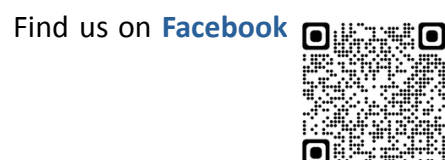




**Proudly supporting bus users in
Brighton, Hove and the
surrounding areas**

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May 2026

Electric buses enter service:

15 of 16 new all electric buses have now entered service. Numbered 601 to 616. All 15 operated route 7 for the first time on Friday 8th May. This is all part of a £10.5 million project (2.9 million ZEBRA money from the DfT) to support Zero Emission buses in the city. Buses have been seen on routes 2, 6, 21 and associated school services. A launch event took place on April 13th, with attendees, presentations and speeches- including from The Deputy Lieutenant, the Mayor, Brighton & Hove City Councillors, key representatives and charities.



An additional £2.3 million funding under the same scheme, will allow the introduction of a further 13 electric buses, taking the total to 29. This will allow 8 double-decker vehicles to be used route 6 (up by two buses), so the service can be increased from every 16 minutes to every 12 minutes. A further five double-decker vehicles will allow the partially conversion of routes 5, 5A & 5B to electric buses. This is expected to be operational by September 2026.

More electric buses announced:

At the event, it was announced there would be another 16 buses for Conway Street, taking the fleet to 45. Buses are planned to be put on routes 2, 6 and 46. This funding is part of the ZEBRA bid from West Sussex County Council, which includes 11 for Stagecoach South (Portsmouth depot) for the route 700.

Sunday services introduced on 272:

From the 9th May, routes 271 & 272 gained an improved Monday to Saturday evening service and a new Sunday/Bank Holiday service on route 272. This will be the first time a Sunday/Bank Holiday service has operated beyond Haywards Heath via Lindfield, Wakehurst Place, Turners Hill & Copthorne. Four out of the eight journeys will use the route, giving a combined hourly service with route 271 between Haywards Heath & Crawley, with a gap over lunch.

Route 20 planned:

It has been confirmed publicly that route 18 will be linked with route 50, providing a new cross-city route, benefiting both communities with new links and intended better reliability.

The planned route is as follows:

Hollingdean to London Road Shops - Cheapside – Fredrick Place for Brighton Station- Imperial Arcade (for Churchill Square) – North Street bus stops N1 & N4 - St James's St - Queens Park.

Returning from Queens Park via - Old Steine – North Street stop N5 - Churchill Square (Imperial Arcade) - Brighton Station - North Road - London Road Shops – Hollingdean.

Alongside this, a new, fairly limited daytime connection will be provided between Hollingdean and the Lewes Road Sainsbury's; following concerns over route 20 connectivity. The London Road shops is the current service 50's busiest stop – so no change is required. Homeless House (formally served by the service 18) is only used by around 7 passengers a day – so other options are being explored by Buswatch. There are no changes to the frequency of either route. Waitrose continues to be served by route 21 to Queens Park.

This follows a massive amount of work finding a workable, cost effective and realistic solution following an approach to Buswatch, seeking to address losses on route 18. This change should benefit the majority of bus users. Bus use generally has flat-lined recently and this needs to be considered when addressing service issues. Linking the 18 to the 50 was not one of the suggestions put forward by Buswatch (apart from perhaps the bus number). The change should take place mid-June.

A27 roadworks:

Other changes will take place from Monday 13th April: The building of a Greg's on A27 just west of Falmer, has brought about serious congestion on the eastbound approach from Hollingbury. During this time, buses on routes 3X, 23 and Regency routes, have all been diverted via the University. Traffic trying to avoid this, has also increased congestion on the A259, towards Newhaven. This has given an opportunity for Buswatch to analyse traffic patterns and behaviour.

VG3 nearing completion:

Valley Gardens 3 is nearing the end. Though no date has been set, the roundabout has been removed with new traffic signals being fitted. Following the removal of the lights to the west of Aquarium roundabout, traffic is starting to ease on the approach from the east. Concerns remain about Coaches stopping here.

Currently stop N4 is out of use, due to pavement works opposite in Castle Square. The stop, served by 2, 18, 21 & 22 cannot be served, as buses cannot overtake stopping services. Passengers for 21 & 22 are being directed to stop R1. Concerns remain around access to St James's Street and the impact on businesses. With a petition to create a new stop next to Sainsbury's, southbound, in the Old Steine.

A23 bus lane work begins:

Work has begun on a crossings- at Patcham. Part of the combined new bus and cycle lane, on this key route into the city. Built on the southbound side of the A23- between Brangwyn Crescent and Brangwyn Drive, the lane will operate 24 hours a day, replacing the current cycle lane. It can be also be used by taxis. Changes to the road include reducing the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph. Routes 17, 270 – 273, 025, 066 & 998 will all benefit from this new bus lane.

Brighton station bus stop moves:

It was announced that route 27 (Coaster Local) buses will be moving to stop B4 replacing 3X which will now move to B2 opposite the station entrance, where the '27' currently stops. This is being done to better support passengers at times of disruption, with a universal stopping point for all coaster services.

There remains concerns around taxi pick-ups and set-downs in the area, impacting buses stopping.

Buswatch meeting:

The next Brighton Buswatch meeting takes place on **15th July 2026 at 16.00 – Location to be announced.** Space is strictly limited and interest is gathering, so please e-mail Buswatch or message via Brighton Buswatch Facebook group to be included.

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