

BARKING-GOSPEL OAK LINE USER GROUP

Chairman: Alderman Frederick Jones, Barking & Dagenham Council

Secretary: Richard Pout, (020) 8348 5064, 07970 722991

Assistant Secretary: Glenn Wallis, (020) 529 2361, 07789 791224

www.barking-gospeloak.org.uk
info@barking-gospeloak.org.uk



News update, November 2008

More engineering work announced.

Transport for London (TfL) has announced more dates for engineering work on this London Overground line.

Sunday 16th November

Train services over whole line will be suspended and replaced by a half-hourly bus service calling as near as possible to all stations. We have asked TfL to ensure that every station has clear information regarding the times of the replacement buses, and showing where they stop.

Sundays 23rd & 30th November, 7th December, Saturday 13th December and Sunday 14th December and Saturday 20th December & Sunday 21st December

Train services will be replaced by buses between Barking and South Tottenham. The rail service between Gospel Oak and South Tottenham will continue to operate. Saturday services may be less frequent than normal. Intending passengers should check station posters, BGOLUG or TfL websites or phone TfL's 24-hour enquiry service on 020 722 1234 before travelling.

These closures are to allow Network Rail to complete the bridge rebuilding works started in September.

Engineering work continues in 2009

Passengers should also note that Network Rail will be carrying out re-signalling work next year and some disruption should be expected **every weekend** between February and September. Intending weekend passengers are strongly advised to check what services are running before travelling.

Priority seats

Following the removal of 18 seats from each of the line's trains to allow more room for standing passengers during the seriously overcrowded peak periods, TfL is adopting BGOLUG's suggestion for designating some train seats near the doorways as priority seats for those less able to stand.

New trains delayed.....

Eight new trains ordered for the Barking-Gospel Oak Line for December 2009 delivery are now expected to enter service in early 2010. These trains will be 2-car diesel units with coaches 3m longer than the existing trains. TfL believes that these new trains, running every 15-minutes, are sufficient to end the serious overcrowding peak period passengers endure on their way to work. We disagree. BGOLUG has resolutely argued that TfL is yet again underestimating the additional passengers that improved "turn up and go" services will attract and the new trains will soon be swamped.

BGOLUG insists that trains must have at least three coaches and preferably be electric ones. If the line, the only non electrified line in north-east London were electrified, 3-car trains displaced by newer models, could be transferred from the North London Line.

.....but September 2009 confirmed for improved timetable

TfL has confirmed that the improved and very welcome 15-minute frequency timetable should start as soon as the Network Rail resignalling is completed, planned for September 2009. LOROL plans to "hire in" an extra train for the improved timetable, which they hope will reduce the serious overcrowding on the line's peak services. BGOLUG have been pressing TfL to introduce immediately a limited peak period 15-minute frequency to relieve passengers enduring crush loading conditions now. This would only require the retiming of a handful of freight trains.