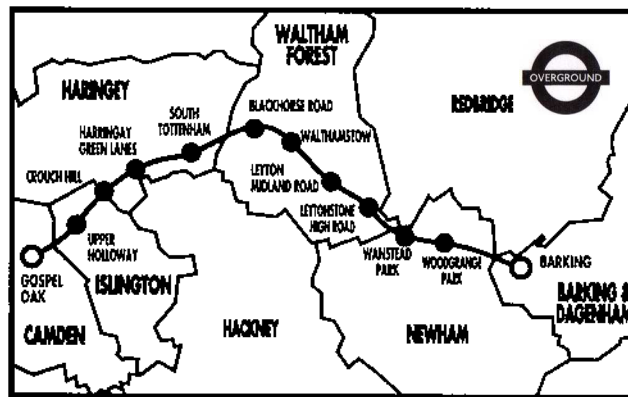


## BARKING-GOSPEL OAK LINE USER GROUP

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## NEWS RELEASE

8<sup>th</sup> May 2012

# MAYOR URGED TO WORK HIS SOCKS OFF TO SECURE VITAL RAIL INVESTMENT IN NORTH EAST LONDON!

Members of the Barking – Gospel Oak Line User Group (BGOLUG)<sup>1</sup> today urged Mayor Boris Johnson and the London Assembly to get down to work to ensure vitally needed rail investment comes to North East London in the next few weeks.

BGOLUG welcomed the inclusion of electrification of the Barking – Gospel Oak Line and the replacement of its 2-car diesel trains with 4-car electric ones in Boris Johnson's Transport Manifesto. Said Secretary Richard Pout, "There is only a few weeks left before the Government makes a major transport spending announcement<sup>2</sup> and we need Mayor Boris to 'work his socks off', as he promised, persuading his political colleagues in Government to allocate the relatively small sum needed to ensure this vital investment takes place as soon as possible."

The existing 2-car diesel trains are seriously overcrowded in the peak periods and Transport for London's (TfL) operator<sup>3</sup> has no more diesel trains to put into service.

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The 08:32 Barking – Gospel Oak on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2012.

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<sup>1</sup> See Editors' Note 1.

<sup>2</sup> See Editors' Note 2.

<sup>3</sup> See Editors' Note 3.



## **MAYOR URGED TO WORK HIS SOCKS OFF TO SECURE VITAL RAIL INVESTMENT IN NORTH EAST LONDON!**

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The Elections saw BGOLUG's supporters Jennette Arnold, Joanne McCartney, John Biggs and Caroline Pidgeon all returned to the London Assembly.

BGOLUG Assistant Secretary, Glenn Wallis said, "BGOLUG looks forward to working with our friends in the Assembly to ensure that Mayor Boris carries out his promises to improve the lot of the beleaguered passengers on our line."



A diesel hauled Tilbury to Daventry freight train passes Leyton Midland Road on 02.05.2012

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Caroline Pidgeon AM, BGOLUG Secretary Richard Pout, Lib Dem Mayoral candidate Brian Paddick and BGOLUG Assistant Secretary Glenn Wallis at Harringay Green Lanes on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2012.

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- 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 train services and station facilities, and also for the long overdue electrification of the only non-electrified railway in North East London.



## MAYOR URGED TO WORK HIS SOCKS OFF TO SECURE VITAL RAIL INVESTMENT IN NORTH EAST LONDON!

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2. There is currently no decision to electrify the 12-mile Barking – Gospel Oak Line or associated freight sidings at Barking for Channel Tunnel freight trains or at the new London Gateway container port at Thames Haven. The rail industry reaffirmed the urgent need to electrify the Barking – Gospel Oak route several times last year with the publication of Network Rail's second *London & South East Route Utilisation Strategy*, TfL's recommendations to the DfT for the second **High Level Output Specification, due to be announced "by July"** and the *Initial Industry Plan 2011*, initiated by the recent McNulty report. There has been no progress on electrification since negotiations on funding between the Mayor and the then Secretary of State broke down in 2008.
3. Following the transfer of responsibility for the former Silverlink Metro services from the Department for Transport (DfT) in 2006, Transport for London (TfL), let the London Rail Concession to London Overground Rail Operations Ltd (LOROL), a joint Hong Kong/German owned venture, to operate the London Overground network from November 2007 until March 2014, with the option of an extension to early March 2016. As part of the London Rail Concession contract let by TfL, LOROL undertook to order, in conjunction with rail leasing company Angel Trains, 8x2-car Class 172 *Turbostar* diesel multiple units from the former British Rail Engineering plant at Derby, now owned by Bombardier Transportation. Delivery of these trains took place in mid 2010.

