

Aims & Aspirations

INTRODUCTION

- The Open Day and Community Consultation showcases the excellent work of MusicAbility together, exploring the feasibility of redeveloping one of Penzance's finest historic buildings, in the heart of the town centre, into a vibrant music centre
- Working in Partnership with the Architectural Heritage Fund the charitable foundation aims to bring 10 Parade Street back to life over the next 5 years, through a phased approach, ultimately extending the building to create music therapy facilities, performance area and work spaces
- Phase 1 was the creation of a well-equipped and dedicated music therapy room to meet the needs of individuals and families, working closely with local schools, social care and mental health services
- Phase 2. The next stage is to create a second music therapy space on the ground floor to allow level access for wheelchair users and clients with mobility needs
- The destination is Phase 3 - a full refurbishment of all floors of the existing building and to extend to create a vibrant exciting entrance and facilities which celebrates music through complimentary, contemporary architecture

THE TRUSTEES' AIMS AND ASPIRATIONS ;

- MusicAbility Foundation acquired the building thanks to a generous donation. The Charity will bring the building back to life as a resource for local people.
- The Trustees of MusicAbility Foundation, as custodians of this important Penzance building, are committed to both restoring the building to give it a new lease of life as a public building for the 21st century and to expanding the current floorplan to enable the addition of modern services (lift, toilets and heating/ventilation system) while considering the fabric of the original building.
- To create a small arts quarter in the centre of Penzance.
- The extensive feasibility study will consider all aspects of the development;
 - Restoration of the building to its former glory
 - Extending to provide further benefits to the local community, including a new public facing entrance and enable access for all
 - How the new spaces will interact and relate to the existing
 - Having spaces that can be let for teaching and other uses which will help with running costs and maintenance.
 - Integration of modern sustainable solutions to heating, ventilation, power and acoustics



“Having a permanent music therapy studio in Penzance, has made all the difference. The effect on our clients is major, people are coming to a place that is dedicated solely to meet their needs. It feels safe, secure and purposeful enables us to do so much more”

Ruth Boulton, co-founder MusicAbility

“Retaining the building’s historic features and beautiful original detailing is vitally important. Any alterations need to be carefully considered – we want to preserve the heritage in the building, but bring it up to standard and make it a modern, thriving and lively public centre”

Tim Boulton, co-founder MusicAbility

“We want to create a new extension, which is contemporary and eco-friendly. Full of light and openness. Its very important that we build as ethically and sustainably as we can, creating a low carbon footprint and it becoming a beacon for sustainability’

Ruth Boulton, co-founder MusicAbility

Public Engagement

WELCOME! TAKE A LOOK AROUND AND LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

- Consultation with key stakeholders is important for this community based project
- The process aims to draw on a wide base of community knowledge through this presentation, questionnaires and further information on the website

WHO ARE KEY STAKEHOLDERS:

- Local Community Members
- Community Leaders
- Local Schools
- Community Groups, including Young People
- Social Care
- Individuals and Families
- Inclusive of All

CONSULTATION AIMS TO:

- Fact find to contribute towards the evolution of the design brief
- Musicability already works closely with local schools, social care, and mental health services and invites these stakeholders to have a real say in how this project will develop to meet their needs
- Individuals and families who use these services can offer their thoughts on the process
- Collaborate with wheelchair users and clients with mobility needs to allow them to fully use the services and access performances
- Raise awareness of the facility and support the building works, through accessing funding from charitable bodies and donations from local businesses, organisations and individuals

"The time I spent with the MusicAbility Music Therapist has helped me come to a place where I feel like I've re-found my feet and have them somewhat back on the ground again. From day one I was welcome and met with calm, which immediately helped me to feel unthreatened. I often felt seen, heard and accepted no matter what was spoken about, as well as validated during and after meeting. I wasn't met with any impression of urgency, expectation or judgment, despite struggling with this in myself.

I'm beginning to feel more comfortable and able just to be and to express myself now and I feel more open, willing and capable of building a healthier relationship with myself. I will always be really grateful to MusicAbility for the time, guidance and support received."

Adult client with complex mental health needs, July 2021

"I'm delighted that 10 Parade Street is being brought back to life as a music centre."

"It will contribute significantly to raising Penzance's profile as a major centre for cultural excellence, and more specifically as a place where the arts are used to support personal development, wellbeing, and wider social change, at a time when this is so needed. The venue will lead to many new fruitful collaborations between Newlyn Art Gallery & The Exchange, MusicAbility, and the wider creative community in Penwith."

James Green, Director of Newlyn Art Gallery & The Exchange



"Humphry Davy School is proud to have worked in effective partnership with members of the MusicAbility team for many years. The bespoke building is already providing a dedicated space and excellent environment for the highly skilled music therapist to support young people's mental health, and I look forward to seeing the building brought to life as a Music Centre that is much more than a performance venue and supports the whole community, including schools from across Penwith."

Bill Marshall, Head, Humphry Davy School, Penzance



"MusicAbility is a wonderful enterprise, offering so much that is valuable in so many ways. There is no doubt that music can – and frequently does – transform the life of a child, or of a family. MusicAbility has the potential to spread happiness and wellbeing throughout the community; I do hope that it will flourish for many, many years to come."

Steven Isserlis CBE



"The Minack Theatre is delighted to work in partnership with MusicAbility to offer opportunity and development of performance skills to the West Cornwall community. It is exciting to see the development of the Music Centre in Penzance, particularly given the opportunity it will give to our young people as a safe creative space where they are welcomed and supported as they develop lifelong skills and friendships."

Zoe Curnow, Executive Director



"Music can help us focus our minds, extend our horizons, it is a balm in tough times, a source of endless leisure. Penzance is so lucky to have the MusicAbility Centre – it will become key to music making across the county – a rich resource to celebrate and treasure".

Petroc Trelawney, BBC Radio 3 presenter

"Therapy, especially for those like me with autism who require consistency in their routines, needs to be more than a 12 week attempt at a magic cure. After almost 3 years of weekly therapy with MusicAbility, I am still making progress in unpacking the triggers of my anxiety and tackling the obstacles associated with the transition into young adulthood which are exacerbated by my unique, "autistic" approach to life. For young people in therapy, recovery is more complex than "returning to your old self", not least because I cannot remember a time when I did not suffer from trauma and its repercussions. Besides, returning to a former version of myself would indicate a reversion to the thought processes of a younger age, whereas therapy should be about looking to the future. This is why the therapeutic journey for young people is so unique, as whatever diagnosable problems they face that therapy seeks to address are only compounded by the problems presented by their ever-changing mind, body and society, and in this current age, the COVID-19 pandemic. It is necessary that therapy can support a young person throughout this time, as my music therapist and MusicAbility has done for me."

Young Person, August 2021



"As head teacher and SENDCO of a Primary School in Cornwall, I have found the music therapy provided by the MusicAbility therapist to be invaluable in helping with children's transition between schools. I have found the therapist to be kind, knowledgeable and an expert in her field. I would highly recommend for children suffering from trauma and specifically trauma and moving schools."

(January 2023)

Headteacher and SENCO of a Primary School in Cornwall