

**COUNTY COUNCIL – 17 OCTOBER 2017  
WRITTEN QUESTION UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 9.2**

**Question from Councillor Anna Bradnam**

Will Cllr Schuman outline the council's intentions regarding the future of the county farms?

**Response from Councillor Joshua Schumann  
Chairman of Commercial and Investment Committee**

The Council's County Farm Estate is the largest asset held by the County Council. Given the Council's financial position it is therefore important for the residents of the county that the use of this asset is maximised. As a consequence the Commercial and Investments Committee has established a cross party Member Review Group to review the strategic direction and operations of the County Farms Estate. There are no predetermined outcomes for this review and therefore making any assumptions over what will come out of this review would be inappropriate at this stage.

**Question from Councillor Susan van de Ven**

Why have I not yet heard from my Area Champion?

**Response from Councillor Steve Criswell  
Chairman of Communities and Partnership Committee**

The establishment of an Area Community Champion within each of the five districts was agreed by full Council in May. These roles fall within the remit of the recently formed Communities & Partnerships Committee. At its first formal meeting in July, the Committee agreed its terms of reference and considered future areas of work including opportunities for Area Community Champions to make a difference.

On the 24th August, the Committee approved the appointment of the five councillors to the Area Champion role. These roles and the required skills will take time to develop. Over the last seven weeks they have attended a training workshop and held 1:1 meetings with officers to start familiarising themselves with community engagement opportunities and interaction with front line services. That work is ongoing.

A part of their role will be strategic, connecting partner organisations, identifying priorities and common outcomes. Their possible appointment to outside bodies will be considered at the next Committee meeting later this month. This will enable them to liaise and support local members and communities on various localised work streams where needed and appropriate. They will work with the willing and build relationships over time. The Area Champions will be able to respond to requests from local members who ask for some support, advice or encouragement, as well as learn from each other and share good practice but this will be a two way process, so they will not necessarily be routinely contacting all members individually. Their role is not to replace or detract from that of locally elected members.

The Area Community Champions are listed below. If any member has any information they wish to share, or any issue they wish to discuss with the relevant Champion, then please feel free to contact them. I am also happy to meet any member who wishes to share any concerns they may have.

Cllr Steve Criswell  
Chairman, Communities & Partnerships Committee.

Cambridge City; Cllr Elisa Meschini  
East Cambs; Cllr Lis Every  
Fenland; Cllr Steve Tierney  
Hunts; Cllr David Wells  
South Cambs; Cllr Lina Joseph