



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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IT'S THE ECONOMY...

Local MP Steve Brine says there's so much at stake this year.

This year's General Election – due in May – is the most important, and unpredictable, in a generation. In five years, Britain has moved from being on the brink to becoming the fastest growing economy in the Western World.

Steve Brine has been our Member of Parliament since 2010. He told The Alresford & Itchen Valley Post; "I have seen first-hand the work that has been done to give our country the recovery that is now producing growth, more jobs and better wages. It would be criminal to turn back now."

The MP, who ran a small business himself before being elected to Parliament, said it was not however all about Westminster.

"We said from the start this would be a Government that gets Britain open for business. Whether it's the lowest rate of corporation tax in the G20, or our

Employment Allowance which has cut National Insurance for every business by up to £2,000, we made that happen.

"But having a business friendly council in Winchester matters too. The overall jobless count in this area has fallen by 68% since 2010 but we want to go further. That means keeping and attracting quality employers in the area so there are well paid, professional, jobs locally. At present we have a City Council that understands that."



Steve on his feet in the House of Commons

More: Steve's Famous Five – what the recovery means here, see page 2

RUGBY CLUB CELEBRATES NEW HOME



New Alresford Town Council Chair, Lisa Griffiths, cuts the ribbon (photo courtesy of Hampshire Chronicle) and – below – last year's Mayor, Ernie Jeffs, hands over a cheque raised during his year in office.

After many years of negotiation with local authorities and organisations the Alresford Rugby Football Club have finally got their own rugby pitches in the town.

On Saturday 31st January the ARFC formally opened the facility. An opening address was given by the ARFC chairman Chris Day and ribbon cutting performed by Cllr Lisa Griffiths, Chairman of the New Alresford Town Council.

Lisa Griffiths said: "At last they have their own facility, built to exacting standards and no longer have to rely on lengthy treks to the Bighton playing field. Many thanks to the McCowen family for providing the playing facilities in Bighton enabling the ARFC to maintain their successful fixture programme."

In addition, Cllr Ernie Jeffs presented a sizeable cheque to the club as a donation from his charity whilst he was Mayor of Winchester in 2013/14.



IT WILL ALWAYS BE 'PRIORITY NHS'

HEALTH FOCUS HERE TO STAY, SAYS STEVE
WINCHESTER MP STEVE BRINE REMAINS RUTHLESSLY FOCUSED ON HEALTH AND THE NHS

ASKtheNHS IN WINCHESTER
Steve Brine has held two open meetings in Winchester this year as part of his ASKtheNHS series.

NEW OUTPATIENTS OPEN AT RHCH
Local MP Steve Brine welcomed the new

HEALTH FOCUS REMAINS
An annual four year when I am working for the people of the Alresford & Itchen Valley

MERGER OPPORTUNITY FOR HOSPITAL
Two trusts become one under newly serviced plans. Let's make this work for Winchester's local MP

STILL PRIORITY NHS

Steve Brine MP Health Check Survey 2014

Steve has a strong and consistent record on our local NHS

Steve Brine made the local NHS his top priority from day one and has pledged to do the same if he's re-elected as our MP in May.

He says; "We have huge challenges locally as the new Trust seeks to design hospital services that are safe and sustainable in the long-term. I will go on working calmly and responsibly to consider any proposed changes but do think the Trust have some way to go in making the case for a reconfigured maternity service for instance. That part still troubles me greatly. We have to understand the health economy across our entire area and see how that fits together in the context of the modern NHS for the long-term benefit of the people I represent."

He adds; "The NHS is changing fast and I want our area to benefit from new investment as well as be at the forefront of a drive for better outcomes on cancer and long-term conditions for instance.

"Alongside all of this, we need to manage sustainable access to GP services, the integration of NHS and social care and parity for mental health care locally."

Last year Steve surveyed every one of his more than 70,000 constituents on the NHS and chaired two open meetings to give local people a chance to question health chiefs.

More: www.stevebrine.com/prioritynhs

A Green Winchester publication, printed on paper from sustainable forests

NEWS

from the House

IN BRIEF

HOMELESS DEBATE IN COMMONS

Steve Brine recently raised the issues of mental health and substance abuse among young homeless people during a debate in Parliament.

He spoke beforehand to Winchester Churches Night Shelter and Trinity, and told Parliament that whatever the colour of the next government, the next 'frontier' in tackling homelessness among young people must be a national focus on services working together to address multiple needs.

More: www.stevebrine.com/westminster

BODY WORN VIDEO FOR POLICE

Police Minister Mike Penning visited Winchester with Steve Brine (his Parliamentary Private Secretary at the Home Office) for a demonstration of how the body-worn police cameras work.

By the end of this year, every frontline police officer in Hampshire will be issued with a body-worn camera as the force becomes one of the first in the country to equip all its staff.



Minister Mike Penning and Steve with Sgt Kerry Lawrence, Chief Constable Andy Marsh and PCC Simon Hayes.

INHERITANCE TAX PUSH FROM MP

Steve Brine continues to lead calls for the Chancellor to raise the inheritance tax threshold in his next Budget.

Mr Brine was extremely angry that the Conservative manifesto idea was jettisoned from the Coalition agreement back in 2010, and is now pushing to spare families in his constituency the 40% 'death tax' on houses which many have lived in for years.

Steve Brine has written formally to George Osborne to demand that inheritance tax should only be paid by the very wealthy, not with a threshold set at £325,000, or £650,000 for a married couple.

NEW DRUG FOR MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY FIGHT

Winchester & Chandler's Ford MP Steve Brine has joined the fight for urgent access to a new rare disease treatment.

The campaign calls on NHS England to end delays to a breakthrough treatment which will allow some boys affected by a devastating muscle-wasting condition to stay on their feet for longer.

Steve Brine MP said: "A bureaucratic internal debate is currently preventing licensing of the drug Translarna, which can give these boys precious extra time on their feet."

"NHS England urgently needs to come up with a short-term solution as families affected by Duchenne muscular dystrophy do not have a single day to spare as their sons get weaker each day."

Westminster Report

'inside the Commons'

Being elected to Parliament for the first time is quite something as you can imagine but being thrust into a new Government right away – and a coalition Government at that – is an experience I will never forget.

There have been too many highlights to mention but my first PMQ stands out, that and just the sheer enormity of the

Palace of Westminster. As the recent BBC documentary showed, getting to know it is something you never manage even after 30 years!

My work on the influential Justice Select Committee was a fascinating chance to really learn the craft of a backbencher. My votes against a 3-line whip were, as I like to think, character forming.

In 2013 I joined the Government as a ministerial aide at the Department for Work and Pensions – and subsequently the Home Office – which has proved many things to me; not least that Yes Minister was spot on in almost every regard!

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

SECURING OUR FUTURE



Steve with members of the South Wonston Senior Citizens Club and BELOW speaking recently in the House of Commons

The Famous 5...

Since 2010, we've been working to a long-term economic plan to turn Britain around. MP Steve Brine talks about the five key areas in which the coalition government has made a difference for those of us living across Winchester & Chandler's Ford.

1 There are now a record number of people in work in our country. The overall jobless count in this area has fallen by 68% since 2010; it's down 46% among the over-50's and an impressive 79% among 18-24 year-olds. That's more people in work providing for their families or young people getting into work for the first time.

2 We've raised the personal income tax allowance to £10,000 meaning no-one working 30 hours a week on the minimum

wage will pay any. If we remain in Government we'll lift it to £12,500.

3 This Government has frozen petrol duty and council tax, abolished Air Passenger Duty for under 12's and helped thousands get on the property ladder through Help to Buy.

4 We've capped benefits to reward work and if we win in May, we will raise the higher rate threshold at which people pay the 40p tax rate to £50,000. It is currently £41,900.

5 The state pension has increased by £800, we've protected key pensioners benefits as we promised and abolished the unfair annuity rule for over-75's.

All of this is possible because Britain now has the fastest growing economy in the Western World.

HOSTING THE EDITORS

Steve Brine recently hosted a group of parish magazine editors from across his constituency in the House of Commons, as they took a guided tour of the Palace of Westminster before meeting Steve for tea and biscuits.

Steve Brine said: "Every month since I was elected in 2010

I have written a column for around a dozen parish, church and community magazines.

"It's a huge task but worth it as residents read, and trust, these vital community channels. The visit to Westminster was a chance to take the tour, have a cup of tea and meet each other – and for me to say thank you."



FLOOD WORKS EXTENSION



Steve lends his shoulder to the effort in Littleton in February 2014 alongside Cllr James Byrnes

Winchester's MP has secured further good news for local people affected by last winter's flooding, as the government have now extended the deadline on those applying for financial help.

Following lobbying of the Treasury by Steve, the deadline has been extended until the end of 30th June 2015 for those affected between 1st December 2013 and 31st March 2014. This will help local authorities across England manage the allocation of the Repair and Renew Grant (RRG).

The RRG provides homeowners and businesses with up to £5,000 of grant funding to establish resilience measures to their property in order to minimise the risk or impact of any future flooding.

Steve says: "I'm really pleased our efforts have built further flexibility into the RRG scheme. Without this change, plans would not be able to go ahead in places such as Littleton because there is not enough time to do the work before the end of the financial year."

PROGRESS AND FRUSTRATION IN BROADBAND STORY

Hampshire has a good story to tell when it comes to connecting us to superfast broadband but success for the majority is leaving the rest hugely frustrated.

That is the assessment of Winchester & Alresford MP Steve Brine as he used a debate in Parliament to urge the Government to classify broadband as a vital utility alongside water and gas.

The Government's programme – administered locally by Hampshire County Council – means 90% of the county will be superfast by the end of 2015 when the current contract with BT expires.

Steve says; "The focus is now turning to the next 5% and I'm pleased we managed to secure a new £1.2m 'Innovation Fund' from Government which will be trailed here in Hampshire for some more remote rural communities. It will use a mixture of tailored solutions including fibre to the street cabinets, fibre connected directly to premises, and fixed

wireless technology and bring the service to the villages of Bighton and Gundleton for instance.

"The new fund is good but we shouldn't be distracted by it. Hampshire's superfast broadband programme is the main show in town and I am working with my colleagues in Government to get us up to 95% coverage well ahead of the new BT contracted period which runs until 2019.

"However, at the same time I am pressing Ministers to consider how, through the next generation of 'innovation fund' as new and better technologies become available, we can make a reality of the often repeated sound-bite that broadband is the fourth main utility."

More: www.stevebrine.com/broadband

NEWS IN BRIEF

NEW BUSINESS IN TOWN



Alresford has a new restaurant, with Pulpo Negro now open for business on Broad Street.

Steve Brine popped into the tapas bar to meet the team following one of his street surgeries in the town on 24th January and said; "If you're old enough to remember it being The George you're a real record-breaker but historical remnants remain inside and it was a thrill to see them as well as to welcome the town's newest eatery. We wish them well."

HAVEN IN WESSEX

Steve Brine travelled to Titchfield near Fareham in December to check out the progress of Haven in Wessex, a new centre for women fighting breast cancer.

Steve said: "I was so pleased to be involved in getting the centre down to Wessex which brings together the work I do in this area in Parliament with something tangible for my constituents. The refurbishment is going great and we hope it will be open later this year."

More: www.stevebrine.com/breastcancer

STEVE SAYS NAME THE DATE FOR EU POLL

Steve Brine says name the date for the IN/OUT EU referendum he and so many of his constituents are 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 by 2017 after the PM's 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

OPEN DOORS TO CHALLENGE CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION

Local MP Steve Brine, himself an active member of Christians in Parliament, joined over 60 MPs as he attended a crucial discussion held at Westminster in January regarding the disturbing increase and breadth of persecution against Christians around the world.

The charity Open Doors urged MPs to take action, and also appealed for them to ensure that there is an effective and robust foreign policy in place to foster and protect freedom of religion. **More: www.opendoorsuk.org**

MOBILES AND BROADBAND IN THE ITCHEN VALLEY



Steve and Henry

More: this article first appeared in the February edition of the Itchen Valley News. Read it in full via; www.itchenvalleyparishcouncil.org.uk

Itchen Valley Parish Councillor Henry Labram writes...

Steve Brine's support helped a successful application to Vodafone for their Rural Open Sure Signal system in the Itchen Valley. This system, which uses small booster boxes connected to the internet, aims to provide a mobile signal and 3G to rural communities. Installation work at a few key locations (Easton among them) and is expected to start soon.

Superfast broadband will be available for those connected to the new BT roadside cabinet in Itchen Abbas in March 2015.

Most other properties in the Itchen Valley Parish will get access to superfast broadband as part of Wave 2, over the period 2016 to 2019 and we are told more details will be available from the Hampshire Superfast Broadband team in September.

Broadband and the internet are changing our world and will do so in ways not yet foreseeable. Superfast broadband is now a must-have service for people who want the flexibility to work from home and that is as true in the Itchen Valley as anywhere.

SCHOOL PLACES – WHERE NEXT?

Local MP Steve Brine has delivered more than £10m for new primary school places in his constituency since 2010 and is now fighting for a fairer funding settlement for local schools as part of a national campaign.

Steve recently met with the f40 group in Parliament, representing some 34 local authorities which have historically suffered from low funding.

Steve said: "The government has acknowledged this problem which is good because there is real inconsistency in

funding for individual schools with similar characteristics across the country."

Earlier in this Parliament, Steve's campaign secured £10.2m for badly-needed new primary school places in his constituency. It led to the new all-through school at Westgate and the expansion of several city schools. The MP is also supporting local entrepreneur Karen Sprunt with her popular Flipp Flopps educational tool to help children learn, and understand, their times tables.

Steve says; "I met Karen while I was holding a



Steve with Karen Sprunt and local children enjoying the Flipp Flopp

summer tour surgery in Sainsbury's, and the deal was that if Flipp Flopps interested my daughter Emily in maths I'd help her promote what is a brilliantly simple idea. Emily loved it and the product is now really taking off nationally."

More: www.stevebrine.com/schoolplaces

NEW ALRESFORD LOCAL PLAN update from Cllr Ernie Jeffs

Public participation on the Consultation Draft Local Plan closed in December and the feedback is now being analysed by the Winchester City Council in order to produce the next stage document, the Pre Submission Local Plan 2 due to be published in June.

It will be necessary to hold further meetings with Parish and Town councils in order to further consider representation responses to date. It is proposed to hold such a meeting with the Alresford Town Council on 30th March.

A submission was sent by the Town Council based on a Sun Lane solution followed by an alternative based on spreading development around the Town. Alresford's response to Local Plan Part 2 is certainly controversial; the number of public representations throughout the District ranged from 5 to 75 with two exceptions – Colden Common which had 170 and Alresford which numbered 565!

The proposed programme is now as follows:

Publication of Pre-Submission Plan
June 2015

Six weeks Consultation on Pre-Sub Plan
June/July 2015

Submission to the Secretary of State
November 2015

Examination of hearings
Feb/March 2016

Inspector's Report
June 2016

Adoption by the WCC
July 2016



Ernie Jeffs with Steve Brine at January's street surgery in the town.

Even more
NEWS
IN BRIEF

IS FRED UK'S LONGEST SERVING COUNCILLOR?

Fred Appleton has lived in Bighton all his life and is one of long line of Appletons living in the village. In 1948 at the age of 18 he was voted on to the Bighton Parish Council and amazingly has been on it ever since.



Fred has always been an active member of the community and, until recently, always supported the annual village fete. One of his hobbies has been participating in Country and Western music and dance. Cllr Ernie Jeffs says; "Well done Fred and sincere thanks from all of us in Bighton for giving us 67 years' of service to our village community".

COUNCIL TAX & SUNDAY PARKING

Winchester City Council has committed to keeping council tax frozen, as well as maintaining the popular cancellation of Sunday car parking charges.

WCC's Cllr Stephen Godfrey told The Alresford & Itchen Valley Post; "This Conservative-led council is pro-business and sticks up for hard-working taxpayers. We wanted to take up the Government's offer to freeze council tax again for another year and it's a no-brainer to retain the free Sunday parking which greatly helps shoppers and traders alike coming into the city."

TIME TO CHANGE ON MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health problems are common – but nine out of ten people who experience them say they face stigma and discrimination as a result.

Time to Change is England's biggest programme to challenge this and it's being enthusiastically backed by local MP Steve Brine. He says; "I am working with leading charities MIND and Rethink on a new Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat declaration which is putting together an action plan to deliver excellent crisis care. This is an important step forward for mental health."

More: www.time-to-change.org.uk



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Did you know, Winchester City Council is building new council homes for local people here in the Itchen Valley and in Alresford?

The New Homes Programme has already delivered and has plans to do even more in the future. It's a strong record says our local MP Steve Brine.

"Personally, I've cut the ribbon at The Dell in Kings Worthy, up at Barron Close in Micheldever and we've seen former Mayor Neil Baxter open the stunning Baxter Close in Itchen Abbas. It's a really impressive record and I am urging the council to go further.

"Winchester, and in particular Alresford and the Itchen Valley, has property prices well above average and while that's good for some it's a source of frustration for many trying to get on the ladder. We've plenty of new developments, some with 'affordable' elements, but new council housing is the real affordable housing and I'm really proud it's this council delivering it."

One of the next areas set to benefit from the New Homes Programme is Stanmore where 21 homes will come to the site of the former New Queen's Head and in Mitford Road, Alresford where an application is expected this Summer.

Tell Steve and the team about your experiences of the Winchester property market;
steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk



Steve with the team at the opening last month

NEW NURSERY OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Winchester city centre has a new nursery, with the opening of the Yellow Dot nursery on Wales Street.

The nursery, which has opened at the site of the old Ship Inn, is the eleventh location for the popular organisation, and Steve Brine was on-hand to cut the ribbon.

Steve, who also opened their Otterbourne nursery back in 2012, told The Winchester Post; "We all remember this building when it was the Ship Inn but that had really fallen out of use and it's fantastic to see it reborn as such a valued community asset. This area of Winchester is changing so I am already working with my colleague Cllr Fiona Mather around issues to do with the safety of young children and mums crossing the road here."

More: www.yellowdotnursery.co.uk



RAILWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Local MP Steve Brine has welcomed a 'major step forward' for late night safety at the city's railway station after it was announced the platforms will now be staffed until 11pm.

The MP held a packed public meeting, ASKSWT, back in November 2013 which gave rail users the chance to put questions directly to South West Trains boss Tim Shoveller. Among the issues raised were the lack of on-train wi-fi, capacity in the car park and late night safety.

Steve says; "We've made progress on many of the areas

More: www.stevebrine.com/trains

needing attention with wi-fi finally coming online last year, a new decked car park and footbridge installed and vastly improved cycling facilities. Late night staffing however remained a key concern as passengers arriving back into the station late at night, especially women, said they felt vulnerable and wanted to see a much later staffing presence.

"It's really pleasing SWT have made what is a major step forward. I know my constituents, many who pay a great deal to use the trains, will be pleased to hear it and feel greatly reassured.

WAYS TO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL MP

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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)

PLEASE RETURN TO:
Steve Brine MP, WCA, Manor Farm, Itchen Stoke, SO24 0QT

Political Party Elections and Referendums Act 2000
Under the Political Party Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA) you must be on the electoral register in the UK (excluding the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) in order to make a donation of more than £500. If you donate more than £1,500 to the Party, we are obliged under the PERA to report such a donation to the Electoral Commission, who will publish the fact that you have made a donation over £1,500. For more information, please see www.electoralcommission.gov.uk
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The data you provide will be retained by the Conservative Party and [add Name of Association/Name of MPI ("the data holders") in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998 and related legislation. By providing your data to us, you are consenting to the data holders making contact with you in the future by telephone, text or other means, even though you may be registered with the Telephone Preference Service. Your data will not be sold or given to anyone not connected to the Conservative Party. If you do not want the information you give to us to be used in this way, or for us to contact you, please indicate by ticking the relevant boxes: Post Email SMS Phone

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