

Busking and Street Entertainment

Encouraging further vibrancy within Milton Keynes



Issued by Milton Keynes Council

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Prepared by
Arts Officer

Busking and Street Entertainment Policy and Code of Conduct

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.

We see the value in the streets being animated with live music, performance and entertainment and the benefits to artists in allowing them the platform on which to perform.

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

This policy 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.

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 areas shown on the map below
2. Entertain only between 10am and 8pm
3. Protect yourselves by taking out Personal Liability Insurance

Please do not:

4. 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.
5. Busk for more than 1 hour in any one place.
6. 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.
7. Busk within 100 metres of another busker or group of buskers.
8. Perform acts involving fire, knives, weapons, striptease or nudity, live animals (other than registered assistance dogs).
9. 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 Locations

An online map of locations can be seen on google: [Busking Map on Google](#) and a screen grab is shown below:

