



# Steve Brine's WINCHESTER POST

*A positive publication 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.*

- **Page 2**, Steve's latest Westminster Report featuring visiting schools, Justice Select Committee & All-Party Group work
- **Page 3**, Barton Farm disappointment, the future of Worthy Down and Winchester's Olympic legacy
- **Page 4**, The Work Programme in Winchester, Summer Tour 2012 and Get in Touch with your MP

## £10m SUCCESS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CAMPAIGN



■ **The Mayor of Winchester, Cllr Frank Pearson, and Steve Brine MP with (a version of) the Olympic torch and children from Harestock and Weeke primary schools this Summer.**

**Conservative-led Hampshire County Council has pledged just over £10m to deal with the shortage of primary school places in the city.**

Local MP Steve Brine and hundreds of parents led the campaign and we will now see a new all-through 4-16 school – creating 420 new primary places – on the Westgate School site in Cheriton Road. It will be ready for September 2014.

Winnall Primary School and St Peter's Catholic Primary School will benefit from enlargement, while £400,000 will be invested

at All Saints, Harestock and Western primary schools.

Steve said; "This investment is really welcome and badly needed but it will have implications for all schools at primary and secondary level in Winchester. I will want reassurances that pupils outside of the new all-through school will not be disadvantaged and remain committed to working with HCC to ensure the resulting primary catchment area review is as smooth as it possibly can be."

**See much more:**  
[www.stevebrine.com/newschool](http://www.stevebrine.com/newschool)

## NEW COUNCIL HOMES

**Winchester's Conservative City Council has unveiled plans to build the first new council homes in the area for twenty five years.**

The council, now led by Cllr Keith Wood, will invest around £50m to build more than 300 new homes over the next ten years. The first homes will come online this year (2012) in Compton where the old shop has been converted into flats. Further new build homes will quickly follow.

Cllr Ian Tait, (pictured top right) Portfolio Holder for New Homes Delivery, told *The Winchester Post*; "This Conservative-led council is very different to those that have gone before it. It is never easy to build in Winchester but the political leadership is now there to do this and we have put the money in place. This is an absolutely wonderful position for this council to be in."

Winchester MP Steve Brine added; "We are all absolutely committed to this policy and I am so proud it is a Conservative council delivering these homes. New council homes are the ultimate form of affordable housing. Furthermore, they are primarily for local people and they're being built in the kind of numbers which the city and its existing infrastructure can handle."

**See more:**  
[www.stevebrine.com/newcouncilhomes](http://www.stevebrine.com/newcouncilhomes)



## POWER CUTS: £2m PLAN AGREED

*Local MP Steve Brine has gripped the issue of power cuts on behalf of constituents in Kings Worthy and the wider area.*

A series of power outages – over many years in some cases – led the MP to summon SSE Power to a crunch meeting earlier this year. At that meeting it was agreed the company would bring forward a £2m investment plan to lay two new cables into Kings Worthy – and others down into the Itchen Valley – from a recently upgraded primary sub-station at Sparsholt. SSE also

agreed to hold an open session to explain to residents local power supply issues and outline the future investment plans in full.

Steve told *The Winchester Post*; "This issue dragged on for years and while there were many protestations of outrage and leaflets written, nothing changed which is why I had to nail SSE down to a specific plan. Of course no-one can guarantee there will never be another power cut but this significant investment should stand well behind the future security of supply for Kings Worthy as well as neighbouring parishes."

**See more:**  
[www.stevebrine.com/powercuts](http://www.stevebrine.com/powercuts)



**A Green Winchester publication, printed on paper from sustainable forests**

# WESTMINSTER REPORT...

## Justice Select Committee



Steve Brine is a member of the influential Justice Select Committee, chaired by veteran Lib Dem MP Sir Alan Beith. Recent work from the committee includes; Post-Legislative Scrutiny of the Freedom of Information Act, the work of the Ministry of Justice and the Attorney General, interpreter services in court and Pre-Legislative Scrutiny of the Children and Families Bill.

The main current inquiry, which reports later this year, is looking at the Youth Justice system and recently took committee members – including Steve - to Oslo and Copenhagen. He says; "I really value my place on this committee and am relishing the youth justice work especially. Of course, we must punish those who commit crimes but we should, as a country, do so much better to keep young people away from trouble in the first place and we simply cannot afford to maintain the current rate of re-offending which is pushing our prison population to bursting."

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

## Steve on his Feet



Steve Brine speaks regularly in the House of Commons; contributing to debates, questioning Ministers and raising issues on behalf of his constituents.

Recent appearances include; asking the new Justice Secretary whether he will work to divert young people away from the criminal justice system, praising the employment outcomes of graduates at the University of Winchester and questioning the Chancellor about market interest rates. He has also spoken about the future of local post offices in the House and raised the issue of primary school places with the Prime Minister.

## All-Party Groups

Westminster is buzzing with All-Party Groups raising the profile of issues on every subject you can imagine. Local MP Steve Brine is active in a number of groups and co-chairs the All-Party Breast Cancer Group. He is also Vice-Chair of the Autism Group and regularly campaigns on special educational needs issues across Parliament. He is also Vice-Chair of the Cycling Group and a key member of the Parkinson's Group and the Ovarian Cancer Group.

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



Steve Brine is Vice-Chair of the All-Party Group for Park Homes and is pictured here discussing the new Bill which Steve and his cross-party group of colleagues are backing.

## Winchester in London

Steve Brine loves to bring constituency groups to Parliament and Spring 2013 will see the acclaimed Blue Apple Theatre perform in the Speakers' State apartments.

Blue Apple is a theatre company which brings all the benefits of taking part in theatre to adult performers with learning disabilities. They will perform an excerpt of Living without Fear for MPs and Peers. The Spring will also see Steve host a reception for the Winchester based social action filmmaker called 'Fixers'.

More: [www.blueappletheatre.com](http://www.blueappletheatre.com) & [www.fixers.org.uk](http://www.fixers.org.uk)

## Visiting Schools

Many local schools visit Parliament each year. The Education Service host a tour of the Palace of Westminster, hold special workshops and often a Q&A session with local MP Steve Brine.

Pupils from Osborne School, Itchen Abbas, Twyford St Mary's, St Francis Primary and St Swithun's have visited recently and Steve Brine welcomes requests from all schools in his constituency.

If you are a local teacher and would like to organise a visit from your school, primary or secondary, please contact Steve's office on 01962 791110

or email [steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk)



Students from Osborne School in Winchester give a big thumbs up to their day in Westminster.

# BARTON FARM DECISION

The long-running saga of whether development will be permitted on Barton Farm appears to have come to an end with CALA Homes being granted outline planning permission to develop 2,000 houses on the site.

The coalition Government had refused permission to build in September 2011, over-turning the recommendation of the Planning Inspectorate and backing the earlier decision of local councillors but the developer refused to accept this and once again appealed to the High Court.

In spite of the Localism Act becoming law, the High Court ruled that the Secretary of State was acting outside of his powers in refusing permission and ordered him to think again.

Winchester MP Steve Brine has been a long-standing and consistent opponent of the Barton Farm development. He said; "This is a bitterly disappointing decision from the coalition Government. CALA homes have very deep pockets and have relentlessly pursued Winchester over many years until they got what they



wanted. Because of the appeal system it was always possible they'd win one day and today it looks like they have.

"I think it was becoming increasingly difficult to save Barton Farm from the moment it was identified a reserve major development area by Winchester City Council in 2004. We can screech and point fingers as to where blame lies for this but in my opinion it rests with a developer who wouldn't accept no.

"It is now important to ensure CALA Homes live up to their promises and give us the high quality development envisaged. I will also be keeping very close tabs on the affordable element of the housing to see if it really does deliver new homes for local people."

More: See Steve's Barton Farm pages going back more than six years [www.stevebrine.com/bartonfarm](http://www.stevebrine.com/bartonfarm)

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Safe crossing



Winchester: Residents in St Cross and lower Stanmore are celebrating after their new crossing was finally installed on the junction of St Cross Road and Lower Stanmore Lane. Local MP Steve Brine joined forces with residents, City Councillors Fiona Mather, Ian Tait and Robert Sanders – as well as local Lib Dems – to secure the new crossing which has been campaigned for over many years.

## ALDI coming to city at last

Weeks: Supermarket chain ALDI have finally got on with building their new store next to Waitrose on the Stockbridge Road. Steve Brine, backed by Cllr Eileen Berry and local campaigner Helen Osborne, wrote to the store's management and urged them to hurry up and use their permission or let someone else have the site.

## Got a question about UK Aid policy?



Fulford: Winchester MP Steve Brine has re-arranged the postponed meeting about the UK's international aid programme for Thursday November 8th 2012. The event takes place in the evening at St Paul's Church on St Paul's Hill, Fulford with former DFID Minister Stephen O'Brien MP. Tickets are free but via pre-registration only. Please email [steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk) or call 01962 791110.

## Ambitious plan to safeguard future of Worthy Down

South Wiston: Plans to re-develop the Army camp at Worthy Down in to a tri-service training depot and headquarters are set to go ahead towards the end of next year. Although this £270m investment will bring many new jobs and facilities to the area, care will need to be taken to ensure that the impact on local residents of this major development is handled sensitively. MP Steve Brine and your local Conservative ward councillors are working with the MOD to ensure that happens. Cllr Stephen Godfrey told *The Winchester Post*; "It is also hoped that there will be some direct benefits for the local community, but that will only become apparent as the plans become public. Rest assured we remain on the case."



Local people and MP Steve Brine are backing a new group called Winchester Fit for the Future, drawn from a wide range of sports clubs in the Winchester area, to bring a new world-class leisure centre to the city.

The organisation is undertaking detailed research in liaison with the City Council, consulting national governing bodies for sport and developing proposals for a centre that can expand participation in sport and host major competitive events.

Emma Back from WFFTF says; "There is such a desire now among many sports clubs and other local institutions to work with the council to deliver something ambitious and exciting through the next 50 years. There is a need for strategic investment and long-term vision - and post-Olympics and Paralympics is the time to make it happen."

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



Winchester MP Steve Brine is delighted that the children's heart unit at Southampton General Hospital has been saved.

The Have a Heart campaign, led by the Daily Echo, secured over 250,000 signatures to back Southampton as the NHS carried out its Safe & Sustainable review in congenital heart surgery across England and Wales.

Steve was among those who led the charge among MPs from the South; sponsoring a debate in Parliament in June 2011, meeting affected constituents and representatives from the Trust as well as delivering a huge petition to Downing Street.

He told *The Winchester Post*; "We are obviously delighted. This has been a very long process but the right decision has been made. Whichever way you looked at it, Southampton came out right at the top when it came to quality of paediatric cardiac services."



More, including latest legal challenges via: [www.stevebrine.com/hearturgery](http://www.stevebrine.com/hearturgery)

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## MPs likely to debate Assisted Dying

**Parliament:** MPs are set to face a further debate in the near future on the law around assisted dying. The House of Commons debated the subject in general terms earlier this year but the Tony Nicklinson case, ruled on by the High Court this Summer, has thrown it back to Parliament and a passionate debate is getting underway. You can see what your MP Steve Brine said in the recent debate via:

[www.stevebrine.com/assisteddying](http://www.stevebrine.com/assisteddying)

and please get in touch with Steve on this most difficult of subjects via:

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

## Watercress Festival taste sensation



**Alresford:** Local MP Steve Brine joined thousands of people, including a sprinkling of celebrities, as the ninth annual Alresford Watercress Festival took place in the town in May. The event, which included a parade through the town and Morris dancers, was thought to have attracted over 10,000 visitors. Steve also became a judge in the World Watercress Soup Championships (pictured).

## Good start for improvements at Junction 9



**Winnall:** Local Conservatives have welcomed a £400,000 investment from the Government to improve the M3 at Junction 9 in Winnall. Local councillor Fiona Mather told *The Winchester Post*; "Any investment which eases congestion, and the knock-on effect that has for Winnall especially, is welcome but Conservatives in Winchester very much see this as phase one of much wider works. We will work with our MP to press for more and to address the perennial problem of surface noise from the M3."

## Shawford Station parking

**Shawford:** The popularity of Shawford Station has created major parking problems for local residents and businesses. Local parish and now city councillor Mike Southgate has been working with local residents and rail users to find a solution. In 2010 South West Trains increased the car parking which gave flexibility for local parking restrictions. These were implemented last month, have been welcomed by local residents and improved safety on the bends into Shawford from Twyford.

# MPs OFFICE EXTENDS CHARITY LINK

*Steve Brine's shop in Fulflood, Winchester has extended its support for local charities.*

Local residents can now drop off items for the Winchester Basics Bank (pictured below left) at the Stockbridge Road location after it became an official collection point for the charity. Steve says; "The basics bank is more in demand than ever. This is a really well run charity with a smooth unfussy operation to get help where it's most needed and I just want to help them in any way I can. Anything you can spare would be really useful to them I know."



The shop is now also officially part of the Safer Places scheme (pictured below right) which aims to improve the experience of vulnerable people in the community and provide a place to go to where help can be summoned if they are feeling scared or upset while out on their own in the community. Staff have received training and the 'Safe Place' sign is now proudly displayed in the window.



## WORK PROGRAMME IN WINCHESTER

The Work Programme is a major new payment-by-results welfare-to-work programme being led by Iain Duncan Smith. Along with the Universal Credit benefit reforms, it is central to the Government's ambitious plans for getting people back to work.

Local MP Steve Brine saw first hand how the Work Programme – which is specifically designed to help the long-term unemployed – is operating in Winchester. The Conservative MP visited the offices of **A4e** who, alongside another company called **Maximus**, are delivering the programme in Hampshire. He met with team members, job seekers and Winchester-based 'The Landscape Group' who have recruited ten new members of staff via the scheme.

Steve says; "The whole drive of this Government is to get this country off its knees and to create new jobs in the private sector but we need a robust programme to get those stuck on out of work benefits into meaningful, long-term jobs and that is what the Work Programme is all about."

*Are you a local employer looking for new team members?*

More and various links:  
[www.stevebrine.com/workprogramme](http://www.stevebrine.com/workprogramme)

## SUMMER TOUR 2012

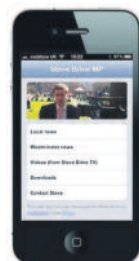
Winchester MP Steve Brine undertook his second Summer Tour during Parliament's annual recess in 2012 taking in Alresford, Kings Worthy, Twyford, Sutton Scotney and Oliver's Battery.

He also held a special surgery on the Highcliffe (pictured below) and Weeke estates, both of which were fully booked for the full two hours. "I love doing Summer Tour," Steve says. "It is so good to take my surgery out of the city from time to time and judging by the response, constituents appreciated the move. I'm not sure who the last Winchester MP to hold a surgery in the heart of Highcliffe or meet constituents in Sutton Scotney Fire Station was but it must have been a long time ago."

More: See full details and pictures from Summer Tour 2012 [www.stevebrine.com/summertour12](http://www.stevebrine.com/summertour12)



## Ways to contact your local MP



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