

Busking and Street Entertainers

General

We value the contribution made by buskers and street entertainers in helping to create vibrant and enjoyable town centre. However, inconsiderate busking can cause disturbance to businesses who may find it difficult to serve customers or use telephones due to loud noise.

It is acknowledged that busking is not a licensable activity under the Licensing Act 2003 and no permit or licence is required in order to busk or perform in our town centres.

In order to ensure these activities do not cause disturbance or nuisance usually by loud, continuous or repetitive noise, we have produced guidelines for buskers and street entertainers.

Currently there is no requirement for a Licence or Permit to perform in the town. However, to avoid causing problems it is important to show consideration for the local community, business proprietors and shopkeepers.

This Code of Conduct was written to prevent street entertainment from:

- Becoming intrusive and an annoyance to people – usually by loud, continuous or repetitive noise
- Obstructing the highway

Street Entertainers should...

- Not obstruct the highway.
- Demonstrate a positive intention to entertain passers-by, not to solicit money through sympathy.
- Show consideration for local community, business proprietors and shopkeepers.
- Stop performing if requested to do so by a Police or Council officer.
- Avoid performing outside the Town Hall or Shambles Market Hall.
- Avoid performing near shop entrances/exits or cash machines.
- Try to co-ordinate with other street entertainers.
- Be careful not to build up an audience in a position where they may come into conflict with traffic.
- Be 16 years or over (if under 16, they must be accompanied by an adult or guardian).

Street Entertainers should not...

- Cause a nuisance from loud or amplified music.
- Perform for more than 2 hour in the same location.
- Sell any merchandise such as tapes, CDs or T-shirts.
- Actively collect money. Although street entertainers may have a receptacle, e.g. a musical instrument case, into which donations can be accepted from the general public in return for their performance.
- Perform after 8pm close to residential properties such as flats.

Enforcement

Under the Noise and Statutory Nuisance Act 1993 if the noise level is deemed to be a statutory nuisance then the Council have the right, along with the Police, to take action against those who cause or allow a nuisance to occur. A busker may be asked to stop; failure to comply can lead to prosecution and/or the confiscation of equipment