



**County Carlow
Chamber**
Advancing business together

— CARLOW —
BUSINESS AWARDS
2026



COMHAIRLE CONTAE
CHEATHARLACH

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL



PROGRAMME

6.30PM

EVENING RECEPTION & NETWORKING

8PM

AWARDS CEREMONY COMMENCES

10PM

TIME TO CELEBRATE

2026 AWARD CATEGORIES (alphabetical)

- Best Hair & Beauty Business Award
- Best Health & Wellness Business Award
- Best Hospitality Provider Award
- Best Online Presence Award
- Best Presented Premises Award - Carlow North
- Best Presented Premises Award- Carlow South
- Best Presented Premises Award - Carlow Town
- Business Innovation Award
- Business Supporting Community Award
- Carlow Ambassador of the Year
- Carlow Business of the Year
- Carlow's Lifetime Achievement Award
- Customer Service Award
- Daytime Dining Award
- Emerging Business of the Year
- Family Business of the Year
- International Business Award
- Large Business of the Year
- Medium Business of the Year
- Nighttime Dining Award
- President's Award
- Professional Services Award
- Retail Business of the Year
- Small Business of the Year
- Sustainable Initiatives Award
- Workplace Health & Wellbeing Award



Norah Ryan

2026 PRESIDENT OF COUNTY CARLOW
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

On behalf of County Carlow Chamber of Commerce, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 2026 Carlow Business Awards. Tonight is one of the highlights of our Chamber year – an opportunity to celebrate the businesses and people whose ambition, resilience and hard work continue to drive County Carlow forward.

I am delighted that Carlow County Council joins us as our main sponsor. My sincere thanks to Coilín and his team for their continued support and shared commitment to recognising excellence across our county. The standard of entries this year has been exceptional. Our finalists represent businesses of every size and sector – established companies with proud histories, growing enterprises with ambitious plans, and individuals and teams making a real difference every day.

To every finalist, congratulations. Reaching this stage is an achievement in itself. Whether you are based in Carlow town, Bagenalstown, Tullow, Borris, Rathvilly, Hacketstown or anywhere in between, tonight demonstrates the incredible strength and diversity of business throughout County Carlow.

CHAMBER PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

My sincere thanks to our judges and sponsors. Our judges gave generously of their time and expertise, while the support of our sponsors enables us to shine a spotlight on the businesses and people making Carlow such a vibrant place to live, work and do business.

I also thank our Chamber Board and Awards Committee for their continued commitment and support throughout the year.

Finally, a very special thank you to our CEO Nicola Doran and to Lisa McCann. So much of what the Chamber achieves happens because of their professionalism, energy and dedication behind the scenes, and we are incredibly fortunate to have them.

As President, one of my greatest privileges is meeting businesses throughout the county and hearing the stories behind them – the risks taken, challenges overcome, jobs created and ambitions for the future. Tonight, we celebrate those stories.

Enjoy a wonderful evening of celebration, connection and Carlow pride. To all our finalists, the very best of luck, and to every business represented tonight, thank you for the contribution you make to our county.

Norah Ryan

Chamber President 2026 / 2027



**County Carlow
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County Carlow
Chamber
of Commerce

— CARLOW —
BUSINESS AWARDS
2026



A WORD FROM OUR EVENT SPONSOR



Cllr Tommy Kinsella
Cathaoirleach, Carlow County Council

Carlow County Council are proud to sponsor to the County Carlow Chamber Business Awards 2026 as part of our ongoing engagement with County Carlow Chamber.

These awards provide an important opportunity to celebrate the ambition, innovation and resilience that continue to drive business success across County Carlow. They recognise the outstanding achievements of enterprises of all sizes while showcasing the vital contribution that our business community makes to employment, investment and the overall economic wellbeing of the county.

Supporting business growth and economic development remains a key priority for Carlow County Council. Through our Economic Development team and the Local Enterprise Office, we work closely with entrepreneurs, start-ups and established businesses to help them grow, innovate and realise their full potential. The strength and diversity of businesses represented here tonight is a testament to the entrepreneurial spirit that exists throughout our county.

It is particularly encouraging to see so many businesses embracing new opportunities, expanding into new markets and continuing to invest in their people. Their success reflects not only the vision and determination of business owners and managers, but also the dedication of employees and the loyalty of customers and communities who support them.

I would like to congratulate all of this year's finalists and nominees on their achievements. Being recognised among your peers is a significant accomplishment and one that should be celebrated. I wish each of you the very best of luck this evening and continued success in the years ahead.

Tommy Kinsella

Cllr. Tommy Kinsella
Cathaoirleach
Carlow County Council





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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CATERING - Lennons@Visual

VENUE - VISUAL Carlow

AUDIO VISUAL - Hedgehog Productions and Premier Sound & Lighting Solutions

PHOTOGRAPHY - Thomas Sunderland Photography

AWARDS - Fawn Laser

PRINT - Jones Business Systems

MUSIC - Culture Crush

MEDIA PARTNERS - The Nationalist, KCLR 96FM

ORGANISING COMMITTEE:

Norah Ryan, Michael Quinn, Paddy Carroll,

Aoife Byrne, Colin Duggan and Nicola Doran

JUDGING PANEL:

Norah Ryan (Barrow Learning)

Paddy Carroll (Carroll Estimating Ltd)

Michael Quinn (Robert Quinn Ltd)

David Clerkin (MSD Carlow)

Colin Duggan (Woodford Dolmen Hotel)

Aoife Byrne (Seamus Byrne Electrical)

Eileen McCabe (Content Plan)

Kieran Comerford (Carlow CoCo/ LEO)

Ian Mernagh (GreenTech)

Aoife O'Donnell (Jones Engineering Manufacturing)

Conal O'Boyle (The Nationalist)

Gillian Bane (Chambers Ireland)

Finola Muldowney (BOI)

Rory Hennessy (Milford Financial Services)

Deirdre Crowley (AIB)

Statia Butler (BOI)

Gabrielle Carroll (KCETB)



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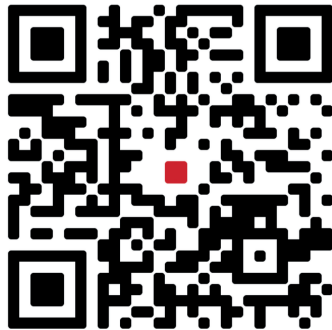
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**County Carlow
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CHAMBER TEAM



Nicola Doran
CEO Carlow Chamber



Lisa McCann
Office Manager

Best Hair & Beauty Business Award

Award Description

This category recognises progressive, dynamic and professionally run businesses operating in the hair and beauty sectors that have built a strong following, with excellent customer service, showing potential for growth and development.

FINALISTS

- **Blakes Hair Salon**
- **Carlow Laser & Skin Clinic**
- **John Paul Payne Makeup**
- **K.Hair**
- **Lavish Studio**
- **Sage Hair**

SPONSOR:



www.kcetb.ie

Best Health & Wellness Business Award

Award Description

This category recognises progressive, dynamic and professionally run businesses operating in the health and wellness sectors that have built a strong following, with excellent customer service, showing potential for growth and development.

FINALISTS

- **Elucidate Studio**
- **McNally Denture Clinic**
- **ND Wellbeing & School of Holisitics**
- **Nutrition by Klara**
- **Pembroke Dental**
- **T M Pilates**

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Best Hospitality Provider Award

Award Description

This category recognises hotels, self-catering and hospitality providers that show strong business acumen, excel in customer service and show potential for growth and development. Participating businesses were assessed on overall professionalism, business ability, drive and ambition - rather than the specifics of their hospitality offering.

FINALISTS

- Goodly Barrow Museum & Cafe
- The Green Lemon Cafe
- The Mullichain Cafe
- The Old Post Office Cafe
- Woodford Dolmen Hotel

SPONSOR:



www.carlowcreditunion.ie

Best Online Presence Award

Award Description

This category recognises businesses that have a strong, consistent, engaging presence online - across all of their platforms. Businesses that are creative and informative, ensuring that their customers and followers can easily connect with them in a meaningful way.

FINALISTS

- Brew Stop Cafe
- REA Sothern
- Sun Arc Solar Systems
- The Coffee Pot
- White's Pharmacy/Always There Pharmacy
- Woodford Dolmen Hotel

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Best Presented Premises - Carlow North

Award Description

This category recognises businesses that stand out in their locality for their attractive and appealing premises. They excel in the quality and visual appeal of the exterior of the premises, quality and suitability of the interior of the premises, overall design and branding, accessibility and cleanliness. These businesses make our towns, villages and localities more interesting and attractive.

FINALISTS

- Ballykealey House
- Coppengagh House Farm
- Elanna's Boutique
- The Corner
- The Green Lemon Cafe
- Valhalla Saunas

SPONSOR:



www.tellab.ie

Best Presented Premises - Carlow South

Award Description

This category recognises businesses that stand out in their locality for their attractive and appealing premises. They excel in the quality and visual appeal of the exterior of the premises, quality and suitability of the interior of the premises, overall design and branding, accessibility and cleanliness. These businesses make our towns, villages and localities more interesting and attractive.

FINALISTS

- Cosy Cup by Dessert Delights
- McCullagh Jewellers & Sports
- Rainbows Bar
- The Hunters Rest
- The Local
- The Step House Hotel

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Best Presented Premises - Carlow Town

Award Description

This category recognises businesses that stand out in their locality for their attractive and appealing premises. They excel in the quality and visual appeal of the exterior of the premises, quality and suitability of the interior of the premises, overall design and branding, accessibility and cleanliness. These businesses make our towns, villages and localities more interesting and attractive.

FINALISTS

- A Touch of Class
- Delta Sensory Gardens
- Pimento Wine & Tapas
- S&R Property
- Sweet Baking Mama
- Teach Dolmain

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www.tilenstyle.ie

Business Innovation Award

Award Description

This category recognises proactive and dynamic businesses that have identified and applied innovative ways in which to improve their products, services, systems or marketing. They embrace new technologies, new processes or methods of developing and promoting their businesses and they stand out for their progressive approach to strengthening and driving their businesses forward.

FINALISTS

- Ampifi Media Ltd
- Carlow Toolmaking Services
- JustCover Travel Insurance
- Netwatch
- Rodent Shield Systems
- Wise Heat HVAC Solutions Ltd

SPONSOR:



www.setu.ie

Business Supporting Community Award

Award Description

This category is for businesses that take a proactive approach to supporting, promoting or working collaboratively with their local community. This could be through joint initiatives with a community group, staff volunteering with local groups / charities, pro-bono advice or support to community groups, sponsorship of clubs, events etc.

FINALISTS

- Aptus Broadband
- Barrow Brew
- Carlow Credit Union
- Michael Lyng Motors Carlow
- Suantraí Montessori & After School

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Customer Service Award

Award Description

One of our most popular and competitive categories, this award recognises businesses that consistently exceed the expectations of customers - that are open, inclusive, value-focused and passionately customer-driven. The team have exemplary product / service knowledge and a passion to ensure that they provide excellent customer service to every customer, at every touchpoint in the business.

FINALISTS

- Carpe Diem
- EBS Carlow
- O'Farrell Property
- Rockfield IT
- Slimming World Carlow with Mary
- Solar Signs

SPONSOR:



www.jonesbusinesssystems.ie

International Business Award

Award Description

This category recognises businesses that are putting Carlow on the map, successfully operating internationally, exporting goods or services, opening new markets and/or building relationships abroad.

FINALISTS

- Carlow Brewing Company
- Forest Rock Technologies
- Magna Autolaunch
- Relocate to Ireland
- Simply Workflow

SPONSOR:



www.unum.com

Professional Services Award

Award Description

This category recognises excellence in businesses, agencies or consultancies providing professional services to other businesses or to members of the public. These businesses excel in their field and focus on understanding the needs of their clients and delivering tangible results.

FINALISTS

- Care Network Ireland
- Clarke Jeffers LLP Solicitors
- Denise Whelan Consultant
- Maven TM
- Milford Financial Services Ltd
- The Social Media Department

SPONSOR:



www.xenon.ie

Sustainable Initiatives Award

Award Description

This category shines a light on business that take a proactive, responsible approach to ensuring that they minimise their impact on the planet, while maximising their positive impacts on people, place and environment.

FINALISTS

- Carlow County Development Partnership
- St Fiacc's Swimming Pool
- Catering Innovation Agency Ltd
- Conway's Bar and Restaurant
- VISUAL - Carlow Arts Centre

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www.joneseng.com

Workplace Health & Wellbeing Award

Award Description

This category recognises businesses that have excelled in putting practical strategies and systems in place to support and promote the health and wellbeing of their employees, ensuring that they have strong, resilient, happy teams.

FINALISTS

- Berlin Hair Lounge
- MSD Carlow
- Talbot Hotel Carlow
- UPMC Outreach Centre Carlow

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KCLR

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Daytime Dining Award

Award Description

This category recognises businesses that stand out for providing quality, diversity or innovation in their food offering, as well as superb hospitality and service for daytime dining options including breakfast, lunch and snacks.

FINALISTS

- Barrow Brew
- Country Kitchen Restaurant and Cafe
- Goodly Barrow Museum & Cafe
- Lennons@ Visual
- The Old Post Office Cafe

SPONSOR:



www.reasothern.ie

Nighttime Dining Award

Award Description

This category recognises businesses that stand out for providing quality, diversity or innovation in their food offering, as well as superb hospitality and service for evening dining options.

FINALISTS

- Conway's Bar and Restaurant
- Flame Steakhouse & Cocktails
- Kishmish Indian Restaurant
- Lennons @Visual
- Pimento Wine & Tapas

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Emerging Business of the Year

Award Description

A thriving business community needs a funnel of strong, exciting new businesses coming through the pipeline. This award recognises those new businesses, that are less than 3 years in operation, but who are already making an impact in their field - showing a clear strategy for growth and an ambition to progress.

FINALISTS

- Ampifi Media Ltd
- Erin Safety
- Leabhair agus Lattes
- Modutech Switchgear Ltd
- Slaney Financial Solutions Ltd

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www.blacknight.com

Family Business of the Year

Award Description

This category recognises multi-generational businesses - where more than one generation of the same family have been, or are currently, involved in driving the business forward. These are businesses based on a strong provenance and heritage, with a clear drive and passion for future growth and development.

FINALISTS

- E Cullen & Sons Butchers
- Kevin Kelly Pharmacy Tullow Street
- Forest Rock Technologies
- Suantraí Montessori & After School
- Thomas M.Byrne & Sons Ltd

SPONSOR:



www.aib.ie

Large Business of the Year

Award Description

This category recognises excellence in businesses with more than 50 employees. These are businesses with a clear strategy for growth, a passion for development and a track record of success.

FINALISTS

- Delmec
- Magna Autolaunch
- MSD Carlow
- Talbot Hotel Carlow
- VSS Ireland

SPONSOR:



www.infiniteenergy.ie

Medium Business of the Year

Award Description

This category recognises excellence in businesses with between 11 and 50 employees. These are businesses with a clear strategy for growth, a passion for development and a track record of success.

FINALISTS

- Catering Innovation Agency Ltd
- JustCover Travel Insurance
- Murphy Engineering & Mobile Welding Ltd
- Torc Candles Ltd
- Woods Contract Cleaners
- Xenon Building Technology Ltd

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www.harney.ie

Retail Business of the Year

Award Description

This category recognises strong, dynamic, innovative retailers that provide a positive shopping experience to all of their customers. These are businesses that understand their market niche and that have drive and vision, as well as a track record of success.

FINALISTS

- Andy's Music Store
- Bramley's Jewellers
- Detail Menswear
- Elanna's Boutique
- McCullagh Jewellers & Sport
- Obsession Showroom

SPONSOR:



www.milfordfinancialservices.ie

Small Business of the Year

Award Description

This category recognises excellence in businesses with 10 employees or less. These are businesses with a clear strategy for growth, a passion for development and a track record of success.

FINALISTS

- Blueberry Soul Jewellery
- Carlow Florist
- Equinox Education Services Ltd
- Flower Child
- Forus-P Cyber Security
- Lamberts Coffee House

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St Clare's Hospitality Kitchen supports those in need in our community - serving free, hot meals 5 days a week, without judgement in a welcoming and warm atmosphere. This support, coupled with their food parcels, is life-changing for those that use the service. It is only possible thanks to their amazing volunteers, and to the local businesses and individuals who kindly provide donations to keep the doors open.

CARLOW'S AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR

Each year, the Carlow Ambassador Award is given to an individual or a business that has promoted and raised the profile of brand Carlow in a positive and impactful way.

This year we are delighted to present this award to Ollie Hennessy.



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About

Ollie Hennessy is a Carlow-born musician, composer, arranger, producer and musical director. There are few people in Carlow who would not be aware of his talents through his participation in, support of and commitment to the local Carlow music and creative scene.

But his influence stretches far beyond the county. He is perhaps best known nationally, and indeed internationally, for his long association with the Rose of Tralee International Festival – where he has been musical director for 30 years. And over the span of his musical career he has accompanied some of the biggest names in Irish music, playing in venues all over the globe.

A proud Carlovian, and fanatical GAA supporter, Ollie has given so much to our community over the years – supporting local school shows, pantos, choirs and events, creating and providing opportunities for other Carlow musicians and artists, and of course entertaining us.

His moving musical Letters From the Front with Rebecca Storm, took audiences on an unforgettable emotional journey – and played to packed audiences in VISUAL Carlow. And while we are immensely proud of Ollie for all of his achievements – he is perhaps even more proud of Carlow, making him the ideal Carlow Ambassador of the Year 2026.



CARLOW'S LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Each year, the Lifetime Achievement Award is given to a Carlow person who over the period of their career has made a positive impact on business and /or society. Someone who stands out for their contribution and success.



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TALBOT HOTEL
CARLOW

About

Joe Tully has been an integral part of the Carlow business community for decades – not alone running his own successful travel business, but serving for many years on the board of the Chamber of Commerce, and actively participating in many committees and projects over the years to advance the needs of Carlow.

Joe joined Tully's Travel in 1970 and he took over from his father Frank in 1990. Tully's Travel was long-known for being an innovative and ground-breaking business, introducing new options in travel to customers, and this was to advance even further under Joe's leadership.

Winner of the *Contribution to the Travel Industry Award in 2025* Joe has been instrumental in not only developing Tully's Travel, but in establishing many standards for the travel trade in Ireland, being involved in IATA, the global airline monitoring body, and ITAA, representing the Irish Travel Trade. Tully's Travel was a founding member of GlobalStar Travel Management, and it now has a network in 55 countries – with Tully's representing the organisation in Ireland.

Despite the international nature of the business Joe has kept Tully's Travel headquartered in Tullow Street with the same open and welcome customer service approach that the business was founded on.



— CARLOW —
BUSINESS AWARDS
2026

PRESIDENTS AWARD

The prestigious President's Award is a special award that is given at the discretion of the Chamber President.

Selected from the pool of finalists across all categories, it recognises a business or individual who is a stellar performer within the Carlow business community.

It recognises and rewards excellence, individuality, passion or commitment on a level that is exceptional

SPONSOR:

The EBS logo consists of the letters 'EBS' in a bold, white, serif font, centered within a solid red square.

EBS



**The winner of the
President's Award 2026
has been selected from the
finalists of all award
categories by Chamber
President Norah Ryan will be
announced at the
Carlow Business Awards
Ceremony**

The winner of the
Carlow Business of the Year 2026
has been selected from the finalists of all award
categories in the
Carlow Business Awards

The selected business is the overall winner - impressing the judges for its exemplary drive, passion, commitment and future potential.

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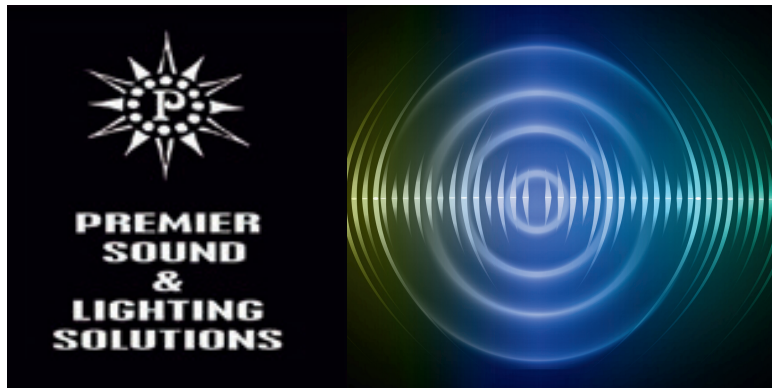
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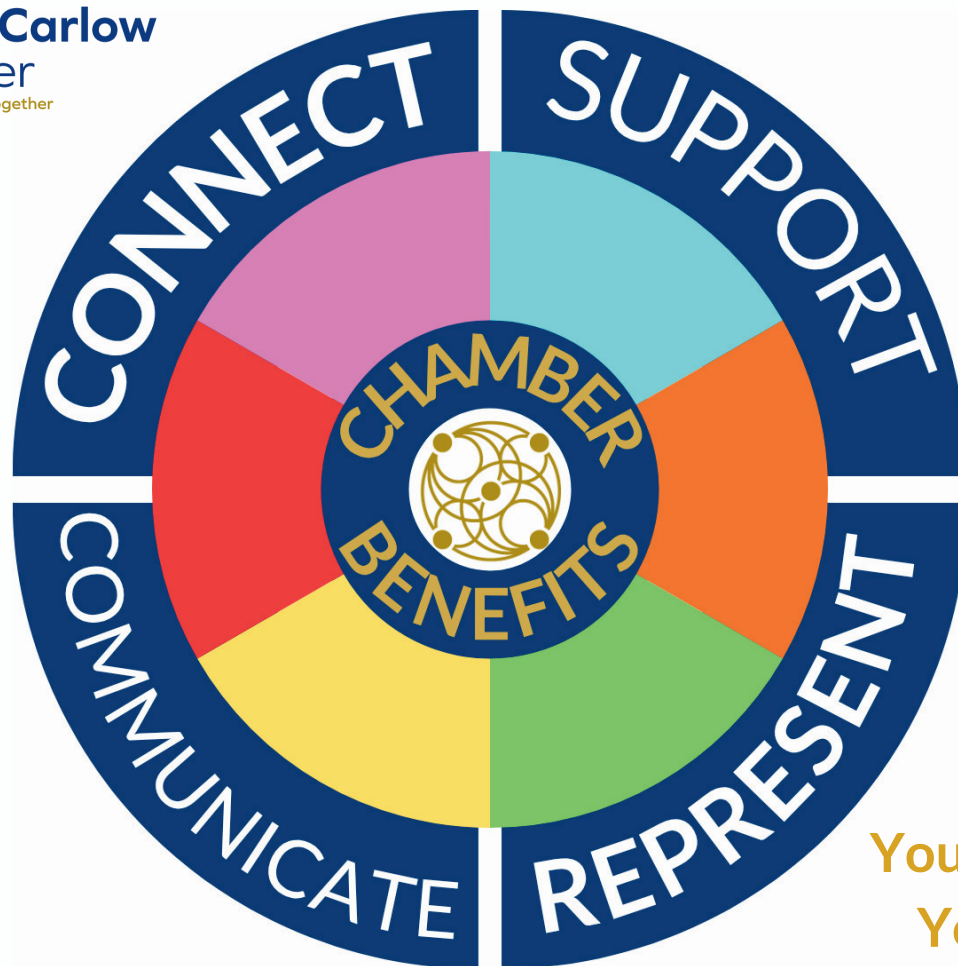
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