

The Stratford upon Avon Busker's Code

Updated May 2013

This code remains in place throughout the year to ensure performers are treated fairly and are enabled to make a positive contribution to the life of Stratford. Whilst every effort is made to ensure this code is followed by every street entertainer, it is obviously not possible to monitor each and every performance. We rely on the goodwill and professionalism of all our performers, as well as that of residents, businesses and visitors in the town.

This code is subject to change, and in the event of any changes being made, an up to date copy of the code will be available on line at www.stratforward.co.uk.

The Code

AMENDMENT TO CODE SEPTEMBER 2012: Pitch = Library Henley Street – please note this is now a NON MUSICAL PITCH ONLY.

1. When you arrive in the town, or if you are intending to come here, if you need any help please contact the Stratforward Town Hosts on 01789 268291 and speak to one of the staff. They will be pleased to welcome you and direct you to the areas identified as 'busk stops' and advise you of any planned events which may affect your performance here. Alternatively email sam@stratforward.co.uk. If you don't manage to do this, bring a copy of this code and the busk stop map so you can find your way around.

2. We want every performer to have a positive experience here. We want all performers to visit our town free from the fear of intimidation. **If you intimidate or ill-advise other buskers, businesses or members of the public or act or speak aggressively, you will be told to stop performing immediately. If you are subject to such treatment from anyone, please contact the BID office or one of the Town Hosts.** The Town Host office is in Town Square and there will be either staff there or emergency contact details. A town Host will come to your assistance. The Town Host emergency number is 07879361735.

3. We aim to have as inclusive a programme of street entertainers as possible. If you have any special requirements (for example if you have any particular accessibility needs) please do not hesitate to let us know. We will do everything we can to help you perform in Stratford. The Town Hosts will be only too happy to give on the ground assistance to you.

4. You may place a case or similar in front of you for people to make a contribution. Please remember that these contributions cannot be solicited as this constitutes begging, for which you may be prosecuted.

5. Please note the '30m rule' - amplification may be used, but you must not be clearly audible from a distance of 30m. If requested to reduce the volume of music you should try to do so as far as possible by reducing the volume of amplified music, changing the position of your amp or playing quieter tunes. The use of amplification is restricted to its use as 'an integral part of a musical performance' (i.e. the use of backing tracks) and must not be used for vocals, spoken or sung. In the event of a busker positioning themselves in a spot which is noise sensitive, then the Town Hosts will endeavour to reach a mutually agreed solution which may involve moving them to a less sensitive spot. Henley Street in particular is noise sensitive, so if your performance involves amplification, we would encourage you to use a spot on the Bancroft gardens. Any performer not complying with a request to reduce volume or negotiate a solution with the Town Hosts may be liable to intervention from a PCSO. If this clause of the code is not adhered to, then the use of amplification will be questioned as a whole – please be aware that this is a very sensitive issue and your co-operation would be very much appreciated.

6. Avoid sites near to public telephone boxes, post boxes or shop doorways as this will make it difficult for these to be used properly. Wherever possible, please use the busk stops identified by the BID programme - a map is available from Stratforward BID at www.stratforward.co.uk.

7. Please don't spread out your equipment so that you obstruct pedestrians.

8. Please don't set up your pitch within 50 metres of another busker.

9. Drums should play a very small part of your act.

10. Move on to another pitch on another street after two hours - this will help prevent complaints from local shopkeepers. If at all possible, we encourage interaction between

shops and the buskers in their areas - please feel free to introduce yourselves to them.

11. No sale of any merchandise is allowed, unless you are part of the Stratforward Business Improvement District street entertainment programme and you are timetabled or are performing at a licensed busk stop. **Licenses will be in place between July 30th and September 30th and at no other time is trading permitted, unless you have made your own arrangements with Stratford District Council.**

12. The use of animals as part of any entertainment is only permitted if the correct Animal Performance License has been obtained from Warwickshire County Council. **We strongly advise against bringing any animal with you while you perform.** We liaise directly with the RSPCA on all matters of animal welfare.

13. You **must** stop busking if a police officer or Town Host asks you to. If the complaint is about excessive volume it may be possible to reach a compromise by reducing the noise level.

14. Unless your entertainment is part of an organised festival, all street entertainment in the town must cease before 9pm.

If you are interested in becoming part of the Stratforward street entertainment programme, or any of the other exciting festivals in the town from the Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations to the Food Festival, please contact Sam Lloyd at sam@stratforward.co.uk or Louise Armstrong at louise@stratforward.co.uk. There are many events which we are aiming to invite high quality street entertainers to and you will also be included on an artist's database which will be available to local businesses.