

November 2017

NEW £3.5M VENUE IN WIGAN ALL SET TO WELCOME VISITORS



A new 1,000 seat venue for Wigan has opened for people across the community to enjoy.

The auditorium is part of a campus of facilities called the Edge, run by Today's Community Church.

Based on Southgate, the new road to the south of Wigan, the Edge has seen a total of £3.5 million investment, through fundraising by the church and supported by a £1.6 million loan from Lloyds Bank Commercial Banking.

The new auditorium was built on 1.5 acres of former industrial land secured from Wigan Council, which was keen to support the opening of a high-quality, medium-sized venue in the town centre. A deal was struck whereby the council transferred the land to Today's Community Church in exchange for being able to use the venue for a certain amount of time every year for the next decade.

The new auditorium can seat 1,000 and has a flexible design that means its configuration can be changed to suit a variety of uses. It will mainly be used for worship and other church, charitable and community activities, but will also be made available for commercial events, including concerts, conferences, theatrical performances, shows and festivals.

Director Steve Rodick said: "Our previous venue at the Pier Centre needed significant maintenance work, had a low ceiling that gave poor acoustics and its size limited the number of people who could attend our Sunday gatherings. We had a vision of a new state-of-the-art facility that would be modern, inviting, and culturally relevant to the people of Wigan".

"It is an audacious project that is beyond most people's expectations and is a statement that the Church believes in the town and is committed to its future".

"We want the new auditorium to be a destination and a resource for the town of Wigan".

Today's Community Church has been in Wigan for more than 80 years, and in its current location for more than 20 years, with a congregation of around 460 people.

Craig Gibbons, relationship director, Lloyds Bank Commercial Banking, said: "Lloyds Bank has worked closely with the Church for several years now and it's great to be able to support this project.

"The venue will not only help the Church flourish but will also be a fantastic asset for the wider town and I'm sure it will be well used by the community.

"Lloyds Bank is committed to helping businesses and communities in Britain to prosper."

Deputy leader of Wigan Council, Councillor David Molyneux said: "This new facility is a fine example of partnership working and the growth that we are committed to bringing into the borough.

"It will complement our vision for redevelopment of the Wigan Pier Quarter and this is a step towards that transformation."

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