

# Launceston Community Music

## Survey Report - Autumn 2025

Elmsgrove Community Arts CIC, 2025

### Overview

This report summarises the findings from a community survey carried out in Launceston during Autumn 2025 to inform the development of Elmsgrove Community Arts CIC's Skiffle Project. The aim was to identify local demand for inclusive music-making opportunities and to understand potential social, wellbeing and accessibility impacts.

The survey received **56 responses**, providing valuable insight into local demand, accessibility considerations, and the potential social benefits of the proposed *Launceston Community Music* group, part of Elmsgrove Community Arts CIC's Skiffle Project.

Respondent Demographics:

- Gender: **41 female** (73%), **15 male** (27%).
- Year of birth provided for **48** respondents (8 were missing as it was an optional entry).
- Valid year-of-birth range: **1947–2014**; average **1974** (i.e., many respondents in the **50–60** age bracket, with participation from teens to over-70s).

### Interest Areas

The most popular activities were:

Area of Interest	Number	% of Respondents
Singing	38	<b>68%</b>
Guitar / ukulele / banjo / other string instruments	26	<b>46%</b>
Just coming along to listen / socialise	25	<b>45%</b>
Percussion / drums	23	<b>41%</b>
Harmonica / whistle / other wind instruments	19	<b>34%</b>
Bringing children / family	17	<b>30%</b>
Help out if needed	1	<b>2%</b>
As a carer, bring client	1	<b>2%</b>

*Note: Respondents could tick multiple options, so percentages total >100%*

This mix shows strong enthusiasm for **inclusive, low-pressure participation**, where people can sing, play, or simply enjoy being part of a community group.

### Preferred Session Times

The majority (23 people) preferred **weekday evenings**, followed by **weekday daytimes** (12) and **weekend daytime sessions** (5). Several respondents selected multiple options, showing flexibility if accessible timings are offered.

## Health and Well-being Factors

Participants were asked if they experienced any challenges or conditions that might affect their participation:

Factor	Number	% of Respondents
Anxiety / depression / stress	23	<b>41%</b>
Money worries / cost of living	15	<b>27%</b>
Loneliness / isolation	14	<b>25%</b>
Low confidence	13	<b>23%</b>
Neurodivergent (e.g. autism, ADHD)	8	<b>14%</b>
Physical or learning disability	5	<b>9%</b>
Other or prefer not to say	3	<b>5%</b>

*Note: Multiple answers possible.*

Over half reported one or more well-being-related barriers, confirming the importance of **accessible and supportive environments** for social and mental-health benefit.

## Perceived Benefits of Joining

Respondents identified how joining a community music group might make a difference to their lives. Top answers:

Benefit	Number	% of Respondents
Meet people / social connection	42	<b>75%</b>
Improve mental wellbeing	37	<b>66%</b>
Self-expression and creativity	37	<b>66%</b>
Build my confidence	32	<b>57%</b>
Help me get out of the house / engage with others	28	<b>50%</b>
Learn a new skill / hobby	27	<b>48%</b>
Family-friendly activity	18	<b>32%</b>
Free activity I could not otherwise afford	16	<b>29%</b>

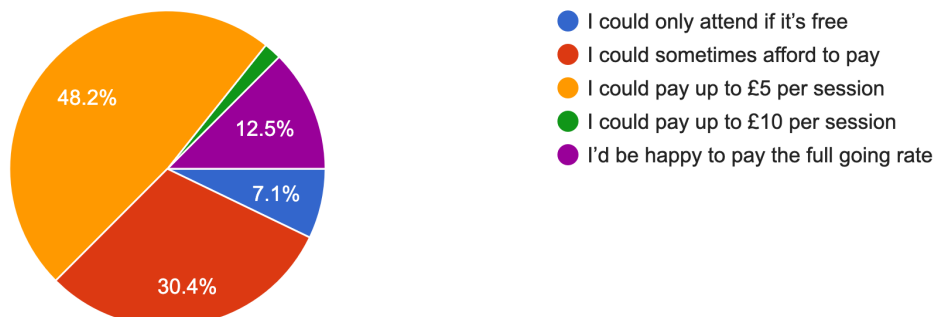
These findings underline the project's strong potential to tackle loneliness, boost confidence, and support mental health through creative activity.

## Affordability

Responses to “What would work for you cost-wise?”:

Cost – what would work for you?

56 responses



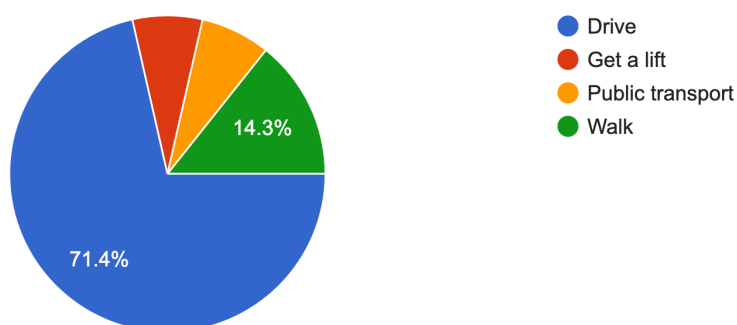
This demonstrates a broad willingness to contribute modestly, but also clear need for **low-cost or subsidised access**, supporting the case for grant funding.

## Travel and Accessibility

Most respondents would **drive** (40), while others would **walk** (8), **use public transport** (4), or **get a lift** (4). This suggests that sessions held within or near Launceston town centre would be accessible to most participants.

How would you usually travel to sessions?

56 responses



## Awareness and Outreach

People heard about the survey mainly via **word of mouth** (27), **social media** (18), and **local organisations** (8). This highlights the strength of community networks and the potential to grow attendance through local partnerships and online visibility.

## Open-Ended Responses (Themes)

Analysis of qualitative comments revealed strong recurring themes:

- **Community and belonging:** people want opportunities to connect locally through music.
- **Mental health and confidence:** participants described feeling uplifted, more confident, and less isolated.
- **Accessibility and inclusivity:** appreciation for a group welcoming beginners, families, and those with health challenges.
- **Local gap in provision:** repeated statements that Launceston lacks comparable inclusive music opportunities.

Typical comments included:

“Yes, definitely. Music brings people together.”

“It helps me get out of the house and feel part of something.”

“There aren’t many music groups here that are welcoming to all levels.”

## Conclusions

The survey demonstrates **strong community demand** for accessible, low-cost, wellbeing-focused music activities in Launceston.

### Key findings:

- 56 responses showing broad age and gender participation.
- 70%+ interest in singing or simple instrumental involvement.
- Over 60% citing mental-health or confidence benefits.
- Majority preference for weekday evening sessions.
- Clear case for subsidy or grant support to maintain inclusivity.

Overall, results support the need for *Launceston Community Music* under *Elmsgrove Community Arts CIC*, confirming the group’s value in improving wellbeing, inclusion, and social connection through shared music-making.

## Next Steps

Elmsgrove Community Arts CIC plans to:

- Launch regular inclusive sessions in 2026.
- Maintain affordability through mixed funding and small participant donations.
- Partner with local organisations to ensure ongoing accessibility and referral pathways for individuals facing social isolation or financial barriers.