

Dear Sir,

I am writing on behalf of The Camberwell Society the officially recognised amenity society for Camberwell, with over 600 members, in response to the combined Thameslink, Southern and Great Northern franchise consultation.

King's College Hospital is located in Camberwell and we note that the hospital's Transport Feeder Group has provided a detailed response to the consultation. We also note that a response to the Consultation has been submitted by the Southwark Rail Users Group. The Camberwell Society supports the submissions made in both these detailed responses but we wish to add some specific points relating to Camberwell.

Camberwell has a well documented high level of social and economic deprivation and unlike most inner London areas is not served by a tube service. Therefore much reliance is based on access to local rail services. Camberwell is served by Denmark Hill Station and Loughborough Junction Station.

Denmark Hill Station is currently undergoing major works to provide accessibility improvements and it is expected that passenger numbers will increase as a result. The Camberwell Society would welcome consideration being given to accessibility issues at Loughborough Junction Station.

Whilst both Denmark Hill and Loughborough Junction stations serve key central London stations and tube networks the number of services and times they run are not sufficient to serve travellers in a tube like way. To serve this densely populated area, which contains a number of major health care providers, it is essential that rail services are regular (at least four trains per hour), reliable and can serve the two local stations at both peak and off peak times, 7 days a week.

From December 2012, following the withdrawal of the South London Line, Denmark Hill station will no longer have a direct service to London Bridge and will have a reduced service to Victoria (only two trains per hour and none in the evenings or at weekends). We wish consideration to be given to compensating for these lost services. We particularly wish to see services from Denmark Hill to Victoria to be at a frequency of four trains per hour seven days a week.

We also wish to see off peak services from Denmark Hill and Loughborough Junction to St Pancras to be at a level of at least four trains an hour seven days a week.

We are very concerned that services from both Denmark Hill and Loughborough Junction should be at least be maintained as at present and not require termination at Blackfriars. This area of inner London needs more services to central London destinations not less.

Yours sincerely,
Alex Blacknell (on behalf of the Camberwell Society)