

B A L L Y M E N A

BUSINESS EXCELLENCE

Awards

PRINCIPAL SPONSOR



**Mid & East
Antrim**
Borough Council

2022

ORGANISED BY

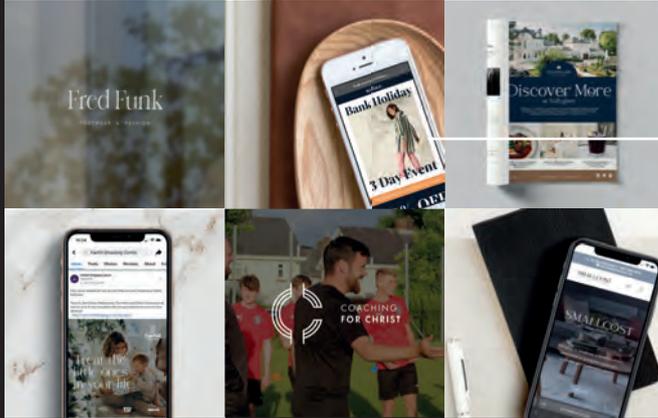


Ballymena
Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry

CELEBRATING THE BEST OF BALLYMENA BUSINESS

RAPID AGENCY

Make us your *Marketing & Design Agency*



Proud to support *local businesses in Ballymena.*

We provide no nonsense results, *delivered straight from the heart of Northern Ireland.*

NI's highest Google rated agency.



Branding

From original logo designs and curated colour palettes, to complete re-brands and brand roll-outs we have everything you need.

Graphic Design

Our talented design team are skilled in all areas of design from digital and motion design, to all things print and out of home outdoor campaigns.

Social Media Marketing

We use multiple social media platforms to create an effective online presence for your business.

Google Paid Ads - PPC

PPC has proven to work hand in hand with SEO to create a monopoly over the keywords in which a business seeks to gain control.

Web Design

We provide tailored, modern and UX focused websites that are fully responsive, optimised and can be correctly displayed on mobile, desktop and tablet devices.

Blog & Email Writing

Due to our engaging SEO copywriting your business' website & social will start to climb search engine's page results.

Search Engine Optimization

Our SEO team provides the knowledge to improve your website's position for the searches related to your business.

Paid Advertising on Social Media

We run ads across Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn to generate those all-important leads.

Let's work *together.*

james@rapidmarketing.co.uk



Welcome to the Ballymena Back to Business Awards

Ballymena Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry is delighted to present the 2022 'Ballymena Business Excellence 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 as world class hospitality venues. 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 two years, 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, agricultural, hospitality or industrial and individual awards as well.

Chamber also endeavours to make a real difference within the local community. To that end we organised our second Charity Golf Day at Galgorm Castle Golf Club, in partnership with James Walker, Country Garage BMW. I am delighted to say we raised £22,000 for our charities The NI Hospice and The Children's Hospice and a cheque will be presented at the awards ceremony.

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 process this year will be overseen by Barbara Campbell Training and Consultancy, a company entirely independent of Chamber thereby ensuring the integrity of the awards.

This year as the threat of the pandemic recedes we can revert to our normal practice hosting a glittering Gala Evening on Wednesday 19th October in the Tullyglass House Hotel. This year's Gala Evening 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 evening, 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.

I wish all entrants every success.



Leigh Heggarty

President
Ballymena Area Chamber of
Commerce and Industry



NI Hospice Care is our
chosen charity for 2022

Council committed to economic growth and prosperity

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council is delighted to be the principal sponsor of the Ballymena Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ballymena Business Excellence Awards.

It gives me great pleasure as Mayor of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council to welcome you to the 2022 Ballymena Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ballymena Business Excellence Awards.

Council is proud to continue in its role as principal sponsor of these prestigious awards, which recognise, celebrate and champion the immense talent, innovation and ambition of our businesses.

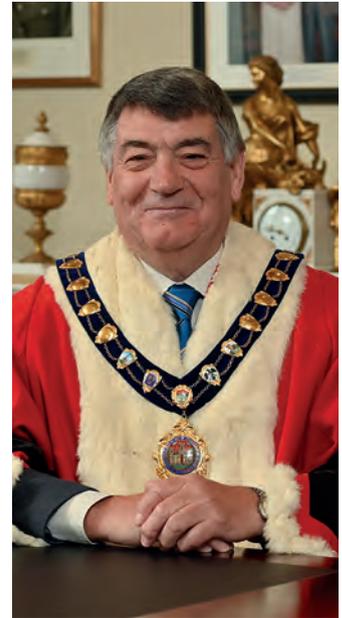
The past couple of years have been extremely challenging for so many within our community, particularly given the devastating impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and cost of living crisis on lives and livelihoods here in Mid and East Antrim, and further afield.

Throughout that turbulent time, however, your resilience and fortitude was both unwavering and inspiring, and now we look forward, having set our collective sights on future prosperity, the growth of our local economy, the creation of new jobs, improving our infrastructure and the skills of our residents, and promoting and delivering inward investment opportunities.

You – our business leaders – are the lifeblood of our economy here in Ballymena and across Mid and East Antrim, and I thank you on behalf of our citizens for your dedication, commitment and vision.

I also want to commend our Chamber, which continues to stand shoulder to shoulder with our businesses and Council to ensure Ballymena is ideally positioned to build on its proud and deserved reputation for excellence in manufacturing, agriculture, retail and so much more.

I trust everybody enjoys what promises to be an excellent event, and I thank you again.



Alderman Noel Williams
Mayor of Mid and East Antrim
Borough Council



Customer Service Award Retail Sector

Sponsored by Samuel Cumming & Son

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**. However, if the nature of your business is such that it involves a personal consultation or an appointment with the customer you should place your entry in the category Customer Service Award, Service Sector.

The organisers reserve the right, after consultation with the entrant, to move entries from this category to the Service Sector category if they believe that this better serves the entrant's own interests

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

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

Sponsored by Fairhill Shopping Centre

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.

Fairhill Shopping Centre is delighted to sponsor the Best Use of Digital and / Social Media Category, as this award affords us the opportunity to recognise businesses which demonstrate a clever use of digital activity that delivers real value, meaningful outcomes and achieves set goals.

Fairhill Shopping Centre, with its mix of high street names is an established shopping destination for people of all ages, tastes and budgets. The centre offers all that is best about high street shopping, and we believe that having an active online presence helps increase the centre and its tenant's visibility as it sets us apart from the competition, it strengthens our credibility and professional image that enables us to build valuable and lasting relationships with customers through social media engagement.

As people spend an increasing amount of time online, we have made digital and social media an essential and integral component of Fairhill's marketing plans; it is for this reason that we have chosen to sponsor this award and look forward to reviewing how you have managed to do the same.



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 Business Excellence 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 2022 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 Northern Ireland's leading natural gas suppliers with over 111,000 customers across the province. Established in 2005, firmus energy has invested over £185 million in local communities outside of Greater Belfast, having laid over 2,100km of natural gas pipeline.

Niall Martindale, Chief Executive Officer 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 130 staff, we are dedicated to serving our 111,000 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.

People are the heart of Riada! For over 21 years, we have worked in partnership with people and businesses providing a quality service to our candidates and clients. Supporting the 'Best Customer Service' Award in the 20th year of the Ballymena 'Business Excellence Awards' aligns with our commitment to adding value to our community.

Riada's partnership with Ballymena Chamber of Commerce reflects our drive and commitment to continuous improvement, setting a standard of excellence. Riada wish all nominees the very best of luck, your quality of service will continue to make a powerful contribution to the local economy.

We connect great people with great companies.

Contact Gary Thompson on 028 2563 1555 or gary@riadaresourcing.com for a confidential discussion.



Customer Service Award, Hospitality Sector

Sponsored by Calor

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.

Calor was established in 1937 and is a leading supplier and distributor of LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) in Ireland.

We design and implement bulk and cylinder energy solutions for residential, industrial and commercial customers.

With over 80 years' experience in the gas business, we pride ourselves on our unmatched expertise in the safe supply of butane and propane to our customers. In April 2018, Calor were the first in Ireland to bring BioLPG, a 100% renewable gas, to the market. Calor BioLPG is the only renewable gas which is available across Ireland and the new clean energy is already making inroads into the energy market for homes and businesses. BioLPG is available in Calor's range of patio gas cylinders. This means consumers can enjoy their summer days and nights in the garden, knowing that they are making a small contribution to the future of our environment.

Calor are proud to sponsor the Customer Service, Hospitality Sector Award which recognises the exceptional hospitality offerings in the Ballymena Area.

www.calorgas.ie
028 9045 5588



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.

The Country Garage Ballymena are proud to continue their sponsorship of the prestigious Ballymena Business Excellence Awards, 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 services matters to you,
talk to us at the Country Garage, Ballymena.**



59 Ballycowan Road, Ballymena, Country 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 2017, 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 £1.9 million to the local community to support projects which aim to create over 400 jobs, develop skills for over 1100 adults and help 1500 disadvantaged adults by 2025.

Offering long-term support by working with charities, social enterprises and other non-profit organisations, the Gallaher Trust plans to commit a further £340,000 to suitable projects by the end of 2022.

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

The Gallaher Trust is delighted to support the Ballymena Business Excellence 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 2022. 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.

The logo for Galgorm, featuring the word "GALGORUM" in a stylized, serif font with a small circular emblem above the letter 'O'.

Introducing i4C: **The Big Deal for Ballymena**

A key multi-million project within the Belfast Region City Deal, the i4C Innovation Centre is a major boost to our local economy and a once-in-a-generation opportunity.

- A significant scale investment set in the St Patrick's Barracks Regeneration site.
- Focusing on manufacturing, engineering and cleantech industries to build on the area's industrial heritage.
- Facilities will include a clean technology centre, incubation labs, workshops, Grade A office space, co-working space, meetings and events space.
- The Innovation Lab (iLAB) at i4C will provide an engineer-led workshop for developing products, services and training.
- Encouraging innovation and collaboration between public, private, education and community sector partners.
- Supporting SMEs with R&D, innovation and export opportunities.

**To find out more about i4C or
the Belfast Region City Deal, visit:**

midandeastantrim.gov.uk/business/belfast-region-city-deal

“ i4C will be a key driver for economic growth, giving local communities access to skills and employment opportunities. ”



Belfast Region
City Deal



**Mid & East
Antrim**
Borough Council

Most Promising New Business Award

Sponsored by Bank of Ireland

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 2019.
- Businesses entering the Best Small Business category are NOT ELIGIBLE for this award.

Bank of Ireland 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.



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 Business Excellence 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 supporting local economic growth and job creation with the provision of unsecured competitive loans and business advice free of charge to help small businesses grow.

Over the past 18 years, Michelin Development Ltd has provided financial support and expertise to 147 local businesses, helping them to potentially create over 808 new jobs in the area. We look forward to continuing this support in the future.

Best wishes to all 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.

Peter Houston, Head of North Business Centre in Ballymena
peter.houston@danskebank.co.uk



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
- ✓ Support growth within existing businesses including our tenants
- ✓ Promote a nurturing environment for businesses to start and to grow within our space
- ✓ Promote our enterprise hub model through the management of existing and new business 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 traineeships and 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 Wrightbus

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

At Wrightbus, it was never just about getting people from one place to another; it was always about getting the world to a better place. From promoting economic growth to reducing traffic congestion to making transportation more equitable for all, we've given back to our community through our buses in every way we could.

In our endeavour to deliver the best to the people, many iconic buses have emerged from the Wrightbus factory, completely changing the way of travelling. And now, under the leadership of Jo Bamford and with the development of the world's first zero-emissions double deck hydrogen bus, we're on our way to ensuring a brighter future for the next generation.

Our employees and our local area are incredibly important to us and the skills and talent found in the Ballymena and surrounding areas make us incredibly proud.

We are therefore delighted to be sponsoring this year's Ballymena Business Excellence Awards, Employee of the Year Award.



Business Growth Award

Sponsored by AIB

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.

AIB is proud to sponsor the Business Growth Award and recognise local businesses as they grow their operations.

At AIB, we are committed to helping our customers achieve their dreams and ambitions. We pride ourselves on backing businesses through our financial services, managed by our expert team of advisors.

From innovation and creativity to leadership and communication, companies need to embrace a host of qualities to foster business growth. Working closely with so many local businesses in Ballymena we know you are leading the way and we expect this to be a hotly contested category.

We look forward to hearing how you have grown your business and wish you the best of luck at this year's Ballymena Business Excellence Awards.

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



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.

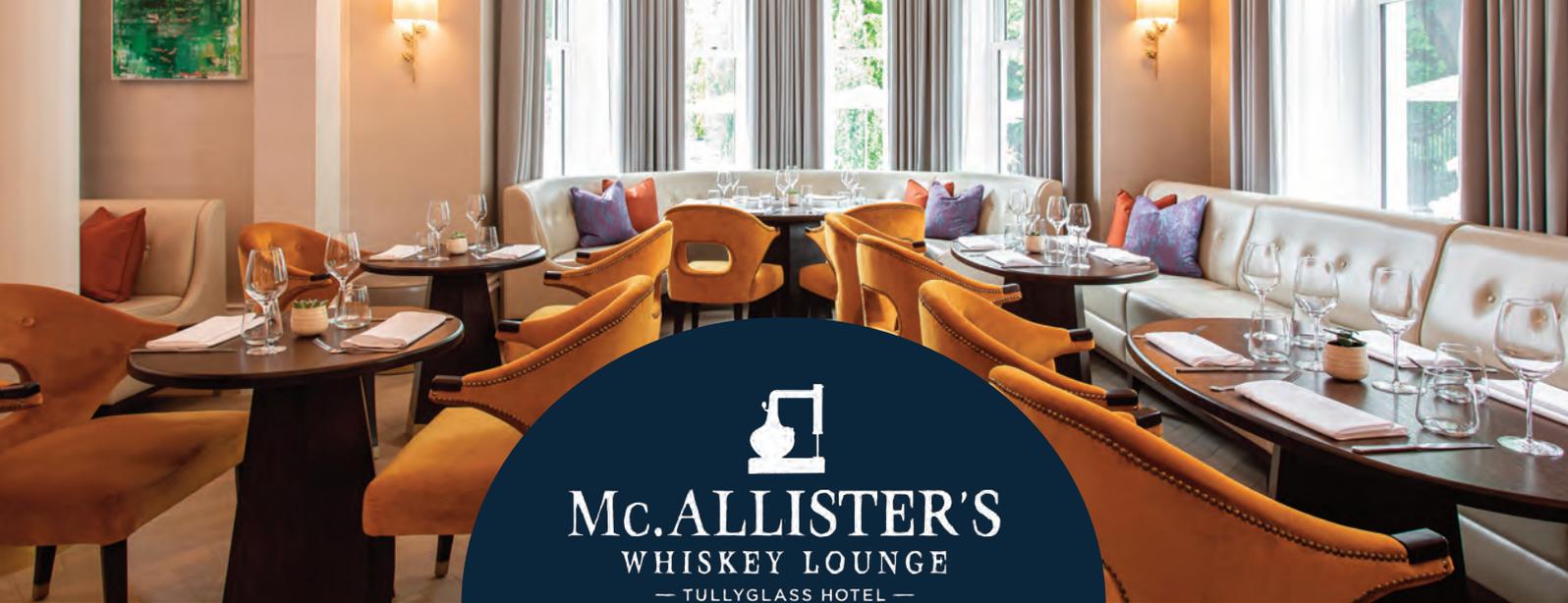
Energy is essential and at Power NI, we believe in keeping it simple. You can trust us to give you great discounts, make it easy for you to manage your account and have expert, local support on hand when you need us. With 90 years of history and heritage here, we are Northern Ireland's largest energy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





McALLISTER'S WHISKEY LOUNGE

— TULLYGLASS HOTEL —

Visit the newly refurbished McAllister's Whiskey Lounge at Tullyglass Hotel & Residences. Elegant, modern and full of history, this new lounge is the perfect location for an evening meal, lunch date or weekend drinks.



Indulge in the delicious A la Carte menu accompanied by a fabulous wine list with offers available throughout the week.

Including two courses for £19.50
or three courses for £25.00.



Opening times:

Monday to Thursday 10:00am – 11:30pm
Friday and Saturday 10:00am – Late
Sunday 10:00am – 11:30pm



Enjoy live music, entertainment and live sports in the comfortable and sociable setting of McAllister's Whiskey Lounge.

9pm - Late

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 the Ballymena Business Excellence 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 26. 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 Friday, August 26, 2022.

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 9, 2022. **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 3, 2022. The judges' decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.**

The 2022 Ballymena Business Excellence Awards Gala Evening will take place at the Tullyglass House Hotel, Ballymena on Wednesday 19th October

Organised by

Principal Sponsor



KAREN CHERRY
T/A SAMUEL CUMMING & SON SOLICITORS

