NABMA
the voice of markets

2025
2026

ANNUAL REVIEW

Headline Sponsor 2026

MARKET PLACE

A Year of Change, Challenge and Opportunity

This year NABMA has been in transition and operating in an increasingly challenging environment, however 2025/26, NABMA continued to support members, developed partnerships and represented markets in national policy discussions on high streets, regeneration, health, local growth and community resilience. This work took place alongside local government reorganisation, financial pressure and changing operating environments.

There is much to be celebrated. The achievements summarised below show the breadth of that work, from national advocacy and business rates reform to professional development, member support and the promotion of markets as essential civic assets. They also reflect the contribution of members, whose experience, evidence and commitment continue to shape NABMA's work and strengthen the wider sector.

Looking ahead, NABMA will continue to work closely with members and partners to represent markets within local, regional and national policy discussions. This work will focus on ensuring that markets are recognised for their role in supporting high streets, local economies, enterprise, public health, food access and community wellbeing.

Over the next six months, NABMA will develop a new strategy to strengthen the organisation for the future and respond positively to the changing environment in which we operate. The strategy will help set clear priorities, support member engagement, build financial and organisational resilience, and ensure NABMA remains well placed to champion markets through a period of change and opportunity.

NABMA 2025/26: A Year of Achievement

- ✓ **National leadership and influence:** Strengthened NABMA's national voice through the APPMG, chaired by Julia Buckley MP, securing stronger engagement with Parliament, Government and stakeholders on regeneration, devolution and the High Street Strategy.
- ✓ **Key partnerships:** Deepened collaboration with Government, national partners, local authorities and the markets sector, supporting Regional Market Partnerships, strengthening the evidence base and creating a more united UK voice for markets.
- ✓ **Policy and advocacy:** Promoted markets within the Government's High Street Strategy, advised on Martyn's Law and continued national leadership on business rates reform.
- ✓ **Evidence and regeneration:** Led research on markets' role in regeneration and local growth, highlighted over £550 million of investment and launched the Performance Network Survey.
- ✓ **Member support:** Provided legal, operational and professional advice while strengthening Support Sessions, the Mentor Scheme and the NABMA Licensing Forum.
- ✓ **Training and professional development:** Enhanced learning programmes, delivered the Diploma through a hybrid platform, refreshed online CPD and expanded knowledge-sharing opportunities.
- ✓ **Conferences, forums and events:** Delivered two national conferences, supported the Wholesale Forum and created further opportunities for collaboration and best practice exchange.
- ✓ **Celebrating and promoting markets:** Delivered Love Your Local Market, the Great British Market Awards and NABMA Market Industry Awards, while supporting the NMTF Young Traders Market programme.
- ✓ **Communications and profile:** Increased national media coverage through radio, podcasts and industry press engagement, strengthened social media and digital communications, and continued publication of Market View, the sector's dedicated industry newsletter.
- ✓ **Building for the future:** Responded to Local Government Reorganisation and strengthened NABMA's financial, operational and strategic foundations.
- ✓ **Members at the heart:** Kept members' experience and evidence central to advocacy, policy development and national campaigns for markets across the UK.

Finance

We ended the 25/26 year in a very satisfactory position. We had anticipated a break-even situation and while the statement of income/expenditure showed a deficit of some £13068. This was reduced to £922 taking in account outstanding debtors. Assuming that we receive all the monies NABMA was owed then this means our balances at the end for 25/26 were slightly reduced from £239523 to £238601.

The budget for 26/27 again envisages a break-even outcome, with the implementation of a revised consultants structure, but achieving this outcome is dependent on a number of crucial issues.

In particular, in order to cover our anticipated expenditure, we need to raise £200000 through membership subscriptions. Currently this looks a challenging prospect as our membership renewals are running at the lowest level for fourteen years. The only consolation is, at the same time last year, we had large number of outstanding subscriptions and through dedicated pursuit we recovered the vast majority. On a more positive note our sponsorship income is likely to improve primarily through the efforts of our Chief Executive.

It is probably premature to make any definitive predictions about the future but it is important to acknowledge the substantial impact that the pending local government reorganisation is likely to have on NABMA. The next will present the biggest challenges NABMA has faced for many years.

Membership

With over 250 members, NABMA is proud to represent the diversity of the UK markets industry and to support all types of markets. More than a century after its foundation, NABMA reflects the breadth, variety and continuing importance of markets in communities across the United Kingdom.

Our membership includes metropolitan, unitary, parish, town, district, borough and city councils, alongside a wide range of organisations involved in managing and developing markets across the United Kingdom.

Members operate and support market halls, open markets, street markets, wholesale markets, specialist markets and market events, demonstrating the scale and variety of the sector.

NABMA also supports private operators, commercial businesses, community interest companies, trusts, cooperatives, community benefit societies, consultants and council-established delivery bodies. This broad membership strengthens collective knowledge, widens the sector's voice and reflects the continuing importance of markets in communities throughout the UK.

NABMA provides members with timely support and guidance when needed. The NABMA team brings experience and knowledge across market operations, development, sustainability and the legal issues affecting markets.

With Local Government Reorganisation expected to merge many district councils into larger unitary authorities, market managers, officers and representatives are encouraged to keep NABMA informed of changes to email addresses, phone numbers, management structures, office locations and other contact details. This will help ensure NABMA's systems remain accurate and members continue to receive regular updates, information and services.

NABMA expects shadow unitary authorities to be established during the coming year, ahead of new unitary authorities becoming fully operational from 1 April 2028. Members should confirm current contact arrangements and update NABMA as internal management structures change. Please send updates to Chris New, NABMA's Member Support Consultant, at chrisnew@nabma.com.

Our specialists remain available to provide advice, guidance, health checks and supportive reports. Members are welcome to contact us by email or phone whenever assistance is required.

NABMA and the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPMG)

NABMA has continued to provide the secretariat for the All-Party Parliamentary Markets Group (APPMG), strengthening the sector's voice in Parliament and ensuring markets remain part of national discussions on regeneration, high streets and economic growth.

Under the Chairmanship of Julia Buckley MP, the APPMG has brought together MPs, peers and industry partners to champion the role of markets in supporting local economies, communities and town centres.

During the year, NABMA has worked closely with Julia Buckley MP and her team to support meetings, market visits and policy discussions, enabling the sector to present evidence on regeneration, the High Street Strategy and Regional Market Partnerships.

A particular achievement has been developing evidence on the value of markets within regeneration and place-making. This has informed APPMG discussions and helped position markets as civic infrastructure that supports growth, enterprise, social value and community wellbeing.

Looking ahead, NABMA will continue working with the APPMG to secure greater recognition of markets in national policy, strengthen engagement with Ministers and officials, and promote markets within future place-based growth agendas.

NABMA, LGA and Business Rates

After years of campaigning to get relief from the burden of Business Rates we really thought we had made some progress when the government announced the lifting of the restriction on local authorities giving relief on properties for which they are responsible.

When we announced the outcome to members the result was greeted with almost total apathy and silence. While the overall result might have been affected by the publication of a new Valuation List our assessment of that new List is that only a small number of Markets, particularly large Indoor Markets, saw significant increases and the vast majority saw little or no change. In this context the reaction is puzzling. By applying the appropriate multipliers published by the government for getting Business Rates relief most Markets should see some benefit.

NABMA will continue to campaign for Business Rates relief and in the Autumn we will be looking at the current method of calculating a Business Rates assessment for Markets to assess whether the current criteria is fit for purpose.

Business Rates are a major liability for most Markets. We need to take Business Rates seriously.

Government and Strategic Partnerships

Partnership working remains central to NABMA's approach. Through engagement with Government, Parliament and sector partners, NABMA has built stronger relationships, expanded its influence and ensured markets are increasingly recognised as contributors to economic growth, regeneration, public health and community wellbeing.

NABMA has worked closely with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), using sector evidence to demonstrate the role of markets in regeneration and the emerging High Street Strategy. This work has been supported through the All-Party Parliamentary Markets Group (APPMG), chaired by Julia Buckley MP.

Partnerships across local government have also developed through strong collaboration with the Local Government Association (LGA), National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC). These relationships have helped position markets within discussions on community empowerment, local economic development and the future of town centres.

Collaboration with the Institute of Place Management (IPM) and the Association of Town and City Management (ATCM) has strengthened the evidence base for markets. Joint work on regeneration, place management and high street renewal has reinforced the message that markets are essential civic infrastructure delivering economic, social and environmental benefits.

Internationally, NABMA has developed its relationship with the World Union of Wholesale Markets (WUWM), sharing learning, innovation and best practice. Alongside continuing links with the National Market Traders Federation (NMTF) and other partners, this has strengthened NABMA's advocacy locally, nationally and internationally.

A key success has been using the already strong relationships to improve the culture of collaboration across the sector, including work on the High Street Strategy, Regional Market Partnerships, APPMG engagement, regeneration evidence and market visits with MPs, local authorities and partners. This united approach has increased the visibility and influence of markets in public policy.

Looking ahead, NABMA will build on these foundations by deepening relationships with Government, local government networks and strategic partners, continuing to champion markets as essential assets for growth, enterprise, healthy communities and vibrant high streets.

NABMA and London Markets

Over the past twelve months, NABMA has continued to work with colleagues across London, building relationships with our members, the local authorities and the Greater London Authority. Throughout the year, NABMA has supported discussions aimed at creating a stronger and more connected voice for London's markets, while encouraging a practical and sustainable approach to partnership development.

During the year, NABMA maintained a visible presence on the ground through a series of visits and meetings. This included engagement with Walthamstow Market and the wider Association of London Markets network, visits to Hackney's Ridley Road Market, and follow-up discussions with local market teams to better understand opportunities and challenges facing London markets.

The organisation was pleased to support young trader development through involvement with activities linked to the NMTF Young Traders Market programme, including engagement around the London and Southwest regional final held in Greenwich and the promotion of young trader success stories through NABMA communications. This work reinforces our commitment to supporting the next generation of market entrepreneurs and ensuring markets remain a pathway into business for young people.

NABMA also attended several London-based events and discussions during the year, including a well-received reception in the City of London. David Catterall was pleased to attend the reception alongside the NABMA President, Councillor Chris Poulter, providing an important opportunity to raise NABMA's profile, strengthen relationships with City colleagues and wider London partners, and reinforce the importance of markets within the capital's civic, economic and cultural life. The reception also helped underline NABMA's commitment to supporting London's markets at a time when policy, regeneration and local government agendas are placing renewed focus on town centres, high streets and public spaces.

NABMA's wider London engagement also included participation in policy, research and consultation activity affecting the capital's markets, including engagement with Westminster City Council's markets review and wider discussions on the future role of markets within local economies, town centres and high streets.

London remains both a significant opportunity and an important area of focus for NABMA. As discussions around devolution, placemaking and high street renewal continue to evolve, we remain committed to supporting London's markets, strengthening partnerships and ensuring the sector has a strong voice within national policy and professional networks.

The Development of Market Partnerships

Market Partnerships provide a practical model for collaboration between local authorities, market operators, traders and wider stakeholders. They support best practice, joint working, communication and shared understanding of local and regional market issues.

During the year, NABMA has supported this work through guidance, facilitation, networking and strategic advice. Examples include the continuing work of the Greater Manchester Market Partnership, the launch of the South Yorkshire Market Partnership, and the development of Market Partnerships in the West Midlands.

Market Partnerships help connect markets with wider priorities, including regeneration, public health, economic development, food policy and place-making. This is increasingly important as Local Government Reorganisation progresses, and new Strategic Authorities develop regional plans for growth, transport, skills and investment.

NABMA is supporting Market Partnerships because they provide a route for market knowledge and experience to be retained, shared and represented within changing local government structures whilst maintaining a strong collective voice. Work is also continuing with NABMA colleagues to support the development of a London Market Partnership.

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Market Visits: Learning, Sharing and Professional Development

During the year, NABMA organised visits to Barnsley Market and Shrewsbury Market, giving members the opportunity to learn from successful markets, share best practice and strengthen professional networks across the sector.

The visit to Barnsley Market supported NABMA's wider work on market regeneration, showcasing how investment in markets can drive footfall, support local businesses and contribute to wider town centre renewal. The visit also helped strengthen the evidence base for NABMA's policy and advocacy work with Government and Parliament.

The visit to Shrewsbury Market formed part of NABMA's refreshed Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme, providing members with valuable insight into the operation of one of the UK's most successful and innovative markets. The visit combined practical learning, professional networking and engagement with key stakeholders.

These visits show the value of seeing successful markets in action. They enable members to exchange ideas, explore innovation, build networks and bring learning back to their own markets. Market visits will continue to support professional development and sector collaboration.

Market Rights and Legal Matters

Members continue to make extensive use of the legal services offered by NABMA with enquiries from around one hundred members recorded in the last twelve months.

While market rights continue to be the principal source of enquiry it is noted that some issues have required detailed research. While NABMA seeks to absorb as much work as possible as part of the membership service sometimes it is necessary to make a charge.

An increasing issue arising in recent months is the impact of local government reorganisation on market rights and NABMA has already been approached by around half a dozen members for advice on the status of charters and other market powers. NABMA will be holding one or more CPD sessions in the Autumn to cover legal and policy issues.

In recent years there have not been too many significant legal cases impacting on Markets, but it is worthwhile drawing attention to the Court of Appeal's recent decision on a Tower Hamlets case involving an injury caused to a member of the public from a trolley left by a trader. The High Court initially found Tower Hamlets liable, but the Court of Appeal reversed the decision finding that Tower Hamlet's responsibilities did not extend to acts such as the one causing injury. While specifically concerned with street trading legislation the case has implications for all Markets. Sincere thanks to Damien Patchell for keeping NABMA informed.

CPD and the Diploma in Market Management

We are shortly due to launch our professional development programme for 2027, with the NABMA Diploma at its heart. One of our priorities is to raise the profile and professionalism of market officers by providing practical learning, recognised training and opportunities to build confidence, adaptability and career development.

Our Diploma 2027 will recognise the increasing policy shift that markets should not be treated as peripheral retail. They are practical assets that drive growth, strengthen social value, support food policy objectives and deliver visible public value. They, of course, also provide familiar, affordable places for everyday shopping, enterprise and community activity.

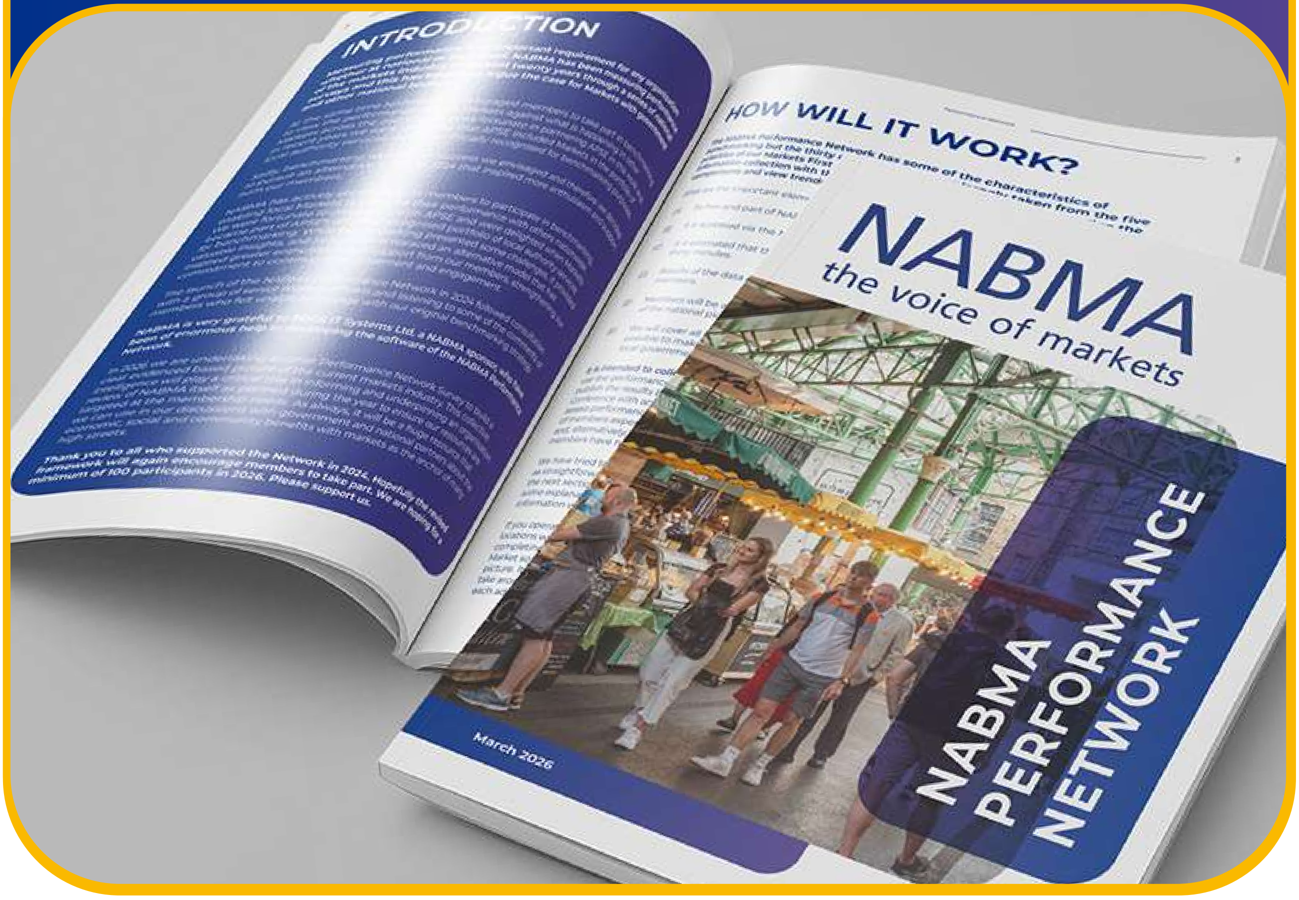
Steve Pickering, our long time Professional Development Consultant, has now stepped down and we extend our best wishes and sincere thanks to Steve for his commitment to NABMA and our students. New arrangements will be announced shortly, and expressions of interest will be invited for the 2027 Diploma.

NABMA Performance Network

At the beginning of 2026, we launched the NABMA Performance Network survey. Unfortunately, responses have been below the level needed for national benchmarking or broader policy conclusions. To date, 57 surveys have been completed, representing 25% of the 225 target and 39% of the 145 responses received in 2024.

Of the 119 markets that completed the 2024 survey, 27 have completed the 2026 survey, representing 22%. In September, we plan to restart the process so that a comprehensive report can be presented at our one-day conference in February. Thank you to Colin Wolstenholme for bringing the data together, with support from our sponsor Edge IT and our communications and marketing partners, Square Cactus.

As the Performance Network is relaunched, we strongly encourage all market authorities and operators to complete the survey. A stronger response will give us a more accurate picture of the markets industry and help shape NABMA's strategy, services and support for members.



Conferences and Events

The calendar year began with our ever-popular Birmingham Conference sponsored by Market Place. The theme was based on 'What's Next for Markets' and how NABMA is supporting the change journey towards devolution. Our ambitious agenda for this conference looked to break down the devolution agenda and included thought provoking presentations on economic and social impacts, performance, market powers, collaboration and transport. The clear message from presentations and networking was, that without doubt, this was set up to be a year that will bring unprecedented change, challenges and opportunities to the markets industry.

Due to local elections we had to postpone our May Terrace Reception at the House of Commons. This was disappointing with our strong message that 'Markets Mean Business' that would also have been a celebration of Love Your Local Market and the National Young Traders Market. Thanks to Julia Buckley MP, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Markets Group, and our event sponsor LSD Promotions, we have already rearranged the event to 13 April 2027.

As well as our traditional NABMA gatherings we have also taken advantage of online training opportunities with sessions about Martyn's Law, A Legal Surgery, meet the Chief Executive and Trader Engagement. A summer highlight has been the very popular behind the scenes visit to the award-winning Shrewsbury Market Hall. We studied the role of the market in enhancing town centre vitality and viability; the market's contribution as a tourism driver and destination asset and, of relevance the evolving role of the Town Council within the local government devolution agenda, including its pathfinding and extensive service transfer from the Unitary Council.

We thank all our sponsors and delegates for their support of our various events.


NORWICH
HUGO & DAUGHTERS
SPANISH DELI CO.
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HERBS & SPICES

Great British Market Awards 2026

The Great British Market Awards 2026 were proudly presented as part of the NABMA One Day Conference in Birmingham, highlighting the vital role markets play in supporting local communities, regeneration, entrepreneurship and tourism. NABMA extends its gratitude to the Market Place for their sponsorship of the awards. The award winners were:

Best Large Indoor Market: Barnsley Market
Best Small Indoor Market: Leek Butter and Trestle Market
Best Large Outdoor Market: Waterside Upmarket, Stratford-upon-Avon
Best Small Outdoor Market: Kendal Farmers' Market
Best Community/Local Council Market: Shrewsbury Market
Best Large Speciality Market: Bolton Food and Drink Festival
Best Small Speciality Market: Mossley Farmers' Market
Best Wholesale Market: New Spitalfields Market
Best Food Market: Bradford Darley Street Market
Best Market Attraction (Joint Winners): Smithfield Market Christmas Eve Meat Auction & Columbia Road Flower Market
Britain's Favourite Market 2026: South Molton Pannier Market

Honorary Life Membership Award presented to: Colin Wolstenholme

NABMA Market Awards 2025

Our market awards were presented at our conference at Harrogate in September 2025. The awards are one of the highlights of the NABMA calendar, recognising the individuals, teams, and organisations whose dedication, creativity, and service continue to shape and strengthen markets across the UK. The winners were:

Large Market Manager of the Year: Damian Patchell, Tower Hamlets
Small Market Manager of the Year: Mike Elsby, Nantwich Town Council
Large Market Team of the Year (Joint): Cambridge Markets Team & Stockton-on-Tees Market Team
Small Market Team of the Year: Chelmsford Markets Team
Large Market Achievement Award (Joint): Greenwich Market & Wakefield District Markets
Small Market Achievement Award: Boston Markets
Young Market Champions of the Year: Georgia Stevenson, Longsight & Alfie Wells Martin, Hackney & Lewis Young, Stockton-on-Tees
Market Operator of the Year: Calderdale Markets
Krys Zasada Award 2025: Nick Kasic, RBKC

Honorary Life Membership Awards were presented to:
Mike Elsby, Nantwich
Colin Wilkes MBE, Durham
Barbara Osborne, Liverpool
Chris Golds, Tower Hamlets

KRYS ZASADA AWARD: NICK KASIC

The Krys Zasada Award is NABMA's highest honour and was awarded to Nick Kasic of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

The Krys Zasada Award is the highest honour presented by NABMA. Awarded annually, it recognises an individual who has made an exceptional contribution to the promotion, development, and advancement of the markets industry. Named in memory of Krys Zasada, a highly respected and influential figure within the sector, the award celebrates outstanding leadership, innovation, advocacy, and long-term dedication to markets and the communities they serve.

The recipient is selected by the Presidency of the Association and reflects NABMA's recognition of those whose work has had a significant and lasting impact on markets at a local, regional, or national level. The presentation of the Krys Zasada Award remains one of the highlights of the NABMA Annual Conference and Gala Awards Dinner.

The Krys Zasada Award is NABMA's highest honour and was awarded to Nick Kasic, a passionate supporter of NABMA and respected voice for London markets.

From championing Love Your Local Market to representing the industry at parliamentary inquiries, Nick has been a tireless advocate for markets and their role in community life.

GERALDINE CARTER AWARD

It was with great sadness that NABMA was informed of the passing of our Past President Geraldine Carter after an illness bravely fought. It would be remiss in this Review not to highlight the immense contribution that Geraldine made to NABMA.

Geraldine was part of the fabric of NABMA for many years and was instrumental, with her hard work behind the scenes, to make it the organisation it is today, enjoying the hard-earned respect that it is held in across the UK and worldwide.

Geraldine was a wonderful ambassador for markets in the UK, within the World Union of Wholesale Markets and of course within NABMA itself.

She will always be remembered with fondness and admiration. An Award in her honour will be presented at the AGM & Conference 2027.

Love Your Local Market 2026

NABMA can be very proud of the May 2026 Campaign. From 15th to 30th May, markets across the UK came together under this year's themes: "PROUDLY LOCAL." and "MAKE IT A MARKET DAY.", celebrating the traders, businesses, communities and local character that make markets such an important part of everyday life.

LYLM2026 brought together markets, traders, councils, BIDs, partners and communities across the country. From trader spotlights and young entrepreneur events to food, live music, family activities, heritage celebrations and colourful campaign displays, markets used the campaign in their own way to encourage visits, celebrate local pride and showcase the people behind the stalls.

Our thanks are extended to Ian and Rob at Square Cactus; Andy Thornton Ltd, as official campaign sponsor; and G M Imber & Sons Ltd for continuing to support eligible new starter traders with free public liability insurance.

This year's campaign delivered strong results across digital channels:

- **Estimated social reach of 1.9 million**
- **100% positive sentiment**
- **Website users increased by 38%**
- **Facebook engagement rate increased by more than 300%**
- **Instagram follower growth increased by 74%**
- **LinkedIn engagements increased by more than 166%**
- **X shares increased by 70%**

The campaign also received valuable support from Parliament and local leaders. Julia Buckley MP, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Markets Group, gave visible support to LYLM2026, while MPs, councillors, councils, BIDs and civic leaders across the UK visited traders, attended events and promoted their local markets. Their involvement helped reinforce the importance of markets to town centres, small businesses, local economies and community life.

Almost 200 markets formally registered for LYLM2026, with wider digital activity showing participation extended well beyond registration. The refreshed branding, improved website, updated campaign resources and stronger multi-platform approach have created a solid foundation for the continued growth of Love Your Local Market.


PROUDLY LOCAL
NABMA
LOVE YOUR LOCAL MARKET
THE MARKET
YOUR LOCAL MARKET
Bolton Market
PROUDLY LOCAL
NABMA
LOVE YOUR LOCAL MARKET
BURY MARKET
your local market
ORMSKIRK MARKET
#LYLM
YOUR LOCAL MARKET

NABMA WHOLESALE MARKET FORUM

The NABMA Wholesale Markets Forum has continued to provide a dedicated platform for wholesale market operators to share experience, discuss challenges and identify opportunities. Visits to Birmingham and Manchester Wholesale Markets offered valuable insight into operations, investment, food distribution and the role of wholesale markets in local economies and food supply chains.

The Forum has strengthened collaboration, best practice and innovation across the wholesale sector. A highlight was the Manchester visit, where members recognised the contribution of Colin Wolstenholme as Chair. On behalf of NABMA, and personally, I thank Colin for his leadership, commitment and support over many years and wish him a long, healthy and happy retirement.

Looking ahead, the Forum continues to build its international relationships, with the World Union of Wholesale Markets (WUWM) exploring plans for an international wholesale market exchange with a visit to Glasgow, creating further opportunities for members to exchange ideas, showcase best practice and strengthen global connections within the wholesale market sector.

NABMA and Real Deal

NABMA continues to be an active partner and supporter of Real Deal which over the years has demonstrated its value in giving consumers greater confidence in shopping at Markets.

Following a NABMA campaign in 2025 to highlight the benefits and work of Real Deal we introduced a Real Deal App giving members the opportunity of greater support in dealing with counterfeit and fake goods and providing direct access to trading standards advice.

We have also continued to be a member of the Anti-Counterfeiting Working Party supporting work on Markets where there is a significant problem of counterfeit, fake and stolen goods.

It is important for the reputation of the markets industry that we continue to make our support of Real Deal a NABMA priority in the future.

Basecamp – Sharing and Networking

Basecamp continues to be an important communication and knowledge-sharing platform for NABMA. With nearly 500 registered members, it provides a practical space for market professionals to ask questions, share experience, seek advice and exchange information on operational, legal, policy and service-related issues.

The platform is regularly used by members to test ideas, compare approaches, identify examples of good practice and access the collective knowledge of the NABMA network.

Basecamp has become a valued route for peer support, helping members respond to day-to-day challenges and learn from colleagues across the UK.

To strengthen the service, our consultants manage activity, encourage engagement and ensure useful information is captured and signposted. Further investment will develop Basecamp as part of NABMA's wider member support offer, including its role as an accessible library of shared information, examples and sector insight.

NABMA Support, Advice and Guidance

Supporting members remains at the heart of NABMA's work. During the year, NABMA refreshed and expanded its online guidance library, providing practical resources on market operations, event planning, health and safety, risk assessment, trader management and regulatory compliance.

Members have also continued to benefit from NABMA's specialist legal and professional advice on issues including business rates, market rights, VAT, temporary markets, licensing, governance and operational management. This support helps market operators respond to complex challenges, such as reviewing market regulations, considering rating liabilities, managing temporary events or addressing trader-related issues.

Social Media and the NABMA Website

NABMA's website and digital channels continue to support communication with members, providing a central source of information on the Association's activities, policy work, events, services and member support. They also help promote the wider work of NABMA and share news, opportunities and examples of good practice from across the markets sector.

The Members' Area has been refreshed to provide practical resources for member authorities and market operators, including research, templates, guidance notes, policy updates and operational support materials. These resources are intended to support day-to-day market management, service planning, compliance, events, trader engagement and wider policy development.

Following upgrades to the website and communications database, members are encouraged to keep contact details up to date so key information reaches the right people. Members are also encouraged to follow NABMA on X, Instagram and LinkedIn for sector news, events, opportunities and market promotion.

Market Support Sessions and Health Checks

NABMA's Market Support Sessions give members access to experienced market managers for practical advice on issues such as layout, trader recruitment, income generation, governance and service improvement.

Support is available online and onsite where required, while Market Health Checks provide independent reviews and practical recommendations.

NABMA PFM Weekly Footfall Index

The Index is a weekly information update from NABMA sponsor PFM Intelligence that provides retail category comparisons, including markets. This is a valuable resource to track trends and influences on the high street, retail parks and our industry.

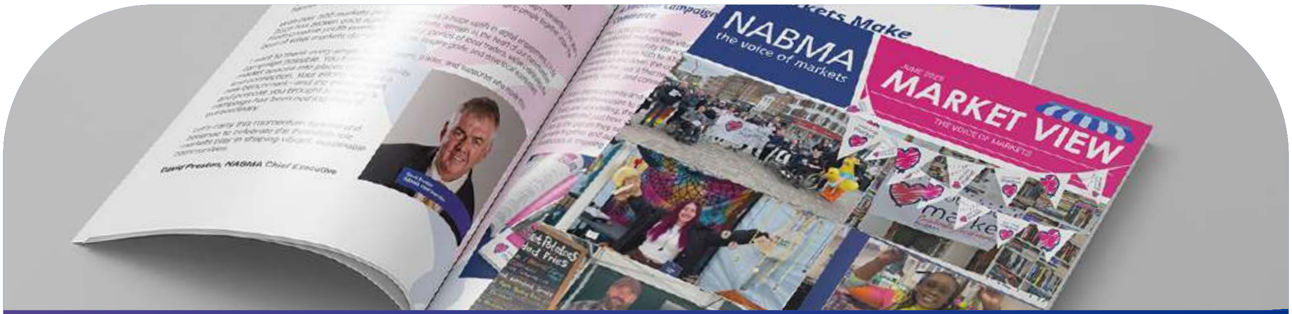
Square Cactus & Oswestry Town Council

NABMA greatly values its long-standing partnerships with Square Cactus and Oswestry Town Council. Through our Service Level Agreements, they provide essential support that helps us deliver high-quality services and strengthen the voice of markets across the UK.

Square Cactus provides a comprehensive range of digital, communications, marketing and technical services, supporting everything from website management and member communications to national campaigns, events and strategic development. The expertise, creativity and commitment of Rob Wilkinson and Ian Holmes and their team have been invaluable in helping NABMA modernise and grow.

Our partnership with Oswestry Town Council also remains a strong and valued relationship. Built on shared ambitions for markets and public service, the support provided by Marina Atherton, Arren Roberts and colleagues continues to ensure effective operational delivery and a collaborative approach to achieving our objectives.

On behalf of NABMA, I place on record sincere thanks to Rob, Ian, Marina, Arren and their teams for their professionalism, support and dedication. These enduring partnerships are highly valued and play an important role in NABMA's continued success.



Market View Newsletter

Market View continues to be NABMA's dedicated industry newsletter, published every two months and providing members with updates on NABMA activity, forthcoming events, policy and legal developments, and news from across the markets sector. It also celebrates market people, award-winning markets, innovation, good practice and the wider contribution that markets make to local communities and town centres.

Have a story to share? Send us your market news, events, achievements and examples of good practice for future editions of Market View. Your updates help us celebrate members, showcase innovation and promote the positive impact of markets across the UK.

Allan Hartwell
Director

Nick Rhodes
Chief Executive

Thank You Sponsors

NABMA is extremely grateful for the continued support of our sponsors. Their contribution helps sustain the Association, deliver events, develop member services, share knowledge, promote good practice and provide practical benefits to market authorities and operators across the UK.

We particularly value the long-standing relationship with Market Place, NABMA's headline sponsor. Market Place has supported NABMA over several years and its sponsorship represents more than financial assistance; it reflects a shared commitment to the markets industry, to our members, and to the future of markets as important civic, economic and community assets.

On behalf of NABMA, we offer sincere thanks to all our sponsors for their loyalty, partnership and friendship. Their continued confidence in NABMA is greatly appreciated and remains important to our ability to support members, champion the sector and promote the value of markets across the United Kingdom.

NABMA Board of Directors 2025/26

NABMA places on record its thanks and recognition for the role and support the Presidency and Board of Directors provide to the NABMA Consultancy Team and membership throughout each year.

President: Councillor David Hopkins, *Swansea*
Past President: Councillor Chris Poulter, *Derby*
President-Elect: TBC at the AGM
Daniel Ritchie, *City of London*
Debbie Carpenter, *Camden*
Allan Hartwell, *Market Place*
Daniel O'Sullivan, *Hackney*
Esther Worboys, *Place Partnership* (Co-opted to the Board in June 2026)
Donald Hyslop, *Urbanist and Cultural Strategist* (TBC at the AGM)

NABMA Consultancy Team

David Catterall DL: Chief Executive
David Preston: Deputy Chief Executive, Events & CPD
Graham Wilson OBE: Legal Consultant
Chris New: Member Services Consultant
Marina Atherton (Oswestry): Finance and Administration
Ian Holmes/Rob Wilkinson (Square Cactus): Media & Technical Consultants
Rob Nixon: Support Sessions Consultant
Colin Wolstenholme: Data Analyst Consultant

Looking Ahead...

As I look ahead, I do so with optimism for the future of NABMA and the markets we represent. Significant challenges remain, including Local Government Reorganisation, financial pressures and changing demands on town and city centres. However, this year has shown that change also creates opportunity.

NABMA is in a period of transformation and through this transition period we are developing a strategy which we hope will mitigate the challenges we are facing as an organisation. By the end of 2026 following a year of review and change, we will present our medium to long-term plan to secure the future of NABMA. We will continue to strengthen our partnerships, expand support, modernise member engagement and ensure the voice of markets is heard at every level.

Our work on the High Street Strategy, business rates, market partnerships, member services and professional development shows that we are actively shaping the sector's future while supporting members now.

None of this would be possible without the support of our members, sponsors, consultants, Board members and strategic partners. Their continued commitment, expertise and belief in the value of markets enable NABMA to achieve more, reach further and speak with a stronger voice on behalf of the industry.

Markets have always shown resilience, innovation and an ability to respond to changing times. I am confident that, by continuing to work together, we can ensure that our markets meet the challenges ahead and thrive because of our passion for the industry.

Thank you for being part of this work and all our developments. The future will bring change, but I believe it will also bring opportunity. NABMA will continue to lead with ambition, confidence and purpose, and I encourage every member to stay engaged, share evidence, use the support available and help make the strongest possible case for markets locally, regionally and nationally.

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