THE B HIVE

COMMUNITY WELLBEING

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Bumble Creatives CIC
E: bcreatives@outlook.com
W: www.bicesterhive.co.uk

WHO WE ARE	Bumble Creatives CIC delivers inclusive creative wellbeing workshops for people of all ages across the Bicester community. Led by Nicolette Glashan MBACP, a Therapeutic Counsellor and Creative Arts Practitioner, our trauma-informed, person-centred approach builds confidence, connection and emotional resilience through creativity. Nicolette also works therapeutically with children and young people in schools and private practice, including those experiencing neurodivergence, trauma and different care arrangements. This experience informs an inclusive approach that adapts around individual needs, helping remove barriers to creativity, wellbeing and community belonging. Bumble Creatives began when several local services were closing and young people were at risk of losing safe, supportive spaces. With the encouragement of my husband, Andrew, we set up Bumble overnight, knowing that even a small offering of creativity and care was better than none. Since then, Bumble has grown steadily, building trust, strong local connections and community goodwill. Today, it brings together practitioners, volunteers and young leaders who share a belief in creativity as a catalyst for wellbeing and belonging.
THE VISION	The Bicester Hive ('B' Hive) is the natural next step, an opportunity for Bumble Creatives to lead the regeneration of an underused community space, creating a welcoming creative hub for people of all ages, backgrounds and circumstances across Bicester. As lead organisation, Bumble Creatives would develop and oversee the Hive as a vibrant, safe, and inclusive community asset. Alongside community provision, the Hive will engage local businesses through meeting hire and facilitated creative wellbeing sessions, supporting workforce development while contributing to long-term sustainability. Repurposing an underused space for the Hive would bring a valuable community asset back into active use while responding to Bicester's current and future wellbeing needs.
PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION	The Hive strengthens and brings together our extensive network of existing partners, including: Nai's House, Bicester Food Bank, Bicester Pride, The Mill Arts Centre, The People's Theatre Collective, AI Youth, Activate Learning, Flourish Oxford Ltd, Thames Valley Police, Cherwell District Council, Bicester Town Council, local primary and secondary schools and home educators. These partnerships reflect real, ongoing local relationships and demonstrate a shared appetite for a central, collaborative space. Locating the Hive within a central, repurposed space would allow these partnerships to flourish, supporting shared programming, cross-sector collaboration, and joined-up community wellbeing.
OPPORTUNITIES & IMPACT	The Hive would offer: • A dedicated base for creative wellbeing workshops, safe spaces, and intergenerational community activities. • Opportunities to work closely with schools and education providers on Arts Award pathways, creative career development, and much-needed work experience. • A collaborative hub that reflects the diversity, strengths, and needs of Bicester residents. • A renewed sense of pride and ownership in a space created for community benefit. The Hive will be a place to come together, feel safe, get creative and build friendships, strengthening connection and belonging across our growing community. It will provide a welcoming, inclusive home for creativity, wellbeing and collaboration, with the potential to become a much-loved part of everyday life in Bicester.

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Why Bicester Needs the Hive

National Youth Strategy & Young Futures

The B Hive reflects the Government's ambition to create safe, accessible community spaces where young people can thrive. Through creative wellbeing, counselling, early intervention and opportunities to develop skills, confidence and aspiration, the Hive contributes to a preventative, community-based approach to supporting young people.

Key priorities supported

- Safe, accessible local spaces
- Early intervention and prevention
- Mental health and emotional wellbeing
- Skills, creativity and aspiration

The Hive also complements Oxfordshire's wider youth support network through Bumble Creatives' involvement in the Bicester Youth Partnership and approval as an Oxfordshire County Council Alternative Provision provider, strengthening opportunities for collaboration and appropriate referral pathways.

Oxfordshire Community Foundation / Community Capacity

The Hive supports Oxfordshire's vision for stronger, healthier communities by creating opportunities for connection, creativity and accessible wellbeing across all ages. Bringing people together through shared creative experiences helps reduce isolation, strengthen relationships and encourage support before challenges become crises. Key priorities supported:

- Reducing social isolation
- Strengthening community connection
- Supporting unpaid carers
- Prevention and early support
- Accessible wellbeing across the life course

Bumble Creatives successfully secured funding from local, regional and national partners, demonstrating both community demand and confidence in our ability to deliver meaningful, high-quality creative wellbeing programmes.

"Prevention works best when communities have welcoming places where people can connect before needs escalate."

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Why Bicester?

Bicester is one of the UK's fastest-growing towns, with a rapidly expanding and increasingly diverse population. Alongside this growth comes a growing need for welcoming, accessible places where people can feel they belong, take part, be creative and connect with others..

The Hive builds on strong partnerships already established across the town, including schools, health and wellbeing networks, local authorities, arts organisations and community groups. Rather than duplicating existing services, it provides a creative base that brings people, ideas and organisations together.

The Hive offers:

- A visible, welcoming community hub
- Creative approaches to wellbeing and prevention
- Opportunities for collaboration across sectors
- A space that attracts external investment into Bicester through grants, partnerships and commissioned programmes
- A flexible model that can grow alongside the town's changing needs

A Sustainable Community Model

The Hive will operate through a blended funding model, combining external grants, commissioned programmes, partnerships and carefully selected earned income. This approach keeps community activities accessible while reducing long-term reliance on any single funding source.

Community Investment	Self-Generated Income
Grant-funded creative wellbeing programmes	Adult creative workshops
Youth and family projects	Business creative wellbeing sessions
Community partnerships	Counselling and therapeutic services
Arts & wellbeing commissions	Meeting and facilitated space hire
Council and health initiatives	Membership and supporter scheme
Funded targeted interventions	Artist-led workshops and events

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What Happens at The Hive

Connect

A welcoming place to meet, pause, discover local opportunities and build community.

- Informal drop-in
- Creative table
- Community information
- Local partnerships
- Small exhibitions

Create

Creative experiences for all ages that encourage confidence, wellbeing and lifelong learning.

- Bumble wellbeing groups
- Workshops
- Arts Award
- HAF
- Home education
- Artist-led sessions

Support

Accessible therapeutic and wellbeing opportunities that help people flourish.

- Counselling
- Peer support
- Action for Happiness
- Creative wellbeing
- Alternative Provision (where appropriate)
- Family support

Collaborate

Working alongside artists, orgs and businesses to strengthen community through creativity.

- Local artists
- Schools
- Community organisations
- Businesses
- Youth Partnership
- Creative practitioners

Wherever the Hive is based it will operate as a collaborative, community-led creative hub, helping to grow a local arts culture that the town would greatly benefit from. It's designed to feel calm, creative and welcoming, using art, colour, natural materials and changing exhibitions to create a space that people enjoy spending time in.

This approach is grounded in research which highlights the arts as a vital pillar of health, wellbeing, and community connection. A blended funding model combining funded provision, commercial activity, and community membership, will ensure the Hive remains accessible, resilient, and rooted in public benefit.

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What A Week at the B Hive Might Look Like

The Hive is designed to evolve throughout the day, responding to the needs of the people using it while remaining welcoming, creative and accessible.

Across the week, visitors might discover creative wellbeing workshops, home education sessions, counselling, artist-led activities, community projects or informal opportunities to connect and create. The Hive will host a diverse programme delivered through Bumble Creatives alongside local artists, counsellors, creative practitioners, businesses and community organisations, creating a collaborative offer that no single organisation could provide alone.

The flexible space also supports small exhibitions, seasonal events, business wellbeing sessions and creative meetings, encouraging people of different ages, backgrounds, experiences and circumstances to come together through shared experiences.

Volunteers and community partners play an important role in creating a welcoming atmosphere, helping visitors feel at home and supporting the day-to-day life of the Hive.

At weekends and during school holidays, the programme expands to include family activities, workshops and community events, ensuring the Hive remains an active, visible and valued part of Bicester throughout the year.

The Hive becomes part of everyday life in Bicester, a welcoming place people know they can return to, whatever stage of life they're in.