

## Once Upon A Time...

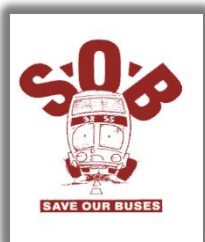


**...the 38 bus ran to Leyton, alongside route 55!**

On 24<sup>th</sup> February 1990 both services were cut back to Clapton & replaced by route 56. Direct links to the West End were lost, three bus routes were cut to two and peak hour frequencies slashed by 45%.

Chronic traffic congestion on Lea Bridge Road led to these services being axed.

*The London Borough Of Waltham Forest could not stop the bus cuts.*



Save Our Buses (SOB) formed out of a public meeting held by Lea Bridge Labour Party. It received support from former MPs Harry Cohen & later Neil Gerrard. The passenger fightback began. SOB developed a wider, community based campaign. It gained the backing of local residents, Waltham Forest Council, Hackney Council, bus workers, pensioner groups, cyclists & businesses.

A relentless 7 year campaign saw Route 55 restored to Leyton, Bakers Arms in April 1997. Along with the West End link, a third route was reinstated and overall frequencies increased by 50%.

*The introduction of bus lanes by Waltham Forest Council made this possible.*

*Question for the London Borough Of Waltham Forest:*

**Can we learn the lessons from history?**