

nabma
the voice of local authority markets



Annual Report

2012



The National Association of British Market Authorities

INTRODUCTION

What a fantastic year NABMA has enjoyed. We have seen unrivalled engagement with Government resulting in markets gaining recognition in major policy initiatives. First we secured specific reference to markets in the Planning Policy Framework and this was followed by the headline recognition of markets in the Mary Portas report.

NABMA led the campaign to celebrate a National Market Day coupled with Love Your Local Market. The fortnight, from 23rd June - 8th July, was a resounding success with up to four hundred markets participating and one thousand five hundred new traders trying market trading for the first time. The markets industry enjoyed a tremendous amount of publicity and promotion.

While these achievements could be looked upon as highlights of the past year, there were many other notable landmarks. NABMA's membership stood at a twenty year high which is testament to the national recognition for markets we have achieved and the wide portfolio of member services.

While I take great heart from what we have achieved in the last twelve months the success is down to the efforts of the NABMA team. On the policy front, tremendous credit is due to Krys Zasada and Malcolm Veigas for the work that they have done on promoting the markets cause in the Planning Policy Framework and also in the Mary Portas Report. The team at Oswestry work tremendously hard to provide first class support services to NABMA and the last twelve months has seen increased pressure on our resources resulting from our engagement with the national agenda and increasing the range and quality of member services. In addition one of our priorities in the last twelve months has been to professionalise the market service and I must pay tribute to the work done by Dennis Wardle in promoting the Diploma in Markets Administration.

While I am tremendously proud of the success we have achieved and rejoice in the achievements of the last twelve months I know that there is still much work to do and, given the fragility of local government finances, what might be a success story one year can easily be reversed. However, for the time being, let us rejoice and feel proud to be part of the NABMA family.



MEMBERSHIP

As indicated in the introduction, membership levels are at a twenty year high. In the current local government climate this is a tremendous result. Although we have seen a number of resignations over the last twelve months, we have more than compensated for these resignations by an increased number of new members. Membership subscriptions have remained at the same level for six years but given our substantially increased expenditure on member services and the support for Love Your Local Market and National Market Day changes we may have to look at an increase this year.

Membership income accounts for over half of NABMA's overall income and in real terms provides the funding to cover NABMA's Service Level Agreement with Oswestry and a substantial part of NABMA's staffing costs. It is appreciated that there are some inequalities in how the subscription bandings operate but we have been unable to find a suitable replacement that will yield the same level of income.

We continue to have a strong base of private operators and it is good to see that they have become fully integrated within the NABMA membership.

It is recognised that there is a continuing challenge, in the current local government climate, to maintain membership levels but I hope that members can see the value of their subscriptions translated into raising the profile of markets on the national stage and also having access to a wide range of quality local services.

FINANCE

NABMA's accounts for the last twelve months are included with this report. It will be seen that we had an excellent year with our reserves increasing to over £100,000. This is a fantastic achievement in the context of the increasing profile we have enjoyed nationally and also the investment we have made in increasing the quality of NABMA services.

NABMA's Management Board resolved that we should use our reserves in a productive way and it is likely that the reserves will be reduced significantly over the next twelve months in the context of NABMA's support for National Market Day and Love Your Local Market and also by providing subsidies for a range of NABMA services including membership of the Institute of Place Management, support for the Diploma in Markets Administration and discounting the cost of the Annual Conference and One-Day Conference. The combined subsidy from all these initiatives is over £35,000.



REVIEW

Reference has already been made to the success of the last year. In addition to National Market Day and Love Your Local Market there have been many other highlights.

Market of the Year attracted a record number of entries and again showed some of the best examples of markets operating throughout the country.

We supplemented the Market of the Year competition with a competition to promote the Best Market Officer, Best Market Team, and Best Market Innovation. These awards were presented at the Annual Conference in September. It was good to see individuals being rewarded for their work with markets and it also allowed us to highlight some of the innovative ideas that had been used in markets to help make them better.

An important part of NABMA's work has always been to monitor the state of the markets industry and we again took the lead, with our colleagues in the Markets Alliance, in undertaking a Retail Markets Survey. The 2011 Retail Markets Survey was the first major survey undertaken since the "Rhodes Report" in 2004. The survey gave us an interesting "snapshot" of the state of retail markets and gave encouraging news that approximately 64% of markets were either showing the same performance or doing better than the previous year. We intend to repeat the Retail Market Survey every year so that we can monitor progress over a period of time.

Reference was made at the outset to the success we achieved in getting markets recognised in the Government's Planning Policy Framework. This was a notable achievement particularly having regard to the Government's focus on producing a very much "slimmed down" version of planning guidance.

We continue to engage with Government throughout the year particularly through the Communities & Local Government Retail Markets Working Group. It is clear that Government places great value on the continuing engagement with the markets industry and I am optimistic that we will see this Working Party continuing in the future.



The last twelve months have also seen us make some progress on improving working relationships with the Local Government Association and we have produced a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the nature of our relationship which hopefully will mean that we can work more effectively with the Association. The Association is now represented at meetings of the Communities & Local Government Retail Markets Working Group and this helps to strengthen the links between NABMA and the Local Government Association.

I welcome the continued support that NABMA is giving to training through both the Institute of Place Management and the Diploma for Markets Administration. It has been one of the priorities of NABMA's work in recent years to professionalise the market service and by supporting membership of the Institute and introducing a Diploma qualification, NABMA is continuing to promote professionalism among Market Officers.

Normally NABMA holds meetings of the Retail Forum and Wholesale Forum at various market locations throughout the year. This year we tried something different, in anticipation of Love Your Local Market and National Market Day, by holding six roadshows at different locations throughout the country. These roadshows were held with support from the National Market Traders Federation.

The roadshows were attended by almost two hundred Market Officers which clearly indicated that the provision of roadshows is something that we need to look at again so that we reach out to the membership and give everyone a chance of attending a location near to their local base.

The Wholesale Forum continued to play an important part in the work of NABMA and the three meetings that were held provided an opportunity for exchanging important information and also the completion of benchmarking data which was helpful to all wholesale markets.

We continue to support the Association of London Markets and it is important that we maintain this link with London markets . Many of them offer a rich diversity of goods and traders.

In a short report such as this it is difficult to highlight everything that NABMA has been involved with during the year. In addition to the various highlights referred to above we also undertook a major overhaul of the NABMA website with the provision of an interactive forum; we have introduced social media communication; undertaken a record number of health checks and continued to support members with a variety of other initiatives including the Buddy Scheme, free legal advice and up to date information on matters affecting the markets industry.



NABMA SUPPORTERS

First of all to thank all our members whose continued membership of the organisation helps us to continue our work both nationally and at local level.

NABMA is particularly grateful to our sponsors who make a significant contribution to our overall income and enable us to extend the range and quality of our services.

We are fortunate to be able to call on the goodwill of many people in providing services to our members and it is important to acknowledge their contribution which enables NABMA to function so effectively.

The future looks bright for NABMA but we can only continue to provide the services with the continued support of our members, sponsors and "unsung heroes".

Graham Wilson OBE
Chief Executive, NABMA



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