



Steve Brine's ALRESFORD & ITCHEN VALLEY POST

Another 100% positive publication produced at no cost to the taxpayer by your energetic local Conservative MP and the team. It is delivered by volunteers in New Alresford, Old Alresford, Bighton, Gundleton, Northington, Easton, Martyr Worthy, Avington, Itchen Abbas, Itchen Stoke and Chilcomb.

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YOU MIGHT THINK THAT...

STEVE IN CONVERSATION WITH 'HOUSE OF CARDS', MICHAEL DOBBS.



STEVE SECURES MAJOR INVESTMENT FOR OUR AREA



Winchester, Alresford & Itchen Valley MP Steve Brine has helped deliver major investment in TWO local road schemes worth hundreds of millions of pounds in the past month but is campaigning for more!

Junction 9 of the M3 at Winnall will see a comprehensive package of improvements worth upwards of £200m which, as reported in the Winter edition of this newspaper, needs major work to secure what is a crucial freight link via the A34 from the Midlands to the Ports on the south coast.

Steve says; "The work done there last year as part of the Government's pinch-point scheme was always for me part one of something much bigger so I am really pleased with this new deal. As I said at PMQs last month, it is essential for the country but also to clear the congestion which affects large parts of the city every time things back-up on the motorway.

"It will take time to deliver but I look forward to examining it, including how

National Cycle Route 23 will be included, as detailed plans are worked up."

Meanwhile, the troubled **A33 junction at Kings Worthy** – used by many of Steve's constituents living in Alresford and the Itchen Valley to access Winchester – is set for a £100k overhaul early in 2015.

Finally, Steve has already delivered **resurfacing of the M3 motorway** – with quieter surface – from J9 down to J14 and that work will be done by April 2015. He adds however; "I'm pleased of course but I want more. We now need to get the resurfacing done from J9 up to J8 on the M3 and also similar work done on the carriageway of the A34 which will directly benefit residents in the Itchen Valley especially."

More: www.stevebrine.com/junction9

More: www.stevebrine.com/A33



Cllr Ernie Jeffs with Steve Brine MP, NATC Chair Lisa Griffiths and local PCSO Laura on one of their regular street surgeries in Alresford.

ALRESFORD LOCAL PLAN, CLLR. ERNIE JEFFS WRITES...

Consultation responses from Alresford to the draft Local Plan were delivered to Winchester City Council last month.

Two plans have been submitted to Winchester City Council - one based primarily on Sun Hill and the other which spreads the distribution of housing development across various sites in Alresford. There is criticism of both approaches, however a comparative approach is I think welcome by many of the Alresford residents.

Of real concern to me is the infrastructure needed to support whichever scheme is finally chosen. Local schools and the Alresford Surgery have been consulted

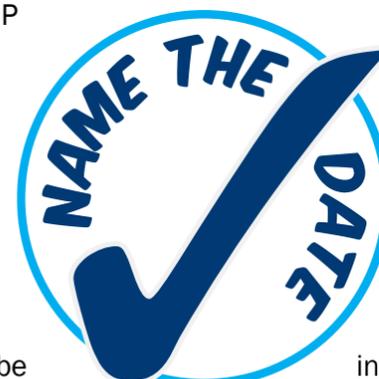
and feel they are prepared but how will the roads, transport and other essential facilities cope with the extra housing and employment opportunities? Detail on these aspects has not been considered seriously enough so far.

BEFORE plans are finalised and the Local Plan is adopted, the County, City and Town Council along with the residents and retailers of Alresford must agree the infrastructure requirements in detail and be part of the development plans otherwise the development will be unsustainable.

STEVE SAYS – NAME THE DATE NOW!

Steve Brine says name the date for the IN/OUT EU referendum he is supporting

The Winchester MP went against a three-line whip in the House of Commons back in November 2011 to call for a national poll, and although it is now party policy, he is calling for a proposed date to be published now.



He says; "If the Conservatives are re-elected in May the referendum WILL happen in 2017 after the PM's much trailed renegotiation. However, to underline this even further I want that date fixed now so we can all ink it into our diaries!"

More: www.stevebrine.com/wewantoursay

A Green Winchester publication, printed on paper from sustainable forests

Westminster Reflections

from Steve Brine MP

Since my election in 2010, I have focused on establishing myself as first and foremost a constituency MP. I promised to be the most accessible we've had and I hope I've achieved that.

But I am also a member of the House of Commons and have made the most of my time as first a backbencher and then a member of the Government.

I spent a year with Iain Duncan Smith at the DWP as a PPS (Parliamentary Private Secretary) working on our landmark welfare reforms but in the Summer of 2014 was promoted to be a PPS working across the Home Office and Ministry of Justice. I have also served on many standing committees examining key parts of our legislative programme; including the Green Deal, NHS reform, Offender Rehabilitation and Prisoner Voting.

FINAL PMQS BALLOT

I receive three pairs of tickets for PMQs each year. Many MPs give their allocation to friends or family, but I have always held a free and fair ballot for my constituents who are interested in going.

I have one allocation left this Parliament, on Wednesday 4th March, so if you are interested in entering the draw, visit

www.stevebrine.com/PMQs

SPEAKING ON THE ECONOMY

I recently spoke in a key House of Commons debate on the economy. Read/watch what I had to say

www.stevebrine.com/2014economicspeech



Questioning the Lord Chancellor at Justice Committee

JUSTICE SELECT COMMITTEE

I have spent over three years as a member of the influential Justice Select Committee, chaired by my friend Sir Alan Beith MP. It allowed me speak freely on subjects close to my heart such as reducing the prison population and reducing re-offending.

More: www.stevebrine.com/JSC

FAMILY MATTERS

RAISING THE PERSONAL TAX THRESHOLD

We've raised the personal tax allowance to £10,000 and will lift it to £12,500 if we remain in Government. This will take a million people out of paying income tax, and mean no one working 30 hours a week on the minimum wage would pay any income tax.

RAISING THE HIGHER RATE THRESHOLD

The Conservatives will raise the higher rate threshold at which people pay the 40p tax rate to £50,000. It is currently £41,900. This will be a huge benefit for my constituency.

FUEL DUTY

We've frozen fuel duty since coming into office saving some £570 on petrol costs each year if you fill up your car once a week.

AIR PASSENGER DUTY

From May, APD for under 12s will be abolished and from 2016 it will be abolished for under 16s. This has been a long-running campaign I've supported.

HELP TO BUY

Has already helped thousands purchase a home since its launch in March 2012. Locally 65 families have already been helped.

More: www.help2obuy.co.uk



With my 2 children; Emily (7) and William (4)

HEALTH

My strong constituency interest in health followed me to Westminster where I scrutinized some key parts of coalition health policy and worked closely with successive Health Secretaries.

Breast cancer

I have been co-chair of the All-Party Breast Cancer Group since 2010 producing a number of key reports and regularly briefing the Prime Minister.

Full story at: www.stevebrine.com/breastcancer

Children's Heart Surgery

I have worked a great deal on the major Congenital Heart Disease Review known as 'Safe and Sustainable'.

More: www.stevebrine.com/childrenshearturgery

I am also closely involved with All-Party work on Parkinson's, Ovarian Cancer, Autism, Maternity, Muscular Dystrophy and Speech Therapy.



With my breast cancer group co-chairs, Labour's Sharon Hodgson and Lib Dem Annette Brooke and (left) chairing our major inquiry into older people with the disease in 2013.

BUSINESS

Small businesses are the lifeline of the local economy.

Doubling the Small Business Rate Relief has been important and we will continue to cap the inflation-linked increase in business rates at 2%. The £1,000 discount for shops and cafes on the high street will increase to £1,500 and there will be a full review of the structure of business rates to report before Budget 2016.

We will increase the R&D tax credit for SME firms to 230%, the maximum allowed and extend the Funding for Lending scheme by another year – focusing it entirely on small businesses.



See more of my work in Westminster: www.stevebrine.com/westminster

JACKLYN'S LANE JUNCTION AND RAILINGS

Residents in Alresford have recommenced a campaign to tackle safety concerns over a stretch of Jacklyns Lane as it passes under the railway bridge.

Sam Kerr-Smiley of The Nursery Road Residents Group told The Post; "I believe this section to be one of the most dangerous in Alresford. The road narrows to one lane on a steep hill with restricted visibility. Incidents are common and only recently another head-on collision occurred in which one car was written off, thankfully there were no serious injuries to any of those involved."

The passage under this bridge is the main route for children walking to local schools and many cross the road here. Pedestrian and vehicle traffic under this bridge will become busier as a result of the Local Plan development in Alresford.

Local councillor, Lisa Griffiths, added; "At a recent meeting with residents of Ellingham Close, they expressed their fears when cars travel quickly under the bridge and added that although the footpath was widened some years ago, more



Cllr Lisa Griffiths and Cllr Ernie Jeffs with concerned local residents.

needs to be done to protect all residents as they walk to and from town."

Steve Brine and Winchester City Councillor Ernie Jeffs are working with campaigners to help find a solution.

NEWS IN BRIEF

PARK HOMES UPDATE

Steve Brine continues to work with his cross party colleagues backing park home owners in Parliament, and is pledging to continue his work if he is re-elected in May.

Steve says; "The Mobile Homes Act, which finally came into effect in May 2013 has been among our many achievements in this Parliament. This is by no means the end of our campaigning, and there remain some complex issues around pitch fees and maintenance which are not straightforward, but the Act set real rights for homeowners into legislation to provide much-needed legal protection."

More: www.stevebrine.com/parkhomes

ALRESFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Steve Brine met with around 80 local residents in the Autumn as he was asked along to the Alresford Neighbourhood Watch AGM.



Steve was asked to give a talk about his experiences in Parliament, and what it is like to represent 77,000 people as a constituency MP and says; "It was great to meet the team, and I hope they enjoyed my talk, where I tried, at least, to explain both the fascinating nature of my job alongside the sheer amount of energy and positive application it takes."

Neighbourhood Watch is thriving in our area with many active branches. Find out more via; www.neighbourhood.watch.alresford.org

SUN HILL INFANTS

Alresford & Itchen Valley MP Steve Brine continued his mission to visit every school in his large constituency during this Parliament as he dropped into Sun Hill Infants School in the Christmas term to discuss their recent Outstanding Ofsted report.

Steve said; "Sun Hill Infants seems to be a school confident in what it does and with a very experienced Head in charge, it does that well. Ofsted clearly agree which is well-deserved."

NEW ALRESFORD TIMEPIECE

Local MP Steve Brine joined Alresford's key local councillors to perform a special unveiling of the New Alresford Town Trust clock last summer.

After an introduction from Cllr Robin Atkins, Steve formally unveiled the clock, which sits proudly outside the Swan Hotel on West Street.

Steve also made a video of his busy Alresford Day, meeting local residents and businesses, which you can view via www.stevebrine.tv



LORRIES IN ALRESFORD

The issue of large lorries passing through Broad Street and the Soke (by the Globe Pub) in Alresford has understandably troubled residents for many years. In recent times the volume of traffic – and size of vehicle – has increased, only adding to the problem.



Winchester & Alresford MP Steve Brine has said the status quo is not sustainable and continues to work with local councillors, campaign groups, constituents and the watercress industry on Bighton Lane, to see if a compromise can be reached. He says; "This is not a quick fix problem; if it was it would have been solved years ago but it's coming to a head and it needs to."

Steve has recently updated his webpage on the subject which includes new comment on the issue and details of a very revealing traffic survey carried out last Summer. All can be found at www.stevebrine.com/lorriesinalresford

COUNTRYSIDE PROJECTS RECOGNISED AT ITCHEN ABBAS AWARDS NIGHT

Steve Brine joined teams from 19 shortlisted countryside projects recently as they gathered with more than 100 guests at a special awards event at Itchen Abbas Village Hall.

The prestigious awards, run by CPRE Hampshire in conjunction with Hampshire Fare and the Hampshire Enterprise Circle, celebrate the county's diverse, living countryside, and the Earl of Malmesbury, President of CPRE Hampshire, was on hand to introduce the ceremony.

Steve was asked to present the awards, and the winners included Brook Meadow Conservation Group, Kings Worthy Primary School, Blackwood Forest Holidays in Micheldever, while the new Green Buildings award was won by Avon Tyrrell Boat House from the New Forest.

Steve said; "CPRE are such a positive organisation and it's credit to them that they hold these awards locally each year to recognise some of the fantastic things taking place in our vibrant, living, working countryside."

Steve with some of the children from the highly commended 'Woodland Walk' at Kings Worthy Primary School.



FLOODING IN THE ITCHEN VALLEY

Vital work is now being carried out in the Itchen Valley as the area once again takes part in the efforts to prevent Winchester city centre from flooding.

Last year, a 'constriction' was put in place near Easton to stop huge volumes of water breaching the flood defences in town, while a large area of farmland was deliberately flooded to alleviate much of the pressure.

Just before Christmas, the Environment Agency work

began to widen the banks of the River Itchen and remove pilings, allowing the river to expand when it is needed.

Steve Brine, who led a Parliamentary debate on flooding in November, said; "This is extremely welcome news, and part of the wider strategic planning that is now in place. The Itchen Valley certainly played a huge part in stopping potentially catastrophic scenes at homes and schools in the city last winter, so this further work is badly needed."



More: www.stevebrine.com/flooding

Never before called one of the 'wets', Steve and Itchen Valley Councillor Kim Gottlieb speaking to Mike O'Neill from the Environment Agency as they wait to speak to ITV Meridian in Easton last Winter.

Even more
NEWS
IN BRIEF

NUISANCE CALLS UPDATE

Steve has had a huge response from local people following his work on nuisance calls which continue to pester – and worry – people across Winchester. He continues to work on a cross-party basis in Parliament and has welcomed Which? magazine joining the campaign, as well as tough new fines which can be imposed on companies who break existing rules.

CAPACITY ON THE TRAINS

Steve Brine has worked tirelessly during the course of this Parliament to improve services for the thousands of commuters he represents. He spoke recently in a Commons debate about the 'Wessex Route Plan' which is the best opportunity in a generation to address the big issues around capacity on routes into Waterloo.

More: www.stevebrine.com/trains

MUM'S IN THE KNOW

Fulford resident Lindsey Holland met Steve recently (pictured) to discuss Mums In The Know, a group created to help local parents keep in touch with local events and activities.

Lindsey explained how they are keen to become the first point of contact for parents looking for daily inspiration for entertainment for their children, and they enable busy parents to receive regular updates as to what's on and where, as well as lots of fun advice and hot topic discussions. Steve said: "Lindsey and the audience she caters for is very much the same age and stage as Susie and I so we had much to discuss. The site is growing fast and is really useful so check it out."

www.mumsintheknow.co.uk/winchester



WAYS TO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL MP

EMAIL
steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk
PHONE 01962 791110
WRITE Steve Brine MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
WEBSITE www.stevebrine.com
TWITTER twitter.com/sbrine
FACEBOOK facebook.com/SteveBrineMP

STILL PRIORITY NHS

Steve Brine continues to work responsibly – and calmly – to keep constituents informed as proposals for a new critical care hospital locally are discussed. Last year he carried out a constituency-wide Health Check Survey and chaired two open meetings in Winchester – one focused solely on maternity services and obstetric care.

Steve says: "We are some way yet from the commissioners of local health services even agreeing to put these ideas out to public consultation but, as a responsible Member of Parliament, I want us to have the fullest possible understanding of what's being proposed and to give my constituents every chance to question it.

"I remain committed to keeping the best services in Winchester but to do so in a way that is sustainable and above all, safe. Some of the things being put about locally are the height of irresponsibility but I will continue to focus on the facts. After almost five years as the MP here, and someone



Stay updated on the facts: www.stevebrine.com/prioritynhs

who has actually had two children born at the RHCH, I hope my constituents know my commitment to the local NHS. "As I said to the BBC recently, I and many others welcome a £125 million investment in a new critical treatment hospital in the area providing the 24/7

world class consultant-led cover we don't have right now. There are of course questions that need to be answered if this were to move to a consultation including access by public transport to the new facility and the impact on services at Basingstoke and Winchester hospitals."



Brine v Dobbs
Winchester MP Steve Brine in conversation with award-winning writer, Michael Dobbs...

Brine – You are the writer and co-producer on the global hit series House of Cards, and thousands of my constituents have been watching Frank Underwood take up the mantle left by Francis Urquhart all those years ago in Westminster. Did you really think back in the 90s when you conceived the idea that it would get this big?
Dobbs – I had no idea I was going to finish the book, let alone get it published. The suggestion that it would change my life so completely would have seemed ridiculous. I'm not sure what I have done to deserve the role of FU being taken by two such outstanding actors as Ian Richardson and Kevin Spacey, but I have embraced every moment.
Brine – It's a great show, and Kevin Spacey is superb in the lead role, but honestly, how close (or not) is his character to reality?
Dobbs – It's fiction! Drama, not documentary. Although a huge

amount of the plot is lifted from real life, it doesn't pretend to be a balanced view of politics. The Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi was recently photographed in a Rome bookshop buying a copy of House of Cards. I wrote to remind him it was a work of entertainment, not instruction.

Dobbs – After five years in the House of Commons what do you know now that you wish you knew then?
Brine – I thought it would be hard work but nothing prepares you for the 24/7 nature of the job so I wish I'd got some sleep before arriving in Westminster! The truth is, whatever the media may say about Parliament and MPs, I don't see scallywags taking the public for a ride here. I see a group of people dedicated to improving our country and serving their constituents – and that's true of every party and none.
Dobbs – So you're standing again in May?
Brine – Yes, most definitely! It's been an incredible experience to join the House of Commons and to work within Government but it's the steepest learning curve I've ever experienced. Truth is, I'm a much better MP at the end of my first term than I was at the start and I want to take that valuable experience, for the benefit of my constituents, into a second-term.

Brine – You are a member of the House of Lords now, what's your focus there?
Dobbs – Well, the early part of this year was taken up with trying to push through the EU Referendum Bill, which was eventually destroyed by the Lib Dem and Labour parties. There's only one party that's going to give voters their say on Europe – us! The role in the Lords is also very helpful in raising money for charities. I have a 150-mile sponsored walk coming up in March which I treat as training for the general election!
Dobbs – I think it's well accepted that you work hard in your role as an MP. Do you ever get to relax and if so, how?
Brine – Music and my kids. I've got tickets to see Fleetwood Mac (with Christine McVie) this Summer at the O2 and can't wait. I dare say Glastonbury will beckon again come June. Having two young children has its moments as readers will know but they have a way of relaxing me and I just live for our family holidays on the beach (with Popcorn of course) in Devon each August.

JOIN OUR #Team Alresford & Itchen Valley
Would you like to join Steve Brine's winning team for Alresford and the Itchen Valley as we head into one of the most exciting General Election's in years?

To get involved please return this form as below or email team2015@stevebrine.com

I can deliver a few leaflets I will put up a poster
 I would like to join the canvass team
 I would like to donate to the fighting fund (Cheques payable to Winchester Conservative Association)

Name: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____

PLEASE RETURN TO:
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