

# Busking: Codes of Conduct for Market and Non-Market days

<b>Created</b>	
Date: March 2023	Solicitor – Regulatory Team Leader for Licensing & Regulatory Committee, Adopted 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2023
<b>Review</b>	
Date: March 2026	

## Definitions

Within the policy the following definitions apply:

authorised officer:	an Officer of the Council authorised by it to act in accordance with the Constitution and/or noise nuisance legislation
Council:	St Albans City and District Council
pitch	any location in the street where a busker sets up their equipment and performs
street trading:	the selling or exposing or offering for sale of any article (including a living thing) in any street.
street:	includes: a) any road, footway, or other area to which the public have access without a payment b) a service area as defined in Section 329 of the Highways Act 1980 and also includes any part of the street.

## **Code of Conduct – Non-market days**

This Code is intended to set out a standard which should enable busking to thrive whilst protecting businesses and residents from excessive noise or prolonged exposure to the same performances. For the purposes of this Code of Conduct we consider busking to be defined as street entertainment including, but not limited to, music, singing, fire eating, juggling.

You are not permitted to collect for charity without a street collection permit which can be obtained from: [charitablecollections@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto:charitablecollections@stalbans.gov.uk).

### **Selling items and donations**

Street entertainment does not involve a formal sales transaction because donations are given to performers on a voluntary basis.

If you offer an item as part of your street entertainment it must be offered on a voluntary basis, and this must be made clear to members of the public. It is important that people are able to engage with your performance without any obligation to donate. You cannot display a notice offering goods for sale. For example, in some circumstances a member of the public may request a CD without donating. You are permitted to suggest a donation providing it is clear that a CD can be taken without a donation. If you wish to sell items, such as CDs, you will require a street trading consent. Selling items without a street trading consent is an offence. Please see our [Street Trading Policy](#) and contact the Licensing Team on [licensing@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@stalbans.gov.uk).

Buskers are asked to follow the guidance set out in this code of conduct when performing in St Albans District:

1. You are not permitted to play your music or use your voice at a level higher than just above the ambient street noise.
2. Please do not set up a pitch within 50 metres of another busker.
3. Please do not set up a pitch close to fire exits, cashpoints or doorways of businesses or other premises.
4. You should reduce the volume of your performance if asked to do so by an authorised officer of the Council.
5. You are not permitted to actively collect money, but you may collect donations from members of the general public donating through a donation box (hat or musical instrument case) or by contactless payment donations. Please see read "Selling items and donations".
6. Please do not use street furniture such as public seating, lampposts, planters, railings etc.
7. Busking and entertainment should normally only take place between 10.00am and 5.00pm, with one performance of approx. 45 minutes, followed by a 30 minute break, and then one further performance of approx. 45 minutes. Then no return to the same part of the street within 3 hours of the end of the second performance.

## **Complaints**

We will continue to investigate complaints about the activities of buskers and street performers. We may carry out spot checks on performers in order to ensure that they are complying with the code. Where it is deemed that there is non-compliance with the code and therefore an individual or group are causing a noise nuisance, please report this to the Council at [environmental@stalbens.gov.uk](mailto:environmental@stalbens.gov.uk) or by telephoning 01727 819406.

## **Buskers in the St Albans Market - Code of Conduct**

The Market Team does not issue licences or permits for busking but welcomes performers into the Market space who are prepared to abide by the Code of Conduct.

For the purposes of this Code of Conduct we consider busking to be defined as street entertainment including, but not limited to, music, singing, fire eating, juggling.

You are reminded that:

- you are not permitted to collect for charity without a street collection permit which can be obtained from: [charitablecollections@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto:charitablecollections@stalbans.gov.uk).
- you are not permitted to sell merchandise such as CDs without permission from the Market Team.

This Code of Conduct sets out obligations which you are asked to comply with. It is important that you should avoid causing annoyance or disturbance by always having consideration for the general public, market traders and nearby businesses.

### **Code of Conduct:**

1. Please introduce yourself to traders in the vicinity of your performance.
2. Please do not set up a pitch within 50 metres of another busker.
3. Please do not set up a pitch close to fire exits, cashpoints or doorways of businesses or other premises.
4. Please do not stand/sit or spread out your equipment etc. so as to cause an obstruction to shops or market traders.
5. You are not permitted to actively collect money, but you may collect donations from members of the general public donating through a donation box (hat or musical instrument case) or by contactless payment donations.
6. Busking and entertainment should normally only take place between 10.00am and 5.00pm, with one performance of approx. 45 minutes, followed by a 30 minute break, and then one further performance of approx. 45 minutes. Then no return to the same part of the street within 3 hours of the end of the second performance.
7. The Market Team will determine the acceptable level of volume of all performances. Please comply with any requests made by the Market Team to reduce the volume or end the performance.

### **Complaints**

We will continue to investigate complaints that are received about the activities of buskers and street performers. We will carry out spot checks on performers in order to ensure that they are complying with the code. Where it is deemed that there is non-compliance with the code and therefore an individual or group are causing a noise nuisance, then report this to the Council at [environmental@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto:environmental@stalbans.gov.uk) or by telephoning 01727 819406. During the markets, you can contact the Market Team on [markets@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto:markets@stalbans.gov.uk).