



Wiltshire Council
Where everybody matters



Salisbury's Busker Code of Practice

Introduction

Busking and other forms of street entertainment can enhance the vitality of the city centre and provide pleasure to many people both local and visiting. Salisbury welcomes good entertainment. Buskers and other street entertainers are asked to follow this Code of Practice.

Nuisance

On occasions, busking may become a nuisance, particularly for people living or working in the city centre. As a result, Salisbury City Council, Wiltshire Council, Salisbury Business Improvement District (BID) and Wiltshire Police receive complaints about volume, nature of busking and street entertainment and obstruction of the public highways caused by gatherings.

Legal

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, noise in the street from musical instruments may be a statutory nuisance. The Noise and Statutory Nuisance Act 1993 empowers local authorities to take statutory nuisance action in relation to equipment, including amplified musical instruments used in the streets in the event of loud and prolonged noise. Wiltshire Council is able to take legal action to abate the nuisance and prohibit or restrict its recurrence. This may include the seizure of musical instruments.

Wiltshire Police, Salisbury City Council and Salisbury BID will not normally institute legal action where the Code is observed. However, breaches make an offender liable to prosecution. It should also be noted that persons other than the Police, Salisbury City Council and Salisbury BID may institute action under the same laws where the code is not observed.

Quality

All buskers or street entertainers must cease performing immediately when requested to do so by Wiltshire Police, Salisbury BID representative or Council officer.

Restrictions

The Old George Mall, Cross Keys and The Maltings shopping centres are privately owned and prior permission to perform must be sought from their centre managers.

CODE OF PRACTICE

1. Music or voice shall not be amplified to be so loud that either can be plainly heard at a distance of fifty metres. Mains or generator-powered amplification is not permitted. Busking must not be intrusive, a nuisance to nearby premises or members of the public.
2. Private land apart, entertainment is restricted to a maximum of two hours in any one location and shall not be repeated in that location or within fifty metres of it for a two hour time period.
3. Entertainers shall not obstruct the highway. Entertainers are also responsible for ensuring that the highway is not obstructed by people gathering to watch or listen. Highway includes any footpath, pavement or any pedestrian area.
4. Entertainers shall not make use of street furniture eg public seating, lamp posts, railings etc.
5. Pitches chosen shall satisfy the above criteria and must not be within fifty metres of another busker or BIG Issue vendor.
6. Entertainment is only permitted between the hours of 1000 and 2000 (1000 hours and 2200 hours in June, July and August).
7. No sign shall be displayed requesting payment (except where a collection for charity has been authorised by Wiltshire Council or the Charity Commissioners).
8. Entertainers shall not perform in a manner which is dangerous to themselves or members of the public.
9. Entertainers shall not dress, act, or say anything which is likely to cause alarm, distress or offence to anyone in the city centre.
10. Entertainers must stop performing immediately when requested to do so by Wiltshire Police, Council Officer or Salisbury BID representative.

The Buskers Code of Practice is supported by the 'Byelaw Relating to Noise in Streets and Other Public Places' (Section 235 of the Local Government Act 1972) 28 May 1999.

Useful Telephone Numbers

Wiltshire Police non-emergency number	101
Wiltshire Council	0300 456 0100
Salisbury City Council	01722 342 860
Salisbury BID	01722 658 000