

2018 ASHBY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – ASHBY HEATING OIL SYNDICATE REPORT

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

As a council-led initiative to provide a free service to its parishioners, your council is pleased to report the syndicate continues to flourish. Most parishioners, especially those who use domestic heating oil, will be well aware how the syndicate operates. As the current organiser on behalf of the parish council, I am always willing to explain how the syndicate operates to anyone interested, or if preferred a factsheet is available giving full details. I do appreciate those members who respond to me, as requested, when I offer to make a bulk purchase. A no-thanks reply is as useful as a yes-please, since I then know the message has been seen and it saves a reminder being sent.

The last year has seen world events occurring which have not resulted in the barrel price of oil becoming cheaper. This time last year the Brent crude barrel price was £52 whereas this April it has been in the high £60's. Even so the syndicate has continued to make very useful savings for its parishioner members who have supported it.

Last year there were six orders were made totalling 48.975 litres. This year there have been five orders with a total of 35,850. Last year the price per litre for orders was between 29.50p to 42.90p. This year, probably reflecting world events and the harsher winter period, the price per litre ranged from 33.0p to 54.75p. In the last 12 month period I have calculated the average saving made by a parishioner's single purchase of say 1000 litres against the syndicate's bulk buy purchase has been 4.73 pence per litre. Ordering 1500 litres in a year, a saving would have been just over £70. I confirm no oil company is favoured over another during the negotiations I go through to achieve the best price for syndicate members. After the effects of this year's snow severely hindering delivery, I now take into account the length of time before delivery more than I used to.

From 35 members last year, the number has dropped by one to 34 as that member changed their heating method. The parish council of course would welcome more domestic oil users in our village to become members. The monetary benefits help each member, and additional members support the village community based syndicate with greater buying power. The Ashby Heating Oil Syndicate has no formal membership, it is free to join, and members can of course leave at any time.

That concludes my 2018 Ashby Heating Oil Syndicate report.

Mark Rolph - Parish Councillor