



Busking in Brighton & Hove

**Brighton and Hove has always been a popular place for busking.
There's plenty of pitches and plenty of people happy to listen.**

The council is happy to have buskers because they liven up the streets
- visitors and residents expect to see and hear them.

But the council and the police do receive complaints usually from
local businesses or residents regarding amplified music, drumming or
obstructing the highway.

*Please note that possession of this flyer does not offer its holder
permission to carry on an activity if requested to stop by a police
officer or any other lawful authority.*

Legal

- Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, noise in the street from musical instruments may be a statutory nuisance and the local authority is able to take legal action to abate the nuisance and prohibit or restrict its recurrence. This may include the seizure of musical instruments and/or amplification equipment.
- Additionally, there are byelaws that address the issue of busking and noise. The Police and the council will not normally instigate legal action where the code is observed. However breaches make an offender liable to prosecution.

- Street Trading- is not permitted when busking. There are strict regulations to only allow street trading in certain areas eg: Upper Gardener Street. Therefore you are not allowed to sell any recordings of your music or other items whilst busking.
- Play at a reasonable level – control the volume so that it is audible only to passers-by in the immediate vicinity, not in adjacent shops or office premises. Entertainers must stop performing immediately when requested to do so by a police officer, council officer or a neighbouring shopkeeper or resident
- Drumming is not welcome in Brighton and Hove because it causes too many complaints
- Mains, battery or generator-powered amplification is not permitted
- Entertainment is restricted to a maximum of one hour in any one place and shall not be repeated in that place or within 50 metres of it within one hour
- Entertainers shall not obstruct the highway. Entertainers are also responsible for ensuring that the highway is not obstructed by people gathering to listen or to watch the performance. (Highway includes any footpath, pavement or open pedestrian area or place)
 - Entertainers shall not make use of street furniture, such as public seats, lampposts and railings
 - Pitches chosen shall satisfy the above criteria and must not be within 50 metres of another busker
 - Entertainment is only permitted between the hours of 10-00hrs and 20-00hrs (10-00hrs and 22-00hrs in June, July and August)
 - No sign shall be displayed inviting payment you should be reminded that begging is a criminal offence
 - Entertainers shall not perform in a manner which is dangerous to themselves or to the public
 - Entertainers shall not dress, act or say anything which is likely to cause alarm, distress or offence to a member of the public
 - Busking should not be conducted by cash point machines or any similar area