School Funding Promise Kept

Steve Brine welcomes new cash that honours manifesto commitment.

At this year’s General Election, Steve Brine said; “With small children of my own, I am passionate about local schools. We have protected the core schools budget but I know rising costs are extremely challenging. I want to see a fairer funding formula introduced and will be using all my experience to fight for one if I am re-elected.”

Steve was re-elected and, in July, the Government promised to increase the schools budget, announcing an additional £1.3 billion on top of existing plans.

Then, in September, the Government set out final decisions on the national funding formula which will come into effect from April 2018.

Steve Brine says; “We have increased the basic funding that every pupil in every school will receive, we’ve introduced a minimum funding level that values small rural schools and we’ve retained the Hampshire Schools Forum. This time, every school in my constituency receives an increase.”

The MP said this was “great news” but promised he would continue his campaign to see Hampshire gets its fair share and warned of a growing issue in Winchester around secondary school places. We must protect the “theory and the practice” of school choice at age-11 he told The Winchester Post.

More: www.stevebrine.com/schoolplaces

RHCH Acute Services

As key moment looms, time for cool-heads says local MP.

Steve Brine is staying close to ongoing discussions about the future shape of acute hospital services in Winchester.

The Trust (HHFT) and local commissioners are engaged in a complex piece of work to secure safe and sustainable services at the Romsey Road site after the publication last year of the ‘STP’, a comprehensive future plan for the NHS across Hampshire.

Steve says; “We must maintain a sensible and balanced discussion about the future of acute care that, above all else, ensures the local NHS is there when we’re acutely unwell. That includes stroke services, cardiac and of course consultant-led obstetrics.”

HHFT have proposed (and received planning permission for) a new critical treatment centre near junction 7 of the M3 but no final decision has been reached. Steve Brine adds; “My hunch is the new build looks unlikely to get the nod in the short-term. If that’s the case, we must focus on securing the RHCH and not allow any piecemeal reconfiguration of services. No deal will be frustrating but it’s better than a bad deal from which there’s no way back.”

“As an experienced constituency MP, I know we must keep cool heads at this time and rise above screaming headlines as much as short-term party politics which really don’t help.”

Read Steve’s recent column for the Hampshire Chronicle and see a decade of work in this area:

More: www.stevebrine.com/prioritynhs
NEW TRAIN FRANCHISE

South Western Railway have now taken over from Southern and will run local services for the next seven years.

The new contract is worth £500 million over seven years and will enable the South Western Railway team to deliver a modern, efficient and high-quality service for passengers.

The new contract will see the introduction of new trains, the expansion of the fleet and the introduction of new services.

More information on the new contract can be found on the South Western Railway website.

Steve Brine, MP for Winchester, has welcomed the new contract and has praised the South Western Railway team for their hard work and dedication.

"I am delighted to see the new contract in place," he said. "South Western Railway has a long history of providing a high-quality service to passengers in the area and I am confident that they will continue to do so in the future.

"The new contract will see the introduction of new trains and the expansion of the fleet, which will enable South Western Railway to provide a more efficient and modern service for passengers.

"I am also pleased to see the introduction of new services, which will enable South Western Railway to provide a more diverse range of services to passengers.

"I would like to thank the South Western Railway team for their hard work and dedication and I am confident that they will continue to provide a high-quality service for passengers in the area.

More information on the new contract can be found on the South Western Railway website.

STAYING SAFE ONLINE

MP teams up with Google for Internet Legends campaign.

The Four Pillars of the Legends Code:

- Think before you share
- Protect your stuff
- Check it’s for real
- Respect each other

Steve Brine teamed up with Google and Parent Zone as the Internet Legends Tour came to town. Delivered by Google and Parent Zone, Internet Legends is an online safety initiative that aims to teach primary school children practical tips for staying safe online. Children are taught four key points, dubbed the Legends Code, in order to make their time online safe and fun.

Meanwhile, Theresa May’s speech to the United Nations September called on technology companies to ‘go further and faster’ in removing extremist content. This was followed by an announcement of £180,000 in new ground-breaking technology by Google and Parent zone to remove indirect images of children from websites at an unprecedented scale through Project Anchord.

NEW MONEY FOR RHCS

WINACC and WWF are working to improve journey times and support winchester.

More than 100 local people took part in a community planning exercise which has provided the outline for a way forward for Winchester. The event includes a range of local, commercial and housing, with plans for an advance to the next stage on the basis of the principles for a "Winchesterness".

SUSAM and CSGC are planning a new plan and more information about the future of Winchester and the principles for a "Winchesterness".

WEAR ANCHORAGE WITH WINACC and WWF are working to improve journey times and support winchester.

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Children are taught four key points, dubbed the Legends Code, in order to make their time online safe and fun.

Steve took an active part in the assembly, explaining how a data protection law is important. He said, “This was a brilliant event and the kids loved it.”

“I think we learnt a lot about being safe and smart online. Google and Parent Zone deserve great credit for the Legends programme and we’ve got a great deal of support for the Legends activity.

The tour is the fourth in a new second year and has reached over 50 schools across the UK since its inception in 2015.

MP TALKS TO NEWWTON LEATHBOURNE HOSPITAL

Winchester Action on Climate Change (WAAC) have recently set up the WAAC Executive Director, Steve Brine, to bring the Picture England event, a look at climate change from a post-Brexit perspective, to a future. The discussion meeting is held on the 12th of January

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Steve Brine – getting on with the job

Summer 2017 may have seemed like four seasons in one day at times but one thing you can always rely on is Steve’s Summer Tour. It took place as usual during Parliament’s recess across August and September.

A number of local schools have visited Parliament this year, continuing Steve Brine’s tradition of welcoming groups to Westminster. Children from Kings’ and Twyford have been among a number to visit who, as well as getting a tour of Parliament, meet up with Steve for a Q&A session. He says: “Hosting youngsters in Parliament is a fantastic part of my job, I am very passionate about telling young people what we do as MPs.

“I would encourage any schools who’ve not made the trip yet to get in touch. We can promise a unique day out.”

Steve has also once again thrown open his allocation of PMQs tickets to constituents and is inviting entries now for Wednesday 10th January 2018. He can also arrange for any constituents to enjoy a guided tour of the Houses of Parliament.

More: www.stevebrine.com/visitingwestminster

VISITING WESTMINSTER

Steve meeting developers on-site and, below, Paul Tweltree who leads the campaign to keep the old Andover Road open.

KINGS BARTON TAKES SHAPE

Steve Brine visited Barton Farm this year as the new Kings Barton development begins to take shape.

As reported in the press, the first set of first-time buyers secured their homes in April. 800 of the houses must be set aside for social housing and those on the council waiting list.

Steve Brine said; “I wanted to take a look at the work carried out and speak to the CALA team. I’m also a trustee of the newly-forming primary school led by the University of Winchester. We are all pleased the site for our new school has now been handed over to Hampshire County Council.”

KNOWLEDGE PARK UPDATE

Work continues to bring new skilled jobs to Winchester ahead of the planned closure of the Sir John Moore Barracks. Alongside local council and business leaders, Steve Brine launched plans for a knowledge park on the 86-hectare site after the MoD announcement late last year.

Now, The Defence Infrastructure Organisation is working under Ministerial direction to prepare the business case for an employment led development on the site. That is expected to emerge in Spring 2018.

Steve says; “Project Juno is a big piece of work, much bigger than but including, SJMB in Winchester. We are all working together, with the City Council as the key partners, to deliver something pretty special on this site while maintaining and protecting a rural gap between Littleton and Haresstock that respects the area.”

A strong team for local jobs: Cllr Caroline Horrill and Steve Brine.

NEW DISCOVERIES ON HYDE ABBEY SITE

Excavations in King Alfred Terrace during Hyde900’s Holiday Weekend Community Dig earlier this year revealed a mass of building and other material dating back to the middle ages, while the unearthing of a building and other material dating back to the Roman era.

Steve Brine, with his two children, dropped into the dig to learn more and, alongside Hyde900, is looking forward to further community digs next year.

More: www.hyde900.org.uk

WINCHESTER STUDENT CONSERVATIVE SOCIETY

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