

Brighton Area Buswatch

Representing local bus users



A branch of Bus Users UK

Buswatch News – December 2018

Season's Greetings from Brighton Area Buswatch



Valley Gardens Phase 3 plans

The Brighton & Hove City Council consultation closed on 25 November and Brighton Area Buswatch submitted comments on the issues we reported last month. There is some encouraging news as Brighton Area Buswatch and bus companies have been shown new plans which include a southbound bus lane in Old Steine. This is regarded as essential by bus companies. However, at this stage the plan is purely indicative to show how a bus lane could be accommodated. It may well be changed again, depending on responses from community groups. We will have to wait until late January to see whether it becomes adopted.

Some Councillors and number of pressure groups are campaigning for discarded option 3 to be adopted which would keep the Palace Pier roundabout and put buses and taxis on the west side of Old Steine in both directions. This would allow northbound buses to continue to use the art deco bus shelters by the Royal Pavilion.

Bus fares increase from 15 January

Brighton & Hove Buses is increasing some fares from Tuesday 15 January 2019. The good news is that on-bus cash/contactless fares within the City Saver area are unchanged and a few are even reduced. A one-day Saver will become a 24-hour ticket which should help a lot of people. The main burden of higher prices will fall on passengers buying long period tickets purchased in advance. A 90-day Network Saver increases from £210 to £222. However, there is an opportunity to reduce the impact of these prices for those who have an account with the East Sussex Credit Union. They can save 20% - that's over £120 on the price of an annual ticket. More information on www.buses.co.uk

Full details of new fares are awaited. Fares on Council supported services operated by The Big Lemon and Compass Bus will increase in line with Brighton & Hove fares. We understand Stagecoach fares will also change in January. Next month we will publish our annual comparison of bus fares around the country.

Christmas and New Year buses

Arrangements are similar to last year, with bus services finishing early on Christmas Eve (around 9pm) and no services on Christmas Day. Brighton & Hove will be running restricted services on main routes on Boxing Day until around 6pm (slightly later on a few routes) with a full Sunday service on Stagecoach Coastliner 700.

Don't forget that accompanied Kids go free on Saturday & Sunday 22 & 23 December on all Brighton & Hove Buses. Normal fares apply on other days.

Brighton Area Buswatch meeting

The next meeting with bus company managers and Brighton & Hove City Council will be at 5pm on **Wednesday 23 January 2019** in Brighton Town Hall. Meetings are open to all, but space is limited so please contact Buswatch at the address below if you wish to join us.

Buswatch News is produced and edited by Andrew Boag, Chair, Brighton Area Buswatch. We welcome your contributions and suggestions. The next issue is due mid-January 2019. E mail: brightonbuswatch@gmail.com. Phone: 01273 620215



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