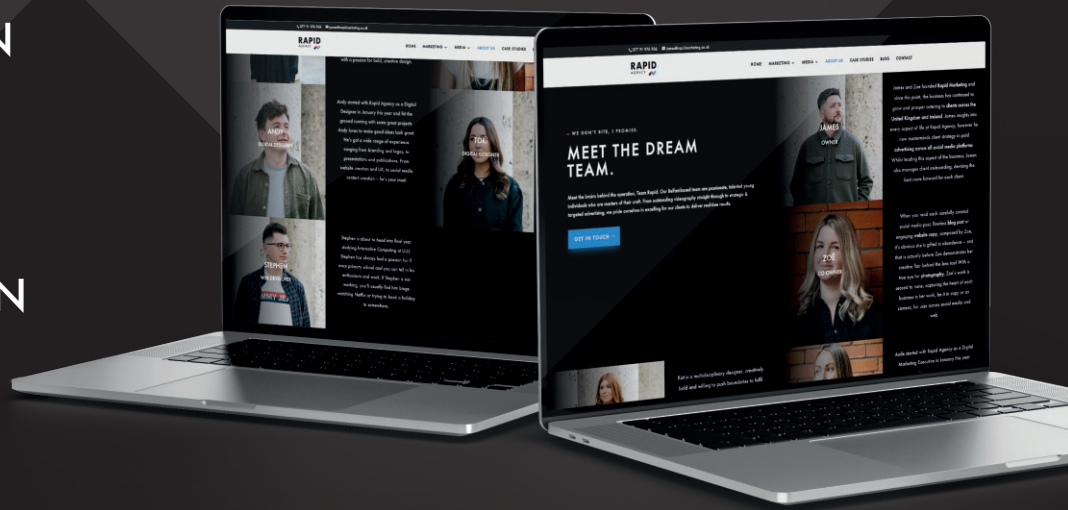
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Commitment to Ballymena Award

Sponsored by Mid & East Antrim Borough Council

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council is delighted to sponsor this award, especially as we already work hard with our stakeholders to maximise the potential for all our areas, including Ballymena.

Assessment will be based on submission by the nominator, of specific actions or activities of the individual(s) nominated which clearly demonstrate their dedication and contribution to Ballymena. The nominator will therefore be required to provide specific evidence to support their nomination.

Ballymena has grown over the years to become a major contributor for the Northern Ireland economy. This growth has not just come about by chance but through drive and dedication of both individuals and their organisations.

It is therefore appropriate that Council recognise this dedication and effort through the *Commitment to Ballymena Award*.

This Award allows Council to publicly praise and reward such efforts.

- No reference will be made to the nominating party although the judges, to substantiate any statements made within the submission, may contact them.



The Awards Process

In order to streamline the entry process for Ballymena Back to Business Awards, the decision has been taken to move to a digital system. This new, highly intuitive system will guide you through the entry process very quickly with help at all stages.

Entries will be continuously saved, so you won't lose your progress, and you can return to update your entry at any time right up until the closing date on August 25. You can also easily add photos and documents to supplement your entry.

Please do note, however, that there will no longer be the option to submit paper entries.

To get the entry process underway, read on...

Step 1: Read the awards brochure and decide which categories you would like to enter. Barbara Campbell Training + Consultancy Ltd. is happy to assist you in this decision, simply contact:
russell@barbaracampbelltraining.co.uk

All entries are treated in the strictest confidence.

The strict deadline for entering these awards is 5pm on Wednesday, August 25, 2021.

Step 2:

Go online to **ballymenabusiness.awardsplatform.com** to commence your registration. You may return to work on your submissions as many times as you wish right up to deadline.

Step 3:

If you have entered a MYSTERY SHOP category, you do not need to do anything else. You will receive an email confirmation of your entry and a mystery visit will be conducted.

Step 4:

All entrants in JUDGING PANEL categories will be assessed by judges. Those that are successful in reaching the shortlisting stage will be called for interview. Details of interview times will be forwarded by email by September 3, 2021. **The judging panels will sit between September 27 and 29. Interviews will be conducted either in person or via Zoom, details will be forwarded to entrants in plenty of time.**

Step 5:

Results for all categories will be collated and finalists will be notified on or before **Monday, October 4, 2021. The judges' decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.**

**The Ballymena Back
to Business Awards 2021
will take place at
Tullyglass Hotel, Ballymena
on October 19 this year.**

Organised by



Principal Sponsor



KAREN CHERRY
T/A SAMUEL CUMMING & SON SOLICITORS

