

## **POLICY 007**

**Adopted on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

### **DONATIONS TOWARDS THE COST OF BRIDGES**

- 1 The Society may offer a donation to a Highway Authority towards the cost of providing a footbridge on a definitive public footpath. As a donation, no VAT will be payable.
- 2 The Highway Authority must also contribute to the project by undertaking significant repairs or improvements to the path, so that the path is safe and convenient for walkers, or, if such works are not needed, by part funding the footbridge (e.g. the Society paying the cost of materials only). The details of the work to be carried out by the Highway Authority must be agreed with the Society in writing.
- 3 It is expected that the Highway Authority will consider the effect of the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 on this work. The Authority will ensure, where possible, that any necessary structures are those which inconvenience walkers to the least possible extent. If new stiles or steps are to be installed, the Highway Authority should ensure that there is no reasonable alternative.
- 4 The path must be of importance for the enjoyment of walkers, as determined by the Society's Trustees.
- 5 The Trustees must approve the amount of the donation to be offered to the Highway Authority. The donation may come from the Society's funds, from a member of the Society, or from a legacy left to the Society.
- 6 The Highway Authority must agree in writing to take responsibility for the design, installation and maintenance of the footbridge.
- 7 The Society should be able to attach small plaques to the footbridge which publicise the Society and its contribution towards the funding of the structure.
- 8 A suitable anti-slip surface should be provided on the footbridge.
- 9 The Society must approve the cost and details of the footbridge before its installation is carried out. These details may include plans showing the construction, elevation and cross-section of the proposed structure and its location.
- 10 The offer of a donation is valid for a period of twelve months from the date of the letter formally offering the donation. If the installation of the footbridge and the associated works to the path are not completed to the Society's reasonable satisfaction within this time, the Society reserves the right to withdraw its offer of a donation.
- 11 The Society's donation will be paid to the Highway Authority when the Society is reasonably satisfied that all the agreed works have been carried out.
- 12 A "handing-over" event will normally be arranged by the Highway Authority and the Society in order to publicise the Society's involvement.