

Brighton Area Buswatch



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

Draft Buswatch News – December 2023

Season's Greetings to all Buswatch supporters

A23 scheme going ahead despite objections

Controversial plans to implement new and improved cycle lanes along the A23 between Preston Circus and Preston Drove were approved by Brighton & Hove City Council in October. Buswatch raised a number of issues that were detrimental to bus users. These include some bus stops where the kerbside waiting area will be as little as 1.5 metres from a cycle lane giving very little space for passengers to get on and off buses, especially those in wheelchairs or with buggies. We are also disappointed the idea to upgrade the parallel road inside Preston Park (already used by many cyclists) was dismissed. Hopefully more consideration will be given to bus users and pedestrians in later phases of this scheme.

Christmas Day buses running again

For the second year, Brighton & Hove Buses will be running some services on Christmas Day. Routes 1, 1A, 5B, 7 & 49 will be similar to last year although there will be some frequency changes. New this year is a service on route 12 Between Brighton & Seaford providing a Christmas Day service along the A259 to Rottingdean, Saltdean, Peacehaven and Newhaven for the first time. An hourly daytime service will be provided. There will also be special services on Boxing Day and on New Year's Eve where some extra night buses will be running. Full details on [buses.co.uk](https://www.buses.co.uk)

Staff shortages still affecting services

Cancellations due to staff shortages are still impacting Brighton & Hove services, resulting in long gaps and some buses being terminated short of their destinations. New drivers are being trained but long gaps are occurring in some services and sometimes buses are taken out of service when drivers finish their shift and there is no one available to take over.

£2 single fare extended again

A reminder that local bus companies have all agreed to extend the £2 maximum single fare, which is funded by HM Government. The scheme should continue until December 2024 but this depends on a satisfactory level of reimbursement being agreed between the Department for Transport and individual bus companies.

City Council is bidding for electric buses

Brighton & Hove City Council is submitting a bid on behalf of Brighton & Hove Buses to the Governments Zero Emissions Buses (ZEBRA2) fund. If the bid is successful it would result in 16 new battery electric double deck buses based at Conway Street in Hove which is currently being redeveloped and would have new electric charging facilities part funded by the scheme. The zero emission buses would run on route 7 between Hove George Street and Brighton Marina serving Hove and Brighton Stations, North Street, St James's Street and the Royal Sussex County Hospital.

Buswatch is changing

From Andrew Boag, Chair Brighton Area Buswatch.

After twelve years I am standing down as Chair of Buswatch. Two members of our current Committee are also standing down. So a huge Thank You goes to Buswatch Committee members Peter Elvidge, David Nash, Tony Price and Ray Jarvis for their support and commitment, also Adrian Peasgood, David Dufour and Jack Hazelgrove who were loyal Committee members for several years and contributed lots of valuable advice to our group. Thanks are also due to all my contacts at Brighton & Hove City Council, Brighton & Hove Buses and the other local bus companies. It has been a pleasure working with you.

This means there are opportunities for new people to become involved. If you are interested in local transport issues and may be able to spare time to attend meetings and discussions influencing bus companies and Councils please get in touch for a chat. The amount of involvement will vary, those who are unable to attend regular meetings can still become Committee members.

Next Buswatch meeting is on Tuesday 16th January

The next public meeting with Brighton & Hove City Council and bus company managers will be on **Tuesday 16th January 2024**, at 4.30pm in rooms 2 & 3, Brighton Town Hall.

Note this is a Tuesday as the meeting rooms were not available on Wednesday. The meeting will begin with an AGM where new Committee Members will be nominated. Space is limited so please e mail Buswatch at the address below if you would like to attend or raise an issue.

Buswatch News is produced and edited by Brighton Area Buswatch. Contributions and suggestions are always welcome.

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