

How long can the Conservative Party ride high for?

By Graham Eardley, Chairman of UKIP Walsall

The main opposition parties met in the leader of the Opposition's office on Tuesday 27th August 2019 within the House of Commons, in order to thrash out a plan to stop a "No Deal" Brexit.

Quite how they will do this remains shrouded in mystery. But as the character Baldrick from the TV series Blackadder would say, they do have a cunning plan. Which could involve procuring the services of recent Conservative cabinet members who are also against a No Deal Brexit.

What we do know, however, is that Jeremy Corbyn's plans to call for a motion of no confidence in the government seem to have been shelved for now following the intervention of the new leader of the Liberal Democrats Jo Swinson, who objected to the initiative because this would see Jeremy Corbyn installed as a caretaker Prime Minister under Unity government.

This is despite the leader of the opposition moving towards the Liberal Democrat policy of having a second referendum. In fact, Ms. Swinson has stated publicly should the result of a second referendum be still to be a vote to leave the European Union she would not be willing to accept the result^[1]. At least Mr Corbyn, I believe, will not ignore the will of the British people should it come to the UK having to vote again.

Surprisingly Jo Swinson has suggested a number of names to take on the mantle of being the U.K.'s Prime Minister should the government be forced out before 31 October, including the name of Rt. Hon Kenneth Clarke MP, the former Conservative Cabinet Minister, who in recent weeks moved position from wanting wholeheartedly just stay in the European Union to that of an acceptance of a soft Brexit.

This is a somewhat confused position as Andrew Neil pointed out to him in a recent interview on the BBC's Politics Live show^[2], but still wide of the mark from where I would argue Ms Swinson's position is.

You would expect me to state that people of both Ms Swinson's and Mr Clarke's position should be that of acceptance that they have lost and they should let the government get on with the job of negotiating a fair deal for the United Kingdom.

I intend not to disappoint and reaffirm that in 2016 we were promised a referendum that the government would take as binding.

In fact, I would argue that any alliance amongst the opposition parties as witnessed on Tuesday, 27 August 2019 is very shaky and does in fact aid the government by its divisive nature, as by having a plethora of ideas and suggestions on how the UK remains within the European Union, they give the impression of being weak to the public.

At the moment, as witnessed by a recent opinion polls, the Conservative party is riding high and even the Brexit Party seem to be falling back despite the best efforts of its leadership in announcing that they are ready for General Election and that they will challenge Conservatives in order to force a No Deal Brexit.

In the same breath, they are offering an electoral pact with the Conservative Party, which some see as strange and a total dichotomy of thought.

I would suggest as we get closer to the Halloween date, and it becomes clearer that the Conservatives will have to go down the road of a No Deal Brexit, the Brexit Party could be finding themselves as irrelevant as my own Party – UKIP – as the same opinion polls show, unfortunately.

Notwithstanding this, numerous prospective parliamentary candidates for the Brexit Party have paid for the privilege of being a candidate for the Brexit Party and to be offered up to the Conservatives to have a free run in a seat might, I suggest, lead to my own party being a beneficiary – once UKIP can change appearance being less divided and to some people divisive.

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1158787/brexit-news-sky-latest-jo-swinson-liberal-democrats-second-referendum-corbyn-video>

[\[2\] https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1109814/Brexit-News-update-latest-Andrew-Neil-Ken-Clarke-BBC](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1109814/Brexit-News-update-latest-Andrew-Neil-Ken-Clarke-BBC)

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