

NABMA

the voice of markets



supporting

MARKET OPERATORS



The National Association of British Market Authorities

.....by providing leadership, advice and good practice and engaging with governments and other stakeholders to provide value for money support for our markets.

NABMA represents the interests of market operators throughout the country. While the bulk of our membership is made up of local authorities we also welcome a whole range of other market operators including private markets, trader operated markets, farmers' markets and a range of voluntary groups.

In the current climate it is important that our members fully understand the contribution made by NABMA to promoting markets and also providing resources for market operators to improve the quality and standards of their market. NABMA's contribution can be divided into five sections:

1. National Profile

2. Research

3. Services to Members

4. Tackling the Big Issues

5. Adding Value to Markets



1. National Profile

NABMA is the only organisation that represents market operators on the national stage. In the last ten years we have given markets a very significant profile, particularly as a result of our relationship with Government and our work on a variety of national projects.

Following the Communities and Local Government Select Committee Report on markets in 2009 a Retail Markets Working Group was established by the Department of Communities and Local Government. This Working Group has provided an effective conduit between the markets industry and Government. It has enabled us to influence government policy on a number of important issues including planning, revitalising the high street and market rights.

NABMA supports the All Party Parliamentary Markets Group which enables markets to have a strong focus within Westminster. The Parliamentary Group holds regular Receptions enabling the markets industry to engage with a large number of MPs and Peers of all Parties.

NABMA is also represented within the Local Government Association as a Special Interest Group and we also work with other national organisations. In recent years we have formed a very close working relationship with the National Market Traders Federation, particularly through our work on Mission for Markets, and we also enjoy partnership working with the Association of Town and City Management, the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks.



2. Research

Over the last ten years we have been responsible for the production of a number of important research documents. In particular we have led the way with detailed research into the “health” of the markets industry and its future prospects. This started with the “Rhodes” report and was followed in 2009 by Markets 21. More recently, working with the NMTF, we produced Mission for Markets.

NABMA has also worked closely with a number of markets around the country identifying information about the performance of markets and providing general guidance to other markets on how they can measure performance. We have also, with the support of the Department of Communities and Local Government, produced a template for markets to assist them in assessing their annual performance.

We also undertake an annual survey of retail markets and, more recently, in partnership with the NMTF, we have been expanding this work to cover both markets and traders.

NABMA has invested in the production of a Markets Manual giving information on market procedures and policies enabling all markets to keep up to date on matters affecting the operation and management of their markets.

All these research documents and other material on the markets industry can be obtained via the NABMA website in the publications section.



3. Services to Members

The provision of a varied menu of services is a vital part of the NABMA offer. We have significantly expanded the range of our services over recent years. Set out below are details of our current offer.

- Networking opportunities through conferences and specialist seminars
- Health checks for your markets
- Market legal advice
- Visits to markets to share good practice
- NABMA Toolkit to set up a new market
- Access to NABMA Market Place which provides a consultancy service for specialist advice, project planning and management
- Training events on a wide range of subjects leading to the Diploma of Market Administration
- Great British Market Awards competition
- Template documents, website, member information request service and job advertising
- Interactive forum enabling exchange of views on market issues
- Officer Advisory Group
- Market Awards



4. Tackling the Big Issues

Over the last ten years there have been a number of major issues that have had a potential impact on the markets industry. Set out below are examples of the work NABMA has undertaken.

a. Market Rights

Many local authorities still rely on their market rights for controlling car boot sales/private markets within their local authority area. On a number of occasions Government has sought to remove/curtail the use of market rights. NABMA has argued successfully for their retention and protected our members.

b. Planning

NABMA has secured recognition for markets in Government guidance with encouragement for local authorities to support their local markets.

c. Mary Portas Review

This was a Government major initiative on revitalising town centres and markets were highlighted as a key element of town centres. NABMA launched the Love your Local Market campaign in response to the Mary Portas Report and this has become the largest markets event the world has seen. Over 1,000 markets in the UK take part in Love your Local Market with 16 countries in Europe and around the world registered to take part in the 2015 campaign.

d. Rating of Market Halls

Recently there have been major issues in relation to a programme of revised rating assessments in respect of market halls, open markets and more recently Christmas markets. NABMA has been at the forefront of representing the interests of its members securing important concessions.

e. European Services Directive

The Directive became part of UK law in late 2009. The Government has been seeking to make changes to current legislation but NABMA has argued that the proposals are potentially harmful to markets and, so far, we have succeeded in delaying the Government's implementation of any changes to current arrangements.

5. Adding Value to Markets

At the heart of the NABMA offer is an opportunity to add value to your markets. Each year we promote the Great British Market Awards and this has provided a tremendous amount of good practice. It has also proved a valuable resource in raising the profile of many markets.

A key benefit of NABMA membership is being able to learn what others are doing. NABMA holds a series of events throughout the year where members can learn about other markets and see examples of good practice.

Training is a vital part of the NABMA offer. We are anxious to raise the professional standards within the markets industry. NABMA launched the Diploma in Market Administration via the Institute of Place Management and Manchester Metropolitan University. Almost 100 market officers have now gone through the Diploma course and are better equipped to operate and manage their markets.



NABMA organises various conferences and events throughout the year. Our Annual Conference, covering three days, is the markets major event of the year. Our One Day Conference has been a great success in recent years with sold out audiences in attendance.

The availability of specialist suppliers is important for all market operators and NABMA has a range of sponsors and trade exhibitors who are available to help members with their particular needs.

NABMA has represented the interests of market operators for almost one hundred years. We believe that in the current climate the need for NABMA services has never been greater. It is vital that the market industry retains a strong voice and this can only be achieved by continuing to support NABMA in the future.

NABMA AND ITS SPONSORS

NABMA is grateful to its sponsors in helping to provide this publication. We hope that our membership, partners and potential new members will take advantage of the extensive range of goods and services that are available from the below.



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