

Stourbridge says ‘I do’ to new civil ceremony venue

Dudley Council has today (April 15) announced that the borough is to welcome a second registration office, in the grade II-listed Lye and Wollescote Chapel.

To bring the redundant nineteenth century Stourbridge chapels back into use, the council has sold the derelict building to regional building preservation charity The West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust.

The not-for-profit organisation will refurbish the building, on Cemetery Road in Lye, thanks to a £1m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

It is planned that the building will then be leased back to Dudley Council for use as a registration office for marriages, citizenship ceremonies, naming ceremonies, civil partnership ceremonies and wedding vow renewals.

Duncan Lowndes, assistant director of culture and leisure at Dudley Council, said:

“The current building is derelict and unusable and I am delighted that we have found a way to bring this beautiful landmark building back into public use at little cost to the public purse. This will allow the council to provide a unique and stunning ceremony venue in the south of the borough, while preserving a slice of local history.”

Bob Tolley, chairman of The West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust, added:

