



Alne Oil Co-operative

A Founder Member of the Lower Swale Syndicate of Oil Co-operatives

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How it works

Once a Member has been admitted to the scheme, they go to the dedicated Lower Swale Syndicate page, which will be on the supplier's website.

The Member then places their order, remembering that Weights & Measures legislation dictates a minimum order of 500 litres. Members may order a fill-up, but it's important they provide an estimate accurate to within 100 litres either way. The road tankers only carry sufficient for that day's delivery, so inaccurate estimates may mean the last person on the list doesn't get their oil!

The oil will be delivered as soon as the supplier has enough orders for a tanker load to the area, or within a maximum of 10 working days from order (in practice it will probably be sooner). The only exception will be at Christmas, the busy period for the oil companies. Any orders placed during December for delivery that month will be supplied at the prevailing market price, not the discounted rate enjoyed by Members during the rest of the year.

Urgent requirements for next day delivery of oil can be accommodated, but there will be an additional charge of £50 + VAT @ 20% (= £60) to cover the cost of delivery.

Payment

The cost of the oil will be calculated on the day of delivery (not order) according to an agreed formula – the Syndicate Coordinators audit prices periodically to verify this.

The normal payment method will be by a single direct debit payment two weeks after the oil is delivered.

There is no facility for extended credit, monthly payments, etc. and any members delaying or trying to avoid payment may be excluded from the Syndicate.

Joining the Scheme

Prospective members are asked to provide the following to their coordinator:

- Name
- Full postal address, including post code

- Telephone number(s)
- Preferred e-mail address
- Special instructions - location of tank, use of additives, etc.

These details will then be sent to the supplier, who will be in contact to set up the account. A requirement is that the customer sets up a Direct Debit with the supplier. This is to ensure the supplier is paid promptly as, previously, some members were a little slow in paying, which increased the suppliers' costs.

Once the account is set up and the DD in place, the supplier will send a password to access the Syndicate's secure page on their website.

Background information

Tate Fuels have been the chosen supplier for the Lower Swale Syndicate of Heating Oil Co-operatives for the past year. Feedback from Members and the supplier has been excellent.

We have now extended the arrangement with Tate Fuels for a further three years from March 2015. By agreeing to a three-year arrangement, Tate Fuels can invest in vehicles and staff to support our requirement.

Although the cost of heating oil is frighteningly high, around 94% of the final price is the wholesale and refinery cost over which our suppliers have no control whatsoever. The only way we can get the price down is by working with the supplier to streamline their operation and reduce the costs representing the other 6%. We have achieved this by helping Tate minimise tanker miles (fuel cost alone is £1,000 per week), shaving administrative costs through use of direct debit, no allowance for credit card charges, e-mail invoices, etc. We believe the resulting Agreement with Tate Fuels is beneficial to all parties and represents good value for Members.

And, of course, by consolidating orders and reducing delivery vehicle mileage, we are reducing the impact on the environment.

Parish Newsletter

We aim to publish recent price information and other news in the Alne Parish Newsletter.

We also have a Facebook account: www.facebook.com/AlneOilCooperative



Contact: alne@swaleoil.org.uk