

# Busking and street entertainment advice



**West Suffolk**  
Council

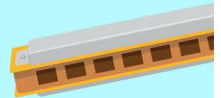
**Introduction:** Busking, including other forms of street entertainment can, when performed well, create an enhanced atmosphere and provide pleasure to many people, both local residents and visitors. However, whilst being popular with shoppers and passers-by, the actions of some buskers and street musicians can be intrusive and annoying to those living or working in the vicinity.



As a guide music or voice shall not be amplified to a level or be so loud that it can be plainly heard beyond a distance of 30 metres.



- Buskers shall not occupy any pitch for more than one hour at a time and shall move to another pitch, at least 50 metres away, if they wish to continue performing. They shall not return to the same pitch again on the same day.
- Buskers cannot set up a pitch within 100 metres of each other.
- Buskers shall not obstruct the flow of pedestrians in the street. Sites close to fire exits, cash points or doorways shall be avoided and space must be left for wheelchairs and pushchairs to pass.
- No merchandise may be offered for sale without a street trading consent, please contact the council's licensing department for details. [www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/licensing](http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/licensing)
- If requested to reduce the volume buskers should aim to do so.
- Entertainment shall only take place between 9am and 6pm.
- This advice leaflet 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.



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



If you feel able to do so, approach the busker and explain politely that you are being troubled by noise. It may be that the busker is unaware that they are causing a problem. Most buskers will respond positively to a reasonable request. You may find it helpful to bring this guidance leaflet to their attention.

If the problem continues, you can contact the council for advice. Contact details are on the reverse of this leaflet.



Persistent failure by a busker to comply with measures within this guidance may result in the council making an assessment of unreasonable disturbance or statutory nuisance. In such cases appropriate formal action would be taken.



**Organised events:** Street performances planned in advance, for example when undertaken as a larger group or as part of an organised event may need a licence. Usually a Temporary Event Notice (TEN). These require a minimum of 10 working days' notice to be given.

- [www.gov.uk/temporary-events-notice](http://www.gov.uk/temporary-events-notice)
- [www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/ten](http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/ten)



Everyone who performs in the street has a responsibility to do so safely. You should undertake a risk assessment and consider whether you should have public liability insurance cover. You may also be required to get the landowner's permission.



**Please be clear that following this advice leaflet does not imply council permission or license to perform.**

**The law:** Prolonged and excessive noise in the street from musical instruments may be considered a statutory nuisance and in certain cases the local authority can take legal action to abate the nuisance.

[www.gov.uk/guidance/noise-nuisances-how-councils-deal-with-complaints](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/noise-nuisances-how-councils-deal-with-complaints)

[www.gov.uk/civil-injunctions-criminal-behaviour-orders](http://www.gov.uk/civil-injunctions-criminal-behaviour-orders)

Complaints regarding nuisance will be investigated and action, formal or otherwise, taken accordingly.



If you require this document in a different format (braille, large print, audiotape) please contact the council at:  
[customer.services@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@westsuffolk.gov.uk)  
or phone 01284 757053



For further information visit:  
[www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/noise](http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/noise)

