



Consultation Summary

Bus route G1

Proposed changes in Clapham (Northcote) and Tooting (St Georges)

This is a summary of consultation responses for proposed changes to route G1 in Clapham and Tooting.

Between 16 July and 1 September, TfL consulted stakeholders and the public on the following proposals to alter the G1:

- To alter the route to go straight up and down Northcote Road instead of serving Bolingbroke Grove, Wakehurst Road and Belleville Road. This means a small part of Broomwood Road would no longer be served
- To simplify the service at St George's Hospital to run through the grounds and along Blackshaw Road and Tooting High Street instead of Garratt Lane. The main hospital entrance would continue to be served in both directions
- To improve the Sunday service by running buses every 30 minutes, instead of hourly

The service would continue to run with 45 capacity small single-deck buses (no larger than the current buses).

Consultation methodology:

The consultation was sent to local and regional stakeholders and advertised by Wandsworth Guardian (resulting in debate in letters pages). It was on TfL's website. Ward Councillors emailed the consultation link through their ward bulletin to residents. People could respond by email, letter and telephone.

A site visit was held to look at the feasibility of the left turn from Northcote Road into Broomwood Road.

We received 7 stakeholder and 19 public responses.

Summary of Stakeholder responses:

Stakeholders responded with mixed views on the different elements of change. Some also used the opportunity to lobby TfL for a further change to the route in Streatham. Some were in favour of the more frequent Sunday service, others were concerned about the possible effects of the change at Bolingbroke, Wakehurst and Belleville Roads. Wandsworth Council Officers were concerned about the proposed change at St Georges Hospital (Garratt Lane). The following summarises what each Stakeholder said:

Wandsworth Council

The council offered initial officer led comments as the proposals were to be reported to the next available committee meeting. The response suggests that the proposed change at Northcote, Bellville and Wakehursts Roads seemed sensible following the closure of Bolingbroke hospital facilities. However, the council is concerned that the proposed route along Blackshaw Road and Tooting High Street instead of Garratt Lane could be more congested. Council is also aware of some Broomwood Road residents concerns about bus operation in terms of engine noise and alleged vibration.

London TravelWatch

Noted the proposed changes. Asks that this route is kept under review as health services are being reconfigured including the closure of Bolingbroke Hospital. Asked TfL to look at other local routes, to see whether they could provide a link from St George's Hospital to Streatham Vale.

Battersea Society

Welcomed Sunday frequency improvements and simplification at St Georges Hospital. Opposed to Northcote changes - preferred the current route along Bolingbroke Grove, Wakehurst and Belleville Roads. The G1 serves an older people lunchtime centre at St Michaels Church.

Clapham Transport Users Group

Thought the G1 should continue to serve Broomwood Road for elderly and disabled passengers who are used to having this service.

NHS Lambeth

Wanted TfL to reconsider the possibility of altering route G1 in Streatham Common to serve Streatham Vale and Baldry Gardens Health Centre.

Lambeth Councillor

Wanted TfL to reconsider the possibility of altering the G1 in Streatham Common to serve Streatham Vale and Baldry Gardens Health Centre.

Streatham Vale Property Owners Association and Caroline Pidgeon AM

Wanted TfL to reconsider the possibility of altering the G1 in Streatham Common to serve Streatham Vale and Baldry Gardens Health Centre (relates to previous petition). Welcomes increased Sunday frequency and does not object to the change of route to Tooting High Street (as long as it doesn't involve any additional delay).

Summary of public responses

19 members of the public responded. There were a variety of mixed views and these are summarised into subject below ("Clapham Northcote", "Sunday frequency", "St Georges Hospital – Blackshaw Road and Garratt Lane", "Streatham Vale & Norbury" and "Alternative suggestions").

Clapham (Northcote)

10 responses were about the Northcote area changes, involving Broomwood, Northcote, Belleville, Wakehurst and Bolingbroke Roads. Sunday frequency was a point of concern in some of them (see Sunday frequency).

Northcote route change

Those in support of the change said it would reduce part of Broomwood Road residents' bus disturbance, including traffic congestion. They could no longer see the sense of the G1 serving this part of Broomwood Road when hospital facilities have moved.

Some opposed the changes to the route at Northcote Road, saying this would duplicate the service already provided by the 319. They advised that the G1 is used by schoolchildren attending Emanuel School and it was felt the Wakehurst Road stop is more convenient.

Once response pointed out that older people find this part of the route extremely useful. They said that during the day it is most unusual for the bus to not have to stop a couple of times on this part of the route.

Someone also pointed out that the recent move of the Bolingbroke Grove/Thurleigh Rd bus stop on the 319 service has made things worse for the residents of some local streets. The removal of the G1 service would, in their opinion, make matters worse.

If this change were to go ahead it was suggested that an additional stop be introduced to the 319 route – on or around Broomwood Rd or close to the junction of Broomwood and Bolingbroke. The small amount of parking lost

was not seen of great importance as there are always available parking bays in Dents Rd, Gorst Rd and on Bolingbroke Grove.

Sunday frequency

There was a mixed response to the more frequent Sunday service.

Some respondents strongly supported this improvement but Broomwood Road residents were particularly concerned about this element of the change. They were concerned that the bus route has a long history of complaints from residents in Broomwood Road, from issues of noise, appropriateness for the road, size, accidents and speed. They did not want a more frequent Sunday service.

St Georges Hospital – Blackshaw Road and Garratt Lane

Respondents expressed concern about the proposal to run the service along Blackshaw Road and Tooting High Street instead of Garratt Lane. People pointed out that Blackshaw Road and Tooting High Street are already served by many bus services and were concerned about lengthy (15-20 min) traffic delays on this section. Everyone who commented on this aspect preferred the service to continue along Garratt Lane.

Streatham Vale & Norbury

Some respondents considered that the G1 could be extended to give new links for the Baldry health facility at Norbury. This has been provided as part of the overall development of primary healthcare facilities in Streatham Vale, Streatham and Norbury. An extension of route G1 to Streatham Common Station was suggested, along Stanford Road, Rowan Road and Streatham Vale.

Alternative suggestions

Two responses provided general comments about route G1 including people's reliance on it and a suggestion that the number be changed to 311 as the G1 is the only 'G suffix' route.

Other alternative suggestions for the route were:

- Altering route G1 another way, by heading towards Battersea at The Avenue, to continue along the Avenue, then along Battersea Rise and route 35 to terminate at Clapham Junction Station. It was argued that this would be a shorter route, helping to increase reliability and to retain most of the existing links enjoyed by G1 passengers.
- As part of this, route 315 (which already runs at the same frequencies as in the proposal for route G1) could then be extended from Balham Station along Balham High Road, Balham Hill, The Avenue and then

along existing G1 (including the proposed diversion via the whole of Northcote Road) to Shaftesbury Estate.

- Run the G1 along Burntwood Lane, Bellevue Road, Bolingbroke Grove, Wakehurst/Belleville (i.e. Bolingbroke Hospital).