

APPENDIX A

Code of Practice for Buskers and Street Entertainers

Slough Borough Council welcomes buskers and street entertainment that enhances the experience and atmosphere of the town. It is in everyone's interest to have a positive relationship with all users of public spaces and these guidelines aim to support this objective.

All buskers and street entertainers who wish to perform in Slough town centre are asked to agree to follow our best practice code of conduct. The code is intended to set out a standard which, if followed, should enable busking and street entertainment to continue and thrive whilst protecting businesses, visitors and residents from excessive noise or prolonged exposure to the same performances.

This code applies to buskers and street entertainers in Slough Town Centre every day of the year.

Do:

1. Anticipate the impact that your act will have on others in the area you choose before setting up your performance; performers should be mindful of street traders and others who use the public space under licence to perform their day to day living.
 - a. If crowds are likely to gather, you are responsible for ensuring the free passage of persons not wishing to view the performance (i.e. don't let the crowd block the street between you and the shops).
2. Store your belongings and equipment neatly during the performance to avoid causing an obstruction or trip hazard to either you or members of the public.
3. Be mindful that although the town centre is largely pedestrianised, a number of vehicles are still allowed access throughout the day.
4. Be courteous if you are approached by a member of the public.
5. Protect yourselves by taking out Personal Liability Insurance (minimum cover £1,000,000.00)
6. Due to variable acoustics at any given location it is not possible to dictate a decibel level but as a guideline the sound level at 10 metres or more from the performance area should not be dominant over the level of ambient street noise.
7. Perform between 10am and 6pm; one continuous performance per act, per day lasting for a maximum of 2 hours, with no return or moving to an alternative pitch on the same day.
Alternative option for point 7: Perform for a maximum of 2 continuous hours then take a break for 1-1.5 hours before resuming. Performers are asked to vary their material as repeating a limited number of songs/performance pieces can increase complaints from nearby home owners and/or businesses.
8. Anyone under 18 years old wishing to perform in Slough town centre, while not encouraged, must be accompanied at all times whilst performing by their parent or legal guardian.
9. Lower the volume, move to another location or cease performing when asked by an Authorised Officer of Slough Borough Council or Thames Valley Police if your entertainment conflicts with another event or activity.

NOTE: The Observatory and Queensmere shopping centres are private shopping areas. Performing in these areas requires permission from the Town Centre Management Team.

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Don't:

1. Act in a way that is likely to cause alarm, distress, harm or offense to any other persons; including but not limited to:
 - a. Begging
 - b. Preaching (i.e. promoting political, religious, racist or ideological messages)
 - c. Inappropriate / immodest dress
 - d. Inappropriate /offensive language (i.e. promoting political, religious, racist or ideological messages)
 - e. Inappropriate / offensive imagery (i.e. promoting political, religious, racist or ideological messages)
2. Perform in a manner which may be considered dangerous to them or the general public i.e.:
 - a. Make use of street furniture, e.g. public seats, lampposts, railings whilst performing.
 - b. Perform acts involving fire, knives, weapons, striptease or nudity, live animals (other than registered assistance animals).
3. Bring any non-performing animals (other than registered assistance animals) with you whilst you are performing.
4. Stand, sit, or spread out your equipment so as to cause an obstruction of the highway (footpath), ATM machines, entrances or exits to shops and other premises.
5. Actively collect money.
 - a. You may have a receptacle (box, hat or musical instrument case) into which you can accept donations.
 - b. You are not allowed to purport to collect for charitable or other purposes. This would be a 'street collection' requiring a permit from the Council.
 - i. Details of these regulations can be found on the council's website at <https://www.slough.gov.uk/business/licences-and-permits/charitable-collections.aspx>
6. Sell CD's, DVD's, Tapes or any other goods. This is classed as street trading and you will require a permit for this. To obtain consent please visit the Council Office in Landmark Place and obtain a permit from the Licensing Department, which will cost £10 per trading day.
 - a. Anyone who is found to be selling goods without permission will be instructed to stop performing and vacate the site; this is an offence for which you could be prosecuted.
 - b. Information about and an application form for a street trading consent can be found on the council's website at <https://www.slough.gov.uk/business/licences-and-permits/business-and-street-trading-licences.aspx>
7. Perform within 50 metres of another busker/entertainer who is already performing.
8. Perform whilst under the influence of alcohol, solvents or drugs.
9. Leave any litter behind.

If performers are following this code, it is very unlikely that enforcement will be necessary. It should be noted that a range of statutory powers can impact on performers however these will only be used as a last resort.

This code is managed on behalf of Slough Borough Council by the Licensing Team Tel 01753 875664.

This code will be reviewed every 12 months or sooner as appropriate to the changing nature of the town centre.