

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, by a larger group or 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 and the notice forms can be found at:

www.cambridge.gov.uk/temporary-event-notice

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:

The Guildhall
PO Box 700
Cambridge
CB1 0JH

Contact details:

Customer Service Centre
01223 457000



Guide to Busking in Cambridge



Street Performers Code of Practice



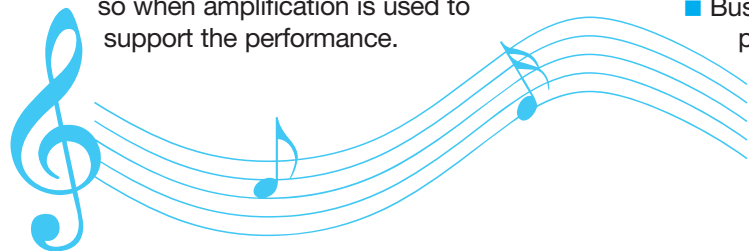
Introduction

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 or those which use more than a minimum of amplification do not generally come within the term busking and performances by such groups may require to be formally licensed, by the Council. (See the link to the Council's licensing webpage, at the end of this leaflet.)

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

Nuisance

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



The Law

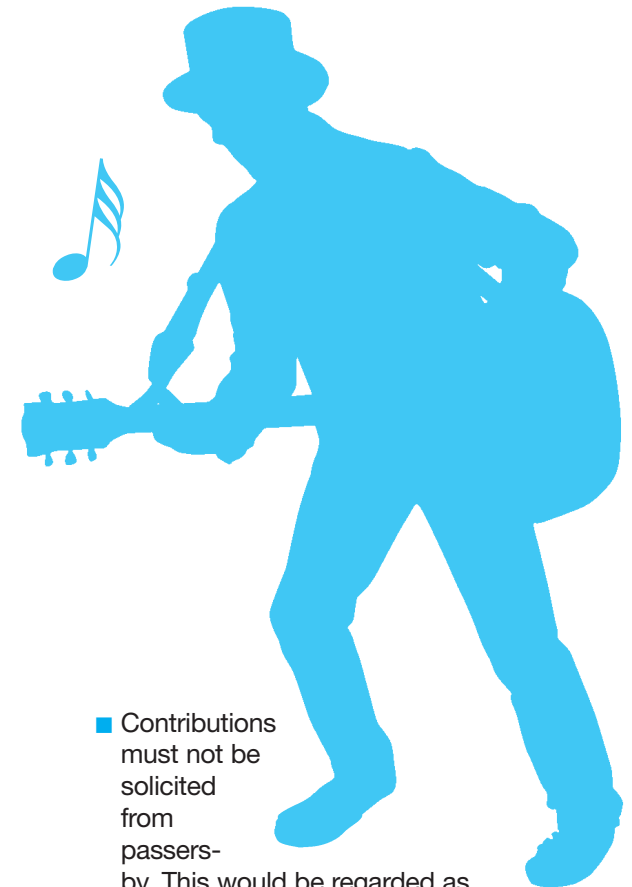
The law requires the Council to take action to abate a noise which is deemed to be a nuisance and this could involve the service of a legal notice, even the seizure of instruments or amplifiers, in some cases.



The Busker's Code

This 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.

- 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 occupy any pitch for more than one hour at a time and shall move to another pitch, at least 50 metres away, after performing. They shall not return to the same pitch again on the same day.
- Buskers shall not set up a pitch within 50 metres of another busker
- Buskers shall not obstruct the flow of pedestrians in the street. (The Police might regard this as obstruction and take action). In particular, sites close to fire exits, cashpoints or doorways should be avoided.
- No merchandise (eg CDs , posters etc) may be offered for sale



- Contributions must not be solicited from passers-by. This would be regarded as begging and could result in arrest and prosecution.
- If requested to reduce the volume of music, buskers should try to do so, as far as possible, by reducing any amplification or playing quieter tunes.
- Busking in the street should not start before 8 a.m. and shall finish by 8 p.m.