

PRESS RELEASE:

MUSIC VENUE TRUST LAUNCHES NATIONAL PETITION TO PROTECT LIVE MUSIC VENUES



The Music Venue Trust has today launched its second national campaign, an **HM Government petition** calling on the **Secretary of State for the Environment** to carry out an urgent review of **Noise Abatement legislation** to ensure that the proper balance is being struck between the individual rights of owners/occupiers and the right of communities to be able to enjoy live music.

Recent press stories have highlighted the huge threat posed to live music by developers, with town centre venues facing noise abatement notices from brand new flats and new owners/occupiers.

Many of these are historic sites; the **Night and Day Cafe in Manchester**, **The Fleece in Bristol**, places where music has been enjoyed for many years without problems.

The Music Venue Trust believes that venues should be good neighbours, engaging with their local communities and addressing concerns around noise and anti-social behaviour. But we believe that being a good neighbour is a reciprocal process, and that people who choose to live near to community spaces are accepting the responsibility to behave as a good neighbour to their adjoining music venue, church or community space; anywhere it is inevitable and should be acceptable that noise will exist. **We believe this is a common sense approach - if you hate sport, why move next to a football pitch? If you hate music, why move next to a live music venue?**

Being a good neighbour within a community is fundamentally important and any neighbour who abuses his fellow neighbours in any way should suffer the appropriate legal consequences. However, we believe that the current provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 that relate to Noise and the serving of Noise Abatement notices have unintentionally provided rights to new tenants or developers to limit and control noise that are outside the intent of the common sense approach, and that these rights are being misused to attempt to prevent local communities from being able to enjoy the normal, established and historic use of these spaces. We call upon the Secretary of State for the Environment to act in partnership with the Department for Culture Media and Sport and the Department for Communities and Local Government to urgently review all relevant legislation and amend it so that the rights of existing venues and other "noisy" spaces are suitably recognised within the Acts in a manner that reflects the needs and wishes of local communities.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

SIGN the petition: <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/65582>

TELL your friends, your favourite bands, your local musicians that you want them to publicly support this campaign

CLICK share on the petition page

The Music Venue Trust is also running a campaign to find and work with Venue Champions to protect the future of music venues across the country by changing government and local authority perceptions around music venues.

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ABOUT THE MUSIC VENUE TRUST

The Music Venue Trust was created in January 2014 to protect the UK live music network. Its immediate focus is on securing the long term future of the iconic venues which make up the "toilet circuit", venues like Southampton Joiners, Tunbridge Wells Forum, the 100 Club, Exeter Cavern, Hull Adelphi, Manchester Band on the Wall etc. These venues have played a crucial role in the development of British music over the last 40 years, nurturing local talent, providing a platform for artists to build their careers and develop their music and their performance skills. The Music Venue Trust has a clear 5 year plan to ensure those venues continue to play their vital role in supporting the British music success story. Patrons of the Trust include musicians from all sectors of the live music scene, including established stalwarts such as David Gedge of the **Wedding Present**, Jeremy Pritchard of **Everything Everything** (The Times Breakthrough Artist winners) and rising stars such as **Moya**. Musicians are joined by cross party parliamentary political support, MPs **Mike Weatherley** (Conservative, Hove) **Kerry McCarthy** (Labour, Bristol) and **Lord Tim Clement Jones** (Lib Dem), and by senior music industry figures such as agents **Geoff Meale** (The Agency), **Paul Buck** (Coda) and **Scott Thomas** (XRay) who between them represent some of the biggest live music names in the world. The Trustees and Patrons have created a national campaign that will work together with audiences to protect and preserve small venues.

Music Venue Trust CEO Mark Davyd is available for interview to discuss this petition. Please call 07778 668 225 or 0703 174 5994 to arrange.

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