

Sevenoaks Rail Travellers Association

Briefing on Reduced Train Lengths

Fares Up – Seats Down!

SER recently announced cuts of about 20% to 6 peak hour trains between Sevenoaks and London by removing 2 carriages.

Of special concern in the morning are the 07.44 and 08.04 services which are amongst the most heavily overcrowded services each day. SET admit that passenger numbers on these services have remained unchanged from November 2007 to November 2008.

	Passengers at London Bridge 2007 ¹	Passengers at London Bridge 2008 ¹	Passengers from Sevenoaks 2008	Seats from Sevenoaks 2008	Passengers per seat at S/oaks 2008
07.44	835	865	727	604	120%
08.04	897	877	737	604	122%

As the table above shows the short formations force around 130 passengers to stand on each train from Sevenoaks to London. Indeed, some passengers are standing from Hildenborough. About 150 additional passengers are then crammed in from Chelsfield to London Bridge.

The evening is an almost mirror image of the morning although the growth in passengers is much more marked. The two shortened trains are again the most heavily loaded being the 17.41 and 18.28 from Charing Cross.

	Passengers at London Bridge 2007 ¹	Passengers at London Bridge 2008 ¹	Passengers at Sevenoaks 2008	Seats at Sevenoaks 2008	Passengers per seat at S/oaks 2008
17.41	804	903	759	604	126%
18.28	670	861	723	604	120%

Sevenoaks RTA believe that, for a 40 minute journey, it is totally unjustified to expect any passengers to stand and we call on SER to reinstate the missing carriages immediately.

Contact: Sevenoaks RTA can be contacted via enquiries@srtc.org.uk

¹ Data from South Eastern Railway, 2009