

Code of Practice for Buskers in Stevenage Town Centre

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

- (1) Preferred Busking Locations:
 - Near the fountain
 - The Forum square, near HMV
- (2) 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.
- (3) Buskers will ideally not occupy any space for more than two hours at a time in one day.
- (4) Buskers to consider others performing and not set up a pitch within 50 metres of another busker.
- (5) 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.
- (6) Contributions must not be solicited from passers-by. This would be regarded as begging and could result in arrest and prosecution.
- (7) 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.
- (8) Busking in the street should not start before 8 a.m. and shall finish by 8 p.m. (due to residential blocks).
- (9) 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.