



Steve Brine's

# WINCHESTER POST

Winter 2010

For Winchester, Alresford and surrounding villages from Conservative MP, Steve Brine

# OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS...

Steve Brine welcomes massive shift in power from Westminster to Winchester. "Now this really is a step change" he tells *The Winchester Post!*

**The coalition Government has been applauded for presiding over an historic transfer of power to local people.**

Winchester MP Steve Brine says it is great to see years of campaigning come to fruition. He cites the abolition of the South East Plan and central housing targets alongside new rules to make 'garden grabbing' harder as early triumphs for the Government. "Giving Winchester control over where and how many houses we build was a key election promise for the Conservatives", he says. "It's not about stopping new homes from being built, it's about Winchester deciding for itself but the shift is about much more than planning."

"This is all tied to David Cameron's BIG SOCIETY agenda and it's about LOCALISM. We want community-led planning to become the norm, for people to

become 'members' of our local hospital and ambulance trust and to have much greater say over the services we use as a result.

"We will let Winchester City Council keep more of the money it raises through business rates so it can invest as local people see fit and will we strip away a whole raft of remote unelected quango's.

"We finally have a Government that understands the real purpose of gaining power is to give it away. This marks a huge opportunity for Winchester and our local councillors. I hope they can see the potential here and I stand ready to work with them all to make the best of this new localism agenda for local people."

See much more via [www.stevebrine.com/localism](http://www.stevebrine.com/localism)

## WE BELIEVE... IN WINCHESTER!

- Are you a student interested in community work that also counts towards your degree?
- Fed up with anti-social behaviour on your street? Could you be a Special Constable?
- Could you start Winchester's first 'free school'?
- Think you could be a parish, city or county councillor?

Email: [webelieve@stevebrine.com](mailto:webelieve@stevebrine.com) or call 01962 791110



Watercress is one of our great local success stories and is now lending its weight to the fight against breast cancer after researchers

from Southampton University led some exciting new research. See more: [www.stevebrine.com](http://www.stevebrine.com).

Above: Local MP Steve Brine is pictured with Steve Rothwell of the Watercress Alliance near Alresford.



**News** IN BRIEF**ID cards consigned to history**

The new Government has delivered on its pledge to abolish Labour's ID card scheme. The expensive and intrusive programme has been stopped along with the highly controversial contact database.

MPs voted in September to repeal the legislation, including Winchester MP Steve Brine.

**Lifeline for Trinity**

The Trinity Centre in Winchester will get £90,000 over the next three years from Conservative-led Hampshire County Council. The drop-in centre for the homeless and vulnerable at Durngate Place said the funding was "desperately needed". Respected city councillor for St Barnabas Eileen Berry (pictured) says; "This is brilliant news for Trinity and will be a massive boost for their good work in the city."

**Charity award for Nightshelter**

Winchester Churches Nightshelter picked up a top award recently at the Wessex Charity Awards. The black-tie event, which is held annually in Winchester and was attended this year by new city MP Steve Brine, honours charities and their volunteers. Steve said; "Our very own Nightshelter won the Trustees of the Year award and that is richly deserved.



There were some strong nominees in every category and I think the right people won in every category this year. Amani Amari, herself an Eritrean asylum seeker, from Haslar Visitors Centre inspired everyone when she won the coveted volunteer of the year award."

**Equitable Life**

The new Government has delivered a settlement to victims of Equitable Life JUST six months after coming to power. Despite the financial crisis, Ministers have allocated £1.5bn as part of the Spending Review to support those affected by regulatory failure which led to the collapse of the firm. Winchester MP Steve Brine has supported campaigners and said; "The payments scheme must deliver fairness to taxpayers as well as policyholders - particularly in light of the challenging economic circumstances - so I am delighted we have a settlement that will start making payments from the middle of next year. This sorry saga has gone on long enough."

**MP drops into Central Park opening in Colden Common**

Steve Brine and his daughter Emily joined in the fun as a brand new play area in Colden Common opened its' gates.

The £62,000 project, led by Colden Common Parish Council, was the idea of local Mum Amanda Hughes who wanted to address the lack of play facilities for 5 to 11 year olds in the village. Central Park is located adjacent to the Co-Op on St Vigor Way.

**A great place to do business****City MP Steve Brine has officially opened Winchester's new Basepoint business centre.**

Basepoint was developed in partnership with Winchester City Council and has been partly purpose-built and partly refurbished; it now boasts 25,000sq ft of managed office space and 35 licensees who use the offices in Winnall to run their businesses.

Each of Basepoint's 26 centres supports a local charity and assists them with fund raising events. Basepoint Winchester's nominated charity is Winchester and District Young Carers.

Speaking after cutting the ribbon, Steve said: "As a former owner of a small business myself, I know full well that you strain every sinew in order to make your business work. Basepoint is fantastic, because it takes a lot of that strain away, and really allows new and dynamic businesses the opportunity to thrive. I am also delighted that this area of the city has a fantastic new building and local



entrepreneurs have this facility to make the most of."

Basepoint  
[www.basepoint.co.uk](http://www.basepoint.co.uk)



■ Steve Brine MP, with city leaders and the Mayor of Winchester, cutting the ribbon at the new centre in Winnall and (inset); Steve gives the keynote speech to a Summer reception with the Chamber of Commerce and Winchester BID.

**Pavement mission for local Conservatives**

Local Conservatives are spearheading a new campaign to dramatically improve the state of our pavements.

Winchester MP Steve Brine has launched the initiative after pressure from residents concerned about their safety. One resident is Mary Knight of Stoney Lane in Weeke who contacted Mr Brine following a fall which left her with a broken arm.

She told The Winchester Post; "I have been going on about this for nearly ten years and really stepped up my efforts after my recent accident. We've lived in our house for more than 30 years and only two parliamentary candidates have ever knocked on our door. One was Mark Oaten, the other was Steve Brine so when he got elected this year I decided to get in touch. The roads are much better but the pavements have got steadily worse over the years. Too many pavements are dangerous and it's high time something was done to put them right."

Steve added; "The county and the city councils deserve huge credit for the pavement works in Winchester High Street but



■ Mary Knight with Steve Brine in Stoney Lane – they want you to get behind the campaign!

there are miles of pavements in our area which currently let us down. They are a hazard to many people and not only the elderly. Of course I know resources are limited right now but it's a matter of priorities and I want local people to get behind this and send a clear message to their local representatives."

Do you agree our pavements need fixing? Tell Steve more email: [steve@stevebrine.com](mailto:steve@stevebrine.com), Tel: 01962 791110 or write to Steve Brine MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.

**The Defence Review and Worthy Down**

Winchester's new MP has secured positive news about the future of Worthy Down following the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR).

Steve Brine met Defence Secretary Liam Fox the morning after the SDSR was published and the defence training facility to the north of the city was top of the local MP's agenda. "I wanted to understand directly from Dr Fox what the implications might be for my constituents and Worthy Down in particular", he told The Winchester Post. "While reductions in military and civilian personnel announced in the review mean we cannot rule out any change in defence presence at some future date, I was reassured to hear that Worthy Down is secure."

In a letter to Mr Brine which followed the meeting, held at the MoD in London, Liam Fox said "We discussed the Defence Food Services School and I am pleased to confirm it will stay

at Worthy Down, which remains a core site for defence. I would like to express my regret at the concern the outcome of the SDSR may cause some of your constituents but appreciate how vigorously you are representing their interests."





# Return to weekly collections?



**The new Government has opened the door to the return of weekly bin collections in Winchester – IF the City Council allows it.**

Ministers have ordered the Audit Commission – which currently monitors local government spending – to stop encouraging councils to switch to fortnightly collections. The coalition Government has also pledged to reverse decisions already taken IF local councils say they want it to happen.

City councillor Fiona Mather, who represents St Michaels Ward in Winchester, (pictured right with Steve) is now urging Winchester City Council to consider the implications of the change - mainly in city centre wards. She has enlisted the help of new local MP Steve Brine.

Fiona says; "Many residents in the city remain unhappy with the change and would welcome the return to a time when the local council, to which they pay their rates, pick up the bins each week."

Steve added; "Communities Secretary Eric Pickles has said he has no objection to the return of weekly collections if local people demand them and I see no reason why WCC shouldn't look at it again. It's all part of our localism agenda



and as long as we can protect and improve the recycling rates in Winchester I would be right behind the change."

Would you like WCC to look at the issue again or are you happy with fortnightly rubbish collections?

**Tell Steve & Fiona more...** email: [steve@stevebrine.com](mailto:steve@stevebrine.com), Tel: 01962 791110 or write to Steve Brine MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.

## More... NEWS IN BRIEF

### Fill that hole!

Cyclists have a new weapon in the war against potholes after the launch of a new iPhone app. Aggregate Industries and CTC – the UK's national cyclists' organisation – have launched the app which can be downloaded via [www.fillthathole.org.uk](http://www.fillthathole.org.uk) The technology combines a photograph of a pothole with GPS technology to pinpoint the location of the hazard.

### Broadband pressure pays off

Residents in Harestock could soon benefit from faster broadband after BT announced plans for a new service in Hampshire. Bishops Waltham and Harestock exchanges are among those being upgraded by Autumn 2011 in a programme that will cost BT £2.5billion across the county. The new system will allow for speeds of up to 40Mbps. Steve Brine said; "This is positive news but it's not enough, we need all homes with access to superfast broadband so the campaign goes on."

See [www.superfast-openreach.co.uk](http://www.superfast-openreach.co.uk)

### Steve supports 'Lighter Later'

Winchester MP Steve Brine has announced his support for the 'Lighter Later' campaign, which will lead to lighter, safer evenings. On 3rd December, The Daylight Saving Bill will be going to the House of Commons where MPs will debate whether or not the UK should make the shift. Steve said: "Lighter evenings would mean safer roads, more jobs and a better quality of life for the constituents of Winchester & Chandler's Ford. It will also aid our drive to reduce Winchester's carbon footprint."

See [www.lighterlater.org](http://www.lighterlater.org)

### Tributes to Bishop Michael

The 96th Bishop of Winchester, The Right Reverend Michael Scott-Joynt, is to retire in May 2011. Steve Brine MP said: "When Bishop Michael told me his plan to step down next year I was really disappointed but I said right away I wasn't even going to try and dissuade him as I know how much he and Lou deserve their retirement. They have both served the Christian and wider community with generosity and compassion every day they've been with us. I wish them the happiest of retirements and will personally miss their counsel a great deal."

### HMO challenge

City Conservatives have questioned the coalition Government over the future of Homes of Multiple Occupation legislation. Local campaigner for Stanmore, Jamie Scott has asked Winchester MP Steve Brine to press Ministers over the future of the law which requires landlords to apply to Winchester City Council when converting a family home to an HMO, very often then occupied by students. Jamie told The Winchester Post; "This legislation is important because we must retain the power to control the shape and make-up of our communities. Students add much to this city but we mustn't let things get out of hand or we risk worsening relations between student and local population in places such as Stanmore where tensions are already running high."

## MP to champion chalk streams



■ Steve Brine joins Rose Timlett of the WWF on the banks of the iconic River Itchen.

**Steve Brine is to become a 'Rivers on the Edge' Parliamentary Champion and will fight for the future of chalk streams.**

The WWF launched their the Riverside Tales report in April of this year, to discuss the serious threat our chalk streams face. It aims to highlight how many have been below usual levels, and the need to reduce water demand and conserve rivers has never been stronger.

Steve said: "The WWF reminded me that there are only a handful of top draw chalk streams in the world and one of the best among them is right here with the River Itchen. We are so lucky to have this precious resource and must do everything in our power to protect it for future generations. Issues of sustainability and water use, especially as we build more and more homes, are very real and that is why these invaluable chalk streams need champions on a national level."

The River Itchen is known as one of the most iconic chalk streams in the world, but man-made pressures are taking their toll, as the river supplies half a million people across Winchester, Southampton and Eastleigh, all of whom live on its banks.

WWF Rivers on the Edge  
[www.wwf.org.uk/riversontheedge](http://www.wwf.org.uk/riversontheedge)



## Tackling rogue landlords

**New evidence from SHELTER shows that nearly one million people across the UK have poor experiences involving a landlord or a rented property in the last three years.**

The charity has launched an investigation into 'rogue' landlords in the private rented sector who exploit their tenants and allow their properties to fall into disrepair. Their survey found that over 90% of Environmental Health Officers have encountered issues such as electrical hazards, damp and mould and fire safety in the last year.

Stanmore campaigner Jamie Scott (pictured with residents in Stanmore Lane) has raised the issue locally with Winchester MP Steve Brine and says; "We have some very responsible landlords in Winchester but we shouldn't pretend we don't have problems and it's not only about the private rented sector. Council tenants often put up with sub-standard conditions or poor maintenance and we should put every bit as much pressure on their landlord (the city council) when people need help."

You can see more about Shelter's campaign and what can be done at [www.shelter.org.uk/evictroguelandlords](http://www.shelter.org.uk/evictroguelandlords)

Watch your local MP  
...via Steve Brine TV  
[www.stevebrine.tv](http://www.stevebrine.tv)



# EARLY ACHIEVEMENTS FOR COALITION

- 200 new academies
- 50,000 apprenticeships
- Cut in corporation tax
- A cap on immigration
- Third runway stopped
- Home Information Packs dropped
- Fat cat salaries exposed
- ID Cards abolished
- The NHS budget protected
- Overseas aid maintained
- Quango's closing down
- An EU referendum lock to protect our sovereignty
- For our pensioners - the earnings link restored for pensioners
- And for our brave armed forces - the operational allowance doubled

Look what we've done in five months - just imagine what we can do in five years!



See more... [www.conservatives.com](http://www.conservatives.com)

## Join the winning team!

- I would like to join the local Conservatives
- I can deliver a few leaflets
- I can put up a poster at election time
- Contact me, let's talk!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# SUNDAY PARKING CHARGES

**There is growing anger in Winchester over proposals to introduce Sunday parking charges from 1st January 2011.**

A £2 flat fee will be charged in short-stay car parks from 10am, when most of the city's churches and shops open their doors but a respected and experienced city councillor says WCC's Lib-Dem leaders need to think again. Alresford Cllr Ernie Jeffs (pictured) says the council should listen to concerns raised by business groups and church leaders who say 10am is too early and will adversely affect them. Winchester Family Church meets each Sunday at 10am and around 500 people from across the District attend its services.

They say a midday charge would be more sensible.

Cllr Jeffs told The Winchester Post; "It's a real shame that we have to end free Sunday parking, especially at a time like this when local businesses need all the help they can get. Many of the residents I represent in Alresford will travel into Winchester on a Sunday for the Farmers' Market, church or the shops and I think a 10am charge is just too early."

Ernie has asked new Winchester MP Steve Brine to help. Steve added; "If the council need the money that is one thing but I think they should open their minds to a midday start for charging which would bring us into line with Southampton for instance. We would be crazy to disadvantage Winchester at this or any time."



Car parks outside of the city centre will not be affected by the new charges. Tell Steve and Ernie what you think. Email: [steve@stevebrine.com](mailto:steve@stevebrine.com), Tel: 01962 791110 or write to Steve Brine MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.

## T.A.C.T in Parliament

*Local MP Steve Brine met with Alan Rickman, chair of TACT, recently in the House of Commons.*

TACT, which stands for Tenants and Council Together, was formed in 1995 and is Winchester City Council's district-wide tenant and leaseholder forum.

Among the topics discussed were Barton Farm, the negative subsidy issue, solar panels on local council houses and the building of new affordable homes in the future.

Speaking afterwards Steve said: "TACT is a long-standing influential group working for the benefit of tenants across Winchester and I look forward to working with them and developing our relationship for the benefit of all tenants in the years ahead, especially as we enter this extremely tough period."

See [www.winchester.gov.uk/tact](http://www.winchester.gov.uk/tact)



■ Steve Brine MP and Alan Rickman at the House of Commons.

## Ways to contact your local MP

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