

Engagement

If members of the public are being disturbed by buskers, either where they live or outside their place of work they should refer them to the **Code of Practice**.

Approach the busker, calmly and explain politely that they are being troubled by noise. You may be apprehensive and they may be unaware that they are causing a problem. Most buskers will be prepared to respond positively to a reasonable request.

If the view of the complainant is that the problem persists, they may request that an Office of the relevant authority engages with the busker to resolve the situation.



Organised events

Where street performances are planned in advance, rather than simply impromptu occurrences, for example, by the larger group is as part of an organised event, a licence may be required, usually by the means of a temporary event notice (TENS). These require a minimum of ten working days' notice to be given. Details on how to apply can be obtained from Mendip District Council.

Health and Safety

Everyone who performs in the street has a responsibility to do so safely and should undertake a risk assessment and consider whether they should have public liability cover.

Issued by
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Busking in Shepton Mallet



Code of practice

As agreed between
Street Performers
&
Shepton Mallet Town Council



Introduction

Busking, by its very nature, tends to be an impromptu performance by an individual or a small group of musicians who move from one pitch to another, perhaps several times during the course of the day. Larger groups of those which use more than a minimum of amplification do not generally come within the term busking. The code of practice is intended to cover all forms of street performance including theatre, poetry and other speakers.

Buskers is a long established tradition which, when done well, adds to the attractiveness and colour of the town centre. It can create a happy and pleasant atmosphere that provides pleasure and entertainment to both local and visitors to the town.

Performance etiquette

For those living or working in the town centre, however, busking can become a source of intrusion and annoyance and under some circumstances could lead to a nuisance being caused, which would warrant action by the authorities. This is especially so when amplification is used to support the performance.

The Law: The law requires Mendip District Council to take action to abate a noise which is deemed to be a nuisance and this could involve the service of a legal notice, even the seizure of instruments or amplifiers. Although, we hope never to reach this stage in Shepton Mallet!!

The Busker's Code

The Busker's code is intended to set out a standard which, if followed, should enable busking to continue and thrive whilst protecting businesses and residents from excessive noise or prolonged exposure to the same performances. **The points below are intended as a guide. Flexibility and reasonableness from all parties will be the key to the success of this code of practice***. Respect for all other street users, in particular other buskers, nearby residents and businesses is paramount.

***Music** or voice shall not be amplified to a level or be so loud that either can be heard beyond a distance of 30 metres.

***Buskers** shall not perform for more than one hour at a time and shall move to another pitch at least 50 metres away.

***Buskers** shall not set up a pitch within 50 metres of another busker.

Buskers shall not obstruct the flow of the pedestrians or vehicles in the street. In particular, sites close to fire exits, cash points or doorways/access should be avoided.

Anyone selling merchandise (eg CD's ,posters etc.) must have the appropriate licence.

Contributors must not be solicited from passed-by as this would be regarded as begging.

If requested to reduce the volume of music, buskers should try to do so as far as possible, by reducing any amplification of playing quieter tunes.

Busking in the street should not start before 9.00am and should finish by 8.00pm

Busking outside of the place of worship when there is a solemn service or event in progress is discouraged.

Engage with traders, residents and the public and to stop busking if requested by anyone who is inconvenienced or disturbed by what you are doing.

