

Plymouth City Centre

Buskers' Code of Practice

January 2017



For Buskers

- › Select your location with consideration for other users of the City Centre. It is good practice to introduce yourself to shops, businesses and other users of shared space near to where you intend to perform before you start. It is helpful to explain the nature of your act in advance, and to point out that you would be willing to move somewhere else if necessary. Be polite.
- › Music or voice shall not be amplified to a level or be so loud, as to not be intrusive or a nuisance in nearby premises and other performers. Buskers are asked to be respectful to all and will turn the volume down if requested to do so by a retailer, council officer, PARC Ranger, Police Officer or PCSO. Retailers are fellow businesses who also need to make money so please cooperate with them at all times with regard to volume.
- › Entertainment is restricted to a maximum of two hours in any one place and shall not be repeated in any location within two hours. Note: particularly noisy entertainment (e.g. bagpipes, drums) will be restricted to a maximum of one hour in any one place.
- › Entertainers shall not obstruct the highway. Entertainers are also responsible for ensuring that the highway is not obstructed by people gathering to listen or watch the performance. Note: the 'highway' includes any footpath, pavement or open pedestrian area or place and 'obstruct' includes causing people to walk on a road rather than the pavement.
- › No sign shall be displayed inviting payment (except where a permit to collect license has been obtained through Plymouth City Council). No sale of CDs is permitted.
- › You should have a varied repertoire so as not to cause undue nuisance to residents, retailers or other City Centre users.

- › Plymouth is a family friendly city, and a performers actions, appearance, dress, lyrics, script or props must not be of a nature that could cause offence or alarm to other users of the City Centre.
- › Care must be taken in protecting your own equipment and/or any contributions gained.
- › Any waste created or rubbish must be removed from the location and disposed of in a responsible manner and the pitch must be left in a clean state.
- › The buskers badge will be issued to all entertainers who agree to comply with the code. Every support will be given to buskers displaying the badge. For information on the buskers badge please contact PARC on **01752 242150** or *via email coordinator@parcplymouth.com*

For the Retailers and Businesses

- › It is in everybody's best interest to have positive relationships with the other users of shared public spaces.
- › If there is a busker in the vicinity of your place of work or residence and they are causing you a disturbance, you are advised to make yourself known to them and calmly and politely explain the issue. In the majority of cases they may not be aware that they have caused you an issue and will want to resolve it quickly and amicably. This could include adjusting their volume, location or relocating to another location if necessary.
- › When approaching a busker to discuss their work, it is important to wait for a suitable interval in the performance before introducing yourself to them. Interrupting performances is unlikely to lead to a productive dialogue!