



PRESS RELEASE

THE PANTILES, CHAPEL PLACE IN RUNNING TO WIN £15,000 GREAT BRITISH HIGH STREET PRIZE

- The Pantile, Chapel Place and High Street areas in Royal Tunbridge Wells have been shortlisted in the Champion category of the Great British High Street Awards 2018;
- The Champion category celebrates and showcases the best high streets across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland;
- Winners of the Great British High Street Awards 2018, sponsored by Visa, will be announced on 15 November 2018.

London, 17th September – **THE PANTILES, HIGH STREET AND CHAPEL PLACE AREAS** in Royal Tunbridge Wells have been shortlisted in this year's [Great British High Street Awards 2018](#), sponsored by Visa, putting the town in the running to win a £15,000 prize.

The Pantiles, High Street and Chapel Place have been shortlisted in the Champion category of the Awards, which aims to find the UK's best high street. After a rigorous selection process, The Pantiles, High Street and Chapel Place were chosen by an independent judging panel as one of 26 streets to be shortlisted for the award.

The shortlisted high streets will now battle it out in a public vote, which accounts for 30 per cent of the final scoring, and will then have the chance to impress an expert judging panel as they seek to be crowned Britain's best. Those interested in participating in the public vote can visit www.thegreatbritishhighstreet.co.uk for more information.

The winning entries for both the Champion and Rising Star categories will be announced on 15 November 2018 at an awards ceremony in London.

The bid by Royal Tunbridge Wells Together followed research commissioned by Visa, sponsor of the 2018 Great British High Street Awards, which revealed promising signs of renewed confidence in the country's high streets despite a challenging retail environment.

In fact, Visa found that more than half of the nation's independent high street retailers interviewed are optimistic about the future of their local high street, whilst four out of five shoppers would miss their local high street if it was no longer there.

High Streets Minister Jake Berry MP said: *"Congratulations to The Pantiles, High Street and Chapel Place in Royal Tunbridge Wells on being shortlisted as one of the UK's best high streets in this year's Great British High Street Awards.*

"The awards celebrate the great work that is being done to revive, adapt and diversify the nation's high streets and the quality of entries this year has been outstanding.

"Over the next six weeks The Pantiles, High Street and Chapel Place have the chance to impress an expert judging panel as they also battle it out in a public vote for the title of Britain's best high street."

“This is a great opportunity to show your support for the hard work going on in The Pantiles, High Street and Chapel Place in Royal Tunbridge Wells so get voting!”

Sundeep Kaur, Head of UK & Ireland Merchant Services at Visa, added: *“The Pantiles, Chapel Place and the High Street is a fantastic example of a high street which has made huge strides in transforming itself to offer a range of different experiences for locals and visitors alike. Its year-round events programme, which includes Jazz on The Pantiles, has driven healthy footfall and collaboration between small independent businesses and local residents.*

“Our research shows that this is one of the things consumers most demand from their high streets, so it is no surprise that The Pantiles, Chapel Place and the High Street have made the Champion category shortlist for their adaptability, resilience and creativity in meeting these demands.”

The Great British High Street Awards 2018, which are being run by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, sponsored by Visa and backed by other partners, is recognising and celebrating local achievements on our high streets and supporting the communities in which we live and work.

The initiative includes a competition to find the nation’s best high streets, with one winner being named in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland for each of the two categories: the Champion and Rising Star Awards. An overall winner will also be named.

In 2016, Blackburn in Lancashire was crowned the Great British High Street winner thanks to the determination of the community and local businesses who worked in partnership to drive improvements and overcome the challenges their high street was facing.

For more information about the Great British High Street Awards 2018 terms and conditions and details on how to vote, visit: <http://thegreatbritishhighstreet.co.uk>

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Notes to editors

To get involved in the conversation, members of the public can support their local high street on social media using #MyHighStreet via:

- Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheGBHighSt
- Instagram: www.instagram.com/TheGBHighSt/
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/TheGBHighSt>

Research

The research was conducted by 3Gem between 26 April and 8 May 2018 and surveyed 2,000 consumers and 750 independent high street retailers across the UK.

Prizes

The prizes include 4 x £5,000 contribution towards a street party for Champion Award winners; 4 x £5,000 grant towards a local community / technology project for Rising Star Award winners and; 1 x £10,000 grant for a local community project for the Overall UK Award winner. Visit <https://thegreatbritishhighstreet.co.uk/terms> for Full Terms & prize details.

Contacts

For more press information about the Great British High Street Awards 2018, to request high res images and video footage or to arrange an interview, please contact Grayling: visahighstreet@grayling.com

About Visa Inc.

Visa Inc. (NYSE: V) is the world's leader in digital payments. Our mission is to connect the world through the most innovative, reliable and secure payment network – enabling individuals, businesses and economies to thrive. Our advanced global processing network, VisaNet, provides secure and reliable payments around the world, and is capable of handling more than 65,000 transaction messages a second. The company's relentless focus on innovation is a catalyst for the rapid growth of connected commerce on any device. As the world moves from analogue to digital, Visa is applying our brand, products, people, network and scale to reshape the future of commerce. For more information, visit our website (www.visa.co.uk), the Visa Vision blog (vision.visaeurope.com), and @VisaUK.