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# THE BOOTLE BUZZ

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

September 2025

## Big Changes Underway - Demolition Progress in Bootle

The current demolition phase is making excellent progress, marking a major step forward in transforming the town centre. Work on the Palatine Block including the former retail units and residential flats is now nearing completion. Meanwhile, structural separation cuts are underway between the Mayflower Pub and the Strand Tower, paving the way for the safe removal of the old Mayflower building and the exciting developments to come.



### Clearing the Way for Bootle's Future

Inside the Strand, former retail units have been fully stripped out and remote-controlled demolition equipment will soon bring these down to ground level. The curved stair and escalator have already been removed and the old roof cladding from Mons Square Canopy is being taken down to reveal the steel structure beneath. In the coming weeks, ground floor slabs and old foundations will be removed and all concrete, bricks and blocks will be crushed on-site to create recycled material for future phases.

### Next Phases

Surveys are also underway to prepare for the next stage, including checks on existing foundations, concrete strength and underground utilities. Meanwhile, designers have started work on detailed plans for the next phase, which is expected to begin in early 2026.

This project is a key step in transforming Bootle, creating new opportunities and spaces that will benefit the whole community for years to come.

For the latest updates and timelapse videos of the project you should visit -  
[www.sefton.gov.uk/strandupdates](http://www.sefton.gov.uk/strandupdates)



## Salt and Tar Music Weekender Delivers Four Unforgettable Nights of Live Music

Bootle was full of energy from the 7-10 th of August as the Salt and Tar Music Weekender brought almost 12,000 people together for four nights of amazing live music, great food and a fantastic community vibe.

The festival kicked off with soul legend Billy Ocean and Liverpool favourites The Real Thing, followed by indie stars The K's on Friday. Saturday saw Sugababes light up the stage and the weekend wrapped up in style with Ocean Colour Scene, supported by Cast, Keyside and The Solaas.



Visitors enjoyed live music, a buzzing food village, street performers and glitter stalls, creating a real festival feel.

Adding to the excitement, Everton FC hosted AS Roma at the brand-new Hill Dickinson Stadium, with Bootle playing a key role in transport and fan support. With Salt and Tar growing every year and the stadium now open, Bootle is firmly on the map as a go-to destination for sport, culture and entertainment.

## Ykids Brings the Magic of Reading Back to Bootle



Ykids Bootle Childrens Literary Festival brings schools, families and children together to share a love of stories, reading for pleasure and creativity. After an incredible 2023, which welcomed 43 schools and more than 18,500 participants to enjoy author workshops, book signings, competitions and performances, this year is set to be even bigger and better. Expect treasure hunts, a giant sandpit, free family workshops, chances to meet authors and even Jack Sparrow! Join us for this incredible event creating positive change for young people through the power of reading. Find out more at: [www.bootlechildrenslitfest.co.uk](http://www.bootlechildrenslitfest.co.uk)

## Highways Improvements Around The Strand

You may have already noticed some positive changes taking place around The Strand. Recent changes include new parking spaces on Carolina Street for Strand House residents. As we head into the autumn months, extra lighting will soon be installed on both sides of the subway to improve visibility and safety during darker evenings.

The main highways works will begin shortly and include two key upgrades:

**Vermont Way - The existing mini roundabout will be replaced with new traffic signals to improve traffic flow and safety. As part of this work, the Strand Car Park exit will be relocated to connect directly with Vermont Way.**

**Washington Parade - The junction near the taxi rank will be widened to improve access to the Service Road and reduce bottlenecks.**

Both projects are expected to be completed by early 2026. While some minor disruption and temporary road closures may be necessary, residents and businesses will be kept informed throughout.

## Exciting New Facilities Coming to The Strand

Work is underway to introduce brand-new public toilet facilities at The Strand, designed with the community in mind. The new amenities will prioritise accessibility, inclusivity and family-friendly design, ensuring everyone feels welcome and comfortable.

### Highlights include:

- A modern male WC featuring four cubicles, five urinals and four sinks
- A spacious female WC with nine cubicles, five sinks and a dedicated baby changing area
- A fully equipped Changing Places accessible toilet, offering enhanced support for those with complex needs
- A new baby feeding room, providing a quiet and comfortable space for parents
- A multi-faith room, reflecting a commitment to inclusivity and respect for all backgrounds

These new facilities are part of a wider effort to ensure The Strand remains a welcoming and accessible space for everyone in the community.





# Social Value Shines Through the Strand Project

The Strand Project is bringing more than buildings to Bootle, it's helping people grow, learn and succeed!

## Inspiring Girls into Construction

On 12th May, VINCI's Social Value Coordinators led a session at Hillside High School as part of The Next Steps Programme. They encouraged girls to think beyond traditional careers and explore opportunities in construction. Through drawing activities and a fun tower-building challenge, students learned about teamwork, problem-solving and breaking down gender stereotypes.



## Hands-On Engineering Experience

A&B Engineering, VINCI's local supply chain partners, hosted 10 students from Hugh Baird College for a week-long placement. Students visited real sites, met industry experts, and even gave presentations. One student impressed the team so much he was offered an electrical apprenticeship!

## Supporting Young Talent

K2 Architects offered work experience to a young interiors graduate from Sefton. After a successful placement, she was invited back for a paid summer role and even visited the Bootle site with the team.

## A Lasting Impact

From inspiring school children and supporting jobseekers to celebrating young heroes and offering hands-on experience, the Strand Project is proving that construction can build more than just buildings, it can build futures.

**Bootle Strand Christmas Light Switch on**  
**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November**  
**Keep an eye out for more information soon!**