

Brighton Buswatch

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



Photo courtesy of Nash Travelman

Jul/Aug 2024

17 Improvement

A very welcomed change happens to route 17 from Sunday 1st September..

Following funding from the Bus Service Improvement Plan and in partnership between Brighton and Hove City Council and West Sussex County Council, Route 17 will become half hourly between Brighton and Henfield with an hourly service direct between Brighton and Horsham. There is also an hourly Sunday service. The last bus from Brighton to Henfield is now at 2200 Monday to Saturday.

Partridge Green gets an hourly Monday to Saturday service to Brighton, with evening connections direct to Horsham. At other times a change is required at Henfield.

2 Changes

History was made with the latest changes to route 2. The changes from Sunday 7th July included extra time given for journeys and a simpler timetable (now excluding routes 59 & 60).

The change also brought about the removal of the last bus to service via Ovingdean, a very interesting and unique deviation from the main route.

Bus reliability figures released

Brighton & Hove buses released their latest reliability figures for each route. All routes performed between 70% & 91%. Best performing are University routes 23 and 25, with poorer performing 18, 2, 22 and 21. These results are being analysed at Brighton Buswatch and thoughts being put to identifying and addressing the issues causing poor performance.

On time is considered a bus that arrives within 6 minutes of its scheduled arrival time.

Questions remain about the impact of reliability of buses in comparison to different route roles. For instance, one cancelled 7 has a different impact on a cancelled 21.

A23 Bus Lane Consultation

A new bus lane consultation takes place. Located between Brangwyn Crescent and Brangwyn Drive, this new Southbound bus lane will benefit travels on routes 17, Metrobus group routes 270 to 273 and National Express 025 coach service.

Funded through the former governments Bus Service Improvement Plan, the aim is to speed up bus journey times, improve reliability and reduce congestion. The bus and cycle lane would operate 24 hours a day. Included in the plan is an upgrade from a pedestrian island to a signalised pedestrian crossing opposite the junction with Old London Road. A 30mph speed is also part of the plan, complementing the new road layout.

The consultation closes on 9th September. See Brighton and Hove's City Councils website to feedback.

Protest

On Wednesday 7th August, Brighton, North Street became the scene of a mass counter-protest of around 21,000 people in response to civil unrest in the previous week.

A Brighton and Hove number 7 bus was pictured stuck in the middle of the crowd. Stagecoach South had curtailed their 17 and 700 buses earlier in the evening at The Level and Hove, Palmeira Square respectively.

No one was hurt in the protest. Another event took place in Hastings around the same time with minimal disruption to services.

Destinations

An upgrade to the system that displays the front destinations, took place recently. Buses now show the Main destination at the top and the last stop at the bottom. This aids way finding and accessibility. Among the changes, buses can now show key via points such as 27 via Brighton Station'.

Notable destinations include '5B Hollingbury ASDA', '2 Rottingdean White Horse' and 'Saltdean, Coombe Vale'. Breeze route 77, 78 and 79 now include 'Breeze up to' before the destination.

Red Routes feedback

Brighton and Hove City Council is seeking feedback on new Red Routes within the City. These were introduced in Lewes Road and on the A23 back in April.

Red routes (over double yellows) allows for better enforcement of parking offences.

Part of the aim of red routes is to deter unauthorised vehicles parking in bus stops, allowing for safer boarding and alighting for bus users. Bus drivers also benefit from no longer having to pull out to pass cars parked irresponsibly. The feedback will be used to identify area where improvement may be useful – this can be done by e-mailing parkingprojects@brighton-hove.gov.uk by 30 September 2024.

Changes at Imperial Arcade and Churchill Square

Work carries on apace with the new bus shelters at Churchill Square with work also taking place at the bottom of Regent Hill.

A few routes have been diverted through the area. During this time, Brighton & Hove staff have been located at Imperial Arcade to help aid passengers to find their bus stop.

Routes affected have included Coaster 11X, 12-N14 & 27 which have used Queens Road both ways and have the added complication of being unable to serve Clock Tower (southbound) following the high winds earlier this year.

Route 17, Regency and 270 picked up from Imperial Arcade.

Pride weekend

Pride took place on the weekend of 3rd-4th August 2024. As always Brighton and Hove Bus took part in the parade.

Being the biggest event in Brighton, plans for bus services appeared to go ahead with very few issues with buses turning at The Level, Churchill Square, Brighton Station and Upper Bedford Street. Stagecoach South East's 701 turned at Lewes Road Sainsbury's. Stagecoach South's 17 & 700 turned at The Level and Churchill Square respectively, though information was not shown on the website.

Routes 500 & 600 operated a shuttle between Waterhall Campsite and Old Steine.



Buzz changes

A minor change takes place on the Buzz network takes place on Monday 2nd September. Buses will now run via Walpole Road. Buses previously ran via Bellevue Gardens.

News has reached Brighton Buswatch that the missing Buzz bus 'Busy Bee', which hasn't been seen since February this year, is no longer a member of the fleet. The last of four specially branded buses (others named 'Queen Bee', 'Bumble Bee' and 'Honey Bee'), removal of this bus is believed to follow damage caused by flooding elsewhere in Sussex. An older type bus has been used in its place.

All on the app.

Routes 16, 47 and 52 operated by The Big Lemon and 37/37B/37C operated by Compass Travel are now all included on the Brighton & Hove app. This recent change includes timetables and service updates. Metrobus 270 group of routes are also included.

Catch the Bus Month

Catch the Bus Month returns this September! Headed by Bus Users UK, this year's focus is accessibility. On Tuesday 27th August, Brighton Buswatch joined Brighton & Hove Buses, Brighton & Hove City Council, Possibility People, Disability Rights UK, Thomas Pocklington Trust and other local bus operators to hear feedback and answer questions.

A new coaster double decker bus was provided to see and learn about the on-bus accessibility features.

Brighton Buswatch meeting

The next public meeting with Brighton & Hove City Council and bus company managers will be on: Wednesday 16th October 2024, at 16.15 in rooms 2 & 3, Brighton Town Hall. Note the change of time.

Space is limited so please e-mail Buswatch or message via Brighton Buswatch new Facebook group at the address below if you would like to attend or raise an issue.

Find us on Facebook:



Buswatch Newsletter is produced and edited by Brighton Area Buswatch. Contributions and suggestions are always welcome. E mail: brightonbuswatch@outlook.com.