

Steve Brine's WINCHESTER POST

WINTER 2020

A community publication from Conservative MP Steve Brine and the team produced at no cost to the taxpayer. It is delivered by volunteers across the City of Winchester, Kings Worthy, Alresford and surrounding villages.



PROTECT THE **NHS**

♥ **save lives**



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ASKING THE QUESTIONS AGAIN

Our MP is now a member of the influential Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee.



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WAKE UP WINCHESTER!

The City has a unique opportunity post Covid but does it have the leadership and the ambition?



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BUILD BACK GREENER?

Not with 14,000 new houses on our wonderful landscape setting! Join our campaign.

DON'T GIVE UP ON HOSPITAL SAYS MP

As the debate around future services comes to a head, Steve Brine issues a stark warning.

Six options for delivering future hospital services are being considered by the NHS as part of the Hampshire Together programme.

All bring major change to the RHCH in Winchester and Trust leaders say they will be formally consulted upon in 2021.

Winchester MP, Steve Brine, is closely engaged with the proposals and says; "Over the past decade I have worked hard to understand the local NHS and support what is in our best interests in line with clinical advice.

"As the old Winchester & Eastleigh Trust came together with Basingstoke, compromises were required – around the centralisation of services – when it came to urgent stroke care and acute orthopaedics.

"There's no question the Trust now faces further pressure, around neonatal care and A&E, but I've always said Hampshire Together, because it is part of the "40 new hospitals", is primarily about replacing Basingstoke Hospital and that is now clear.

"But, as I promised at the election, it will also see "significant investment" at the RHCH and I am clear



Our MP on his feet in the House of Commons and, inset, the RHCH as it is today.

Winchester needs a District General Hospital with an emergency department and consultant-led maternity services.

"I know that's challenging but I urge the Trust to keep an open mind and not to give up on Winchester Hospital.

"Any hospital is a delicate eco-system and the services it

has are highly dependent on each other. Some change is manageable but, if the Trust plan much more, they should be honest with residents around what we gain and what will be taken away. It is up to the clinicians now to make their case."

stevebrine.com/prioritynhs

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Westminster Report

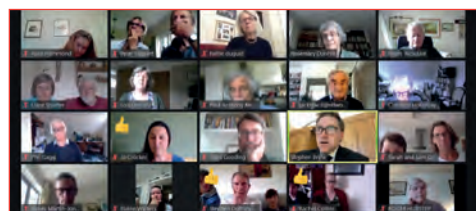
YOU CAN SEE MORE OF STEVE'S WORK VIA WWW.STEVEBRINE.COM/WESTMINSTER

The Parliamentary timetable continues to be dominated by Covid-19 and I continue to use my experience as a former Minister to press the Government on the health – as well as economic – response. Through my work on the DCMS Select Committee, and in the wider House, I continue to argue for those not supported (including many self-employed people) through the pandemic and for those industries hardest hit. But it's not all Coronavirus and it must not be. There are many other serious issues we cannot overlook including education, the climate crisis, transport infrastructure and many non-Covid health challenges. Please follow the links below for more.

NEWS IN BRIEF

BUILD BACK GREENER

Winchester's MP is backing calls for a green recovery from the pandemic and, alongside the Conservative Environment Network, has written to Chancellor Rishi Sunak with NINE key asks.



Steve Brine, who recently met a group of constituents as part of the annual Time is Now lobby, says; "The UK has a great record on reducing emissions but we must do more to prevent the worst consequences of climate change and to stop the loss of our wildlife." More:

greenwinchester.com

PARK HOME OWNERS

One constant throughout Steve's ten years as our MP is his championing of park home residents living locally - and across the country.

He led the All-Party Group for many years and supported a landmark Bill in 2013, the Mobile Homes Act. That legislation led to a "fit and proper persons test" for park home site owners being introduced this Autumn and Steve Brine spoke during its Commons stages earlier this year. More:

stevebrine.com/parkhomes

VISIT WESTMINSTER



In normal times, Steve Brine welcomes a steady stream of schools, colleges, and various other constituency groups to Westminster.

While that is not possible at the moment, our MP has come up with a special programme of events to give his constituents a visit to the House of Commons.

His new "Visit Westminster Virtually" events promise a glimpse behind normally closed doors and will include a Q&A session with the MP himself. If you run a local organisation, book your place via

stevebrine.com/visitingwestminster

EARLY YEARS FOCUS

Steve Brine is to chair an influential new group in Parliament focused on the future of early years education.



The All-Party Group for Children & Early Years, backed by organisations such as the Early Years Alliance, will bring to the attention of Ministers many of the long-standing issues facing nurseries and pre-schools.

After raising in the Commons what he described as a "market failure" in the sector, Steve recently led a delegation (pictured) to No.11 Downing Street to meet Chancellor Rishi Sunak.

Steve says; "Our case is around the need for a meaningful policy review, a simplified, centralised system which allows government funds to be streamlined directly into the sector and zero business rates for nurseries in England. There is also an urgent need for COVID-19 recovery support because costs are stacking up."

Follow  @APPGearlyyears

COVID 2020

It may officially be called Covid-19 but the pandemic has dominated 2020, forcing us into lockdown twice, with all the repercussions that brings, and it's clear the virus will be with us for many years to come.

Local MP, Steve Brine, has been busy representing and helping constituents both in Parliament and locally where he has praised the "big society" response across his constituency.

He says; "Early on I highlighted in the Commons the village of Hursley for the way it used its new community shop to support those unwell or self-isolating and that soon spread far and wide."

Steve mucked in himself; with new pup Monty as part of the Hairy Pot Plant Company's "Plants for People" initiative, with a scheme from FirstBite/Red Radish which delivered meals to shielding residents on bikes 'deliveroo' style and distributing information direct to households.



HIV REPORT



A high-profile Commission that seeks to end new HIV transmissions and attributed deaths in England is drawing to a close. It will publish its long-awaited report in December and counts our MP Steve Brine among its members.

The Commission, which Steve set-up when he was the Public Health Minister, toured many parts of the country including Bristol (pictured) where they met with people directly affected by HIV and learnt about the local response.

You can learn more about the group and its' recommendations at: hivcommission.org.uk

HOUSE-WORK

Steve Brine is an experienced and effective MP in Parliament, raising many issues in recent months in addition to the Covid response.

Sustainable aviation –

Steve spoke in support of the Government's "Jet Zero" programme which is pursuing a net zero carbon reality for the industry citing Southampton Airport as a possible exemplar.

Food Standards – Steve backs an expanded Trade and Agriculture Commission which seeks to maintain our high food standards and environmental protections post Brexit.



Sixth Form Funding – Working with Peter Symonds, Steve is pressing Ministers ahead of the Spending Review on the need to close the funding gap identified by the 'Raise the Rate' campaign. You can see more of Steve's work in the House: stevebrine.com/westminster

WAKE UP WINCHESTER!

Winchester business is screaming for action on major Winchester projects.

Winchester has a unique opportunity post Covid to become a real workplace destination but does it have the leadership and the ambition?

Winchester MP Steve Brine has had a huge response to his recent local paper column which challenged Winchester

City Council to show some ambition, and develop a strategy, so the City can regenerate and realise its potential as a 'workplace destination' in the wake of Coronavirus.

"It wasn't just about Silver Hill or Station Approach albeit both subject to more delay and dither", he says. "It was a call for an economic regeneration plan

which recognises the daily commute is changing along with the world of work and builds something here that can generate an income for the City to help fund the public services and civic society we value so much." Read in full and join the conversation:

stevebrine.com/workplacedestination

BARTON FARM SCHOOL LOOKS GREAT ...

After Barton Farm Academy welcomed its first cohort of reception age children in September, Steve had the opportunity to drop by.



Speaking after a tour of the new school with Headteacher Nicola Wells, he said; "As a Trustee it's been a real honour to be involved since the start so it was really special to see it for myself. Definitely a super proud constituency MP moment."

BUT NEW CROSSING NEEDED SAY PARENTS

Steve joined local parents on the Barton Farm school run to hear about their push for a new safe crossing point on Andover Road.

Mum Catherine Defty says; "We are in the extremely lucky position to be able to walk our children to school. However, all the benefits of this are placed at risk everyday due to having to cross the busy Andover Road. A fatal combination of the 50mph speed limit, no accessible crossing and poor visibility is an accident waiting to happen."

Sign-up: stevebrine.com/BFSchoolcrossing



Constituency engagement has probably never been more important which is why Steve's Summer series of events took place as usual this year.

More: stevebrine.com/summertour2020



The sun was out as Steve and Harry Johnson-Hill held a pop-up surgery on Stockbridge Road in Fulford.



A first for Steve's Summer Tour as the team, including Cllr Jan Warwick, donned masks for a busy pop-up surgery at Sainsbury's, Badger Farm.



Local Councillors Judith Grajewski and Margaret Atkinson joined Steve in Hiltingbury for a Saturday morning chat with local residents.



The team were out in Micheldever for a pub surgery with Cllr Stephen Godfrey and heard lots of concern over plans for a new town in the countryside.

SUMMER TOUR

MP DELIVERS AGAIN

Cultural gems and heritage organisations across the area receive over £2m of lifesaving pandemic funding.



A much needed grant of £219k was given to the Theatre Royal, who even with massive community support, were on a knife-edge. Both the grant and donations have helped secure its future.



With the loss of the Christmas Market, Winchester Cathedral's year had got a bit darker, but thanks to a Government Grant of £948k, the light flooded back in.



Out in Alresford, the Watercress Line weren't left out. Some £600k will fill the gap travellers have left behind and help keep their engineers/apprentices in employment.



NEWS IN BRIEF

SCHOOL BUS CRASH

The awful events of September, when a school bus crashed into a railway bridge at Kings Worthy, have horribly shaken many of us.

MP, Steve Brine, has wasted no time seeking answers; "We need to know how on earth this happened while recognising, as I know we must, the police need to do their work given possible criminal prosecutions here. I am working closely with HCC and Stagecoach on the incident but also to address wider concerns around the timetabling of this particular service out in the Itchen Valley where it begins each day."

CHRISTMAS CARDS

The arrival of a charity Christmas Card shop was welcomed by the Mayor of Winchester and our MP who both visited on the first day of trading.

Steve says; "The Charity Christmas card shop has long been a fixture in the City and it was very sad news that it wasn't possible to hold it in the Tourist Information Centre this year. But cometh the hour, cometh the ladies, and I think we're all hugely grateful to Cathy Wallis for stepping up."

The team have made an appeal for volunteers to help run the shop throughout the Christmas period. Email WinchesterCFG@gmail.com and see: cardsforcharity.co.uk



LOCAL AIRPORT

Steve Brine has called for action - and support from Eastleigh Borough Council - over the proposed Southampton Airport runway extension when it is heard by the council planning committee on 17th December.

Following the collapse of Flybe at the beginning of the year, Southampton Airport needs to make drastic changes to allow for new airlines and to secure the survival of the airport.

The MP spoke in Parliament to support the extension but said a NPR (noise preferred route) for the flight-path over South Winchester went hand-in-hand with that. "I will support you but you must support my constituents", he said.

WINCHESTER CREATIVES

Winchester Creatives have launched a crowdfunding campaign to run a mentoring and apprenticeship scheme for young creatives.



Steve Brine met up with the team recently; "These are challenging times, especially for our young people, and we know economically they are being badly hit by Covid. Winchester Creatives work is exactly what we need and offers some hope." The team at Winchester Creatives are asking for help from local business to support young people in the creative industry.

More: winchestercreatives.co.uk

NEWS IN BRIEF

THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN ON PARKING

Winchester City Council are hitting residents, shoppers and commuters with a triple-whammy as parking charges rise by up to 15%, Sunday parking charges are introduced and free evening parking is abandoned.

Cllr Caroline Horrill is not impressed; "The biggest rise will be for the Park and Ride. This is just another Liberal stealth tax, nothing to do with reducing traffic or improving the environment. They did this last time they ran WCC; if we run the council after next May we will freeze parking charges and bring back free Sunday and evening parking."

NEW POLICE CHIEF

Hampshire County Cllr Jan Warwick and Conservative Police and Crime Commissioner Candidate for May 2021 Cllr Donna Jones met the residents of Otterbourne at a recent outdoor street surgery.

"Donna's plans to increase police visibility, recruit hundreds more officers to the beat and introduce new technology to combat rural crime were well received by our local residents" said Jan.



SOUTH WONSTON TO WINCHESTER CYCLE PATH

Hampshire County Council is working closely with the local community to provide a safe, car free, countryside walking and cycling route connecting South Wonston, Worthy Down and Winchester.

Local campaigner Signe Biddle told The Winchester Post; "This is an exciting opportunity for local families enhancing the health and wellbeing of our community and our County Councillor, Jan Warwick, deserves great credit for continued support working with Simon Browne from Meyrick Estates. The strategy for conservation not only gives residents an opportunity to share our wonderful countryside but may also include a new pond, dedicated bird hide and feeders."

KEEPING IT LOCAL

St Michael Ward in the City of Winchester is down to just ONE local councillor after its newly elected representative walked away from the job.

The move means Cllr Fiona Mather, who lives just off St Cross Road, is the only local councillor left. Fiona, who has represented the area since 2002, is a strong and experienced councillor well known in the area. Alongside Canon Street resident, Nicola Rule, the pair already form part of a strong new local Conservative team.



SAVE OUR GREENFIELDS

SOUTH WINCHESTER & MICHELDEVER

Local Conservatives are fighting against potential options laid out by Liberal run Winchester City Council to allow 10,000 houses at Micheldever Station and 4,000 houses - plus another Park and Ride - on land between Hursley and Oliver's Battery.

These are one of four options for large-scale development across our District being laid out as part of the Local Plan refresh.

Caroline Horrill, who will stand to bring new energy to the County Council in the Spring, says; "Difficult decisions will have to be made but we cannot solve the housing crisis by simply carpeting over our green fields. We call on the Liberal Democrat administration to rule out these developments and adhere to a brownfield first policy, where brownfield sites are given a higher priority than essential agricultural land."

* Join the campaign: winchesterconservatives.org.uk/saveourgreenfields



Cllrs Caroline Horrill, Jan Warwick and Stephen Godfrey.

SAFE CROSSING

WINCHESTER, ST CROSS

Cllr Fiona Mather and Steve Brine met with residents from St Cross recently to discuss pedestrian safety on one of the busiest roads in the City.

Fiona, who represents the area on WCC - and will stand for County Council next year - has set up a survey to gather local views on safe crossing, speed and parking. She says; "We cannot pretend this is easy because it's a complicated area with another crossing nearby but there are legitimate concerns here."

* Find the survey at winchesterconservatives.org.uk/StCrossSurvey



SCRAP BIN TAX

ALRESFORD & ITCHEN VALLEY

Fiona Issacs is calling on the City Council to scrap their new green garden tax.

The previously free service will now cost residents an additional £59 to take away your garden rubbish ON TOP OF council tax.

Fiona, who is standing for the council (in the Alresford & Itchen Valley Ward of WCC), says; "This new stealth tax will hit pockets but could also be a barrier for people getting rid of their waste responsibly. There will be more garden bonfires and fly-tipping which will cost the council more money to clean up in the long run."



ANDY GETTING STUCK IN

WINCHESTER, WEEKE

Community Campaigner and former local policeman Andy Lai says the measure of a community is how it responds in a crisis.

Andy, who will stand for City Council in May says; "The pandemic has shone a light on our key workers and generous volunteers with countless acts of kindness showing the community spirit we have in Winchester. There have been many groups like the Chinese Association of Southampton (I am Vice Chairman) that has distributed food, face-masks and medicines for residents."



BACKING BUSINESS

ALRESFORD

Thank you to all who took part in the Eat Out to Help Out scheme and supported local businesses, especially in market towns such as Alresford.

MP Steve Brine and local campaigner

Fiona Issacs, who also chairs the Alresford Chamber, visited local restaurants and cafes in the town during August to see how they were doing and hand out window stickers provided by Rishi Sunak.

Fiona says; "Alresford is a fragile local economy and we know how much residents value the many independent shops and eateries. Protecting that and helping it thrive is my top priority."



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