



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

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June 2025

More new buses enter service

The first of 24 new buses have entered service on Regency routes 28, 29, 29A, 29B and 29X. These will replace Gemini buses that have been home to the route for many years now. This is the first time Lewes, Uckfield and Tunbridge Wells residents have been treated to a full fleet of buses equipped with two wheelchair spaces, a table, wireless and USB A & C charging. As a temporary measure, new blue buses from the batch of 44 buses- have been assigned to help train drivers, who need to get used to new features such as camera wing mirrors.



Photo courtesy of Nash Travelman

Flixbus to start

A new daily coach route 066 is due to start on Thursday 3rd July. Running between Brighton and Cambridge P & R, via Gatwick, and Stratford (London). Cost for the trip is around £7.49 to Stratford (single) and £12.49 to Cambridge (day return). This is operated by new coach operator Flixbus, which was established in the UK in 2020. Journeys are now shown on their website and bustimes.org. As Pool Valley is closed and during VG3 works, it is assumed coaches will be stopping and starting at A&O. Coaches are due to leave Brighton at 10.00, 12.00, 20.00 & 22.00, taking 2 hours 35 minutes to Stratford and 4 hours to Cambridge.

Electric bus on test

Brighton & Hove Buses are operating Brighton's first all-electric double decker bus. It is currently being used as a demonstrator vehicle, in preparation for a batch of all-electric buses for route 7. Amongst the features, this dark blue bus features new charging facilities and tip up seats at the rear, for passengers to put their feet up! A quick and quiet experience, the bus has been described as having a 'nice ambience'. Both Buswatch and Brighton & Hove would love to hear your thoughts.

Consultation on Seafront route

Brighton & Hove City Council are holding a Public Consultation for the A259 Hove and Portslade Active Travel Scheme from 16th June to Sunday 27th July. This will create a new two-way cycle lane, on the south side of the main coast road, between the current scheme at Fourth Avenue and the city's western boundary. This includes improved pavements, relocated bus stops and some road narrowing. Drop in events will take place on Thursday 3rd July - Ballroom, King Alfred Leisure Centre, Kingsway, Hove, BN3 2WW – 16.00 – 19.00 and Thursday 10th July – Baddeley Hall, South Portslade Community Centre, 14.00 – 17.00.

Our City Transport Plan 2035

Brighton & Hove City Council want to shape the future of transport in the city for the next decade. This includes electric vehicles, active travel, public transport infrastructure, improved traffic flows and maintenance. Core objectives include increased public transport usage and delivering an inclusive and integrated transport system. Although concerns remain about the plan, especially the lack of a coherent future bus lane strategy. The survey is open for feedback until Sunday 10 August and can be found on the Brighton & Hove City council website.

Beach bus enters service

A new beach bus has been launched. In a striking blue, the images feature beach huts, seagulls and the sun. The key message is to 'Take me to the Beach'. A consultation also took place for a new pride bus design. In both cases these will replace the aforementioned decorated Geminis buses, which are being transferred to the Crawley depot. The former Brighton Beach bus- with its ice cream, sunglasses and windmills can occasionally be found on Metrobus routes 271, 272 & 273.

Confirmation of King & Queen bus stop

There has been **confirmation** that the King & Queen bus stop on Marlborough Place will be going ahead, once phase three works at Valley Gardens are complete. There is already an accessible 'Kassel' kerb, and the stop is well positioned for Brighton Museum & Art Gallery, Royal Pavilion, The Dome and Events at Victoria and Pavilion Gardens. It's not yet clear, what route(s) will stop there.

North Street scaffolding gone

Scaffolding that surrounded the eastbound bus stop 'C' at North Street, has now been removed; having been in place for a considerable length of time. It is hoped the real time information screens will be replaced as these can now be accessed without obstruction. We still await news on the scaffolding at Clock Tower southbound, with coastal buses stopping at Portland Street for the duration of the stop suspension.

11X to restart

11X returns on Sunday 20th July for the summer- operating on summer Sundays until September. The route links Brighton, Saltdean, Peacehaven and Newhaven limited stop, with Charleston, Firle, Drusillas and EDGH on three round trips starting at 08.45. Amongst the changes this year, buses will no longer serve the Pier; but will serve all stops between Polegate, St Georges Church, and Eastbourne Town Centre, along the 28 route.

Praise for London to Brighton run

Buswatch notes that the arrangements for the London to Brighton bike ride went very well with the impact on bus services being minimised with some professional planning in comparison to previous years. Amongst the alterations, routes 48 & 49 operated as a shuttle service to The Avenue; connecting with service 25, operating on an anti-clockwise loop, around the Lewes Road, University, then back via Hollingbury.

Buswatch meeting

The next Brighton Buswatch meeting takes place on 16th July at **15.00** – 2nd floor, Bartholomew House, Bartholomew Square, BN1 1JE. Due to usually restricted space at the new temporary location, please e-mail Buswatch or message via Brighton Buswatch Facebook group, if you would like to attend.

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

Brighton Area Buswatch 2025