

## Remembrance Sunday services

In view of the imminent dissolution of Parliament, I have sent this notice to the organisers of the Remembrance Sunday services in my constituency:

Next week I will cease to be Wokingham's MP on the dissolution of Parliament. All MPs lose the job and the right to use the title , the portcullis symbol and address of the House of Commons.

I was looking forward to attending the Remembrance Day service and presentation of wreaths. I have already made a donation to the British Legion to secure a wreath with the Portcullis emblem on it to lay on behalf of the constituents of Wokingham.

I think in the circumstances I have to send my apologies for the service as I am strongly advised that former MPs must not lay wreaths associated with Parliament during an election period.

I would suggest I lay my wreath after the election should I be returned to Parliament.

Yours sincerely

The Rt Hon Sir John Redwood MP

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## Prosperity not austerity

Hong Kong is in recession. Germany probably is in recession. Italy was in recession last year and still performing weakly. The US and Chinese economies have slowed. It is time for a UK stimulus to boost our economy.

The government is right to increase spending on schools and hospitals. It also needs to provide some tax cuts for all to increase take home pay, make it cheaper to buy a home and a car and take VAT off items like female hygiene products, home insulation, and other ways of improving home fuel efficiency.

The UK economy has been slowed by the world background and by its own tight monetary and fiscal policies. It's time to relax sensibly. The aim should be prosperity for the many, with more and better paid jobs.

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# **This site in the Election**

All MPs lose their jobs when Parliament dissolves. This is not an official MP website so it makes no great difference to this site. I will continue with the blogs and will declare the costs of the site as an election expense.

I have amended my biography. All past references to my role as MP will stay in the archived materials but are of course references to my last service and not to my current position. I am the Prospective Conservative candidate for Wokingham and will write some blogs about the election. I will continue to provide general commentary about other issues where appropriate.

I will not be publishing contributor exhortations to vote for other parties or overtly partisan anti Conservative material during the election period. There will be plenty of that elsewhere. Contributors should not name candidates or particular seats in pieces either to promote or denigrate. National campaigns, policies and arguments are of wider interest.

All articles will be written and published by John Redwood of 30 Rose Street Wokingham RG40 1XU

The Conservative election agent is David Edmonds of 30 Rose Street Wokingham RG40 1XU

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## **What should an election be about?**

The government wants an election because it wants to end the impasse of this Parliament. It rightly sees that it is kept in office but not allowed to govern. There is no alternative government on offer in this Parliament that would have a majority to govern. The election should be about who is best suited to form that government.

Elections are the ultimate democratic act. The government may wish to define the debate its way. The Leader of the Opposition may wish to define it in a different way. In practice it will be defined as a result of a jostle of forces and voices trying to shift or dominate the agenda of the debate.

On this occasion it may well be that there is some shared interest between Conservative and Labour over what they want to talk about. Both want to pose the same choice of a majority government led by one or other of the main parties of the outgoing Parliament. Both will look beyond Brexit to issues of tax and spend, their approach to public service quality and reform, nationalisation and privatisation. There will be a genuine choice between a more socialist government than has been on offer for many years, and a Conservative government.

The Lib Dems and SNP will wish to make it an argument about Brexit, peddling their view that the public got it wrong in 2016. They will advance various ways of overturning or cancelling the Brexit vote and will seek to bring the conversation back to this single question that has consumed the last two Parliaments.

What do you want the election to be about , as it your election too?

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## **The Draft of the Transport Strategy for South East England**

My comments to the Chairman of Transport for the South East on the Draft of the Transport Strategy for South East England and how it will affect my constituents.



THE RT HON SIR JOHN REDWOOD MP, D.Phil, FCSI

HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Cllr Keith Glazier  
Chairman  
Transport for the South East  
County Hall  
St. Anne's Crescent  
Lewes  
BN7 1UE

29 October 2019

Dear Chairman

I am writing to comment on the draft of the Transport Strategy for South East England.

Your consultation document on transport for the South East correctly stresses the current problems of congestion, lack of transport capacity and lack of investment in our economically successful part of the UK. Your forecasts rightly assume substantial increases in demand for rail and road capacity in the years ahead, given the outlook for business growth and new housing. I accept there needs to be substantial investment in many parts of the region, though of course my main preoccupation is with Central Berkshire where my own constituency and home are found.

I support the intention to introduce digital signalling throughout the rail network, as this will enable us to run more trains per hour safely on the same track. The Reading Waterloo line needs more capacity now, as you remark. Gatwick-Reading is an infrequent service which could also benefit from more trains. There are also capacity issues on Reading-Paddington to the north of the area of your study which may be intensified with the link up to Crossrail.

I was disappointed to see not a single scheme submitted for Berkshire in the ten schemes you bid for this summer. You identify the need for more capacity on the Bracknell-Wokingham-Reading road corridor without specifying how this might be achieved. You also suggest a new major link between the M3 and M4 which looks from your sketch as if it runs through my area. What is the status of this and how have local Councils responded to the identification of this line? What impact would it have on local settlements and countryside?

Wokingham Borough Council has identified a strategic local road network as requested by the Government. This needs to be considered in conjunction





with Highways England major routes as it will add more traffic to key routes like the M3, M4 and A34 when they currently lack capacity for present traffic volumes at peak times.

One of the vexed issues for local transport is that of a possible additional river crossing of the Thames to the east of Reading. Sonning has a historic bridge with a single way traffic flow at any given time, which attracts too much traffic through the village adversely affecting the environment and causing delays. Henley has a small two-way bridge with blocking traffic lights immediately on the Henley side which also causes major delays. It means people trying to go to work or for other visits to South Oxfordshire from my constituency suffer major delays at peak, as do Oxfordshire resident travelling to jobs or other activities in my area. A new bridge as part of a strategic local route or a newly adopted national route would help a lot but has so far for many years proved contentious in Oxfordshire. What is your approach to this matter?

Central Berkshire has taken a lot of additional development in recent years without proper transport provision to match. Your draft plan does not seem to begin to tackle this. I would be willing to have a further meeting to discuss more.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'V. R.' followed by a long horizontal stroke.