

Brighton Area Buswatch

Representing local bus users



A branch of Bus Users UK

Buswatch News – January 2019

Our next meeting has been changed

This issue has been brought forward because we need to change the date of our next meeting on 23 January. It will now take place on **Tuesday 29 January**, at the usual time, 5pm in Brighton Town Hall. All are welcome but please let us know in advance if you wish to attend as space is limited.

Stagecoach fares increase

Fares on Stagecoach buses will be increased from 6 January. Most prices will increase by 10p. A one-day ticket in Brighton & Hove area will cost £4.40 but will be available for £4.15 on the mobile app. The Nightrider ticket valid for unlimited travel anywhere on Stagecoach buses after 7pm is unchanged at £2.50. A Dayrider gold valid throughout the south will be £8.80 but for just 20p more you can buy a Discovery Ticket which is valid on other local bus operators including Brighton & Hove and Compass Bus. Full details are available at www.stagecoachbus.com.

Brighton & Hove fares

More details are now available for Brighton & Hove Buses fares which change on 15 January. As reported last month, most cash prices are unchanged but there are some increases on Key card and M ticket prices. The One Day City Saver becomes a 24-hour ticket for £4.50 but this is only available as an M ticket. One-day Key cards and stratchcards are still valid for just one day which may create some confusion. More details on www.buses.co.uk.

The next Buswatch News will include our annual comparison chart showing how local bus fares compare with other areas.

Compass Bus changes

A number of changes are being made to Compass Bus services in East Sussex from 7 January. Most are minor reductions involving the withdrawal of lightly used journeys in the Lewes area. Route 143 (Lewes – Ringmer - Hailsham – Eastbourne) has revised timings and is withdrawn between Hailsham and Eastbourne. Passengers are advised to use alternative Stagecoach services between Hailsham and Eastbourne. Full details on www.compass-travel.co.uk.

North Street bus stop closures

Brighton & Hove Buses closed the bus stops in North Street between 4pm and 6.30pm just before Christmas. These are very busy stops and very handy for shoppers. We are told they were closed to keep traffic flowing, which it did, but it also created a lot of inconvenience for bus users. There were posters on the stops and the real time information screens explained that buses would not be stopping – but gave no information on where passengers should go instead. Some passengers were left with a long walk, often in strong winds and rain while carrying lots of shopping. Sadly, there were no staff on hand to help. We raised our concerns with Brighton & Hove Buses and hope this situation won't get repeated.

Valley Gardens Phase 3 plans

Brighton & Hove City Council have revised their timescales after the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) which was due to approve the funding cancelled its December meeting. The LEP will now consider the proposals on 22 January. Assuming funding is approved, a special meeting of Brighton & Hove City Council's Environment Transport & Sustainability Committee will be held on 7 February to consider the results of the consultation. It is expected that a further consultation will take place afterwards with a final decision by the Council due in March.

Brighton Area Buswatch meeting

The next meeting with bus company managers and Brighton & Hove City Council will be at 5pm on **Tuesday 29 January 2019 (revised date)** in Brighton Town Hall. Meetings are open to all, but space is limited so please contact Buswatch at the address below if you wish to join us.

Buswatch News is produced and edited by Andrew Boag, Chair, Brighton Area Buswatch. We welcome your contributions and suggestions. The next issue is due mid-February 2019.

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brightonbuswatch.org



Brighton Area Buswatch is a branch of Bus Users UK www.bususers.org