

THE UP LINE

NEWSLETTER OF CAMBRIDGE HEATH AND LONDON FIELDS RAIL USERS

MAY 2015

Sunday, Sunday

An improved Sunday service is coming to Cambridge Heath and London Fields on 17 May 2015, two weeks before the stations are taken over by London Overground.

The new service provides a train every 15 minutes, similar to the service during the rest of the week.

The big difference is that the service starts later.

The first train on Sundays to Liverpool Street is 09.31 from London Fields and 09.33 from Cambridge Heath.

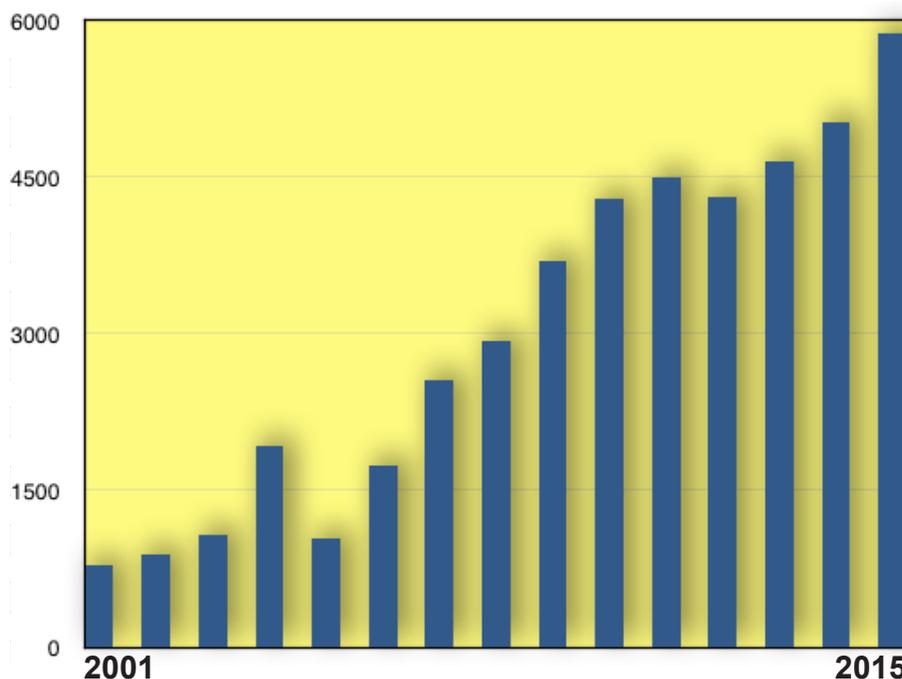
The first train northbound is 09.20 from Cambridge Heath and 09.22 from London Fields.

That means there is a train every half an hour on Sundays to Enfield and a train every half an hour to Cheshunt.

The last Sunday train to Enfield is just after 23.30 northbound while the last Sunday train to Cheshunt is 23.20.

The last Sunday train to Liverpool Street is just after midnight.

The improved service is good news but we would have preferred the service to start two hours earlier. Trains to and from Cheshunt and Enfield do run earlier but do not stop at our stations for



UPWARD TREND: The number of passengers using Cambridge Heath and London Fields stations has been increasing steadily over the years. Our chart shows the rise from May 2001 to May 2015. In 2001 we counted 788 passengers in one day from 05.40 to 19.30. This year that daily figure has grown to 5,876. Once our stations receive the care and attention they deserve, we believe the numbers will continue to grow.

those first two hours on Sunday.

From 31 May 2015, our stations will also appear on the Tube map.

Ticket gates are to be installed in the first year of Overground operation at Bush Hill Park, Rectory Road, Theobalds Grove and Turkey Street. It is not clear if or when ticket gates

would be installed at our two stations.

Transport for London's Overground is operated as a concession by MTR Corp and Arriva until November 2016. TfL is inviting expressions of interest from other organisations which could run the Overground for seven years from 2016 on a profit-sharing basis.

Improvements needed

We welcome the prospect of new trains, but there are plenty of other improvements which are needed before then.

We plan to ask Transport for London to consider the following:

Changes needed at Cambridge Heath

1. Train information screen at ground level, as at London Fields, Hackney Downs, Stoke Newington and Rectory Road stations.
2. Reinstatement, in the short term, of the six peak hour trains at Cambridge Heath (that were cut in December 2011 and which led directly to a fall in passenger numbers).
3. Second entrance on Hackney Road, to augment the existing entrance on Cambridge Heath Road.
4. Live monitoring of the CCTV, as at London Fields station.
5. Tree on forecourt to be pruned.
6. Forecourt to be kept clear of rubbish.
7. Ground floor retail unit to be let.
8. Re-branding of station frontage, including name and logo on Hackney Road bridge as at Hackney Central.

Changes needed at both Cambridge Heath and London Fields stations

1. A proper daily cleaning regime, backed up by a regular heavy clean.
2. Staff in attendance while trains operate.
3. An earlier start to the Sunday service, from 07.00, rather than 09.00.
4. In the long term, improved timetable to provide a train every 10 minutes rather than every 15 minutes as at present.
5. Stopping some Chingford trains at Cambridge Heath and London Fields to provide a direct service to and from Walthamstow, without the need to change trains at Hackney Downs.
6. Lifts at both stations to help mobility-impaired passengers, including parents with buggies and prams as well as passengers with cycles.

7. More reliable ticket machines which are currently often out of order.
8. Designating Cambridge Heath and London Fields as art stations, to reflect the large artistic community in the area.
9. Encouraging artists to use the stations to display their art.
10. Public address system.
11. Additional platform shelters and seats, to cope with rising passenger numbers.
12. Better lighting for station platform signs and on-train announcements of stations.

These changes are suggested by Cambridge Heath and London Fields Rail Users for the attention of Jonathan Fox (Director of London Rail) and Mike Stubbs (Director Overground) of Transport for London.

They will also be circulated to local politicians who have shown an interest in train services.

We believe the changes should be given careful consideration before the train services are transferred from Abellio Greater Anglia to Transport for London on 31 May 2015.

We expect TfL to give assurances that it has considered the suggestions and can implement some or all of them in time for the start of the new operation.

We are unhappy that the “official” passenger use figures from the Office of Rail Regulation (based on estimates) seriously underestimate use of the two stations, as judged by our carefully recorded observations.

We believe the ORR 2013-2014 estimate for annual use of London Fields (619,540) should be 1,200,000, while the ORR estimate for Cambridge Heath (357,754) should be 650,000.

What changes do YOU want?

Please email editor@railwatch.org.uk if there are other things we should be campaigning for.