



Steve Brine's

WINCHESTER 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 the City of Winchester, Littleton & Harestock, Badger Farm, Sparsholt & Crawley and the University.

BACK PAGE

YOU MIGHT THINK THAT...

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



STEVE SECURES MAJOR INVESTMENT FOR OUR AREA



Winchester MP Steve Brine has helped deliver major investment in TWO local road schemes worth hundreds of millions of pounds in the past month.

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 The Winchester Post, 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.

More: www.stevebrine.com/junction9

"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 a new **quieter surface** will be laid on the M3 throughout much of Steve's Winchester & Chandler's Ford constituency.

Steve adds; "Back in the Summer, our long-running campaign to get the M3 motorway resurfaced came good as the Highways Agency brought forward plans to lay a quieter surface between junction 9-14. Now however, I am able to announce that work will be accelerated further, into this financial year with completion due by April 2015."

More: www.stevebrine.com/M3noise



SILVER HILL

The planned regeneration of Winchester City centre WILL go ahead after a cross-party group of councillors on the full planning committee unanimously agreed to the revised scheme.

The £165m project - which has been discussed for 18 years - will bring new shops and homes, bus stops and car parks to the run-down area known locally as Silver Hill.

Winchester MP Steve Brine has however heavily criticised the council, as well as developer Henderson, for what he said was a gaping hole in the information available to local people. "I think it's essential I keep a level head about this scheme and keep talking to everyone. I'm the only person left doing that and have met in recent weeks, at great length, with Cllr Gottlieb from Winchester Deserves Better as well as WCC, Henderson and even their architects Allies & Morrison.

"I've been very clear with the developer and the lead architect that if they believe in this scheme they should let the rest of us in on it. It beggars belief that this project hasn't been presented properly to my constituents, it still doesn't even have its own website! Busy working people juggling family life are not going to wade through weighty specification documents prepared for the planning committee or attend mid-week exhibitions at the Guildhall.

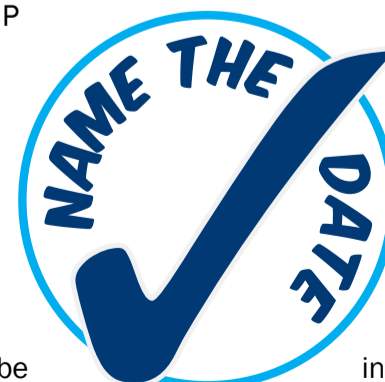
"This proposed regeneration project has been argued over for years which is perhaps not surprising given its scale and, with a judicial review to come, I am sure that will continue for a while yet. All the more important then, that its proposers make the case and take my constituents with them."

More: www.stevebrine.com/silverhill

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

NEW SCHOOL PLACES FROM ACADEMY TRUST



Local MP Steve Brine will serve as an Academy Trust Board member of a new school for the city after the University of Winchester won backing from the Department of Education to establish a new primary school at Barton Farm.

The University has now begun developing plans with Hampshire County Council and local residents to establish a values-driven primary school which as well as serving the new estate, may also admit children from existing local neighbourhoods.

Steve Brine told The Winchester Post; "This is very good news. We all had our views about Barton Farm being given the go-ahead but now it's happening I think we all have a duty to make the best of this development and a brand new school, run by such a trusted provider, is a key part of that."

"We already have so many outstanding schools in Winchester and I know this will be a strong addition to the family with a very clear set of values everyone can support."

The University of Winchester Academy Trust is due to open the new school within the next few years.



Steve Brine already has a positive working relationship with University of Winchester Vice Chancellor, Prof Joy Carter and (inset); an early aerial view sketch of the new school.

NEWS IN BRIEF

ENERGY REBATE

Last Winter the Government announced it was giving consumers £50 off their energy bills.

This included a £12 rebate via our electricity bills. Steve Brine adds; "For direct debit customers this happened automatically but I am anxious all my constituents who use pre-payment meters (ie; those who buy electricity using top-up cards) don't miss out."

You should already have been made aware of this by your supplier and given a voucher which can be redeemed on your meter key until 28th February 2015 but please contact me if you haven't had this and I can help."

Email Steve: steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk

APPLES AND PEARS – AND MUCH MORE!

A new addition has popped up at Harestock shops with the arrival of a popular fruit and veg stall serving local residents.



Harestock fruit and veg

Steve Brine dropped by with local councillor, James Byrnes, recently and says; "We were out knocking on doors in the area and met Matthew who runs the stall. It looks magnificent, and he told me how a lot of local people had been delighted to see him as it is very convenient and saves a trip into town. Let's support this new local Harestock venture."

PARKING – WEEKE & TEG DOWN

Winchester City Councillors, Eileen Berry and Helen Osborne who represent St Barnabas Ward on the north side of the city, have been working hard across Weeke and Teg Down to address residents' parking concerns.

The growth of local businesses on Stoney Lane – around the Waitrose and Aldi stores - have led to a significant increase in parking around the area, which has caused great frustrations with some residents. Helen says; "We've worked hard on this in response to local feedback and I'm pleased to say a new traffic consultation will be launched in the new year to ensure new traffic measures improve the parking problems we're facing."

FOX AND HOUNDS

The popular Fox & Hounds Pub in Crawley is now under new ownership and Steve Brine has welcomed the family focus to the pub.

He said; "This is a beautiful pub in a beautiful village, and I am delighted that they are actively welcoming families with children, which will be great news for my fellow parents of little ones all across the area I am sure."



The Fox and Hounds

CROSSING ROMSEY ROAD

Many residents and students cross the Romsey Road from St James Terrace to Clifton Terrace with no formal crossing on what is an increasingly busy part of the city.

The County Council studied options for providing a crossing at this location in 2010 after pressure from the then new Winchester MP, Steve Brine. The study highlighted the complexity of introducing a formalised crossing here due to the road layout.

But things have moved on and the team, led by County and City Councillor Fiona Mather, is now pushing HCC to look again. She says; "I want them to design and cost a scheme that can take advantage of the funding opportunity created by contributions from the forthcoming development of the Police Headquarters." She said that such a scheme could also attract funding from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund.



PITT VALE – ENOUGH ALREADY!

Regular readers of The Winchester Post will be aware that local Conservatives are fighting proposals from Linden Homes to build around 500 houses on Pitt Vale.

MP Steve Brine has spoken in the local media to voice his anger at what he sees as a 'cheeky and speculative' application, especially coming after the decision to build on Pitt Manor.

Steve said; "I continue to work cross-party with local councillors, including City Cabinet member Cllr Jan Warwick who represents Pitt Village, to fight these plans, but I do need your help. In order to demonstrate the strength of feeling, please email or write to me with your thoughts, as the bigger file I have the better."

More: www.stevebrine.com/pittvale



SAVE THE REC... SAVED

Last Summer there were a great many fears for an area at North Walls known locally as 'The Rec' as ideas were discussed to bring a new leisure centre to Winchester.

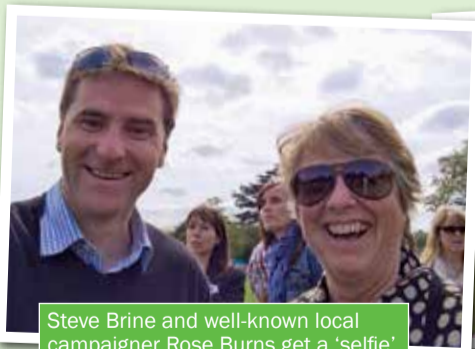
The 'Save the Rec' group was formed in the Hyde area of the city and 'A grand day out' was held in May attended by Steve Brine and his young family – as well as local superstar Frank Turner.

The leader of Winchester City Council told The Winchester Post, "There was never a plan to build on River Park. One early option – it was never a plan – considered the possibility of using a small part of one cricket pitch. The Council listened to the strongly-expressed views of residents living nearby and has made

it clear that this option is no longer being considered."

However, Steve Brine adds; "Save the Rec was a potent campaigning force and it was dead right to speak up the way it did last year. I supported them without reservation

because, although I do think there was some misinformation flying around, the fact remains that to make the existing cricket pitch even a metre smaller would render it useless. Not to mention the shadow a massive new leisure centre right on the boundary would have caused. We are all keeping a close watching brief in the slips."



Steve Brine and well-known local campaigner Rose Burns get a 'selfie'



More: www.winchester.gov.uk/sports/leisure-centre-project

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



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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.

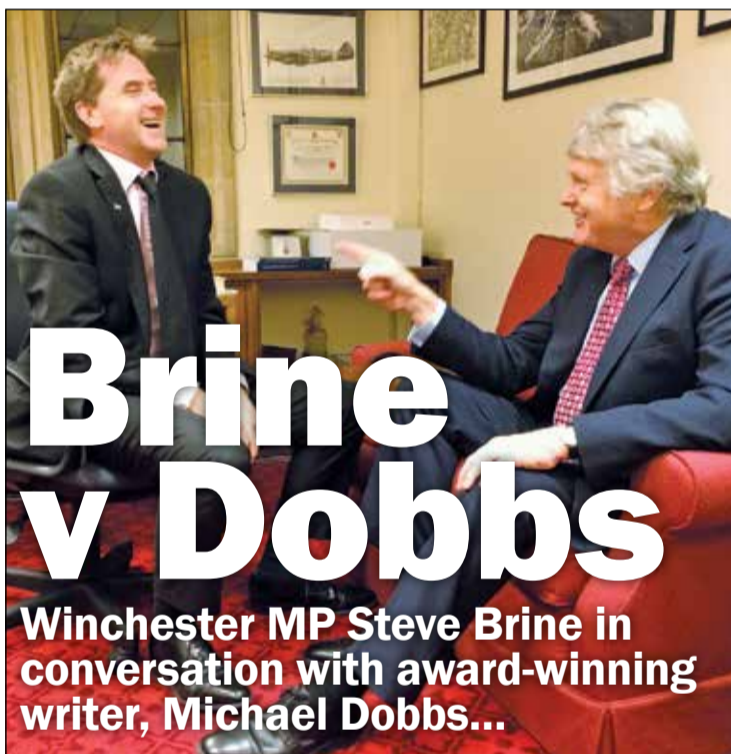
"I remain committed to keeping the best services in Winchester but to do so in a way that is sustainable and above all, safe. Some of the things being put about locally are the height of irresponsibility but I will continue to focus on the facts. After almost five years as the MP here, and someone



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 #TeamWinchester
Would you like to join Steve Brine's winning team for Winchester 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

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