

WINCHESTER POST

For Winchester and the surrounding villages, including Chandler's Ford

Winchester, we have a problem...

TARGET: Micheldever



Micheldever Councillors, Barry Lipscomb and Stephen Godfrey (with Steve Brine, right) look at plans from Eagle Star to build an eco-town on 10,000 acres of Hampshire Downlands.

Steve Brine says; "This latest attempt by Zurich Eagle Star is a cynical move to latch onto the Government's 'Eco Town' agenda - but it doesn't change the basic fact that there is universal opposition to a new town being built on this remote rural location."

You can see Steve's three simple tests for any proposed Eco Town at:

www.stevebrine.com/micheldeverecotown or call: **01962 762023.**

As Gordon Brown demands three million new houses, the 'house-building express' heads our way.

The Winchester Post looks at the scale of the challenge.

Prospective Winchester MP, Steve Brine, has said local people face a battle with Government over new development proposals that would "test the resolve of King Alfred himself". The Winchester District is being told it must build **12,000 new homes** by 2026. More than five thousand of these must be in the Northern part of the district.

Furthermore, a Government Inspector recently announced that a 'Greenfield site North of Winchester' has the potential to deliver 1,800 houses . . . and with that, **Barton Farm** came back on the Agenda.

The story doesn't stop there. Ministers have invited plans - direct to Government - for ten major new 'Eco Towns'. Eagle Star has used the opportunity to dust off its much-refused bid to build a whopping 12,500 houses on Greenfield land at **Micheldever Station.**

TARGET: Winchester

Barton Farm on Winchester's Andover Road has been marked as a 'reserve' site under the current Winchester District Local Plan, which runs until 2011.



Cala Homes want to build almost 2,000 homes but the *Save Barton Farm* group is fiercely opposed and recently returned to the streets of Winchester.

Steve Brine says: "Barton Farm is a vital part of the wonderful landscape setting of our historic City. 2,000 homes on this particular site would kill the patient in my view. Barton Farm is not the Council's choice and it is certainly not mine!" For more on this, visit: www.stevebrine.com/bartonfarm or call: **01962 762023.**

TARGET: Everywhere



Court Road in Kings Worthy has become a symbol of 'infill development' for many. This is the practice where one former family home makes way for a dense new development, often over the heads of local decision-makers.

Prospective Winchester MP, Steve Brine, is pictured in Court Road with Kings Worthy Councillor, Stan Howell.



Where do we go from here?

Steve Brine writes:

"Across Britain, there is a clear need for new homes. Winchester alone

has almost 3,000 people on its housing list. I am regularly contacted by local families who need our help.

"We have a duty to provide for the next generation - what better aspiration can there be for local families than to have their own home? But I have always maintained that it cannot be at the expense of today and of existing communities - otherwise we are robbing Peter to pay Paul.

"I want to see Government take a real lead on this issue - not a lazy way out which says 'build them all in the South East'. Before we even consider building on Greenfield sites we should be considering population change and its effect on housing need. We should be considering 870,000 empty properties, even if we are doing well in this regard locally. Here in Winchester, we should be considering large areas of brownfield land likely to become available (eg; on the Romsey Road).

"We should reject the very idea of Government housing targets for the South

East which are literally holding a gun to the heads of local people. We need new homes but we don't need a central target of 12,000. Such numbers could force through Barton Farm, Francis Gardens and much more besides - with Micheldever Station to top it all!

"This is bigger than Winchester and any one Prospective MP. We can score cheap political points or we can recognise that local people deserve better. Let's come together, stand up for Winchester and come to a sensible conclusion that might just help the very people who need us most."

What do you think about centrally imposed housing targets, the South East Plan and the way Winchester responds?

Visit:

www.stevebrine.com/winchesterchallenge

or write to:

Steve Brine, Winchester Challenge, The Coach House, Worthy Park, Winchester SO21 1AN.

News Shorts

The EU Treaty - this is now a matter of trust

Labour and Liberal Democrat politicians continue to 'thumb their noses' at the people of Winchester by refusing a promised referendum on the EU Treaty.

To add insult to injury, the Government - who had pledged plenty of time for "line-by-line scrutiny" - is pushing the bill through Parliament, while allowing MPs just 45 seconds for each line!

Shadow Foreign Secretary, William Hague said; "Ministers, it seems, are engaged not only in trying to hide from Parliament the extent of what they have agreed to, but they are also engaged in hiding from Parliament the extent of what they have not yet agreed to - but intend to sign up to - once these debates are out of the way."

Prospective local MP, Steve Brine, added: "There could not be a more cynical approach to the conduct of government policy, deeply lacking in openness, transparency or honesty. This is a matter of trust. All MPs in this area - both Liberal Democrat and Conservative - were elected pledging to give the public a vote on this. It is time to deliver on our promise, or face the consequences of public anger over this issue."

What a DISCOVERY!

Winchester's brand new Discovery Centre has got off to a flying start.



The facility - from Conservative-led Hampshire County Council - represents a major investment in the arts (costing some £8million) and welcomed its 100,000th customer back in mid-February.

The County Council faces so many difficult budgetary

decisions at the moment so this is a really good news story for Winchester.

Steve Brine (pictured above with Cllr Ken Thornber) said; "There has been so much said about the Discovery Centre but I know this is something local people are truly proud to have on their doorstep."

British energy revolution urged

Conservative leader, David Cameron, has outlined exciting plans for a decentralised energy revolution in Britain.

Launching 'Power to the People' at the Greenpeace offices recently, he called for a system of feed-in tariffs, where people are paid for the energy they produce.



The Opposition leader talked about creating a mass market for micro-generation. "This is not a pipe dream; it is tomorrow's world," he said, stressing the benefits of a move to decentralised energy, including: the fight against climate change; making our energy supply more secure; saving money; and transforming consumer awareness. Winchester Parliamentary Candidate, Steve Brine, added: "This forms part of our commitment to make Britain safer and greener."

You can find out more about this and download 'Power to the People: the Decentralised Energy Revolution' at: www.stevebrine.com/campaigns



emmaus Hampshire

Help for Winchester's homeless

The national homeless charity, Emmaus, is coming to Winchester.

Emmaus Communities offer homeless people a home, work and the chance to rebuild their lives. There are currently 14 Communities around the UK and the latest is planned to open at Bar End in Winchester, early in 2009.



Steve Brine at the Bar End site with Emmaus Chairman, Alison Thompson (left) and Sarah Chester on a very wet Tuesday morning!

The site is a one-acre brownfield area adjacent to the Household Waste Recycling Centre, just off Junction 10 of the M3 and has been provided by Hampshire County Council.

Winchester's Parliamentary Candidate, Steve Brine, is supporting the project. He recently met up with the team to see their plans and discuss its arrival in the county. He told *The Winchester Post*: "Emmaus is a truly inspiring organisation because, in addition to alleviating homelessness, their mission is to restore dignity and self-worth by providing meaningful work which enables the Community to become self financing. They have an impressive record in providing the necessary environment, support and skills to get people back to living independently.

"It is easy to think Winchester doesn't have a homeless problem, but that is sadly far from the truth. Emmaus Hampshire will hopefully reduce the number of people using temporary shelters in this area and lead to a reduction in costs to the local NHS, police force and other social services, including local hostel rents picked up by the Council.

"I hope that the charity's 'rights and responsibilities' approach will help change all of our perceptions of the issue of homelessness and social exclusion in modern society."

You can find out more about Emmaus Hampshire and help make the community a reality by visiting: www.emmaushampshire.org.uk or by calling 01962 828817.

Read more at: www.stevebrine.com

Central Post Office threat

Relocation to WH Smith is back on the agenda as consultation begins

The Post Office Ltd has confirmed its intention to relocate Winchester's Crown Post Office - to WH Smith!

The move is part of a nationwide plan to shift Crown Post Office services into the High Street retailer.

The news was met with dismay from Winchester residents last year, but only now are they being given chance to have a say on the issue.

The Post Office has begun a period of public consultation, which ends on March 27th.

Winchester Parliamentary Candidate, Steve Brine, said: "I think it is wrong for local Post Office customers and for those of WH Smith. You only have to look inside WH Smith to see that 'two-into-one' just won't work here. All hell will break loose on pension day each week!"

Local campaigner Abdul Kayum (pictured right) added: "The Post Office has been its own worst enemy. Having procrastinated over the start of this consultation, they now face a loyal customer base more determined than ever to have their say about this proposal."

You can write with your views to: Philippa Wright, National Consultation Manager, Post Office Ltd, c/o National Consultation Team, PO Box 2060, Watford WD18 8ZW by 27th March.

You can find more information and links to this story at: www.stevebrine.com/campaigns



ABOVE: Local campaigner for the St Barts area of Winchester, Abdul 'Miff' Kayum, discusses the proposals with customers outside the Middle Brook Street site

Sophie's Place opens its doors

A new children's assessment area on Northbrook Paediatrics Ward opened just before Christmas.

It has been named in honour of Sophie Barringer, a young patient at the RHCH who lost her battle with Wilms Disease - a rare form of cancer - in 2005.

Steve Brine says: "I was privileged to be at the opening of Sophie's Place, along with Sally Taylor from South Today, who cut the ribbon. This kind of children-friendly 'reception' to the children's ward is extremely important for kids and their parents when faced with what can be an extremely frightening hospital visit. All of us with young kids pray that we never have to use this facility ourselves but to have it here in Winchester is a real asset."



Infection rates good - but must improve further

Steve Brine has given a qualified welcome to improving infection control figures from the Winchester & Eastleigh NHS Trust.

New figures from the Health Protection Agency show that the Trust running Winchester's hospital is on target with infection control.

Each NHS Trust has an upper target for MRSA and C-difficile cases. For Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust that figure is 12 and 150 respectively for 2007/08. Figures released on January 30th show that there have been five cases of MRSA bloodstream infection and 93 cases of C-diff.

Prospective MP, Steve Brine, said: "This is good news for the

Winchester and Eastleigh Trust. All credit must go to the staff, who I know work extremely hard - often in difficult circumstances - to keep patients clear of MRSA and C-Diff in particular. Winchester has a historically low level of hospital-acquired infections, but any infection picked up while in hospital is one too many. The aim must be for an infection-free NHS across the country, not a centrally-imposed Government target to manage an 'acceptable' number of infections in any one year."

A new hospital for Winchester

Ambitious plans have been drawn up for the future of the Royal Hampshire County Hospital

Open Weekend at RHCH

Coming soon - see the plans for yourself in glorious 3D models - check local press for dates and details

Exciting new proposals have emerged that will effectively see Winchester have a new hospital by the end of 2009.

Prospective Winchester MP, **Steve Brine**, has welcomed the plan. He told *The Winchester Post* that he hoped it would secure the long-term future of the site in Romsey Road, Winchester, providing a "world-class hospital we can rely on for generations to come."

The move is not without difficult decisions however. It will see the Winchester & Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust selling off large parts of its current land to finance the new buildings. "Proceeds will be used to provide a hospital for the 21st century," said **Martin Wakeley**, Trust Chief Executive. "Rather than put the money into a financial black hole, we want to provide great services in a modern facility. This is about the future, not the past," he added.



The plan - part of the Trust's wish to attain Foundation Status in the next few years - is to move more clinical services into the relatively new Burrell Wing, which has largely stood empty since 2004 when it was built.

Steve Brine added: "I want to see world-class clinical services delivered in buildings that are modern, safe and cost-effective to maintain for the long-term. If that means selling off some of the older buildings on the Romsey Road site then it has to be right, as long as we protect the range of services available at the RHCH. Hospital services for local people must come before sentiment about bricks and mortar."

Read much more about this story, download plans and have your say at: www.stevebrine.com/prioritynhs or call: 01962 762023.

(Left) Steve Brine discusses the plans with Trust Chief Executive Martin Wakeley, in the 'new' Burrell Wing

Ministers drop 'mixed-sex wards' pledge

Conservatives have heavily criticised reports that the Government is set to ditch its pledge to eradicate 'mixed-sex wards' across the NHS.

Patient groups say they are receiving an increasing number of calls from people who think they have been in mixed-sex wards and there appears to be confusion about the definition of the term.

Shadow Health Secretary, Andrew Lansley said; "After almost 11 years, Ministers now appear willing to betray the interests of patients by dropping their manifesto commitment to abolish mixed-sex wards as patients understand them. As recently as last May, Patricia Hewitt made it clear that what she

meant by single-sex accommodation **excluded** partitioned bays. Now, it seems the department is accepting the proposition that patients should be in mixed-sex accommodation with nothing but flimsy partitions between them."

The Patients' Association said: "What patients, especially female patients, want is pretty simple. It is to be nursed and cared for on a ward where only patients of their sex are present. Even with bays, you still have a situation where you will have a member of the opposite sex around. Women, especially, feel very intimidated."

What is your experience of this issue in hospital? Email: prioritynhs@stevebrine.com

New scanner unveiled

Patients at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital can now be diagnosed more quickly - and with greater accuracy - thanks to a brand new '64 multislice' scanner.

The scanner provides high definition images of any part of the body and can amalgamate 64 different views at the same time.

Steve Brine says: "New services like this are vital to help us deliver world-class patient care for local people, but they are also essential in attracting and keeping world-class health professionals at the Royal Hampshire."



Steve Brine with Radiographer, Stephen Ross

YOUR VIEWS MATTER... What are your experiences of - and views about - the local NHS? Share in **100% confidence** at:

www.stevebrine.com/prioritynhs

The Winchester Post gets the lowdown on Steve Brine

Who are you?

Steve Brine, Conservative Candidate for the next General Election.

Where do you live?

I'm a genuinely local candidate! Our family home is near Alresford.

What is your current job?

I work with a successful golf marketing business.

What music are you listening to at the moment?

One Night Only - a refreshing new band I saw live in Cardiff recently. I love the buzz of hearing fresh new bands breaking onto the scene.

What are you reading at the moment?

Harry Potter and The Half Blood Prince. I am determined to finish the series before someone tells me how it ends!

Growing family man! Steve and his wife Susie now have a daughter, Emily Jane Brine, born at Winchester Hospital on 22nd November



Supporting marriage

Prospective Conservative MP for Winchester, Steve Brine, dropped into the Winchester Family Church on Middle Brook Street recently to see the launch of this year's Marriage Course.



Steve & Susie Brine (centre) with baby Emily and the Marriage Course Team at Winchester Family Church

Based on the original programme from Holy Trinity, Brompton - which is also home to the hugely successful Alpha Course - it is practical and aims to give any married couple 'the tools to build a strong and healthy marriage that lasts a lifetime.'

The Winchester course is run by Neil and Sarah Keyworth - who have been married 26 years - and is held over eight evenings. Topics typically

covered include; learning to communicate effectively, resolving conflict, relating to parents and in-laws - and even good sex! They estimate over 70 couples have taken the course locally, since it began in 2004.

Steve Brine - who has been married to Susie for 5 years told *The Winchester Post*: "The former Conservative leader, Iain Duncan-Smith, produced a ground-breaking piece of work last year entitled 'Breakdown Britain' in which he cites the erosion of marriage as one of the factors undermining British society today and made a series of policy proposals to strengthen the institution. These included ending the bias against marriage in the tax system and removing the couple penalty in the benefits system, so removing the financial incentive for parents to live apart. We also want to help families stay together with community-based relationship support and it is here I would wish to champion initiatives such as *The Marriage Course* which do amazing work in supporting couples in a relaxed and completely unthreatening way."

"This is not about attacking anybody; we all recognise there are rock-solid couples who chose not to marry and those who are left on their own for all manner of reasons. It is, however, about having the courage to stand up and say that we support marriage as an institution and we especially recognise the overwhelming evidence from 'Breakdown Britain', which says it is the best environment in which to bring up children."

Links for more information

The Marriage Course, Winchester - www.winfam.org or call: 01962 840800
 Breakdown Britain - Iain Duncan-Smith research and report - www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk
 Time for Families (national charity supporting family life) - www.timeforfamilies.org.uk or call: 020 8778 8556

Nursing care ENHANCED

Conservative-led Hampshire County Council has been awarded top marks by a Government Watchdog for the sixth consecutive year - despite being one of the worst-funded authorities in the land!



Steve with Cllr Felicity Hindson, Westholme's Gerald Frizell and Jane Duncan of HCC

One of the reasons for its recognition is a groundbreaking nursing home scheme which saw the County Council build 500 new nursing home beds in response to the closure of private sector nursing homes in the area and the increasing number of elderly people being delayed in hospital.

The ENHANCED scheme means top quality nursing care is available for older Hampshire residents at 10 homes across the county, including Westholme in Harestock, Winchester. The programme has successfully avoided additional costs for the council of over £12million and reduced delayed discharges.

Prospective Winchester MP, Steve Brine, recently visited Westholme and told *The Winchester Post*:

"By focusing investment on creating new nursing care beds, the County Council has achieved better value for money than if they had solely gone down the route of increasing funding for private care placements. I was tremendously humbled by what I saw at Westholme; it is a shining example of a modern care home serving residents with the utmost respect and a truly compassionate approach to care."

Westholme still has new beds to open and is actively looking to recruit staff to enable this. If you are interested, please contact Manager, Gerald Frizell, on: 01962 881481.

Promoted by Paul Twelftree on behalf of Winchester Conservative Association, both of The Coach House, Worthy Park, Abbots Worthy, Winchester, Hampshire SO21 1AN and Printed by Culverlands Press, Winnall Valley Road, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 0LN

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- I would like to donate to Steve's fighting fund
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Please make cheques payable to: **Winchester Conservatives Fighting Fund**
 Please complete and return to: Winchester Conservatives, The Coach House, Worthy Park, Winchester, Hampshire SO21 1AN

or visit: www.stevebrine.com

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