



**Proudly supporting bus users in
Brighton, Hove and the
surrounding areas**

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May 2025

June changes announced

Brighton & Hove buses have announced improvements to frequencies on some key routes across and radiating out from the city. On Sunday 8th June, the 1X will be increased to every 12 minutes- Monday to Saturday (and every 15 minutes Sunday) - supported by Bus Service Improvement Plan funding. 12X is increased to every 15 minutes (with extended hours Monday – Saturday), plus other improvements. The 13X will run every 20 minutes on Sundays, with a weekday and Saturday Summer service. Route 27 will see a new 15 minutes clock-face timetable, with the aim of improving reliability. On the other hand, route 92 (Telscombe Cliffs to Chyngton) is being withdrawn and replaced with an unusual variant of the 12 bus route, operating via North Peacehaven to Eastbourne.

Farewell to OmniCity buses

Photo courtesy of Nash Travelman

Brighton & Hove buses saw the last run of their faithful fleet of OmniCity buses, having served the city for around 20 years, seeing use on the Coaster and Regency routes, and a host of other services. The last four buses ran their final journeys on route 23 & 25, on Saturday 24th May. Buses are now understood to being sold into private ownership.



New buses enter service

At the time of writing, two new buses have entered service on route 1X. These are part of a *new* batch of 44 ADL Enviro 400 MMC buses. These are similar to buses already running on the 1X and Coaster routes. Of these 44: four will be used on the 1X (which will also replace two duel door buses), three are for the Coaster enhancements listed above, thirteen are for general usage and the remaining 24 are for Regency 28, 29 (etc.) routes, to replace the Gemini buses that have been home on the route for many years now.

Valley Gardens on track

Six months in and Valley Gardens project is continuing as planned; despite the Albion hotel fire, Pool Valley and road closures. Following on from rebuilding the St. James Street junction and opening the Marine Parade bus lane; work will next move onto the other eastern side of Steine Gardens. This will include two way traffic, on the east side of the war memorial. In preparation for this, it will require the southbound bus stop H, to be removed. There have been suggestions that southbound buses could instead stop in the North Street- St. James Street crossover. Valley Gardens 3 remains on course to be completed next summer.

Owlsbury development announced

Just sitting on the boundary of Brighton Buswatch's area of interest, Owlsbury housing development

promises 1,700 homes and amenities. Brighton & Hove Bus have agreed in principle, to run route 29 via Owsbury Roundabout, Uckfield -in connection with the Ridgewood development. There are two entrances to the development. Buswatch notes a big movement has formed against the planning application. This may in part be because the site also sits on the track bed of the former Lewes – Uckfield line.

Buswatch is clear on the need to ensure all developments have good, frequent, and accessible access- to timetabled bus services; before the first property is brought or let.

American Express accepted

Brighton & Hove Buses are now accepting American Express® Cards as payment anywhere across the network. Payment can be made via the mobile app; or tap-on, tap-off, on the bus. Signing up for an account is simple. The former 'Paddle Round the Pier' bus (**Eugenius Birch**) has been decked out in American Express livery since March, in preparation of the roll out.

View from the top deck

Between 22nd April and 1st June, Brighton became an open-air gallery. Photographers Martin Parr & JJ Waller's 'Beside the Seaside' exhibition, showcased photography on top of many of the city's bus shelters, as part of the Brighton Festival. Best seen from the top deck, there were over 60 stunning photographs of British seaside life. A special tour was organised for delegates and friends of arts, to see the photographs.

A23 Cycle lane progresses

Work on the A23 cycle lane along Preston Road continues. Part of the active Travel scheme for Brighton, to further improve access and encourage active travel such as walking and cycling. The project includes the installation of floating bus stops at Springfield Road, Lover's Walk, Nestor Court, Rookery Close and Preston Drove. Buswatch notes previous concerns and awaits feedback on the usability of these stops.

East Sussex disabled passes changes

Disabled National Concession holders are now able to travel within the East Sussex County Council boundaries all day, every day of the week, without the normal scheme time limits. Described as a positive step for East Sussex, this brings the county in line with Brighton & Hove, so travel across from say Portslade to Eastbourne, or Lewes to Hove can be done before 09.30 in the morning and after 23.00 at night (including night buses); removing a barrier to disabled passengers for work, leisure or education.

Stagecoach buses announcing

Following a retrofit, Stagecoach South's fleet of double deck buses are now announcing the number and destination of the bus when passengers board. A two line LED display show this information also, available to all forward facing passengers. Routes expected to include the system are Worthing's 700 & 701. Route 17 already does this on many of its buses. All buses are to be fitted with this systems by 1st October 2026.

Buswatch meeting

The next Brighton Buswatch meeting is expected to take place on 16th July. Please look out for further details of this meeting, as details may change. Space is normally limited, so please e-mail Buswatch or message via Brighton Buswatch Facebook group- if you would like to attend, as a guest or raise an issue.

Buswatch Newsletter is produced and edited by Nash, at Brighton Area Buswatch. Contributions and suggestions are always welcome.

Brighton Area Buswatch 2025