



Department for
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Dear Ben,

I was delighted to visit Brooklands Museum in your constituency last week to see for myself how the Government's unprecedented Culture Recovery Fund has helped this fascinating and much cherished museum during the challenging months of the pandemic.

I know that you have shown a keen interest in its sustainability throughout the pandemic and continue to be a great champion for the museum so that it can continue to be enjoyed by your constituents and the many people who come from further afield to enjoy everything it has to offer.

My visit to Brooklands coincided with the announcement of the third round of the Culture Recovery Fund – a further £107 million of awards taking our total support to the arts, heritage, and culture sectors across England to almost £2 billion. I am delighted to say that, as well as the Brooklands Museum Trust, the Light Cinema in Addlestone has been supported by a Culture Recovery Fund grant distributed via the British Film Institute.

I was welcomed to Brooklands by Tamalie Newbery and Mike Bannister, and enjoyed a tour of the site whilst learning about the history of the collection. Tamalie explained the monumental impact that the Culture Recovery Fund has had: rather than having to close its doors permanently, the more than £1.8 million of support which the Government has provided to the Brooklands Museum Trust in total means that it has been able to reopen safely to the public. On Friday, I also heard how that support had helped to secure the site physically during lockdown, and learned about the improvements it has enabled the museum to make to its digital collections and outreach work, as well as the apprenticeships and partnerships being established with local schools.

I can see why you are so proud of the work the museum is doing. Thank you for all the work you have done to help businesses and organisations like it across your local community to bounce back from the pandemic as swiftly as possible – and to let them know what support we are provided from across the Government to help them do so.

With all best wishes,

Steve

