

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, 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 notification. These require a minimum of ten working days' notice to be given. Details and the notice forms can be found at: [Event Notification](#)

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.

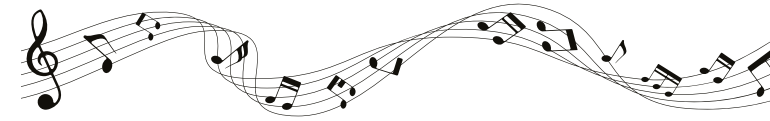
Address

Town Centre Team,
Stevenage Borough Council
Daneshill House,
Danestrete,
Stevenage,
SG1 1HN

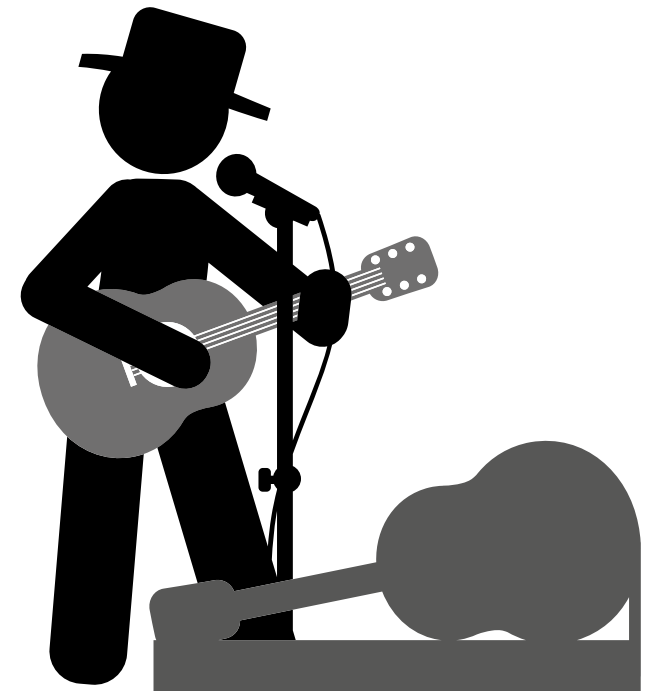
Contact Details

tcm@stevenage.gov.uk / 01438 242184

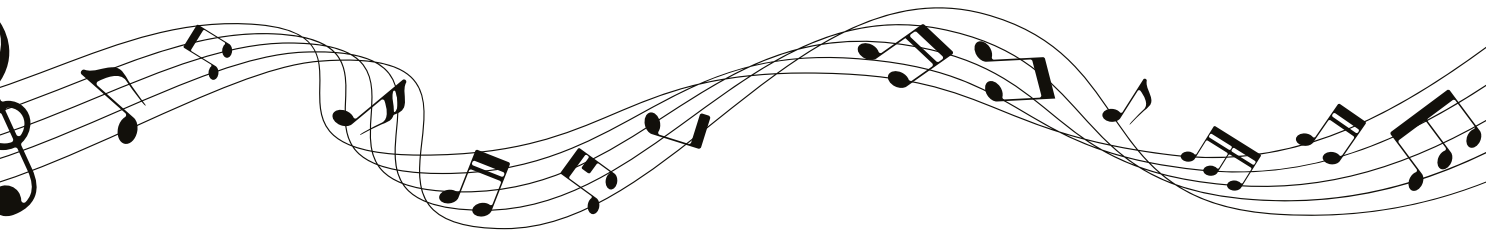
Directly reporting a noise nuisance:
[Report Anti-Social Behaviour](#)

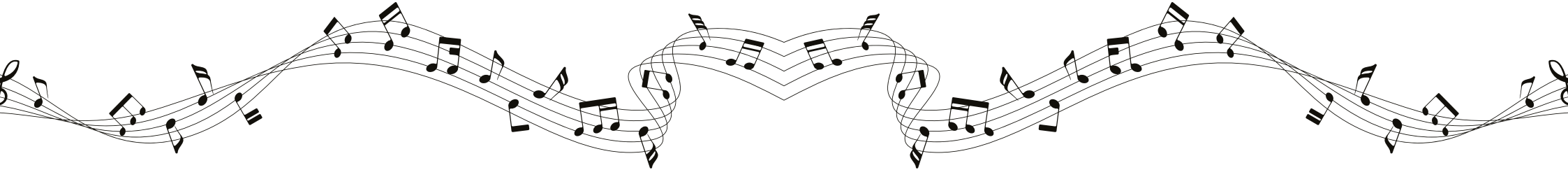


Guide to Busking in Stevenage Town Centre



Street Performers Code of Conduct





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 fall within our small events category (see more on the council website link on the reverse of this brochure).

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. The below is guidance only as to how we hope our Buskers will abide by. All advised busking spots are free of charge and no booking is required.

- Preferred Busking Locations:
 - Near the fountain
 - The Forum square, near HMV



- Music or voice to not be amplified to a level or be so loud that either can be heard beyond a distance of 30 meters or inside any business premises. Breaches could result in enforcement via the noise nuisance act.
- Buskers will ideally not occupy any space for more than two hours at a time in one day.
- Buskers to consider others performing and 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 not be used.
- 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. Shopkeepers must not be disturbed by loud music.
- Busking in the street should not start before 8 a.m. and shall finish by 8 p.m. (due to residential blocks).
- Solely buskers are liable for their actions, omissions, and negligence, resulting in loss or damage to the property and/or injury to any member of the public. The buskers should have a valid insurance policy to cover such risks.