



Community Council of Staffordshire

President: Ian Lawson
Chairman: Joan Davies, MBE
Chief Executive: Chris Welch
Website: www.staffs.org.uk
E-mail: communitycouncil@staffs.org.uk

Friars Mill
Friars Terrace
Stafford
ST17 4DX
Tel: (01785) 242525
Fax: (01785) 242176



COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF STAFFORDSHIRE LAUNCHES NEW COMMUNITY BULK OIL BUYING SCHEME – AND SAVES YOU MONEY!

The Community Council of Staffordshire is delighted to announce the launch of a new venture that it says will be good for individuals and good for the environment.

The scheme will use the model of a local buying syndicate for domestic heating oil but will roll it out across the whole county. The Community Council of Staffordshire believes there will be great strength in harnessing the purchasing power of the many rural communities who are without mains gas so that together, oil-buyers will be able to make significant savings. This scheme already takes place in over 20 counties and their experience has already shown that it's possible to get a discount of around £50 on a single order. Community organisations and businesses will also be able to join the scheme.

The Community Council of Staffordshire is keen to emphasise the environmental benefits too. Delivery tankers guzzle a lot of fuel and the more deliveries they can make in one place, the less fuel they use. The fewer tankers there are on Staffordshire's small country roads, the better.

As a charity that is rooted in local community action the Community Council of Staffordshire wants the new venture to reflect this philosophy. Chief Executive Chris Welch says 'The key to making this work will be having local people who will collate the scheme members' oil orders once a month and pass the information on to us; and who will then let the local members know the cost per litre and the delivery date. That's pretty much it'. For doing this, they will get free membership of the scheme – an annual saving of £20. Scheme members will be able to order as many times as they like during the year, and the price will be negotiated centrally.

The scheme has been endorsed and supported by Staffordshire County Council. Staffordshire County Councillor Mark Winnington, Cabinet Member for Environment and Assets, said the scheme would be of real benefit to communities. "The cost of heating oil is a real issue for many people and businesses in rural parts of Staffordshire and because of location, there are limited credible fuel alternatives. We want to do everything we can to support residents in getting the best value for money that they possibly can. We are providing support to the Community Council of Staffordshire to get this scheme off the ground and hope that it will have a really positive impact across the county."

There's more information on the Community Council of Staffordshire website www.staffs.org.uk. If you think this could be of interest to you or your community, get in touch with the Community Council of Staffordshire on 01785 242525 or email communitycouncil@staffs.org.uk

Notes to the editor

The Community Council of Staffordshire is actively engaged in promoting a better quality of life for all those living or working in Staffordshire, especially in the rural areas. It provides a wide range of advice, information and support to voluntary groups. It liaises between statutory and voluntary sectors at all levels and across a wide range of subjects and is a registered charity, receiving financial support from a variety of sources including, Staffordshire County Council, district and parish councils and other groups, but it also relies on contracts, sponsorship and fundraising for its income.