



# Steve Brine's CHANDLER'S FORD POST

A positive publication produced at no cost to the taxpayer by your energetic local Conservative MP Steve Brine and delivered by volunteers across Chandler's Ford, Hiltingbury and North Millers Dale.

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Westminster Report; including legal highs and EU referendum update

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Working for rail passengers and new plans for Fryern Pavilion

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Motorway noise and your chance to see PMQs live!



**Urgent meeting in Hiltingbury**

– Chandler's Ford MP Steve Brine chaired a meeting of police and community representatives in Hiltingbury recently after a run of serious anti-social behaviour around the Recreation Ground. County, Borough and Parish Councillors joined the District Commander of Police, Chandler's Ford Street

Pastors and the Hiltingbury Community Association.

On the agenda were issues such as police response to 999 calls, how residents can confidently respond to such behaviour within the law and how the police are using evidence to issue warnings, and even bring some prosecutions, following recent events in the area.

## CITY DEAL JOBS BOOST

Steve Brine has given his backing to a new City Deal in Hampshire following news that local authorities and business groups will see thousands of new jobs created in Southampton and Portsmouth.

The deal will provide £953 million of investment into the area, creating more than 17,000 jobs.

Steve Brine said: "This announcement came off the back of the sad news about Portsmouth shipyard back in the autumn. Winchester & Chandler's Ford is in no way immune to the economies of Portsmouth and Southampton, and with that in mind I welcome the City Deal."

The deal between the Government and local businesses - and leaders from Southampton, Portsmouth and Hampshire councils and the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership - is the latest City Deal to get the green light from government. The Southampton and Portsmouth agreement will ensure local residents can access jobs in growing sectors and that local businesses are able to grow.

More: [www.stevebrine.com/citydeal](http://www.stevebrine.com/citydeal)

### MP BACKS LOCAL INVESTMENT AND JOBS



The last edition of the Chandler's Ford Post featured good news on local jobs at local employer Ageas

## Steve Brine MP

# Health Check Survey 2014

**MP undertaking major survey of opinions about local NHS**

**Steve Brine launched a major survey about the local NHS to mark the start of 2014.**

The MP for Chandler's Ford produced his Health Check Survey which covers general health policy, hospital as well as primary care and asks for views about the future of hospital services in our area. It is being delivered to every home in Steve's constituency.

Steve told The Chandler's Ford Post; "The survey is already producing impressive returns. As you

know, I am a passionate supporter of the NHS but we should be honest in saying it is far from perfect, locally as well as nationally, and I think we will need to change things sooner or later to make it a world-class public service for the long-term that delivers better outcomes when we fall ill.

"The clinicians have come forward with plans for major change so we must hear their rationale and have the opportunity to be fully informed as the future of stroke, emergency and especially maternity

services are discussed. Despite spending more time trying to understand the huge complexities of modern acute medicine than anything else in recent years it is still the subject which worries me most and I know many people share my anxiety so please have your say."

To take the survey and see details of an **open meeting** Steve will chair in Winchester on **Thursday 27th March**, visit [www.stevebrine.com/prioritynhs](http://www.stevebrine.com/prioritynhs)

# NEWS

from the House  
IN BRIEF

## DIRECT DEBIT RIP-OFF

**A new campaign is gathering momentum against energy companies who charge customers high admin fees for NOT paying their bills by direct debit.**

Backing colleague Robert Halfon MP who started the campaign, Steve Brine said: "The poorest and most vulnerable customers can be ripped off by energy companies when it comes to paying for essential services such as gas and electric. I am supporting Rob's campaign because I do think it is unreasonable to penalize people who don't, for many different reasons, pay by direct debit."

## TERM-TIME HOLIDAYS

**Steve Brine called for more discretion to be restored to headteachers over granting term-time holidays.**



Speaking after a recent debate in Parliament, which he contributed to, Steve said: "A 2006 Act came into effect in September last year allowing heads to only grant leave during 'exceptional' circumstances.

Beforehand, heads had discretion to allow 10 days authorised absence and I don't think we should be questioning their integrity or judgement in this way."

Look at parents' views via [www.parentswantasay.co.uk](http://www.parentswantasay.co.uk)

## PRISONER VOTING

**A special joint committee of Parliament has been charged with scrutinising the Government's draft Bill on prisoners' voting rights and local MP Steve Brine was a member.**

When the committee report was published, the Committee was split, with the majority recommending that prisoners serving custodial sentences of 12 months or less, plus all prisoners in the last 6 months before release, should be able to vote in local, general and European elections.

Our MP was among those on the committee in voting AGAINST these proposals. He said: "Personally, I think we should uphold the current ban and the House of Commons has every right to do so. Parliament needs to consider the extent to which we are content to permit the European Court of Human Rights to encroach into domestic policy areas that appear far removed from the original intention of the European Convention on Human Rights."

## RADIO 4'S WESTMINSTER HOUR

**Steve Brine often appears on national media, whether it is speaking out about local issues such as our dreadful floods, or on other matters of national policy.**

He regularly appears on Radio 4's Westminster Hour and BBC's Daily Politics show. You can follow Steve via Twitter to ensure you stay updated @sbrine.



# Westminster Report

**As we enter the final full year of this Parliament, Steve Brine continues to work hard as our Member of Parliament at Westminster.**

Steve is also now working within Government – at the Department for Work & Pensions – where he is PPS to the Minister for Disabled People and is part of Iain Duncan Smith's team reforming our welfare system so it remains a safety net when needed, helps lift people out of welfare dependency and is fair to taxpayers.



More: [www.stevebrine.com/westminster](http://www.stevebrine.com/westminster)

In recent months Steve has spoken in the House of Commons about the February floods, the early years of child development, the lethal danger of legal highs and renewed efforts to raise awareness of ovarian cancer. He has also voted to support a ban on smoking in cars carrying children.

Steve remains a member of the influential Justice Select Committee, chaired by veteran Lib Dem MP, Sir Alan Beith. The Committee is currently undertaking a major inquiry looking at crime reduction policy.

## WEEKE WHIZZ TO THE HOUSE!



**Local schools continue to visit the Houses of Parliament and enjoy their day out.**

Recent visitors included a group of Year 6 pupils who used the visit to inspire their school magazine called Weeke Whizz and (inset) Itchen Abbas Primary School who came late last year.



## VISITING WESTMINSTER

**Steve Brine regularly hosts constituents in the Houses of Parliament, and getting in touch with him to arrange a tour couldn't be easier.**

Simply call 01962 791110 or email [steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk) Steve also puts his PMQ ticket allocations into a free and fair ballot, and for the very energetic, there are also tours of Big Ben available.



More: [www.stevebrine.com/visitingwestminster](http://www.stevebrine.com/visitingwestminster)



## Legal Highs are not cool (and often not legal) says local MP

**Steve Brine has given his strong backing to news that the UK is to opt out of planned European Commission rules on legal highs.**

Steve has long campaigned against legal highs, and as a parent of two small children, welcomes news that the government has decided not to join the scheme, due to the fact it would hamper British attempts to ban new drugs coming onto the UK market. Currently, the government is conducting a

review into new psychoactive substances, while looking at a range of options, including possibly legislation, to deal with the dangers many of these substances present even more speedily and effectively.

Steve said: "This is a smart move in my view. One key part of our strategy to tackle this menace is the ability to move fast and ban new dangerous products before they can do harm. Sadly, European rules in this area do exactly the opposite so we have to sidestep the bureaucracy and protect people. Far from diminishing our ability to fight psychoactive substances this enhances it."

## THE BILL ISN'T DEAD, IT'S JUST SLEEPING

**A Conservative Bill to put into law that an in/out EU referendum must be held in 2017 was scuppered in the House of Lords recently by Opposition Peers who do not wish to give us a say on our membership.**

Steve Brine, who has long campaigned for the referendum, said: "It was so frustrating to see a collection of Liberal Democrats and Labour Peers conspire to defeat the Bill and I am sure my constituents will draw their own conclusions as to why. However, it is now clearer than ever that it is only the Conservatives in the House of Commons who will guarantee that referendum, and if David Cameron is Prime Minister following the General Election, we will have just that."

# SUPPORTING RAIL PASSENGERS

**Regular commuter Steve Brine continues to stick close to our train service**

In November he held a lively public meeting with the South West Trains Managing Director and the following month he hosted Rail Minister, Stephen Hammond, to view the various works taking place at Winchester station and follow up on some key issues raised at the public meeting.

Mr Hammond was able to see for himself the work being done to introduce a new decked car park at the station and the footbridge being constructed as part of the 'Access for all' scheme. He was also able to join discussions Mr Brine is having with South West Trains around late night safety for travellers.

Steve says; "There is significant investment taking place in our local railway right now so it was important to have the Minister visit and check on progress. It was really useful also to brief him on my recent meeting with South West Trains and local rail users and for him to hear what looks like good news on our work to improve late night safety, especially for women, in and around the station."



Steve discussing our issues with the Rail Minister and; (inset) with daughter Emily and the team at the 10th birthday celebrations for Chandler's Ford Railway Station

# NEWS IN BRIEF



## MEETING CONSTITUENTS IN CHANDLER'S FORD

Steve Brine and his team, including Cllr Judith Grajewski and local campaigner Amanda Robertson (and Popcorn), spent some time knocking on doors in Chandler's Ford one February morning.

Steve said: "Despite all the modern communications I use it is still the best way to connect with constituents, so do keep an eye out as we will be in your street next!"

## BREAKFAST GROUP AT ST MARTIN IN THE WOOD

Steve Brine visited St Martin in the Wood church recently to join a 'Men's Breakfast' group and discuss his work as an MP.

Steve spoke to a group of around 30 about his life before entering Parliament, his early experiences in the House, and the balance of constituency and Westminster life. He also touched on his work in various all-party groups, as well as what it is like being a Christian in public life today.

If your group, club or society would like to invite Steve to speak at your event, simply call **01962 791110** or email [steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk)



Winchester looking festive just a few miles up the road

## BAH HUMBUG AT CHRISTMAS?

Local shoppers have been in touch with Steve Brine about the lack of a 'festive feel' to Chandler's Ford last Christmas.

The popular shopping spot at Fryern Arcade did not even have a Christmas tree, and Steve has been quick to bring the matter up with local councillors.

He said: "I have spoken to parish and borough councillors and the consensus is that we can and should do better. We'll be taking this on keenly, and would love to hear from anyone else who has thoughts on this."

## WHEELERS WHEELS!

Residents across Chandler's Ford and Hiltigbury are benefitting from an expanded bus service after Wheelers Connect launched a new route in the area.

The new W2 bus service travels between North Millers Dale, Park Road, Pine Road and Hiltigbury Road, on a route including Valley Park and Southampton via ASDA, Hill Lane, Southampton Rail Station and Southampton City Centre.

More: [www.wheelerstravel.co.uk](http://www.wheelerstravel.co.uk)

# CHEMO COOKERY CLUB



Steve dropped into a cookery club with a difference recently as he visited a local couple leading the fight against cancer.

Chemo Cookery Club is a book of recipes, written by Micheldever based cook Penny Ericson, after her husband Simon Hawkins was diagnosed with cancer in 2009. It contains over 150 delicious recipes specifically written for people undergoing chemotherapy.

Penny (pictured at her kitchen table) said: "I searched for books that took a joyful view of food and that also took into consideration the special circumstances of patients with things like 'rubber-mouth' and 'metal-mouth', and The Chemo Cookery Club book is the result."

You can buy the original Chemo Cookery Club hardback book but Steve has **50 copies of Penny's Around the Kitchen Table to give away** to the first 50 readers who get in touch via **01962 791110** or [steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk)



# FRYERN PAVILION

Chandler's Ford MP Steve Brine (pictured with Cllr Margaret Atkinson Chairman of the Parish Council and Borough councillor Judith Grajewski) dropped into Fryern Rec recently.

He was able to hear about plans by Chandler's Ford Parish Council to extend Pavilion building which will provide increased and improved community facilities for local residents and more appropriate accommodation for the Parish Office.



Steve was regularly briefed by Environment Agency officials during the storms; and (inset) the famous leaning tree of Hiltigbury

techniques which had never before been tried, such as deliberately flooding low-lying farmland north of Winchester in order to save hundreds of city centre homes from flooding."

Chandler's Ford was not without incident, and Cllr Judith Grajewski worked with Steve, local councils and the local power company to sort out some fallen trees in Hocombe Road which were leaning perilously on power cables supplying nearby houses.

More: [www.stevebrine.com/flooding](http://www.stevebrine.com/flooding)

# UPDATE ON FEBRUARY STORMS

As local residents will know, serious flooding hit our neighbours across Winchester and Romsey in February. Steve Brine worked across his constituency, around the clock, helping local residents, businesses and schools to problem-solve and manage the unprecedented rainfall.

Steve Brine said: "I was delighted to praise the multi-agency approach, which involved a number of creative

Even more  
**NEWS**  
IN BRIEF

**PMQS BALLOT**

As our local MP, Steve Brine has three pairs of tickets to attend PMQs per year.

Since he was elected Steve has decided to hold a free and fair ballot open to all local residents. This year, the dates are Wednesday 19th March, Wednesday 25th June and Wednesday 26th November.

Contact Steve if you would like to enter via [www.stevebrine.com/pmqs](http://www.stevebrine.com/pmqs)

**FRYERN POST OFFICE**

There is finally some good news for Chandler's Ford and Hiltingbury concerning the future of the Fryern Arcade Post Office on Winchester Road.



Steve was contacted by the Post Office just before Christmas, as they confirmed they are now consulting, with the sub-postmaster's agreement, to move the current branch to a new location at 6-7 Fryern Arcade.

Steve Brine said: "This is very likely to be part of a new retail operation at WH Smith and I think is welcome investment locally in the Post Office and in the Arcade."

**THORNDEN STEPS**

Following the recent storms, Cllr Judith Grajewski was so concerned by the wet leaf debris in the Winchester Road underpass that she immediately contacted Eastleigh Council to ask for it be cleared.

Judith said, "The steps were absolutely treacherous. Hundreds of Thornden school children use the underpass daily and I was worried for their safety. The Borough Council needs to ensure that the underpass is fit for use at all times."



Steve's regular Hampshire Chronicle column

'Steve Brine, getting in the paper... and getting things done.'

**MOTORWAY NOISE**



The issue of surface noise from the M3 motorway – and its dreadful impact on my constituents in certain parts of Chandler's Ford – never goes away. Local MP Steve Brine writes for The CF Post.

Every couple of years (usually when someone is new to the area and trying to make a noise themselves!) we have a new 'campaign' and of course, a petition. When I became your MP in 2010 I said I would fight for a quieter surface but I also said I would level with you and deal in facts so I want to make three points;

**Firstly**, I have met with successive Roads' Ministers and Senior officials from the Highways Agency. The Agency, which has had to take its share of austerity, rightly treat the M3 among their 'assets' and have to get the best value they can from it which means mending not replacing wherever possible.

**Secondly**, when that asset (the M3 in our case) needs re-surfacing HA will do so with a quieter surface but they do not

re-surface solely to produce a quieter road and they would take the same view in times of plenty or austerity.

**Finally**, motorway noise is only in-part about the surface of the road. Tyre quality, wet conditions, speed and even wind direction all play their part.

So, beware prophets bearing false gifts and know that I will not let this drop. I will go on making our case; about noise, about air quality and just keeping my constituency in the frame. And if I have any news – good or bad – you will be the first to know.

More: [www.stevebrine.com/M3noise](http://www.stevebrine.com/M3noise)



**TWYFORD PLAYGROUP**

Swift action from Winchester and Chandler's Ford MP Steve Brine has helped a flood-hit playgroup, which had been facing a long period of closure.

Following extensive flooding in the village of Twyford, including at the parish hall, the Twyford Playgroup was forced to close, and initial fears were that a quick relocation to the Pavilion at Hunters Park may not have been possible due to cumbersome Ofsted procedures.

Steve says; "I was told applications to re-register can take up to 26 weeks which was just unacceptable so I enlisted the personal help of Education Secretary Michael Gove and we cut through a fog of British bureaucracy to help local parents get back to work."

More: [www.stevebrine.com/whereyoulive](http://www.stevebrine.com/whereyoulive)

**PRIDE IN CHANDLER'S FORD CAMPAIGN**  
**JUDITH'S YELLOW LINES**

After many months of campaigning from local Conservatives, Eastleigh Borough Council is finally going to add more yellow lines to deter the inconsiderate parking which has created hazardous conditions for drivers and pedestrians alike at both ends of Hiltingbury Road.



Cllr Judith Grajewski said: "I was very happy to vote for these measures at a Council local area committee meeting in January. Long stretches of nose to tail vehicles parked close to the Ashdown Road junction have made driving very difficult for local residents including children trying to cross the road. Extending the yellow lines towards Ashdown Road should ease the situation."

Steve Brine added: "Strike one for our growing Pride in Chandler's Ford campaign which was launched in the November edition of this newspaper."

**The Strong Local Team for Chandler's Ford**



Steve Brine MP – see below for full details



Parish Chairman, Cllr Margaret Atkinson



County Cllr Colin Davidovitz



Borough Cllr Judith Grajewski



Borough Cllr Godfrey Olson



Borough Cllr Mike Hughes



Borough Cllr John Caldwell

**Ways to contact your local MP**

ONLINE ACCESS

**EMAIL** [steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk)

**PHONE** 01962 791110 or 020 7219 7189

**WRITE** Steve Brine MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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