

# BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

*The Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum is an independent, statutory advisory body on all matters relating to countryside access, with members representing a wide range of interests including farmers, landowners, walkers, cyclists, equestrians, parish councils, National Trust and those with disabilities.*

22<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Dear Local Area Forum Chair,

## **North Bucks Donate-a-Gate Scheme**

At our meeting in March 2016 we had a presentation from a member of the Ramblers, Bill Piers, who runs an active volunteer group helping to maintain public rights of way in north Buckinghamshire, essentially any parish within the Aylesbury Vale district. They are called North Bucks rRIPPLE (ramblers Repairing & Improving Public Paths for Leisure & Exercise).

At the time, Bill wanted our advice on launching a new 'North Bucks Donate-a-Gate scheme', similar to the Chiltern Society's partnership with the county council that has so successfully attracted over £100, 000 worth of private investment and encouraged many improvements on the rights of way network in the south of the county.

The scheme has recently been launched and details of how to apply can be found via the web link at the bottom of this letter. The cost is £250 for a metal gate and this includes an optional stainless steel commemorative plaque designed by the donor.

I wondered if you could mention the scheme at your next Local Area Forum meeting as a way of helping kick-start interest from parish councils, walking groups and individuals? Bill's volunteers have been working hard installing gates (and repairing stiles) at a rate of 1 per week over the last 4 months, so they have a good choice of locations for potential donors. Individual parish locations can also be investigated.

If you are able to help these volunteers and attract more investment in the county's footpath network it would be greatly appreciated. An application form is attached for your information.

Yours faithfully,



Richard Pushman (Chairman)

<http://www.bucks-wmiddx-ramblers.org.uk/donate-a-gate.html>