

Busking within the Stroud District

Busking is performing in a public place - usually singing, playing music or dancing where the intention is for people to give money for the performance. You do not need a Licence to busk.

Stroud District Council provides the following advice to buskers in the form of a voluntary code of conduct. The code aims to prevent busking from:-

- becoming an annoyance to people, usually as a result of loud, continuous or repetitive noise; and
- obstructing the highway and/or pedestrian routes.

If a busker causes a nuisance with noise from music or singing, the Council has powers to take action.

The Voluntary Code:

1. The noise from music or singing should not be so loud that it can be plainly heard at a distance of 50 metres. Amplification is therefore not encouraged.
2. Drumming should be avoided, or only included as a very minor part of an act.
3. A busker should not perform for longer than 1 hour in any one location and should not perform again at that location (or within 50 metres of it) for a further 3 hours.
4. A busker should not locate within 50 metres of another busker who is already performing.
5. A busker should not obstruct free passage of pedestrians or vehicles either on the highway, pavement or pedestrianised areas, or allow an audience to do so. Access to shops, street furniture and bus stops should be kept clear.
6. Use should not be made of street furniture such as lamp-posts, seats and bins.
7. No signs inviting payment should be displayed.
8. Proper use of public telephones should not be prevented, either because of noise or obstruction.
9. A busker should immediately stop performing when requested to do so by a Police or Council Officer.
10. The appearance and quality of an act should demonstrate a positive intention to entertain rather than to solicit money through sympathy.