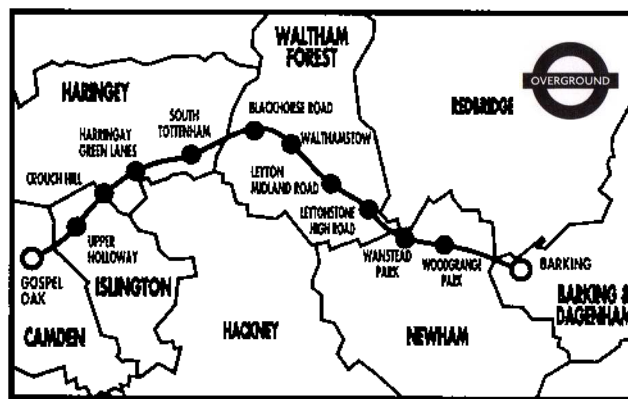


BARKING – GOSPEL OAK LINE USER GROUP

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NEWS RELEASE

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OVERGROUND USERS WARN PASSENGERS TO AVOID LINE DURING OLYMPICS

TfL cut commuter train as user group calls for extra evening and Sunday trains during Games

While London Overground are running enhanced all-day services on the North and West London Lines to Games venues at Stratford and Earl's Court, services on the Barking – Gospel Oak Line, which skirts the Olympic Park, will remain unchanged, apart from the *cancellation* of a key morning commuter train!

At a recent meeting (25th June) at Waltham Forest Town Hall, representatives from the Barking – Gospel Oak Line User Group¹ called upon Transport for London to agree to run the daytime 15-minute train frequency to the end of service with a weekday start on Sunday mornings when the Games are in session.

On 2nd July Secretary Richard Pout said, “Many commuters and games spectators are likely to divert to the Barking – Gospel Oak Line in an attempt to avoid packed trains and gridlocked streets. Instead, they will find trains already packed at peak times and long waits for equally busy trains after 10 O'clock at night.”

Now BGOLUG has learnt that a vital morning commuter train², only put on last summer to relieve overcrowding is to be cancelled during the Olympic Games.



OVERGROUND USERS WARN PASSENGERS TO AVOID LINE DURING OLYMPICS

Said Richard Pout, "The withdrawal of this train will cause intolerable conditions for commuters trying to get to work in the morning. BGOLUG therefore has to advise passengers to use alternative public transport routes during the Games"

"This cut, together with the planned half-hourly service from 10 O'clock in the evening will help to ensure 'sardine' conditions all day and night during the Olympics. Likewise, with a ban on engineering work during the Games, there is no reason why a Saturday service could not be operated on Sundays instead of the first trains being well after the morning's Olympic events have started."

BGOLUG are calling upon TfL to:

- Reinstate the 07:59 Mondays – Fridays Woodgrange Park to Hampstead Heath train;
- Operate a 15-minute frequency service from start to finish of service throughout the Games period and
- Start and finish Sunday operations at Saturday times and run every 15 minutes throughout the day when Olympic events are scheduled.



Scenes such as those above are likely to become the norm until the last train at night unless TfL reinstate a cancelled commuter and train boost evening and Sunday morning services during the Olympic Games.

The London Overground Olympic timetable will provide:

- A train around every 7½ minutes between Stratford and Willesden Junction, with alternate trains continuing to Clapham Junction and Richmond 7 days a week until 1 O'clock in the morning.
- 2 extra trains an hour between Stratford and Camden Road during commuter peak times.
- A train around every 5 minutes between Highbury and Islington and Surrey Quays, 7 days a week until 1.30 AM.

- ENDS -

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. Formed as the Barking – Kentish Town Line Committee to fight Dr. Beeching's closure proposals in the 1960s, the Barking – Gospel Oak Line User Group has continued to represent the line's passengers and campaign for improved services and station facilities, and also for the electrification of the only non-electrified railway in North East London.
2. This train first ran on 12 September 2011 as an unadvertised relief service between Woodgrange Park and Upper Holloway to relieve overcrowding on the 07:47 and 08:02 Barking to Gospel Oak services on Mondays to Fridays. Following a request by BGOLUG, the train was put into the timetable from 12th December 2011 and extended from Upper Holloway to Hampstead Heath.

| | | Until 9th Dec. | From 12th Dec. |
|---------------------------------|----|----------------------|----------------------|
| Barking | d. | | |
| Woodgrange Park | d. | 07:59 | 07:59 |
| Wanstead Park | d. | 08:02 | 08:02 |
| Leytonstone High Road | d. | 08:06 | 08:05 |
| Leyton Midland Road | d. | 08:08 | 08:08 |
| Walthamstow Queen's Road | d. | 08:11 | 08:11 |
| Blackhorse Road | d. | 08:14 | 08:14 |
| South Tottenham | d. | 08:18 | 08:18 |
| Harringay Green Lanes | d. | 08:21 | 08:21 |
| Crouch Hill | d. | 08:24 | 08:24 |
| Upper Holloway | d. | 08a26 | 08:27 |
| Gospel Oak | a. | | ↓ |
| Hampstead Heath | a. | | 08:34 |

