

WINCHESTER POST

For Winchester and surrounding villages, including Chandler's Ford

SAFER STREETS?

Winchester's
Parliamentary
Candidate, Steve Brine

As police report a further drop in local crime rates - we ask if we really have safer streets

WINCHESTER is not known for its high levels of crime - indeed the city was recently voted 'Best place to live in the UK' - partly because this is a relatively safe place to be.

The man leading Winchester Police is Chief Inspector Steve France-Sargeant. He says calls for service have been reduced by almost 10% since April and he has a very clear idea why, "We now have eighteen Police Community Support Officers (or PCSO's for short), in the Winchester District and they have undoubtedly had a very positive effect on local crime rates and the confidence people take from seeing them on the beat. They have integrated well within Safer Neighbourhood Teams."

A NOTE OF CAUTION

Steve Brine, who is aiming to become Winchester's next Member of Parliament agrees and praises the work of the Winchester force but is sounding a note of caution for the future. "We have a dedicated police force in Winchester but there is simply not enough of them and this can often leave large areas of the wider Winchester area feeling exposed. A freeze on recruiting for the next six months across the Hampshire Constabulary combined with the constant pressure on budgets as the excesses of recent Government spending come to

an end, is really going to test our force to the limit."

QUALITY OF LIFE

Steve Brine cites the extended alcohol exclusion zone as having made a positive impact but says many local people are still having their quality of life affected by teenage drinking, the curse of mini-motorbikes and low-level anti-social behaviour.

He continues, "The constabulary face an ongoing battle to balance back-office policing, so-called 'protective services' such as the management of prolific offenders when released from prison, with the need to push resources into front-line policing so the public see more and more bobbies on the beat.

CRUNCH POINT

"The Government talk a lot about safer neighbourhoods but there is a crunch point coming over the future allocation of resources across Hampshire. I am determined Winchester will not lose out because of the perception this is a place where crime and anti-social behaviour don't exist."

- What is your perception of crime and anti-social behaviour on the street where you live?
- Do you feel we have safer streets?
- What if you had the Chief Constable's cheque book?

STEVE BRINE WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU - email in total confidence crimeviews@stevebrine.com or write to: 1 Station Hill, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8TJ (we recognise not everyone is online yet!)



Save our nurseries! Find out more with Steve Brine and the children of the Bambino Room at the Hartley House Montessori Nursery in Winchester. See page three.

A little sanctuary

Keep it LOCAL winner revealed!



Melody Ann Buckland receiving her 'Keep it LOCAL' trophy from Steve Brine surrounded by a shop full of loyal customers. You can find Little Sanctuary opposite the Theatre Royal on Jewry Street or online via www.littlesanctuary.co.uk Trophy purchased via Janette's Engraving of Little Minster Street.

IN the last edition of The Winchester Post, we launched a search to find our favourite local business.

The aim was to find the best local shop, service or business across Winchester and Chandler's Ford as part of the Use Them or Lose Them appeal.

Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Winchester, Steve Brine, told The Winchester Post that his intention was to support the many long-established independent shops that are a feature of Winchester and the surrounding area.

Hundreds of entries were sent in and Little Sanctuary emerged as the public choice. Awarding the first 'Keep it LOCAL' trophy to the owner of the 'spiritual coffee shop and boutique', Steve Brine said; "I have been blown away by the number of nominations we received for this competition. There are obviously a lot of people here who agree that we have to support these independent shops and businesses if we want them to survive and remain part of what makes this such a special place to live, visit and work.

"In the end it came down to D&G Hardware and Little Sanctuary but the Sanctuary team just edged it. It is exactly the sort of unique independent business that needs to thrive if Winchester is to avoid the fate of so many towns and cities and become solely a parade of national chains. Judging by the emails I received in nominating Little Sanctuary, they obviously have some extremely loyal customers; they are worthy winners of the Keep it LOCAL trophy".



All those sending entries to the competition were entered into a prize draw to win a bottle of Veuve Clicquot champagne. Julia Sandison from Oram's Arbour was the lucky winner - Julia nominated runner-up D&G Hardware in St. George's Street, Winchester.

Garden grab madness

Steve Brine fights for new legislation to protect the character of our neighbourhoods



Pictured (left to right) are Kingsworthy city councillor Stan Howell, local residents Tony Jacobs and Dennis Curling and local campaigner John White. (Steve Brine centre). Campaigners in Champion Way, Kingsworthy have recently fought off a proposal that would have seen two properties make way for 12 three-storey houses in their leafy suburban street.

IT'S one of the biggest issues facing Winchester and surrounding villages today - often turning neighbour against neighbour and changing the face of our communities forever.

The whole issue of planning and development continues to cause friction as the demand for new housing comes up against the need to protect the homes we already have.

That is why the man aiming to become Winchester's next MP is backing a change in the law that could help protect local neighbourhoods from over-development.

Steve Brine is leading local calls to outlaw so-called "garden grabbing" - the practice where property developers snap up family houses with gardens, knock them down and replace them with, often dense, apartment blocks on the same plot.

The Prospective Winchester MP told The Winchester Post, "You would be hard pressed to look at a

copy of *The Hampshire Chronicle* from any of the past five years and see no reference to a contentious new development. In Winchester new homes built on previously residential land was 46% of the total built in 2005.

"I am absolutely not saying we don't need new homes and we should freeze Winchester in some damaging time warp but we must protect the character of our neighbourhoods from being fundamentally changed in an unplanned and unsustainable way - with no concern for the environment or the lack of infrastructure."

Steve Brine is working with the Conservative Team at the Department for Local Government & Communities, on a new law to protect gardens and urban green

space by changing the definition of gardens back from brownfield to greenfield sites. The 'Protection of Private Gardens Bill' would also give greater discretion to local communities via their elected local councils to set the right level of housing density for new developments.

Steve adds, "I get so many emails on this subject from people really angry at the way their neighbourhoods are changing and all too often they feel totally powerless. I am pleased we now have a Conservative council in Winchester that is prepared to use what little discretion it has to resist some of the most inappropriate developments. Champion Way in Kingsworthy is a very good example, but we cannot win them all and we cannot pretend local councillors are able to ignore the law as set down by Government. We require a change in the law from London as well as a strong planning department in Winchester."

Post Office battle - fighting on two fronts

LOCAL Conservatives have been leading the campaign to protect our Post Offices.

Access to Post Office services continues to be one of the big issues in Winchester and surrounding villages. Over 4,000 Sub-Post Offices have already closed nationwide in the last decade and the Government recently announced plans to axe a further 2,500 - raising fears the axe could fall on some of the seventeen branches we currently have in the Winchester area.

Winchester Parliamentary Candidate, Steve Brine, has been putting constant pressure on the organisation to say which specific branches it deems to be not fit for purpose, "The people making these decisions must realise that when the local post office closes, often the accompanying shop goes too. Government must take steps to give post offices a sustainable future."

At the same time, anger continues to grow at plans to close the city's main post office in Middle Brook Street, and transfer its services to WH Smith in the High Street. Steve says, "My postbag and inbox are both red hot on this issue - people think it's some kind of April Fool's joke! Sadly, however, it's not - the Post Office has confirmed to me their intention to move into WH Smith, sometime in the spring of next year. A city the size of Winchester demands a full-size, central post office, offering the full range of services - not a scaled-down version squeezed into an already busy high street store."

This issue is constantly being updated, so please check out the latest developments and 'call to action' advice via www.stevebrine.com/campaigns or call Winchester Conservatives on 01962 853 668.



Steve Brine (left) with Winchester City Council Leader, Cllr George Beckett and Miss Lawrence of St Cross, who has been a tireless campaigner against the reduction of Post Office services in Winchester - and recently handed a petition to Steve against the proposed move to WH Smith.

Nursery campaign gathers pace

THE campaign to 'Save Our Nurseries' says nursery places across Hampshire are at risk of closure because of new Government plans which may threaten the sustainability of many providers offering nursery care and education for 3 and 4 year olds.

Leading nursery care providers say that parents will struggle to find high quality pre-school childcare as thousands of private nurseries will be forced to shut their doors. Traditionally, private nurseries receive a state grant and then charge parents a top-up fee to help cover the cost of staff and enhanced facilities.

However, new rules ban them from taking the extra fees as part of nationwide plans to extend free state nursery care. The campaign group 'Save our Nurseries' has warned that thousands of private nurseries will be driven out of business, will drop standards or will be driven into the solely private sector - pushing up significantly the cost to parents of high quality childcare.

The opposition is being led by the Montessori schools, which pioneered child-centred learning in Britain. Susan Hartley-Raven from Hartley House Montessori, which runs successful nurseries in central Winchester and Hursley, contacted local Parliamentary Candidate, Steve Brine to help. Susan says,

"Nursery education for the under 5s is at a crucial time in a child's development and we are proud to be a Montessori school offering high quality care to children from a wide set of backgrounds. The new Code of Practice could either drive us out of business or put our unique programme of pre-school learning out of the reach of many local families. We are enormously grateful to Steve Brine for bringing the new Shadow Minister to Winchester and helping us to highlight this issue."

Mrs Hartley-Raven and Mrs de Boinville have recently set up the Association of Private, Voluntary and Independent Providers (Hampshire) to co-ordinate

opposition to the move; further information can be found at www.saveournurseries.org

Steve Brine adds, "We don't want a system which forces every child in Winchester to attend a state-run childcare centre by 2010. Government should help parents with the cost of high quality childcare, to enable women to get back to work (if they want to) and to help children develop in those vital early years, but they cannot control everything from London. Nurseries are suffering from the Government's ideological opposition to a mixed economy in the nursery sector. I think we need to look again at a system which puts power and choice in the hands of parents."

There is a great deal more detail on this story and 'call to action' links at www.stevebrine.com/campaigns



Steve Brine recently brought Shadow Minister for the Under 5s, Maria Miller, to Hartley House Nursery in Winchester. Pictured discussing the issue with Steve are (from left to right); Susan Hartley-Raven, from Hartley House, Shaunagh de Boinville who runs a successful nursery in Baughurst and Maria Miller MP.

Moment of truth for Europe – and Gordon

Conservatives publish EU Treaty in plain English and demand referendum

IT seems as if everyone now concedes the new EU Treaty is just the old rejected EU Constitution under another name – well almost everyone.

The UK government is still refusing to grant the people of Winchester a vote on the issue even though detailed examination undertaken by Shadow Foreign Secretary William Hague shows that, just as the EU Constitution would have done, the Treaty would mean a major shift of powers from Britain to the EU, in particular over foreign policy and our criminal justice system.

Winchester's Parliamentary Candidate, Steve Brine, is quite clear what needs to be done, "It has now been revealed by key EU figures that this new Treaty was deliberately made as hard to understand as possible to help Gordon Brown wriggle out of his own manifesto promise of a referendum. We demand a say on this issue before our country is buried!"

He adds, "This is not me 'banging on about Europe', since I became Winchester's candidate for Parliament late last year, I have relentlessly focused on our National Health Service, the threat to our Post Offices and the challenge we all face from climate change among other things. I want to be the Member of Parliament for Winchester so I can affect change on some of these key issues and that will not be possible if Westminster becomes a sub-branch of Brussels – they are interconnected issues. It is time for the people to have their say."



Threat to travel centre

South West Trains confirm consultation over future

STEVE Brine has said any plans to close the travel information centre at Winchester railway station would represent a 'great loss'.

South West Trains have confirmed that they are in consultation as to whether the office on Station Hill will close under plans to overhaul the site.

The Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Winchester said, "The travel centre is a much valued service by locals and visitors alike. Winchester needs a dedicated travel and tourist office at the very point many people enter our city. The closure would be a great loss."

"There is no way the main ticket office inside the station can cope with detailed enquiries, especially when there is a queue forming and people have trains to catch. This comes hot on the heels of plans to downgrade Winchester's main Post Office by moving it into WH Smith, people are entitled to ask - whatever next?"

SWT say they have yet to make a final decision but Steve adds, "They must recognise upfront that we will not accept any reduction in service at Winchester's railway station."



Go to:
www.stevebrine.com/campaigns
and sign Steve's online petition or cut this out and return to:

**Steve Brine, 1 Station Hill
Winchester, Hampshire
SO23 8TJ**

What do you think about this issue?

I/We urge South West Trains to keep a dedicated travel centre open at Winchester Railway Station.

Name

Email/Address

Promoted by Paul Twelftree on behalf of the Winchester Conservative Association, both of 1 Station Hill, Winchester, SO23 8TJ and printed by Culverlands Press, Winnall Valley Road, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 0LN

New powers to restore classroom discipline

David Cameron has outlined new powers for school head teachers to restore classroom discipline and impose proper codes of behaviour. The Conservative leader outlined a series of measures to restore respect among hard-to-teach children. The action plan includes an end to appeals panels overruling expulsions, second-guessing head teachers' decisions to exclude pupils and stopping the closure of Special Schools, which provide expert teaching for those with learning difficulties.

Inheritance tax axe

A major Conservative policy review has outlined plans to free EVERY home from inheritance tax which hits 40,000 grieving families every year. The move will be welcomed by millions of local people who fear they will have to pay the tax because of rising house prices; death duty is currently levied at 40 per cent if someone leaves an estate worth more than £300,000. The reforms will exempt a dead person's main home from the duty and bring in a revamped capital gains tax on second homes, shares and goods. The Shadow Chancellor, George Osborne, said the tax had become "increasingly unfair" and promised any change would be fully costed to ensure the party puts economic stability before tax cuts.

Forces' Families Manifesto

The Conservatives have signalled their intention to publish a dedicated manifesto for the families of those in the British armed forces. David Cameron has appointed a dedicated Armed Forces Families Minister who will be looking at the housing they live in, the schools they send their children to and the health services they receive.

Mr Cameron told *The Winchester Post*, "Our Armed forces are a great source of pride for everyone in Britain. They do a fantastic job and I want to make sure that we do everything to help their families back at home and we look at all the aspects of their lives and look at what we can do to ensure that we support these people who do so much for us. We will then draw all of this together in a Forces' Families Manifesto."

Groundbreaking start for new outdoor sports centre



The re-development of the sports grounds will include an Olympic standard 400m eight-lane athletics track with supporting field events, an all-weather hockey and general sports pitch, floodlighting and an extended pavilion.

CONSTRUCTION of the University of Winchester's sports centre at Bar End in Winchester is officially underway as Vice Chancellor Professor Joy Carter along with representatives from Winchester City Council and Hampshire County Council put ceremonial spades into the ground.

Professor Carter welcomed a crowd eagerly awaiting the new facilities, including Winchester District Athletics Club who enthusiastically helped 'back the track' with a pledge of £22,000.

"The University is delighted to be leading this important partnership which will make a step change in sporting facilities," said Professor Carter. "We are particularly grateful of our prime financial partners, Winchester City Council and Sport England and also deeply appreciate the contributions of Hampshire County Council and Winchester District Athletics Club. We look forward to watching the work progress and to the opening in 2008."

The University of Winchester is leading the project with Winchester City Council. The Centre will provide first-class outdoor facilities for students and the entire Winchester community with schools, youth clubs and sports clubs already looking forward to the completion. Prospective Winchester MP, Steve Brine, added, "This sports centre will be a tremendous asset for the entire area. There is a very real possibility some of Great Britain's 2012 Gold medalists will be training here over the next five years. Thanks to the vision of the University and Winchester City Council, we will have a world class facility this time next year."

W.A.C.C New climate change group meets

WINCHESTER Action on Climate Change (WACC for short) met for the first time recently as part of the Starbucks sponsored 'Coffeehouse Challenge'.

Local councillors, community leaders and members of the public met at the Badger Farm branch at the end of July to agree the aims of the group and its immediate priorities.

WACC is being driven by Robert Hutchison and aims to "stimulate and to begin to organise an effective collaborative approach to action on climate change in and around Winchester". The group will work with Winchester City and Hampshire County Council as well as dozens of other public sector and voluntary organisations in the area.

Winchester's Parliamentary Candidate, Steve Brine, attended the meeting and spoke in support of its intentions and its founder; "Robert Hutchinson already has a distinguished record in this field, Winchester is lucky to have him. As I said at the launch of my own 'Green Winchester' initiative earlier this year, I believe climate change is one of the most important issues facing our world today and if we all pull together the outcome is not inevitable, we can make a difference and we can all play a part in turning things around."

As WACC develops we will report more via *The Winchester Post* or www.greenwinchester.com

IN PROFILE - constituency and candidate

At the time of the next General Election, Winchester will have a new Member of Parliament (Mark Oaten is stepping down this time) - and a new constituency. Boundary changes mean the 'new' Winchester centres on the city itself and includes; Alresford, Colden Common & Twyford, Compton & Otterbourne, the Itchen Valley, Littleton & Harestock, Kings Worthy, Oliver's Battery & Badger Farm, Sparsholt as well as Wonston & Micheldever. In addition it now includes the whole of Chandlers Ford & Hiltingbury.

Conservative candidate: *Steve Brine*

Married: *To Susie*

Lives: *Near Alresford*

Life outside politics?: *You bet! Director of a golf marketing specialist*

Passion: *My family, friends and Popcorn (the Labrador)*

Political passion: *The NHS*



Family man - Steve and Susie taking a quick break away from the campaign trail this Summer

The next big thing?



Pictured with Steve from left to right are: Jamie Burrows (guitar), Dribble (drums), Matt Read (lead) & Jon Jon (bass). You can see more about the band and hear their work online at www.myspace.com/servicesixtyeight

Steve Brine has been supporting promising Winchester band Service Sixty Eight, who have just finished their A-Levels at Peter Symonds College. The band, which is named after the bus they used to catch to school together, recently played at the Young Carers Festival in Southampton in support of Winchester Young Carers www.winchesteryoungcarers.org.uk The boys will be hoping they can follow in the footsteps of another Winchester group who made it big - Razorlight!

Winchester Conservatives JOIN THE WINNING TEAM

Everyone's talking about the Conservatives again across Winchester and Chandler's Ford. If you can help us we would be delighted to hear from you. Please take a moment to complete this form and return it to the address below or save the stamp by going to www.stevebrine.com and choosing the 'Contact' option.

- I would like to deliver a few leaflets.
- I would like to help by displaying a poster at election time.
- I would like to join the party or send a donation (tick this box and we will be in touch).
- I would like to be a part of it, please call me.

Data Protection Act: The information you supply to us will always be treated in the strictest of confidence in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and will not be passed to any third parties. By giving us your email address you are agreeing to receive occasional communications from us.

Please return to:
Winchester Conservatives,
Unit 1, Station Hill, Winchester,
Hampshire SO23 8TJ

Please use block capitals

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

Please tick this box if you would like Steve to keep you in touch by email



Biggest ever survey

One of the largest surveys of public opinion ever undertaken in Winchester is currently being delivered to homes by the Winchester Conservatives. The results will be reported in coming weeks, via *The Winchester Post* and the local press. If you don't receive a survey and would like to take part, please contact the Conservative Campaign office on 01962 853 668 or email survey@stevebrine.com and we will send you a copy. Alternatively, you can access the survey online via www.stevebrine.com/campaigns



www.stevebrine.com

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