



Steve Brine's WINCHESTER POST

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

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

A VISION FOR WINCHESTER?

Growing unease as piecemeal change excludes residents and threatens local institutions.

Local MP, Steve Brine, has spoken out at what he called a lack of “joined up thinking” in Winchester as a series of major projects come to a head. Winchester City Council is juggling the future of the old River Park Leisure Centre site at the same time as Kings Walk is demanding new investment and the ‘Silver Hill’ regeneration scheme attempts (once again) to move forward.

Steve has, in recent weeks, called for a “pause for thought” on an exclusive deal WCC signed with Southampton University to explore the future use of the River Park site. Many residents have raised concerns about the lack of consultation before the decision was taken and that led to a successful legal challenge brought by the newly formed Friends of River Park.

Meanwhile, an explosion of support has greeted a campaign to keep the city’s skate park located at North Walls.

Steve says; “Winchester has got so much on its plate right now, recovering from the pandemic and attempting to make progress with Silver Hill which is, in itself, a growing concern for many as the council seem set to repeat the mistakes of the past and appoint a single developer for the site.”

He adds; “On River Park, clearly the site needs a plan - it’s an eyesore - but it should be one properly consulted on in a way which takes my constituents with it. More widely, I think many of us are increasingly concerned at how any of these major projects fit together – be that economic, cultural or educational – into a coherent vision for Winchester that doesn’t negatively impact existing institutions.”

“Time for WCC to pause for thought and be a lot more strategic.”

Join the conversation and see more of what our MP has to say at:
www.stevebrine.com/visionforwinchester



Happy Birthday! Steve with the team from Winchester Youth Counselling which marks twenty years as a charity in 2022.

Find them at winchesteryouthcounselling.org

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 £135, 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

COST OF LIVING

Winchester 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”.

More: www.stevebrine.com/news

Inside

■ PAGE TWO
Alok comes to town

■ PAGE TWO & THREE
Westminster Report

■ PAGE FOUR
Development focus

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**



LICORICIA IS BACK IN JEWRY STREET

THE Prince of Wales may not have made it but a host of dignitaries were in Winchester last month to unveil the statue of an important medieval Jewish figure after a long campaign from local people.

Licoricia was a leading community figure in the 13th century who lived and died in the city. Her statue now sits outside the ARC (formerly the Discovery Centre) on Jewry Street.



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's 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**

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**

BACKING LOCAL BUSINESS



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

The event organised by Hampshire Chamber and Winchester Business Improvement District (BiD) heard from local 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 in St Peter's Street. Steve is pictured on his feet at the event and, inset, on one of his regular walkabouts in town with Paul Spencer from the BiD. **More: stevebrine.com/backingbusinesses**



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**

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 Winchester 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.

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



RURAL SPEED

A popular Winchester City Councillor has spoken out against speeding in Winchester's rural communities and villages.

Councillor Sue Cook, who represents Colden Common and Twyford, has welcomed a review of the Hampshire road's network which will not only look at speeding and safety, but also issues of air quality.

Sue, who is an active member of the local SpeedWatch told *The Winchester Post*; "I think many residents would agree with me that the status quo on our rural roads is far from ideal and it's only a matter of time until we see a serious incident. We are working closely with volunteers, Hampshire Police and both councils to tackle this issue."



Cllr Sue Cook is pictured far left with the team in Twyford. **More: [www.fb.com/cllrsuecook](https://www.facebook.com/cllrsuecook)**

ANDOVER ROAD



A parish councillor from Kings Worthy is listening to residents on the future of Andover Road with a major survey covering Weeke, Harestock, Kings Barton and Kings Worthy.

Signe Biddle (pictured) led the push to better understand public perception of the possible future closure of Andover Road to through traffic.

Current proposals are for Andover Road North to permanently close and

for traffic to be routed on Winchester Avenue through the Kings Barton estate. Some have raised concerns about safety, traffic flow, congestion, and the environmental impact on the diversion routes. Signe says; "The survey was very successful, receiving over 800 responses; a significant percentage of respondents were in favour the Andover Road North remaining fully open to traffic. It's now over to councillors to make up their mind."

More: [fb.com/signebiddle](https://www.facebook.com/signebiddle)

SUPPORTING SCHOOLS

MP Steve Brine made supporting local schools 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 Winchester.

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, including Steve Jones of Perins School in Alresford. 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, touch today.

More: [stevebrine.com/schools](https://www.stevebrine.com/schools)



Steve with the dinner ladies, and Headteacher Jackie Sankey, at Harestock Primary School and with new Head at Twyford School, Andrew Harvey.

RENEWED NATURE RESERVE PUSH

An experienced councillor and energetic local campaigner have united to raise concerns over the protection of the green gap between Littleton and Harestock and repeat calls for a new nature reserve on nearby MoD land.

Liberal run Winchester City Council have two big decisions ahead of them in the area after they recently published their latest Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA). One parcel of land put up for development by the plan is the green gap between Littleton and Harestock which Prospective City Councillor, **Andy Lai**, says "must be protected from development".

And as the Ministry of Defence prepare to depart the Sir John Moore Barracks site, council chiefs have still refused to back a growing campaign to create a new nature reserve on 25 hectares of green space on the Flowerdown site. Conservative **Councillor Patrick Cunningham**, pictured with Mr Lai, is among those backing the plan.

More: [fb.com/AndyLaiWinchester](https://www.facebook.com/AndyLaiWinchester)
More: [fb.com/cllrpatrickcunningham](https://www.facebook.com/cllrpatrickcunningham)



COUNTRYSIDE THREAT



Fresh concerns have been raised by local campaigners in south Winchester over a possible 'Royaldown lite' development being on the table.

The Winchester Post has heard from **David Killeen**, who organised the Save South Winchester group and will stand for council this Spring, that the threat of Royaldown is back along with smaller developments such as Pittvale Farm.

David (pictured with Steve Brine MP) says; "I am urging Winchester City Council to get a grip and take a stand against developers and build the right quality and quantity of housing in the right place. It is vital that consultation happens at every stage with local communities and parish councils."

More: [fb.com/davidkilleenwinchester](https://www.facebook.com/davidkilleenwinchester)

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](https://www.stevebrine.com/PMQs) to check dates and enter.

Ways to contact Steve Brine MP

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