

## Update to Environment and Community Safety PDS 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### Pothole repair machine

A demonstration of the 'JCB Pothole Pro' machine took place on Parry Street on February 7<sup>th</sup>. The machine can dig a trench even in shape and depth in minutes compared with the hours it would take place to conduct the same task with jack hammers. It is, of course, currently for the contractor to decide how they work but when the next contractor is prepared, I hope that we can be more prescriptive on working practices as I don't believe we currently are as efficient or economic as we might be.



### SELCHP

Waste comes under my colleague Cllr Rowlands' portfolio, he, the Chairman of the Committee, Cllr Grant and I visited the facility on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Cllr Rowlands' update gives fuller details of the visit.



*Bromley's non-recyclable waste co-mingled with Lewisham and Southwark (the bottom picture !)*

### **Bromley North to Grove Park Branch Line.**

Last year the Public Transport Liaison meeting discussed the timetable and asked whether the service could be enhanced in the evening rush hour, as train connections from London are every half hour. I am delighted to inform the Committee that after correspondence with Southeastern Trains there will be an increase from two to three trains an hour in the evening rush hour, matching the morning rush hour and a more even timetable in the day. This means that passengers will have a twenty-minute service from the new timetable starting June 2<sup>nd</sup>. There will also be more even intervals between trains on Grove Park lines stations to/ from London Bridge, Monday to Saturday.



## **Other rail improvements**

### **Orpington Station**

Work has started to install a second women's toilet that will be situated on the busy London-bound platform.

### **Petts Wood Station**

£10.79 m project to install four new lifts as part of the 'Access for All' programme in partnership with Network Rail are being built. Two accessible toilets have also been installed, along with step-free access to a waiting room and new Customer Information Screens at both station entrances.

### **Shortlands Station**

Three lifts and a new footbridge and staircase will also be built as part of a £8.5 m project which started in January and is due to complete in late spring 2025.

### **Bromley South Line**

Services from Victoria to Orpington via Herne Hill in both directions will run at an even interval 15-minute frequency at peak times, giving a better spread of trains at the busiest times.

The 08.00 Beckenham Junction to Blackfriars service is lengthened from four to six carriages reducing crowding on this service.

## **Orpington Bus Services**

TfL organised a public consultation on a number of the Orpington bus routes.

- Proposal 1: reroute the R3 via Towncourt Lane in Petts Wood
- Proposal 2: withdraw the R2 and replace it with changes to routes R1 and R3

- Proposal 3: withdraw route R6 and replace it with changes to route B14.

They have decided not to proceed with changes to routes R1, R2 and R3 as these no longer represent value for money.

They have not yet reached a decision as to how they may proceed with Proposal 3 which remains subject to the receipt of bus operator costs. A decision is expected later in 2024.

### **‘Superloop’**

New bus routes branded ‘Superloop’ have been started in Bromley.

SL5 commenced operation by Arriva’s Croydon Garage on February 3<sup>rd</sup> between Bromley North and East Croydon using 12-year-old Alexander Dennis Enviro 200 Dart 10.8m single deck buses.



SL3 started operation by Stagecoach’s Bromley Garage on February 24<sup>th</sup> between Thamesmead and Bromley North using 12-year-old Wrightbus ‘New Routemaster’ double deck buses.



SL4 Canary Wharf to Grove Park is not expected to begin until 2025 when the Silvertown Tunnel is opened.

The date for the electric charged Irizar Trambus has not yet been confirmed but is expected to be around June this year, more than 14 months after the official launch.

### **Government Pothole Funding**

The Government has allocated £455,000 for capital expenditure to repair roads affected by potholes and be used for resurfacing on the worst stretches of time expired road surfaces. The borough will receive funding every year until 2034-5.

Previous grants excluded London. We made strong representations that money should come directly to the London Boroughs and not to TfL and I am delighted that the Government has agreed to this.

In future years, as we re-tender the Highways Contract we should use some of the money for the purchase of modern machinery which may be owned by the Council and operated by the contractor or contractors as happens with our gritter fleet.



*There has to be a more efficient and economical way.*

### **Public Transport Liaison Meeting**

I have asked officers to arrange the next meeting for late May or early June.

**Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP**

**Executive Member for Transport, Highways and Road Safety**