

The Gillespie Centre

Client: Gillespie Centre Association
Location: Biggar
Value: £229,000
Timescale: 12 Weeks
Design Team: Hypostyle Architects, CBA



Challenge

Following the merger of its congregation with the nearby Biggar Kirk, the former Gillespie Church had developed a new role as a Community Centre. After securing lottery funding to make the building fit for purpose, the Gillespie Centre Association tasked Pacific Building with the conversion of the church hall to a state of the art Community Centre for the town of Biggar.

As the existing hall had been used for community based projects, all existing services had to be temporarily relocated during conversion, so it was important that the project be completed as quickly as possible.

Approach

Working to a tight timescale, Pacific Building utilised their experience of fast tracking projects to ensure that deadlines were met and the Centre would reopen to the community in just 12 weeks to sustain relationships with existing groups and individuals using the Centre.

Pacific Building also employed various value engineering methods to the development, meaning that the budget was met without compromising on the aesthetics or functionality of the building. Works included the demolition of walls, formation of escape routes and fire doors, construction of stairwells, the development of kitchens and restaurant facilities and the addition of new toilets and disabled facilities.

To ensure that the building was fully DDA compliant, in addition to the disabled toilets, Pacific Building improved disabled access to the Centre with wide doors, entry ramps, and a lift to provide access to the Centre's upper hall.

Results

The Gillespie Centre opened within the deadlines, and is now fit for purpose for use of the entire community. Since development, the Centre has grown to provide a wealth of activities, clubs, classes and exhibitions for local people, in addition to its excellent facilities, including a busy coffee shop, crèche and IT Resource Centre.

The Gillespie Centre Association were delighted with the results, and the Centre continues to go from strength to strength in its provision of services for the Biggar community.