



Steve Brine's DEVER VALLEY POST

Another 100% positive publication produced at no cost to the taxpayer by your energetic local Conservative MP and the team. It is delivered by volunteers across Wonston, Micheldever, Sutton Scotney, The Strattons, Worthy Down, Micheldever Station, South Wonston, Hunton, Norton, Egypt, Weston Colley, Woodmancott and Stoke Charity.

BACK PAGE

YOU MIGHT THINK THAT...

STEVE IN CONVERSATION WITH 'HOUSE OF CARDS', MICHAEL DOBBS.



STEVE SECURES MAJOR INVESTMENT FOR OUR AREA



Winchester & Dever Valley MP Steve Brine has helped deliver major investment in TWO local road schemes worth hundreds of millions of pounds in the past month but is campaigning for more!

Junction 9 of the M3 at Winnall will see a comprehensive package of improvements worth upwards of £200m which, as reported in the Winter edition of this newspaper, needs major work to secure what is a crucial freight link via the A34 from the Midlands to the Ports on the south coast.

Steve says; "The work done there last year as part of the Government's pinch-point scheme was always for me part one of something much bigger so I am really pleased with this new deal. As I said at PMQs last month, it is essential for the country but also to clear the congestion which affects large parts of the city every time things back-up on the motorway.

"It will take time to deliver but I look

forward to examining it, including how National Cycle Route 23 will be included, as detailed plans are worked up."

Meanwhile, the troubled **A33 junction at Kings Worthy** – used by many of Steve's constituents living in the north of the area to access Winchester – is set for a £100k overhaul early in 2015.

Finally, Steve has already delivered **resurfacing of the M3 motorway** – with quieter surface - from J9 down to J14 and that work will be done by April 2015. He adds however; "I'm pleased of course but I want more. We now need to get the resurfacing done from J9 up to J8 on the M3 and also similar work done on the carriageway of the A34 which will directly benefit residents in this area."

More: www.stevebrine.com/junction9

More: www.stevebrine.com/A33



Steve Brine with Cllrs Malcolm Wright, Stephen Godfrey and Barry Lipscomb in Sutton Scotney

DEVER VALLEY FIGHTS BACK

The past few years have seen a battle royale across our villages as one application after another appeared before us.

The waste recovery plant at Micheldever Station was accompanied by no less than two applications for onshore wind farms and we had Eagle Star's latest attempt to build their 'new town' on our doorstep.

Local councillor Malcolm Wright joined his colleagues, Barry Lipscomb and Stephen Godfrey – alongside MP Steve Brine – in fighting to protect the Dever Valley.

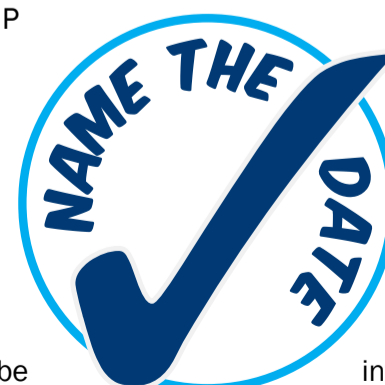
Malcolm says; "We had to consider every challenge on its merits which is quite right but ultimately every one of them was totally wrong for our area. It's been a really busy time and now we have appeals lodged, at Micheldever Station and Bullington Cross, there's no room to rest on our laurels and the team certainly won't do that."

Read more about Eagle Star's failed attempt on page 3 and see more: www.stevebrine.com/devervalley

STEVE SAYS – NAME THE DATE NOW!

Steve Brine says name the date for the IN/OUT EU referendum he is supporting

The Winchester MP went against a three-line whip in the House of Commons back in November 2011 to call for a national poll, and although it is now party policy, he is calling for a proposed date to be published now.



He says; "If the Conservatives are re-elected in May the referendum WILL happen in 2017 after the PM's much trailed renegotiation. However, to underline this even further I want that date fixed now so we can all ink it into our diaries!"

More: www.stevebrine.com/wewantoursay

A Green Winchester publication, printed on paper from sustainable forests

Westminster Reflections

from Steve Brine MP

Since my election in 2010, I have focused on establishing myself as first and foremost a constituency MP. I promised to be the most accessible we've had and I hope I've achieved that.

But I am also a member of the House of Commons and have made the most of my time as first a backbencher and then a member of the Government.

I spent a year with Iain Duncan Smith at the DWP as a PPS (Parliamentary Private Secretary) working on our landmark welfare reforms but in the Summer of 2014 was promoted to be a PPS working across the Home Office and Ministry of Justice. I have also served on many standing committees examining key parts of our legislative programme; including the Green Deal, NHS reform, Offender Rehabilitation and Prisoner Voting.

FINAL PMQS BALLOT

I receive three pairs of tickets for PMQs each year. Many MPs give their allocation to friends or family, but I have always held a free and fair ballot for my constituents who are interested in going.

I have one allocation left this Parliament, on Wednesday 4th March, so if you are interested in entering the draw, visit

www.stevebrine.com/PMQs

SPEAKING ON THE ECONOMY

I recently spoke in a key House of Commons debate on the economy. Read/watch what I had to say

www.stevebrine.com/2014economicspeech



Questioning the Lord Chancellor at Justice Committee

JUSTICE SELECT COMMITTEE

I have spent over three years as a member of the influential Justice Select Committee, chaired by my friend Sir Alan Beith MP. It allowed me speak freely on subjects close to my heart such as reducing the prison population and reducing re-offending.

More: www.stevebrine.com/JSC

FAMILY MATTERS

RAISING THE PERSONAL TAX THRESHOLD

We've raised the personal tax allowance to £10,000 and will lift it to £12,500 if we remain in Government. This will take a million people out of paying income tax, and mean no one working 30 hours a week on the minimum wage would pay any income tax.

RAISING THE HIGHER RATE THRESHOLD

The Conservatives will raise the higher rate threshold at which people pay the 40p tax rate to £50,000. It is currently £41,900. This will be a huge benefit for my constituency.

FUEL DUTY

We've frozen fuel duty since coming into office saving some £570 on petrol costs each year if you fill up your car once a week.

AIR PASSENGER DUTY

From May, APD for under 12s will be abolished and from 2016 it will be abolished for under 16s. This has been a long-running campaign I've supported.

HELP TO BUY

Has already helped thousands purchase a home since its launch in March 2012. Locally 65 families have already been helped.

More: www.help2obuy.co.uk



With my 2 children; Emily (7) and William (4)

HEALTH

My strong constituency interest in health followed me to Westminster where I scrutinized some key parts of coalition health policy and worked closely with successive Health Secretaries.

Breast cancer

I have been co-chair of the All-Party Breast Cancer Group since 2010 producing a number of key reports and regularly briefing the Prime Minister.

Full story at: www.stevebrine.com/breastcancer

Children's Heart Surgery

I have worked a great deal on the major Congenital Heart Disease Review known as 'Safe and Sustainable'.

More: www.stevebrine.com/childrenshearturgery

I am also closely involved with All-Party work on Parkinson's, Ovarian Cancer, Autism, Maternity, Muscular Dystrophy and Speech Therapy.



With my breast cancer group co-chairs, Labour's Sharon Hodgson and Lib Dem Annette Brooke and (left) chairing our major inquiry into older people with the disease in 2013.

BUSINESS

Small businesses are the lifeline of the local economy.

Doubling the Small Business Rate Relief has been important and we will continue to cap the inflation-linked increase in business rates at 2%. The £1,000 discount for shops and cafes on the high street will increase to £1,500 and there will be a full review of the structure of business rates to report before Budget 2016.

We will increase the R&D tax credit for SME firms to 230%, the maximum allowed and extend the Funding for Lending scheme by another year – focusing it entirely on small businesses.



See more of my work in Westminster: www.stevebrine.com/westminster

TRANSFORMATION AT WORTHY DOWN



Garrison Commander Brig Allan McLeod and Group Captain Nigel Arnold show Steve Brine the project plans at Worthy Down and (inset); a glimpse of the new college building to come.

Steve Brine visited Worthy Down in November to find out more about the progress on Project Wellesley, which will transform the site.

The scheme will take around five years to complete and will provide accommodation for up to 2000 students and staff at the defence college. The project will bring together the majority of logistics and personnel administration training for the Royal Navy, Army and RAF onto the one site, and it is expected to be fully operational by 2018.

Steve Brine says; "This is a hugely impressive project plan for the site. It seems a long time ago now when I was discussing with the Defence Secretary the future of Worthy Down as a new MP. I am very proud already of the work done at Worthy Down but think local people will be blown away when they see the regenerated site."



FLOOD DEBATE

Local MP Steve Brine is leading a debate within Parliament about the urgent need for reform in the way we respond to groundwater flooding.

He used a 90-minute debate in the Commons to explain the wider impact groundwater flooding can have on places such as Sutton Scotney and Micheldever. The village saw flooding along the main Oxford Road last Winter and several residents had to leave their homes.

Steve says; "The floods we saw locally last year were awful for those affected but the point is they affected a relatively small number of properties. That means we will always lose out under the current national funding formula.

"That is why I am working with Hampshire County Council and Ministers on their 'pathfinder' proposal which considers the wider socio-economic impact groundwater flooding can have on an area."

Meanwhile, Conservative-run Winchester City Council has made another £150,000 available to cover the cost of smaller flood prevention projects that would not always be funded by other authorities. One of the first areas to benefit is likely to be Sutton Scotney, where the money will pay for clearance of blocked ditches near the Texaco garage.

More: www.stevebrine.com/flooding



Steve Brine MP (and Popcorn) with Cllr Stephen Godfrey in Sutton Scotney.

DOWN'S ROAD SPEED



Cllr Stephen Godfrey speaking with residents at a South Wonston street surgery.

Several South Wonston residents have contacted the Dever Valley Conservative team, concerned about speeding on Downs Road.

With a popular school and a shop centred at the heart of the village, it has been a particular concern for young parents, and the Dever Valley team are happy to look into this.

Steve told The Post: "I have spoken to the Police about the concerns on speeding and some enforcement was carried out last year. I have also spoken to Hampshire County Council and the signage has been improved, but there is still more to be done.

"While it was clear that traffic calming measures are not a priority as there have been no recent accidents on Downs Road, as a parent of two little ones myself I understand why residents are so worried.

Cllr Stephen Godfrey added; "Winchester City Council has recently made the markings outside the school enforceable. We also want South Wonston School to improve their travel plan. As someone who lives on Downs Road myself I have contacted the Police to request speed checks on Downs Road. Several motorists - all local residents - have been stopped and dealt with by the police. We will keep a close watch on how this matter progresses."

STOP PRESS: After lobbying from your representatives, the County Council is to put a 50 MPH speed limit on Christmas Hill either side of the Downs Road, South Wonston junction.

NEWS IN BRIEF

GP SERVICES IN SOUTH WONSTON

Cllr Stephen Godfrey and MP Steve Brine spent a morning in South Wonston late last Summer and the issue of access to GP services was raised a number of times by residents.

Concerns were raised after the Gratton Practice closed its branch surgery in the village last year and Steve subsequently met with NHS England.

He says; "I looked into this right away and heard from the practice manager who's been really helpful. The bottom line is, they did not choose to temporarily close the surgery but were forced into it by having no IT connectivity and got the service back up and running as soon as it was safe to do so in mid-October."

Any patients wishing to find out more about the Gratton Practice should visit www.grattonsurgery.nhs.uk or call 01962 760394.

NATIONAL ROLE FOR LOCAL TYRE FIRM

Micheldever Tyres are part of a national campaign to reduce the number of tyre related casualties which occur each year on the UK's roads.

Paul Fox from the company was in Westminster recently with local MP Steve Brine (pictured) and other agencies including the Department for Transport, Highways Agency and Transport for London to raise the profile of the danger.

Steve said; "Micheldever Tyres is well known, and trusted, locally and they have really led on this issue. It's all credit to their evidence-based work that it has now caught the attention of Government and Opposition in Westminster."



BROADBAND

Steve Brine continues to press for the area on access to superfast broadband. Steve told The Dever Valley Post; "Hampshire as a county is way ahead of many areas and my constituency is racing ahead but I'm not going to be satisfied until everyone is connected and we still have some real not-spots.

"The west side of South Wonston is a case-in-point. I've met with the Leader of Hampshire and even discussed the area with Ministers and it's incredibly frustrating. I think constituents know from correspondence with me I remain as impatient as anyone about this and can assure residents I will never let it drop until we're sorted."

MICHELDEVER PRIMARY SCHOOL

Steve dropped into Micheldever Primary School during Christmas term where he spent time chatting with staff and pupils as he continues his mission to visit every school in his large constituency during this Parliament.

Steve said; "The leadership at the school is fantastic, and it was great to be able to speak to so many children and staff. I often spend time answering questions from the school council when I visit schools and absolutely love hearing their thoughts on life, the universe and (literally) everything!"



ZURICH TOLD NO (AGAIN)

Residents from across the Dever Valley had cause to celebrate last year as Zurich Assurance finally abandoned its legal challenge to Winchester City Council's adoption of its Local Plan.

Refusing leave to appeal, Lord Justice Sullivan said that the original judgement 'is both comprehensive and thoroughly convincing' and that there was no compelling reason to grant permission to appeal.

Steve Brine said; "The High Court judgement dismissing Zurich's claim couldn't be clearer that Winchester's Local Plan was properly examined and adopted. It may not suit Zurich but we have a signed off Local Plan and this site at Micheldever Station is not part of those plans."

More: www.stevebrine.com/micheldevernewtown



Flashback! Steve celebrates the end of John Prescott's "eco town" plan for the Eagle Star land back in 2008.

Even more
NEWS
IN BRIEF

NUISANCE CALLS UPDATE

Steve has had a huge response from local people following his work on nuisance calls which continue to pester – and worry – people across Winchester.

He continues to work on a cross-party basis in Parliament and has welcomed Which? magazine joining the campaign, as well as tough new fines which can be imposed on companies who break existing rules.

CAPACITY ON THE TRAINS

Steve Brine has worked tirelessly during the course of this Parliament to improve services for the thousands of commuters he represents.

He spoke recently in a Commons debate about the 'Wessex Route Plan' which is the best opportunity in a generation to address the big issues around capacity on routes into Waterloo.

More: www.stevebrine.com/trains

MUM'S IN THE KNOW

Fulford resident Lindsey Holland met Steve recently (pictured) to discuss Mums In The Know, a group created to help local parents keep in touch with local events and activities.

Lindsey explained how they are keen to become the first point of contact for parents looking for daily inspiration for entertainment for their children, and they enable busy parents to receive regular updates as to what's on and where, as well as lots of fun advice and hot topic discussions.

Steve said: "Lindsey and the audience she caters for is very much the same age and stage as Susie and I so we had much to discuss. The site is growing fast and is really useful so check it out."

www.mumsintheknow.co.uk/winchester



WAYS TO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL MP

EMAIL steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk

PHONE 01962 791110

WRITE Steve Brine MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

WEBSITE www.stevebrine.com

TWITTER twitter.com/sbrine

FACEBOOK facebook.com/SteveBrineMP

STILL PRIORITY NHS

Steve Brine continues to work responsibly – and calmly – to keep constituents informed as proposals for a new critical care hospital locally are discussed. Last year he carried out a constituency-wide Health Check Survey and chaired two open meetings in Winchester – one focused solely on maternity services and obstetric care.

Steve says; "We are some way yet from the commissioners of local health services even agreeing to put these ideas out to public consultation but, as a responsible Member of Parliament, I want us to have the fullest possible understanding of what's being proposed and to give my constituents every chance to question it.

"I remain committed to keeping the best services in Winchester but to do so in a way that is sustainable and above all, safe. Some of the things being put about locally are the height of irresponsibility but I will continue to focus on the facts. After almost five years as the MP here, and someone

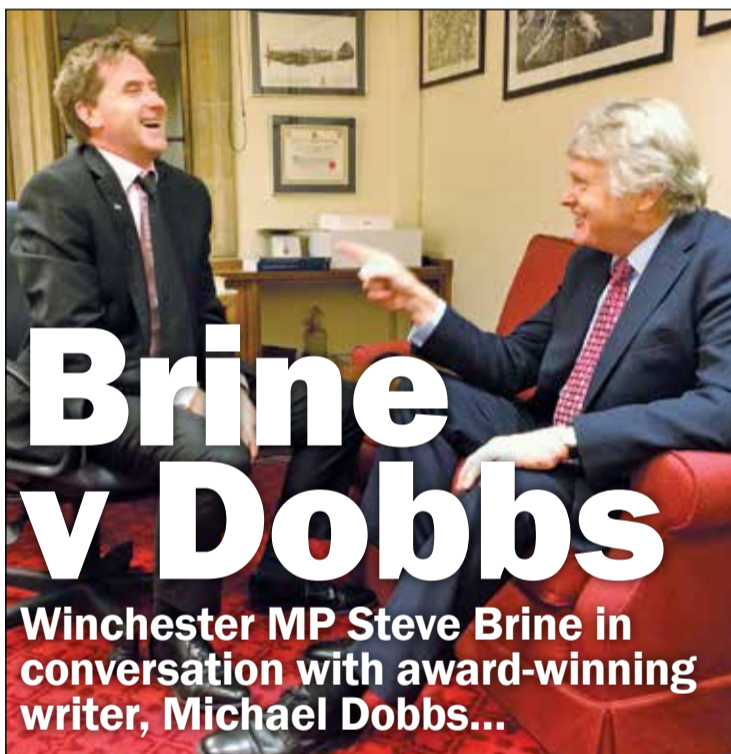


Stay updated on the facts: www.stevebrine.com/prioritynhs

who has actually had two children born at the RHCH, I hope my constituents know my commitment to the local NHS.

"As I said to the BBC recently, I and many others welcome a £125 million investment in a new critical treatment hospital in the area providing the 24/7

world class consultant-led cover we don't have right now. There are of course questions that need to be answered if this were to move to a consultation including access by public transport to the new facility and the impact on services at Basingstoke and Winchester hospitals."



Brine v Dobbs

Winchester MP Steve Brine in conversation with award-winning writer, Michael Dobbs...

Brine – You are the writer and co-producer on the global hit series House of Cards, and thousands of my constituents have been watching Frank Underwood take up the mantle left by Francis Urquhart all those years ago in Westminster. Did you really think back in the 90s when you conceived the idea that it would get this big?

Dobbs – I had no idea I was going to finish the book, let alone get it published. The suggestion that it would change my life so completely would have seemed ridiculous. I'm not sure what I have done to deserve the role of FU being taken by two such outstanding actors as Ian Richardson and Kevin Spacey, but I have embraced every moment.

Brine – It's a great show, and Kevin Spacey is superb in the lead role, but honestly, how close (or not) is his character to reality?

Dobbs – It's fiction! Drama, not documentary. Although a huge

amount of the plot is lifted from real life, it doesn't pretend to be a balanced view of politics. The Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi was recently photographed in a Rome bookshop buying a copy of House of Cards. I wrote to remind him it was a work of entertainment, not instruction.

Dobbs – After five years in the House of Commons what do you know now that you wish you knew then?

Brine – I thought it would be hard work but nothing prepares you for the 24/7 nature of the job so I wish I'd got some sleep before arriving in Westminster! The truth is, whatever the media may say about Parliament and MPs, I don't see scallywags taking the public for a ride here. I see a group of people dedicated to improving our country and serving their constituents – and that's true of every party and none.

Dobbs – So you're standing again in May?

Brine – Yes, most definitely! It's been an incredible experience to join the House of Commons and to work within Government but it's the steepest learning curve I've ever experienced. Truth is, I'm a much better MP at the end of my first term than I was at the start and I want to take that valuable experience, for the benefit of my constituents, into a second-term.

Brine – You are a member of the House of Lords now, what's your focus there?

Dobbs – Well, the early part of this year was taken up with trying to push through the EU Referendum Bill, which was eventually destroyed by the Lib Dem and Labour parties. There's only one party that's going to give voters their say on Europe – us! The role in the Lords is also very helpful in raising money for charities. I have a 150-mile sponsored walk coming up in March which I treat as training for the general election!

Dobbs – I think it's well accepted that you work hard in your role as an MP. Do you ever get to relax and if so, how?

Brine – Music and my kids. I've got tickets to see Fleetwood Mac (with Christine McVie) this Summer at the O2 and can't wait. I dare say Glastonbury will beckon again come June. Having two young children has its moments as readers will know but they have a way of relaxing me and I just live for our family holidays on the beach (with Popcorn of course) in Devon each August.

JOIN OUR #Team Dever Valley

Would you like to join Steve Brine's winning team for Dever Valley as we head into one of the most exciting General Election's in years?

To get involved please return this form as below or email team2015@stevebrine.com

- I can deliver a few leaflets I will put up a poster
- I would like to join the canvass team
- I would like to donate to the fighting fund (Cheques payable to Winchester Conservative Association)

Name:

Address:

Email:

PLEASE RETURN TO:
Steve Brine MP, WCA, Manor Farm, Itchen Stoke, S024 0QT

Promoted by B. Carpenter on behalf of Steve Brine, both of Manor Farm, Itchen Stoke, S024 0QT and printed by Mortons Print Ltd, Media Centre, Morton Way, Horncastle, Lincolnshire, LN9 6JR.