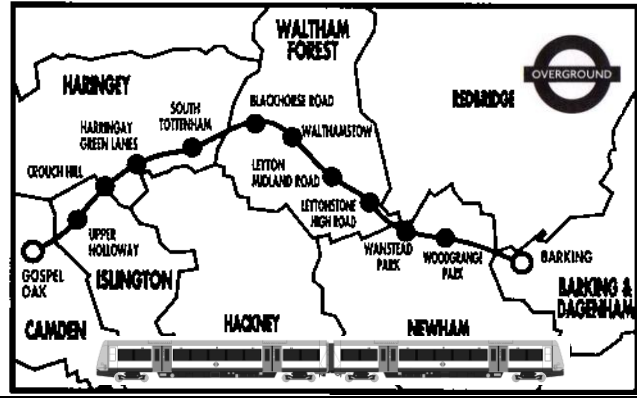


BARKING – GOSPEL OAK RAIL USER GROUP

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NEWS RELEASE

10th August 2015

STAY CLEAR OF VICTORIA LINE DISRUPTION!



Rail User Group warns both Overground & Underground passengers

The closure of the Walthamstow – Seven Sisters section of the Victoria Line for most of August is not just bad news for Victoria Line commuters, Overground passengers on the Barking – Gospel Oak Line will be affected as displaced Underground users switch to alternative routes.





**STAY CLEAR OF VICTORIA LINE DISRUPTION!
WALTHAMSTOW STATIONS LINK, IT'S OPEN! NOW IT'S CLOSED AGAIN!**

The Barking – Gospel Oak Rail User Group (BGORUG)^[1] warned regular passengers not to be surprised if their normally packed rush hour trains become even more overloaded than normal as Victoria Line passengers look for alternative ways to get to their trains now starting from Seven Sisters.

London Underground have closed the Walthamstow Central – Seven Sisters section of the Victoria Line from 8 – 30 August to enable engineers to completely renew the four sets of points that make up the “scissors crossover” outside Walthamstow Central. This switches arriving trains to one of the two platforms and departing trains into the southbound running tunnel.

Two replacement bus services, one to Seven Sisters (‘A’) and another (Monday – Friday) limited stop to Stratford (‘B’) as well as a Monday – Friday temporary bus service (558) from Chingford Mount to Seven Sisters have been arranged by London Underground.

BGORUG Secretary, Glenn Wallis said, ”All credit to Transport for London (TfL), they have made no attempt to encourage displaced tube passengers to use the chronically overcrowded Barking – Gospel Oak^[2] service to reach Seven Sisters via South Tottenham, a short walk away, but in spite of the interchange footway between Walthamstow Central and Walthamstow Queen’s Road Overground stations being blocked, both it and the line are on the Tube Map and the line also calls at Blackhorse Road so even more passengers will be trying to board.”

Barking – Gospel Oak trains will be the only ones serving Blackhorse Road station, although the rail replacement buses ‘A’ and 558 will call.

Mr. Wallis warned Victoria Line passengers of the struggle that awaited any tube users trying to get aboard Barking – Gospel Oak trains. “Trains only run every 15 minutes and you will probably have to let one or two trains go before you manage to squeeze on. Regular passengers won’t be too pleased at having so many new faces trying to get on and the normal overcrowding is so bad that there are frequent altercations between frustrated passengers as it is.”

For regular Barking – Gospel Oak commuters, Mr. Wallis said, “If at all possible, passengers from east of South Tottenham should look for alternative routes during the Victoria Line closure. The North London Line from Stratford now has mostly 5-car trains so offers a possible alternative.”

A westbound train departs Blackhorse Road for South Tottenham, while the train nearest the camera is about leave for Walthamstow Queen’s Road and Barking on 4 August 2013





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WALTHAMSTOW STATIONS LINK, IT'S OPEN! NOW IT'S CLOSED AGAIN!**

It took 20 years to open the
WALTHAMSTOW STATIONS LINK

IT'S OPEN!

NOW IT'S CLOSED AGAIN!



Official opening on 26th September 2014



8th August 2015

It took over 20 years campaigning to get a footpath interchange between **Walthamstow Central** and **Walthamstow Queen's Road** stations. It finally opened on 11th August 2014 with the official opening performed by **Waltham Forest Councillor Clyde Loakes** on 26th September 2014 accompanied by rail company officials and members and supporters of **BGORUG**.

So it was with a sense of disappointment that **BGORUG** learnt at the 14th July 2015 meeting of the **Waltham Forest Transport Liaison Consultative Group**, at the **Town Hall**, that **London Underground** was planning to close it again! However, as their statement (<http://tinyurl.com/pztloxc>) of 30th June showed, it was only to be closed between 7th August and 6th September, to allow access to a maintenance shaft, contractors' parking and storage and parking for rail replacement buses.

And **London Underground** undertook to signpost an alternative route via **Shrubland Road**. However, no signs had been provided by Sunday 8th August, causing pedestrians a wasted journey along **Edison Close** and **Ray Dudley Way** only to be confronted by contractor's steel fencing blocking the way!

"I suppose," sighed **Mr. Wallis**, "that it will fall to **BGORUG** to provide the signage, as usual!"



8th August 2015





**STAY CLEAR OF VICTORIA LINE DISRUPTION!
WALTHAMSTOW STATIONS LINK, IT'S OPEN! NOW IT'S CLOSED AGAIN!**

- ENDS -

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
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NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. Formed in 1964 as the Barking – Kentish Town Line Committee to fight Dr. Beeching's proposed closure of the line, 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 passenger railway in North East London, now finally approved by the Government on 26 June 2013. It is hoped that electric passenger trains will have commenced operation by the end of 2018.
2. 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, subsequently extended to November 2016 by TfL. TfL has shortlisted four bidders for the new London Rail Concession to start in November 2016:
 - Arriva Rail London Ltd (Deutsche Bahn)
 - LoKeGo Ltd [Keolis (UK) Ltd (51%) & Go-Ahead Holding Ltd (49%) joint venture]
 - Metroline Rail Ltd (owned by Singapore based transport group ComfortDelGro)
 - MTR Corp (Hong Kong Mass Transit)

