

Launching the Accessible Somerset Awards 2009

Accessibility affects us all

Most of us will experience some form of disability – even on a temporary basis – at some point in our lives. The case for making our society more accessible is a compelling one and makes good business sense.



What are the Accessible Somerset Awards? The Accessible Somerset Awards scheme was first launched in 2008 and following the success of the first year of this scheme Compass Disability Services supported by Somerset County Council and the five District Councils of Somerset are working to make this an annual event for Somerset. The aim of the awards is to raise awareness about accessibility issues and recognise those organisations that have made access a priority. The Accessible Somerset Awards 2009 are asking people to nominate organisations that they come into contact with that provide an excellent service and enable disabled people to shop, socialise and enjoy life to the full.

It is acknowledged that physical adjustments are not always practical or possible for organisations operating in a rural and historical County such as Somerset, therefore we are aiming for the judging criteria to be as broad as possible. Although physical access is a very important part of accessibility, we also want to know where staff have provided excellent customer service, again not for those just with physical impairments but also sensory impairments or people with learning difficulties or mental health issues.

How do I make a nomination? Simply complete the form inside and send it to the freepost address at the bottom of the form – closing date for nominations is 30 September 2009. Nominations can also be made online at www.assesssomerset.org.uk. *We will not accept self-nominations from businesses or service providers.*

How is it going to be judged? The nominations will be presented to a board of judges in October. These judges will be made up of disabled people, representatives from the Somerset Equalities Officers Group and Compass Disability Services.

When will I find out the results? An awards ceremony will then take place on 3 December 2009 to coincide with the 'International Day of Disabled People', where the winners will be presented with their awards and certificates. Following the announcement of the awards the winners will be published in disability magazines for Somerset and local press, you can visit the website or contact Compass Disability Services to find out more.

How many awards are there? Overall there will be 22 awards. Within each district a certificate will be presented per category; these categories are:

A place to eat	Accommodation
Recreation	Service

In addition there will be an overall County winner and an overall winner that was nominated by a Young Disabled Person (under 20 years of age).

We look forward to receiving your nominations!

Accessible Somerset Awards 2009

NOMINATION FORM

About Your Nomination

Name of the business / service provider / facility you are nominating

Their Address

Which District does this organisation cover or where are they based?

- Mendip
- Sedgemoor
- South Somerset
- Taunton Deane
- West Somerset

Which category does this nomination fall into?

- A place to eat
- Accommodation
- Recreation
(for example Museum, Zoo, Leisure Facility)
- Service
(for example Shop, Council Service, Bank, Support Service)
- Nominated by a Young Disabled Person
Please tick this box (in addition to one of the above categories) if you are under 20 years of age and please state your age

About You

Your Name

Please provide us with your postal or email address so that we can contact you

Do you work for the organisation you have nominated? Yes No

Why you think this establishment deserves an Accessible Somerset Award?

Please remember that we only have the information you provide here to judge these nominations and to decide on the winners, so please explain your reasons as fully and accurately as possible (please do not use additional sheets)

Please rate your nominated organisation using the scale of 1 – 5

	Unsatisfactory		Average		Excellent
Physical accessibility	1	2	3	4	5
Service provided	1	2	3	4	5
'Above and beyond' factor	1	2	3	4	5
Friendliness of staff	1	2	3	4	5

Please use the space below to explain the reason for your nomination

Please post your completed applications to: **FREEPOST RRAA-RLEX-XXU**
Compass Disability Services, Units 11 – 12 Belvedere Trading Estate, Taunton TA1 1BH

Nominations must be received by 30 September 2009
OR nominate online at www.accesssomerset.org.uk

Accessible



Somerset *awards*



Compass Disability Services

Pointing you in the right direction



The Accessible Somerset Awards 2009
is facilitated by Compass Disability Services
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