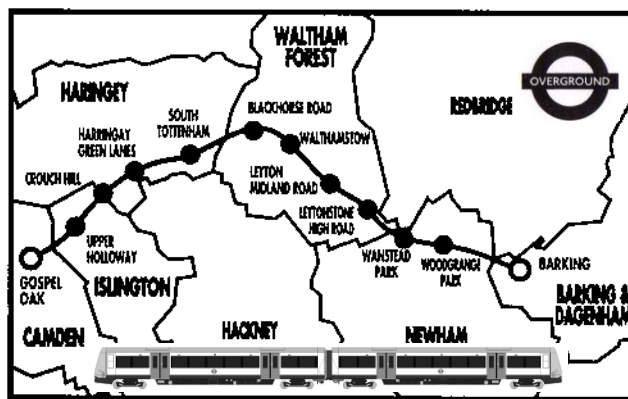


BARKING – GOSPEL OAK RAIL USER GROUP

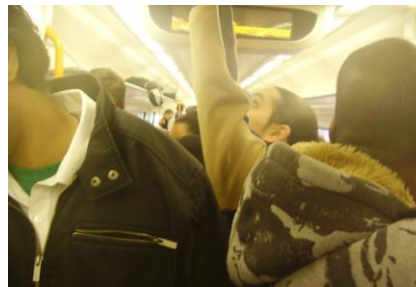
Chairman: Alderman Frederick Jones,
Barking & Dagenham Council

Secretary: Glenn Wallis
(020) 8529 2361; 07789 791224

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NEWS RELEASE

13th January 2015

BUS STRIKE DELAYS RAIL USERS!

Not only were many thousands of TfL's bus users affected, but several thousands of TfL's rail users were too!

A local rail user group who warned that the bus strike would cause difficulties for rail commuters on Transport for London's Barking – Gospel Oak Line had their worst fears confirmed this morning.

By 07:00 trains were leaving Barking so packed that by the time they arrived late, delayed by the crowds trying to board at previous stations, at Leyton Midland Road station, just four stops up the line from Barking, there was no longer any room for the passengers to get on the tiny, crush loaded, 2-carriage diesel trains.

Secretary of the Barking – Gospel Oak Rail User Group¹, Glenn Wallis, was able to monitor the situation via the internet and from the Tweets of the hapless passengers. "The 07:03 from Barking was so overloaded that it was around 10 minutes late for its return trip, the 07:50 Gospel Oak to Barking, but never made it breaking down at Woodgrange Park. Passengers reported being left in the dark as to what was going on. Even TfL's² Twitter feed insisted that there was a 'good service'!"





BUS STRIKE DELAYS RAIL USERS!

The sole morning train to Willesden Junction was stopped and sent back to Barking to replace the broken down train to work the 08:33 from Barking. If the broken down train is not repaired by this evening the following services will be cancelled:

- 17:19 South Tottenham to Gospel Oak
- 17:28 Gospel Oak to Barking
- 18:58 Barking to Upper Holloway

Said Glenn Wallis, "All I can do is repeat earlier warnings, to passengers not to travel, seek an alternative route, or delay their journeys and allow plenty of time to get to their destination.

The Barking – Gospel Oak service, with no additional carriages or trains expected until late 2017 at the earliest, is in the midst of a long term overcrowding crisis."

Barking – Gospel Oak Line passengers can keep in touch with what's going on or tell BGORUG what's going on via our website www.barking-gospeloak.org.uk or Twitter feed @RidingtheGoblin.

- ENDS -

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
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NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. Formed as the Barking – Kentish Town Line Committee to fight Dr. Beeching's proposed closure of the line in the mid 1960s, the Barking – Gospel Oak Rail User Group has continued to represent the line's passengers and campaign for improved services and station facilities, and also for the electrification of the only non-electrified railway in North East London, now finally approved by the Government on 26 June 2013. However, Network Rail will not complete the until late 2017 at the earliest.
2. Following the transfer of responsibility for the former Silverlink Metro services from the Department for Transport (DfT) in 2006, Transport for London (TfL), let the London Rail Concession to London Overground Rail Operations Ltd (LOROL), a joint Hong Kong/German owned venture, to operate the London Overground network from November 2007 until March 2014, subsequently extended to November 2016 by TfL.

