

# Brighton Area Buswatch

Representing local bus users



Part of Bus Users UK

## Buswatch News – September 2015

### Bus service changes from 13 September

Autumn timetables have introduced a number of changes including improved frequency on route 22 to Woodingdean and new limited stop service 25X to Sussex University which provides much needed extra capacity along Lewes Road to supplement the existing 25. On the down side the evening and Sunday service on route 37 between Bristol Estate and Meadowview has been cut from two per hour to one every 75 minutes in the evenings and to hourly on Sundays.

The 1A towards Whitehawk now runs via Edward Street in both directions with the 1 remaining in St James's Street. Our photo shows a 1A turning right into Edward Street by the Royal Pavilion. We would be very interested to receive your feedback on these changes.



### Real Time information signs still not working properly

Six months after the project to upgrade the real time information system was due to be completed, many screens are still not working at all or showing incomplete information. The system frequently fails completely with blank screens and smaller operator buses are not shown on a regular basis, despite assurances they would be. The signs at Brighton Station which should have been working again from 13 September remain blank too. We were promised a significant improvement in reliability but we are still waiting.

## Is a Park & Ride scheme on the way?

The possibility of developing an out of town Park & Ride site ten miles north of the seafront has been reported in the Brighton & Hove Independent. The suggested location is on the A23 near Albourne and is currently owned by Q Leisure. It is in the Mid Sussex District Council area so that authority or West Sussex County Council would have to approve a scheme and the South Downs National Park would need to be convinced of the benefits. Brighton & Hove desperately needs a Park & Ride site but locations have been difficult to find within the City boundary. With the i360 opening next year and work due to start on the A23 Valley Gardens scheme in the coming months, there has never been a more urgent need to reduce car traffic and vehicle emissions in central Brighton.

The only Park & Ride facility at present is at Withdean stadium. This has just 250 spaces which proved insufficient to support an express bus service. It therefore relies on the existing 27 all stops service which takes around 25 minutes to reach North Street. Brighton & Hove Buses supports Park & Ride and says a new site would need at least 1,000 spaces for the company to be able to provide an express bus link without subsidies. This is mainly based on experience in Oxford where there are several large Park & Ride sites.

## Meadowview meeting

Bus users in Coombe Road and Meadowview area are invited to a meeting on Monday 19 October at 6.30pm at Meadowview and Tenantry Community Centre, organised by the Meadowview and Tenantry Community Action Group and Coombe Road Local Action Team. Since 13<sup>th</sup> September the 37 bus service has been running to a reduced timetable in the evenings and on Sundays and there is uncertainty over its future when the current subsidy runs out next spring. This is an opportunity to express your views with representatives from Compass Bus and Brighton & Hove City Council.

## New Quattro ticket for nights out

Quattro is a new mobile phone M ticket from Brighton & Hove Buses which enables a group of up to four people to travel on one ticket for up to an hour after 6pm for £7. While this is not a vast saving during for one trip in the evenings, the ticket, it is of much greater benefit if a change of buses is necessary. The Quattro ticket is also available on Night Buses which have a £4 flat fare within the City Saver area. So four people travelling together after midnight could save up to £9! The introduction of a one hour ticket is something we have been pressing for and we hope the idea will be extended to other single tickets in due course. Bus users should not have to pay twice for the inconvenience of having to change buses.

## Discovery ticket extended to Kent.

The Discovery ticket which provides travel on all main operators in East and West Sussex and within Brighton & Hove has been extended to cover Kent and Medway. Day tickets cost £8.50 for adults, £7 for children under 16 and £16 for a family ticket covering up to five people including a maximum of two adults. The Discovery ticket replaces the Explorer ticket in our area which became restricted in its availability. Full details on [www.buses.co.uk](http://www.buses.co.uk)

## Key Cards and M tickets extended

Don't forget buses on supported services in Brighton and Hove operated by Compass Bus and The Big Lemon (16/16A, 37, 37B, 47, 52, 56, 57 & 66) now accept Key Cards and M tickets. Key cards can be purchased on line at [www.buses.co.uk](http://www.buses.co.uk) or at One Stop Travel in North Street or Conway Street bus garage in Hove. M tickets are purchased using a smartphone and can be stored or validated immediately.

## Valley Gardens scheme update

Brighton & Hove City Council's review of the proposed scheme should be nearing completion and we are told a report will be submitted to Environment Transport and Sustainability Committee on 13 October with revised proposals. Brighton & Hove Buses have emphasised the importance of retaining bus lanes during the construction period and they have made suggestions to show how this could be achieved.

## Council Supported services review – still time to comment

We reported last month that Brighton & Hove City Council has launched a review of supported bus services. The consultation period closes on 30 September so there are still a few days to register your views. Routes under review are the 16/16A, 37, 37B, 47, 52, 56, 57 & 66 plus school services 72, 74, 75, 76, 76A, 91, 95, 95A, and 'Breeze up to the Downs' services 77, 78 & 79. More details on the Council website [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk) or by contacting Public Transport Officer Richard Johnson on 01273 292480 or email to [transport.planning@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:transport.planning@brighton-hove.gov.uk).

Brighton Area Buswatch has met with Council Officers and we have made it clear we want existing services to continue without further cuts if possible. Suggestions for new services could include improved all day links to the Universities from the Patcham, Hollingbury and Woodingdean areas. A frequent shuttle service from Hollingbury to Falmer is one possibility to link with other services as well as Asda and other shops. Alternative sources of funding could be sought from the University authorities. In other UK cities, notably Oxford and Southampton, Universities subsidise special networks aimed at students which can also be used by other passengers, opening up new journey options. We would also like to see the development of new 'orbital' services so people can get around the city more easily, without going into the City Centre and having to change buses.

## East Sussex service changes – a correction

Last month we reported that Compass Bus route 122 would run between Berwick and Lewes. This should have read Barcombe.

## Brighton Area Buswatch meetings

The next meeting with bus company managers and Brighton & Hove City Council will be on **Wednesday 14 October 2015** at 5.15pm in Brighton Town Hall. Meetings are open to all members and supporters but please let us know in advance if you wish to attend as space is limited.

Buswatch News is produced and edited by Andrew Boag, Chair, Brighton Area Buswatch. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Printed A5 copies of this newsletter are available from Hove town hall reception and a pdf or large print versions are available on request. The next issue is due in mid November 2015.

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