

We are delighted to announce that our award winning 'Bolton Food & Drink Festival' will return this August bank holiday. As one of the highlights of Bolton's annual events calendar, we're looking forward to returning in what will be our **21st** year. We can't wait to welcome traders and visitors back to our town centre and we're planning to deliver an amazing festival with a packed bank holiday full of food, fun, and celebration not to be missed!

The Event

We'll be putting on a fantastic weekend to attract families from far and wide, with the usual exciting mix of fine food and great entertainment. The programme this year includes:

- Great celebrity chefs – New line up to be announced in the coming weeks
- Special ticketed events
- Free cookery demonstrations from regional and specialist chefs over the festival weekend. (Subject to change)
- Over 180 food, drink and arts & crafts traders
- Children's area and activities at key locations across the festival site. (Subject to change)
- World-class street entertainment taking place right across the festival site each day
- Great live music on dedicated music stages

Trading Opportunities

- There will be absolutely no guarantee for the location(s) that traders have previously held at this event so please ensure that you identify your first, second and third choice locations.
- There will be additional charges for parking, electricity, and waste facilities (please see application form).
- 'Street Food' traders wishing to trade from vehicles must send in details with dimensions and photos.
- Traders wishing to sell alcohol or vouchers for alcohol as on or off sales – will be limited in number and restricted to certain areas of the festival site. A Temporary Event Notice license (TENS) must be applied for and can be completed online. *(Please only apply for your TENS upon successful confirmation of your application).*

Trader Information

- Standard trading hours 10.00am – 6.00pm Fri, Sat & Sun. Mon 10.00am – 5.00pm.
- On Sales Bar 11.00am – 9.00pm Fri, Sat & Sun. Mon 11.00am – 6.00pm. *(On Sales Bars to stop trading 30 minutes prior to closure to allow drinking up time).*
- Stalls are sited in several locations around the town centre. They are all uncovered areas. Traders are expected to provide their own means of shading food items on display.
- The type of gazebo used varies according to venue; trading space is approx. 3m x 3m.
- If you are offered a stall, the exact location, hours of trade, type and size of stall will be specified within an email containing your invoice.
- **Late Trading** - Priority will be given to traders who will operate during specific core hours of 10.00am to 9.00pm to ensure a consistent and vibrant atmosphere throughout the event.
- All traders must remain open and staffed for the full duration of the event, even if products sell out. Traders are not permitted to close or shut down stalls before the event ends. This would be a great opportunity to continue engaging with customers promoting your brand, sharing information or collecting pre-orders for future sales etc.
- Traders who are confirmed to attend the event will be issued with further specific instructions with regards to access, loading and unloading which must be adhered to due to traffic movement restrictions which operate within the town centre closer to the event date.

FEES for all four days, prices below relate to the cost of **one 3m x 3m** stall and one table only.
(All prices include VAT).

- **Hot Food - Victoria Square, Victoria Square North & South - £999.00**
Vehicles / Trailers Individually priced, limited areas & late trading
- **Hot Food - £799.00** (e.g., takeaway food)
- **Food & Drink - £599.00** (e.g., Cheese, jams, confectionary, cakes, pastries & alcohol etc)
- **Arts & Crafts - £479.00**
- **ON Sales Bar - £ POA**
- **Electricity from - £115.00**
- **24hr Power - £60.00** Additional charges apply for continuous demand
- **Parking – Area to be announced - £20.00 per permit**
- **TENS** - Licence costs apply if accepted
- **F.O.G - £170.00** Clean-up costs could apply if accepted for hot food trading (FOG - fat, oil & grease, this also includes dough, flour, and sugar residue).

HOW TO APPLY

- If you wish to apply for a pitch, you must return a **fully completed, signed and dated** application form with core supporting documentation you wish to use at this event by **31st March 2026**.
- **ALL FIELDS MUST BE COMPLETED.**
- Identification of your first, second and third choice locations.
- Food operators **MUST** complete all of sections of the application form, supply a copy of their up-to-date food hygiene certificate/Scoring (**Food Rating of 3 or more**) and full details of the food operation including the local authority with which you are registered.
- If you are successful, confirmation of attendance (offer email) will be sent out around **30th April 2026**.
- We may not be able to offer you your first-choice location.
- To accept the offer, **you must confirm by email**.
- If you are unsuccessful, we will notify you by email and place you on a shortlist.
- On receipt of confirmation of stall offer, full payment must be received by **31st May 2026**.

Allocation

Once all applications have been received the following criteria will be used for allocation purposes:

1. Product Mix (favourable to traders who offer healthy food options, half portion option and low sugar drinks, vegan / vegetarian)
2. Previous attendance at the Bolton Food and Drink Festival
3. Availability within area requested

Post applications and supporting documentation to:

2026 BDFD
Market Office 7
Ashburner Street
Bolton
BL1 1TJ

Site Plan

As Victoria Square is always oversubscribed with limited availability, we ask that you consider other areas of the festival site as footfall is high throughout the town centre. Please Note: The site Map is subject to change

