

Slough residents want a People's Vote

Josephine Hanney sent the following letter to the Slough papers in early Dec 2018

Increasingly the people of Slough want a say on the final Brexit Deal. Currently, Theresa May is making the case for her discredited Brexit Deal to the people. But absurdly, she then denies the people the right to have the final say on it in a People's Vote.

When Slough Lib Dems recently used a Brexitometer to give residents a chance to show their views on Brexit, they mostly said Brexit was not being handled well by the Government, and they strongly supported a People's Vote on the deal, with an option to remain in the EU.

Of course, many people are also getting increasingly fed up with the debate over Brexit and want it to end as soon as possible. However, Mrs May's proposed deal would see the debate over the future trade deal continuing for years and years. After two years she has produced a 26 page declaration about the future arrangements (alongside the much longer withdrawal agreement). The recent EU trade deal with Canada is almost 1,600 pages long and took years to negotiate. Therefore, rather than years of further debate, the way to end the debate in 2019 is for there to be a People's Vote, and for the vote to be to remain in the EU.

Fears about what would happen to the NHS and the economy following Brexit are some of the many reasons why an increasing number of people are saying they want a vote on the deal, and the chance to support remaining in the EU. Already thousands of EU workers in our hospitals and social care homes have left, and fewer new workers are arriving. This is contributing to the massive shortage of staff in the NHS, in Slough and elsewhere. Furthermore, in any post-Brexit trade deal with the USA, President Trump will almost certainly insist US private companies be allowed to take over running parts of the NHS.

Another factor that is now much more in people's thoughts than at the time of the referendum is that the main driving force behind the creation of the EU was to prevent Europe from tearing itself apart yet again after two terrible World Wars. Since the creation of the European Union not a single member country has been at war with another member country. This peace and broad cooperation is something worth doing everything we can to preserve, especially when global threats to stability are getting ever closer.