



Proudly supporting bus users in
Brighton, Hove and the
surrounding areas

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February 2025

Subsidised route tendered

Buswatch understand that Compass Travel Ltd has been awarded the tender for routes 16, 47 & 52 effective from 31st March 2025. The Big Lemon has instructed solicitors over Brighton and Hove City Council's decision. Buswatch awaits further information or official announcement.



Vandals attack buses

Youths at Marine Gate launched bricks at buses in a couple of incidents over February. In the most serious incident, an occupied buggy on board the bus was just missed. The incidents lead to passengers on board being shaken with fortunately with no physical injuries.

The buses concerned were removed from service. Sussex police are investigating and increasing patrols in the Arundel Road area. Whilst working with Brighton & Hove buses. Anyone with information is urged to contact 101, with serial number 1037 20/2.

Albion Hotel road closure

Late on Friday 21 February, Kings Road was closed to traffic between Little East Street and Aquarium Roundabout due to concerns around the stability of the remaining burnt out section of the Albion Hotel.

On Saturday this led to numerous diversions and delays to services reported throughout the city. Among the disruption were curtailed Coaster services using a new procedural split 12 & 12A/12X service. Only 12's go through to Brighton station but terminate in Newhaven. Within the city, there were curtailments at Old Steine for Churchill Square terminating routes and special services for 25. Sunday saw little problems but Monday evening brought a lot of changes again. Disruption is expected to last into the beginning of March.

National Express initially stopped on the South Western side of Old Steine, but have returned to serving Old Steine stop 'Z'. With the rebuild of the pavement following, Stop 'S' was used.

To date Brighton & Hove kept the app. and The Big Lemon website refreshed throughout the incident.

Petition for Pool Valley

A petition has been shared calling for improved facilities at Pool Valley. The petitioner cites a 'terrible state' with 'no cafe, no toilets no waiting room and no lighting at night'. Started on 6th February, it currently holds around 260 signatories. This can be found on the Facebook group.

St James's Street closure complete

As part of Stage 2 of Valley Gardens 3, St James's Street was closed for 2 weeks from Monday 10 February to Sunday 23rd February. Buses were diverted via the A259 seafront and up Rock Gardens. All buses stopped at Stop 'Z' later stopping at a temporary bus stop just beyond. Routes 1, 2, 7 & 18 missed the SeaLife Centre bus stop, but called at New Steine and Lower Rock Gardens. Routes 37 & 37B missed New Steine.

A large LED sign was provided at the junction with St James's Street, with a member of staff available on the first day to advise passengers what to do.

Eastern Road resurfacing

Eastern Road was treated to a resurface overnight from the 10th - 14th February between Park Street and Chesham Street, giving a noticeable difference to passengers on board and those walking along Eastern Road. Westbound buses were diverted via Kemp Town with Eastbound buses going along A259 seafront as far as Eaton Place. On the first evening, a slippage of a works vehicle from a low loader on Eastern Road meant that buses were diverted earlier than planned.

A27 closure

14th February saw a rather unloving feeling following the closure of Southwick tunnel. Services to the west of Brighton & Hove with 2, 46 & 700 badly affected. Buswatch is noting this event for future reference.

Brighton hosts Integrated transport

Thursday 27th February saw Brighton host England's first Integrated Transport Strategy at the Leonard Waterfront Hotel. Part of the government's Plan for Change, the event looks to discuss improvements on connections between transport modes and support transport users, especially those from areas with fewer transport links. This event, supported by Transport for the South East, forms a 10 year strategy to support communities and commuters to work, school and leisure. In addition to this, Transport for the South East consultation closes on Friday 7th March.

Devolution

A consultation is currently underway to get views on a combined County Authority for the areas of East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton & Hove City Councils. This would include a Mayor responsible for local issues including housing, transport and local infrastructure. With a Mayoral election expected to take place in May 2026, current May 2025 elections in East and West Sussex have been postponed. The consultation will end on 13th April 2025 and can be found by searching 'Sussex and Brighton Devolution Consultation'. Buswatch is unclear how devolution will affect the operation of bus services or whether franchising will be considered.

Buswatch meeting

Brighton Buswatch's **next meeting** takes place on 16th April at 16.00 in rooms 2 & 3, Brighton Town Hall. Space is limited so please e-mail Buswatch or message via Brighton Buswatch Facebook group, if you would like to attend as a guest or raise an issue. If you wish to become a member of Brighton Buswatch please e-mail the address on the header.

Buswatch Newsletter is produced and edited by Brighton Area Buswatch. Contributions and suggestions are always welcome. [Brighton Area Buswatch 2025](#)