

Busking and Street Entertainment

Busking and other forms of street entertainment are part of the Warwick District's 'experience', creating an enhanced atmosphere and providing pleasure to many people, both local residents and visitors. Buskers and Street Entertainers in the District must follow the Code of Practice, which is detailed below.

On occasion, however, particularly for people living or working in the area, busking may be intrusive, annoying, indecent and offensive. As a result, both the Local Authority and the Police receive complaints about the volume and sometimes the nature of busking and street entertainment.

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 noise in the street from musical instruments may be a statutory nuisance and the Local Authority is able to take legal action to abate the nuisance and prohibit or restrict its recurrence; this may include the seizure of musical instruments and amplification equipment.

Warwick District Council also has the following bye law within the District which states:

No person shall sound or play upon any musical or noisy instrument or sing in any street or public place within 100 metres of any dwelling house or office, after being requested to desist by any resident or occupant thereof, either personally or through any person acting on his behalf, or through a police officer, on account of the interruption of the ordinary occupations or pursuits of any such resident or occupant or for other reasonable and sufficient cause: Provided that this byelaw shall not apply to properly conducted religious services, except where the request to desist is made on the ground of the serious illness of any resident of the house.

PLEASE NOTE: THE COUNCIL DOES NOT LICENCE BUSKERS

If you encounter problems with Street Entertainers please contact the following people:

For matters relating to obstruction of the 'public highway' and offensive behaviour – **The Police on 01926 415000**

For matters relating to noise control – **Warwick District Council on 01926 410410**

Code Of Practice

1. Noise (for example music and voice) should not be so loud that it can plainly be heard at a distance of 50 metres. Busking must not be intrusive or a nuisance to nearby premises.
2. Busking is subject to a maximum of two performers
3. Amplification equipment is not permitted.
4. An entertainer should not perform for longer than 1 hour in any location and should not perform again in that location (or within 100 metres of it) on the same day. Note: particularly noisy entertainers (e.g. bagpipers or drummers) should not perform for longer than 30 minutes.
5. Entertainers shall not obstruct the highway. Entertainers are also responsible for ensuring that the highway is not obstructed by people gathering to listen or to watch the performance. The highway includes any pedestrianised areas.
6. An entertainer should not locate within 150 metres of another entertainer who is also performing.
7. Entertainment is only permitted between the hours of 10:00hrs and 17:00hrs.