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Rural Community Business Awards FAQs

What are the Rural Community Business Awards?

The Rural Community Business Awards are an annual celebration of the incredible achievements of rurally based community-owned businesses across the UK, over the last year, and the positive impact those achievements are having on the local communities.

What are the categories?

This year's Awards campaign will host eight award categories:

- Rural Vision - Community Food
- Rural Vision - Employment & Training
- Rural Vision - Environment
- Rural Vision - Inclusivity
- Rural Vision - Technology
- Rural Vision - Volunteering
- Community Contribution Award
- Young Person Award

Who can enter?

Plunkett's Rural Community Business Awards are open to community groups and individuals who meet the following criteria:

Rural Vision awards

Plunkett defines a community business as being locally rooted, trading for the benefit of the local area, and as being accountable to the community and having broad community impact. Any groups who feel they adhere to these foundations are welcome to apply for a Rural Vision award. In addition, they must be:

- Situated in a rural location
- Based in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland

Community Contribution Award

Individuals being put forward for the Community Contribution Award must be:

- Involved in a rural community business (defined as above) as a volunteer or employee

Young Person Award

Individuals being put forward for the Community Contribution Award must be:

- Involved in a rural community business, as defined above, and recognised as a volunteer or employee
- Be aged between 15 and 30 years old

Can we enter if we've been a previous winner of a Rural Community Business Award?

Yes

Can I enter more than one category?

Yes, please do. You are welcome to enter your community business for as many categories as you wish

Can more than one nomination be submitted for a nominee?

Yes, although we do encourage you to consider pulling together your nominations to tell your story in even more detail. Nominations received for the same nominee will be considered together

Is there a price for each of the winners?

Yes, each category winner will receive a cheque for £250 for their community-owned business. This will be presented at the award ceremony in London on the 17th November.

Do I have to pay to enter?

No, entry into the Rural Community Business Awards is free of charge.

When do entries open?

Entries into the Rural Community Business Awards open on **Tuesday 31st August 2022**

When do entries close?

You will need to submit your nomination by **Friday 30th September 2022**

How will winners and finalists be selected?

A judging panel made up of representatives from campaign sponsors will come together on the 5th October to go through the nominations and consider their winners and finalists.

Each community business nomination received in the six Rural Vision award categories will be judged on their ability to demonstrate:

- Impact – *what direct impact has the community business's efforts had on the local community and wider society?*
- Inclusivity – *how inclusive has their work been? Have they made their efforts accessible to everyone?*
- Innovation – *is this an inspired new venture? Is it something the judges haven't seen before that's creative and innovative?*

Nominations received in the Community Contribution and Young Person award categories will be judged on their individual efforts – *what have they done, have they been doing it for long, is it*

something new and creative?, as well as the overall impact those efforts have made to the community business and local community.

When will the shortlists be announced?

The three selected finalists from each award category will be announced on **Monday 31st October 2022**

When will the Rural Community Business Awards take place?

They'll be taking place on **Thursday 17th November** at St Martin in the Fields in London, between 4pm and 7pm

Who will be invited to attend the award ceremony?

All award category finalists will be invited to attend the award ceremony on the 17th November. Each finalist will be allowed to bring one guest along with them.

Will the award ceremony be live-streamed?

Thanks to the support of our sponsor, Power to Change, We are delighted to once again be able to bring the Rural Community Business Awards award ceremony to those at home via a live-streaming service. More information on how to register to attend online will be available in October

Have a question that is not answered here? Please get in touch at gemma.sills@plunkett.co.uk for further information about the 2022 Rural Community Business Awards.