

Busking and Street Entertainment

Encouraging further vibrancy within Milton Keynes



Issued by Milton Keynes Council

Date issued
October 2014

Review date
October 2015

Prepared by
Arts Development Officer

Approved by
Cllr S Betteley

Busking and Street Entertainment Policy and Code of Conduct

Introduction

Milton Keynes Council supports and encourages busking and street entertainment in central areas of the city in order to animate our public spaces and add vibrancy.

This Busking and Street Entertainment Policy and registration scheme sets the standards expected in Milton Keynes Council.

This policy only applies to land owned by Milton Keynes Council as identified on the map enclosed. Areas owned by others, such as the shopping centres, do not fall within this policy and separate permissions shall be required.

The centre:mk shopping centre is developing busking spots within the centre, for more information please see: www.thecentremk.com

Busking under the age of 18 is not encouraged but anyone under 18 that wishes to busk should either be accompanied by their parent/guardian or have a letter of consent with them confirming their parent/guardian's consent.

Busking does not generally require a licensing under the Licensing Act 2003.

Feedback

This new policy welcomes feedback via arts@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Code of Conduct

Milton Keynes Council hopes that this new policy will add value and that busking and street entertainment is widely welcomed. A voluntary Code of Conduct (page 2) has been developed and Milton Keynes Council encourages all performers to adhere to it.

Complaints and Noise Disturbances:

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 noise from musical instruments in the street may be a statutory nuisance. Legal action may be taken to stop the noise and stop or restrict it happening again. This includes seizing musical instruments and amplification equipment.

Milton Keynes Council recognises that occasionally, busking and street entertainment may be considered a nuisance. Whilst the code of conduct for buskers and street entertainers is aiming to minimise this, the reporting of these issues is important. On such an occasion, please use the following:

Online: <https://my.milton-keynes.gov.uk/Pages/Form%20Pages/ReportIt-Noise.aspx>

Telephone: Call Thames Valley Police on **101** to report obstruction or offensive behaviour.



The Code of Conduct for buskers and street entertainers

Please do:

1. Only perform on MK Council-owned land (map below)
2. Entertain only between 10am and 8pm
3. Entertain the public and have a good time
4. Protect yourselves by taking out Personal Liability Insurance

Please do not:

5. Use mains or generator power for amplification. Busking must not be intrusive or be a nuisance to nearby premises (as prescribed in the Environmental Protection Act 1990). Music or voices should not be heard plainly at a distance of 50 metres.
6. Busk for more than 1 hour in any one place.
7. Obstruct the highway (road, pavement or open pedestrian area). You are responsible for ensuring that any people gathering to watch or listen to you do not obstruct the highway.
8. Block access to shops, offices, residencies or fire escapes, or other amenities, such as cash machines or telephone boxes.
9. Make use of the street furniture, e.g. public seats, lamp posts, railings.
10. Busk within 100 metres of another busker or group of buskers.
11. Perform acts involving fire, knives, weapons, striptease or nudity, live animals (other than

registered assistance dogs).

12. Sell CDs or other merchandise without a street trading license
13. Actively encourage donations or payment for performing.
14. Perform in a manner that is dangerous to yourself or to the public.
15. Act in a way, say something or use language that is likely to cause offense to a member of the public

Milton Keynes Council wish to encourage buskers and street entertainers to perform in Milton Keynes' public spaces, however entertainers must immediately comply with a request by an Officer of MK Council or Thames Valley Police to lower volume, move location or cease busking.





Map of Busking Areas in CMK



Busking areas in Central Milton Keynes:

1. Station Square
2. Midsummer Boulevard near Restaurants
3. By MK Market / Food Court
4. Bus Station on Midsummer Boulevard (by MKube kiosk)
5. Outside The Point
6. Margaret Powell Square