

Busking in Harrow



London Borough of Harrow and Harrow BID have worked together to introduce a set of guidelines to help buskers, the public and businesses in Harrow Town Centre share the town for the benefit of all. We want to make Harrow a vibrant and fun place to visit, but not to the detriment of businesses, or causing annoyance to residents or passers by.

Anyone wishing to busk in Harrow Town Centre (this includes St Anns Road, Station Road, College Road, Havelock Place, St Johns Road, and Lyon Road) will need to apply for a licence. Licences are currently free and can be booked for 2-hour slots between 10am and 4pm with the final performance ending no later than 6pm.

Where to busk

There are two designated busking pitches:

1. Pitch 1: St Anns Road – Next to the seating area opposite The Royal Oak – 86 St Anns Road, Harrow HA1 1JP.
2. Pitch 2: St Anns Road – Under the tree opposite Card Factory – 32 St Anns Road, Harrow HA1 1LQ

Please do not sit directly outside shops

Make sure that wherever you set up there is room for people to walk past unobstructed. You must make space for wheelchairs, prams and the visually impaired. If your audience blocks a doorway, market stall, pavement, or access to a shop please stop and clear the blockage. If you do not you could be charged with obstruction under the Highways Acts (1980).

Your Performance

Your performance will have an impact on people nearby. Please be aware of this and be willing to leave or adjust your performance if necessary. Please don't cause offence or humiliation.

Sound

The biggest cause of complaints around busking is the level of sound. Sound can travel a long way and go high into the air. Harrow Town Centre is enclosed by flats, shops, and offices which can cause sound to reverberate and reach higher levels. Because the people inside can't walk away, please make sure your volume doesn't bother them. **For this reason amplifiers must not be used. Don't** repeat music in the same location as likely to cause nuisance and annoyance to nearby premises. Acts with varied content are much more popular.

Equipment

Make sure no-one can trip over your equipment/instruments, and never leave any instruments or belongings unattended. Please keep the pitch clean and tidy-up afterwards, taking litter home with you.

Collecting Money

Performers can accept donations, but the public must never feel obliged to pay. You can give away CDs or other items, but you **cannot** charge a fee for them. To sell items for a fee you need a street trading licence from [London Borough of Harrow](#). If you are collecting for charity you'll need a permit.

Licence

You must apply for your licence 7 days in advance by e-mailing info@ha1bid.co.uk. You must state:

- Your full name
- The date you wish to perform
- The time slot you require (slots are 2-hours, starting at 10am/12pm/2pm/4pm)
- Which pitch you would like
- Your contact telephone number

You cannot book more than one month in advance.

If there is availability for the date/time/place you have requested, a licence will be issued. If it is not available you will be offered an alternative.

You must show your licence to staff from London Borough of Harrow, Harrow Town Centre Business Improvement District, or LAS Enforcement officers if asked to do so.

You will not be permitted to book two adjacent time slots, and only allowed to perform once a day in each spot.

Anyone performing in a non-designated area will be asked to move and may be liable to a fine or Community Protection Notice under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act (2014).

Additionally, failure to follow the rules will also result in your licence being revoked, a Fine being considered and a temporary or permanent ban from performing in the town centre.

If you have any further questions please e-mail info@ha1bid.co.uk.

