

# Brighton Buswatch

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



## May/June 2024

### 1X Starts

1X will start on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July.

This new limited stop service will run between Brighton Marina and Mile Oak up to every 15 minutes. Route 1 will be increased to every seven minutes to accommodate the loss of route 1A. Among other notable changes, three buses now serve Brighton station in the early morning and routes 71 & 71 no longer show in the timetable, however the school holiday journeys remain. A new and dedicated bus timetable has been published and can be found on local buses and at One Stop. Bright pink bus stop poles have been installed at stops served by the new 1X and a whole new stop installed eastbound at Portslade Town Hall. 1X will serve about 13 stops end to end. There is no change to the N1 timetable.

Some concern has been noted at both ends of the route on social media with some confusion and frustration around the loss of 1A but have been met with reassuring voices. As with many limited stop services there is always wish for extra stops and so is the case for Mile Oak given the speediness of the route to the city centre and hospital.

Buswatch will of course be on one of the first buses. We wish Brighton & Hove good luck for the route.

## **Timetable changes**

Timetable changes will also take place on route 21 between Brighton Marina and Goldstone Valley via Whitehawk and City Centre. Elsewhere timetable changes are taking place on route 2, 60 & school routes 71, 71A & 73 from the 7<sup>th</sup> July also.

## **Bus Lane Consultation**

The consultation for the Marina bus lane has now closed. Running westbound from Lower Rock Gardens to a resited Sea Life Centre bus stop, the temporary bus lane will be in place during and in conjunction with Valley Gardens 3. The bus lane will be used by buses including the coasters, 27, the Big Lemon's 47 and 52 and Compass Buzz 37/37B.

After a trial period, a decision will take place to assess its suitability to become permanent.

## **273 Improvements**

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May saw a vast improvement to route 273 supported by West Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council. Among the changes were faster journeys taking just one hour between Brighton and Crawley and a new Sunday service along this key A23 corridor. This included removing a few stops between Patcham and Old Steine.

Bolney and Hickstead have been removed on some journeys but those that remain are largely similar to previous journeys. Pyecombe Garage will no longer be served towards Brighton only and Pease Pottage, Black Swan has been removed entirely.

The new timetable includes 271 & 272 connecting between 273's. Buses run between 05.00 and 19.00 Monday to Friday, 07.40 and 19.00 Saturday and 08.55 and 17.40 Sundays.

## **King & Queen Bus Stop**

Requests continue to be made for a stop to be installed outside Ye Old King and Queen in Marlborough Place. This could be part of or follow on from Valley Gardens Three. The raised pavement giving level access here means that little work would be needed. Given its proximity to the junction with North Road, it is expected that only a few services could call here. The Big Lemon have shown an interest in serving and all parties appear supportive of a stop here.

## **CitySAVER Extention**

The entirety of route 77 and 79 have now joined the CitySAVER area. An extension of Brighton & Hove's CitySAVER area will mean day trippers and locals can use Breeze route up to Devil's Dyke and Ditchling Beacon respectively with out extra cost.

Routes 78 & 79, both part of the Breeze network can accommodate two full size bicycles on each trip.

## Big Lemon Woes

A number of cancellations and short workings have been noted recently. This is being put down to changing capacity at the depot. A temporary loan of an Enviro 400 MMC has been made to ease the burden and has so far been seen to be effective.

Updates are usefully being put on the Big Lemon Facebook page. Positive posts of feedback on drivers have also been noted.

## White Horses Bus Stop

The two brick built bus stops outside the White Horses have been revamped and rebuilt. Part of a renovation of and part funded by the White Horses. Passengers can once again await their bus under shelter.



## 27 Reliability Questioned

Concern has been growing about the reliability of the 27. Delayed due to roadworks, the North Street closure and the clock tower junction. Ideas are being looked at to consider how 27 could go forward both considering the 'Coaster Local' brand and Park & Ride facility at Withdean Sport Complex.

## Sustainable Seaford

Both Brighton Buswatch and Transport in Newhaven were represented at the Sustainable Seaford Fair.

A stall with a working diorama of two looping buses and two static ones on 'rail' where alongside key bus timetables for the local area. Those who visited the stall gave great feedback. Among the discussions were those finding out about route 28 and 701 and lots of praise for the coaster service and the new buses.

Brighton Buswatch is hoping to attend further events. The next one is Zero Carbon Peacehaven on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July.

## 13X Improvement

Also from Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June, 13X was increased Monday to Friday to five buses each way, using two buses. This has been fed back as a result of suggestions and feedback to the Buswatch meetings. An hourly service has been reintroduced on summer Saturdays.

## £2 Extended

Buswatch understands that the £2 fare cap has been extended until December 31<sup>st</sup>. This applies to all routes on Brighton & Hove and Compass Travel except: 16, 59A, 70-76A, 91-96, 98, 492, 494 and City/Eastbourne Sightseeing. In some cases the maximum single fare falls below £2 anyway.

With an election looming, its not clear what affect this will have for the £2 price cap from the new year.

## 11X Restarts

11X restarted on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2024, for the Fifteen week summer stint. Linking Peacehaven and Newhaven with Middle Farm, Drusillas Zoo and Eastbourne District General Hospital the route is a scenic alternative to the busier 13X. Note the earlier start this year of 08.45 and running earlier almost throughout. Using a new bus from Whitehawk garage, this has two wheelchair spaces and have both been used on the exclusive 11X section.

## Further Changes At Brighton Buswatch

Brighton Buswatch is now in it's third quarter of the year, with changes being made to most elements of the group. Along with a simpler name, new Facebook group and e-mail, the website and Logo are soon be refreshed and updated. Exciting times indeed.

## Brighton Buswatch meeting

The next public meeting with Brighton & Hove City Council and bus company managers will be on: Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024, at 16.30 in rooms 2 & 3, Brighton Town Hall.

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@gmail.com](mailto:brightonbuswatch@gmail.com).