

# Brighton Area Buswatch



Working in partnership with Bus Users, the national charity representing bus passengers

## Buswatch News – April 2023

### New buses and better services in 2023

There are several reasons to be optimistic about our local bus services in 2023:

- 1) The National £2 maximum single fare offer has been extended to 30 June
- 2) Free travel for accompanied under 19s and 50p off peak for unaccompanied under 19s in Brighton & Hove continues until at least 2025.
- 3) The staffing position has improved so bus cancellations due to staff shortages should occur less often.
- 4) Seasonal services 11X, 13X, 77, 78 & 79 have been reinstated or enhanced.
- 5) Route 21 is being significantly improved from June and routes 47 & 52 will be enhanced in the evenings and on Sundays. These improvements are possible due to the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) submitted to the Government last year which has resulted in a grant of £21.7 million over three years.
- 6) Brighton & Hove Buses orders 44 new buses, its first for three years. See below.
- 7) There appear to be no plans for significant reductions to bus services, at least within Brighton & Hove although. The situation in East and West Sussex is less clear although funding is available for some improvements. We are expecting an announcement about changes to services in East Sussex in May.

### Brighton & Hove buys 44 New buses

Brighton & Hove Buses has ordered 44 new buses, its first new buses since 2020. They will all be single door Euro VI diesel engined ADL Enviro 400 MMC double deckers. Most will be based at Newhaven where they will run on Coaster services 12, 12A, 12X, 14 & 14C routes. They are replacing the entire existing fleet at Newhaven, which will be redeployed elsewhere, although 7 of the new buses will be based in Hove to operate route 6 between Downs Park and Brighton Station. The new buses should give a better ride and with improved hill climbing performance compared with current green Coaster buses dating from 2015/2017, which are notoriously sluggish. Deliveries should start in December with all in service by March 2024. They will enable the last Scania buses dating from 2005-2007 to be finally withdrawn. The oldest buses will then be much newer vehicles dating from 2011. Just out of our area, B&H's sister company Metrobus is taking delivery of 20 hydrogen powered single deckers for Fastway services around Crawley and Gatwick.

### East Sussex fares promotions

From 1 April the £5 East Sussex Day ticket became multi-operator which means it can be used on any bus. Previously the £5 ticket could be bought on any bus but only used on buses operated by the company that issued the ticket. Brighton & Hove Buses says it will be increasing the price of some tickets from 2nd May but details are awaited.

## Bus service improvements this year

In the February Buswatch News we highlighted bus service reductions over the past few years so it is encouraging to be able to provide details of bus service improvements, either implemented already or planned in the coming months. Many of these improvements are funded by the Council's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP).

Route	Destinations	Daytime frequency March 2023	Daytime frequency April 2023	Comments
7	Hove – Brighton Station – RSCH - Brighton Marina	8 mins	7 mins	<b>From 24 April. Evenings increased to every 10 mins</b>
11X	Brighton Station – A259 – Newhaven – Middle Farm – Drusillas - Eastbourne	Suspended	3 Journeys Sundays & Bank Hols	<b>Re-introduced</b> Easter, Summer Suns & Bank Hols only
13X	Brighton Station – A259 – Seaford – Beachy Head - Eastbourne	3 journeys each way Sundays only	30 mins Sundays and Bank Holidays	<b>Increased</b> for summer season. Every 30 mins summer Suns and Bank Holidays.
16 (BSIP funded)	Hangleton - Knoll Estate - Portslade (Brighton & Hove City Council contract operated by The Big Lemon)	60 mins	60 mins	<b>New evening service introduced</b>
21/21A (BSIP funded)	Goldstone Valley/Churchill Square Queens Park/Brighton Marina (part funded by Brighton & Hove City Council)	30/60mins	15/30 mins	<b>Increased from 11 June.</b> Every 15 mins Brighton Marina to Churchill Square, every 30 mins to Goldstone Valley **
37/37B (BSIP funded)	Meadowview – Lewes Road – Queens Park (37B) – Brighton Station – RSCH – Bristol Estate. (Brighton & Hove City Council contract operated by Compass Travel)	30 mins	30 mins	<b>Sundays increased</b> Now every 30 mins daily, hourly on 37 & 37B
47 (BSIP funded)	West Hove – Hangleton – Old Shoreham Road – Clock Tower – RSCH – East Saltdean. (Brighton & Hove City Council contract operated by The Big Lemon)	60 mins	60 mins	<b>New evening service from 24 April. New Sunday service every 60 minutes from 30 April (replaces 57)</b>
52 (BSIP funded)	Patcham – Stanford Avenue – Old Steine – RSCH – Ovingdean – Woodingdean (Brighton & Hove City Council contract operated by The Big Lemon)	60 mins	60 mins	<b>New Evening service from 24 April. New Sunday service every 60 minutes from 30 April (replaces 57)</b>
77	Palace Pier – Brighton Station – Dyke Road - Devil's Dyke (part funded by Brighton & Hove City Council)	75 mins Sat & Suns	45 mins Sat and Suns	<b>Increased</b> to every 45 mins for summer season
78 (BSIP funded)	Old Steine – Lewes Road - Stanmer Park (part funded by Brighton & Hove City Council)	60-70 mins Sat/Suns	60-70 mins daily	<b>New Daily service from 24 April,</b>
700	Brighton – Portslade – Shoreham - Worthing – Littlehampton (operated by Stagecoach South)	15 mins	12 mins	<b>Increased</b> to 12 mins from 5 March

## Western Road should re-open in December

The latest update from Brighton & Hove City Council indicates that the works are progressing well. It has been decided to concentrate on completing the western end of the scheme first to enable the road to re-open to two way buses from December, several months earlier than in the original plan.

## A23 Active Travel scheme

In February Buswatch News reported on the latest proposals for this scheme to cover phase 1 which is the section of the A23 Preston Road between Argyle Road (by the railway viaduct) and the junction with South Road (just beyond Preston Park). Buswatch and Brighton & Hove Buses had objected to earlier plans for 'bus boarders' whereby a cycle lane passes in front of a bus stop, forcing bus users to cross the cycle lane to get on and off buses. These have now been changed at most locations, some bus stops are now shown with a narrow 1.6 metre wide waiting area in front of the cycle lane while the bus shelter is still placed behind it.

We were invited to a meeting with the project team to discuss our concerns where the difficulties of designing the scheme while maintaining the objectives of improved cycle facilities and bus stops were explained. Unfortunately, we were not convinced some of the changes were in the interests of bus passengers and remain disappointed that the option of using the existing roadway within Preston Park for cyclists was dismissed.

## Buswatch meeting this week, Wednesday 19th April

The next public meeting with Brighton & Hove City Council and bus company managers will be on **Wednesday 19 April 2023**, at 4.30pm in Brighton Town Hall. Numbers are restricted so please e mail Buswatch at the address below if you would like to attend or raise an issue. Further 2023 meetings will be on Wednesday 19 July and Wednesday 18 October.

Buswatch News is produced and edited by Andrew Boag, Chair, Brighton Area Buswatch. Contributions and suggestions are always welcome.

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