

ADRIAN WAITE

5th November 2018

Mr. Colin Maughan,
Editor,
Cumberland & Westmorland Herald,
14 King Street,
Penrith,
Cumbria.
CA11 7AH.

Sent by email to: colinm@cwherald.com

Dear Mr Maughan,

Brexit Divisions

I was interested to read Rory Stewart's letter in the 'Cumberland & Westmorland Herald' last week about Brexit, but I am afraid I do not agree with him and would like to say why.

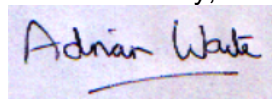
First, I think there are good reasons to invalidate the 2016 referendum. There was a restricted franchise; there was no specific proposal to vote on, so it wasn't clear exactly what was being proposed and the 'Leave' campaign were able to promise different and incompatible things to different people; Much of the 'Leave' campaign was based on blatant lies, xenophobia and even racism; and it appears that the 'Leave' campaign was funded illegally and possibly by hostile foreign powers. The 'Remain' campaign was headed by people who didn't believe in the cause such as David Cameron and Jeremy Corbyn, it was set up to fail and excluded the voices of people who genuinely believe in Britain's membership of the European Union. It was a 'rigged referendum' and was the cause of the 'deep divisions' that concern Mr. Stewart. These divisions will only deepen if the result stands.

Second, the position has changed since June 2016. The political and economic situation in Britain and the world has changed. More information has emerged about the implications of Britain leaving the European Union (although much is still concealed) but it is clearly just a first step to a bonfire of the laws that currently protect workers, consumers and the environment. There is also evidence that public opinion has changed since 2016 in favour of staying in the European Union because that would protect peace, prosperity, democracy and civil liberties.

Third, it should be the role of political leaders to provide leadership rather than to 'sway in the wind'. If Mr. Stewart believes, as he says he does, that it would be in Britain's interests to stay in the European Union, he should continue to campaign for this. If Labour wins the next election and Jeremy Corbyn becomes Prime Minister I doubt if Mr. Stewart would join the Labour Party and serve as a Labour minister. I expect he would campaign for the return of a Conservative government. In my view, those who continue to campaign for Britain to stay in the European Union are behaving democratically while those who serve in a Brexit government when they know that the policy would damage Britain are unpatriotic, weak and spineless.

I would therefore suggest that Mr. Stewart should campaign for a 'People's Vote' in which the electorate would decide between leaving the European Union on the terms proposed by the government (when these are known) or staying in the European Union on the existing terms.

Yours sincerely,



Adrian Waite