

## Useful contacts

**Guildford Borough Council  
Environmental Health and  
Licensing**

01483 444371

Licensing@guildford.gov.uk

**Out-of-hours Noise Enforcement**

01483 564821

**Town Centre Manager**

01483 444331

**Guildford Police**

0845 125222

**For deaf and hard of hearing  
people only**

01483 539999



[www.guildford.gov.uk](http://www.guildford.gov.uk)

**If you would like this  
information in another  
format call 01483 444331**

Supported by



**Guildford Town Centre  
Management**

## Guildford Street Entertainment Code



## Street entertainment

Buskers and other forms of street entertainment are a regular part of the street scene in Guildford. They help to create a colourful and welcoming atmosphere for residents, shoppers and visitors alike.

However, for those living or working in the town centre, busking can sometimes become intrusive or annoying and lead to complaints about noise to the Council.

This leaflet describes the legal controls and provides guidance for both buskers and the public on what is acceptable practice for street entertainment in Guildford town centre.



## The law

Under the provisions of the Noise and Statutory Nuisance Act 1993, noise from equipment used in the streets can be dealt with as a statutory nuisance by the Council, which has the powers to take action against those who create or allow the nuisance to happen.

Equipment includes amplified musical instruments. The Act can apply if a busker is singing and using any form of amplification system. Under Guildford Borough Council regulations, entertainers may be requested to stop busking by occupants of buildings (or by the Police or a Council Officer) and could be prosecuted if they do not comply.

If you find you are being disturbed by street entertainers, either outside your place of work or where you live, please contact the Council. The Police may also take action, on receiving your complaint. Full contact details are supplied in this leaflet.



## The code

Guildford welcomes street entertainers. You do not require a licence to busk in Guildford but please respect the guidelines below.

- Keep the volume at a reasonable level so local shops and businesses can continue their business without interruption.
- Do not obstruct the flow of pedestrians on the pavement and leave access clear on the street at all times for emergency vehicles. Crowds can cause a problem with access. If you know your act will draw a large crowd please select an appropriate area that can accommodate them.
- Please move to another pitch after a maximum of two hours. This helps keep complaints from shopkeepers to a minimum.
- Move on or stop performing if requested to do so by a Police Officer or the Council.
- Please do not make use of street furniture, for example, lamp posts or public seats, during your performance.
- We do not permit selling by street entertainers and you must not solicit contributions. This is begging and you could be prosecuted.
- Please avoid the top end of the High Street near the Abbot's Hospital. Elderly residents live here and there are also church services at Holy Trinity which make it preferable to play elsewhere.
- Please check on [www.visitguildford.com](http://www.visitguildford.com) for any major events on the day you are planning to come.