

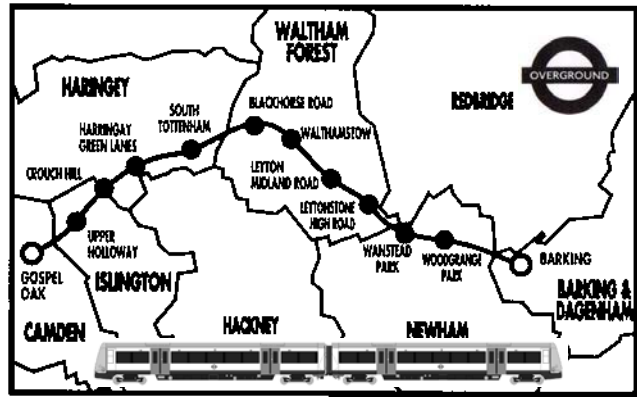
BARKING – GOSPEL OAK RAIL USER GROUP

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NEWS RELEASE

3rd June 2013

RAIL USERS SCORE LOCAL SUCCESSSES WHILE ELECTRIFICATION CAMPAIGN RECEIVES A BOOST FROM WALTHAMSTOW MP

A local rail users group have scored a string of successes over recent months and in addition to London Assembly Members, has now received backing from Walthamstow MP Stella Creasy for their campaign for a major rail upgrade.

Writing to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne, Ms. Creasy said, "Even on this period of austerity, it is vital that investment in UK infrastructure continues. It makes little sense to be investing in projects like Crossrail and the Tube upgrade, when a large section of London continues to be served by diesel trains."

She continued, "This continued use of diesel also has negative environmental effects.

[..]

I am urging you to rethink the decision to omit electrification of the line from the previous budget and ask that it is included in the forthcoming Spending Round in June. It has been shown to be a good value for money project and would bring benefits for those living in my constituency as well as the city as a whole."





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The Walthamstow MP's letter (www.barking-gospeloak.org.uk/history/20130522_Stella_Creasy.pdf) is the latest in a number written to the Chancellor in recent weeks, in support of the Barking – Gospel Oak Rail User Group's campaign for the electrification the local rail line. The former London Assembly Transport Committee Chair, Liberal Democrat Caroline Pidgeon (www.barking-gospeloak.org.uk/history/20130311_London_Assembly_letter.pdf) and four Labour Assembly Members:

- Andrew Dismore (Barnet & Camden)
- Jennette Arnold [North East (Hackney, Islington & Waltham Forest)]
- Joanne McCartney (Enfield & Haringey)
- &
- John Biggs (City & East)

have also written (www.barking-gospeloak.org.uk/history/20130508_electrification_letter.pdf), urging the Chancellor to include the scheme in the 26 June Spending Review.

Among the successes the Rail User Group has notched up so far this year have been:

- Extra platform shelters for passengers at Leyton Midland Road, Leytonstone High Road, Wanstead Park and Woodgrange Park funded by Transport for London (TfL)
- Safeguarding early morning rail replacement buses during engineering work
- Agreement with train operator London Overground Rail Operations Ltd to reinstate glazing in the original shelters at Leyton Midland Road to replace claustrophobic steel panels.
- Clearance of years of accumulated litter by Waltham Forest Council from a strip of land of disputed ownership alongside the railway boundary by Walthamstow Queen's Road station in Edinburgh Road.

The Rail User Group is also looking forward in August to the culmination of its 20-year campaign to link Walthamstow Queen's Road and Walthamstow Central stations with the opening of a footpath, to be named "Ray Dudley Way", by Waltham Forest Council, in commemoration of the Group member who launched the campaign all those years ago.

Said Group Secretary, Glenn Wallis, "BGORUG is very grateful for all the support that we receive from MPs and London Assembly Members along the line. That support is what has made the Group an effective voice in representing passengers on this vital part of the London Overground network."

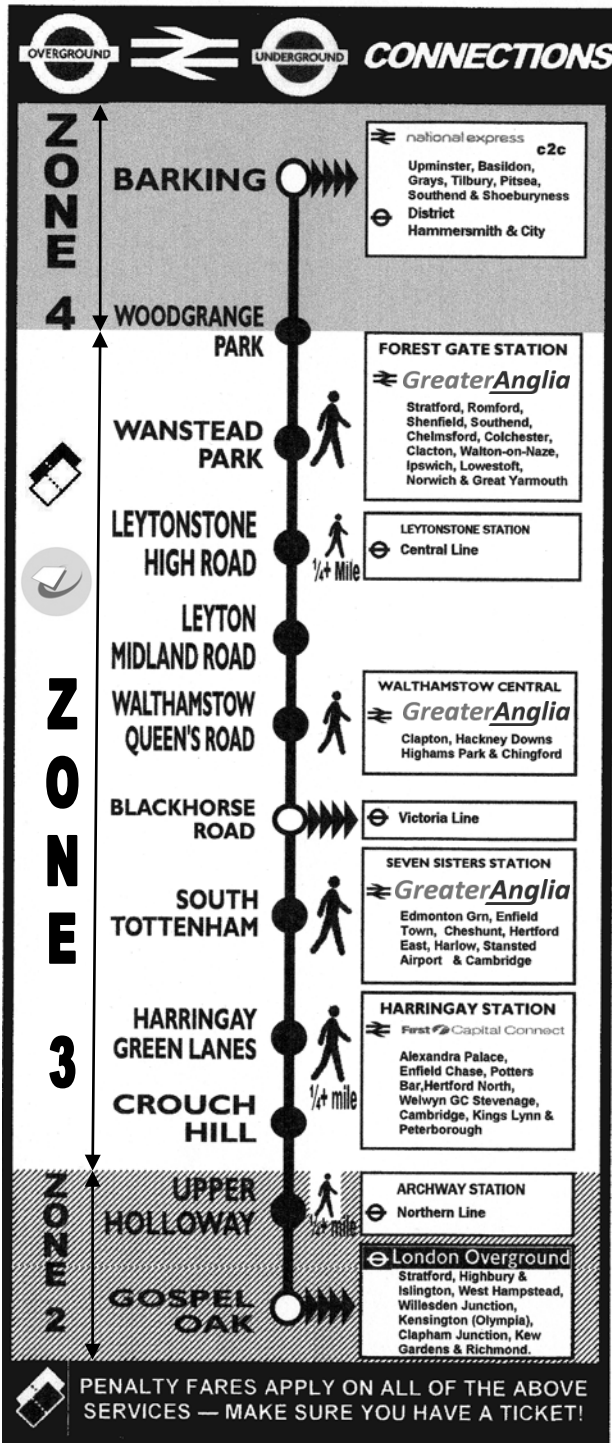
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NOTES FOR EDITORS

- Formed as the Barking – Kentish Town Line Committee to fight Dr. Beeching's closure proposals in the 1960s, the Barking – Gospel Oak Rail 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.

