

Busking and Street Entertaining

Code Of Conduct

Borough Council of
**King's Lynn &
West Norfolk**



Busking and other forms of street entertainment are part of the King's Lynn 'experience', creating an enhanced atmosphere and providing pleasure to many people, both local residents and visitors.

Buskers and Street Entertainers in King's Lynn are asked to follow a Code of Practice, which is detailed below.

On occasion, however, particularly for people living or working in the town centre, busking may be intrusive, annoying, indecent and offensive. As a result, both the Local Authority and the Police receive many 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.

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 Tel 101**
- For matters relating to noise control – **Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk 01553 616600**

Buskers Guidelines

It is hoped these guidelines help sustain a vibrant town centre experience for all. Regular disregard of the advice provided may increase the likelihood of complaints, possible enforcement actions or calls for King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council to introduce a formal busking scheme.

Currently there is no specific licensing or registration scheme for street entertainers in the Borough. A significant number of complaints have been received in recent times. In an attempt to encourage good relations between street performers, the local community and business and enforcement agencies the following guidelines have been put together. The guidance is based on a balance between various laws and examples of good and bad practice.

Performers of live amplified music in the street may require a temporary events notice – you should contact the licensing team at the Borough Council for advice in advance on any performance.

Sale of Merchandise

The sale of merchandise (for example, CD's) is not allowed unless a Street Trading Consent has been obtained from the Council's Town Centre Management.

If you want to sell items on the street or on land where the public have free access you will require a Street Trading Consent license from the Town Centre Management. If you trade and do not have consent you could be committing an offence.

For more information contact Town Centre Management 01553 616739

or email: towncentremanager@west-norfolk.gov.uk

Safety & Risk Management

We advise all buskers to think about public safety when planning and setting up their act. The Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk cannot be held liable for activities of buskers and we advise all buskers to carry Public Liability Insurance (PLI).

BUSKING GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE

- Make contact with the neighbouring traders when looking for a site to busk. Advise them how long you intend to perform in that location, which should never be more than 1 hour.
- Consider neighbours when setting volume – reduce the noise level to a minimum and stick to it. Busking must never be intrusive or a nuisance to nearby premises.
- Vary your location (pitch) from day to day . Move at least 100 meters away from the last pitch used if carrying out more than one performance that day.
- Try to co-ordinate and co-operate with other buskers.
- Stop busking if requested to do so by anyone who is inconvenienced or disturbed by what you are doing, or if asked by a police or council officer.

Please DO NOT

- Play for more than 1 hour in any location (pitch)
 - Return to any location (pitch) within a period of 2 hours from when you last performance there ended.
 - Obstruct pedestrians – Busk near doorways, cashpoints, post boxes or phone boxes.
 - Busk in an area where an event is already taking place without obtaining the event organisers permission.
 - Actively ask for contributions. This is begging and you could be arrested/prosecuted if you do.
 - Act or speak aggressively to people exercising their right to ask you to stop.
 - Behave in a manner causing or likely to cause a 'Breach of the Peace'.
 - Use amplification when performing otherwise you may need a Temporary Event Notice.
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