



Councillor Claudia Webbe

Executive Member for Environment and Transport

Labour Member for Bunhill



Town Hall
Upper Street
London N1 2UD

W www.islington.gov.uk

PA: Amanda Russell

T: 020 7527 3051

E: Claudia.Webbe@Islington.gov.uk

Boris Johnson
Mayor of London
Greater London Authority
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
More London
London SE1 2AA

15 February 2016

Dear Mr Johnson,

Archway Bus Routes Consultation: Islington Council Response

I am writing to provide Islington Council's formal response to the consultation on the proposed changes to bus routes in Archway.

Thank you for the work that Transport for London (TfL) has undertaken to develop the proposals to transform Archway Gyratory. We look forward to working with TfL to deliver the scheme, and to further develop the proposals for the new public space outside the station.

Whilst the Council is supportive of the proposals, we welcome the opportunity to comment on the bus movement through the area, in particular in relation to extending bus routes to key destinations, changes to the bus fleet to reduce pollution, and improving the visual appearance of the bus stand on Archway Road.

Clean buses

Archway experiences similar levels of bus movements as Oxford Street, and local air quality is highly dependent on the emissions standards of the bus fleet serving Archway. I therefore strongly welcome TfL's commitment to changing its bus fleet with the introduction of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ), so that by 2020 all buses travelling through the ULEZ area will be cleaner buses; hybrid-electric (double deck) and electric (single deck) buses. As a result, some of the buses travelling through or terminating at Archway will be cleaner by 2020. Unfortunately this only applies to about half the number of buses in Archway, and the introduction of cleaner buses may not take place until 2020, three years after the introduction of changes to bus routes in Archway.

To achieve a significant improvement in air quality in Archway it is important that this positive change is extended to all bus routes in Archway, and the three single deck buses serving Archway (Routes W5, C11 and 143) become electric, and the remaining double deck buses (Routes 41, 210 and 263) become hybrid-electric. In addition, I ask that the introduction of cleaner buses is brought forward from 2020 to early 2017, once the buses move from their current bus standing location to Archway Road.

Introducing an entirely clean bus fleet would go a long way in addressing the local communities considerable concerns about air quality and noise in the area around the town centre, most notably on Archway Road (at the bus stands) and on Vorley Road/MacDonald Road, which is home to a popular and well used children's centre.

Visual impact of the bus stands on Archway Road

The Council is very keen to reduce the visual impact of buses standing on Archway Road, in particular on the southbound approach along the Whitehall Park Conservation Area. At this location Archway Road is in a cutting with a retaining wall, so restricting the use of this bus stand location to single deck buses alongside the provision of additional planting along Archway Road on Paultney Street will help screen buses from the adjacent residential area, and address the concerns expressed by the local community.

Routes to Whittington Hospital and Upper Holloway Station

Whittington Hospital

Whittington Hospital is Islington's main hospital and many people using this hospital depend on local bus services. Unfortunately a number of key bus routes (e.g. Route 17, 41 and 390) from the south and east currently terminate at Archway, a short distance from the hospital. Although the Hospital is close to Archway, its location on Highgate Hill – a very steep hill – makes it difficult to access the hospital on foot from Archway. This will in particular affect the many older people who depend on hospital services, as well as people with mobility difficulties receiving treatment at the hospital. To improve access to the hospital and for TfL to meet its duties towards disabled people under the Equalities Act 2010, I ask that TfL investigate extending one or more of the above mentioned bus routes to the hospital.

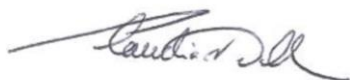
Upper Holloway Station

You will be aware that Network Rail is carrying out works on the Gospel Oak to Barking Line to electrify the line, which will increase the capacity of the line. As a result of this, we expect demand for and usage of this line to increase in the coming years, which makes an improved bus-rail interchange at Upper Holloway Station more important. Many bus routes from the north, in particular from Highgate, currently terminate at Archway, missing out on the opportunity for a convenient interchange between bus and Overground services at Upper Holloway Station. I therefore ask that you consider extending bus routes W5 and/or 143 to Upper Holloway Station.

I am pleased to see that the construction at Archway has started and look forward to seeing the area transform with the removal of the gyratory and creation of a new public space. Our proposed changes to the bus network would add further benefits to the scheme. They would also assist in addressing the concerns of the local community about disability, noise and air quality.

I hope that you will work with the council and TfL to take these improvements forward.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Claudia Webbe
Executive Member for Environment and Transport