



Steve Brine's WINCHESTER POST

Produced at no cost to the taxpayer by local Conservative MP Steve Brine and delivered by volunteers across Winchester, Alresford, Kings Worthy and surrounding villages.

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RHCH to keep core services

Local MP pleased as A&E and Maternity confirmed in Winchester after merger takes place

Fears that Winchester hospital would lose its maternity and emergency care services when the proposed merger with Basingstoke takes place next year have been allayed.



Winchester MP Steve Brine has been campaigning for years to retain a full District General Hospital (DGH) in the city and said these services were central to making that happen.

Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust will come together with the Winchester & Eastleigh Healthcare NHS

Trust early next year. Steve Brine has previously spoken of the new organisation providing a unique 'opportunity' for Winchester.

He told The Winchester Post; "A&E and Maternity are not all that matters but they were always my red lines because without them you don't have a DGH worthy of the name. The new organisation has to keep all three of its hospitals thriving (Winchester, Basingstoke and Andover) if we want to build a long-term sustainable Trust that GPs and patients have confidence in. I am pleased with the assurances given but will be keeping very close tabs on the new Trust as we move forward."

More: www.stevebrine.com/localnhs



MP secures key Commons debate

Local MP Steve Brine secured a debate in the House of Commons recently to discuss the future of children's heart surgery at Southampton General Hospital.

He worked with a cross-party group of MPs to question the Safe & Sustainable review into congenital heart services across England. It is making recommendations to reduce the current eleven centres to seven and has come up with four options to cluster these services across the country.

Speaking in the debate, after delivering a 240,000 name petition to Downing Street in support of Southampton, Steve said; "Despite being right at the top of the list when it comes to quality of care, Southampton appears in just one of the four cluster options and is therefore under real threat. The debate was critical in making the case for Southampton and forced Ministers to accept that the review should not be tightly bound by the original four clusters."

More: www.stevebrine.com/heartsurgery

Minister now says NO to Barton Farm

Decision by Eric Pickles welcomed by campaigners but tough local choices lay ahead

Secretary of State Eric Pickles has upheld Winchester City Council's decision and refused CALA Homes permission to build 2,000 houses on Barton Farm. In doing so he handed the decision back to democratically elected councillors in Winchester.

Local MP Steve Brine said; "This is a victory for common sense, it would have been quite

wrong for the Planning Inspector – let alone a Government Minister – to decide this.

"I have said consistently for more than five years that Winchester must decide its own fate and the localism agenda pursued by Conservatives in Government has made that possible.

"For me, it is ultimately about the sort of place we want Winchester to be and a judgement call as to when the city has

extended far enough into its landscape setting. But we shouldn't for one moment delude ourselves that Winchester's housing problems have gone away. There is still a housing need here and the city council must now grapple with the completion of its Local Plan and where to build much-needed new homes but it is now finally a local decision."

More: www.stevebrine.com/bartonfarm



A Green Winchester publication, printed on paper from sustainable forests

News IN BRIEF**MP speaks to local Parkinson's group**

Kings Worthy: Steve Brine recently met up with the local Parkinson's branch as they held one of their meetings at Tubbs Hall. Steve, who is Vice-Chair of the All-Party Group for Parkinson's in Parliament, discussed a range of issues, including access to specialised services, current campaigns and the key role of partners as carers.



You can see more and watch a short-film via: www.stevebrine.com/parkinsons

Call for action over IR35

Westminster: There are increasing calls on the Government to scrap the tax known as 'IR35'. The levy, which many freelancers say is driving them out of the country, was introduced in 2000 and has drawn wide criticism from groups such as the Professional Contractors Group. Their recent study showed it was not producing tangible benefits for the Treasury. Local MP Steve Brine says; "I have always felt IR35 was a regressive tax. The Chancellor should remove this barrier to economic growth and do it as soon as possible." More: www.stevebrine.com/ir35

New radio station launches

University: Steve Brine joined students at the University of Winchester as he launched the exciting new Sound Radio at



the annual Freshers' Fayre last month. It is the official radio station of the Student Union at the University and while only available online at present, will broadcast on a temporary FM licence this Christmas. More: www.sound-radio.co.uk

Proposed boundary changes (again!)

Winchester: The coalition Government has decided it wants to reduce the size of the House of Commons by 10 per cent and to equalise the size of Parliamentary constituencies to ensure all votes have equal weight. To make this possible, the Boundary Commission has been asked to propose a radical re-drawing of the country's electoral map.

The current draft proposal (which is now out for consultation) would see Winchester return to largely the same seat as before the 2010 General Election with Chandler's Ford leaving to join a re-drawn Eastleigh.

More: www.stevebrine.com/boundaries

Opening of Winchester Jobs Club

MP Steve Brine dropped into Winnall Community Centre for the opening of Winchester Jobs Club this Summer.

Organisers Sarah Culverhouse and Candice Cutler joined with other volunteers to give the MP the lowdown on why they have set up the club, and Steve also took the opportunity to chat with those who had turned to the new group for support.

Steve told The Winchester Post: "It was great to see this get off the ground; I know it is already in huge demand. Sarah and Candice have worked incredibly hard, and I saw for myself just how valuable that extra support, such as helping with CVs, interview technique and boosting morale over a cuppa really is."

The service is for people from across the city and is open to help local people now!



More: www.stevebrine.com/jobclub

MP leads on education for service children

Service families returning to the UK, or relocated to different parts of the country, often find themselves disadvantaged when it comes to school places for their children.

Following a visit to Harestock Primary

School in October (pictured), local MP Steve Brine raised the issue in the House of Commons with Education Secretary Michael Gove and is now setting up a working group with fellow MPs to discuss the subject with

Ministers at the DfE and MoD. He met with parents at the school who raised the subject and expressed concern on behalf of the wider army family about the thousands of families returning from Germany in the next few years.

Steve told The Winchester Post; "The time I spent chatting to Army parents at Harestock Primary School was extremely valuable. I returned to London determined to tackle Ministers on the issue and it was not difficult to find a number of other MPs wishing to pick this up. As Michael Gove said to me, we need to make sure that those who have worn the Queen's uniform enjoy the best possible education, and while the service premium and the additional changes that we are making to the admissions code are part of that, there is clearly work to do."

More: www.stevebrine.com/serviceeducation

**Council tax freeze extended for another year**

Money to extend a council tax freeze in England to 2012-13 has been unveiled by Chancellor George Osborne.

The government cannot force councils to freeze bills but it is offering to give those that limit spending rises to 2.5% the money they need. A similar pledge was included in the coalition agreement and Winchester City Council and Hampshire County Council were able to take advantage of the offer for local people.

The Chancellor made the announcement in his speech to last month's Conservative Party Conference where he also said there would be no deviation from the coalition Government's deficit reduction plan. He also said that the perilous state of the UK economy meant he could not promise new tax cuts.

Winchester MP Steve Brine adds; "I am a believer in low taxes, for individuals and businesses but I think tax cuts should be for life not just for Christmas. To cut taxes now and to increase our borrowing to do it would be the height of irresponsibility and only make things worse."

Mr Osborne used his speech to set out a number of new

measures to support business and help rebalance the economy, including the introduction of a new Treasury backed 'credit easing' programme.

More: www.stevebrine.com/conference11



■ Steve Brine recently visited major local employer arqiva at its HQ near Crawley and received a fascinating insight into their groundbreaking work.

Taking Winchester to the heart of Government

The 2011 Energy Bill is a key piece of legislation being passed by the coalition Government and local MP Steve Brine believes it will be remembered for a very long time.

The Bill ushers in the framework needed for the Green Deal, the Government's flagship programme aiming to retrofit existing homes and businesses by implementing energy efficiency improvements and consequently lowering energy bills.

The Winchester MP served on the Bill Committee that scrutinised the plans in Parliament and spoke passionately in favour of them at the key 2nd Reading Stage in the House of Commons.

He subsequently led a delegation from Winchester to meet the Minister Greg Barker and discuss the policy's local implementation. This included Rob Veck (from Colden Common) and Peter Richardson (from Winchester) who are leading a new organisation called 'Green Win' which is part of the Winchester City Council Climate Change Programme.



It has been established as a social enterprise to help roll-out the Green Deal in our area.

Steve is now working with Green Win representatives and a team from Winchester City Council to help the Green Deal start without delay as soon as the legislation is complete.

More: www.greenwinchester.com

■ Pictured above; Steve recently visited David Baldwin of South Wonston who has installed an impressive set of solar panels on his home and (left); the Green Win delegation with the Minister in his Whitehall office.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Public meeting held with police

Alresford: The Chief Inspector of Winchester Police and local officers from the town came together to discuss the proposed moving of Alresford Police Station and local policing in general. A public meeting, held at the Community Centre, was organised by local MP Steve Brine and was well attended with a lively 90-minutes of questions for the panel. The meeting was an election promise made to residents in the town by Steve. More: www.stevebrine.com/alresfordpolice

Giving Voice to speech therapy

Winchester: Speech therapists in Winchester have unveiled their 'Giving Voice' campaign to raise the profile of their services locally at a special event in the Royal Hampshire County Hospital. Local MP Steve Brine attended with his wife Susie (who is a speech therapist) and listened to a short presentation from the



Adult Speech Therapy Manager, before taking some time to chat to guests, including consultants, education representatives and children and adults who receive SLT services.

More: www.givingvoiceuk.org

Twyford traffic 'summit' held

Twyford: Local MP Steve Brine has delivered on a key promise made to the village of Twyford at last year's General Election. He brought the leaders of Hampshire County Council, Winchester City Council and Twyford Parish Council together round one table with the police, the 'Traffic in Twyford' group and a local city councillor for a special traffic 'summit'. The meeting was designed to put the traffic, speed, route and parking issues of the village right at the top of the agenda for those with the power to change things.

More: www.stevebrine.com/twyfordtraffic

Charity song launched



Kings Worthy: A charity single that aims to raise money for Cancer Research had its official launch recently. The single, written and performed by Karen Mann of King's Worthy, is called 'Why oh Why' and was recorded following the death of her best friend to bowel cancer in 2010. Winchester MP Steve Brine secured Karen free studio time to record the track, which is now on-sale. More: www.stevebrine.com/karenmann

Thousands of Winchester ladies took part in the Cancer Research UK Race for Life, this year held at Bar End's Garrison Ground in June.



The torrential rain did nothing to quell the atmosphere and Winchester MP Steve Brine, co-chair of the All-Party Breast Cancer Group, was on-hand to sound the klaxon and begin the race.

Steve said; "My family and I have fought the disease for many years and it's fought us back. We want Britain to have the best outcomes in the world when it comes to battling cancer and, alongside the US, we want Britain to be the home of first-class research. But it costs money and events like this help us do that."



■ Steve joined campaigners and survivors at the Garrison Ground, Bar End to help publicise Race for Life, Winchester. In the end over 2,000 took part.



In Westminster

Local MP Steve Brine continues to be one of the most hard-working MPs in Parliament, in addition to his work locally. He is heavily involved in a number of influential All-Party Groups and works hard holding Ministers to account on behalf of his constituents. His recent work includes;

- Serving on the Energy Bill Committee
- Fighting for better education of Service Children
- Serving on the Health & Social Care Bill Committee
- Questioning Michael Gove on school reform
- Promoting Winchester local TV with DCMS Ministers
- Hosting visiting groups from local schools
- Taking local groups to meet Ministers
- Meeting visiting lobby groups from the constituency
- Co-hosting debate on Children's Heart Surgery
- Chairing the All-Party Breast Cancer Group
- Vice-Chair of the All-Party Autism, Cycling, Speech Therapy and Parkinson's Group
- Hosting events for national charities such as National Autism Society

You can see much (much) more:

www.stevebrine.com/westminster

Your Say...

Steve Brine MP and the Winchester Conservatives don't just campaign at election time. As you can see from the pages of this newspaper, we are active all the time. But we also want to hear from you and hope you will take a few minutes to complete this short survey and send it back to Winchester Conservatives, Manor Farm, Itchen Stoke, Alresford SO24 0QT.

1. Do you believe Winchester needs to build some new houses?

- Yes
- No

Your Say - if yes; where would you like to see them built?

2. Are you in favour or opposed to development at Barton Farm?

- In favour
- Opposed

Your Say _____

3. Would you support the building of new council homes in Winchester?

- Yes
- No

Your Say _____

4. How are you feeling about the Conservative/Liberal Democrat coalition Government at the moment?

- Overall positive
- Overall negative
- Neither/too soon to comment

Your Say _____

Name: _____

Postcode: _____

Email: _____

You can also complete this survey (with much more space for your comments!) via www.stevebrine.com/survey

MP opens new visitor centre at HMP Winchester

Steve Brine MP was delighted to be asked to open the new visitor centre at HMP Winchester on Romsey Road recently.



Steve opens the new centre as Mayor Cllr Lipscomb watches on.

He said; "I know it is not always popular to spend money on prisons, especially in these straightened times, but we should remember it is very hard on families and especially children when a family member is in prison. If we can see their contact with the Prison Service as an opportunity to address some deep rooted problems at the same time as they visit HMP Winchester, and if we are serious about reducing re-offending rates, then it has my absolute support.

"We know reoffending rates are reduced when a released prisoner has a stable family to return to and it is my hope this excellent new facility will go some way to making that possible in many more cases."

More: www.stevebrine.com/prison

Summer Tour 2011

Winchester MP Steve Brine was busy in the constituency during Parliament's annual recess holding his first Summer Tour.

Steve took his busy constituency surgery out of the city during August and September 2011, into different communities. He says; "I have always said we don't just knock on doors at election time and I hope the Summer Tour proved that once again. The team and I had a great time, I cannot wait until Summer Tour 2012 but hope for slightly better weather next time!"

More: www.stevebrine.com/summertour11



Cllr Eileen Berry joined Steve for a special surgery in August at Mountbatten Court in central Winchester.

Family days



50 Fabulously Fun Family Days Out is a comprehensive guide to family days out in and around Hampshire, all of which are affordable or free. Compiled by local families, it gives insider knowledge on solutions to potential problems, such as when it is best to visit, what to take and what to expect upon arrival. It has been produced by Compton School Association, the charity set up to fundraise for Compton All Saints Primary School and has received support from Hampshire County Council.

Winchester MP Steve Brine (pictured with his children and Popcorn!) recently met the book's creators Louise Turner and Jo Fowle and offered to help by selling the book (which costs just £5) through his office at 9 Stockbridge Road, Winchester.

More: www.stevebrine.com/50fundays

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