

Introduction

Street performing (busking) is a time-honoured art form which, when well done, can add to the colour and attractiveness of the local area. Performers can help to create an enhanced atmosphere and provide pleasure to many people both local and visitors.

Nuisance

For those living or working in the vicinity however, busking can become intrusive and annoying and may lead to nuisance being caused. This could warrant action by the authorities, especially when amplification is used to support the performance.

The Law

The law requires the council to take action to abate a noise which is deemed to be a nuisance and prohibit its recurrence. This could involve the service of a legal notice, even the seizure of instruments or amplifiers, in some cases.



The Busker's Code of Practice

This code has been drawn up to set a standard which, if complied with, will ensure busking can continue without the need for us to take action.

- Contributions must not be solicited. This is begging and you could be arrested or prosecuted if you do.
- If requested to reduce the volume of music you should try to do so as far as possible by reducing the volume of amplified music or playing quieter tunes.
- The entertainment should cease from 9pm
- Avoid sites near to public telephone boxes, post boxes or doorways as this will make it difficult for these to be used properly
- Music or voice shall not be amplified to a level or be so loud that either can be clearly heard at a distance of 30 metres
- Move to another pitch which is at least 50 metres away after one hour – this will help prevent complaints from local shopkeepers
- Do not set up your pitch within 50 metres of another busker
- No sale of any merchandise (e.g. CD's, posters etc.) will be allowed
- Don't obstruct or follow pedestrians



What should you do?

If buskers are disturbing you, either where you live or outside your place of work you should:

- Approach the busker, calmly, and explain politely that you are being troubled by noise. You may be apprehensive, but often people may be unaware that they are causing a problem. Most buskers will be prepared to respond positively to a reasonable request. You may find it helpful to bring this code to their attention
- If the problem persists, you can contact the Council for advice on the number on the back of this leaflet. An officer may be able to visit to explain the code to the busker and, if necessary, to take the appropriate action.



Organised Events

- Where street performances are planned in advance, rather than simply impromptu occurrences, for example as part of an organised event, then a licence may be required, usually by means of a temporary event notice. These require a minimum of ten working days' notice to be given. Details can be found at: <http://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/business/1660.asp>

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 insurance cover.

Address:

Fakenham Town Council
Fakenham Connect
Fakenham
NR21 9DY

Contact details:

Tel: 01328 853653
Email:
info@fakenhamtowncouncil.gov.uk



A GUIDE TO BUSKING IN FAKENHAM

Street Performers Code of Practice

