

Engagement

If members of the public are being disturbed by street performers, either where they live or outside their place of work, if it feels safe to do so, they should refer the performer to this code of practice.

If the problem is persistent, where the code of practice is ignored or dismissed by the performer, you can report this to the Somerset Council environment protection team.

Send an email to chcase@somerset.gov.uk including as much detail and information as possible (time, location, type of disturbance, individuals involved), also include any photos you have relating to the issue.

If you wish to lodge a complaint about the disturbance with Somerset Council they may provide you with access to the www.thenoiseapp.com. This will allow you to make a short audio recording of the noise that is disturbing you, add some details and comments and the app will then forward to a council Environmental Protection Officer.

Phone Numbers

For obstruction of the public highway and offensive behaviour contact the Police on 101.

For threatening behaviour where there is fear of harm dial 999.

For noise control and licensing, or to report unlicensed street trading taking place, contact Somerset Council 0300 123 2224.

Organised events

Where street performances, that are considered a licensable activity, are planned in advance, rather than simply impromptu occurrences, for example, by a larger group or as part of an organised event, then a licence may be required, usually by means of a Temporary Event Notice (TEN). These require notice to be given. Details on how to apply can be obtained from the Town Council or Somerset Council.

Health and Safety

Everyone who performs in the street has a responsibility to do so safely and should undertake a risk assessment and consider whether they should have public liability cover.



Code of Practice for Street Performing in Glastonbury

As agreed by
street performers,
Glastonbury Town Council,
and the Police

Introduction

Glastonbury has a small, dense town centre community, consisting of both business and residential properties, along with a large number of street performers.

Street performances are of course enjoyed and valued by many, but at times can also have a detrimental impact upon those working and living in the vicinity, in particular relating to the sound volume and duration of performance.

The Local Authority and the Police have received complaints about such activities in Glastonbury town centre.

This code of practice is intended to cover all forms of street performance including theatre, poetry and other speakers.

Performance etiquette

For those working or living in the town centre, busking can become a source of intrusion and annoyance.

The use of amplifiers or playing of drums or drum kits in the town centre is actively discouraged.

The playing of drums or the use of amplification can be the cause of a significant disturbance or nuisance to the local community, which may warrant action by the authorities.

Performers using drums are particularly asked to be mindful that the sound impact from the instrument can be upsetting and cause distress to others.

Any performance using drums or amplification should be kept to a considerate level in terms of sound volume and duration as defined further within this code. Please refer to the 'street performers code' section.

In general it is asked that if a member of the community requests you to stop drumming or to reduce the sound volume of the drum or of any amplification, you will immediately act accordingly.

The Law

If you don't follow the guidelines within this code of conduct you could get a verbal or written warning from Somerset Council officers.

If you continue to break the guidelines after a written warning you could be served with a Community Protection Notice under the provisions of the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, or the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Further non adherence to these guidelines may lead to seizure of musical instruments, amplification equipment and/or prosecution.

Section 62 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 enables council officers to take formal action where loudspeakers are being used in the street for the purpose of advertising entertainment, trades or business.

Anyone found to have contravened the requirements of Section 62 can be prosecuted without prior written notice and may be liable to a fine on conviction at a magistrates court.

The Street Performer's Code

The performers code is intended to set out a standard to allow performing whilst protecting businesses and residents from excessive noise or prolonged exposure to the same performances.

Flexibility and reasonableness from all parties is essential, along with clear respect from performers for all other street users, in particular nearby businesses and residents.

- Acoustic music or voice should not be so loud that it can be plainly heard beyond a distance of 30 metres.
- The use of amplifiers is actively discouraged. If an amplifier is used, the volume should be controlled so that it is audible only to passers-by in the immediate vicinity, not people inside adjacent premises.
- Performers shall not play for more than one hour at a time and shall move to another pitch at least 50 metres away if they wish to continue performing. They should not return to the same pitch (or within 50 metres of it) again on the same day.
- Performers shall not set up a pitch within 50 metres of another performer.
- Performers shall not use or occupy public benches or obstruct the flow of pedestrians or vehicles in the street. In particular, sites close to fire exits, cash points or doorways/access should be avoided.
- Anyone selling merchandise (eg CDs, posters etc) must have the appropriate street trading licence.
- Contributions should not be solicited from passers-by as this may be regarded as begging.
- Performing should not start before 9.00am and should finish by 8.00pm.
- Performing should not take place outside of a place of worship when there is a service or event in progress.

Performers should ensure that they positively engage with shopkeepers, residents and the public and to immediately stop performing if requested to do so by anyone who is inconvenienced or disturbed by the activity of their performance.