



Dear Friend

A quick update from APTU on things you might want to do in the near future if you are an existing user of Carnet tickets.

We're emailing because some existing Carnet users will be worse off and can:

1. Put off the pain point by buying a 3 month supply of Peak Carnets by Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June at the latest, as tickets sold before the new Flexi-Season comes into being will be valid for their normal life.
2. If you return off-peak, once your supply of Peak Carnet tickets has been exhausted, switch to (if available) using Contactless in the morning and then continue with an off-peak Carnet in evening.
3. If relevant, write to their MP to suggest that request / lobby for Off-Peak carnets to be retained indefinitely; Whilst they will still be valid for sale after the 28<sup>th</sup>, there is as yet no promise that they will stay on sale indefinitely.
  - Carnet users returning using off-peak Carnets at Luton & Leagrave (and Bedford) are particularly badly hit as the loss of the peak carnet and the inability to use Contactless Cards means that you will be “forced” to either buy a season ticket or flexi-season ticket. Your costs will materially increase, which (unfortunately) should incentivise your MP to write and complain. For current Luton (Town) and Leagrave users, changing your journey to start from Luton Airport Parkway, if practical, might be sensible.

Some key pricing changes to note are (all prices are to London Thameslink):

	<b>AM &amp; PM: Pair of Peak Carnets To: Flexi Season</b>	<b>AM: Peak Carnet &amp; PM: Off-Peak Carnet To AM: Contactless &amp; PM: Carnet</b>
<b>St Albans</b>	£20.20 > £20.78   🚫 £0.58	£16.30 > £17.40   🚫 £1.10
<b>Harpenden</b>	£24.20 > £23.89   🚫 £0.31	£19.20 > £20.60     🚫 £1.40
<b>Luton (Town) &amp; Leagrave</b>	£28.20 > £27.56   🚫 £0.64	£21.80 > £27.00     🚫 £5.20 (note 1)

Note 1: Contactless not available; Anytime Single substituted

A key point to be aware of more generally is that there are plenty of season ticket calculators around from TOCs and National Rail (eg [thameslinkrailway.com/tickets/buy-tickets/season-ticket-calculator](https://thameslinkrailway.com/tickets/buy-tickets/season-ticket-calculator)), these do not also consider other alternatives. Most noticeably, it can be cheaper to:

1. Use Anytime tickets with a 16-25 or 26-30 Railcard.
2. Where you travel into London in the Morning Peak but return outside the Evening Peak, mixing Contactless Bank card payment in the morning and an Off-Peak Carnet in the evening can make sense. This combination is only valid (unfortunately) at St Albans, Harpenden & Luton Airport Parkway.

I have had a go at providing the data to enable members to make a choice of which ticket (or tickets) is likely to be best value for them, and this can be found here – As Excel:

[aptu.org.uk/excel/tl\\_north\\_flexibleseason\\_impact\\_june2021.xlsx](https://aptu.org.uk/excel/tl_north_flexibleseason_impact_june2021.xlsx) and as PDF:

[aptu.org.uk/excel/tl\\_north\\_flexibleseason\\_impact\\_june2021.pdf](https://aptu.org.uk/excel/tl_north_flexibleseason_impact_june2021.pdf).

### Other news

Three final points are:

- Now that we are returning to the train more regularly, there will be another newsletter by mid-July with the usual larger range of content.
- APTU did respond to the East West Rail Consultation, mainly to emphasise the importance of Bedford being an effective interchange station – important to us not just as a way to switch to the future East West Rail but



also to encourage East Midland Railway long distance services to restart calling there. This can be read at [aptu.org.uk/pdfs/aptu\\_response\\_ewrail\\_consultation\\_june2021.pdf](https://aptu.org.uk/pdfs/aptu_response_ewrail_consultation_june2021.pdf).

- A recording is available of our Annual Meeting in November with EMR, Thameslink, Network Rail and Transport Focus. This is at [youtube.com/watch?v=45RYQyjfKZ8](https://youtube.com/watch?v=45RYQyjfKZ8); by expanding “Show more” in the Description, timings are available.

Regards

*Neil*

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