

Theme: Strategic Music Development

Feedback included requests for a central resource for bands and choirs to collaborate, avoid event clashes, and share ideas. They also propose a central venue for live music collaboration and jamming/workshop/lesson space. The importance of Newark's grassroots music scene was highlighted.

Existing Activity:

- Newark Festival – a Hustle including local bands performing across the town and at the Castle
- Various town centre pop up music events through Newark Town Council, Newark Cultural Consortium and Inspire
- Open Doors events such as Musicworks at Vicar Water
- Lots of individual choirs and bands performing in local settings
- Southwell Music Festival
- Southwell Minster programme
- Palace Theatre Programme
- Thriving community of Brass Bands with regular concerts

Proposed Actions:

- Fund a temporary freelance Music Co-ordinator to deliver the initial proposals on the action plan
- Create a Music Forum for people to network, share updates and collaborate, facilitated by NSDC and community-led (similar to Newark Cultural Consortium and Newark Heritage Forum).
- Encourage use of NSDC's new event webpages (in development) to showcase the many varied events.
- Explore opportunities to develop Newark Festival across the year, perhaps through mini-Hustles, supporting local bands.

Theme: Foster more choirs and music groups across the district

Feedback included identification of existing groups and events, including The Gate to Southwell Music Festival in Kirklington, and suggestions of music ensembles.

Existing Activity:

- Numerous community choirs and music groups across the district
- A thriving Brass Band scene
- Festivals such as Gate to Southwell and Lost Village

Proposed Actions:

- Map all current providers and identify gaps
- Collaborate through Music Forum, encourage use of NSDC's new event webpages to maximise promotion, identify opportunities to showcase local talent
- Explore feasibility of growing / expanding community-led music in areas with few or no active groups

Theme: Develop partnerships with music venues and providers

Feedback included increased use of venues like Clipstone Headstocks to enhance collaborative event planning and increase the frequency of music events.

Existing Activity:

- Plenty of venues across the town and district, including Southwell Minster, St Mary Magdalene, Palace Theatre, the Market Square, Vicar Water, Newark Castle Gardens. A number of these already working collaboratively through Newark Cultural Consortium.

Proposed Actions:

- Develop collaborative music event planning through Forum, linking venues to performers
- Explore options for more, accessible pop-up music events across the district

Theme: Support for youth engagement

Feedback included suggestions to foster local talent, showcase young grassroots bands and provide performance opportunities, including becoming a 'small band hub'.

Existing Activity:

- Inspire Music Hub operates in schools and at events, linked by Newark Cultural Consortium and Inspire at the Buttermarket.
- NSDC Open Doors Programme
- Palace Theatre 'Our Past, Your Future' scheme offers an annual grant to young people who are undertaking a course in the creative industries.
- Newark Festival offers opportunities for young musicians.

Proposed Actions:

- Showcase young grassroots bands through potential expansion of the Hustle model and link to existing events through Forum and Cultural Consortium.
- Collaborate to provide opportunities for young people to perform in venues as identified above.

Theme: Support for music education in schools

Feedback highlighted a desire for free access to musical education, specialist teachers and free instrument loans and suggested the need to provide opportunities for school groups to perform.

Existing Activity:

- Inspire operates the Music Education Hub in Nottinghamshire, funded by Arts Council England and DfE.
- Open Doors delivers a number of free sessions in schools and is piloting a project to place Artists in Schools to work with students and teachers, developing creative skills, including music, but is limited by capacity and funding (funded by Arts Council England).

Proposed Actions:

- Map and promote existing provision and encourage opportunities for collaboration to ensure maximum participation within existing resources