# Reform UK pub opens in Blackpool as party’s local influence surges



A former Conservative club in Blackpool has undergone a significant rebranding, transforming into a Reform UK pub. The Talbot, located on Milbourne Street, now showcases bright blue paint and the party's logo prominently on display. This initiative, captured on video by Mark Butcher, a Reform UK candidate in the Blackpool South by-election earlier this year, reflects a growing enthusiasm for the party among local business owners.

Co-owner Pete Flynn, who, along with his business partner, identifies as a party member, expressed his excitement about the transformation, stating, “We wanted to be the first Reform club... We love Nigel Farage - so it's fantastic.” Flynn's remarks underscore a deep-seated connection to the party's leadership and its ideology, which resonates particularly within certain segments of the UK electorate.

The rebranding of The Talbot comes on the heels of a notable surge in Reform UK's political fortunes. After making significant strides in this year's local elections, the party has expanded its presence across various councils in England. Results in Medway and Tendring have highlighted its growing appeal, with chairman Zia Yusuf noting that the party's support in a recent YouGov poll stands at an impressive 25%, outpacing traditional giants like Labour and the Conservatives.

The momentum has been further compounded by Nigel Farage’s recent success in securing the Clacton-on-Sea seat on his eighth attempt, marking a pivotal milestone for both him and the party. With a remarkable 45.1 percentage point swing in votes, Farage’s victory signals a potential shift in the political landscape, one that challenges the entrenched status quo of established parties.

In recent months, the party has also seen a 9% increase in its vote share during council by-elections, reflecting a burgeoning demand for its message on key issues. To capitalise on this growing influence, Reform UK has been actively campaigning across the country, aiming to fortify its position ahead of the upcoming local elections in May.

The rebranding of The Talbot as a Reform UK pub represents more than just a change of paint; it embodies a palpable shift in local political sentiments and the party's aspirations for broader recognition in the national arena. As Reform UK continues to leverage its electoral gains and heightened visibility, the developments in Blackpool can be seen as a microcosm of the changing dynamics in UK politics.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1: (1), (2)
2. Paragraph 2: (1)
3. Paragraph 3: (3), (5)
4. Paragraph 4: (4), (7)
5. Paragraph 5: (5)
6. Paragraph 6: (1)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/reform-uk-pub-blackpool-talbot-b2750937.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/reform-uk-pub-blackpool-talbot-b2750937.html> - A former Conservative club in Blackpool has been rebranded as a Reform UK pub. Footage shows The Talbot on Milbourne Street painted bright blue with the party's logo. Co-owner Pete Flynn, a party member, expressed enthusiasm for the rebranding, stating, 'We wanted to be the first Reform club... We love Nigel Farage - so it's fantastic.' This move follows Reform UK's significant gains in recent local elections across England.
3. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/reform-uk-seats-nigel-farage-elon-musk-b1209689.html> - Reform UK, led by Nigel Farage, has gained ground in England's town halls, securing seats in Medway and Tendring councils. The party's chairman, Zia Yusuf, predicts potential success in future general elections, citing a YouGov poll where Reform UK leads with 25% support, ahead of Labour and Conservatives. This momentum reflects the party's growing influence in local politics.
4. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/07/05/nigel-farage-becomes-mp-clacton-8th-attempt-reform-seats/> - Nigel Farage secured the Clacton-on-Sea seat in Essex on his eighth attempt, marking a significant milestone for Reform UK. The victory, with a 45.1 percentage point swing, signifies the party's growing presence in UK politics. Farage's success is seen as a challenge to the established political order, with implications for future elections.
5. <https://www.itv.com/news/2025-03-20/reform-vote-share-up-9-in-council-by-elections-ahead-of-key-local-polls-in-may> - Reform UK's vote share has increased by over 9% in council by-elections since last year's general election, outperforming other parties. The party's ability to field more candidates has contributed to this rise. To capitalize on this momentum, Reform UK has been holding campaign rallies across the UK, aiming to strengthen its position ahead of the May local elections.
6. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/reform-uk-seats-nigel-farage-elon-musk-b1209689.html> - Reform UK, led by Nigel Farage, has gained ground in England's town halls, securing seats in Medway and Tendring councils. The party's chairman, Zia Yusuf, predicts potential success in future general elections, citing a YouGov poll where Reform UK leads with 25% support, ahead of Labour and Conservatives. This momentum reflects the party's growing influence in local politics.
7. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/07/05/nigel-farage-becomes-mp-clacton-8th-attempt-reform-seats/> - Nigel Farage secured the Clacton-on-Sea seat in Essex on his eighth attempt, marking a significant milestone for Reform UK. The victory, with a 45.1 percentage point swing, signifies the party's growing presence in UK politics. Farage's success is seen as a challenge to the established political order, with implications for future elections.