

Gaps in the bus services in London Borough of Croydon

Road congestion in the outer boroughs is continuing to rise, both the DfT and TfL have concluded that the continuing falling trend of traffic levels in outer London is no longer and traffic has risen over the last 2 years and are now again at 2008 levels. Again both DfT and TfL predict that that traffic is likely to increase by 4% or more in the coming years. This has an effect on both the ability to travel easily and an increase pollution levels in outer London.

The new Mayor has said that he wants to move some of the bus resources from central London to the outer suburbs. This gives the opportunity to improve the bus coverage and the opportunity to for people to use public transport in parts of Croydon not covered by bus services and make simpler journeys to places such as Croydon University Hospital which from many parts of Croydon which can only be reached by long circuitous journey via central Croydon or Streatham.

Although Croydon is well served by bus routes in general the majority of routes are radial routes linking the outer centres and residential areas with central Croydon. Over the last decade a number of new useful routes linking local communities in Croydon have been developed these include routes, 359, 404, 434 & 450 and in the last year the extension of route 130 from Norwood junction to Thornton heath and route 359 from Selsdon to Purley have all provided improved local links in Croydon.

However, there are still a large number of gaps in the bus network with adjacent communities not having direct links and a number of parts of the borough lacking direct services to Croydon University Hospital. These are mainly in the north of the borough and in the Old Town and Waddon areas. A previous paper looked at improving local links in and around South Norwood and improving links from these areas to Croydon University Hospital).

This paper looks at providing local links between Crystal Palace, Upper Norwood and Norbury To Croydon University Hospital Central Croydon, Old Town and Waddon. It also provides a supplement to solo route 109 in London Road Norbury *although route 109 route is a frequent route of between every 3 -6 minutes any problem and there no alternatives for the long stretch of A23 London Road Norbury*. It would also provide a service along the western end of St James Road which has not had a bus service for 30 years. Providing new links to Central Croydon and more direct links to Croydon University Hospital which in the proposed NHS reorganisation becomes a more important destination as more health service become centralised there.

As there are few places to terminate and stand buses in central Croydon. The proposal would be to extend the route beyond central Croydon to Waddon providing services to previous unserved roads and providing new links to Croydon University Hospital from the eastern side of the Waddon estate.

It would be possible to link all these locations with the introduction of one new route using single deck buses initially on a 30 minute schedule.

The suggested route is from Crystal Palace Parade to Purley Way via Church Road, Norbury, Croydon University Hospital, St James Road, Central Croydon, Old Town and Waddon.

As the route duplicates solo route 109 in London Road Norbury a suggested route number could be 409. Two alternative routes are suggested between Central Croydon, Old Town and Waddon

The suggested route in detail :

Crystal Palace Parade - terminus

Church Road - A classified roads without a bus service to Central Croydon the existing 249 goes to Streatham.

Beulah Hill - Provides an alternative to route 468 to Croydon.

Norbury Hill - Links this part of Upper Norwood to Norbury station the nearest station, but the steep hill deters pedestrians.

Green Lane - Provides connections for buses to Brixton and Pollards Hill.

London Road - Provides alternative bus to solo section of route 109.

London Road - Provides a direct link to Croydon University Hospital.

St James Road - Another classified road more than 400 metres from a bus route

Wellesley Road – links to West Croydon.

Alternative route 1 Via Tamworth Road & Old Town

Station Road - Links to West Croydon bus station and tram stop.

Tamworth Road - Links to Reeves Corner.

Old Town - Another classified road without a bus service.

Alternative route 2 via the Flyover as route 154

Wellesley Road - interchange with Tram and East Croydon

Park lane - For Fairfield Halls and Central Croydon

Croydon Flyover - As route 154

Southbridge Road - Another road more than 400 metres from a bus route.

Bramley Hill - Another road more than 400 metres from a bus route.

Denning Avenue - To serve the eastern part of the Waddon estate with a direct bus to Croydon University hospital.

Purley Way -Terminate at the Colonnades.

This suggested route is a way of linking a number of nearby locations without direct bus links and providing services to roads more than 400 metres from existing routes where bus services have been requested in the past.

There may be a number of suggested variations on this route to serve additional areas or alternative locations.

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Chair : East Surrey Transport Committee

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