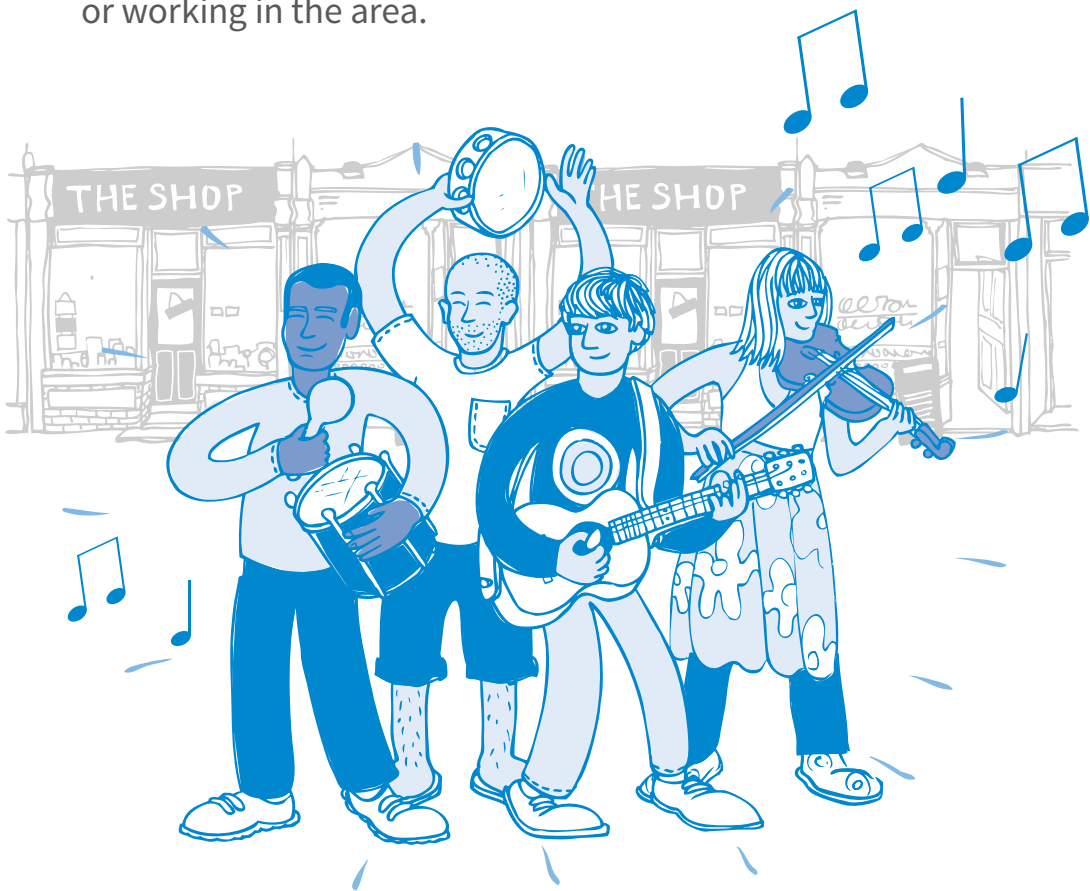


A guide for street performers

Simple guidance for performers to help maintain a happy relationship with those visiting, living in, or working in the area.



Cornwall Council does not generally license street performers but it does have an obligation to observe the law regarding noise, obstruction and anti-social behaviour. Performers can be asked to reduce the volume of noise (if practicable) or stop on request if the council or the police receive a complaint.

Performers **should...**

- **play at a reasonable volume.** People have to work nearby and loud music at the popular busking spots can be very distracting and annoying.
- **ensure noise (music and voice) is not heard beyond 20 metres** nor be a nuisance to nearby premises.
- **have plenty of variety in the set.** Do not play the same song or beat for long periods of time.
- **use amplification responsibly.** Amplification is tolerated by the Council but if abused all equipment can be confiscated.

Performers should **not...**

- **perform at one place more than one hour and should not return for two hours.** Noisy entertainers (e.g. drums, bagpipes) should move on after half an hour.
- **obstruct the highway** and ensure their audiences do not either. Circus acts must take great care not to put the public at risk of injury.
- **perform within 50 metres of another busker** and Big Issue pitches should also be observed.
- **cause offence or distress to the public** and are asked to show consideration to shops and to avoid obstructing goods and fire exits.
- **ask for money** but can accept donations (Street Collection Permit is required if charitable donations).

Noise (music and voice) from busking is a major issue. When setting up at a pitch, ask another person (e.g. another busker or a nearby workplace) to give you a sound check. Noise is not just about amplifiers – some vocalists and acoustic instruments are more penetrating. Please contact the Licensing Section on licensing@cornwall.gov.uk for further information and advice on live music exemptions.

For further information or to get in touch please contact:
communityandenvironmentalprotection@cornwall.gov.uk
Tel: **0300 1234 212**