



# Steve Brine's WINCHESTER POST

A positive (non glossy) publication produced at no cost to the taxpayer by your energetic local Conservative MP and team. It is delivered by volunteers across Winchester, the Itchen Valley, Alresford, Kings Worthy and surrounding villages.

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# HEALTH FOCUS HERE TO STAY, SAYS STEVE

**IN WINCHESTER**

## WINCHESTER MP STEVE BRINE REMAINS RUTHLESSLY FOCUSED ON HEALTH AND THE NHS

Prime Minister David Cameron has, in spite of huge pressures on the public finances, kept his promise to increase health spending year-on-year. This means NHS spending will be £12.7 billion higher in 2015 than it was in 2010.

On top of that Ministers have announced a £3.8 billion investment to join up health and social care and this Summer saw an extension to the Cancer Drugs Fund with £200 million a year of funding to March 2016. The NHS will also join forces with Cancer Research UK to research the impact of genetics on cancer treatment.

Steve Brine told The Winchester Post; "My priority remains health, both here and in Parliament. The NHS is precious but it's far from without fault and our aim is to make it better and sustainable as a world-class service for the long-term. The investment from Government – and the new local commissioning structure – is key to that.

"Locally we have huge challenges to come as the new Foundation Trust across



Investment at the RHCH as Steve Brine opens the new state-of-the-art scanning unit

Winchester & Basingstoke brings forward its plans for a new acute hospital, working with the RHCH. This will require compromises but must be led by clinicians in consultation with all of us which is why I maintain very regular contact with all the key players across the local NHS."

See more, including how to have your say on Trust future plans before any decisions are taken: [www.stevebrine.com/prioritynhs](http://www.stevebrine.com/prioritynhs)

**IN WESTMINSTER**

## STEVE LAUNCHES MAJOR BREAST CANCER REPORT IN PARLIAMENT



Local MP Steve Brine has launched a pioneering new report looking at the issue of breast cancer.

The report called 'Age is just a number' follows a major inquiry led by Steve Brine and outlines new and urgent recommendations to combat the issues surrounding inequality in treatment,

services and support available to older breast cancer patients.

Pictured from left to right; Steve at the launch with Joan Sherrin, Christina Heys and Jane Trollope from Winchester Breast Cancer Support Group with renowned RHCH Breast Surgeon Dick Rainsbury who gave evidence to the inquiry.

More on the report and Steve's work as Chair of the All-Party Breast Cancer Group in Parliament: [www.stevebrine.com/breastcancer](http://www.stevebrine.com/breastcancer)

## BARTON FARM DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

### Phase one planning application now with Council

Local people will be fully aware the Barton Farm development was given outline planning permission last year and CALA Homes can now proceed with their plans for 2,000 houses. In spite of many years of campaigning and legal challenges the development will now happen and MP Steve Brine says he will work to make the best of it for Winchester.

He says; "It's no secret I didn't want Barton Farm to be built on and heaven knows we all tried our best but I have a responsibility as the MP to fully engage with CALA and I am doing that."

"We're now meeting regularly which allows me to press them on a range of issues including the new primary school, medical provision, the community centre and future phases of the build."

A major planning application has now been lodged with WCC to agree the design codes and the layout of phase one.

It can be viewed online, at the council offices and a copy has been placed in Steve's office at 9 Stockbridge Road, Winchester.

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



# NEWS

from the House  
**IN BRIEF**

## PRAISE FROM CHANCELLOR – AND VINCE!

Chancellor George Osborne recently praised Winchester for the city's work on driving the economic recovery.

Speaking in the Commons, he said he backed the local council, the local MP and local businesses, including the Business Improvement District team, working together to attract jobs and investment to Winchester. His comments come after Vince Cable said that council efforts were 'music to my ears'.



## PUNITIVE PROPERTY TAX RULED OUT

MP Steve Brine has welcomed news that the Conservatives have ruled out what he called a 'punitive' new tax – dubbed by some a mansion tax – on local homes.

He says; "Not only is this a regressive idea it would hit my constituents very hard. Many people here certainly don't live in mansions, and while they may be asset-rich because of the high cost of property in the area, would be drawn into a costly set of new taxes to live in their own home. It's madness and I will not support it."



## SUPREME COURT MUST BE... SUPREME

Home Secretary Theresa May has pledged to scrap the Human Rights Act and make the British Supreme Court the highest court if the Conservatives are re-elected as a majority government.

She said it was 'ridiculous' the British government has to go to such lengths to get rid of dangerous foreigners such as Abu Qutada, and backed David Cameron, who said that in keeping the country safe, leaving the European Court of Human Rights might be a future option for the UK.

## SUMMER-BORN CHILDREN

Steve Brine is looking at the issue of summer-born children, as revised guidance is issued on when children start school.

Steve said; "Local authorities need to take this on board quickly. All children are different and parents should be centre-stage in deciding which entry-level is best for their child."

# Westminster Report

## JUSTICE... TEXAS STYLE

July 2013 saw the House of Commons Justice Committee, of which local MP Steve Brine is a member, visit the United States to learn about criminal justice policy - Texas style.

He says; "We visited the Lone Star state as part of a major inquiry we're undertaking on crime reduction policies. Bear with me, because everything you know - and some of the prejudices you may have – are about to be challenged.

"As in Britain, it has been a given in American politics that you win

elections by talking tough on crime. The result has been a blitz of new laws – and a rising prison population – so they decided to do something different.

"The Right on Crime initiative, inspired by the Republicans running Texas, has closed prisons, focused on rehabilitation and prevention and saved millions of tax payer dollars."

Visit [www.stevebrine.com/texas](http://www.stevebrine.com/texas) to read Steve's full report of this fascinating trip and follow links to find out much more.



Steve with staff and pupils from Osborne School



At Westminster with staff and pupils from All Saints CofE Primary School

## SCHOOL ANNUAL

Groups from local schools regularly visit Parliament to take the tour and see democracy in action.

Local MP Steve Brine often meets up with them, either to just welcome them to Westminster or hold a Q&A with students. If you are a teacher at a local school and would like to do this, please email [steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk)

## LEGAL AID

Steve Brine has welcomed a Government re-think over plans to overhaul criminal legal aid.

Our MP was an outspoken critic of the proposals which would have introduced a system of price competitive tendering for firms working in this area of the law. He spoke in a number of debates calling on Ministers to think again, particularly in respect of protecting the ancient right to choose a solicitor if you are arrested suspected of committing a crime.

Many members of the legal profession contacted Steve to express their concern, and Steve's Justice Committee also called on Ministers to revise their plans, before the government came forward with new ideas which were worked through with the Law Society and Bar Council.

Steve said; "Ultimately the hope is this will lead to a more stable environment for law firms so we can protect access to justice in a way that is sustainable and affordable for the taxpayer. I am pleased the Government have listened and come back with these new proposals."



## BRITAIN AND THE EU

### STEVE FIGHTS TO GIVE US A SAY

MP backs historic referendum Bill 100%

If you're aged 56 years or under you've never had a direct say over Britain's relationship with the European Union and that is simply not good enough, says Steve Brine.

Steve is backing the EU Referendum Bill currently going through Parliament which will grant local people a say over our membership but admits he is frustrated it cannot come sooner.

"People ask me all the time why we can't have that referendum now and I share their frustration but the fact remains we don't have a majority in the House of Commons and our coalition partners will not support us on this. That is why we're legislating now – via a Private Members' Bill – and making it crystal clear a majority Conservative Government led by David Cameron will renegotiate our membership and put that to the people by 2017. Crucially, the question will be a straight in or out so we can have the debate and settle our membership once and for all."

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



# WHERE NOW?

## Steve Brine MP on our leisure centre and the wider sporting opportunity

A great deal has been said about the future of The River Park Leisure Centre and I have been listening carefully to constituents, campaign groups and councillors, as well as attending a recent public meeting at the Guildhall.

What I know for sure is this; 1) River Park is not in good shape so no change is not an option longer-term; 2) Leisure and sporting provision locally is about much more than one centre provided by the local council and, crucially; 3) we should take the time to get this right. As I write, no decision has yet been made, so I ask everyone to take a few deep breaths and hit the PAUSE button on this one. We do not need to make a hasty decision from which there can be no turning back, especially if that means green space (no matter how small) is potentially lost.

My hope is still that we can harness the clear community interest that exists and take a much wider holistic view – that hears views from residents right across Winchester – to ensure we have leisure and sporting provision that truly is fit for the future.



# NEWS IN BRIEF



Cllr Fiona Mather



Cllr Rob Humby

## ELECTION REPORT

Local Conservatives continue to pick up momentum across the area in council elections, electing two EXTRA County Councillors this May.

Fiona Mather now represents the Eastgate side of the city centre, while Rob Humby covers Colden Common & Twyford as part of the wider Bishops Waltham division.

Steve Brine said: "We began this year's local elections with one county councillor in my constituency, we now have three. I look forward to working with Fiona and Rob as well as all councillors of whatever party."

## NATIONAL AWARD FOR MP

Steve Brine has won a national award from road safety charity Brake in recognition of his work on road and pedestrian safety issues in Winchester.

The award was made as Osborne School celebrated a new pedestrian crossing for their children on Andover Road. Steve previously successfully campaigned for a crossing on St Cross Road and recently began what could be a long-running campaign for a crossing on Worthy Road.

Julie Townsend from Brake said: "Steve's successes show what can be achieved by communities working together and taking action to prevent devastating casualties before they happen."

## WWI CENTENARY

Winchester will remember the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War throughout 2014, with a series of events and projects across the area.



Steve Brine highlighted the excellent 'To honour a promise' World War I commemoration project in Parliament in September, which will finally erect a permanent memorial to the tens of thousands of British and American troops who set up camp at Morn Hill on their way to the Western Front. In addition, among a host of events, there will be projects in Otterbourne and Twyford.

## A WISE-MOVE

Help is available for council tenants who wish to move to a property with fewer bedrooms than their current home, with a council scheme aiming to provide a smooth transition.

Winchester Discovery Centre recently held an event for tenants who were interested in Wise Move, and the £1,000 available to help with moving costs when downsizing. Steve Brine says; "This is very much a common-sense scheme run by WCC, and I have heard some great feedback from local people."

Find out more by calling 01962 848400.



## INVITE

# GOT A QUESTION FOR SWT?

Are you a regular user of train services from Winchester, Shawford or Micheldever?

Local MP Steve Brine is and he's arranged for South West Trains boss, Tim Shoveller, to answer our questions on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

This event, which will be held in central Winchester, is free but you must register in advance via [www.stevebrine.com/askswt](http://www.stevebrine.com/askswt)

## CAMPAIGN

# A BETTER DEAL ON FARES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



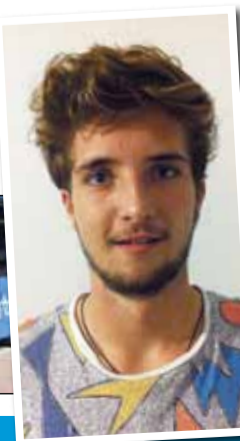
Steve Brine is working with bus operators and a Member of the Youth Parliament to deliver fairer fares for young people.

A recent meeting with the boss of Bluestar made the case for permanent discounts, possibly up to age 19. Steve has been asked to help by MYP, Seb Ward (pictured), who has made improving transport for young people one of his priorities.

Steve says; "The initial meeting with Bluestar was really useful, they want to help young people with bus travel, probably involving some form of key-card. We look forward to working with them and any other companies as part of this fair fares campaign."



More at [www.stevebrine.com/fairfares](http://www.stevebrine.com/fairfares)



# A33 JUNCTION



## LOCAL COALITION TACKLE DANGER SPOT IN KINGS WORTHY

Winchester MP Steve Brine is (still) leading efforts to improve the dangerous A33 junction at Kings Worthy.

The cross-party campaign brings together parish, city and county councillors and has seen hundreds of local residents write to support major change, primarily at the junction of London Road (by the Cart & Horses Pub) with the A33.

Steve says; "So many people, including me, negotiate this junction on a daily basis and hundreds of Winchester residents from across the city use the route as part of their journey out to the M3. It will not be easy and money is obviously tight but constituents have been clear with me, they back our campaign to make it safer for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists. Whatever takes place in the coming weeks, I will use my experience to insist we can succeed and make this junction safer if we stay focused and work together. This is way above narrow party politics and it needs to stay there."

Want to get behind our campaign?

More: [www.stevebrine.com/a33](http://www.stevebrine.com/a33)



# NEWS IN BRIEF

## RURAL BROADBAND

**The Government's Rural Broadband Programme is now connecting 10,000 premises every week but if that doesn't include you it can feel anything but superfast.**

Good job then, and contrary to some silly comments in recent weeks, Hampshire's superfast broadband project is on track to ensure at least 90% of premises have access to superfast broadband by the end of 2015.

Steve Brine is positive; "As the local MP I'm going to focus on the facts and continue to work with the County Council and BT to focus ruthlessly on the remaining not-spots in my constituency."

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



## NEW BUSINESS CENTRE FOR CITY

**Steve Brine opened a dynamic new business centre on Parchment Street, a scheme piloted by Winchester BID, which provides a professional and innovative hub for business growth and development in the city.**

The new Business Centre is fully equipped with collaborative work areas, unlimited wi-fi access, a private conference room, office support services, including phone answering service and a registered business address, secure storage arrangements and self-catering refreshment facilities.

Steve said: "This new hub makes absolute perfect sense, and we are so lucky that we have so many business-focussed and business-friendly people across the city."

## WELCOME FOR JUNCTION 9 WORKS

**Steve Brine has welcomed what he sees as 'part one' of work on M3 Junction 9, which will see congestion-reducing improvements made to this busy junction.**

He says: "Businesses and residents join me in welcoming this work but it must be part of a wider plan that ultimately looks at traffic feeding left onto the A34 and completing NCN23 for cyclists."

See more - [www.stevebrine.com/junction9](http://www.stevebrine.com/junction9)

**Steve's regular Hampshire Chronicle column**



**'Steve Brine, getting in the paper... and getting things done!'**

# PITT MANOR & PROBLEM JUNCTION UPDATE

**City Conservatives – led by the team working in Stanmore – are leading efforts to get every last drop of benefit out of the controversial Pitt Manor development just off Romsey Road.**

They have been working with local MP Steve Brine for the past four years to see residents are represented on issues surrounding the new homes - including during the long battle before outline planning permission was granted – and the re-design of the junction with Romsey Road/Stanmore Lane.

St Luke councillor Jamie Scott and Steve Brine recently got all key players from city and county council, resident groups and developer, round a table to discuss Pitt Manor ahead of the full planning

permission being submitted this Autumn.

Jamie Scott says; "We've worked on this for years now and while we fought the idea of 200 houses on the Pitt Manor site shoulder to shoulder with so many residents we have to accept it is now going ahead and make the best of it. 'Top junction' as it's known locally is key to that, especially getting two lanes out of Stanmore Lane to reduce congestion across the area."

Steve adds; "The Pitt Manor development is small compared to Barton Farm but it's going to have a major impact on this main route into the city and it's important all local representatives work together to somehow make it work."



On site... Cllr Jamie Scott, Steve Brine MP and Cllr Derek Green with Stanmore resident Amanda Chard

The full Pitt Manor planning application, which will set the design and layout of the development, is now with the council.

You can find much more [www.stevebrine.com/pittmanor](http://www.stevebrine.com/pittmanor)

## EARLY INTERVENTION

**Steve Brine spoke at the Home-Start AGM on one of his true passions, early years intervention, in September.**

Home-Start supports young parents and families across the district and you can see more, including Steve's speech, at [www.stevebrine.com/homestart](http://www.stevebrine.com/homestart)



## BIG SOCIETY

**Steve floated his idea for the 'Winchester Penny' in a keynote speech celebrating Winchester's Big Society at the City of Winchester Trust AGM this Autumn.**

Find out more about the charities and voluntary organisations covered in the speech and watch a short film courtesy of Steve Brine TV via the link below.

More: [www.stevebrine.com/big society](http://www.stevebrine.com/big society)

# NEW SCHOOL PLACES ONLINE...

**Steve Brine recently visited Westgate School in Winchester as exciting work takes place to address the badly-needed school places issue in the city.**

The new Rotherley Day Nursery opened in October, taking toddlers from three months. Meanwhile £7.8m is being invested in Westgate's new all-through school, catering for 4-16 year-olds, following Steve's high-profile campaign to tackle the school place shortage last year.

Steve said: "The new nursery

is going to provide some outstanding early-years provision and plans for the all-through school are stunning. I think people will be really impressed with the final product and hope everyone can now get behind what is happening at Westgate."

The £10.2m secured for new primary places in Winchester is also being spent on expansion plans at Winnall, St Peter's, All Saints, Harestock and Western primary schools.

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



A new classroom for Year 2 students at St Mary's School in Twyford was recently opened by Steve Brine

## Ways to contact your local MP

ONLINE ACCESS

**EMAIL** [steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk)

**PHONE** 01962 791110 or 020 7219 7189

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

**WEB APP** Load [stevebrine.com](http://stevebrine.com) on your phone



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