

2016 ASHBY APM – 2015-16 ASHBY HEATING OIL SYNDICATE REPORT

This village-operated, community-based syndicate has been operated by Ashby St Mary parish council for three years.

As a parish council-led initiative to provide a service to its residents, the syndicate continues to flourish. The Ashby Heating Oil Syndicate has no formal membership – it is completely free for parishioners to join and I currently am its organiser on behalf of the parish council.

The successful running of the syndicate is based on two essential factors. It relies on a measure of trust between the organiser and each syndicate member. The member trusts the organiser to obtain the best oil litre price possible, while the organiser trusts the member to accept what he has negotiated on their behalf. Secondly, the organiser does not handle or take payments from anyone. The syndicate member is in control of this. Payment for their individual oil order is carried out between the syndicate members and the company, direct. Basically the syndicate organiser does everything on behalf of its members, except pay!

The syndicate has continued to make great savings for those parishioners who have supported it. This has been helped by the falling oil price during the past year. Syndicate members may be assured no one oil company is favoured over another. Seven orders placed this year have totalled over 35,000 litres with the price per litre ranging from 29.10p down to 24.7p. This year the savings made by buying via our syndicate have been as much as 6.25p per litre – that's a potential saving of up to £62 per 1000 litres ordered so savings made from the average 3 orders per year are obvious and worthwhile.

The syndicate membership has remained at 30 members this year, most of whom have placed several orders each. The legal minimum order remains 500 litres and many members 'topped up' to benefit from the recent low oil price. The existing members have been pleased with the savings made, so please point non-member domestic oil users towards our syndicate as they will be warmly welcomed. This is a free community service from your parish council. As its organiser, if telephoned or emailed, I will be pleased to explain the system to anyone interested, or a factsheet is available giving full details.

That concludes my 2016 Ashby Heating Oil Syndicate report.

Mark Rolph - Parish Councillor