



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

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August 2025

September – It's Catch The Bus Month!

Catch the bus Month is here again, and this year's idea is to 'simply catch the bus'. Launched by Bus Users UK, areas all over the country will be coming together to celebrate, with events. Do look out for local events in September hosted by bus groups and companies. Bus Users UK, whom Buswatch supports the work of, also celebrates 50 Years of **improving access to public transport**.



Photo courtesy of Nash Travelman

LTP5 extension

The deadline for Brighton & Hove City Council's consultation on its Local Transport Plan 5 has been extended. This will shape the future of transport in the city for the next decade. The plan includes electric vehicles, active travel, other infrastructure, improved traffic flows and maintenance. This is the public's opportunity to have their say. Brighton's bus services are pivotal to the city's social and economic well-being. So while Brighton Buswatch is grateful for the current Bus priority, and red routes currently being introduced; the lack of any further bus priority (in various forms) in the forward programme is a glaring omission- leaving effectively a cycle and pedestrian only Transport policy. We have submitted feedback and this can soon be found on the Buswatch website.

Your bus service needs you!

This consultation closes on Friday 12th September – so please take part! It's hard to tell what the future holds, but if you think that bus services are important, then positive bus measures (especially bus priority) are needed in the council's Local Transport plan. You can find the consultation on the Brighton & Hove City website (search 'Consultations').

3X announced

An exciting new service- the 3X- has been announced and will be launched on the Sunday 28th September. Operating between Hangleton and Falmer, the route opens up faster and very different connections across the city. It will be the first route to skirt the city centre, without serving North Street. Areas connected- include Hove Polyclinic, Brighton Station, Lewes Road and Amex Stadium. With buses specifically timed to meet certain services at Hove Station. Introduced in partnership with BHCC (Brighton & Hove City Council) as part of their BSIP (Bus Service Improvement Plan). The service will operate every 15 minutes during the day. Bright blue bus stop poles will appear across the 23 limited stops. The service will be operated by buses similar to those on route 1X, Regency and Coaster – fitted with tables, wireless charging, USB charging points and two wheelchair bays. *Stop Press*: Buswatch is happy to hear that the new service, will not be at

the expense of reducing the service 5 group of routes- and will be an additional service. We await to see if there any changes to services.

700 now 24/7

Stagecoach South has introduced a new 24 hours a day, 7 days a week service, on the Route 700; thanks to the partnership with West Sussex County Council, using BSIP funding. The new timetable started on 31st August, with additional morning and evening journeys for 700. The N700 now runs 7 night a week- serving Goring, Durrington, and Broadwater, back to Central Worthing- using a unidirectional loop. While these changes are warmly welcomed, however this follows a holiday period when a number of cancellations were experienced along the route.

Valley Gardens bus stop changes

As part of the next phase of 'Valley Gardens 3', work continues alongside the Royal Pavilion- constructing a new cycle lane, plus new pedestrian crossings adjacent to the Edward Street and St James's Street junctions. From the 28th September- all westbound buses will use the longer route, serving the bus stops on the south-west corner of the Old Steine (stops T and U), instead of stop X. Buswatch notes that these stops will become very heavily used, with potential for an increase in delays. We await details and impact of this.

New school route

In line with the new school term from 3rd September, Brighton & Hove buses have announced a new commercial school route 94B. This brand-new service links Whitehawk, Manor Hill and Elm Grove together with Varndean School and Dorothy Stringer School. This supplements routes 94 and 94A which have been very popular and avoids the need to change buses. Following changes to catchments/admission areas, Brighton Buswatch are keen to see services amended to reflect this.

Park & Ride ends

The weekend of the August 31st saw the last 'new' Park & Ride service of this summer season. Operating between University of Sussex campus, at Falmer- to the 'King & Queen' (Marlborough Place), in the City Centre. The service operated on Sundays 10th, 17th and 24th August; plus on Saturday 23rd, Monday 25th and Saturday 30th August. Before the bank holiday weekend, some 500 passengers had use the service, with a greater uptake observed on the following full weekend of service. **Buswatch awaits with interest the overall outcome and if it is considered successful, any news of its reintroduction in time for Christmas.**

New Boots scaffolding removal

Buswatch notes that the scaffolding at Boots on North Street is starting to be removed. When complete, it is expected that Coaster, 7, 47, 52 and Sightseeing buses -will all return to using the southbound Clock Tower bus stop on Queens Road.

Buswatch meeting

The next Brighton Buswatch meeting takes place on 15th October at **16.00 – 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.

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

Brighton Area Buswatch 2025