

# CHANDLER'S FORD POST

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

## Comprehensively excellent

Conservatives launch nationwide search for 'Best in Class' - starting in Chandler's Ford!



**LEFT:** Michael Gove MP and Steve Brine, meet Head, Dr Robert Sykes, at Chandler's Ford's top-performing Thornden School – listening in is Chris Doidge from DREAM 107.2. The pair also sat in on a Year 10 history class during the school tour

**Shadow Education Secretary, Michael Gove MP, came to Chandler's Ford recently to launch the Conservatives' search for the very best state schools in the land.**

Accompanied by Prospective local MP, Steve Brine, they visited Thornden School at the start of the party's Comprehensively Excellent initiative. It aims to identify some of the very best state schools in the country and champion the qualities which help make them a success.

Steve told The Chandler's Ford Post; "As well as celebrating their success we're going to campaign for the qualities which make them successful to be adopted more widely. I was delighted to be able to bring Michael Gove here because Thornden is a large yet highly successful secondary school and there is much we can learn from the education they offer local children."

Steve continued: "It was clear from what we saw on our visit and from talking with the Head teacher that the school ethos is to place the highest value on every child.

Thornden's results don't reflect the nature of their intake; they are down to the progress pupils make while there."

Michael Gove added: "This is a very well run school, the children seem to be enjoying themselves and they are doing well. I've been very impressed by the leadership and teamwork shown here. I think generally speaking, we have to find a better balance between Government involvement in education and local management of schools. Since the Government is responsible to parents and taxpayers it has to have some targets in place and some way of ensuring children are achieving everything they are supposed to but at the moment the balance is in the wrong place and Central Government tries to do too much."

**Thornden currently ranks among the best schools in the country.**

**It is placed among the top 200 state schools nationally for its GCSE results, with 85% of pupils scoring at least five C grades, including English and Maths.**

No endorsement of any candidate or political party is sought or intentionally inferred by reference to any specific school in this publication.

### Raising the bar: The Conservative Education Reforms

- The foundation of every successful school is good discipline. We will ensure heads have the power to exclude disruptive students, without being 'second-guessed' by someone outside the school
- Have every child who is capable of doing so reading by the age of six, so that every minute in the classroom thereafter is productive
- Reform the testing regime in primary schools to reduce bureaucracy and focus on every pupil's real needs
- Deliver more 'teaching by ability' - which stretches the strongest and nurtures the weakest
- Allow educational charities, philanthropists, not-for-profit trusts and groups of parents to set up new schools in the state sector and access equivalent public funding to existing state schools
- Provide over 220,000 new school places. This would meet the demand from every parent who lost their appeal for their first choice school in our most deprived boroughs.

If you would like a full copy by email of *Raising the Bar, Closing the Gap*, please email: [education@stevebrine.com](mailto:education@stevebrine.com)

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## News in Brief

### The EU Treaty - this is now a matter of trust

**Labour and Liberal Democrat politicians continue to 'thumb their noses' at the people of Chandler's Ford 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."

### Red rocket turns blue

**When Solent Blue Line dropped its bombshell in January that they were stopping their commercially-run bus service, many local people feared the worst.**

Chandler's Ford County Councillor, Colin Davidovitz, immediately raised the matter with his Council colleagues.

He told *The Chandler's Ford Post*: "After intensive negotiations with the Bus Company and the offer from the County Council of some financial support, we concluded a deal that will allow regular weekday bus services to continue."

Red Rocket C - to be renamed Baby Bluestar - will deliver a Monday to Saturday service between Eastleigh, Fryern, Hiltingbury and Valley Park. Alternate diversions will create an hourly service to Kingsway shops and South Millers Dale.

Colin adds: "We could have waved placards around but we chose action rather than rhetoric to help residents by protecting local services."

### 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. Chandler's Ford 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](http://www.stevebrine.com/campaigns)

# Delight as Vodafone mast is refused

**A plan by Vodafone to erect a large mobile phone mast and base station on the corner of Leigh Road and Bournemouth Road has been thrown out by local residents - and their councillors!**

At a well-attended meeting at the site with Steve Brine, Prospective Conservative MP for Chandler's Ford, Councillor Godfrey Olson and local campaigner, Bruce Hodgson, residents expressed their concerns and worries about this planning application.

One of the many issues raised was the size of the mast. At 14 metres (about 42 feet) tall, it would be considerably higher than a normal streetlight. It would have had a base station and power unit attached and would have been situated on the small piece of grass just outside the Vauxhall garage. Other residents were worried about how such a power unit could be easily serviced on such a busy and important junction.

Local Conservative Councillors forced the decision to come before the Chandler's Ford and Hiltingbury L.A.C meeting on 20th February, where it was refused unanimously. Local campaigner, Bruce Hodgson, said: "Residents were quite rightly concerned about this mast



Steve Brine (centre) with local residents - led by Daniele Rogers - at the proposed site in Leigh Road

application and they certainly showed the strength of local opinion in a very short space of time. This was a bad application that would have become an eyesore on this prominent site."

Steve Brine added: "Residents deserve all the credit for standing up for their area in such a swift and effective way. I sincerely hope that Vodafone will sit up and take notice of this common sense decision."

**Find more on this story by visiting: [www.stevebrine.com/campaigns](http://www.stevebrine.com/campaigns) or call: 01962 762023.**

Read more at: [www.stevebrine.com](http://www.stevebrine.com)

## Has Fryern Arcade turned the corner?

**New businesses and the arrival of a Post Office gives residents hope for the future**

**There is finally a promise of better things to come at the Fryern Arcade, as two new traders confirm their intention to open for business.**

Winchester's much-loved D&G Hardware (*see inset*) is coming to the old Martin's Newsagents site on the corner, while the Post Office have confirmed they will be reopening a branch at No.16, next door to the hairdressers.

Conservative Councillors and Prospective MP, Steve Brine, have been leading calls for improvements at the site. Local ward Councillor, Godfrey Olson, told a recent meeting of the Chandler's Ford Local Area Committee: "The Arcade needs to be

smartened up if it is to remain at the heart of retailing in Chandler's Ford. A modern look with improved facilities for customers and traders is needed if the Centre wishes to compete with shops outside the area and attract new businesses."

Owner of D&G Hardware, Toby Roberts, told *The Chandler's Ford Post*: "It's always said that good things come to those who wait - and at D&G we have certainly had to wait for this shop to work out. It has been like the battle of David and Goliath - D&G! - to get this lease sorted out. However, we are so close it won't be too long to wait now. We are so excited about this wonderful opportunity to open the second D&G Hardware in this vibrant arcade. See you soon!"

Steve Brine added; "No-one is pretending that shoppers will now suddenly flock to the Fryern Arcade but I think it is important we are all positive about its future and work with the owners and resident businesses to maintain a shopping area for the long-term that people actually feel good about visiting."



The original D&G Hardware store in Central Winchester



The site of the new D&G Hardware on the corner of Fryern Arcade



Steve Brine, Cllr Godfrey Olson and local campaigner, Bruce Hodgson (right) at the site of the new Post Office



## 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 at the Royal Hampshire 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!

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

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

Prospective Conservative MP, **Steve Brine**, has welcomed the plan. He told *The Chandler's Ford 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.



**Open Weekend at RHCH**  
Coming soon - see the plans for yourself in glorious 3D models - check local press for dates and details

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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.stevebrine.com/prioritynhs)



## The Chandler's Ford 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 right here in the Constituency.

### 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

## The character of Chandler's Ford - What does the future look like if we carry on like this?

**Few would argue that Chandler's Ford – and much of Hampshire – has changed a great deal in recent years as new people move into the area and the pressure for development grows.**



In the last edition of The Chandler's Ford Post we reported on 20-20 VISION, a Council blueprint for the future of our area, addressing key areas such as local health, transport, planning and the environment.

As this vision is finalised, local people continue to demand the utmost care is taken to protect the unique character of Chandler's Ford. Local Conservative Councillors,

including Colin Davidovitz, John Caldwell and Godfrey Olson, have expressed their concerns at the changing face of Chandler's Ford and Hiltingbury over recent years. They believe there are a number of issues that are cause of concern:

- The Number of planning applications to build flats particularly where existing properties are to be demolished
- The Planning Applications to build in back gardens (otherwise known as 'garden grabbing')
- Bungalows which are being converted or extended to create in some cases 5 bedroom accommodation
- The proliferation of takeaway outlets

**Steve Brine**, who is standing for Parliament in the area, says the village of Chandler's Ford has always been considered an attractive residential area to live and residents have been prepared in many cases to

pay a premium to live here. "But their investment needs to be protected and inappropriate development needs to be resisted. We have seen some truly inappropriate development proposals in recent months, in Hursley Road and Hocombe Drive for instance, and that is why when the Conservatives controlled the Local Area Committee they adopted a Character Plan for Chandler's Ford and Hiltingbury to help protect the area.

"It doesn't take a genius to work out that more development puts more pressure on services and creates more traffic and pollution. We need to protect our environment and ensure any development is appropriate, sympathetic to its surroundings and of a sensible density."

Steve Brine and your local Conservative team would like to hear from you on this issue. Please visit [www.stevebrine.com/campaigns](http://www.stevebrine.com/campaigns) or call: **01962 762 023** to receive a short questionnaire.

### 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 the form below and return it to the address at the bottom of the page, or save the stamp by going to: [www.stevebrine.com](http://www.stevebrine.com) and choosing the 'Contact' option.

## Central Precinct update... from YOU

**In the last edition of The Chandler's Ford Post, we featured plans for a major redevelopment of The Central Precinct – and invited 'Future Views' from you about what you'd like to see on the site.**

Prospective Conservative MP for Chandler's Ford, Steve Brine, says: "Local people responded in typical fashion, showing how much they want the Central Precinct to become a facility they are proud of and want to use. All comments were collated and given to your local Councillors, to ensure that this makeover is driven by residents."

### Your Comments...

**Mrs C, Randall Road:** "I would like to see this area completely re-developed and replaced with an area that will be a focal point for Chandler's Ford and add a much needed meeting place. Perhaps a central green space plaza with a play area for children and cafes and restaurants, bistros for ALL age groups and some interesting and different shops."

**Mrs J, Tyrrel Road:** "I would like to see more shops. We can't buy a pair of shoes or any Ladieswear in Chandler's Ford. We need more variety; we do not need any more Estate Agents, Takeaways, Hairdressers, Barbers or Drycleaners."

**Mrs G, Chandler's Ford:** "My personal feeling is that the whole precinct needs to be bulldozed. The site would be ideal for a new mini-mall, perhaps a smaller version of the Swan Centre in Eastleigh only a little more upmarket."

**Mr D, Heathlands Road:** "I strongly feel that Chandler's Ford Precinct should be developed for the small independent shops with an emphasis on food; such as Bakers, Butchers, 'corner shops', chemist, flowers and plants and general hardware."

**Mr A, Chandler's Ford:** "The Central Precinct should ideally be the village/town centre of Chandlers Ford. At present it is run-down and is something of a disgrace!"

**Mr W, Norbury Close:** "It would be great if social facilities could be included for all generations. There would be potential benefits in interaction between age groups ... if there was a common facility for a range of age groups. Maybe this would promote joint initiatives for dealing with vandalism and graffiti and any feelings of lack of community?"

If you would still like to comment, please visit: [www.stevebrine.com/campaigns](http://www.stevebrine.com/campaigns) or call: **01962 762023**.

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## Tell us what you think or let us know if you can help.

Your comments:

- I would like to deliver a few leaflets
- I would like to display a poster during elections
- I would like to join the party
- I would like to donate to Steve's fighting fund
- £10    £20    £50    Other (please state) £\_\_\_\_\_

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](http://www.stevebrine.com)

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