

WINCHESTER POST



A 100% positive publication produced at no cost to the taxpayer by local Conservative MP Steve Brine and the team. It is delivered by volunteers across the City of Winchester, Kings Worthy, Alresford and surrounding villages.



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Could 2019 be the year your school makes the trip to the heart of our democracy?

PRIORITY NHS REMAINS SIGNIFICANT FUNDING BOOST FOR LOCAL HOSPITAL TO BENEFIT CONSTITUENTS

Local MP Steve Brine has welcomed new money for our hospital after the Royal Hampshire County received millions of pounds for big improvements to the Romsey Road site.

Steve says; "Every area values its local hospital and that is certainly true in Winchester.

"Of course, no hospital can stand still and reflect on past glories and I have always worked – including as a strong voice inside Government - to ensure it retains safe and sustainable services for the long-term. The past 12-months has brought welcome news in this regard with millions of pounds in new investment secured.

"Just before Christmas I took a tour of what will soon be an extended emergency department creating space for additional rapid assessment and treatment areas, as well as a new paediatric assessment unit. You may remember, the way the ED treats children was criticised in a recent CQC report.

"This has been made possible thanks to £4million in capital funding from Government and it is really excellent to see this work taking shape and the headline figures of record NHS investment translated on the ground.

"The emergency department in Winchester has needed this for years and I hope it sends a clear signal to patients, staff and those who may come and work here, that this is a hospital with a bright future.

"Furthermore, our Trust has been awarded £10.2million of additional funding which will be used to make improvements to the pharmacy and orthopaedic departments; reducing the time we have to wait for operations such as hip replacements and moving the pharmacy at Winchester to a new modern location.

"Hospital pharmacy is often the quiet hero of the acute sector and having very recently visited the current location myself, I know how much this move is needed."

More: www.stevebrine.com/prioritynhs



Pictured; Steve chatting recently with staff at the RHCH and, below, flashback to the first ever Winchester Post in 2007.

NEWS IN BRIEF

ROAD BUDGET GOOD NEWS

Steve Brine has welcomed the additional £420m now available to English local authorities to spend on road maintenance, particularly with the problems caused by potholes after last winter's weather.

He says; "Councils have been working hard to streamline the process for identifying maintenance and authorising work on small repair jobs, and I am delighted local authorities including Hampshire will receive these funds quickly with no burdensome admin or application process."

HEALTH TO THE FORE!

Local MP Steve Brine has been working cross-party to promote the benefits of golf as part of a healthy lifestyle.



After addressing a major sport and health conference in central London (pictured) Steve chaired a Question Time event in the House of Commons including R&A Chief Martin Slumbers and professional golfer Annika Sörenstam. Find out more about the incredible Golf & Health project at www.stevebrine.com/golfandhealth

DEFENCE BUDGET INCREASE

The Defence budget will receive an additional £1 billion this year and next; a move Steve Brine said was "justified by the intensified threats we face in a more complex and unpredictable world."



Steve hosts a group from Worthy Down's Army School of Education in Parliament.

With more state-based threats, insurgent terrorism, technological and geopolitical instability, the MP said that the character of warfare is constantly changing, with cyber-attacks, fake news, nerve agents and assassinations. "Our Armed Forces must have the capabilities they need to protect us at home and abroad", he added.

WATCH PMQs

Steve Brine has once again thrown open his allocation of tickets to constituents via ballot and is inviting entries for Wednesday 13th March 2019. You can find out more and make sure you're entered into the ballot via www.stevebrine.com/PMQs or by calling 01962 791110.

Westminster Report

YOU CAN SEE MORE OF STEVE'S WORK VIA WWW.STEVEBRINE.COM/WESTMINSTER

BRITAIN AGAINST CANCER



Working in his role as Public Health Minister, Steve Brine attended the annual Britain Against Cancer conference just before Christmas. He met with a wide range of cancer charities and patient advocates and spoke to the media about the Government's ambition in the NHS long-term plan to diagnose 75% of cancers at stage one or two. See more and watch a short-film at www.stevebrine.com/britainagainstcancer

Visit my constantly updated BREXIT pages here

www.stevebrine.com/brexit

Things continue to move fast in the Brexit story so Steve's special pages online remain the best place to stay updated on the very latest from our MP.

He tells *The Winchester Post*; "As is well known locally, I voted Remain but the national result disagreed. I regret that but I respect it."

"My view is that politics is the art of the possible and Brexit was always going to be a compromise. You cannot leave the club and have the exact same benefits which is why I think a negotiated exit, which gives continuity for Britain's manufacturers while ensuring a smooth transition to a new future for everything else, is where we should be."

WASTE – REDUCE, REUSE & RECYCLE

Local Conservatives have welcomed the announcement that gives the UK its first comprehensive update of the Resources and Waste Strategy in more than a decade.



A spokesman said; "Our new strategy will cut our reliance on single-use plastics, end confusion over household recycling, tackle the problem of packaging by making polluters pay and end the economic, environmental and moral scandal that is food waste. Together we can move away from being a 'throw-away' society so that we can leave our environment in a better state for our children."

The plan will legally ensure that businesses and manufacturers pay the full cost of recycling or disposing of their packaging waste – up from just 10% now, and calls on producers to take more responsibility for items that can be harder or costly to recycle including cars, electrical goods and batteries. www.greenwinchester.com

LANDMARK STRATEGY TO ELIMINATE AVOIDABLE WASTE

Conservatives

VISITING WESTMINSTER



www.stevebrine.com/visitingwestminster

Local schools and organisations continue to visit Parliament and groups from Kings' School, Sparsholt Primary School (pictured) and Alresford Girl Guides, as well as Peter Symonds have made the trip recently. As well as getting a tour of Parliament they met up with Steve Brine for a Q&A session.

FRIDAY NIGHT FEAST

Steve Brine appeared as a guest on Jamie Oliver's Channel 4 Show over the Christmas holiday period. Our MP popped up in the café on Southend Pier as part of Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast to chat with the lads about health and their #Nutrition4Medics campaign. See more at www.stevebrine.com/jamieandjimmy



STEVE HOSTS PUBLIC MEETING ON LOCAL RAIL SERVICE

Local MP Steve Brine held a public meeting at the end of January where train users were able to speak directly with the heads of SWR and Network Rail.

The meeting came after the MP publically decried the latest fares rise, and his criticism of SWR after a poor start to their franchise, which began in August 2017.

He slammed planned 3.1% rail fares increases on SWR trains in the New Year and called on the company to halt the rise, saying; "The Government caps fare rises at no more than inflation but, even at this level, there is no question in my mind these increases should not go ahead this year.

"My commuting constituents, of which I am one of course, are at the end of our tether with a worsening service, a failing refund system and patchy customer service when things do go wrong.

"We are told year after year we need these rises to improve the service but the exact same opposite seems to be happening. Rising costs and union demands for big pay rises are swallowing up fare rises and it's time we stood up and said enough is enough.

"More broadly, I've been working cross-party on our local rail service for years, and I think we all appreciated the chance to air the many issues."

Cllr Rose Burns, who represents part of the city centre, added; "I stand full-square with Steve as he fights for an improvement to the service which so many local people rely on to get to work."

More: www.stevebrine.com/trains



Steve Brine MP on his commute to Westminster and, inset, discussing the challenges with Cllr Rose Burns.

AIR CLEANING BUS CYCLE WINCHESTER

Steve Brine met with bosses from Bluestar in the New Year to discuss the local bus operator's efforts to reduce harmful emissions across the region.

Managing Director Andrew Wickham was keen to tell the MP more about a unique air filtering bus they are trialing.

Steve said: "This is the first time a filter

of this type has been used in this way anywhere in the world - and it could have a wide-ranging impact on the air quality here. As the bus follows its route,



the filter sucks in air and removes harmful particles, before sending the air back out again."

Andrew Wickham added: "We're proud to be the first bus company using this special air filter which could have a crucial impact on air quality."



Cllr Jan Warwick from WCC joins Steve and Andrew at Winchester Bus Station.

Last year, Steve Brine helped launch a fantastic local cycling initiative and we are delighted to see it going from strength to strength.

Cycle Winchester was founded after a public meeting back in 2017, attended by 100 people, who showed great enthusiasm for "Making Winchester better by bike".



More: www.cyclewinchester.org.uk

It demonstrated how many people really want to cycle in Winchester, but also some of the issues that deter people from cycling.

The group held its second cycle train in the city centre just before Christmas.

CHILDREN'S A&E CAMPAIGN TARGET

A major fundraising campaign seeking to raise £2m for a children's emergency and trauma department at University Hospital Southampton has been completed ahead of schedule.

The push for the department, based at Southampton General Hospital, started in 2016 with the backing of then chancellor George Osborne, who was successfully lobbied

by Winchester MP Steve Brine to match-fund the money raised locally to build the facility.

The money was raised through the Southampton Hospital Charity and The Murray Parish Trust, which was founded by Steve's constituents, actors Sarah Parish and James Murray who lost their daughter, Ella-Jayne, to a congenital heart defect in 2009.

The total cost is £5.1m, made up of £1.1m which has been allocated by University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust, £2m from local fundraising and £2m from the Government.

Steve said: "Many congratulations to everyone involved. We've come a long way from 'Say Yes George' - and he did!"

More: www.stevebrine.com/childrensED



Here, as the campaign is launched, and there, as George Osborne listens to Steve making the case for match funding in 2016.

NEWS IN BRIEF

SECOND PRAYER BREAKFAST

The second Winchester Civic Prayer Breakfast was held before Christmas with a host of local organisations and city leaders - as well as MP Steve Brine - attending.

The event, hosted at the Guildhall, was organised by Churches Together Winchester, who promote unity and co-operation amongst Christian churches in Winchester and the surrounding district. The prayer breakfast was aimed at drawing together those in business, retail and the wider community to participate in a discussion on the perceived needs of Winchester city. More: www.stevebrine.com/prayerbreakfast

FIRST BITE IS THE DEEPEST

Our MP visited FirstBite in November, a local not-for-profit social enterprise which uses surplus food that would otherwise be wasted to feed a range of guests including mums and tots, local workers, the homeless, the elderly and passing tourists.



Run in partnership with St Peter's Catholic Church, the weekly café welcomes around 60 diners each Thursday lunchtime. Steve Brine said: "I was delighted to be able to pop down to the café and speak to the team and their happy customers." More: www.stevebrine.com/firstbite

NO TO NEW TOWN!

Steve Brine and local councillors continue to work with the Dever Society and residents as they reiterate their opposition to a proposed new town at Micheldever Station.

The wealthy Magnier family have proposed a 6000 house new town on the edge of the village, and campaigners are lobbying Winchester City Council to rule out the scheme.

Steve said: "WCC have to follow the process of course, as required by law, and they are very aware of the strength of opposition to these rehashed plans which first emerged decades ago. We won't be giving up." More: www.stevebrine.com/michnewtown

AIRPORT PLANS FOR THE FUTURE



Our MP met with bosses from Southampton airport in the autumn, as they briefed him on their plans to extend the runway, routes and improve the passenger terminal in the coming years.

Steve Brine says; "I want this to be an opportunity for residents across Otterbourne and the wider Downlands district to be able to have meaningful input as the airport, which is undoubtedly very important for our local economy, looks to develop. We must avoid a repeat of last time when the airport expanded and Winchester views were not heard." More: www.southamptonairport.com

NEWS IN BRIEF

B.A.B.I.E.S FUN DAY

Steve and his family visited a family fun day organised by the local NCT to raise funds for the B.A.B.I.E.S breast-feeding support group.

The team have supported over 250 local families over the last year, and is purely run on fundraising. Steve said: "We will always support the BABIES breast-feeding charity and the Winchester & District NCT because they are in so many ways part of the strength of our community."

CONSERVATIVES FREEZE CITY COUNCIL TAX

There will be more money in the pockets of residents as Winchester Conservatives' sound financial management pays off. Households across the district will be better off this coming year after Conservative controlled Winchester City Council said no to raising its council tax.



The strong team running WCC; Guy Ashton and leader Caroline Horrill.

"The good news has been made possible because of the good financial management by Conservatives who have looked after the pennies so residents can look after their pounds," said Guy Ashton, the councillor in charge of finance. "We believe local people should keep their hard-earned money and that the city council should find ways of being more efficient rather than just relying on putting up taxes."

WELCOME FUNDING FOR SEND

Hampshire County Council is set to receive an extra £6 million from the government over the next two years for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Steve Brine said; "I know that HCC is currently meeting the needs of more than 9,000 SEND children to help them achieve good educational outcomes and have a positive learning experience.

"In addition, over recent years there has been a 60% increase in children with SEND who require additional provision so I am very pleased to welcome this additional Government investment."

WINCHESTER YOUTH FC

Steve dropped into Chilcomb last month to visit successful local club, Winchester Youth FC.



It was a busy Saturday morning of training as Steve chatted with Chairman Ken Raisbeck and Secretary John McLaren (pictured) about the club, its relationship with Chelsea Football Club Foundation and plans for the future.

Steve said; "As a footy dad myself with William, I have some idea how much hard work goes into running a club like this and know well how much it's appreciated by the boys and parents. It was good to visit and chat with them about the future of Chilcomb and will be following up with various colleagues at WCC."



ANNIE BACKING ALRESFORD



Alresford campaigner Annie Saunders is focused on supporting independent shops in the town.

She says; "The local shops here in Alresford really add to the

vibrancy of the town - so let's support them. The Government has recently cut Business Rates for small retailers, pubs and restaurants and our free on-street parking attracts shoppers to Alresford so I am determined that we keep it that way as we continue to pull people to our pretty community. I also welcome the new public car park due to be built at the top of the Dean."

DOORSTEP GLASS ARRIVES

Conservative run Winchester City Council will collect glass from local doorsteps later this year in a popular move to help protect the environment.

The free scheme aims to improve recycling rates and make the district a greener place while ending trips to the bottle bank.

Cllr Jan Warwick, the councillor in charge of waste collection, said; "Residents told us loud and clear they wanted to be able to put their glass outside their homes for collection, we listened and we're proud to be introducing this scheme.

"There will be

much less glass going to landfill and this helps our environment and our recycling goals. Kerbside glass collection is a win/win for everyone."

Steve Brine added; "This is fantastic news and really fits in with the government's work in this area and our Green Winchester agenda locally."

STANMORE



Bailey Close - delivered! The City Council is proud to have delivered an excellent development of 5 new one bed affordable flats in Stanmore. Built to a very high standard, the homes are now being occupied with the reaction of the new residents being really positive. Local Councillor Jamie Scott, pictured with Steve Brine and WCC leader Caroline Horrill, has pushed hard over many years for more homes for Stanmore families and his efforts are now paying dividends.

LOCAL DIABETES TALK

Steve Brine spoke to the Winchester and Eastleigh Diabetes UK Support Group in the autumn, where he spoke about the importance of prevention, as well as taking questions about the national diabetes prevention programme.



The group relaunched two years ago with the aim of providing support and information to those affected by diabetes locally.

It runs awareness and fundraising events with a number of free events each year with speakers covering topics such as diet, exercise or advances in treatment.

SCHOOL COUNCIL CHAT WITH MP

Local MP Steve Brine recently paid a visit to Itchen Abbas Primary School to chat with the Headteacher and spend time meeting the school council.



The school is one of the smallest in our constituency and the MP wanted to discuss school funding and many of the challenges faced by small rural schools with Head Aimee Dear.

After that (pictured) he met with this year's school council, made up of children from across the year groups, to answer their questions and hear about their plans for the year ahead.

Ways to contact your local MP

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