



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

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July 2025

Pride 2025

The first weekend of August sees the biggest event in Brighton's calendar - Brighton Pride. As with previous years; special arrangements have been put in place, due to the various road closures stretching from Aquarium roundabout to Preston Drive. During the parade on Saturday, there will be no through services. With all but two routes affected, many services will be terminating at Park Street, The Level, or Churchill Square. Arrangements of all operators (bar Flixbus and Stagecoach) are available on the Brighton & Hove app. and website. Information for the 17 & 700 is available from the Stagecoach website, which can be found on the Buswatch Facebook group page (and website).



Photo courtesy of Nash Travelman

New Park & Ride service starts

Sunday 3rd August sees the introduction of Brighton newest Park & Ride service. Operating between the University of Sussex campus at Falmer, to a new city centre bus stop in Marlborough Place, south of the 'King & Queen' pub. The services runs every 15 minutes between 09.00 and 21.00, mostly at weekends and Bank Holidays, through August (Sunday 10th, 17th and 24th August and runs additionally on Saturday 23rd, Monday 25th and Saturday 30th August). The cost is simply £7 per car, including all passengers.

Brought in with the slogan 'Ride Here, Ride Now', a reference the Fatboy Slim's hit; it is different type of operation to that of Brighton & Hove's existing stopping service 27, between the Withdean Sports Centre and various places within the city centre and out towards Saltdean. This remains. Suggestions have been put forward for dedicated Park & Ride services from Mill Road, and from Newhaven.

Changes are coming to route 17

From the 10th August- some journeys on Stagecoach service 17 will change. These include improved morning and afternoon journeys between Partridge Green & Horsham.

The 1720 Brighton to Partridge Green will extend to Horsham. Due to low demand, the 0810 Brighton to Partridge Green and 1617 Partridge Green to Brighton are being withdrawn.

More Electric buses announced

Brighton & Hove Buses have announced an order of some 29 electric buses. These will be based at their Conway Street depot- for routes '6' & '7' and a few buses for the '5' group of routes. A demonstrator is currently being used on route 7 to test suitability, and gain experience of running electric buses on such a city route. This demonstrator now has the Brighton & Hove Bus company logo, and is expected to remain here until the newer buses arrive. It's not clear whether the new buses will see changes to the design.

Our City Plan consultation

Brighton & Hove City Council want to shape the future of transport in the city for the next decade.

The group has major concerns, and will hopefully issue an update soon. The survey is open for feedback until Sunday 10 August and can be found on the Brighton & Hove City council website.

Mulling over devolution

Brighton & Hove City Council and East Sussex are reviewing and scrutinizing four options, as they prepare for the reorganization of local government, which will include a new mayor. Part of the merger could see East Saltdean, Newhaven and Kingston (in East Sussex) merged with Brighton & Hove. The impact of devolution on bus services, still remains unclear. The Mayor is expected to oversee Transport matters.

Seafront consultation closes

The consultation on the A259 Active Travel scheme has closed. This would *mostly* see a major new two way cycle lane on the south side of the coast road, extending to the West Sussex boarder. Bus stops are to become more evenly spaced, with new Real Time Information screens, shelters and mostly better crossing points. Buswatch has stated that whilst some concerns remain, we have taken a broadly neutral stance, in supporting the proposals. With a hope that the service 700 will see improvements.

Pride bus enters service

A new Pride bus has been launched following a public consultation. In a striking combination of green, orange, pink and blue- with symbols of Pride adorning the bus. Stating prominently 'Pride our City & Beyond', it replaces the previous Gemini bus which was used on the Regency routes. This Wright Streetdeck bus (numbered 854) is named after David Raven, who died in March this year and was one of the oldest working Drag artists in the world, named Maisie Trollette.

Scaffolding at Castle Square

Buswatch notes scaffolding, adorned with adverts, has been erected around the former RBS building. This is close to the new Castle Square. It is hoped that this is removed before the stop becomes operational.

Service 18 issues

At our latest quarterly Buswatch meeting, recent reliability issues on the route 18 were highlighted. It was suggested the infinite looping nature of the route, and having two different routes west of Brighton Station have contributed to the difficulties operating the route reliably. Options are now being explored to support the route going forwards.

Coaches

Buswatch notes that Coaches have been repeatedly picking up and setting down passengers, in the new Marine Parade bus lane. This has caused some issues for buses. A coach is also likely to have severely damaged the recently installed bus stop, at Sea Life Centre (westbound). Recently, parking attendants have been posted to the area and fines of around £30 have been issued. Alternative solutions are being discussed.

Buswatch meeting

The next Brighton Buswatch meeting takes place on 15th October- at **16.00** – on the **ground** floor, Brighton Town Hall, Bartholomew Rd, Brighton BN1 1JW. As 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.