

# Brighton Area Buswatch



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

## Buswatch News – June/July 2023

### £5.60 to park for one hour? Take the bus!

There has been an uproar over plans by Brighton & Hove City Council to increase parking charges in some zones by 300% from 17 July. The new Labour administration is reviewing these charges which, if unchanged, would mean car drivers paying £22.70 a day to park in some areas. With a single bus fare capped at £2, an all-day Saver ticket at £5 and free travel for accompanied under 19s, there's never been a better time to try the bus.

### A new look for Brighton & Hove Buses



Brighton & Hove buses are getting a makeover. The traditional red and cream livery will disappear over the next few years, replaced by new colours of teal and aqua which build on the 'Live and Breathe' hybrid buses delivered in recent years. Those colours were based on the colour of seafront railings. There is also a new logo which B&H says better represents the company today. The first buses in the new colours will be on the streets in the autumn.

Opinions are likely to be strongly divided, some will say the new look is fresh and exciting but many will be sad to see the end of red and cream buses. Cream matches so many iconic buildings in Brighton and Hove while bright red is a vibrant colour which also gives a hint of Brighton's 'London-by-the-sea' image. Apart from an interval during the nationalisation period in the 1970s and early 80s, red and cream has been a feature of Brighton's buses since they were owned by the London based Thomas Tilling company in the 1920s & 30s. Brighton Corporation buses were also red and cream but changed to blue and white in 1970. Blue lasted until Brighton & Hove took over those services in 1997 although buses branded for route 49 have continued to featured blue, for over 50 years. The bright green and blue Coaster buses on routes 12, 12A, 12X & 13X will retain their colours when new buses arrive for those services later this year.

## **£2 single fare cap extended to October**

Local bus companies have all agreed to extend the £2 maximum single fare until October. The scheme is funded by HM Government and it was due to finish in June. Protracted negotiations between bus companies and the Department for Transport on reimbursement rates meant that it was not possible to confirm the extended date until a few days ago. After October the maximum fare will be increased to £2.50 which will last until October 2024.

## **East Sussex improvements**

Big improvements are planned to bus services in parts of East Sussex, through its Government funded Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). This funding lasts for three years. The main changes on services operated by Brighton & Hove Buses from Brighton from 23 July are:

- Route 28 is extended from Ringmer (Broyle Estate) to Hailsham and Eastbourne via Laughton, Horsebridge, Hellingly, Polegate, Willingdon and Eastbourne District General Hospital. Buses will run every half hour during the day and hourly in the evenings as far as Hailsham with a last bus from Brighton at 23:15. This replaces Compass Travel service 143 which is being withdrawn.
- Route 29 will be restored to run every 30 minutes between Brighton and Tunbridge Wells via Lewes, Uckfield and Crowborough.
- New route 29A will run from Brighton to Uckfield and Heathfield via Lewes, Isfield, and Blackboys. An hourly service will be provided during the day until mid-evening with a last bus from Brighton at 20:00.
- The combined service on routes 28, 29 & 29A between Brighton & Lewes will remain every 10 minutes during the daytime on Monday to Saturday but will be increased to every 20 minutes on Sundays during shopping hours.

Changes to Compass Travel services in the Lewes and Newhaven areas from the same date include; a revised two hourly timetable and a Sunday service on route 123 (Newhaven - Lewes); a revised timetable on route 125 (Lewes – Ringmer - Fittle - Alfriston) with concessionary passes available at all times on this service and; a revised timetable on Newhaven local service 145. Lewes town services 127, 128 & 129 are revised providing a regular 30 minute frequency to Landport (127) and Nevill (128) with an improved 129 to Malling and Wallands Park (operated by CTLA). Full timetables should be available on Brighton & Hove and Compass Travel websites and on printed timetables soon.

The £5 East Sussex Day ticket can be used on any bus in the County. This matches the Brighton & Hove City Saver day ticket so bus users in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex can travel anywhere within the city or East Sussex for £5.

## **Western Road Waitrose bus stops**

The latest update from Brighton & Hove City Council indicates that the works are progressing well. The westbound bus stop towards Hove outside Taj has been temporarily moved back, to just before Preston Street, opposite Sainsbury's Local. This seems to be a better location as it moves the bus stop away from the Montpelier Road junction where the pavement is narrow and often congested. It has also reduced delays at the junction and helps to compensate for the loss of the Clarence Square stop. Should the Waitrose bus stop move there permanently? Let us know what you think.

## Peacehaven bus stops



Many bus stops in Peacehaven are poor for accessibility and wheelchair users. The situation has become worse in recent months with the use of two door buses on route 14. This was supposed to be a temporary measure until April but it has continued. Bus stops on route 14 through North Peacehaven are particularly bad, some have no hardstanding and very few have raised kerbs for wheelchair access. The photo above, taken at Heathy Brow shows it is impossible to open both doors on a two door bus without one opening onto a grass slope. One of our supporters has raised this issue with Brighton & Hove Buses, East Sussex County Council and the local MP and is calling for a meeting. Bus drivers have been asked to only use front doors around Peacehaven but compliance has been inconsistent.

## Next Buswatch meeting on Wednesday 19th July

The next public meeting with Brighton & Hove City Council and bus company managers will be on **Wednesday 19 July 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. The following meeting will be on 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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