

BARKING-GOSPEL OAK LINE USER GROUP
www.barking-gospeloak.org.uk

DECEMBER 2007 NEWS UPDATE

NEW TIMETABLE FROM DECEMBER 9th BRINGS MORE IMPROVEMENTS!

We are delighted to report that the new timetable from Dec 9th will include the following improvements:

- Extra late-night Monday-Saturday trains from Gospel Oak at 22 55 and 23 25. This answers our long-standing call for later last-train times in the eastbound direction. We have asked for a 23:38 from Barking; this is being considered.
- The same timetable on Saturdays as runs on Mondays to Fridays, ie a 20-minute service for much of the morning and from mid-afternoon to early evening
- Major improvements to Sunday services. First trains will be at 08 50 from Gospel Oak and 09 05 (an hour earlier than now) from Barking. Last trains will be at 23 20 from Gospel Oak – two hours later than now! – and 23 05 from Barking (an hour later than now). Sunday services will now run half-hourly throughout. At last we have a full Sunday service worthy of the name!

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR SERVICES ON OUR LINE

We understand that trains will run every 30 minutes on the following dates:

Dec 24th: From G Oak: First: 06:25; Last: 20:25; From Bkg: First: 06:38; Last: 21:08.

Dec 25th & 26th: No service.

Dec 27th: From G Oak: First: 07:55; Last: 23:25; From Bkg: First: 08:08; Last: 23:08.

Dec 28th & 29th: From G Oak: First: 06:25; Last: 23:25; From Bkg: First: 06:38; Last 23:08.

Dec 30th: Normal Sunday Timetable applies.

Dec 31st: From G Oak: First: 06:25; Last 23:25; From Bkg: First: 06:38; Last: 23:08.

Jan 1st: From G Oak: First: 09:25; Last: 23:25; From Bkg: First: 10:08; Last: 23:08.

OVERCROWDING & SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

At our November meeting, we once again impressed on TfL and London Overground (LOROL) the urgent need to address the present rush-hour overcrowding and bring in some interim timetable improvements. They are considering our suggested draft timetable, which would give 4 trains an hour during the main part of the peak period, and are also looking at ways of making better use of the available space within our existing trains, eg by replacing the rows of 3 seats with rows of 2 seats, freeing up extra gangway space. This seems sensible to us – the 3-seat rows are not popular and the middle seat is often left unoccupied – but we asked in exchange for the single seats inside each doorway to be labelled-up as priority seating for those most in need (the elderly, people with disabilities etc). LOROL plan to seal the on-train toilets, but we would prefer these to be kept in full service rather than being locked. TfL assured us that – contrary to stories in the railway press – they are confident that the new trains for our line WILL be delivered on time in December 2009 – though the order is still for only 2-car trains. TfL did not rule out ordering centre cars at a future date. We are continuing to press for these trains to be delivered as 3-car units to cope with the ever-rising demand.

AND FINALLY.....Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to one & all!