Fix The District
line's Wimbledon branch

DEMONSTRATION
BRIEFING

Come and stand with us at Wimbledon station

Thursday
17 September
4pm – 7pm

Wimbledon Station forecourt, public pavement

Peaceful and family-friendly — children welcome. Come for any part of it; people will join and leave all evening. Bring a placard or sign if you can — we'll have spares and flyers either way. **Group photograph at 6pm** — if you only make one moment, make it that one. Station staff and the British Transport Police are being told as a courtesy.

Why we're doing this

If you use the District line between Wimbledon and East Putney, you already know the feeling: the platform fills up, nothing comes, and no one tells you anything. It isn't bad luck. This stretch of track runs on **decades-old signalling**, it fails over and over, and when the central District line was modernised, our branch, along with the line's other western branches, was left out of the plan. There is **still no funded plan** to replace it.

We're not a political party or a pressure group. We're local passengers who got tired of guessing, started writing the delays down, and then went and read TfL's own paperwork. Everything below comes from that — TfL's published documents, and delays logged by people on the platform.

What we found

35
separate days with a signal failure on this branch, 11 February – 17 August 2026

48%
of delay reports were logged while TfL's own status said "Good Service"

up to
~453,000
hours of passengers' time lost since February 2026 — our own upper estimate

£0
funded to replace the branch's signalling

Sources: TfL's own published status feed and 256 passenger reports submitted to fixthedistrict.org, 11 February – 17 August 2026. Of the 35 days, TfL's status feed located a signal fault on the branch on 26; passengers logged one on 24; 15 days appear in both. Lost customer-hours is the campaign's own estimate for that period, and an upper one: every report counts, and several passengers often report the same delay. It is not an annual figure.

Why it keeps happening

1. **The upgrade stopped short of us.**
   In September 2020 TfL reviewed its big signalling programme and decided the District line's western branches would not be re-signalled. That decision was reported to a TfL committee in December 2020 and restated in 2021 and again in 2024. The new signalling stops at East Putney, three stops up the line from Wimbledon.

2. **The £500,000 "fix" isn't the fix.**
   Before the 2026 Championships, TfL and Network Rail announced £500,000 to "strengthen signalling on the District line" — new track circuits, coatings, fault detection. It patches the old equipment rather than replacing it, and local reporting found it **failed three times inside a fortnight**. No one has published what a real repair would cost, and no money has been set aside for it.

3. **The old excuse looks different now.**
   One reason given for skipping our branch was that another company's trains share the track. Since May 2025 those trains have been run by the now publicly-owned South Western Railway.

Not a small corner of the network: East Putney, Southfields, Wimbledon Park and Wimbledon see **29.3 million** station entries and exits a year between them, and because nearly every District line train starts on a western branch, a fault here delays the rest of the line too.

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What we're asking of you

1. **Come on the day, even briefly.**
   Twenty minutes genuinely helps. The group photograph is at **6pm** — that's the picture the press and the politicians end up seeing, and the only thing that makes it work is the number of people standing in it. Bring whoever you like.

2. **Sign the petition.**
   Thirty seconds, and it's the thing that keeps working after the day is over. It's addressed to TfL, the Mayor of London and the Secretary of State for Transport. **change.org/fixthedistrict**

3. **Share it with friends, family and neighbours.**
   Forward this, drop the petition link into the group chat, post it in your local Facebook or WhatsApp group. Most people who use this branch every day still have no idea it was left out of the upgrade — which is exactly why nothing has changed.

What it's actually like on the platform

Real reports, word for word — each logged while TfL's own status said the line was running fine.

> "No announcements - nothing. It's an absolute shambles"
>
> — passenger report, Southfields, May 2026
>
> **TfL said: "Good Service"**

> "Delayed by 30-40 minutes on my work commute"
>
> — passenger report, East Putney, February 2026
>
> **TfL said: "Good Service"**

> "Now stranded at Parsons Green"
>
> — passenger report, Wimbledon Park, May 2026
>
> **TfL said: "Good Service"**

Don't take our word for it

Every claim on the first page comes from a document anyone can go and read. These two matter most.

> "…the western branches of the District line **will not be re-signalled**… We will continue to assess whether we can convert this signalling in the future."
>
> TfL Programmes & Investment Committee, 11 December 2020 — repeated word for word in the Committee's Four Lines Modernisation paper of 21 July 2021.

> "The 4LM project is replacing the signalling system **as far as East Putney station.**"
>
> TfL's own answer to a Freedom of Information request, FOI-4657-2526, 7 April 2026. In other words: the upgrade stops three stops short of Wimbledon.

Network Rail, which maintains the branch's signalling, holds "no funding decisions, budget allocations, or timeline documents for any signalling replacement"; *Putney News* also reported the £500,000 patch failing three times. Every source we use, in full context: **fixthedistrict.org/evidence**.

Bring a placard or sign
Make your own if you like — we'll have spares, plus flyers and cards.

Children welcome
Station entrances and step-free routes stay clear throughout.

Finding us
Wimbledon station forecourt — look for the mass of people in green and white.

Links

Sign the petition	change.org/fixthedistrict	Event details	fixthedistrict.org/demo-17-sep-2026
Campaign	fixthedistrict.org	Why it keeps failing	fixthedistrict.org/why
Live data	fixthedistrict.org/dashboard	Instagram	@fixthedistrictline
Facebook group	facebook.com/groups/fixthedistrict		
Contact	campaign@fixthedistrict.org		