

Response ID ANON-RWPX-XAFD-M

Submitted to **Have your say on our proposed changes to bus services in Archway**

Submitted on **2016-02-21 20:30:53**

Our proposals

1 Do you support our proposals for the re-routeing of buses through the new Archway road layout?

No

2 Do you support our proposals for which bus routes will use the new bus stops in Archway?

No

3 Do you support our proposals for how buses will use the new bus stands in Archway?

No

4 Overall, do you support our proposals for the provision of bus services on the new Archway road system?

No

5 Do you have comments on our proposals for the provision of bus services on the new Archway road system? Please provide any information to support your answers to questions 1-4, and anything that you think may improve our proposals.

Comments:

The current bus proposals will result in a poorer, less cost-effective bus service. In particular we have concerns over the increased difficulty for bus-users making bus changes and reaching bus stops, and the dangerous, unsightly and environmentally damaging siting of bus stands on the Archway Rd. Chief concerns include:

- a) The loss of common stopping places for buses going north on Highgate Hill (143, 210, 271 and W5); on Archway Rd (43, 134 and 263); towards Crouch End (41, W5) and to East Finchley (143, 263)
- b) the loss of the stops outside Archway Station for buses 17, 43 and 263 (without which crossing the road will be required)
- e) Loss of convenient interchanges, e.g from northbound buses such as 43, 134, 263 to the 41, 143, 210, W5 and 390 routes
- f) Worsened interchanges between the North and Upper Holloway station and to the Whittington hospital
- g) Wasteful empty bus running
- h) Bus stands taking up 2 lanes of the Archway Rd requiring 50 u-turns per hour

About you

6 What is your name?

Name:

Dorothy Leng

7 What is your email address?

Email:

chair@whpara.org.uk

8 Please provide us with your postcode?

Postcode:

N19 3RA

9 If responding on behalf of an organisation, business or campaign group, please provide us with the name:

Organisation:

Whitehall Park Residents Association

10 How did you hear about this consultation?

Other (please specify)

Other:

WHPARA has been actively lobbying TfL on these and other matters

11 Please tell us what you think about the quality of this consultation (for example, the information we have provided, any printed material you have received, any maps or plans, the website and questionnaire etc.)

Comments:

It is not good practice to consult again on proposals that do not meet the needs of users, passengers and bus operators, especially when the arguments against the proposals have already been made clear to TfL in previous consultations. They are summarised below:

1. Right turn from St John's Way

We urge TfL to reconsider the introduction of the right turn at St. John's Way, if the future traffic situation permits. It would be most cost effective for the physical layout to be installed to allow either option, with only white lining and traffic light phasing to be adjusted. There are currently three traffic lanes in St John's Way, one in each direction plus a bus lane westbound. These might become one in each direction plus a short right turn filter lane for the few vehicles involved, perhaps proceeding on every other phase. This would still be quicker than detour through Vorley Road or other side streets and in accordance with good practice allows a common stop for all buses up Highgate Hill. Similar anticipated problems at the Archway Road junctions with Shepherds Hill and with Muswell Hill Road were satisfactorily resolved.

3. Traffic impact on local roads

There are strong concerns that traffic will displace through the residential streets, particularly in Whitehall Park, a quiet, conservation area, increasing noise, pollution and risk. Assuming that traffic used a right turn from St. John's Way, only a short right turn filter lane would be needed, perhaps only on alternate phases of the lights. Allowing the right turn here would also lessen the impact of traffic turning into Vorley Rd, and passing the Archway Children's Centre.

4. Bus stands

The other strand of the whole concept throughout has been to mitigate the current unsatisfactory public transport interchange arrangements, not least having to cross roads to change between buses that share a length of road, or being obliged to change bus to reach one further stop up to the Hospital or down to the now TfL Overground station of Upper Holloway. Current proposals actually make interchange worse and remove common stops to common destinations.

The Whittington Hospital has been pressing for meetings with TfL so as to allow buses from the south to set down and turn in the Magdala Avenue forecourt (where there is space for this to happen).

Space exists within the public highway for buses from the north to turn from Holloway Road into Pemberton Gardens, set down for the station, turn to stand and return without adversely impacting on other traffic such as buses going to/coming from the Metroline garage. Instead of the current empty mileage through the Vorley Road stand and proposed empty mileage up and down Archway Road, the proposals above would use those miles (and expenditure) to carry passengers to where they need to be taken. By overlapping they also mitigate the poorer public transport interchange currently proposed.

There are also many concerns, especially in the Whitehall Park Conservation Area, about the number and location of buses that will stand on the Archway Rd. These include noise, pollution, the necessity for making u-turns (over 40 an hour) adding to traffic delays, and the further separation of the 2 sides of the Archway Rd by creating an unsightly visual barrier. This appears to be an unnecessary element in the proposal as local groups such as ours and Better Archway Forum, have demonstrated that there are much better ways, for both bus-users and taxpayers, to route the buses in question.

We urge TfL to rethink the current bus proposal and draw upon the expertise and willingness of local people to help make this project a success for all.