

Could you be a WOBA winner?

The West Oxfordshire Business Awards or WOBAs are a celebration of business across West Oxfordshire, recognising our most successful businesses and bringing together the whole business community.

Why WOBA?

Whether you are a large business or a sole trader, new or established and across all industries, please do enter the WOBAs this year and join in the celebrations – with 11 categories there's bound to be at least one for you!

Find out more at www.woba.org.uk



Why enter?

Obviously you enter an award because you want to win it, but clearly not everyone can walk off with an iconic red WOBA trophy. However you do gain something at every step of the process:

- You learn more about your business by completing an entry form
- You make new connections by attending the events
- You raise your profile by engaging in the social media activity surrounding the awards and by making the most of the PR opportunities
- You are recognised and rewarded by your peers in business
- You gain credibility and respect for your business
- You impress your customers, suppliers and potential customers
- You motivate your staff
- You will automatically be entered into the Oxfordshire Business Awards should you be a finalist – there are no further forms to complete

Why you?

Any organisation based in West Oxfordshire that has local management autonomy is eligible to enter the WOBAs.

Visit the WOBA website for a full list of rules and to check your postcode.

Key dates and stages:

Tuesday 26th September 2017

Attend the Launch Event at Blenheim Palace Orangery

Download your entry forms from www.woba.org.uk

Complete the forms which takes about 2 hours

Upload your entries ASAP but before **4th December 2017**

Judges visit shortlisted businesses during **January 2018**

February 2018

Attend Announcement of Finalists Event. Venue TBA.

Friday 23rd March 2018

Attend Gala Dinner at Heythrop Park Resort

WOBA 2018: The Categories

Something for everyone



Hospitality, Leisure & Tourism Award

sponsored by Huffkins

Open to any hotel, restaurant, café, coffee shop, pub, leisure facility, visitor attraction or similar business irrespective of size.



Retail Award

sponsored by NFU Mutual

Open to any independent retail business regardless of size that can demonstrate good business performance.



Charity Award

sponsored by
The Rooflight Company

Open to any charity or social enterprise based in West Oxfordshire regardless of size.



Marketing Excellence Award

sponsored by First Sight Media

Open to any organisation irrespective of size or industry sector that has run a marketing campaign.



Innovation Award

sponsored by Owen Mumford

Open to any organisation, irrespective of size or industry sector that can demonstrate an innovation that creates value, whether a product, a system or a process.



Employer of the Year Award

sponsored by The MGroup

Open to businesses of any size that can demonstrate why they are a good employer, from work culture to training, leadership to apprenticeships.



New Business Award

sponsored Blenheim Palace

Open to any business that started trading after 1st January 2015 that has traded for at least 12 months showing how you have achieved success to date.



Micro Business Award

sponsored by Witney Business & Innovation Centre

Open to any business that employs fewer than 5 staff. This includes the business owner, where the owner works within the business.



Small Business Award

sponsored by NatWest

Open to any business that employs between 5 and 25 staff.



Large Business Award

sponsored by Sandler Training

Open to any business that employs more than 25 staff or has an annual turnover of over £3million.



Business Person of the Year Award

sponsor TBC

Open to individuals who have worked to the benefit of the organisation for over 5 years, usually owners/directors.

Why WOBA? Why not?

Find out more about the 2018 categories and enter here:

www.woba.org.uk

You may enter every category for which you are eligible – there's no limit to the number you can enter.

Want to find out more? info@woba.org.uk or www.woba.org.uk



West Oxfordshire Business of the Year

sponsored by STL Communications

Selected by the judges from the winners of the other categories, the award is presented to the business that best represents West Oxfordshire in terms of its success, commitment to the local area, contribution to the local economy and role as an ambassador representing West Oxfordshire on a wider stage. The winner of the prestigious title **West Oxfordshire Business of the Year** receives a specially commissioned trophy designed by students from Abingdon & Witney College and crafted by Synolos.



Cally Robson Award

This award is presented by the WOBAs Team to the business that best reflects the values of their late colleague Cally Robson, namely entrepreneurship, innovation and an ingrained sense of the community. There is no entry form for this award – the winner is selected from the WOBAs finalists.

Why enter again?

Whilst some WOBAs winners make it at their first attempt, many don't succeed first time around. If you've entered before and not made the shortlist or been a finalist, then try again. It's amazing the difference a year can make and you might win!

Why enter more than one category?

Once you've written an entry for one category, it's easy to amend it to fit other categories and with entry being free, it makes sense to enter as many categories as you can to give you the best chance of picking up a WOBAs. Enter one of the size-based categories and then look at the more specific ones.

Why encourage others to enter?

If you are a marketing agency, business coach or an accountant, encourage your clients to enter and help them to celebrate their growth or business success. Or if you know a great West Oxfordshire business that you think could be a WOBAs winner, get them to enter.



Who can enter?

As long as your business is based in West Oxfordshire you can enter

Does it cost anything to enter?

No, entering the WOBAs is free

Are there networking opportunities?

Yes, come along to any of our events and meet over 100 people

How many categories can we enter?

As many as you like or are relevant to your business

Why WOBA? Don't just take it from us...

The WOBA's are in their eighth year and past entrants from all across the district tell us that they have benefited from entering – regardless of whether or not they won a WOBA. Over the years we've had winners and finalists from all corners of West Oxfordshire including Chipping Norton, Carterton, Burford, Stonesfield, Shipton-under-Wychwood, Filkins, Bampton, Charlbury, Woodstock, Eynsham and of course Witney.

