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Description automatically generated**COMMUNITY AWARDS CRITERIA**

**Categories:**

These awards contribute to developing community spirit and helping to promote activities that Maesteg Town Council consider important for Maesteg Town

1. **Young Achiever of the Year (under 18’s)**

Someone who has had awards in the following groups for Music, Arts, Drama, achievement of a Duke of Edinburgh Award, or made a significant contribution to school life of their own choice.

1. **Services to Youth and Education**

A person who gives their time and expertise to aid young people, this could be coaches of sports, arts, drama, school assistants who help with reading, or other activities.

1. **Community Champion**

An individual or organisation that has made a significant contribution to the community, this may include a local hero, someone who has performed an act or bravery, someone who has made an outstanding contribution to a community project.

1. **Services to Voluntary Work**

An Individual or organisation within the community that has worked tirelessly, giving their time or expertise to help others.

1. **Local Environmental Champion**

Environment Champions are a special type of volunteer; they help deal with environmental issues that might have a negative effect on the community, volunteering time for i.e. litter picking etc. Champions are often people who are passionate about climate action and sustainability in their home lives and who see an opportunity to boost action in their workplace or local community, volunteering some of their time to talk to friends, neighbours, work colleagues, schools and community groups about recycling and reducing waste to help create a better environment.

1. **Gardener of the Year**

This may be a local allotment owner who donates their surplus produce to one of the food share projects, provides plants to local groups to improve their premisses or surroundings, or has a pristine garden that everyone in the community admires, someone who goes out into the community to give talks and advice on gardening, or gives outreach help when asked.

1. **Good Neighbour**

As it implies, friendly neighbours are kind to current neighbours and welcoming to new ones. They introduce themselves, maintain relationships, and are very approachable. They also enjoy being social in their street and encourage others to do so as well, this maybe organising street parties etc. mowing gardens for those unable to do their own, or run errands, and go the extra mile to help anyone in any way they can on their street.

1. **Young Carer**

A young person undertaking caring duties.

1. **Charity / Fund Raiser**

A person or group who has tireless raised funds for a local charity, community, or group project.

1. **Mental Health & Wellbeing Champion**

A person who is sympathetic, caring, is always there to talk to, gives advice, points people in the right direction of where to get further help and advice.

1. **Sport and Leisure Award**

This is aimed at an individual, club, group, or organisation who has excelled in their sport or nurtured local talent.

1. **Outstanding Achievement Award**

An Individual or organisation that has made a significant contribution to the community.

**Criteria**

Awards are given for an outstanding contribution, performance of commitment to the areas within Maesteg Town Council boundaries i.e. Caerau, Maesteg East, Maesteg West and Nantyffyllon.

All awards are to recognise those individuals and groups that have made and are making a positive contribution to Caerau, Maesteg East, Maesteg West and Nantyffyllon areas, and are showing leadership, initiative, or commitment in

the local community.

* No serving councillor may receive an award.
* An award can only be given to people who live, or work within the boundary of Maesteg Town Council, or someone who lives outside the area but make a significant contribution to the community life of the area.

**Process:**

Nomination forms can be obtained from the Town Council office either in person or via email [clerk@maestegcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@maestegcouncil.org)

Completed nominations must be received by the Clerk no later than midday Wednesday 28th February 2024.

All Nominations will be made available for the working group Councillors to view ahead of 12th March 2023, Community Awards working group meeting.

Councillors will be asked to read the nominations in advance of the meeting and make a judgement as to those which have made the most impact.

The full Council in a CLOSED session will make the final decision for all the awards.

More than one award can be made in a category but there is no requirement to make an award in a category in an any particular year.

The Recipient will receive an A4 certificate and a presentation award

Recipients of awards will not be told who nominated them but that the award was made by the full Council.

Recipients of awards will be invited with up to three guests to attend the Town Council Awards Celebration, on the evening of Friday 19th April 2024.

Please us a separate form for each nominee.

**Timelines:**

Nominations Open: w/c 22nd January 2024

Nominations Close: 28th February 2024

Winners Chosen and Notified: 12th March 2024

Awards Presentation: 19th April 2024