

Brighton Area Buswatch

Representing local bus users



A branch of Bus Users UK

Buswatch News – February 2017

City Council plans to cut supported bus services budget

Last month we reported that Brighton & Hove City Council is proposing to reduce the amount available for supported bus services from September 2017. A decision is due to be made at the Budget Committee meeting on 23 February but it may be a while before we know the full implications. Many services will need to be re-tendered and there is a hope that some routes could be adopted by the operators as commercially viable services. This could enable them to continue as now without the same level of financial support from the Council.



Services affected are routes 16/66, 37(evenings), 47, 52, 56 and 57 (Sundays). The 37B is also supported by the Council but its contract continues until September 2018. The City Council also subsidises school services 72, 74, 75, 76, 76A, 91, 95, 95A, and makes a contribution to Breeze Up to the Downs routes 77, 78 & 79.

Toads Hole Valley development

Toads Hole Valley is a 37-hectare open area bounded by the A27 Brighton by pass, to the north and King George VI Avenue to the south. Brighton & Hove City council is carrying out a public consultation on plans to develop this area from 27 February until 10 April. Details are available at <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/toadsholevalley> There are no firm plans for road layouts at present so we do not know how it might be possible for buses to serve the new developments. We will be pressing for good bus services from the outset to ensure the area is well served and to discourage more car journeys along already congested roads. There will be a staffed exhibition in Hangleton Community Centre (10am-1pm) and St. Peter's Church, West Blatchington (1.30pm-4.30pm) is on Saturday 18 March.

How our bus fares compare

People often claim local bus fares are more expensive than elsewhere and London is frequently used as a comparison. So here is our annual guide to adult bus fare prices. Note that London bus fares are frozen until 2020 by the Mayor of London who has the power to do this. TfL bus fares do not include Underground or Overground rail travel for which higher prices are charged but under 18s travel free on buses.

Reading Buses is also included because it is one of only ten local authority owned bus companies remaining and it is only required to make a small operating profit. Nevertheless, it is a very highly regarded company running a smart modern fleet (including many gas powered vehicles) and it has won several industry awards.

Brighton & Hove Bus fares are usually revised each April but we have not been informed of any proposals.

Adult fares	Brighton & Hove and Council supported services Within City Saver area	Brighton & Hove Outside City Saver area	Stagecoach Routes 17 & 700 within City Saver area and beyond	Transport for London (TfL) bus & tram using Oyster or contactless card	Council owned Reading Buses urban area and beyond
Single journey	£2 or £2.50 on bus £2.40 One hour M ticket	£1.80 - £5.20 according to distance	£2.30 in City variable beyond	£1.50 Pay As You Go, one free transfer within one hour	£2 cash, £1.90 M ticket, £2.50 one-hour ticket Variable Beyond
One day ticket	£5 cash on bus £4.20 Key/M ticket £4.80 scratch card	£6.50 on bus £4.50 Key/M £4.80 scratch card	£4 in City £8.20 beyond	£4.50 Pay As You Go max £5 in advance	£4 urban area £7 beyond
Weekly ticket	£19 Key/M ticket £23 scratch card	£20 Key/M £23 scratch card	£13.50 in City £23 beyond	£21.20	£17 on bus £15 M ticket £21 beyond
Monthly ticket	£69 Key/M ticket £67 by direct debit	£73 Key/M £70 direct debit	£47 in City £84.50 beyond	£81.50	£61 urban area £81 beyond
Annual ticket	£570 Key card	£600 Key card	£487 in City £885 beyond	£848	£575 urban £830 beyond

Shoreham Harbour Draft Joint Area Action Plan Consultation

Adur District Council, Brighton & Hove City Council and West Sussex County Council been carrying out a consultation on plans for redevelopments in this area. The consultation is now closed but one of our supporters has kindly supplied us with some comments and suggestions he sent in. Amongst the suggestions are that there should be new peak hour bus lanes, eastbound between South Lancing and The Saltlings (mornings) and westbound (afternoons) from Shoreham Lighthouse (Kingston Beach) to Surry Street to speed buses on route 700.

Another suggestion is that Stagecoach could run a faster 700X service between Brighton, Worthing, Littlehampton and Arundel, to supplement the stopping service. This would be on similar lines to the very successful 12X operated by Brighton & Hove between Brighton and Eastbourne. We would be interested to hear your views on this idea.

Bus company reacts to Supreme Court judgement

Brighton & Hove Managing director Martin Harris has responded to ruling made on 18 January by the Supreme Court (Firstgroup Plc v Paulley) after a dispute with a woman with a buggy over wheelchair space on a bus.

“We welcome the judgement which clarifies the position and moves accessibility forward by requiring bus companies do more than simply ‘request’ someone to vacate the wheelchair space for a wheelchair user. The judgement also recognises there are situations in which the needs of customers for that space can sometimes be difficult to resolve for a bus driver who will need to make a judgement on the circumstances and how to seek to clear the space for a wheelchair user. Our established Wheelchair Taxi Guarantee scheme helps our drivers avoid having to create problems for any of our customers or intending customers.”

Brighton Area Buswatch meetings

The next meeting with bus company managers and Brighton & Hove City Council will be on **Wednesday 12 April 2017** at 5.15pm in Brighton Town Hall. Meetings are open to all members and supporters but please let us know in advance if you wish to attend as space is limited.

Buswatch News is produced and edited by Andrew Boag, Chair, Brighton Area Buswatch. We welcome your contributions and suggestions. Printed A5 copies of this newsletter are available from Hove town hall reception and a pdf or large print versions are available on request. The next issue is due mid-March 2017.

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Bus Users

Working for passengers

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