

## ASHBY HEATING OIL SYNDICATE 2022-2023 REPORT

Having commenced in 2013, our community-based syndicate, operated via Ashby St Mary parish council, is now in its tenth year.

The syndicate remains a free parish council-led service to its parishioners, and it continues to be successful in its aim of helping its parishioner members reduce their oil costs and make real savings. 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.

Six orders were placed. The total oil purchased was 27,800 litres, just over 10,000 litres less than last year for the same number of orders but understandable as the oil price during the last twelve months skyrocketed due to world events. The price per litre paid ranged between 97.00p down to 61.90p. Compare that to last years figures of 38.90p to 55.30p - happy days indeed. Unlike one occasion last year when they were refused due to the scarcity and uncertainty of any oil deliveries, happily syndicate orders are being welcomed again. The highest local price I was given during the year was in June (usually classed as a summer month and generally almost at its cheapest) was £1.08.95 per litre. Fortunately the power of syndicate bartering resulted in 97p being achieved on that occasion proving once again the useful savings that can be made being part of our local syndicate.

In the last 12 month period I have calculated the average saving made by a parishioner's single purchase of say 500 litres against the syndicate's bulk buy purchase has varied between 3.58 and as much as 15.53 pence per litre. I calculate an average saving per 500 litres purchased by a syndicate member this year to be almost 4.95 pence per litre so four orders of 500 litres in a year would have resulted in a saving of just under £100. I now deal with 9 oil companies that fall within 6 ownerships. It remains the policy that I do not favour any one oil company over another during the negotiations I go through to achieve the best price for syndicate members. I still continue to factor in balancing short and long delivery dates. Very prompt payment (i.e. same day/next day) is required by syndicate members when a purchase has been made on their behalf. A delay in delivery to the whole group of purchasers can be caused by just one syndicate member not paying within that timescale which inevitably results in extra work to overcome.

Some repeated reminders - check if it is possible for (potentially) a 6-wheeled tanker to turn into your property access; ensure the correct quality of oil is ordered for Aga/Rayburn boilers; and you need to make separate orders for home and office tanks. I am still able to order red diesel for registered agricultural users.

I thank those members who answer, as requested, when I offer to make a bulk purchase but what is very disappointing is the considerable number that continue to not reply at all. From 38 syndicate members last year, the number has decreased by one to 37 of which just over half are members who regularly place an order. The parish council would be happy to accommodate more domestic oil users in our village to become members of the Ashby Heating Oil Syndicate. It has no formal membership, remains completely free to join, and members can of course leave at any time.

That concludes my 2022-2023 Ashby Heating Oil Syndicate report.  
Mark Rolph - Parish Councillor