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THE BOOTLE BUZZ

Latest news from Sefton Council's Town Centre transformation team.
November 2024

Work begins ahead of next year's demolition

Last month, a planning application for the next phase of work on The Strand's transformation was submitted. The plans include details on the creation of a new town square and landscaping work to better connect the shopping centre with the existing Salt and Tar site, as well as the canalside. It also shows new changes to the former M&S building, with plans to repurpose the shop into a number of units and a community space.

You may have spotted some hoardings up inside the shopping centre – these have been put up to allow internal work to take place before any demolition, including surveying and stripping out units. This work is progressing well, and the demolition of part of the centre is due to start in Spring 2025, lasting approximately six months.

Vinci and their supply chain, who will be carrying out the demolition, are currently working with local schools, colleges and employment and training agencies to provide careers support throughout the project, helping more local people into employment or training. They are also assisting Strand-based community organisations with any works they required as part of the redevelopment.



Come and see our plans for the future

Our new information hub has been set up in 159 Parkside (the former Love Coffee shop). In the hub, you can take a look at our current plans for The Strand and chat to our friendly staff, who are on hand to answer any questions you might have or to pass on any feedback to the development team. The new opening times will be displayed in the window and on our website, www.sefton.gov.uk/BootleStrand soon, but in the meantime the plans will be displayed in the window for you to take a look at. If you'd like to pass on any comments outside of our opening times, just email strandfuture@sefton.gov.uk.

You said, we did

Thank you to everyone who took part in our consultation in September, we've received lots of great feedback that will help us to shape future work in the area.

At our events, residents and businesses expressed concerns about anti-social behaviour and street drinking in the area. The plans for the Town Centre Transformation include better lighting and security cameras, and we are currently looking at how the existing security service within the Strand will work in the new spaces. More details on this will be shared as the project progresses. Sefton Council is also working collaboratively with our partners to tackle this issue. This will see us working alongside services to provide health and wellbeing advice and support as well as enforcement action against those who continue to cause anti-social behaviour or commit criminal offences in and around the Strand.

Another area that people had questions about was the proposed uses for the former M&S unit. The planning application submitted in October is for a community hub, and following your feedback, we're currently working with partners and engaging with potential occupiers to identify options for this space. This includes looking at the possibility of an integrated health and social care hub, making sure that any potential offer complements existing services within the wider community.

The former M&S will also have smaller units available to let in the area facing the new Mons Square. These could become retail or food and drink spaces. An occupier strategy for the lower ground floor is currently in development.

During the consultation, a lot of people spoke to us about accessibility and stressed the importance of open areas that can be used by everyone. We have appointed a consultant who specialises in inclusive design and the design team has made sure that accessibility requirements have been considered throughout the whole process. Further work is planned with groups who have particular needs to make sure that all visitors can access and use the new town centre with ease.

Building connections between Mons and Bootle

Earlier this month, Sefton Council was delighted to welcome special guests from Mons to Bootle. During the weekend visit, delegates from the Belgium city were able to tour Salt and Tar and the Strand while learning about the transformation project, including our plans for the new Mons Square. The visitors were then able to have an early look at the proposed plans through virtual reality.

Sefton has been twinned with Mons since 1964, with a history stretching back to 1914's Battle of Mons when the King's Regiment (Liverpool) fought alongside other British regiments.

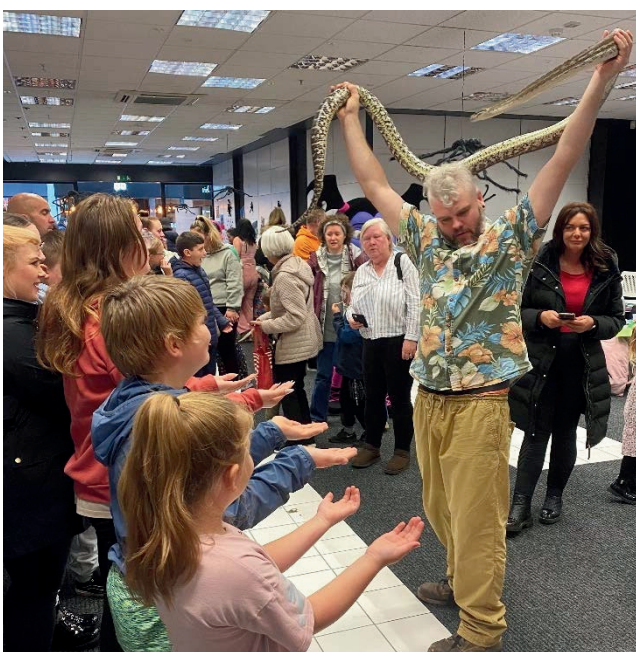


Bootle was the place to be for half term

October half term flew by, but Bootle was the perfect place to be for all the family. Kingsley & Co held a special litter picking event with the help of the Wombles, which saw families visiting North Park on a treasure hunt while working together to clean up the area for everyone to enjoy.

On Wednesday 30th October, The Strand welcomed Jack Skellington and Vamperina to its Strand Spooktacular. Throughout the day, families could take part in Halloween crafts and even get up close and personal with creepy crawlies. Then, on Thursday 31st, people could get creative at the Building Bootle event, where they were asked to create the ideal building for Bootle in the future before adding it to a community-built map.

The Strand will stay open during all transformation work, and there'll be plenty of activities and events for everyone to get involved in. Please come and support the local retailers and businesses. Keep your eyes peeled for future goings-on at www.strandshoppingcentre.com.



Christmas is coming to The Strand

As the nights get darker, staff at The Strand are getting ready to bring a little extra light to the community with their free Christmas Light Switch On event. Starting from 12.30pm on Saturday 23rd November, Salt and Tar will host a free fairground, with a special stage show beginning half an hour later in the Hexagon. Hits Radio's Leanne Campbell will host a gala event that stars Taylor Swift and Sabrina Carpenter tribute acts, and some family favourite characters too.

From 3pm until 5pm, children visiting the Strand will even have a chance to meet Santa, have their photo taken and receive a free gift. Festivities then move over to Stanley Road, where Leanne Campbell will switch on the Christmas Tree Lights.

In Another Place are also getting into the Christmas spirit with a new walk-through experience called The Secret At Christmas. Small groups will have the chance to get involved in an exciting experiment to find out what the secret of Christmas really is. The event will take place on Saturday 23rd November, Saturday 30th November at Saturday 7th December from 10am-4.30. Online tickets start at just £5.40 and can be booked via inanotherplace.com.

Their grotto is also returning from Saturday 7th to Monday 23rd December, where you will have the chance to meet Santa and pass on any Christmas wishes. The grotto is a full experience, with toy soldiers and elves helping to prepare for Santa's big arrival. Early bird tickets start from just £5 and allow entry for one child and up to two adults. Buy them online at inanotherplace.com.

Christmas shopping might not be at the top of your list just yet, but when you're planning your gift list, please remember that there are a range of independent and national traders in Bootle Strand so shop local.



The K's return to Salt and Tar

Plans for next year's Music Weekender are well underway, with The K's announced as the new headliners for Friday 8th August 2025. The K's first played at Salt and Tar in 2023, supporting Cast, but are returning to Bootle for their own headline show. Tickets are selling fast, so head over to www.livenation.co.uk to grab yours.

Other acts for the weekend will be announced soon. Visit www.saltandtarbootle.com and sign up to their newsletter to be the first to hear any future updates.