

Transport Environment and Leisure Services

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My reference:

Your reference:

Please ask for: Sidonie Forrest-Brown

Dear Belinda

Thank you for sending us the report outlining the results of the consultation on the possible re-routeing of the 328, after 11pm and before 6.30am.

We note that the proposal to re-route the 328 would mean that it stands at the King's Road bus stand between 11pm (the last bus leaving around 1am) and 6.30am (with the first bus leaving around 5am). Between these times the 328 would go along Cremorne Road, Cheyne Walk, Beaufort Street and King's Road to reach the existing bus stand outside 419 King's Road. This would be instead of using Hobury Street, Lamont Road and Limerston Street to reach the King's Road stand. From 6.30am to 11pm, the 328 would continue to use the current route and the Limerston Street bus stand. We also note that there are no proposed changes to the frequency of service.

We were interested to see that 64% of those who responded supported the proposed change in routeing and that this figure does not change if only those who use the bus service during these hours are considered.

We also note that the most common issue raised by respondents was the impact on residents of increased noise and pollution levels, particularly from residents in Beaufort Street.

Our view

Obviously we do not want to move a noise problem from one group of residents to another set of residents. Our colleagues in Environmental Health have considered this very carefully in their investigations of noise impact. They have advised us that the

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impact of bus noise can be much greater in one location, where existing traffic flow is low, compared to another where it is higher, and where ambient noise levels are also higher.

Some residents of Beaufort Street are concerned about additional noise from the proposed bus route. However, there would only be a small increase in the number of buses on this street. Beaufort Street already has two existing night bus services and also a significant amount of other traffic including Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV's). Any increases here will be marginal and not significant. Whereas the corresponding traffic and noise improvements for residents of Hobury Street, Lamont Road and Limerston Street will be a significant improvement.

Some residents of Cremorne Road and Cheyne Walk are also concerned about additional noise and they do not currently have any buses running along their road. However, both these roads are on the Transport for London Road Network and are strategic roads that already carry a lot of coaches and HGVs, generating significant existing noise

We note that the Ann Lane residents would like the King's Road stand to be permanently re-located to Limerston Street as the King's Road stand is close to their properties. However, this proposal requires buses to spend less time at the King's Road stand than they currently do now (under the proposals buses would use the King's Road stand between 11pm and 6.30am instead of from 9.30pm to 6.30am). Therefore, this proposal benefits Ann Lane residents (compared to the situation today) because it would mean that buses would use the King's Road stand for less time than is currently the case.

We note the concerns of residents along the proposed route but feel that the existing traffic conditions are such that the impact of the bus service will be negligible. We have also considered the other objections made by passengers, namely increased journey time and reduce interchange facility. However we do not believe that these are sufficient to outweigh the benefits of the proposal. We are also interested to note that the majority of bus passengers support the change.

Taking account of all responses to this consultation and the improvements it will make in noise in Lamont Road and Hobury Street with marginal affects elsewhere we are minded to support the above proposal to re-route the 328 between 11pm and 6.30am.

We look forward to meeting you to discuss the next steps.

Yours sincerely

Sidonie Forrest-Brown
Public Transport Officer