

Guidance for Buskers

- Wherever practical, introduce yourself to those around you - let them know what you do and how long you intend to perform for.
- Be aware of the impact you are having on those around you. Intrusive noise – excessive volume, long duration or repetition – makes the lives of nearby businesses or residents more difficult.
- We recommend you work on a rough guideline of two hours' performance time, with regular breaks.
- Maintain public safety and access. Make sure that people can move past your performance easily, it is your responsibility to make sure that your crowd is well managed.
- Be aware of special events in the city, and note that there are places and times when busking might not be appropriate. A list of events can be found at www.worcester.gov.uk
- A musical busker needs to be heard above the level of background noise, but the volume of a performance should be no higher than it needs to be and the sound produced should not be intrusive into the lives of others living or working nearby.
- Please be aware of your location. Don't set up too near other performers, your last pitch or other users of public space.

- Perform simple sound checks to assist you to gauge responses as you go – you should ask your audience, other buskers or nearby businesses to assist where necessary.
- Buskers will need a 'Street Collections Permit' if collecting for charity or a 'Street Trading licence' if selling CDs or other merchandise. These can be applied for via Worcestershire Regulatory Services (see "Useful Contacts")



Guidance for the public

Resolving Issues

Step 1

If it is safe and practical you should approach the busker directly. Please wait for a suitable interval in their activity, politely state what your issue is and attempt to come to a fair and amicable compromise. Feel free to draw their attention to this guidance.

Step 2

If a compromise cannot be reached, email economy@worcester.gov.uk or call 01905 722233 (Mon-Fri 9.00am–5.00pm). Where possible on a weekday, an officer will attend that day.

Step 3

If the issue continues, Council officers will assess the situation to determine any impacts. If the busker will not respond to reasonable requests to resolve the concerns of those around them, they will be formally issued with the guidance.

Step 4

If further issues are raised and the Council believes a busker is continuing to act unreasonably, an officer can issue a formal warning letter to the busker. Buskers will be given an opportunity to apply to a dispute resolution panel for advice, arbitration or mediation.

Step 5

If there is no resolution at this stage, as a last resort, legal action may be taken.

About this Guidance

Busking helps ensure Worcester's city centre is a vibrant place that shoppers, residents and visitors can all enjoy.

This guidance seeks to strike the right balance between the needs of performers and the impact on local businesses and residents.

This guidance covers public land. Shopping centres, churchyards and the areas in and around stations are generally private land and the landowner's permission is required to perform there.

We aim to help everyone to solve problems quickly, easily and in a mutually respectful manner.

Effective enforcement powers are available as a last resort to deal with any individual persistently causing a negative impact by acting unreasonably.



This is the mini version of the guidance produced in March 2017. For further information, please visit www.worcester.gov.uk/busking

Useful Contacts

- Worcester City Council
www.worcester.gov.uk - For all enquiries about this guidance please call **01905 722233** (Mon-Fri 9.00am – 5.00pm) or email **economy@worcester.gov.uk**. Emails will be picked up the next working day.
- Worcester BID **www.worcesterbid.com** – A not-for-profit organisation dedicated of improving the trading conditions for businesses who contribute a BID levy. Email **info@worcesterbid.com** or call **01905 731612**.
- Worcestershire Regulatory Services
www.worcsregservices.gov.uk - Responsible for the administration, regulation and enforcement of Licensing services on behalf of Worcester City Council. Call **01905 822799** or email **wrsenquiries@worcsregservices.gov.uk**.
- Keep Streets Live Campaign
www.KeepStreetsLive.com - A non-profit organisation which advocates for public spaces that are open to informal offerings of art and music. Email **contact@keepstreetslive.com**.
- Musicians Union
www.musiciansunion.org.uk - The MU was established in 1893 and represents over 30,000 musicians in all genres, including buskers.
- Equity **www.equity.org.uk** - Equity was founded in 1930 and is the Trade Union for performing artists including actors, entertainers, variety artists and musicians.



Mini Guide to Busking and Street Entertainment in Worcester City

For the full guidance, please visit www.worcester.gov.uk/busking