

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT LIAISON COMMITTEE

Thursday 16 May at 7pm

Present: Councillor Curran (Chair), Councillor Walsh, Zoe Murphy (TfL), Greg Thompson (Network Rail), George Paterson (Southeastern), Conrad Bunyen (Stagecoach), Michael Woodhead (Cinderella Line Campaign), Geoffrey Thurley (Ladywell Society), Barry Milton (Sydenham Society), Alex Crush (Policy and Development Manager/Lead Officer), Sarah Assibey (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor Dacres

1. Minutes

The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

2. Questions Regarding Bus and Rail Issues

The following questions were submitted to the Committee for response at this meeting:

- 2.1. Given the recent reports in TfL budget pressures, can the Public Transport Liaison Committee receive an update on TfL finances:
 - a) Generally
 - b) In relation to Crossrail
 - c) in relation to the Bakerloo Line Extension
 - d) in relation to Lewisham borough projects specifically
- 2.2. Please may we have an update on the Rail Accident Investigation Branch report into the Lewisham railway incident on 2nd March 2018? A link to the report is here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/report-022019-self-detrainment-of-passengers-onto-lines-that-were-still-open-to-traffic-and-electrically-live-at-lewisham>
- 2.3. There is a litter problem around Bellingham station. The Fellowship Inn is due to re-open in May and is located next to the station. This National Lottery funded and re-energised venue will bring new footfall and business to the area, undoubtedly including passengers on the Thameslink service. As the resident who contacted me pointed out, it is vital we show Bellingham in a better light than these currently photos demonstrate. Could Thameslink or Network Rail please respond?
- 2.4. What is the current state of play on the proposal by TfL to close ticket offices at 51 out of 81 Overground stations? This would have closed ticket offices at Honor Oak Park, Penge West and Anerley locally and further up the line at Dalston Junction, Haggerston, Rotherhithe, Shadwell, Shoreditch High Street, Surrey Quays and Wapping. This proposal was put on hold by TfL a few months ago. When will TfL come to a final decision on this?

- 2.5. Regarding the shortening of the 171 bus route. The recent report on the consultation and the decisions taken by TfL indicate that the 171 will not be curtailed (i.e. it will continue to Holborn) but the map shows that it will terminate at London Road, Elephant and Castle. Could TfL please clarify?
- 2.6. Could we get an assurance from TfL that Overground services will run throughout the night on New Year's Day to Crystal Palace?
2018/2019 was the first time in many years that we did not have a full service after 00:30 on New Year's Day, and I want to make sure it is reinstated for 2019/2020

3. Responses to Questions from Transport Operators

The following points were discussed in addition to the formal written responses (appended).

- 3.1. The next 6-12 months will be key in determining what capital funds are available, but nothing certain at the moment. The Bakerloo Line Extension is already in the business plan and the research modelling is taking place. The next stage of the consultation is planned to take place later this year, which will cover the more technical processes such as tunnel placement.

ACTION: The TfL representative will feed back to the Committee details about the spread of cost and the operating deficit change.

ACTION: Cllr Walsh also asked for assurance from TfL and the GLA that the work that is going on with the Mayor of London regarding opportunity zones and 2700 new homes in Catford, have been considered alongside BLE plans and when this will be delivered. He added that it is important not to downplay the problems this will cause for residents getting into London.

- 3.2. The findings and conclusions from the Southeastern operations team are similar, in this case, to that of the report on the failure of the train at Lewisham in March 2018. A significant issue was the battery life on the trains- after 45 minutes of no power running through the trains, the battery life expired, so no announcements were able to be made to passengers on the train.
- 3.3. The litter is a problem experienced across the network, and goes as far as Sussex so some areas of the issue are also covered by GTR/Thameslink. The Maintenance Section Co-ordinator is working with various teams to resolve the issue and has provided a window of complete of 3-4 weeks. The representative wanted to note that the local communities that GTR/Thameslink work with are valued and they are keen to resolve the issue.

Cllr Walsh suggested that Network Rail circulate a timeline or schedule of when the areas were last cleaned as this is also a problem at Catford station too.

- 3.4. Since the consultation, it has been announced that Anerley and Penge West, falling below the busiest stations at less than 12 transactions per hour, will

now open from 7.30am until 10.00am on weekdays and Honor Oak Park will be open during busy periods on weekdays too. Further information will be available later in the year, but TfL will provide any updates necessary.

- 3.5. The central London bus review consultation proposed that route 171 would no longer run between Elephant & Castle and Holborn. This change will come into effect on 15 June this year. There was a slight amendment to the proposal following the consultation as we reviewed terminal arrangements to provide better interchange between the 171 and other routes along London Road, as well as at Elephant & Castle Tabernacle stops.

Route 171 will swap stand workings with the 468. The 171 would then pick up and set down on London Road. This would give easy adjacent or same stop interchange with routes 168 and 188, to and from Holborn as well as access to the 68.

The set down stop for route 468 will move to Borough Road. The 468 has a very long parallel with the 68 and northbound customers would be able to change at any stop from West Norwood. Southbound customers would be unaffected as it would continue to interchange on London Road.

Councillor Walsh asked for an analysis of how many people will be affected by the interchange as those who begin the journey from the start will go beyond the 60 minute threshold for the second journey to be free. The Lead Officer queried that in such instances, will passengers are reimbursed for these particular interchanges, as disclosed in previous meetings. The TfL representative will be discussing such implications in an upcoming meeting and will be able to clarify the hopper fare

- 3.6. Plans are underway for NYE timings and are yet to be confirmed by TfL Underground and Overground. Colleagues are aware of the convenience of trains running later and this is what they are aiming towards.

4. Passenger Benefit Fund

GTR have launched the Passenger Benefit Fund, following disruptions experienced by passenger last summer- £15m will be contributed to provide tangible improvements for passengers across all routes and there are 5 stations in Lewisham that will have the funding- Catford, Bellingham, Beckenham Hill, Crofton Park and Deptford will each receive between £30k- £50k. A consultation process will be launched over the next few months to gather ideas for what improvements passengers would like to see at these stations. The deadline for submissions is 31st July 2019.

Councillor Walsh suggested that it would be useful if councillors from the wards that have the 5 stations in would get together to form a public meeting to discuss these improvements, prioritising accessibility over beautification. The Lead officer confirmed that supplementing or match-funding from CIL106 this money was possible.

The Network Rail representative confirmed the operator also has a stations fund for their control period 6- which has just started and ends in 2024, so he will look into this alongside the 5 stations due to be improved to ensure that whatever suggestions are brought forward, GTR already do not have plans to work on and that money is fairly distributed.

5. AOB

The following matters were discussed and updates were requested for each query:

- 5.1. The Lewisham Interchange Group meet frequently and the Committee should be informed of any relative updates
- 5.2. Councillor Walsh enquired about the following:
 - There is an issue of pavement clutter, i.e. burn out phone booths, and it was asked that TfL respond by informing how to request removal of clutter or have them revamped.
 - What enforcement for dangerous parking near mosques particularly on Fridays as there seems to be conflicting enforcement between Lewisham, the police and TfL
 - He also asked Network Rail and Thameslink about information points at stations and their reliability- the staff often cannot hear or there is some confusion in communication. Overall the system does not reflect good customer service. The stations in question are Waterloo East and Elephant and Castle.
 - On the Northbound platform at Catford station there is a building that does not appear to be in use, and requested information on its purpose and/or suggested use.
- 5.3. Stagecoach representative also asked for an update on a previous query regarding the parking on Walston Road at Perry Rise, particularly on a Sunday where buses are diverted away from the area because the road is blocked.
- 5.4. Southeastern collaborate with community teams to improve stations and their areas. Southeastern can be contacted via the Committee to begin the process.
- 5.5. Before the next stage of the Bakerloo Line Extension consultation, community groups need to be in line with what their delivery expectations are. It would be useful to get some consensus by way of a meeting and have that reflected in the response. It should be considered whether a formal meeting to discuss the extension or if it should be discussed more succinctly in the PTLC meeting.

The meeting finished at 7.58pm

