



# West London Line Group



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[www.westlondonlinegroup.org.uk](http://www.westlondonlinegroup.org.uk)

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## **CROSS-CLAPHAM WEST LONDON LINE SERVICES AT RISK.....AGAIN!**

Following the improvements to the Southern West London Line (WLL) morning peak service in May 2007, we had high expectations of more service enhancements to meet the rapid increase in demand for the Watford - Brighton service.

Unfortunately, Southern and the Department for Transport (DfT) have contrary ideas and have renewed the threat to cross-Clapham WLL services in their December 2008 timetable plans.

We have been informed that, under these plans, there will probably still be a limited service between Clapham Junction and Watford Junction. We have also been told that it is proposed to extend the service to Milton Keynes, although it is not clear yet whether there will still be sufficient train paths between Watford and Milton Keynes for this extension.

**Nevertheless, these plans, if implemented, will mean:**

- **NO direct services between Watford, Harrow or Wembley AND East Croydon, Gatwick Airport or Brighton (or Wandsworth Common, Balham, Streatham Common, Norbury, Thornton Heath or Selhurst)**
- **NO direct services between Kensington Olympia or West Brompton AND Gatwick Airport or Brighton**
- **ONLY a very limited cross-Clapham slow-line stopping service between Kensington Olympia and East or West Croydon**
- **MORE chaos and increased safety risks on Platform 17 at Clapham Junction as hundreds of passengers attempt to alight from and board trains simultaneously.** This will happen for virtually all journeys in both directions throughout each day.

**Even before this, as from Monday 10 December 2007, Southern plan to terminate the fast 1629 Watford - Brighton service at Clapham Junction, causing distress, inconvenience and increased hazards to their personal safety for many cross-Clapham WLL commuters.**

This train will then go back, in service, to Kensington Olympia and will depart Kensington Olympia at 1725 to call at West Brompton (c1727) and Clapham Junction and then at all or most intermediate stations via Streatham Common to East Croydon. However, the Group strongly believes that this new service should be provided by an additional 4-car unit. At the same time, given the DfT's current position, this train is also at risk from December 2008.

The justifications given for these planned cutbacks are "to improve performance on the Brighton Main Line" and to transfer WLL dual-voltage trains to Thameslink. We do not accept the service performance argument, given that Southern continue to block valuable peak hours paths by splitting other trains at Purley and Haywards Heath. The need to redeploy trains is even less credible, following the award of £5.5 BILLION of Government money to upgrade the Thameslink service. Most particularly, we object strongly that this should result in decimating the Southern WLL service at the expense of existing WLL passengers. We firmly believe that a relatively small extra sum should be spent on providing the necessary dual voltage rolling stock, rather than "stealing" such units from the WLL.

**West London Line passengers successfully fought off a similar threat to cross-Clapham services in 2004 but clearly, the campaign is far from over.**

**PLEASE TURN OVER...../**

**We therefore again request your support to secure and build on YOUR train service by:**

**- e-mailing Chris Burchell, Southern's MD, at [chris.burchell@southernrailway.com](mailto:chris.burchell@southernrailway.com) and sending a copy of your e-mail to your MP: -**

- **Opposing the planned cutbacks in the cross-Clapham WLL services**
- **Asking for the requisite number of dual voltage units on the Southern WLL service to allow an hourly frequency between Brighton/Gatwick Airport and Milton Keynes, with extra peak trains as needed**
- **Attaching, where possible, photographs of scenes of present over-crowding and/or safety hazards (Clapham Junction's Platform 17, crowded train interiors, etc.)**

**- taking every opportunity to travel cross-Clapham on the WLL services**

**- encouraging your friends and work colleagues to use the WLL services**

**I would also appreciate receiving a copy of your e-mail to Chris Burchell and your MP, plus any other comments on WLL services at [comments@westlondonlinegroup.org.uk](mailto:comments@westlondonlinegroup.org.uk)**

In the meantime, we will continue our campaign for MORE WLL cross-Clapham long-distance and Metro services, including the long-overdue reinstatement of direct WLL services to/from Milton Keynes to serve growing demand and to provide better connections between Sussex, Surrey, South, South West, West and North West London to and from the West Midlands, North West and Scotland.

We intend to keep you updated on this latest campaign and look forward to your continued support for the West London Line.

Yours sincerely

Mark Balaam  
Chairman

**MPs whose constituents will be most affected by proposed changes to Cross-Clapham WLL services**

| <b><u>Member of Parliament</u></b> | <b><u>Constituency</u></b>       | <b><u>e-mail or other means of contact</u></b>                                 |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Dr Phyllis Starkey                 | Milton Keynes South West         | <a href="mailto:starkeyp@parliament.uk">starkeyp@parliament.uk</a>             |
| Mark Lancaster                     | North East Milton Keynes         | <a href="mailto:townsendj@parliament.uk">townsendj@parliament.uk</a>           |
| Claire Ward                        | Watford                          | <a href="mailto:wardc@parliament.uk">wardc@parliament.uk</a>                   |
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| Karen Buck                         | Regent's Park & Kensington North | <a href="mailto:k.buck@rpkn-labour.co.uk">k.buck@rpkn-labour.co.uk</a>         |
| Rt Hon Sir Malcolm Rifkind         | Kensington & Chelsea             | <a href="mailto:rifkindm@parliament.uk">rifkindm@parliament.uk</a>             |
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| Martin Linton                      | Battersea                        | <a href="mailto:lintonm@parliament.uk">lintonm@parliament.uk</a>               |
| Sadiq Khan                         | Tooting                          | <a href="mailto:sadiqkhanmp@parliament.uk">sadiqkhanmp@parliament.uk</a>       |
| Rt Hon Keith Hill                  | Streatham                        | <a href="mailto:hillk@parliament.uk">hillk@parliament.uk</a>                   |
| Malcolm Wicks                      | Croydon North                    | <a href="mailto:wicksm@parliament.uk">wicksm@parliament.uk</a>                 |
| Andrew Pelling                     | Croydon Central                  | <a href="mailto:pellinga@parliament.uk">pellinga@parliament.uk</a>             |
| Richard Ottaway                    | Croydon South                    | <a href="mailto:ottawayr@parliament.uk">ottawayr@parliament.uk</a>             |
| Crispin Blunt                      | Reigate                          | <a href="mailto:crispinbluntmp@parliament.uk">crispinbluntmp@parliament.uk</a> |
| Peter Ainsworth                    | East Surrey                      | <a href="mailto:ainsworthp@parliament.uk">ainsworthp@parliament.uk</a>         |
| Laura Moffat                       | Crawley                          | <a href="mailto:moffatl@parliament.uk">moffatl@parliament.uk</a>               |
| Hon Nicholas Soames                | Mid Sussex                       | <a href="mailto:soamesn@parliament.uk">soamesn@parliament.uk</a>               |
| Dr Desmond Turner                  | Brighton, Kemptown               | <a href="mailto:turnerd@parliament.uk">turnerd@parliament.uk</a>               |
| David Lepper                       | Brighton, Pavilion               | <a href="http://www.FaxYourMP.com">www.FaxYourMP.com</a>                       |

**Contact details for these and all other MPs can be found via [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk)**