

Proposed changes to routes 21, 143, 263 and 271 - consultation report published

TfL have published the results of the consultation on changes to the 21, 143, 263 and 271 bus routes. To respond to the consultation the Highgate Society worked with the Highgate Neighbourhood Forum and Better Archway Forum we also involved our local councillors, London Assembly members in both Haringey and Camden sides of Highgate. TfL's need to make changes to bus routes is driven by the forecast cuts to its budget. There were over a hundred representations including from our three organisations, and there have been some significant changes to the original proposals.

Planning of bus routes is highly complex and individual residents have quite different and often conflicting views on options according to where they live, whether they are bus users and other perspectives. There is no single outcome that all Highgate residents could agree on. For this reason, our objectives have been and remain very focused:

- In general we are supporters of good bus services recognising that car transport is not feasible for everyone in a city such as London, and “active transport” (i.e. walking and cycling) is also not practical for many elderly residents given the hilly terrain and often narrow roads in Highgate.
- For many years we have sought the removal of the bus parking at the junction of South Grove and Highgate High Street, and so we are pleased that this continues to be part of the plans.
- We were concerned about the inefficiency of bus stops at Archway for travel northbound on Highgate Hill with the 210 and proposed 263 stopping at different bus stops. We therefore campaigned for a single stop outside the Whittington Stone pub that would be served by both of the two routes under the original proposals. We didn't achieve this but achieved something in many ways better with the retention of three routes from Archway as far as the Gatehouse pub (two of which will continue to depart Archway from the same stop).
- We have not yet been successful with our campaign for improved travel from Archway uphill on Archway Road, and will continue to push for a single bus stop for all northbound routes. TfL have said they will continue to look at options to achieve this.

The tables below explain how various routes are impacted in TfL's revised proposals compared to the current arrangements.

Services between

Effect of proposals

Highgate Village, Highgate Hill and:

Archway	No change
Finsbury Park	No change
Golders Green, Brent Cross	No change
Beyond Archway until Highbury	No change
Beyond Highbury until Moorgate	Now change at Highbury

Highgate Hill, Highgate Village, North Hill and:

East Finchley	Twice the frequency
Beyond East Finchley to Brent Cross	Now change at East Finchley
Beyond East Finchley until Barnet	New direct service

North Hill and:

Archway	Twice the frequency
Beyond Archway until Highbury	New direct service

Archway Road and:

Beyond Archway until Highbury	Half the frequency
East Finchley	No change
Archway	No change
Beyond East Finchley to Barnet	Now change at East Finchley
Beyond East Finchley to Fortis Green	New direct service

The Highgate Society believes that the community as a whole will have got off relatively lightly from these changes. Inevitably there will be individual cases of inconvenience but others will benefit from improved connections. Many will be pleased that the feared reduction of services from stop E in Archway will not materialise. Others will find it convenient that all buses from Highgate Village to Archway will now depart from a single stop, stop C immediately outside Highgate Butchers.