



Steve Brine's

WORTHY'S 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 exclusively for residents across Kings Worthy, Abbots Worthy & Headbourne Worthy.

BACK PAGE

YOU MIGHT THINK THAT...

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



STEVE SECURES MAJOR INVESTMENT FOR OUR AREA



Winchester MP Steve Brine has delivered major investment in TWO local road schemes worth hundreds of millions of pounds in the past month.

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 told The Worthy's Post; "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 a **new quieter** surface will be laid on the M3 throughout much of Steve's Winchester & Chandler's Ford constituency.

Steve adds; "Back in the Summer, our long-running campaign to get the M3 motorway resurfaced came good as the Highways Agency brought forward plans to lay a quieter surface between junction 9-14. Now however, I am able to announce that work will be accelerated further, into this financial year with completion due by April 2015."

More: www.stevebrine.com/junction9

More: www.stevebrine.com/M3noise



TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF GP SURGERY

Residents in Kings Worthy were shocked to learn – on Christmas Eve – that the GP surgery in Pound Road had closed.

The Friarsgate Surgery, which runs the Kings Worthy branch, took the decision due to a series of problems with the building which it leases from Winchester City Council.

Winchester & Worthy's MP Steve Brine has worked with parish, city and county councillors to ascertain this is a temporary closure while urgent repairs are carried out.

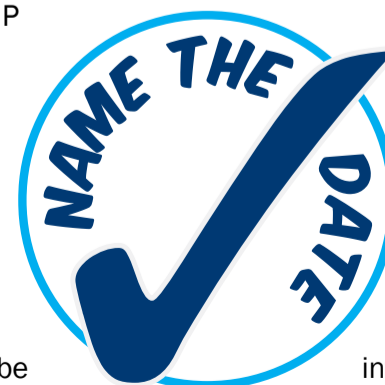
Steve says; "As soon as I heard about the closure I contacted Cllr Rob Humby, the Leader of WCC, as well as NHS England and the senior team at Friarsgate. The community have really rallied to show their support for their service and it's been good to work hand in glove with local councillors at all levels to reassure residents and answer their queries."

This is a fast moving story so please visit www.stevebrine.com/KingsWorthyGP for the latest.

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/2014economyspeech



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

MP LEADS FLOOD DEBATE AS PC GRIPS THE ISSUE



Winchester and Worthy's MP Steve Brine is leading a debate within Parliament about the urgent need for reform in the way we respond to groundwater flooding.

He used a 90-minute debate in the Commons to explain the wider impact groundwater flooding can have on places such as Kings Worthy and Headbourne Worthy which were widely mentioned.

Steve says; "The floods we saw locally last year were awful for those affected but the point is they affected, in terms of actual flooding inside homes, a relatively small number of properties. That means we will always lose out under the current national funding formula.

"That is why I am working with Hampshire County Council and Ministers on their 'pathfinder' proposal which considers the wider socio-economic impact groundwater flooding can have on an area."

Meanwhile, both Kings Worthy & Headbourne Worthy Parish Councils have now prepared emergency plans to ensure any future response is better organised. Headbourne Worthy District Councillor, Caroline Horrill says; "The lack of a plan here stood in stark contrast to other villages and one key action from last Winter was to address this historic gap in preparedness. Parish councillors have led the initiative to put this in place and have now done that admirably."

NEWS IN BRIEF

NEW SCHOOL PLACES



Local MP Steve Brine will serve as an Academy Trust Board member of a new local school after the University of Winchester won backing from the Department of Education to establish a new primary school at Barton Farm.

The University has now begun developing plans with Hampshire County Council and local residents to establish a primary school which as well as serving the new estate, may also admit children from existing local neighbourhoods.

More: www.stevebrine.com/newacademy

KW MEN'S BREAKFAST

Winchester & Worthy's MP Steve Brine met up with a group of Kings Worthy residents last year after he was asked to give a talk to the local Men's Breakfast club at St Mary's Church.

Steve spoke about life in Parliament, and Government, representing as he does some 77,000 people across Winchester & Chandler's Ford and took questions over their bacon rolls.



ENERGY REBATE

Last Winter the Government announced it was giving consumers £50 off their energy bills.

This included a £12 rebate via our electricity bills. Steve Brine adds; "For direct debit customers this happened automatically but I am anxious all my constituents who use pre-payment meters (ie; those who buy electricity using top-up cards) don't miss out."

"You should already have been made aware of this by your supplier and given a voucher which can be redeemed on your meter key until 28th February 2015 but please contact me if you haven't had this and I can help."

Email Steve:
steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk

NEW HOMES IN KINGS WORTHY



Local residents will be more than aware of various planning proposals across the Worthys, including Top Field in Hookpit and Lovedon Lane.

MP Steve Brine has spoken to many residents about these local planning matters and has also met with Kings Worthy Parish Council to understand the choices facing the village.

Steve has also spoken about the issues with Worthy's local campaigner Mike Short (pictured) who lives in Kings Worthy and is keen to represent the interests of local people.

Mike says; "I work closely with our energetic MP Steve and have already met with a number of villagers about the proposed developments. Please do touch base with me if you would like to discuss this further with me."

Email Mike: worthysmike@gmail.com

POWER CUTS

One of the biggest issues to hit the Worthys in the past few years has been the power cuts that have blighted the villages, and Steve Brine has worked on the issue with the main electricity provider, SSE, since becoming the local MP.

Following a series of meetings with SSE bosses, which left them under no illusions as to the strength of feeling, SSE undertook a £2.1m upgrade of the electricity network in the Kings Worthy area which saw engineers installing new underground cables into the area from Harestock to upgrade and strengthen local electricity supplies.

There was also further good news when SSE announced the improvement of its Priority Service Register, to ensure trained teams are available to help vulnerable people in the event of a power cut.

Steve Brine said; "I have been pleased that SSE has taken the situation seriously over recent times, as I am very aware of the problems caused, not only for young families, but elderly residents who are often vulnerable and alone. While I cannot, sadly, guarantee the villages will always be 100% power-cut-free, we really have moved forward, and SSE are well aware that I am ready to haul them back to my office if we have any further issues!"

More: www.stevebrine.com/powercuts

A33 JUNCTION

A reminder that our troubled A33 junction at Kings Worthy is set for a £100k overhaul early in 2015.

Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin visited the spot last year with MP Steve Brine (pictured) and within minutes described it as a 'nasty junction'.

Steve told The Worthy's Post; "It's easy to be cynical about politics and politicians but Hampshire County Council have now, as a result of a long campaign by myself and local councillors working seamlessly together cross-party, come good and not a moment too soon.

"I remain of the view that long-term I would prefer to see more fundamental road layout change here but we now have agreement to make a number of modifications at the spot which represent serious progress. The hope is it will make things safer for pedestrians and cyclists – and ultimately motorists – as we bring the speed at which cars approach the junction right down. My view hasn't changed that, in the end, it is this which is the key to making this junction safer for all of us.



More, and see the draft plans in full, via www.stevebrine.com/a33

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

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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.

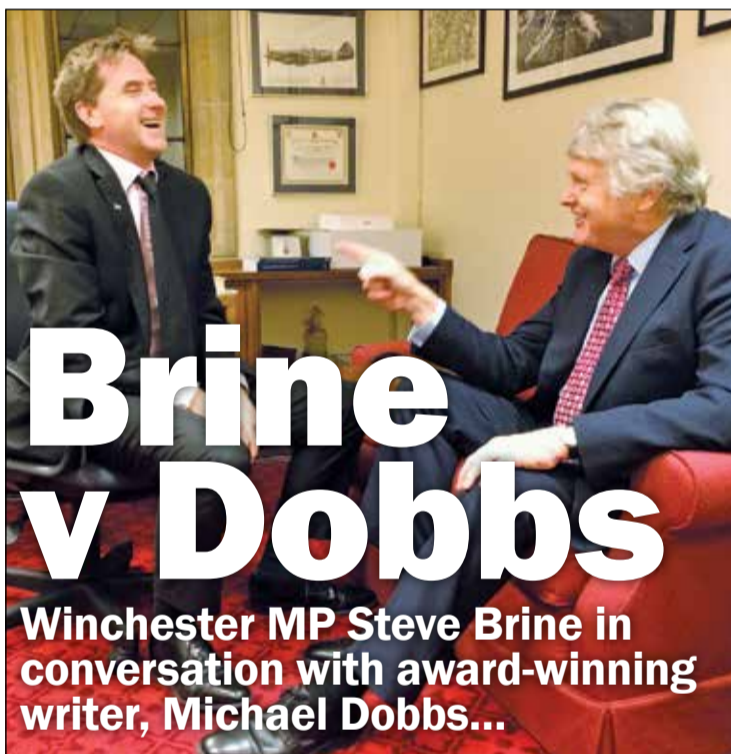
"I remain committed to keeping the best services in Winchester but to do so in a way that is sustainable and above all, safe. Some of the things being put about locally are the height of irresponsibility but I will continue to focus on the facts. After almost five years as the MP here, and someone



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 Worthy's
Would you like to join Steve Brine's winning team for Winchester & Worthy's 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:
Steve Brine MP, WCA, Manor Farm, Itchen Stoke, S024 0QT

Promoted by B. Carpenter on behalf of Steve Brine, both of Manor Farm, Itchen Stoke, S024 0QT and printed by Mortons Print Ltd, Media Centre, Morton Way, Horncastle, Lincolnshire, LN9 6JR.