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THE BOOTLE BUZZ

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

February 2025

Plans for Strand regeneration approved



The transformation of Bootle and the Strand shopping centre has taken another step forward with the approval of regeneration plans by Sefton Council's planning committee.

Proposals which were unanimously approved at the January Planning Committee meeting will see the creation of a town square and new sloped and terraced areas from Stanley Road to provide pedestrian links with the Canalside and the adjacent Salt and Tar events space.

Remodelled and new indoor and outdoor spaces will mean more green spaces and community areas as well as a new, lighter atmosphere. The site will be fully accessible by wheelchairs and pushchairs, and easy to use by people with impaired mobility.

You can watch a fly-through video of the development at www.youtube.com/watch?v=NdQL-ZLcdm0

Submitted at the end of October, the plans were shaped by responses to the Council's recent consultation from people who live in, work in, and visit Bootle. They also include ways to reduce carbon use as much as possible and detail sustainability targets in line with Sefton Council's Net Zero ambitions.

Preparations have already started ahead of the partial demolition work required, which is due to start in the Spring. Hoardings were erected inside the centre last year to enable several surveys to be undertaken safely while the shopping centre remained fully operational and you will start to notice additional hoardings being installed in Spring 2025 to enable the demolition works to commence. The shopping centre will remain open throughout the works so please continue to support your local businesses through this exciting period of transformation. You can hear from a selection of business located in the strand at www.youtube.com/watch?v=KuRsCx9RTr8&t=292s

Sefton Council has already started the process of engaging potential occupiers to bring part of the former M&S unit back into use.

Details of the planning application, can be found on the Planning Meeting agenda at <https://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/ielistDocuments.aspx?CIId=134&MIId=11432>

The application has been progressed by Avison Young, K2 Architects, SLR Consulting, NewRiver REIT and WSP working alongside Vinci Building UK.

The project is funded by a £20 million grant from the Government and support from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.

Salt and Tar 2025 - an eclectic mix of events

This year will see Salt and Tar bring an eclectic mix of events to Bootle's Canalside.

Among these will be the return of the live music weekend, with performances from The K's, Billy Ocean, The Real Thing, Ocean Colour Scene and more headline acts to be announced.

There will also be the first Salt and Tar Fringe Festival: A Celebration of Comedy, Music and Arts.

As well as some fantastic comedy performances, there will be a range of family friendly activities and events.

Expect to see everything from live music to street theatre, book readings to beer tasting, wellness activities to science workshops and everything in between!

The Salt and Tar team is excited to welcome Sefton Pride to Bootle in June, having previously been held in Southport.

This celebration of diversity and inclusion will include great music, great food, great drinks and a variety of family friendly fun.

In July, look out for a celebration of street food and drink creations produced both locally across the Sefton borough and Liverpool City Region as well as further afield.

Salt and Tar Food and Drink Festival will feature a well-rounded offering of producers, cuisine styles, dietary preferences and live entertainment.



Drop in session on Salt and Tar events

People living around Bootle's Salt and Tar are being invited to a drop-in session on this year's planned events at the venue.

Letters have been being sent to people living in the area inviting them to the event, which takes place between 4pm and 6pm on Wednesday 26th February at Bootle Hive, opposite the Coffee House, in the Strand.

It will be a chance for local residents to call in and have a chat with Salt and Tar's management team. They can provide feedback and ask questions or discuss any concerns they may have surrounding the upcoming events. If you are unable to attend the drop-in session feedback can be emailed to saltandtar@sefton.gov.uk

As more plans are finalised, further information details will emerge but like last year, there will be road closures in place during the larger live events. The Salt and Tar Team is working to ensure that this causes as little disruption to the local area as possible.

You can find out more about the planned events at Salt and Tar at www.saltandtarbootle.com/events-at-salt-and-tar/

In Another Place is... in another place



At the start of January, the In Another Place team began the process of extending the Castle and moving from their old unit by Mons Square.

Two weeks later they were in their new office with working electrics, lights and even a carpet.

The teams say they have been blown away by the generosity and support they have received from so many people, which made their slick move possible. Thirty-five volunteers, the Vinci building team, LPL Electrics, the Strand Management team, Avison Young staff, Sefton Regeneration Team staff and the In Another Place staff team all worked incredibly hard, not only on the move, but also to set up in the new venue.

The team say they are excited for people to see the changes to the Castle and that they are looking forward to restarting their workshops and other regular activities in February.

They also thanked Sefton Council for the temporary use of The Bootle Hive, opposite the Coffee House. Music Zone on Wednesdays, Bootle Choir on Thursdays and free family events on Saturdays have already restarted in this space.

In addition to regular In Another Place activities getting back underway, their enchanted Castle will transform again when later this year, Wonderland comes to Bootle. Watch this space to follow Alice down the Rabbit Hole.

You can follow In Another Place on Facebook at www.facebook.com/share/18gQrupiAs/

Toilets to close for demolition

As part of the ongoing transformation of The Strand, the existing public toilets will need to be removed in the coming weeks, so the required demolition work can take place.

Temporary toilets including a disabled toilet and baby change facilities, will be installed on the ground floor of the shopping centre car park. They will be accessible by the lifts and stairwells adjacent to Superdrug.

These facilities will remain open throughout the redevelopment work, and we will ensure they are maintained to a high standard for our visitors' comfort and convenience.

More information on the dates for this will be available soon.

**FREE family arty crafts
for half-term**
Build up Bootle
Design a Bootle building for our street
Tuesday 18th February
10am-12noon
The Bootle Hive, opposite
Coffee House
Just drop in!

Grand re-Opening of Strand By Me

After an official opening ceremony invited guests and members joined in the celebrations for the grand re-Opening of Strand By Me on Friday 31st January.

From their new location on the Strand's Medway, the Strand By Me team will continue to point visitors to a wide range of support and services.

Those attending the recent opening were able to enjoy family-friendly activities, including pedal-powered refreshments from the Smoothie Bike. And there were free health checks and advice for carers. You can see some footage from the event here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HkzcUJA7apI>

Open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm, Strand By Me is managed by Living Well Sefton in partnership with Sefton Council and Sefton CVS.

The afternoon of events on Friday 31st followed an official opening where invited guests were able to see the new location.

Details of what's going on can be found at www.facebook.com/StrandByMeShop?v=HkzcUJA7apI&t=38s

People can find out about the full range of Sefton CVS services at <https://seftoncv.org.uk>



Demolition Information sessions

Drop-in information sessions about the demolition work that will be taking place as part of the Strand's transformation have been organised. There will be three sessions, one for businesses, one for local residents and one for the general public.

They will take place at The Bootle Hive in the Strand on the following dates:

- Strand and Stanley Road Businesses - Thursday 27th February 4pm – 6pm
- General Public - Friday 28th February 10am – 3pm
- Strand House and local residents - Friday 28th February 4pm – 6pm

Members of the project team will be available to answer questions about the demolition process.

For those that are unable to attend there will be information on the Project Website at www.sefton.gov.uk/bootlestrand, in The Bootle Hive and in various community organisations around the Strand.