

## **BARKING-GOSPEL OAK LINE USER GROUP**

Chairman: Alderman Frederick Jones,  
Barking & Dagenham Council

Secretary: Richard H Pout MILT,

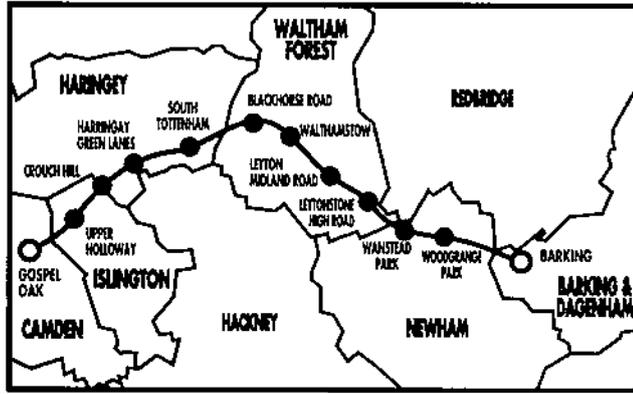
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2009

### **OVERGROUND BOSSES U-TURN OVER REPLACEMENT BUSES**

**Transport for London Rail restores half-hourly buses to replace  
Barking – Gospel Oak trains during weekend engineering work**

**Rail user group welcomes “outbreak of common sense”!**

Members of the Barking – Gospel Oak Line User Group (BGOLUG) welcomed news that Transport for London Rail (TfL Rail) had reversed its decision to cut buses replacing trains between Barking and Gospel Oak to one an hour and were restoring buses to half-hourly from Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

Managers from TfL Rail and their operator London Overground Rail Operations Limited (LOROL) had caused uproar at a recent BGOLUG meeting (10<sup>th</sup> February at Barking Town Hall) by dropping the bombshell that the 30-minute weekend frequency train service had been replaced by an hourly bus service due to pressure on budgets.

“We made it quite clear an hourly bus was totally unacceptable and that we would fight the decision all the way to the Rail Regulator if we had to,” said BGOLUG Secretary Richard Pout. “We therefore welcome this outbreak of common sense, something that always seems to be in short supply at TfL Rail.”

There is a sting in the tail however. LOROL have announced that the replacement buses will no longer pick up or set down at Walthamstow Central after Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. This stop for the rail replacement buses had been introduced during the month long closure of the rail service for engineering work last September. Although the rail replacement buses will still pass Walthamstow Central, they will now only stop in South Grove, near Walthamstow Queen’s Road station. “Passengers arriving at Walthamstow Central by bus or Chingford Line train will now have a unnecessary 10-minute walk to South Grove”, said Richard Pout. “Is TfL Rail and LOROL making another decision without fully considering the needs of passengers?”

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT RICHARD POUT ON 07970 722991  
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