

Wyre Forest District Buskers code

The purpose of this code is to offer buskers the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the atmosphere of the 3 towns and ensure that performances are appreciated by residents, shoppers and traders.

Pursuant to those objectives, buskers must appreciate that, whilst they are allowed to perform and collect money without licensing fees, shops and other businesses have to pay significant rents and business rates. Local businesses create employment in the towns and the Council has an obligation to ensure that the atmosphere is conducive to successful and profitable trading. Local authorities have duties to enforce legislation in respect of obstruction of the highway, noise and anti-social behaviour. There are also byelaws in place which restrict the playing of musical instruments in certain circumstances. A breach of these byelaws is an offence. To ensure there is no risk of this, you must check in advance with the Town Centres Manager (01562-732534) and give your details.

You do not need to fill in any forms: verbal permission will usually be given, subject to the following conditions.

1. If you wish to perform acoustically *ie without amplification*, you will usually be given permission immediately.
2. If you use amplification the Town Centre Manager will need to check that your amplification is not too loud (this follows complaints from shopkeepers). You should not continue until this has been established
 - Your performance must be inaudible from a distance of 30 metres.
 - If you are asked to lower the volume by a Council officer or a local business then you must do so immediately
 - If you turn up the volume again you will be asked to stop your performance (failure to do so may be a breach of the byelaws referred to above).
3. Ensure that you are not creating an obstruction. If you use a box or hat for collecting money it must not be more than 75cm from your feet and must not carry any message soliciting donations other than the words “thank you”
4. Do not perform in the same spot for more than 1 hour. You must then move at least 50 metres away. Do not perform within 50 metres of another busker.
5. Buskers are expected to demonstrate a reasonable level of musical competence. Judgement will be made as to whether someone is a genuine busker or a beggar posing as one.
6. Buskers should not perform in a manner which, in the opinion of a Police Officer or Council Officer is dangerous or offensive or likely to cause alarm.

We aim to develop an ongoing friendly relationship with talented and professional buskers who will abide by these rules. There may be opportunities for good buskers to perform at Council events for which payment would be made.

If you have any questions please contact the Town Centres Manager on 01562-732435 or 07779-629116 or peter.michael@wyreforestdc.gov.uk