

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

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 daytime** (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	41%
Money worries / cost of living	15	27%
Loneliness / isolation	14	25%
Low confidence	13	23%
Neurodivergent (e.g. autism, ADHD)	8	14%
Physical or learning disability	5	9%
Other or prefer not to say	3	5%

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

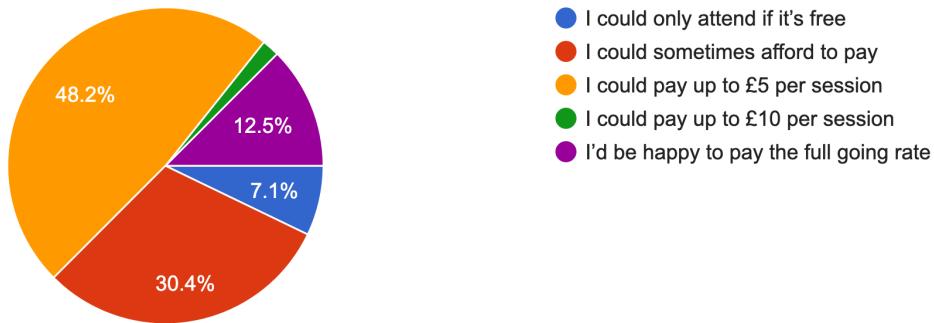
These findings underline the project's strong potential to tackle loneliness, boost confidence, and support mental health through creative activity.

Affordability

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

Cost – what would work for you?

56 responses



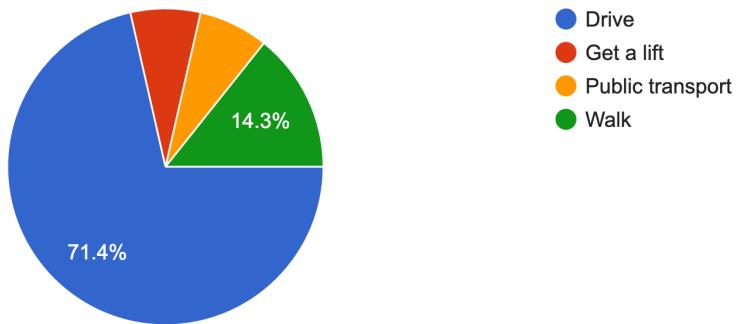
This demonstrates a broad willingness to contribute modestly, but also clear need for **low-cost or subsidised access**, supporting the case for grant funding.

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.