

Brighton Area Buswatch

Representing local bus users



Part of Bus Users UK

Buswatch News – September 2014

New 'Helping Hand' scheme launched



'Helping Hand' is a new scheme designed to provide extra help for bus passengers who need assistance. All local bus operators have agreed to take part in the scheme. It follows feedback from passengers and successful schemes in other areas. They are not travel passes but are issued free to anyone who needs them. The card will allow the passenger to discreetly, quickly and directly inform the driver of any extra assistance they may require or to provide information they may need to share with the driver. The card is bright yellow so it can also be used to hail a bus; alerting the driver to the fact the passenger may require assistance. Contact details of the passenger can be added to the back if desired. Further details are available at www.buses.co.uk., from One Stop Travel in North Street and from other local bus companies.

Revised Queens Park Services – route 20 withdrawn

It has been all change again in Queens Park this month with revisions to routes 18 & 21 and the end of short lived route 20. Route 18 now provides a regular daily service between Queens Park and Brighton station via Edward Street/St James's Street and North Street while the 21 runs via London Road and Elm Grove. Both services run every 15 minutes during the daytime, combining to provide a bus every 7-8 minutes from the Pepper Pot (Queens Park Terrace) and Churchill Square. Alternate daytime buses on route 18 are extended to serve Seven Dials and Waitrose in Western Road.

The Furze Hill area is now served by route 21A in both directions instead of a one way loop. The former Sunday only service runs daily, every half hour in the middle of the day and hourly at other times. These changes also mean the end of the one way circular services through Queens Park introduced in April, which were not well received. No 18 buses towards Brighton Station now use North Street and Queens Road instead of Trafalgar Street and Frederick Place. This enables them to stop closer to the station entrance.

East Sussex bus cuts

Over 60 people attended a public meeting in Lewes on 11 September arranged by Travel Log Lewes which is organising a campaign against the bus cuts. Further details are on www.travelloglewes.co.uk where you can sign up for a regular newsletter with lots of useful information about bus and rail services in the Lewes area.

Brighton Area Buswatch has been active too, with an interview on the BBC Sussex Breakfast show and a letter in the Argus. This led to the bus cuts being featured by Adam Trimingham in his weekly Argus column. We strongly urge bus users in affected areas to respond to the consultation and to contact local MPs and Councillors with their concerns. Some people dismiss consultations as a meaningless exercise but they often raise very significant issues which Councils cannot ignore. The consultation is available until 28 September at: www.eastsussex.gov.uk/haveyoursay.

We also encourage passengers to write to bus companies, especially those using evening buses on Brighton & Hove routes 28 & 29 beyond Lewes to Ringmer, Uckfield and Tunbridge Wells. Certain journeys that don't cover their full costs are under threat. With enough support we believe Brighton & Hove might be persuaded to continue the full evening service without a subsidy.

More 20mph zones in Brighton & Hove?

Brighton & Hove City Council is consulting on the third and final phase of introducing 20mph zones. These cover outer areas of the City including Mile Oak, Hangleton, Ovingdean, Rottingdean, Saltdean and Woodingdean. As with previous proposals some main roads used by buses are excluded. Warren Road in Woodingdean and Longridge Avenue in Saltdean are two roads where options are included for either 20mph or retaining 30mph. The consultation is open until 6 October and can be accessed at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/. If approved, the new speed limits would be introduced from April 2015.

Next Meeting

The next meeting with bus companies and Brighton & Hove City Council will be on Wednesday 22 October at 5.30pm in Hove Town Hall as usual. 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 edited by Andrew Boag, Chair, Brighton Area Buswatch. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Printed copies of this newsletter are available from Hove town hall reception. The next issue is due in mid October 2014.

E mail: brightonbuswatch@gmail.com. Phone: 01273 323075



brightonbuswatch.org



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