



Steve Brine's CHANDLER'S FORD POST

Another positive publication from local MP Steve Brine and the team produced at no cost to the taxpayer. It is delivered across Chandler's Ford, Hiltingbury and Millers Dale.

A Green Winchester Publication, printed on paper from sustainable forests.

COST OF LIVING

Chandler's Ford MP, Steve Brine, has welcomed a multi-billion pound intervention by the Chancellor to help local families with the rising cost of living.

Steve says; "As the UK economy continues its recovery from the pandemic, we must confront the global inflationary pressures caused by the world economy coming swiftly back to life. Much of this inflation is being driven by the rising cost of energy due to increased demand worldwide – and that feeds through into pressures on the cost of living."

Rishi Sunak has already taken steps; reducing the Universal Credit taper rate, increasing the National Living Wage, freezing fuel duty for the twelfth year in a row, and launching a £500 million Household Support Fund to help the lowest-income households with their

bills. But now we can go further as the cost of living 'checklist' shows.

Why a VAT cut isn't the right approach?

Our approach gets more help to those who need it most – and faster. Reducing VAT would not be targeted and would benefit the wealthy households in our country. That is not progressive!

Steve adds; "We are investing billions to help improve energy efficiency in homes but we need to go further which is why I am pressing Ministers to find a successor scheme to the failed Green Homes Grant."

More: stevebrine.com/news

TACKLING THE COST OF LIVING

Energy Bills Rebate

Giving millions of households a rebate of £350

Minimum wage increased

A boost of over £1,000 per year

UC taper reduced

Extra £1,000 for 2 million families

Fuel duty frozen

Helping keep running costs down

License fee frozen

Frozen at £159, halting a rise to £180

Way to work programme

Supporting 500,000 jobseekers into work

Growing the economy

With the fastest growth in the G7



LITTLE LITTER PICKERS

Steve Brine is backing a special campaign to help children from a Chandler's Ford primary school launch their new green project.

Parents from Chandler's Ford Infant School contacted the MP as they rally support for the children's 'eco-helpers' project. It aims to educate pupils about litter whilst also cleaning up their local environment, but they need new equipment to get started safely. Speaking about the fundraising push, one said; "We tried so hard to keep fundraising

in the pandemic, but we've obviously not raised as much as in past years."

Steve adds; "This is a brilliant local project, and it deserves our support which is why I wanted to come and meet the team as well as their supportive headteacher, Mrs Strong."

You can find out more and help the eco-helpers at chandlersford-inf.hants.sch.uk

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NEWS IN BRIEF

PRIORITY NHS

POP-UP COVID JABS

A number of walk-in Covid vaccination centres have come online recently after an energetic campaign from local MP Steve Brine.

Pharmacy 2U have teamed up with the NHS on the Park & Ride site south of Winchester to add to the open access clinic at Badger Farm Community Centre with another hopefully to follow in Winchester City Centre. Steve says; "We may have very high vaccination rates in Hampshire but we need to make it as easy as possible for those who don't find it easy to access services." **More: stevebrine.com/prioritynhs**

CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY

Steve Brine joined former Havant MP, Lord Willetts, to cut the ribbon on an innovative new manufacturing business based in Chandler's Ford.

Ilika are pioneers in solid-state battery technology and asked Steve to officially open their new site on the Chandler's Ford Industrial Estate. **More: ilika.com**



DHL CHANDLER'S FORD

A successful global logistics business is thriving here in Chandler's Ford.

Local MP, Steve Brine, will shortly visit DHL at their parcel facility in Electron Way which opened in November 2020 following a £7.5million investment in the site, employing 56 people. He says; "DHL are supporting the UK's trading ambitions as part of Global Britain and delivering for customers in my constituency managing some 20,000 parcels every day." **More: stevebrine.com/backingbusiness**



SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

South Western Railway are returning train services to our area after announcing temporary cuts in January when Omicron hit.

Local MP, Steve Brine, took up the campaign after being contacted by a number of commuters living in villages including Micheldever and Shawford. Steve says; "These service reductions had real life impact and, for some parents, meant the difference between seeing their young children or not during the working week. I think we all, me included as a commuter myself, welcome SWR returning things to something more like normal, but we must stay vigilant."



EARLY YEARS

Steve's work as chair of the all-party group on childcare and early education has had a busy couple of months. Our MP led a special debate on the "role of early years educators" where he unveiled a new campaign - parity in pay with reception year teachers. Steve has been working closely with local nurseries and leaders to ensure the concerns of the sector continue to have a strong voice in Parliament. **More: stevebrine.com/schools**



BBC LICENCE FEE

As the Government announced its intention to reassess the BBC licence fee, Winchester and Chandler's Ford MP has been at the forefront of the debate and scrutiny of it. As a member of the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee, Steve's interest in the decision comes off the back of the committee's report into the future of public service broadcasting from last year. **More: stevebrine.com/DCMS**



February saw the welcome return, after an enforced Covid break, of the constituency Business Breakfast.

The event organised primarily by Hampshire Chamber of Commerce heard from Winchester & Chandler's Ford MP, Steve Brine, who spoke on a wide range of local and national subjects including levelling up, Ukraine, business rates, Boris Johnson and the future of our NHS. It was held at the Winchester Royal Hotel. Steve is pictured on his feet at the event and, inset, at the Fryern Arcade where he often spends time catching-up with local businesses and residents. **More: stevebrine.com/backingbusinesses**

BREAST CANCER BILL

Steve Brine will, this Spring, return to a subject close to many peoples' hearts when he introduces a new Bill in Parliament. He will focus on the early diagnosis of breast cancer after news that half of women in England with potential symptoms were not seen by a specialist within two weeks of referral in December. **More: stevebrine.com/breastcancer**



SCHOOL VISITS ARE BACK!

With physical school visits returning to the House of Commons, now is the time to get booked in. Steve says; "I made sure constituency schools didn't miss out during Covid, hosting numerous zoom Q&A sessions including for St Peters, Perins and Itchen Abbas. Many have also received a virtual tour of Parliament and the Education Centre, but it's time to go old school and get back on the bus!" Any school within the constituency can find out how they can visit at: **stevebrine.com/school-and-college-visits**



ASK THE MINISTER

This Spring will see a very special edition of Steve Brine's long running series of public meetings.

Constituents may remember various ASKtheNHS meetings, including one last year around the future of the RHCH in Winchester. Next he plans to hold an ASKtheMINISTER session with COP26 President, Alok Sharma.

Speaking about the event, which will take place on the evening of **Thursday 7th April**, Steve said; "Alok was front and centre of the COP global summit last year and is a great friend. This meeting will give people from across Winchester and Chandler's Ford the chance to put their climate and environment questions to the sitting COP President."

Full details will be confirmed on Steve's social media pages, and in the local press. You can register your interest via **stevebrine.com/askseries**



Westminster Report

MORE AT STEVEBRINE.COM/WESTMINSTER



ARMED FORCES PARLIAMENTARY SCHEME

Since the late 1980's the AFPS has given members of Parliament a chance to experience the work of army, navy and RAF personnel up close. This year, in a move that could hardly be more timely, Steve Brine is part of the army programme to better inform his work as our MP in Parliament. **More: stevebrine.com/AFPS**



MP LEADS HIV/AIDS GROUP

Following his work on the 'HIV Commission' in recent years, Steve has stepped into a new role as one of the co-chairs of the All-Party Group for HIV and AIDS. One of his first tasks was to bring two leading HIV charities, National Aids Trust and the Terrence Higgins Trust, to Parliament for a meeting with the Secretary of State for Health, Sajid Javid MP.



HAMPSHIRE MPs COME TOGETHER

Members of Parliament from across the county met with Police and Crime Commissioner, Donna Jones, and Chief Constable, Olivia Pinkney, recently. Steve Brine was among those who used the opportunity to voice constituent concerns regarding local crime issues including an increase in night-time theft from garages and sheds and noisy vehicles on local roads. **More: stevebrine.com/police**



DCMS COMMITTEE

The work of the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee continues with important sessions on influencer culture, the Online Harms Bill and most notably racism in cricket. Steve Brine has been at the heart of the committee's work as they investigate governance and racism at Yorkshire Cricket Club, hearing from Azeem Rafiq in a high-profile session at the end of last year. The Committee has upcoming inquires and sessions on the National Lottery, the sustainability of local journalism and plans to visit South Korea in the Spring as part of its Promoting Britain Abroad inquiry. **More: stevebrine.com/DCMS**

Even more NEWS IN BRIEF

SIGN LANGUAGE BILL

A landmark new bill which seeks to make British Sign Language a legally recognised language in the UK is making its way through Parliament.

West Lancashire MP Rosie Cooper has brought forward Private Member's Bill, backed by Steve Brine, which has Government support, meaning it should become law. BSL becoming an official language will mean many deaf people will be able to access essential information and services in their first language.

NEW DOWN SYNDROME LAW STEPS FORWARD

A new law focused on people with Down Syndrome is being brought forward by Dr Liam Fox MP and it is being backed by our local MP.

The Private Member's Bill, campaigned for by Winchester's Tommy Jessop, seeks to ensure people with Down Syndrome will be legally recognised as a specific minority group. It will ensure councils and all public bodies are required to meet the specific needs of people with the condition.



MP LANDS WIN ON TEENAGE TRAVEL

Local MP, Steve Brine, has led a successful campaign to ease international travel with teenagers (12-15) as the world recovers from Covid.

Steve has repeatedly raised the difficulties of teenagers proving their vaccination status - and proof of recent infection - in the House of Commons after being contacted by constituents. He says; "This was great news for many of my constituents with half-term plans and of course those looking ahead to Easter."

SMART MOTORWAY SUSPENSION

Steve Brine has welcomed a pause on the rollout of 'smart motorways' following a recent Transport Select Committee report.

The MP says; "This was the right decision as we need more safety data, but it's clear these roads don't have public support. We should stop their build, including here on the M3."

More: stevebrine.com/transport



ASK THE AIRPORT

Many residents, in particular those living South of Winchester, have great interest in the future of Southampton International Airport.

This May, local MP Steve Brine will hold a special ASKtheAIRPORT open meeting with the team from SIA. Representatives from ACOG, who are currently working on airspace changes across the UK, will also attend.

Steve says; "Following high profile decisions in recent years around the expansion of our local airport, there is no better time for this session. It will be a chance for constituents to raise their concerns with the people who make the decisions."

The meeting will take place on the evening of **Thursday 19th May** - location to be confirmed nearer the time.

Visit stevebrine.com/askseries to register your interest now.



HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS

Steve Brine has welcomed news that the M3 Junction 9 Improvement plan is still on track for a 2026 completion date.

Our local MP met with the team (pictured) behind the project, at National Highways Easton Lane depot, recently and told *The Chandler's Ford Post*;

"I really appreciated the update and know they're working flat out to get this project off the drawing board.

"I was glad to hear of the many changes they've made to fully integrate walking and cycling around the new layout as well as to accommodate legitimate concerns around access off the new junction towards Kings Worthy."

Steve also discussed integration with the paused 'smart' motorway programme on the M3 and pressed the team to redouble efforts with Hampshire to address the nearby Cart & Horses junction when work begins.

SAFE SPACES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

A well-known local campaigner says it's her mission to get funding for safe spaces for all young people in Chandler's Ford – as the pandemic leaves its mark.

Shelagh Lee, who will stand for Borough Council this May, says young people have experienced so much over the past two years and not being able to socialise has hit many hard.

"Youth provision across Chandler's Ford is variable", she says. "Some areas have excellent provision whereas in other areas this provision is sparse. Parents don't want their children to walk long distances to access facilities, and so it is vital that all areas of Chandler's Ford have access to the same youth provision."

Join Shelagh's campaign at fb.com/chandlersfordlee



Shelagh Lee with local resident, James Foulds, at Fryern Recreation ground.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HILTINGBURY?



Parish Councillor Margaret Atkinson inspects yet another classic example of damage done to our verges.

Missed bin collections are becoming a regular event, leaving our rubbish a target for vermin. Roads and pavements are left un-swept, leaving gutters and drains blocked creating hazards for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

Former Borough Councillor, Margaret Atkinson, is on a mission to change this. She says; "Parking on pavements and verges, often ripping them up, is another thing we have to fix. Our taxes are not being spent well in Hiltingbury and that needs change."

Join Margaret at fb.com/MargaretforHiltingbury

SUPPORTING EDUCATION

MP Steve Brine made supporting local schools and colleges one of his top priorities from the moment he was elected and one of his first energetic campaigns secured much needed new primary school places in the constituency.

He is a long-term supporter of the f40 campaign which sought to level-up education funding – to the benefit of rural counties including Hampshire where per pupil funding is traditionally below many urban areas.

Recently, Steve has quizzed Ministers on the recruitment of school support staff after being contacted by local Headteachers. It is a major issue affecting SEND provision in schools across the area.

Our MP said there had been a big increase in need as more and more students obtain EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plans) but there remains a significant shortfall in personnel at LSA and TA level. He also shared a number of personal stories sent in by constituents in a recent debate about children's mental health services which he said increasingly left parents in 'despair'.

Steve regularly visits schools across the constituency and is now able to resume in-person visits. If you would like him to pop into your school, get in touch today.

More: stevebrine.com/schools



Steve recently took a politics lesson at Barton Peveril College in Eastleigh. Pictured with Principal Jonathan Prest, politics teacher Jan Vass and the class.

VISIT WESTMINSTER

After nearly two years of stop / start access to the Palace of Westminster due to Covid, the doors are finally open once again.

Constituents can contact Steve Brine for free weekday tours while schools can once again contact the Education Service and visit the centre of our democracy in person.

Steve Brine's popular PMQ ticket ballot is also back in action if you want to see the Wednesday head-to-head between Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition.

Visit stevebrine.com/PMQs to check dates and enter.

20'S PLENTY

Would you like to see 20mph zones in Chandler's Ford? Hampshire County Council has set up a group to review its policy and wants to hear from you!

Local Borough Councillor, Judith Grajewski, welcomes this review; "I'm keeping a close eye on this. Local speed data shows that most drivers stick to the 30mph limits, however some drivers are still driving too fast. I hope this review will show what positive actions can be taken to further improve road safety in Chandler's Ford".

More: fb.com/CllrJudithG



Cllr Judith Grajewski on a very wet day out and about.

AIR QUALITY



Steve Brine is joining parents at Hiltingbury Junior School to campaign for better air quality.

Concerns were raised with the Chandler's Ford MP, particularly in relation to pick-up and drop-off times when idling engines are an issue, prompting one local mum to say; "We should be encouraging our children to walk and cycle to school in a safe environment, this can tackle health problems as well."

Steve adds; "As a parent of a primary school aged child myself I get this. We raised it with the Headteacher who has been great and confirmed their pupil 'ECO' team will be reviewing the situation as one of their projects."

More: stevebrine.com/schools

Ways to contact Steve Brine MP

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