

Buskers and street entertainment – Voluntary Code

What is Street Entertainment/Busking?

A performance to the passing public who sometimes give money when they're enjoyed the performance. The busking activity is usually a live music performance however some people also perform magic, juggle, create sand sculptures or appear as living statues.

Where to busk

Solihull welcomes buskers and street performers and we recognise that they can improve our streets and help increase footfall in our shopping areas.

We want to ensure that everyone benefits from this entertainment whilst minimising noise disturbance and any intrusive behaviour that could affect neighbouring businesses, residents, visitors or the surrounding environment. We have therefore developed this voluntary code of conduct.

The aim of this document is to set clear rules for buskers to follow to ensure busking can be conducted lawfully to enhance our town's cultural offer without generating complaints.

All performers should:

- Ensure that the location/pitch for any street performance or busking and method of activity, including the placing of equipment on the highway, does not cause undue obstruction to other users of the highway, or access to shops and business for pedestrians and those carrying out work in the town centre.
- Ensure that their performance or busking activity does not cause a noise nuisance to those living or working nearby due to either the volume and/or duration of the performance. Volume levels must be relative and considerate and performers must only use low powered amplification. The volume is too loud if a standard conversation cannot be held in a nearby shop. Equally, if the volume can clearly be heard 50 metres away it is likely to be too loud and performers must turn it down.
- Only be present for more than 90 minutes in any one location (including breaks) and not return to the same location within the same 24 hours. This is to be fair to all and prevent a location being monopolised by anyone.
- Keep backing tracks unobtrusive and turn them off when you're not performing.
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- Comply If any council officers or representatives ask you to cease playing, reduce the volume or to move to a new location.

All performers should not:

- Use mains or generator powered amplification.
- Make use of street furniture such as public seating, lampposts, planters, railings etc; this includes the attachment of posters and adverts.
- Sit on the floor to perform.
- Bring a vehicle into the pedestrianised are of the town centre.

- Use amplification or drums, trumpets or other loud instruments or otherwise cause noise nuisance to residents or businesses.
- Leave equipment unattended or in a manner which poses an obstruction or trip hazard.
- Perform in a manner that could be considered dangerous and/or inappropriate and must not be dressed or conduct themselves in a manner that is likely to cause alarm, distress or offence to members of the public including the use of threatening, abusive or insulting works costumes, props, behaviour or written material.
- Use live animals as part of their act.
- Actively collect money, using signage or any other means; however, it is acceptable to have a hat, music case or box for donations from the public.
- Sell any merchandise without a Street Trading Licence. If you wish to sell your items at a fixed price, then a Street Trading Licence is required. Please use the following link [Street trading consent](#).
- Request donations to a charity unless you have a permit. This is available at [Street trading consent](#).

In addition, Buskers/Performers are requested to take regular breaks in order to allow crowds to disperse and are expected to comply with any reasonable request made by a council, town centre official or police officer.

A responsible adult should accompany minors busking or performing. (Those aged 16-17)

Resolving issues

Most issues can be resolved amicably. Always be respectful and considerate and try and understand another's point of view.

- If someone approaches you to say they have been disturbed by the noise of your performance, do not be confrontational.
- Be reasonable with the person complaining and ensure that you have been sticking to the Code of Conduct
- Try to reach a compromise - can you reduce your volume or move to another site?
- If you feel that you have adhered to the code but can't come to a compromise with the person complaining, politely inform them that you are following the code.

If there is a complaint about the music level of your performance, you may be asked to reduce the volume or move to another location or stop their performance.

For further information and advice on busking please go to: [Busking Advice for Musicians in the UK | The MU \(musiciansunion.org.uk\)](#)