

WEST LONDON LINE GROUP

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www.westlondonlinegroup.org.uk

PROGRESS!



A new Class 378 train for the London Overground WLL service [TJL]

The West London Line Group is delighted to welcome the first of the new Class 378 trains operated by London Overground which entered service on Wednesday 29 July 2009 on the West London Line (WLL). Presently the only journey on the WLL to be worked by one of the new trains is the 0650 Clapham Junction to Stratford, but more are due to be introduced on the WLL during the weeks ahead.

The new trains have fewer seats but more capacity overall, allowing another 30% to be carried on each train. Moreover, the trains will be lengthened from three- to four-cars in 2011. From the same year their frequency will be increased to four trains per hour between Clapham Junction and Willesden Junction, with every other train extended to or from Stratford via the North London Line throughout the day.

The Group hopes that introduction of the new trains will ease the crush-loading on existing WLL services and cope with the new demands expected when the new station at Imperial Wharf, just north of the Thames, opens later in 2009.

There will be no change to the existing timetable for the moment, although the Group intends to keep in close contact with London Overground, Transport for London and Southern in its efforts to ensure that any further changes will benefit WLL passengers.



The Group continues to campaign for improvements to services and facilities on the WLL. Already this year we have hosted visits to the WLL by Lord Adonis, now Secretary of State for Transport; Stephen Hammond, MP for Wimbledon and Shadow Minister for Transport; and Caroline Pidgeon, Chair of the GLA's Transport Committee. We enjoy good contacts with the Department for Transport, Network Rail, Transport for London, train operators and other rail user groups and liaise closely with MPs, the GLA and local councils in the WLL corridor.

Our current initiatives include: -

- Alerting the rail industry to developments in the WLL corridor through our chronological listing of these, showing the stages of a possible increase of 93,000 in WLL stations' residential catchments by 2015.
- Proposing improvements for the Line's infrastructure, including longer platforms at all stations between Clapham Junction and Shepherd's Bush to encourage the introduction of new direct services between areas north and south of the Thames and the WLL.
- Responding to several proposed Route Utilisation Strategies from Network Rail covering a range of areas, with our suggestions on how passengers could benefit from links between these areas and the WLL.
- Providing information to Transport for London on present and future WLL station usage to support the case for improved passenger shelters on key platforms.
- Seeking restoration of direct trains between the WLL, Gatwick and Brighton.

The Group has hopes of success in these areas, but nothing can be guaranteed – save our continuing pressure.

Key documents are at www.westlondonlinegroup.org.uk

Please e-mail any comments on any aspect of the WLL to us at comments@westlondonlinegroup.org.uk. If you would like more details of developments on the WLL, our activities and how you can help with these, please send an e-mail to the address above. Your details will only be used by the Group and only for these purposes.

Finally, may we thank you for your support and urge you to keep using the West London Line and encourage your friends, relatives and colleagues to do the same.

Mark Balaam, Chairman

July 2009

The West London Line Group acknowledges the support received from the Earls Court and Olympia Group for this and its other initiatives.

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