



# Steve Brine's WINCHESTER POST

*A positive publication produced at no cost to the taxpayer by your energetic local Conservative MP and the team. It is delivered by volunteers across Winchester, the Itchen Valley, Alresford, Kings Worthy and surrounding villages.*

## TRAINS – PLANES & AUTOMOBILES

### Positive progress on three key campaigns says local MP



#### Steve Brine has worked closely with South West Trains since his election.

A £3.7m improvement plan at Winchester Station has brought increased parking provision as well as new footbridge access while Wi-Fi, something Steve has lobbied the company to introduce, has recently gone live.

Steve is now working with SWT, neighbouring MPs and senior Ministers on the introduction of flexible ticketing and a major project to increase capacity on our busiest routes into London by finally addressing the long overdue issue of trains entering Waterloo Station.

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

#### Winchester has always had a good working relationship with Southampton Airport.

But with the uncertainty relating to south east flight paths and the impending change of ownership at SIA it is imperative we have an agreed consultation process for any future changes to flight paths which may affect our area. Steve Brine has been working with senior Winchester councillors to address the issue.

Steve says; "As a direct result of our work, we are in discussions with SIA for a new Memorandum of Understanding between WCC and SIA which strengthens our voice when future changes are proposed."

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

#### Steve Brine has secured major resurfacing work for the M3 motorway which he described as 'absolutely fantastic news' for hundreds of his constituents across the area.

Roads Minister John Hayes has written to our MP to confirm the Highways Agency will bring forward plans to lay a new quieter surface on the M3 between junctions 9 and 14.

The work will be done during the period 2015-2017 and will encompass all three lanes and the hard shoulder – on both carriageways. There is also good news on what the Transport Secretary called our 'nasty junction' in Kings Worthy; find out more on page 3 and on my website.

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

## ASKtheNHS IN WINCHESTER

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

The first event, in March, focused on a new clinical model being produced across the Hampshire Hospitals Trust and proposals for a new critical care centre. It would work alongside the RHCH in Winchester but treat the sickest 15% of patients.

The second meeting, held in September, was focused exclusively on obstetric care and maternity services. Steve told The Winchester Post; "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 the chance to question it.

"My major health survey in the Spring showed a willingness on behalf of local people to hear more of these plans but the greatest anxiety remains around changes to maternity services, hence the second meeting. Many questions remain but I will continue to work with the Trust getting the facts in front of the local people; this is far too important for poorly informed scare stories."

See more, including news of the formal consultation on service change at the RHCH; [www.stevebrine.com/priorityNHS](http://www.stevebrine.com/priorityNHS)



Steve opening the September meeting at the United Church on Jewry Street.

# NEWS

from the House  
IN BRIEF

## NEW GOVERNMENT ROLE FOR MP

**Steve Brine has taken up a new role within government.**

He was previously Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS) to Mike Penning MP, within the Department of Work & Pensions, and now follows Mr Penning to the Home Office and Ministry of Justice, in a cross-departmental brief.

## WHICH? TO EXAMINE NUISANCE CALLS

**The campaigning magazine Which? is to examine the increasing problem of nuisance calls.**

Steve Brine, who has actively worked cross-party on this in Parliament, said: "They will lead a taskforce looking at consent around being contacted and how personal data is used, and I look forward to their report later this year."

## RAPE CRISIS FUNDING

**Steve Brine has welcomed news that funding is to continue to existing Rape Crisis Centres providing support to female victims of rape or sexual violence in and around Winchester.**

He said: "I am delighted that Government has now achieved its target of opening 15 new rape crisis centres as well as committing to providing much needed funds for existing rape support services such as we have in Winchester."

## THE COMMON GOOD

**Did you know, local MP Steve Brine is a leading member of the group Christians in Parliament?**



He is working alongside other MPs, from across the parties, on how the Common Good applies to modern day political life.

CiP recently launched 'Votewise 2015', a politically-impartial book which uses biblical thinking to analyse societal and structural dilemmas in order to help Christians make an informed decision about how to use their vote in May next year.

More: [www.christiansinparliament.org.uk](http://www.christiansinparliament.org.uk)

# Westminster Report

## England expects...

**Following the decisive NO vote in the recent Scottish referendum, Winchester MP Steve Brine is among a growing number of MPs determined to address what is known as the West Lothian Question, where Scottish MPs still vote in Westminster on matters long since devolved to Holyrood.**

Steve said: "I've discussed this issue for many years on doorsteps, and this is unfinished business from Tony Blair's botched devolution settlement in

1997. It has bred a resentment in England which my constituents have every right to feel.

"I believe there is a cross-party consensus among MPs to get this done and David Cameron has pledged to drive it through. We must re-balance our fragile constitution and for me that means a cool-headed constitutional convention which seeks to heal our United Kingdom the same way we're fixing our broken economy."

**Did you know?**  
Winchester MP Steve Brine is proudly supporting an 'in-out' referendum on Britain's membership of the EU. He voted, alongside 81 other MPs, against a 3-line whip in the House of Commons shortly after being elected to force a change of Conservative policy. If David Cameron is re-elected next year that referendum will happen in 2017.

## IT'S YOUR MONEY AFTER ALL...

**Local MP Steve Brine has backed Conservative plans to introduce TWO major tax cuts if the party is re-elected next year.**

Returning hot-foot from the party conference in Birmingham (pictured) Steve told The Winchester Post he was 'thrilled' with a pledge to increase the tax-free personal allowance from £10,000 to £12,500.

He says; "One of the easiest votes I've cast in the House of Commons since 2010 was to raise the level to £10,000 but this further move is brilliant news which 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."



More: [www.stevebrine.com/conference2014](http://www.stevebrine.com/conference2014)

Steve also highlighted a new pledge to raise the higher rate threshold at which people pay the 40p tax rate to £50,000. It is currently £41,900. He adds; "This tax change will be so well received among my Winchester constituents; I look forward to voting for that one."

## 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)

## Tackling ISIL



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

The House of Commons faced an emergency recall at the end of September to discuss the threat posed by ISIL in Syria and Iraq and Steve Brine was there. He met with the Attorney General to discuss the legal basis for air strikes and challenged the Prime Minister during the debate.

## KEEPING THE FOCUS ON SCHOOL PLACES

This September saw the start of a new era as extra primary school places were created with the city's first 'all-through' 4-16 school at Westgate, while work at schools across Winchester saw extra primary places created.

Local MP Steve Brine has fought hard on the issue since his election, having helped a large number of local parents who were struggling to get a place for their child. He says; "This problem was not going away and we're very fortunate to have such high quality new places now online across Winchester.

Much work has been done with local schools as well as Hampshire County Council and it has been great to see evidence of the new places at a number of local primary schools, including St Peter's, which I visited recently.

The MP added that he was continuing to work to make the best of Barton Farm now it is set to be built and revealed he will serve as a Trustee of the new Primary Academy that will come as part



Steve Brine meeting children this year at John Keble Primary School in Hursley.

of the development. Winchester's newest school will be run by the University of Winchester after it was granted permission to proceed by Government.

## PITT VALE – ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!



Local Conservatives have spoken out strongly against a proposed Linden Homes development at Pitt Vale, saying 'enough is enough'.

MP Steve Brine told The Winchester Post; "We are not anti-development in Winchester, in fact we are certainly doing our bit to address the housing shortage in this country, but this is just too much for Winchester.

"Winchester has signed off Local Plan and is getting on with implementing it. This site is outside the local plan architecture so this is a cheeky, speculative punt by Linden Homes that is totally unwelcome. The City Council should have no truck with it whatsoever, my constituents – already faced with Barton Farm and Pitt Manor as they are – definitely have no truck with it and their MP is furious. Linden Homes should walk away now because enough is enough."

Cllr Jan Warwick (pictured) added; "Cllr Mike Southgate and I will urge Winchester City Council to robustly oppose any development on this site, as development here will put Pitt Village, our local infrastructure and highways under tremendous strain."

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

## SCHOOLS MEET COPPA FEEL

A leading breast cancer campaigner came to Winchester earlier this summer to speak to young people in the city about the importance of the early detection of breast cancer and other cancers.

Local MP Steve Brine organised for 28-year old Kris Hallenga, who has a terminal diagnosis of secondary breast cancer, to bring her charity CoppaFeel to three secondary schools in Winchester, as well as linking up with the city's University to launch their #rethink cancer campaign which aims to see schools routinely teach young people about the signs and symptoms of cancer.

Steve Brine, who is co-chair of the All Party Breast Cancer Group in Parliament, said; "This day was more than any of us could have hoped for, especially the response from Joy Carter at the University. I hope the young people we met found it interesting and useful and if just one person, or a member of their family, is helped by what we are doing it will be worth it."



Kris and her 'boobettes' (plus Steve!) at Westgate School.

More: [www.coppafeel.org](http://www.coppafeel.org)

## J9 M3 & 'NASTY' JUNCTION



Winchester residents and businesses have long been frustrated by snarl-ups along Easton Lane from Junction 9 of the M3 where traffic regularly backs up to Wales Street.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT-PAGE

Transport issues haven't been far from the top of Steve Brine's in-tray this year with campaigns to re-surface the M3 motorway and improve the A33 junction at Kings Worthy moving on fast.

The MP has recently written to thousands of constituents to let them know Conservative-run Hampshire County Council have given the green light to a £103,000 project to make the Cart & Horses Junction – described as 'nasty' by visiting Transport Secretary last year – safer for all. Work is due to start before the end of 2014 and should be completed by June 2015. See more on this story; [www.stevebrine.com/a33](http://www.stevebrine.com/a33)

At the other end of the spectrum we have J9 of the M3 at Winnall where Government 'pinch point' funding made some modest improvements earlier this year.

Steve says; "I was clear the work this year was part one with something much more fundamental required to ease the bottleneck. I am speaking with the Transport Secretary and the Prime Minister (who recently experienced our J9 for himself) as well as the new Local Enterprise Partnership. All agree we need to invest again here to unblock what is a key route for us locally and one of our major trade routes, especially for the car industry coming to and from the ports on the South coast."

## NEWS IN BRIEF



### PASSING OUT PARADE AT FLOWERDOWN

Steve Brine visited Sir John Moore Barracks in June, as 36 recruits from No 15 Troop C Squadron passed out after their initial phase of training.

Steve said: "It was such a privilege to meet with the lads, their parents, officers and training staff at Flowerdown. The military has such a presence, not to say history, in our city and I was genuinely honoured to be asked to be the visiting inspecting officer this year."

### CITY 'SELF-EMPLOYMENT CAPITAL'

Recent research has indicated Winchester has the highest proportion of self-employed people in the country.

As well as people working in the local area, a high number run businesses from home and will be affected by a number of issues, including broadband provision. Steve is keen to hear about anything which may affect the smooth running of local businesses, and you can get in touch via [steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk)

### LIVELY OVER 50'S INFORMATION DAY



The Middle Brook Centre held an Over 50s Information Day in September, organised by Steve Gapper and his wife Jan from Home Instead.

Steve Brine had his own stand and was able to speak to a number of constituents about a range of national and local issues. Steve also met with a number of organisations, including Carver Care, Winchester Hospital Radio and Winchester Fitness & Sports Club.

More: [www.stevebrine.com/over50sday](http://www.stevebrine.com/over50sday)

### FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY AGM

Steve recently spoke about Early Years Intervention at the AGM of well-known Winchester charity Friends of the Family.

In praising the entire team for their work, he highlighted the importance of a stable family life in giving children the best possible start in life.

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

Even more  
**NEWS**  
IN BRIEF

**FLIPP-FLOPP**

Steve recently discovered Flipp Flopps, a new learning aid produced by his constituent Karen Sprunt designed to help young people learn their tables.

He said: "Proof of the pudding for me was taking them home and watching young Emily use them all afternoon. Absolutely fantastic, and great they are a Winchester creation!"

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



**NEW OPENING FOR GANDHI**

Steve was on hand to re-open the popular Gandhi restaurant on the Broadway in September.

Steve said: "The family-run restaurant has been serving up curries in Winchester for over 28 years and the restaurant has been transformed. Here's to the future of this local culinary institution."

**STEVE CHAIRS WINACC DEBATE**



Over 80 people attended a high-level local debate in Winchester in June, chaired by local MP Steve Brine (pictured).

A range of speakers were heard on the national and European targets for greenhouse gas and renewable energy and their implications locally.

**GET BRITAIN CYCLING**

Did you know? Winchester's MP is a key member of the All-Party Cycling Group in Parliament.

As Vice Chair Steve Brine was central to the group's landmark 'Get Britain Cycling' inquiry last year which is pushing all parties to up their game. Steve says: "It has been brilliant to be part of this and we will not let up on Ministers; thankfully we have a council in Winchester genuinely committed to promoting cycling."

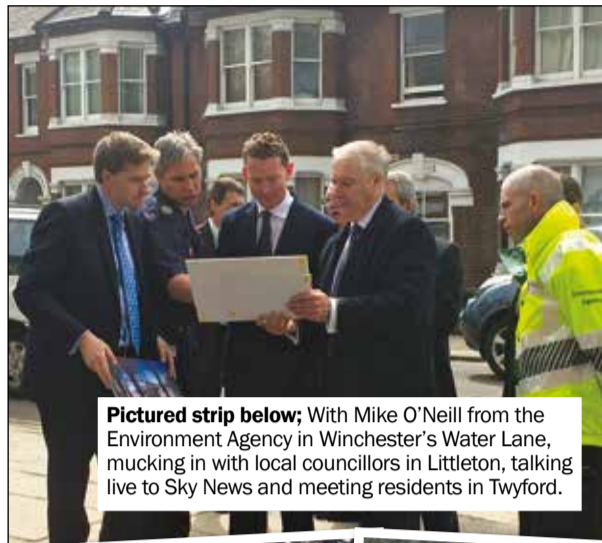
More: [www.stevebrine.com/cycling](http://www.stevebrine.com/cycling)

Steve's regular Hampshire Chronicle column



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

**FLOODING AND PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE**



Pictured strip below; With Mike O'Neill from the Environment Agency in Winchester's Water Lane, mucking in with local councillors in Littleton, talking live to Sky News and meeting residents in Twyford.

Steve Brine was flat out last winter as Winchester and its surrounding villages battled the floods.

The MP and his team worked around the clock fielding calls from worried constituents, connecting them to help where possible and getting out into affected areas to lend a hand.

As the situation moved from crisis into recovery, Steve led a series of local meetings with parish councils and key officials to see what worked and what did not. He says: "We shouldn't forget that last Winter saw unprecedented rainfall and historically high groundwater levels. Any defence against those conditions would have struggled."

"It was however, patently clear which communities had functioning emergency plans and which did not. It is good to now see various parishes getting their plans in place for the future and learning from those who did it best."

Steve also brought the Prime Minister's 'flood envoy' to the city in March (main picture) to hear the Winchester story and learn of a Hampshire wide plan to invest in flood defences where groundwater is the problem. The MP also used his role within Government to amend the Repair and Renew Grant scheme, opening it up to many local people for the first time.



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

**NEW HOMES BONUS**

As a passionate supporter of affordable housing, Steve Brine has welcomed a series of new council homes which have been built across the city.

Steve was on hand to open Barron Close in Micheldever this year, and has also welcomed Baxter Close in Itchen Abbas and Bourne Close in Otterbourne.

He said: "There is a difference, especially in Winchester, between affordable housing on the open market and new council housing. I am so proud it is Conservative-run Winchester City Council with its New Homes Programme which is building new homes for local people. I waste no opportunity to tell Ministers what's happening here."



Steve with Leanne Smith from Winchester Housing Trust in Barron Close.

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

**BUSIEST SUMMER TOUR TO DATE**



Pictured with Cllr Ernie Jeffs and team in Old Alresford.

Steve Brine Summer Tour, now in its fourth year, was his busiest yet. Taking place while Parliament is in recess during August, it consisted of street surgeries, knocking on hundreds of doors across the constituency and even a supermarket surgery, held again this year at Sainsbury's Badger Farm.

Steve says: "Despite the implication from parts of the media that MPs spend the summer recess on the beach, the truth is many of us work hard in August and take our family holiday over a fortnight before the schools go back like everyone else. This year's Summer Tour was hard going because we did more dates than ever before but it's always great fun to meet so many different people and pick up a great deal of new casework along the way."

More: [www.stevebrine.com/summertour14](http://www.stevebrine.com/summertour14)

**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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