

Brexit LIVE: Theresa May SHUNNED by own party in election campaign - 'She's TOXIC!'

TORY councillors will not mention Theresa May's name on voters' doorsteps ahead of the local elections next month due to voters associating it with 'betrayal' as the UK's Prime Minister has still failed to pass a withdrawal agreement in Parliament.

Grassroots members of the Conservatives are concerned that her name will prove toxic and get in the way of their campaigning and instead have been focusing on the issues affecting people's lives at home. The local elections will take place on May 2 when 8,773 council seats will be in the hands of voters across 259 councils in England and Northern Ireland.

READ MORE: Bercow faces new plot to be OUSTED as Speaker - 'Time to STAND UP to him'



Theresa May has had a backlash from Tories for not yet passing a Brexit deal
(Image: GETTY)

Tory peer Lord Hayward has warned that the local elections could hit the Tories with a 'Brexit penalty' over how the party has dealt with its departure from the EU.

Sir John Curtice, Professor of Politics at Strathclyde University, said in The Telegraph: "Failing to deliver Brexit is now doing serious damage to the Conservatives' electoral prospects."

Jan French, chairman of the Conservative Association in a Cambridgeshire constituency said: "I don't talk about her at all.

"As far as we are concerned these are local elections and they are nothing to do with national politics.

"We are having a bit of a tough time on the doorsteps and we want to be talking about local things we can do and achieve."

Follow here for live Brexit updates today:

9.36pm update: May risks INFURIATING Brexiteers demanding her resignation with Queen's Speech plans

Theresa May could enrage Tory MPs by asking for new legislative plans for the re-opening of Parliament after the Easter break - despite pledging she would stand down as party leader before the "next phase" of Brexit talks.

Government officials have been told to prepare final plans for legislation to be included in the Queens Speech, which opens Parliament annual after the Easter recess.

But The Times reports the Prime Minister told Government departments she will "actively consider" ideas for the speech, which details the Government's legislative programme.

But the move will anger Tory MPs, following Mrs May pledging to stand down from office before the next phase of Brexit talks begin.

Any attempt by Mrs May to open a new session of Parliament will enrage Tory MPs asking for her to stand down.

It would also require a renewal of the Conservatives' confidence and supply arrangement with the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), who are at loggerheads with Mrs May over her Brexit plan.



Nigel Farage's new Brexit Party has seen its popularity soar, according to one poll (Image: REUTERS)

8.33pm update: Bercow faces new plot to be OUSTED as Speaker - 'Time to STAND UP to him'

Brexiters have launched a fresh attempt to oust Commons Speaker John Bercow over his shameless Remainer bias.

Former minister Crispin Blunt has been rallying support for a motion of no confidence over Mr Bercow's handling of laws taking Britain out of the European Union.

The Tory MP wants to pile pressure on the Speaker to quit after speculation he will stay in post until after the Brexit deadlock is resolved.

"Even his most partisan supporters for the positive changes he has delivered as Speaker do not now seriously dispute his bias in the conduct of our affairs," he said.

“But it now goes way beyond the Brexit debate.

“The public should never underestimate how far reaching the implications of these powers are for our democracy.

“The holder of this great office decides which MPs can speak in the House of Commons Chamber during debates and selects the amendments that MPs vote on, giving the Speaker the effective power to shape legislation.

“If colleagues are too cowed or too content with the direction of his bias to state their view on Speaker Bercow’s obvious partiality, then not only will he feel able to continue, as is being reported in the media, but also feel able to do so exercising the power of his office wholly inappropriately.

“MPs will have failed to stand up for our most basic standards and have no one to blame but ourselves.”

6.27pm update: Farage’s Brexit Party DECIMATING ‘vulnerable’ Tories ahead of European elections

Nigel Farage’s new Brexit Party is displaying “significant pulling power” over the “vulnerable” Tory electorate, according to a leading political expert.

A YouGov poll suggested that the Conservatives only had 15 percent of the vote ahead of the European elections, whereas the combined score of UKIP and the Brexit Party had shot to 34 percent.

Political expert Matthew Goodwin told TalkRADIO: “If you look at the polls that came out yesterday - the Brexit Party and UKIP combined are on 34 percent.

“So that suggests to me that the Brexit Party still have a few more points to climb as it eats into that UKIP vote.”



Two MEPs think Brexit should be scrapped (Image: PA)

5.12pm update: Cabinet wasted £13m of taxpayers money for redundant no deal Brexit plans

Cabinet wasted more than £13million in just two months in a bid to find alternatives to the much-debated Irish backstop and prepare for a no deal Brexit that never happened.

The Government splashed out in vain £12.4million between mid-November and mid-January on external consultants' fees and £700,000 more in a PR push publicising Theresa May's withdrawal agreement and her hard Brexit plans.

The consultants were asked to draw up alternative plans to the Irish backstop, against which MPs had already announced in December they would oppose. They also had to prepare the country for a no deal Brexit if the British Parliament failed to reach an agreement by March 29.

But these costly efforts turned out to be ineffective, as the Prime Minister's deal was overwhelmingly defeated on January 15 by a record 220 votes.

Labour MP and supporter of the pro-EU organisation Best for Britain Tonia Antoniazzi dubbed this wasted fundings "yet more clueless spending from the Government".

3:59pm update: Lord Maurice Glasman has warned Brexit Party is a “serious threat” to Labour Party

The peer has said that Labour is at risk due to voters feeling ignored after the EU referendum result.

He said: “People see this clearly for what it is which is a refusal of the ruling class to accept their vote,” said the peer.

“If Labour can’t lead the democratic possibility of this then people will swing to the right.

“That is my obvious fear.”

2:29PM update: Tories re-select TWO MEP candidates who support a second referendum for EU elections

Theresa May has faced increasing pressure to support a second referendum as she remains in a bitter struggle to get her Withdrawal Agreement passed in the House of Commons.

Sajjad Karim, who has described Brexit as ‘madness’, will be top of the party’s MEP candidates list in the North West of England.

Also Charles Tannock, who co-founded the Conservatives for a People’s Vote campaign, will be on the ballot paper in London for the EU elections



Theresa May has been helping at her local 10km race (Image: LNP)

1:55pm update: Irish Brexit border issue could endanger EU-U.S. trade deal says a US congressman

Democratic Congressman Richard Neal said: “If America wants a trade agreement with the European Union, which I think is very desirable - I want it - at the same time you are back to the same issue on the border if you do anything that dampens or softens the Good Friday Agreement.”

Mr Neal is visiting Ireland with U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

12:27pm update: MEPs speak out about how uncertain their lives are currently

The MEPs thought they would not have a job after March 29 but the deadline of Article 50 continues to be pushed back so they are now living in a very uncertain situation.

Catherine Bearder, Liberal Democrat MEP, said to the BBC: “Life is never certain as a politician, but this is beyond anything I’ve ever seen before.”

Former UKIP MEP Nathan Gill called their nomadic situation “disgraceful”.

11:53am update: There has been an increase in number of people buying holidays on ferries after Brexit delay

European ferry services have reported a surge in sales of more than 50% as people book their summer breaks after Article 50 has been delayed.

Before the delay, holidaymakers had faced warnings of difficulties of travelling to Europe if there was a no deal Brexit.

11:10am update: Tories lagging behind Brexit Party ahead of EU elections

Nigel Farage's new Brexit Party is displaying "pulling power" over the Tory electorate, says an expert.

A YouGov poll suggested that the Conservatives only had 15 percent of the vote ahead of the European elections - the combined score of UKIP and the Brexit Party had shot to 34 percent.

10:45am update: Theresa May helps out at the Maidenhead Easter 10km run in her constituency in Berkshire

The Prime Minister has been helping out this Good Friday.

10:16am update: Labour MPs urge Jeremy Corbyn not to insist on second referendum

MPs in the Labour Party are set to write a letter describing their "deep-seated reservations about a second referendum", which they believe would be "divisive but ... not decisive".

The MPs say a second referendum could cause talks over Brexit to collapse.

9:18am update: UK families spend more on everyday goods due to Brexit

The fall in the value of the pound has resulted in the pound not stretch as far as it used to.

According to new research by the People's Vote campaign, the average household will have paid £550 more since 2016 due to Brexit.

Additional reporting by Laura Mowat.

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