



# Steve Brine's WINCHESTER POST

Another positive publication from local 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.

A Green Winchester Publication, printed on paper from sustainable forests.

## ENERGY BILLS WINTER LIFELINE

**Energy Price Guarantee will limit the price we pay for energy until the Spring.**

The global rising cost of energy - caused in part by the war in Ukraine - has created unprecedented price rises for Winchester residents.

“ Energy bills were due to rise by £6,500! ”

Direct support measures have been announced by the government:

- **Households will save hundreds on energy bills reducing inflation by up to 5%**
- **A £400 cash grant towards your domestic energy bill this autumn**
- **A £300 one-off cost-of living payment to pensioners who receive the Winter Fuel Payment**

Local MP, Steve Brine, also fought on behalf of our area to ensure businesses, charities, schools and hospitals weren't forgotten.

They will get a discount on wholesale gas and electricity prices worth up to half the price of expected energy prices this winter, giving certainty on bills until the end of March 2023.

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



**Backing shops and businesses.** A growing local economy is essential to the wider UK and in maintaining the healthy communities we love.

Our MP consistently supports local start-ups and regularly visits constituency businesses as well as those who represent them including Winchester Business Improvement District (pictured with BiD Director, Paul Spencer).

We are passionate about supporting independent businesses and their place alongside more established chains. **More: [stevebrine.com/backingbusinesses](http://stevebrine.com/backingbusinesses)**

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# MORE COST OF LIVING HELP

In addition to the support specifically available to help homes and businesses with rising energy costs (see front page) there's a lot more available - especially for those on the lowest incomes.

## £650 COST-OF-LIVING PAYMENT FOR THOSE ON MEANS-TESTED BENEFITS

This includes all households receiving Universal Credit, income-based Jobseekers Allowance, income-related employment and Support Allowance, Income Support, Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit or Pension Credit.

The first payment was made in July, with the second in the Autumn.

## HELP FOR PENSIONERS

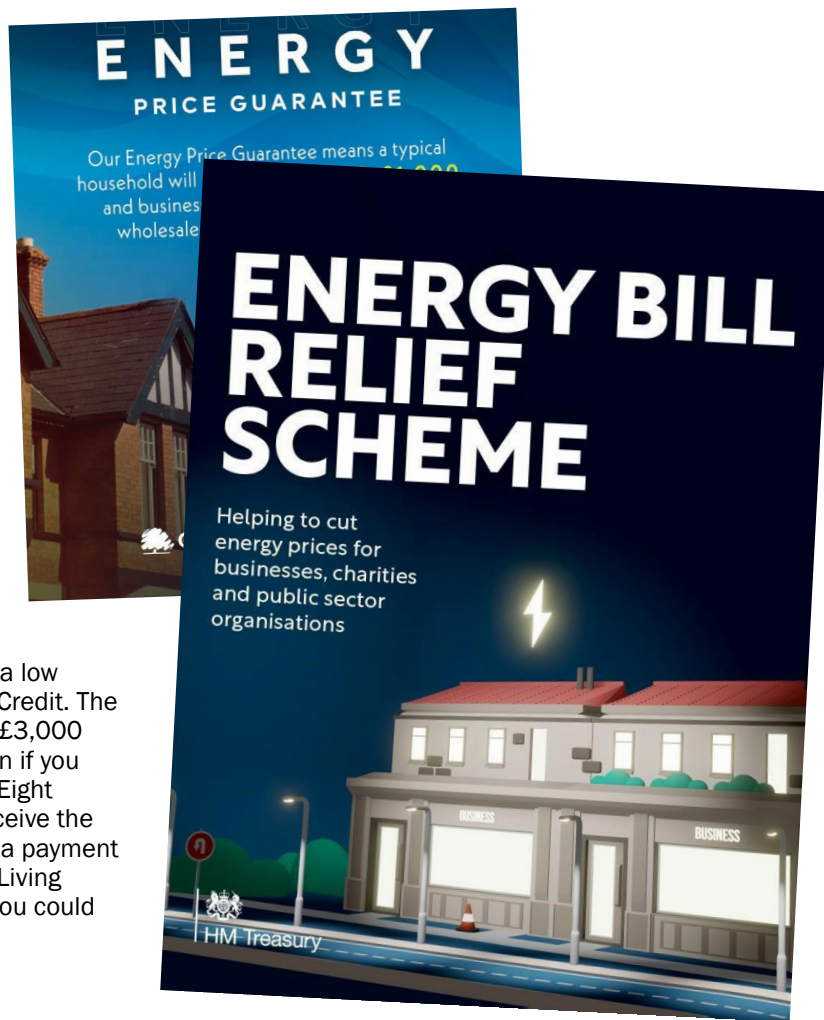
If you're of State Pension Age and on a low income you could qualify for Pension Credit. The average payment is worth more than £3,000 a year and it is possible to qualify even if you own your own home or have savings. Eight million pensioner households who receive the Winter Fuel Payment will also receive a payment of £300. And if you receive Disability Living Allowance or Attendance Allowance, you could receive £150.

## SUPPORT FOR RESIDENTS

We provided a non-repayable £150 cash rebate for homes in Council Tax bands A-D (equivalent to 80 per cent of all households) and £144 million of discretionary funding for Winchester City Council to support those not eligible for the council tax rebate.

The City Council have also announced a £200,000 cost of living intervention – paid for by local rate-payers - to support households in the Winchester district who are struggling with the rapidly rising cost of living.

To check whether you are eligible for any of this funding, contact Winchester City Council on 01962 840222.



## MORE MONEY IN YOUR POCKET

The 1% National Insurance rise is being scrapped saving each person on average £330 a year.

We've nearly doubled the income tax personal allowance over the last decade, making it the most generous of any G20 country.

We delivered on our promise to increase it again this year to £12,570, we will then keep it at this more generous level until April 2026.

**Tax checker:**  
[gov.uk/checkincome-tax-current-year](https://gov.uk/checkincome-tax-current-year)



## Winchester has come together this year in support for Ukraine and the hundreds of refugees that have joined our community.

Hampshire has welcomed the third highest number of Ukrainian nationals in the country since atrocities began in February of this year and hundreds of Winchester residents have opened their homes to provide sanctuary from Putin's war.

Conservative Hampshire County Council recently announced that residents hosting Ukrainian guests as part of the 'Homes for Ukraine' Scheme will receive an extra £200 per month on top of the £350 from central Government.



Westgate students organised a sponsored cycle on the Isle of Wight to raise money for the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) appeal.



A local property firm, Rehaus, built emergency shelter units to send to the Polish-Ukrainian border.



A fundraiser in Twyford, at the Bugle Pub, raised around £8,000 for the DEC appeal in March.



Energie fitness gym in Winchester offered free membership to local Ukrainian guests.



Many communities held get-together's for our Ukrainian friends including the Colden Common Neighbourhood Group in October.





## NET-ZERO “NOT A NICE TO HAVE”

**Local MP, Steve Brine, says his long-running Green Winchester campaign has never been more important as 2022 looks set to be one of hottest years on record and energy prices spike.**

Earlier this year Steve brought his friend, COP26 President Alok Sharma MP, to Winchester for a special public meeting. The event, ‘Ask Alok’, was held at St Paul’s Church in the City and attended by residents and many pupils from schools across the area.

The MP, who was the first to ask the new Prime Minister to recommit to the UK’s net-zero plans in Parliament, said; “I wanted to be sure, as we diversify our energy mix, we remain on course to meet our COP26 promises and the answer was a clear yes.

“I will continue to hold Ministers to account on every single commitment made in this area working alongside MPs on the Conservative Environment Network caucus; one of the most powerful on the backbenches.”

**More: [greenwinchester.com](http://greenwinchester.com)**



## M3 JUNCTION 9

After the suspension of the smart motorways programme (which the Government says will NOT proceed), plans for Junction 9 were delayed. National Highways have now confirmed, during a recent roadshow, they are submitting a new planning application this year. Work is hoped to start in 2024 with completion in 2027.

**More: [stevebrine.com/M3J9](http://stevebrine.com/M3J9)**



## SCHOOL CYCLE BUS

MP Steve Brine joined up with parents and children from Twyford and Colden Common for a school cycle ‘bus’ to Kings and Westgate schools. The bus runs each Wednesday morning. If you have a child interested in joining the growing group, they’d love to have you.

**More: [stevebrine.com/cyclebus](http://stevebrine.com/cyclebus)**

## SUPPORTING LOCAL SCHOOLS

Winchester has a wealth of ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’ schools which are never taken for granted and the result of a lot of hard work from pupils, parents and teachers. Steve Brine has a constant programme of engagement with heads

as well as Hampshire as the local education authority. Recent months alone have taken him to Stanmore, Sun Hill Infants, Perins (pictured), Kings, Compton Primary and Micheldever.

**More: [stevebrine.com/schools](http://stevebrine.com/schools)**



## PANDEMIC CATCH-UP AT THE RHCH

PRIORITY NHS

**Winchester Hospital sits at the heart of our community in so many ways and local MP, Steve Brine, is a regular visitor to the Romsey Road site.**

As well as constant interaction with the Hampshire Integrated Care System (ICS) and local GP practices, our MP works with the Hampshire Hospitals Foundation Trust – and its energetic Chief Executive Alex Whitfield – to understand and support the RHCH.

**Current NHS issues on Steve’s agenda – and that of any Health Secretary – include:**

- A - ambulance response times**
- B - continuing to tackle the Covid backlog**
- C - social care**
- D - access to family doctors (GPs) and dentists**



## WATER QUALITY

We all know parts of our waterways are in poor shape, some as a result of storm overflows forcing untreated waste into rivers and the sea. This Government, unlike any of its predecessors including the coalition when Ed Davey was Environment Secretary, is taking action to turn this around.

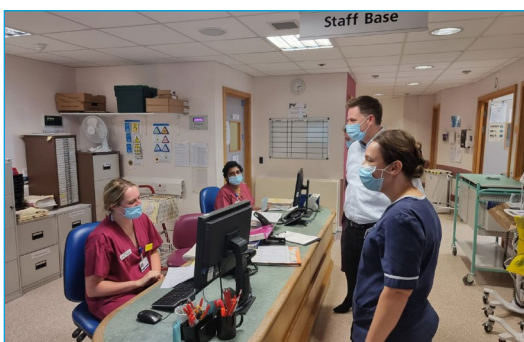


The DEFRA Secretary of State announced plans to lift the Environment Agency’s maximum fine for a breach of the rules from £250,000 to £250m which will work alongside the new Environment Act to overhaul ageing infrastructure. Steve Brine MP is pictured at the Morestead Road Waste Treatment Works.

**Explainer: [stevebrine.com/factorfake-waterquality](http://stevebrine.com/factorfake-waterquality)**

## FARM WORKFORCE

During a visit to South Stoke Farm, in Kings Worthy, Steve Brine MP heard about the challenges facing the farming industry. The conversation focused on dairy herd management, food production and especially gaps in the vitally needed rural workforce. Steve is arguing for changes in post-Brexit visa rules that liberalise immigration policy for key sectors which he said fitted perfectly into the need for economic growth. **More: [stevebrine.com/farming](http://stevebrine.com/farming)**





# Westminster Report

MORE AT [STEVEBRINE.COM/WESTMINSTER](http://STEVEBRINE.COM/WESTMINSTER)



## VISIT WESTMINSTER



**Harestock in the House!** Local schools and constituency groups regularly visit the iconic Houses of Parliament including, pictured, Harestock Primary School who met up with their MP in the Education Centre. **More:** [stevebrine.com/visitwestminster](http://stevebrine.com/visitwestminster)

## PRIORITIES UNCHANGED FOR MP

2022 has been a year of huge uncertainty (politically and economically) but our MP is keeping his focus on doing a good job in Westminster for Winchester & Chandler's Ford. Steve's priorities - at glance - remain:

- The NHS and prevention
- Tackling the cost of living
- Protecting the environment
- Helping business create jobs
- Supporting schools and colleges

## TRIBUTE TO QUEEN ELIZABETH II

**Steve Brine MP was one of the first MPs to deliver a tribute from the backbenches to our late Queen. Here is a short extract:**

'The sense of shock we feel today is palpable. This is a national moment but it feels intensely personal.

Her late Majesty spoke movingly of her late husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, as her "strength and stay" but the truth is that she was ours.



I was honoured to meet the Queen as a relatively new MP. The Queen asked me which constituency I represent, so I said Winchester, and we briefly discussed how the city was - still is - searching for the remains of King Alfred, our most famous son. The Queen loved that and, with that trademark smile and twinkle in her eye, said, "They've just found one of my ancestors under a car park in Leicester!"

Our late Queen visited Winchester many times, including in 1959 to officially open Elizabeth II Court, the home of Hampshire County Council, and for the Maundy service in April 1979 in our great cathedral.

We are so lucky to have had Queen Elizabeth II in our lives.' **Read / watch full speech:** [stevebrine.com/QueenTribute](http://stevebrine.com/QueenTribute)

## SELECT COMMITTEE AND ALL-PARTY GROUPS

**In addition to his work as an experienced backbench MP, Steve Brine serves on the high-profile Digital, Culture, Media & Sport Select Committee and is active in a number of important all-party groups.**

Recent work for the select committee has included sessions on the future of the BBC, Channel 4, influencer culture online, local journalism, the national lottery and promoting Britain abroad which (pictured) took members to South Korea.

Steve's work on international health policy took him to Uganda (pictured) in June with the Population, Development, and Reproductive Health group. He also chairs the APPG on HIV & AIDS and is active with groups ranging from park homes and South Western Railway to Muscular Dystrophy and airport communities.



Kampala, Uganda



Seoul, South Korea

Steve at this year's scarecrow festival with Colden Common Pre-School staff and children.



## EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE

As well as his work for us locally, our MP has a national role chairing the All-Party Group supporting the early years sector. Current issues on the groups' agenda include future staffing ratios - which Ministers have consulted on changing or even removing altogether - as well as costs for parents and providers. The staffing crisis in the early years sector is, however, the major issue and Steve is calling for a wholesale review of childcare and early education. He has written to the Prime Minister to this effect. **More:** [stevebrine.com/APPGs](http://stevebrine.com/APPGs)

## PREVENTION KEY TO NHS FUTURE SAYS MP

**Steve Brine has stressed the importance of prevention to the future sustainability of the NHS during a well-received speech in the House of Commons.**

The MP (and former Public Health Minister) highlighted some of the biggest killers in the UK today - obesity, cancer, diabetes and stroke - saying; "I never want to see ideology get in the way of health prevention. We have to use all available knowledge to prevent the major causes of ill health wherever possible. If we do not do that, the NHS will simply become unsustainable."



Picture: ©UK Parliament/Jessica Taylor

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