

2017 ASHBY APM – ASHBY HEATING OIL SYNDICATE REPORT

Our community-based syndicate has now been operated by Ashby St Mary parish council for four years.

As a parish council-led initiative to provide a free service to its parishioners, your council is pleased to report the syndicate continues to flourish. My report is slightly briefer this year, as I hope by now it is well known to all parishioners how the syndicate operates.

Since last year it is fair to say that while a barrel price of oil has been less volatile, it has generally risen. Nevertheless, the syndicate has continued to make meaningful savings for those parishioners who have supported it. I can confirm no oil company is favoured over another in the extensive operation I undertake to achieve the best price for syndicate members.

Last year I reported seven orders were placed totalling over 35,000 litres. This year there were six orders with a total of 48,975 litres. The price per litre ranged from 29.50p this time last year to 42.90p in February and latterly 39.5p a few weeks ago. This year the average saving made by a villager's single purchase of 500 litres against the syndicate's bulk purchase has been 5.75p per litre. Ordering just 1500 litres in a year, a saving would have been approaching £90 annually – a really worthwhile amount.

I am pleased to say that the syndicate membership has increased to a total of 35 households this year. The parish council hopes domestic oil users in our village who are not yet syndicate members will consider the benefits it brings to themselves and our village community-based syndicate and support it. The Ashby Heating Oil Syndicate has no formal membership and Members can join or leave at any time – it is a completely free community service from your parish council and parishioners are most welcome, indeed encouraged, to join. As the current organiser on behalf of the parish council, I am always ready and willing to explain how the syndicate operates to anyone interested, or if preferred a factsheet is available giving full details.

That concludes my 2017 Ashby Heating Oil Syndicate report.

Mark Rolph - Parish Councillor