



## Business & Community Awards 2016

The Business & Community Awards (BACAs) are open to all businesses or community organisations including sole traders, family businesses, franchisees, small/medium businesses, local branches of national chains, charities or organisations, local charities, community organisations and groups of young people in and around the Didcot area within the OX11 area and including Culham Science Park, Harwell Campus, Milton Park, Southmead Industrial Estate and all the surrounding villages – including the Astons, Appleford, Blewbury, Chilton, the Hagbournes, Harwell, The Moretons, Upton.

### Business & Community Awards 2016 categories:

#### Businesses can be nominated for the following awards:

**Best Established Business** – this award is to recognise continued excellent service from the people working within this business. Judges will be looking for examples of a company that has been well-established for at least 2 years with examples of good customer service, great efficiency, positive attitude and providing good career opportunities for its employees.

**Community Engagement** – this award is for businesses that have showed commitment and support for Didcot and its surrounding area as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility activities. The kind of things that might attract the judges' attention could be sponsorship of local events or community groups, fundraising for local charities, using local suppliers and opening its facilities to the public.

**Best use of Science, Technology & Innovation** – this award is for the innovative use of technology. This could include use of social media and mobile applications, new production processes, invention or discovery, improved working practices or investment in new science and technology. Judges will pay particular attention to innovations that have brought significant local benefit.

**Best Volunteering Practice** – this award is for businesses that have embarked on employee volunteering within 'work time' as part of their Corporate Responsibility activities. Judges will be looking for schemes that have benefitted the business, its employees and the community. Examples could include a group of employees on team building who have decorated community hall, or perhaps the business has given time to help a charity or community group to improve their HR or finance processes.

**Best New Business** – this award is for businesses that have started since April 2016. Particular attention will be paid to organisations that have generated local impact by increasing customers and users or perhaps the organisation has generated employment or volunteer roles and put themselves on a sustainable footing.

**Apprenticeship/Traineeship Scheme** – this award is to recognise those organisations that support young people in becoming active members of a workplace. Judges will be looking for businesses that have run a successful apprenticeship or traineeship schemes that have provided training, support for qualifications and good career opportunities for those young people living in the local area.

### **Charities & community groups can be nominated for the following awards:**

**Best Established Charity/Community Group** – this award is to recognise continued excellent service from the people working for this constituted charity or community group. Judges will be looking for examples of a well-established service which provides its clients with great efficiency and positive attitude to their service.

**Raising Awareness** – this award is for community groups or charities that have embarked on an awareness campaign to highlight an issue relevant to Didcot and its surrounding area. Judges will be looking for creative campaigns, a range of communication methods, using local media coverage and evidence of reaching their intended audience.

**New Partnerships & Collaborations** – this award is for community groups or charities that have perfected partnerships or collaboration with another organisation for mutual benefit. Judges will be looking for evidence of beneficial outcomes due to partnership such as keeping down costs whilst maintaining excellent service, or reducing outgoings whilst helping the local environment.

**Best Fundraising Innovation/Campaign** – this award is for community groups or charities that have embarked on a local fundraising innovation or campaign. Attention will be paid to creative ideas that have generated funds and/or volunteers for a local organisation and increased impact for its clients and users.

**Best New Charity/Community Group** – the award is to recognise new charities or community groups that have a constitution and have been created since April 2016. Particular attention will be paid to those that have already generated local impact whilst sustaining a good financial footing.

**Inspirational Youth Group** – this award is to recognise a group of young people or those who support them in becoming active members of their local community. As a community group or charity they might empower young people to take responsibility for a project. Informal groups of young people are also encouraged to enter if they are involved with a community project or campaign.

## Rules and Eligibility

The organisers are very keen that members of the public make nominations in all the categories. Businesses, charities, community organisations or groups of young people may self-nominate or accept a nomination from a third party.

For each form the nominee must state one business or community organisation they wish to nominate and complete the form as requested. All forms must be received by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

All nominated businesses and community groups will be entered into the most appropriate categories based on the information provided on the nomination form. Didcot First will notify each organisation by email, phone or post that they have been nominated, their permission and further evidence will then be sought to include them in the awards process through to the final judging stage.

Judges will be appointed with regard to their neutrality, independence and relevant experience and skills. They will receive shortlisted nominations and if necessary will contact nominees by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016. The judges will meet and make their decisions by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016. The judges' decisions are final.

## Winners of a BACA

Winners will be determined by a team of Judges. There are no major cash prizes but winners will be asked to self-nominate a prize that has relevance to their company or group up to the value of £100.

Those shortlisted will be informed following the Judges' decisions. Shortlisted nominees will be asked to agree to take part in publicity activities, consider how they may use their £100 prize money (to be publicised on the night) and invited to attend the Gala Award event on the evening of Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016 in the auditorium at Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot.

The Presentation is a prestigious event and will consist of the awards ceremony interspersed with local acts, in the company of special guests of honour. The whole event usually lasts approximately 2.5 hours. The bar will be open for socialising before and after the event until 11pm.

A list of winners, along with photographs, will be sent to the local media, published on Didcot First's website and social media pages. Winners will be encouraged to capitalise on the publicity opportunity that being a BACA winner brings. The organisers are able support winners to make the most of this opportunity.

Nomination forms are available from [didcotfirst.org.uk](http://didcotfirst.org.uk) and Newbury Building Society, Sainsbury's, Soha Housing offices and Cornerstone in Didcot. All rules and information are available at [didcotfirst.org.uk](http://didcotfirst.org.uk)

For any other queries on the BACAs, please contact Emma East by email: [emma@didcotfirst.org.uk](mailto:emma@didcotfirst.org.uk)