



Members' Room

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## **London & South East RUS**

RUS Programme Manager  
Network Rail  
Kings Place  
90 York Way  
London, N1 9AG

*By email*

Date: 16 March 2011

Dear Sir or Madam

### **London & South East Route Utilisation Strategy**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a response on behalf of our constituents in Bellingham ward to the London and South East RUS consultation document. As you will appreciate our concern is to press for the best possible transport offer for the residents of our area.

- *Victoria to Bromley service*

As you will be aware, the South London Line (SLL) twice hourly 'loop' service between London Bridge and Victoria via Peckham Rye is to be withdrawn in 2012, and there is a widely held local view, which I share, that this will be to the disbenefit of a large number of inner-London residents. You will also be aware of the disappointment that funding for a part-replacement service from Victoria to Bromley South via the Catford Loop, which would have continued to serve a number of SLL stations, as well as providing enhanced travel options for passengers from Catford loop stations, was not forthcoming, either from the DfT or TfL. During the TfL/Travelwatch review into the South London Line it was noted that stations along the Catford Loop, including Crofton Park, Bellingham and Beckenham Hill, are some of the very few in inner London which are only served by two trains per hour outside the morning peak.

We would like to make representations that every efforts be made to include a Victoria to Bromley via Catford Loop service, serving Bellingham and its neighbouring stations in a future Southeastern franchise to enhance travel options and associated benefits to our constituents. We understand that this is something currently supported by Transport for London.

- *'Thameslink' services*

For some time now, rail services from Bellingham into central London which previously terminated at London Blackfriars have been running through to North London and beyond, destinations include St Pancras International, Luton, Bedford and St Albans. This has been a very welcome development, which greatly increased transport links and options for our constituents and we would like to see this continuing.

- *Bakerloo line extension*

The current Mayor's Transport Strategy mentions proposals (proposal 22) to extend the Bakerloo line south from Elephant & Castle as a long term aspiration of TfL and the Mayor. Clearly we would welcome this, though we would want to see the communities most in need of enhanced transport links benefit. Therefore we would favour any future extension proposed to serve the Catford area, either via the Catford loop or utilising the Hayes line. An extension using the Hayes line would be of benefit to residents of Bellingham ward, particularly the South Bellingham and Home Park Estate areas which are located in proximity to Lower Sydenham station. The surrounding areas suffer from particularly high levels of deprivation, and enhancing transport options from this area has potentially great value for residents. Putting Lower Sydenham on the transport map would be a huge boost for the area.

- *Lower Sydenham station*

We also have some comments to make on Lower Sydenham station itself and its location. Currently, the station is located adjacent to industrial units on both sides. This means passengers are required to walk some distance to reach residential areas or nearby leisure facilities in what could be considered inhospitable, particularly after dark. The station is considered a little secluded and constituents have told us that they avoid it after dark and there is an associated fear of crime. In the wider area, many local residents, even some who have lived in the area for some time, have said that they are not sure where the station is.

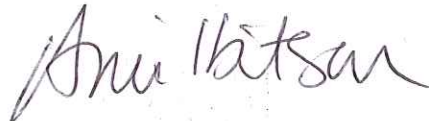
We understand that at some point in the future, the Hayes line may need to be closed to facilitate bridge widening works over Southend Lane and should this be the case, we would like to ask that consideration be given to relocating Lower Sydenham station, perhaps to provide easier access to the large Sainsbury's at Bell Green and to provide better interconnectivity with local bus services.

- *Bellingham station*

A perennial issue raised with us is the lack of accessibility at Bellingham station. This creates problems for elderly and mobility impaired passengers as well as parents with children in buggies or people with heavy luggage. While we are not engineering experts it does seem there may be options for improving this which are relatively simple. We also welcome the work of SELTRANS are developing on improving issues such as cycle parking at the station.

We hope that our comments can be considered favourably.

**Yours faithfully**



**Cllr. Alan Hall & Cllr. Ami Ibitson  
Bellingham ward councillors**