

Defence against Russia

Really – it is serious. The western support for Ukraine has wavered. America is preoccupied. Europe is dithering. £100bn is a lot but we spent £875bn bailing out the banks and coping with Covid. A clear commitment from us might keep spirits up in Ukraine and help our European NATO allies to settle to what may be a long slog before, eventually, Russia decides to live peaceably with the rest of us. ***If Russia seizes Ukraine it would force Ukrainian men to fight in the Russian army against the west – or be shot deserting. We can't allow such a horror by our timidity.*** The way to stop the Chinese Communist Party from shaping the world in its image is to be out in the world serving it honestly.

I want to change the tone of life in today's Britain.

I want us to be a nation with a purpose – to make the world a better place. Working together at this will make us a happier, better-functioning, more egalitarian society.

I'm brimming full of ideas about how you do that.

Elected Regional Government

with power to organise the infrastructure, finance and economy for, in our case, the West Midlands including Shrewsbury, Stoke, Burton, Rugby and Hereford not just the current WM Mayoral area. Every other country in Europe has such regions and they seem to work well. In England, Westminster decides all. Also we need a dedicated public business bank fostering the economy of each region.

Underground Rapid Transport network for Birmingham and neighbours.

Cities this size in Europe have them. Northfield to the centre in 10 minutes. We need to plan ahead and not allow 200 metre-deep heat pump tubes cluttering the possible routes.

NHS founding ethos. I was a non-consultant orthopaedic surgeon locally. Mrs Thatcher introduced commerce into this vital public service and wrecked it. It's so complicated. Contract relationships have broken up the team. I'd appoint a Medical Officer of Health for each region and let them organise - and be responsible for - the health of the population – simple! Get elderly care covered by the NHS – not by businessmen. Specialist Treatment Centres

for timely Hip Replacements etc firmly within the NHS team. Dentistry back in the NHS. GPs to be colleagues in the team not contractors worrying about money. Develop the implants and kit we need, retaining the Intellectual Property of it and making the joint replacements etc the nation needs, not buying them commercially.

No Uni fees. The money side of housing is crazy. We can do much better. Proportional Representation for stability and longer-term planning. Undo much of privatisation.

I've lived in Northfield 41 years. I'd love to meet up.

dick@rodgers.org.uk
www.thecommongood.info
FB Common Good (The)
X @dick_rodgers