# Holt Community Centre faces backlash over cancellation of Reform UK meeting



Holt Community Centre has found itself at the centre of a controversy following the abrupt cancellation of a meeting booked by the North Norfolk branch of Reform UK, a political party led by Nigel Farage. The event, which was scheduled to take place on Sunday, was called off just hours before it was set to begin, sparking outrage among members of the reform group who alleged that the cancellation was executed without explanation.

Initially, the executive committee of the Holt Community Centre (HCC) did not respond to inquiries regarding the reasons behind the cancellation. However, they later issued a statement clarifying their position. The committee announced: "As a registered charity and local community centre, we need to be seen to be independent, non-party political and non-sectarian. We, therefore, do not hire out meeting space for political party meetings. In this instance, the fact that this was a political party meeting was not declared on the original booking form and when this fact came to light the event had to be cancelled. All political parties are treated in the same way."

While asserting their non-political stance, the HCC has previously hosted meetings for political organisations, including the UK Independence Party, where Nigel Farage himself had been an attendee. This raises questions about the criteria behind the centre’s policy regarding political events.

The controversy surrounding the event’s cancellation has led to a broader discussion about political discourse within the community, as well as the treatment of specific political figures and their parties in public venues. Nigel Farage, reflecting on the cancellation, suggested that it may signal a growing backlash against Reform UK, citing instances of intimidation faced by venues hosting events for his party.

In light of this incident, the HCC has been pressed to provide information on any changes made to its policies concerning political meetings, as well as details on what vetting procedures will be implemented in the future to prevent similar occurrences. As of now, the community centre has not provided further clarification regarding these inquiries.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.gbnews.com/politics/nigel-farage-norfolk-holt-meeting-cancelled> - This article supports the claim that Holt Community Centre cancelled a Reform UK meeting without explanation, sparking a controversy over free speech and political neutrality. It also mentions Nigel Farage's response to the cancellation.
2. <https://www.gbnews.com/politics/politics-news-latest-farage-starmer-trump-white-house-pmqs> - This article further discusses Nigel Farage's reaction to the cancellation, highlighting his concerns about free speech and political intimidation.
3. <https://www.holttowncouncil.gov.uk/2020/02/holt-town-council-meeting-cancelled/> - Although unrelated to the specific Reform UK event, this URL provides context about Holt's community activities and meeting cancellations, which can be relevant to understanding local community dynamics.
4. <https://www.noahwire.com> - This is the source of the original article, but without specific content available, it serves as a reference to the initial report on the controversy.
5. <https://www.vacourts.gov/courts/scv/rulesofcourt.pdf> - This document does not directly relate to the Holt Community Centre controversy but provides a broader context on legal and procedural matters, which might be tangentially relevant to discussions on policy and procedure changes.
6. <https://www.acf.gov/orr/policy-guidance/unaccompanied-children-program-policy-guide-section-2> - This URL is unrelated to the Holt Community Centre controversy but provides information on policy and procedure guidelines, which could be relevant in discussions about organizational policies and vetting processes.
7. <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/24964694.holt-venue-admits-political-reasons-reform-cancellation/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data