

Dear Member



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Just a brief email this time, mainly to keep you up to date with practical information on the transition to Govia (Thameslink Railway), good news on the December 2014 train service, and that rail fares are increasing by RPI, not RPI+1% in January.

## New GTR Website etc

The key information is as follows:

- Main website: [thameslinkrailway.com](http://thameslinkrailway.com) (this is not yet live, except for a FAQ page).
- Twitter handle: TLRailUK - [twitter.com/TLRailUK](https://twitter.com/TLRailUK) (note: only tweeting from the 14<sup>th</sup>).

## Practical day 1 information

We've prepared a guide for day 1 / week 1. Because I am still confirming some of the information, I am publishing it on our website (where it can be updated), rather than including it here.

The URL for it is [aptu.org.uk/thechange.pdf](http://aptu.org.uk/thechange.pdf) (also accessible from our home page at [aptu.org.uk](http://aptu.org.uk)). We'll also Tweet about it as well - [twitter.com/ThameslinkUsers](https://twitter.com/ThameslinkUsers).

## 4 Trains per hour to continue to Gatwick from December.

We recently received this from Govia:

Govia Thameslink Railway is pleased to confirm that its Thameslink services will continue the operation of the standard pattern of four trains per hour between Bedford and Gatwick Airport, when the London Bridge blockade begins in December 2014. These trains will go via Elephant and Castle and East Croydon.

This confirmation follows discussions with Department for Transport and Network Rail. Govia's plans had previously ensured this level of through service between Bedford and Gatwick would be restored from December 2015.

We will provide further details on the December 2014 timetable in due course after the new franchise has started.

As with the August blockade timetable, we are expecting journey times to be extended by 15 minutes, as services drop back 15 minutes between Blackfriars and East Croydon.

As previously mentioned, we await the consultation on the December 2015 timetable with interest and concern because 2 trains per hour might run semi-fast south of East Croydon.

**A big thanks to every member who wrote to their MP - I am sure this helped, and this is a technique we will use again.**

## Other news

### January Fare rises

The DfT announced this week that the January fare rise would be limited to the RPI rate (2.5%) and also that Train Operators would lose the right to vary individual fares in the total basket by plus / minus 2% (over recent years FCC have not used this right as encouraged by us and BCA, they have shared the pain of the increase evenly). More at [bit.ly/1CI296S](http://bit.ly/1CI296S) (gov.uk).

### Helioslough / Napsbury / Radlett Strategic Rail Freight Interchange.

Eric Pickles, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government recently gave approval for this ... and St Albans Council decided to continue their campaign and have launched a challenge to this in the High Court. It is worth noting that Hertfordshire County Council are yet to decide if they will sell the land to Helioslough.

Regards

*Neil*

Neil Middleton

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