

Brighton Area Buswatch

A branch of national group Bus Users
representing local bus users

Buswatch News – December 2019

Park & Ride as part of a strategy

The debate about a Park & Ride scheme has been going on for years. What is undeniable is that there is a need to reduce the number of car journeys into the city centre. Electric cars reduce emissions but they still create congestion. Cycling and walking are good for short trips within the city but they are not an attractive option for people outside the city who have longer journeys. Better public transport is needed but there is little prospect of rural areas being able to justify frequent bus services into Brighton. So there will still be many people in Sussex and beyond who need to use cars. Those who drive into Brighton for work, study or leisure contribute a huge amount to our local economy but they should be discouraged from driving further than they need to.

A small Park & Ride has existed for years at Withdean. Opponents of Park & Ride (P&R) claim it is mostly used by local people, but that is due to its poor location within a residential area. They also point to studies which show P&R sites in other cities created new congestion and didn't reduce overall car use. However many of those schemes were built decades ago. Lessons can be learnt from past mistakes. Withdean is a good example of a badly planned facility. A good P&R site would be just outside the urban area with direct access from main roads only. Somewhere close to the A23/A27 interchange with up to 2,000 spaces would be perfect. People could then take frequent zero emission electric buses non-stop into the City Centre, passing other vehicles along continuous bus lanes, with priority at traffic lights. The local cycle lobby opposes P&R, but buses need not be the only option for onward travel. A bike share hub could be set up so people could leave their cars and cycle into the city along dedicated cycle lanes, or explore the National Park and surrounding countryside on two wheels.

This is a realistic solution to our transport problems and with co-operation between the City Council and the National Park authorities it could happen quickly. We hope City Councillors will come together and see the potential. Brighton & Hove Buses has already said it is keen to provide the bus service. P&R doesn't have to be the only way to reduce congestion. In the built up areas east of Brighton there are already good bus services along the A259 coast road. These could be improved further with new bus priority measures to discourage car use.

To make it all work there would probably need to be more parking restrictions in the city centre. These will not be popular with everyone but with less traffic congestion and lower emissions most people should see the benefits. Brighton & Hove has been innovative in the past and it can lead the way again.

Brighton Bus shelter wins international award



This shelter opposite the Sea Life Centre was recently fitted with a 'living roof' made up of a variety of sedum plants, known for enhancing air quality and promoting biodiversity. They were planted in plastic bottles recovered from the beach. Shelter owners Clear Channel employed homeless people to clear litter and plastic waste with assistance from Brighton & Hove's own City Clean team. The shelter won the award at an international advertising industry ceremony in London last month.

Christmas and New Year buses

Full details are available on bus company websites but here is a summary:

Tuesday 24 December: Saturday service with early finish by 2200. No night buses

Wednesday 25 December: No services

Thursday 26 December: Special timetables finishing around 1900, except Stagecoach Coastliner route 700 which will run to a normal Sunday service all day.

Friday 27 December: Saturday service, no service on 77, 78, 79, N29

Saturday 28 December & Sunday 29 December – Normal services

Monday 30 December: Saturday service, no service on 77, 78, 79, N12, N29

Tuesday 31 December: Saturday service, no service on 77, 78, 79

Wednesday 1 January: Sunday service

*Seasonal Greetings to all supporters of
Brighton Area Buswatch*

Brighton Area Buswatch meeting

The next meeting with bus company managers and Brighton & Hove City Council will be on **Wednesday 22 January 2020** in Brighton Town Hall, Committee Room 2 (note that this is not our usual meeting room). 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 2020. E mail: brightonbuswatch@gmail.com. Phone: 01273 620215

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