

# THE UP LINE

NEWSLETTER OF CAMBRIDGE HEATH AND LONDON FIELDS RAIL USERS

CH

December 2021

## Christmas train service

### **CHRISTMAS EVE 24 December 2021 Friday**

Reduced service from 1900 to 2100.  
NO TRAINS after around 2100

### **CHRISTMAS DAY 25 December Saturday**

NO TRAINS ALL DAY

### **BOXING DAY 26 December 2021 Sunday**

NO TRAINS ALL DAY

### **27 December 2021 Monday to 30 December 2021 Thursday**

Saturday service  
First train departure from Cambridge Heath  
to Liverpool Street at 0549  
Last train departure from Cambridge Heath  
to Liverpool Street at 0004

First northbound train  
from Cambridge Heath at 0520  
Last northbound train  
from Cambridge Heath at 0005  
Last train departure  
from Liverpool Street at midnight

### **NEW YEAR'S EVE 31 December 2021 Friday**

Services running all day and all night

### **NEW YEAR'S DAY 1 January 2022 Saturday**

Saturday service

### **2 January 2022 Sunday**

Sunday service

### **3 January 2022 Monday**

Normal service

## Railway bridge hosts Windrush art show

A new art installation is on show under the railway bridge near Hackney Central station.

The exhibition was created by arts organisation Future Hackney and is part of a wider Windrush public engagement programme produced by Create London in partnership with Hackney Council.

It has been supported by Freelands Foundation and is the result of Hackney Council, Network Rail and Transport for London sharing photographs and

stories to document and celebrate the area's African and Caribbean communities. Network Rail, which owns the bridge, provided support for the installation.

TfL operates the London Overground trains that run over the bridge and serve Hackney Central station. Hackney Council removed old signage from the bridge and jet-washed the area before the installation.

■ Stratford is now the busiest non-terminal station in London and the pedestrian tunnels and

platforms are often overcrowded. £2 million is to be spent on developing plans to relieve congestion. Work could start next year.

■ 95.3% of Overground services arrived at their terminating station within five minutes of schedule.

■ Meridian Water station opened in 2019 and serves the Ikea and Tesco stores. But the train journey from Cambridge Heath or London Fields requires two changes. We are hoping TfL and Greater Anglia can devise a way to simplify the journey.

# Improvements needed

We asked Transport for London to consider installing train information screens at ground level at Cambridge Heath, as at London Fields, Hackney Downs, Stoke Newington and Rectory Road stations. *TfL responded, the screens were installed and were welcomed by passengers.*

We asked for the reinstatement of the six peak hour trains (five in the morning and one in the evening) at Cambridge Heath which were cut in December 2011 and led to a fall in passenger numbers. *TfL responded positively and the trains are back.*

We asked for an earlier start to the Sunday service, from 0700, rather than 0900. *TfL responded positively, although the earliest trains are around 0730.*

## Changes needed at Cambridge Heath

Now we would like to see:

1. Ground floor retail unit to be let.
2. Station name and logo on Hackney Road bridge as at Hackney Central.
3. Second entrance on Hackney Road, to augment the existing entrance on Cambridge Heath Road.

## Changes needed at both Cambridge Heath and London Fields stations

1. Lifts at both stations to help mobility-impaired passengers, including parents with buggies and small children as well as passengers with cycles and luggage.
2. Additional platform shelters and seats to cope with rising passenger numbers.
3. Improved timetable to provide a train every 10 minutes rather than every 15 minutes as at present.
4. Stopping some Chingford trains at Cambridge Heath and London Fields to provide a direct service to Clapton and Walthamstow, without the need to change trains at Hackney Downs.
5. Designate Cambridge Heath and London Fields as art stations, to reflect the artistic

community in the area and brighten up the stations.

6. Encourage artists to use the stations to display their art.

**These changes are suggested by Cambridge Heath and London Fields Rail Users for the attention of Gareth Powell, managing director for surface transport, and Jon Fox, director of London Rail. They will also be circulated to local politicians who have shown an interest in train services.**

We are unhappy that the “official” estimates from the Office of Rail and Road seriously understate the real number of passengers who use our two stations, when compared with our carefully recorded observations over 23 years.

**We believe the ORR 2019/20 estimates of 1,332,312 passengers using London Fields annually and 774,306 for Cambridge Heath were significantly below the actual numbers. This undermines the case for improving our stations and the train services.**

TfL figures for 2018/19 appear to show that ORR “lost” 700,000 passengers at London Fields and 300,000 passengers at Cambridge Heath. Based on TfL figures and our counts, we believe there were more than 2 million passengers using London Fields and 1 million at Cambridge Heath.

### Improvements since the CHLFUG campaign began:

Daytime off-peak, evening, Saturday and Sunday trains. Oyster card readers, and more reliable ticket machines with Oyster top-up facilities. Real-time information screens at street level as well as customer information screens and help points on all platforms. Live monitoring of CCTV at London Fields and Cambridge Heath. Platform seats. More timetables and printed information. Repainting. Improved lighting. Efficient graffiti removal. New signs. Cambridge Heath needle bin removed. Stair edge repairs. Litter collection and efficient cleaning. Additional entrance at London Fields. Refurbishment of Cambridge Heath station. Public address system. Station staff while trains are running