

## IF YOU ARE AFFECTED BY BUSKING:

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

- Approach the busker, and calmly explain that you are being troubled by noise. The busker may be unaware that they are causing a problem. Most will respond positively to a reasonable request and you may find it helpful to bring this advice leaflet to their attention.
- If the problem persists, you can contact the Council for advice on 01353 665555. In the first instance an officer would visit to give advice to the busker. Failure to comply with this may result in an investigation for statutory nuisance and if necessary, further action may be taken.



## 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 (TEN). Usually these require a minimum of ten working days notice to be given, unless a late TEN is applied for. Details and the notice forms can be found at: [www.eastcambs.gov.uk](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk)

## RISK ASSESSMENT

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.



If you require this document in different formats (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape/CD or other languages) please contact the council's main reception on 01353 665555 or email [translate@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:translate@eastcambs.gov.uk)

# BUSKING and Street entertainment

Advice leaflet



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
DISTRICT 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. The Local Authority and the Police have received complaints about such activities within East Cambridgeshire.

## The Law

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 noise in the street from musical instruments may be a statutory nuisance and the Local Authority can take legal action to abate the nuisance and prohibit or restrict its recurrence; this may include the service of a legal notice and even the seizure of musical instruments and amplification equipment and/or prosecution in some cases.

## Guidance for Buskers

- As a guide, music or voice should not be so loud that it can be plainly heard beyond a distance of 30 metres. The use of amplifiers is actively discouraged - if

an amplifier is used, the volume must be controlled so that it is audible only to passers-by in the immediate vicinity, not people inside adjacent premises.

- Buskers should not occupy any pitch for more than one hour\* at a time and should move to another pitch, at least 50 metres away, if they wish to continue performing. They should not return to the same pitch (or within 50 metres of it) again on the same day.
- Buskers should not set up a pitch within 100 metres of another busker
- Buskers should not obstruct the flow of pedestrians in the street. In particular, sites close to fire exits, cash points or doorways should be avoided and space must be left for wheelchairs and pushchairs to pass.
- No merchandise (e.g. CDs, posters etc) may be offered for sale
- If requested to reduce the volume of music, buskers should try to do so, as far as possible, by reducing the amplification or playing quieter tunes.
- Entertainment should only take place between the hours of 09:00hrs and 17:00hrs.

- No busking should take place within the grounds of the Cathedral
- Children under the age of 14 are not legally permitted to busk.

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.



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

\* - with the exception of Market days where buskers can play for a longer time period **if prior permission has been gained from the Town Centres Team Leader** for that specific performance.

Please note that this guidance note deals only with the issue of Statutory Noise Nuisance. Following the advice given therein does not imply Council Permission or license to perform.