



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

Chairman: Alderman Frederick Jones, Barking & Dagenham Council  
Secretary: Richard H Pout B.Sc. Econ. MILT, (020) 8348 5064, 07970 722991  
Assistant Secretary: Glenn Wallis, (020) 8529 2361, 07789 791224

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



### **BARKING – GOSPEL OAK LINE USER GROUP eBULLETIN 27 SEPTEMBER 2012**

- ❖ **WEEKEND ENGINEERING SUMMARY**
- ❖ **ELECTRIFICATION STAYS IN THE NEWS**
- ❖ **LONDON GATEWAY DEVELOPMENTS**
- ❖ **APATHY RULES?**

#### ❖ **WEEKEND ENGINEERING SUMMARY**

- **EAST LONDON LINE CLOSURES EARLY AND LATE SUNDAY**
- **NO SUNDAY EUSTON – WATFORD JUNCTION LOCALS**
- **WEST LONDON LINE CLOSED SUNDAY**
- **LUL CENTRAL LINE CLOSED SUNDAY LEYTONSTONE – HAINAULT**
- **NATIONAL EXPRESS C2C CLOSED SUNDAY UPMINSTER – PITSEA**
- **FIRST CAPITAL CONNECT HERTFORD LOOP CLOSED SUNDAY**

Attached is the full summary of engineering works affecting London Overground and other Underground and national rail services with direct interchanges or stations with in walking distance of the Barking – Gospel Oak Line.

#### ❖ **ELECTRIFICATION STAYS IN THE NEWS**

On 19<sup>th</sup> September London Assembly Member for the City & East London asked the following two questions of London Mayor Boris Johnson:

##### ***Gospel Oak to Barking (1)***

Question number                      2554/2012

Meeting date                              19/09/2012

##### ***Question by John Biggs***

*What steps have you taken to challenge the Government's bizarre Catch 22 like situation on this vital project to ensure that it happens? Would you agree with me that, while the line is certainly used for local services, it is a vital strategic link for our national rail system?*

##### ***Answer by Boris Johnson***

*I have written to the Secretary of State for Transport very recently to make just that point, namely that it is a vital strategic link for our national rail system. TfL officers are working with DfT officials and Network Rail staff to explore every avenue to progress this.*

**Gospel Oak to Barking (2)**

Question number 2556/2012

Meeting date 19/09/2012

**Question by John Biggs**

*Are you acquainted with the idea that at a relatively low cost this might be extended, mainly over existing lines but also across development land to help facilitate regeneration of the Barking Riverside area? Is this an initiative you are happy to explore?*

**Answer by Boris Johnson**

*TfL is currently reviewing options to help facilitate growth in the Barking Riverside area. One option under consideration is the possible extension of the Overground network from Barking station to terminate at Barking Riverside. Engineering and demand assessments are underway to assess the feasibility and cost of this.*

The answer to question No. 1 seems to indicate that the Mayor has made his first personal approach to a Minister or Secretary of State for Transport regarding the Barking – Gospel Oak Line electrification issue since his ‘spat’ with Labour Transport Secretary Lord Adonis back in 2009. It also confirms BGOLUG’s understanding that Transport for London were in active negotiations with Network Rail (NR) and the Department of Transport (DfT). BGOLUG thanks John Biggs for his help in shining some light on this somewhat murky affair.

The bumper Golden Anniversary October edition of *Modern Railways* should be in the shops tomorrow and carries a letter from BGOLUG’s previous secretary, Graham Larkbey highlighting the folly of not including Barking – Gospel Oak electrification in the Government’s July HLOS announcement (thanks Graham) along with the news that TfL is in negotiations with NR to get the scheme included in the 2013 NR Strategic Business Plan. Industry and Technology Editor Roger Ford’s Informed Sources Preview email is included in this dispatch.

Also attached is a copy of the article on the line that appeared recently in *RAIL 703* which has been kindly supplied to BGOLUG by the publisher.

**❖ LONDON GATEWAY DEVELOPMENTS**

Not reported so far was the news in August’s *Modern Railways* that major rail freight haulier DB Schenker (DBS) had signed a deal with DP World, the developers of the new super deep-sea port at Thames Haven (Corringham) on 2<sup>nd</sup> July to provide rail services from the opening of the terminal next Autumn. DBS will operate at least four arrivals and departures serving the three shipping berths that will be operational at opening. When fully operational there will be six shipping berths and the two square mile site will contain Europe’s largest logistics park. It is hoped to be able to write more about London gateway in the near future.

**❖ APATHY RULES?**

Your Assistant Secretary was disappointed that there were only two volunteers, both long term members, who responded to his appeal for help to hand out the passenger newsletter. Any of our more recent members want to help us out?

Glenn Wallis  
Assistant Secretary  
Barking – Gospel Oak Line User Group