

Naomi House feels the crunch

£5.7m worth of deposits at risk with the British based Icelandic bank

Update from Prospective Winchester MP, Steve Brine and your local Conservative team



Khalid Aziz (Chairman of the Trust which runs Naomi House) with City Council leader George Beckett, Cllr Barry Lipscomb and Prospective MP Steve Brine at the Foundation Stone Ceremony for Jack's Place on Monday. This new facility will provide ongoing care for young people with life-limiting illnesses and become the first of its kind in our region. More info and donations www.naomihouse.org.uk

Prospective Winchester MP Steve Brine is stepping up the pressure on Ministers to rescue millions of pounds belonging to the Children's Hospice, Naomi House.

The charity had invaluable funds lodged with the institution at the heart of the Icelandic banking meltdown. They are now trying to retrieve the money and are receiving support from across the local community.

The subject was raised when BBC Radio 4's Any Questions was broadcast live from Henry Beaufort School last Friday evening. Putting the keynote question, local Winchester City Councillor Barry Lipscomb asked Deputy Labour leader, Harriet Harman, what could be done to protect charities in the position of Naomi House. "We will do everything we can to help the charities. It's not their fault, and we want to do everything we can to

ensure the people who rely on their services do not lose out," she said. Speaking privately afterwards with Barry about Naomi House, Ms Harman said that she would speak urgently with her Cabinet colleagues about the situation.

Steve Brine told The Observer he had chance to speak with the Minister and lobby on behalf of Naomi House. He added; "I was grateful to speak personally with a member of the Cabinet. I am also in regular contact with my colleagues in the Shadow Cabinet, including Oliver Letwin who was himself one of the guests on the Any Questions panel, to put pressure on the Government.

"This is a cross-community, non-partisan campaign because at the end of the day £5.7m means the world to Naomi House and the families it serves. The Government simply must act."

Steve Brine has created a petition on the No.10 Downing Street website – you can show your support and sign it now via www.stevebrine.com

A trip to the shops . . . Just got safer!

Conservative councils work together to finally secure £2m project.

A major scheme to repave Winchester High Street has been given the green light.

Hampshire County Council has joined forces with Winchester City and will repave the entire pedestrian area, making it safer for residents and visitors alike. Council bosses say it will improve the look of England's ancient capital city and give us a High Street to be proud of.

The two Conservative-led authorities have thrashed out a deal which involves digging up the existing High Street between Jewry Street and Middle Brook Street, and replacing it with York flagstone. Many side streets such as The Square, Parchment Street and Market Street will also be repaved when the scheme starts next year.

Prospective Winchester MP Steve Brine said; "This is a brilliant example of the two councils working together to improve our city centre. It is also excellent to hear that utility companies will be banned from digging up the pavement other than in an emergency for the first five years!"



County Council leader, Ken Thornber with Steve Brine (centre) and Leader of the City Council, George Beckett take a look at the work to be done in our High Street.

Help plan for energy bills



Steve Brine, the Prospective Winchester MP is backing a new plan to help less well-off Winchester residents with their energy bills.

The Conservatives have pledged to save and reform the Post Office Card Account so that families without bank accounts can benefit from the lower energy and water tariffs offered to customers who pay by direct debit.

Steve says; "It is totally unfair that many of the poorest households across Winchester end up paying more for their energy and water bills because they do not have bank accounts and cannot pay by direct debit. As always, it is the poorest who suffer most. These new Conservative proposals will help at a time when the cost of living is rising fast."

Steve Brine's campaign was recently featured in the Hampshire Chronicle

Tories call for PO card account changes

Westminster Tory hopeful Steve Brine thinks that his party might have something up its sleeve to help beleaguered post offices and low-income families.

The Conservative prospective parliamentary candidate for Winchester is calling for changes to the current Post Office card account. As it stands, it is designed to cater for low-income families without a bank account.

Mr Brine said the Conservatives wanted to see the system

Doorstep glass collection

Over 80 per cent of Winchester's household waste is now recycled – some of the highest levels in the country.

The Conservatives, who run the city council, are looking to do even better by investigating the viability of small-scale hydro-electric generation on the Itchen and DOORSTEP GLASS COLLECTION.

There are several sites that have potential for using the flow of the river to generate energy,



Local Conservative campaigner Robert Courts, in Fullood with Prospective Winchester MP, Steve Brine

including the City Council's own Abbey Mill and the National Trust's City Mill. "These are being assessed to make sure that the benefits will outweigh the costs", a spokesman said.

"Similarly, the introduction of glass collection on the doorstep has many attractions, making it simpler for residents to reduce waste. The study will determine what would need to be done to introduce this scheme in a responsible and prudent way."



Continued concern over new Post Office in town



Lizette Bennett is one Post Office customer unhappy with the access arrangement. Pictured here with Steve Brine she says; "I just cannot walk into the Post Office and stand in the often long queues; and they have now made it extremely difficult for motorized scooter users such as myself to go in there! It has inevitably led to me using the Post Office less and less."

Local residents have expressed dismay at the way Winchester's new Central Post Office in WH Smith is working out.

Many users are reporting longer queues than before and staff shortages seem to be making the situation worse. Local councillor, Ian Tait says; "There is genuine anger about this move which has pretty

much panned out as so many people predicted. The queues are horrendous – I dread to think what it will be like at Christmas! The other point is the effect this is having on local businesses, many of whom are starting to find the delays are costing them money at the very time they can least afford it."

Conservatives in the city are continuing to meet with Post Office chiefs to relay residents' concerns. More at – www.stevebrine.com

An extract from an edition of The Hampshire Chronicle, August 2008.

PO queues are costing us money, say firms. Relocated services face new complaints

Businesses are shunning Winchester's new post office to avoid long queues. Some are now using other branches - in one case as far away as Wickham - because they say the delays are costing them money. They are also upset that some post office counters in WH Smith are not being fully staffed.

Royal Mail has admitted that it can be busy at times, but insists that it has enough employees

some traders disagree, including Robert Brown. He is joint proprietor of the Winchester Book Shop in St George's Street, which is 50 yards from WH Smith. He said: "It's almost right next to us, but time is money and I can't afford to stand in a queue for half-an-hour. "I used to post my books in the morning at the main post office, but now I tend to use the one near the Westgate or in Weeke on my way to work."

A new station car park?

South West Trains has unveiled plans for a multi-million pound new car park on land near the railway station. It is proposed to build a three-storey 384-space facility on land between the railway and Andover Road which is currently a 'surface' car park with 182 spaces. The man hoping to be Winchester's next MP is Steve

Brine; "I spent a period commuting from Winchester to London but Susie and I lived in Fullood at the time so station parking wasn't an issue. But we are all aware of the parking problems at Winchester Station and the stress it can cause when you have to catch a specific train and you cannot park the car."

SWT's proposal will be highly controversial. Are environmental campaigners right to oppose the scheme or will the new car park stop drivers circling the city – burning fuel – to find a space? Do you commute every day and need this new car park for your sanity? What do you think?

Name: _____ Tel No: _____
Email: _____

I think the new car park is a [] good idea – [] bad idea

You can also have your say via www.stevebrine.com Please return to: Steve Brine, The Coach House, Worthy Park, Abbots Worthy, Winchester. SO21 1AN



Winchester Railway Station



Maasai visit All Saints'

It's not every day that a group of Maasai warriors comes to a Winchester church to sing and dance!

But that's exactly what happened at All Saints' Church in Petersfield Road, Highcliffe recently as part of an open evening and a 'Question Time' style event with city politicians and local clergy.

The warriors from Kenya are on a two-month tour of Britain. Prospective Conservative MP Steve Brine was invited to sit on the panel and said afterwards; "It was fascinating and definitely one of the more unusual evenings I have had so far doing this job. Our cultures are clearly very different but there are certainly things we can learn from their way of life."

Phone mast surge

City Conservatives have joined with residents to rally against plans for a series of new phone masts.



They have pledged to fight Vodafone schemes at Abbotts Barton, Badger Farm, and Weeke, which will come before planners at the city council in a few weeks' time. There is also an application before the Trustees of St Cross from O2 for a mobile phone antenna on top of the Grade 1-listed church of St Cross Hospital. It has attracted a local petition from some 140 local people.

STOP! Mr Postman

Prospective Conservative MP Steve Brine has been busy lately handling constituent concerns about changes to their local postal service.

Residents in the villages of Easton and Martyr Worthy were horrified to hear their postman of 20 years service was being moved without notice. Steve Brine took up their case, met with Royal Mail bosses at Winnall and Robert Paddington (pictured) was able to get back on his bike!

Do you have experiences you would like to publicise about your postman/postwoman?

Are you worried about the timing and reliability of your mail delivery at the moment?

Get in touch with Steve – www.stevebrine.com or 01962 762023



Steve and postman Robert

Pothole busters



Did you know? Conservative-led Hampshire County Council has put £1m into a new team tasked with fixing pot holes on local roads.

Winchester City Councillor Ian Tait said; "Another positive decision from HCC who are clearly responding to what Winchester people have been telling them!"

Do you have a job for the Pothole Busters?
Call 0845 603 5633.

The venue they couldn't hang!

This time last year you could have been forgiven for thinking Winchester's Tower Arts Centre was closing its doors for good.

As we all know, the much loved Romsey Road arts venue went through a change of ownership from Hampshire County Council to Kings School; where it now resides under the management of local promoter, Ben Ward. Prospective Winchester MP Steve Brine says; "A great



Mitch Benn and the distractions, one of the country's leading musical satirists who sold out at The Tower earlier this month

amount of heartfelt campaigning went on last year and in the end we were successful in protecting the Tower's future and most importantly of all, programmes such as the Blue Apple Theatre and TAPAS. It might not be perfect but The Tower is still here serving the community." The Tower has unveiled its' Autumn 2008 programme and it looks stronger than ever - just goes to show things are not always what they seem! You can visit the Tower online www.towerarts.co.uk or find them on Romsey Road, Winchester.

Conservative policies to help YOU with the rising cost of living!



Steve Brine – Prospective Conservative MP for Winchester pictured with David Cameron – says it’s time the Government tightened its belt like the rest of the country.

Conservatives will slash wasteful spending on Government advertising and expensive private sector consultants – and with the co-operation of local councils – use the money to freeze council tax bills.

But there is more we can do ...

HELP AT THE PUMPS – we will introduce a Fair

Fuel Stabiliser so when fuel prices go up, fuel duty would fall.

HELP FOR FAMILIES – as we save money on welfare bills that are out of control, we will abolish Labour’s couple penalty in the tax credits system – giving 1.8 million couples an extra £2,000 a year.

HELP FOR FIRST-TIME BUYERS – we will permanently abolish Stamp Duty for first-time buyers on purchases up to £250,000 – nine out of ten first-time buyers will pay no Stamp Duty at all, saving an average of £2,000 each.

HELP WITH YOUR BILLS – we will cut the energy and gas bills of millions by reforming Post Office Card Accounts to allows those without bank accounts to access cheaper tariffs (see more page 2).

Steve’s 5-minute survey

Everyone’s leading busy lives nowadays – but we hope you can take 5 to tell Steve what you think!

Your views on the economy:

Are you worried about your job at the moment?
Yes No Other _____

Do you things will get better/worse/stay the same over the next 18 months?
Worse Better Stay the same

Your views on the local NHS:

Are you happy with the local hospital?
Yes No Fortunately no experience

Are you satisfied with your local GP surgery?
Yes No Unsure

Your views on crime:

Is tackling low level vandalism and anti-social behaviour important to you?
Yes No Unsure
Do you think local police officers are visible and available when called?
Yes No Unsure

When Winchester next votes at a General Election, who do you think you will support as Prime Minister of our country?

Gordon Brown, Labour David Cameron, Conservatives
Caroline Lucas, Green Nick Clegg, Liberal Party

Name:
Address:

Mobile / Tel:
Email:

Data protection act: The information you supply us with will be treated by the Conservative Party in the strictest confidence in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and will not be passed on to any third party . From time to time we may contact you with further details of Party policy. By giving us your email address you are agreeing to receive communications and information from us. We will not pass your personal details to third-parties without your consent. If you DO NOT wish to have your data stored by the Conservative Party, please mark a cross in this box

Thank you for your time

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED SURVEY TO: Steve Brine, Prospective Conservative MP, c/o The Coach House, Worthy Park, Winchester, SO21 1AN

New Government? New MP?

At the next election, Winchester will have a clear choice – a fresh new Conservative Government led by David Cameron or five more years of Gordon Brown and the Labour Party.

It will be close here in Winchester - and whatever the polls say - in the country as a whole. If Winchester wants positive change, we are going to have to vote for it.

Local family man Steve Brine is standing for the Conservatives. He lives locally with his wife Susie and baby daughter, Emily who was born at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital last November.

4 ways to contact Steve Brine

✉ Write:
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SO21 1AN

☎ Telephone:
01962 762023

✉ Email via:
www.stevebrine.com

✉ Text:
07517 225 842

