

New London Shuttles

There are new services to help make sure that there are better connections and more seats available to people changing for London trains at Watford.

Given that these services start at Watford they will not have already filled up with people travelling from other stations. Passengers using the Abbey Line to connect with the 0805 departure from Watford Junction will benefit considerably from the extra capacity.

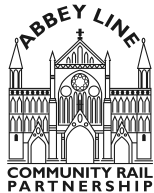
As of 13th December there will be a new shuttle departing Watford Junction at 0815 and calling at Bushey, Harrow and Euston.

Network Rail Partnership Awards

The St Albans Abbey Station Enhancement Project was shortlisted in the Community Engagement Category for all the joint efforts culminating in all the remarkable improvements.

St Albans Abbey Station Bus Stop Improvement

You may have noticed that the northbound bus stop at the Abbey Station received a new waiting shelter earlier this year. The good news is the stop outside the station is to be similarly treated and new easy-access kerbs are shortly to be introduced at both sites. The new kerbs at the southbound stop have been designed to alleviate the flooding problems that regularly occur outside the station.



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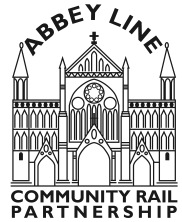
www.abbeyline.org.uk

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ABBHEY LINE

Community Partnership Newsletter

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The Community Rail Partnership, administered by Hertfordshire County Council, brings together local community, businesses, local government and the railway to secure the long term future of the Abbey Line railway.

Watford and St Albans passengers on track for new tram service

Rail passengers travelling between Watford and St Albans are in line for more regular and more frequent services thanks to exciting plans to create a new tram service announced by Transport Secretary Lord Andrew Adonis and Hertfordshire County Council.

The proposed improvements would enable passengers to travel between St Albans and Watford on a more frequent service.

Lord Adonis said:

"To encourage more people to use public transport, it's vital we give passengers a service which suits them. The proposed new trams would provide a more regular service and I am glad to be working with Hertfordshire County Council to take forward these exciting plans."



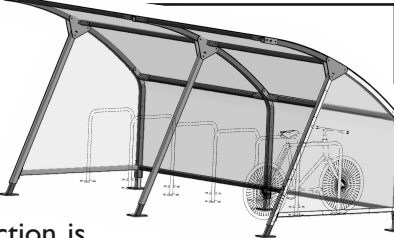
"The improvements would offer travellers the prospect of a better and more flexible service. Local people are best placed to make decisions about local transport which is why I am delighted that Hertfordshire County Council will be taking responsibility for this new tram service."

Depending on the outcome of the consultation and the completion of legal and contractual issues, the new service could be up and running in late 2011.

Abbey awarded Secure Stations Status

St Albans Abbey station has been awarded the coveted Secure Station Status. This demonstrates a commitment to reducing crime and the fear of crime and helping passengers and staff feel secure. The award criteria included judging by the British Transport Police on the steps taken to prevent and respond to problems over the last year. Investment by Hertfordshire County Council through the Quality Rail Partnership, the work of volunteers and Station Adopters and CCTV coverage all contributed.

Cycle Parking Update



The new cycle parking at Park Street Station is now in operation. Work at Watford Junction is underway. The date for the new cycle shelter at Watford North has yet to be agreed since clearance from Network Rail is required as the plan is to put the cycle shelter on their land.

The cycle stands are being installed at Bricket Wood during November. The shelter for Bricket Wood will take a few weeks longer as it is having to be specially made to fit on the platform.

St Albans Abbey Station Mosaics Treatment

Many passengers asked about the apparent disappearance of the mosaics displayed at St Albans Abbey Station. Designed and made by school children from St Peter's School specially for the line's 150th Anniversary celebrations in 2008 they have become a firm favourite. They were taken away temporarily by environmental workers at Groundwork Hertfordshire to be treated with a protective coating so that they can be enjoyed for a long time to come.

Ramping up Improved Access

The new Easier Access Area installed at St Albans Abbey Station is proving a great benefit for many, including people who have been previously unable to use the Line. The aim is to raise the platform to a standard level so the stepping distance is reduced. It makes it easier for people with mobility issues, luggage, shopping and pushchairs.

The hump is not designed to provide wheelchair access on its own. However, it will allow for a portable ramp to be placed in a way which is compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act, something which we hope to be able to provide in the future.

St Albans Abbey Station was selected to be a part of a national trial to address the issue of the high vertical gap between the platforms and the trains at similar stations across the country. The aim is to find a cost-effective way to provide better access where a completely rebuilt platform is not justified. This is only the second trial, after Harrington, Cumbria.

You can get personal staff help with boarding by wheelchair or mobility scooter anywhere on the line. Just ring the Accessibility Hotline at least a day in advance on 0800 092 4260.



Bricket Wood Station News

A local independent group formed to champion the renovation of Bricket Wood Station is pleased to hear that planning permission has been granted for it to be used as a café. Full details are awaited, but it is hoped that the last original railway building on the line may now be saved. Watch this space