

Waterford Business Awards this Friday



From left: Nick Donnelly (CEO, Waterford Chamber); Tina Darrer (Dooley's Hotel); Des Whelan (WLRfm - media partner); Dr Derek O'Byrne (Chamber President), Bill Halley (judge) and Frank O'Regan (Chairman, Judging Panel).

Over 200 guests will attend the 'grand final' of the 2014 Waterford Business Awards which will take place at Dooley's Hotel this Friday night.

Thirty finalists have been shortlisted across ten different categories for the Waterford Business Awards, which are being organized by Waterford Chamber and media partners WLRfm. I

In the Arts and Culture category Garter Lane Arts Centre, Spraoi and the Waterford County Museum are shortlisted, while in Best Small Business there's Bookaroom.ie, Inn the Dog House and Shellac Nails.

In Community & Social Enterprise Ballybeg Greens, GIY Ireland and the Waterford Healing Arts Trust will battle it out and in Food & Agri the finalists are Chia Bia, DessertFirst and M & D Bakery.

In the Innovation & Technology sector EirGen Pharma, SEAM Research Centre and TSSG are all finalists, while in Manufacturing & Industry Dawn Meats, Irish Handmade Glass and Metalman Brewing Company feature.

In the New Business sector EveryEvent Ltd., Theatre Box and Willow and Wild by Bonzie are all finalists and in retail there's Caulfield's SuperValu, Mulligan's Pharmacy Group and The Book Centre. In the Services sector Eishtec, Hosting Ireland and Whitfield Clinic will contest the title and in the Tourism & Hospitality Dooley's Hotel, The Majestic Hotel and The Reg are finalists.

The Overall Business of the Year Award, which is sponsored by Waterford City and County Council, will be presented by the Mayor of Waterford City and County, Cllr James Tobin.

Said Waterford City & County Council's Lar Power: "This event is going to be a fantastic celebration of the hard work put in by a board cross section of the Waterford business community and we would like to wish each and every finalist the very best of luck and continued success for the future."

Each winner will be presented with a custom designed Waterford Crystal trophy and the Overall Business of the Year will be presented with a custom design perpetual trophy.

Waterford Chamber President Dr Derek O'Byrne offered his heartiest best wishes to all of the finalists.

"The standard of entries we received for the awards has astounded us to say the least. The judges have spent months deliberating and debating and we thank them for their commitment."

Dr O'Byrne added: "The awards offer a great platform for local businesses to get the recognition they deserve for all their hard work and continued support of the economic life of Waterford and we look forward to celebrating with them all on Friday night."