Sports and Recreation Visioning Exercise
Wednesday 5 April 2017

1. What do you think will be unique about the region in 2036?

- Sport in general will be well known (3 votes)
- Number of young people – growth in youth in the region (3 votes)
- Coastline (1 vote)
- Agriculture (1 vote)
- Forrest
- Wine – vineyards
- Soccer will be the main sport
- Tourism
- Temperate regions / hospitable climate to live

Summary: The Sport and Recreation Committee predominantly see sport and the growth of young people in the region as what will make the Shire unique in 20 years’ time. The region will be renowned for its coastline and strong agriculture, with its vineyards, temperate climate and love for soccer, making it an appealing place to live and visit.

2. If you had three priorities for the Augusta Margaret River community over the next twenty years, what would they be?

- Oval space/green recreation spaces (2 votes)
- Dedicated sporting facilities (2 votes)
- Continue to address growth for youth (1 vote)
- Maintain a community approach to deal with growth (1 vote)
- Elected representative’s relationship with community (1 vote)
- Upgrade to access infrastructure - roads and access (all access, Caves Road, disability access) (1 vote)
- Take good care of the environment to achieve the desires of the unique region
- Shire planning to achieve population growth

Summary: Over the next 20 years, the committee would like to see the development more green (oval) recreation spaces and dedicated sporting facilities for sport in the community. The group would like the Shire to maintain a community approach to planning for growth, with a particular dedication to supporting youth in the region. Important outcomes for the group in 2036 include seeing a quality relationship between the community and elected members as well as an increase in road access to community infrastructure.

3. What major challenges or opportunities must the Augusta Margaret River community address over the next five years?

- Employment – especially for youth and keeping them within the community (3 votes)
- Promotion of alternative sporting codes. Pleasure of the sport vs competition, rise in popularity of casual and informal groups (2 votes)
- Renewal of volunteers – engage youth (2 votes)
- Securing land to achieve priorities – set land away now for community and sporting facilities. Work out where you want the space and don’t build it out. Buy it before it is developed. Remove from public open space to development. Make sure the land is big enough to use for sporting (1 vote)
- Shire wide focus and using the whole region more, not just Margaret River – but also Cowaramup, Rosa Brook, Augusta, Karridale, Witchcliffe (1 vote)
- Progressive professionalisation – Regulation of community clubs. Regulations, accreditation, umpires, coaches, insurance purposes, committee constitutions. More pressure on volunteers that are already scarce (1 vote)
- Using the next five years to build and meet needs into the future
• Cost to compete in sports – expensive for clubs to move down, development of youth into state level and onwards e.g. Perth based events, bus hire, affiliation fees to state bodies & insurance costs
• Dependency on volunteerism to run committees and sport clubs. Dependent on long term volunteers that
• Upgrade of Busselton Airport for Shire to host events

Summary: Over the next five years, the committee feels employment for youth is the primary challenge. For sport and recreation, promotion of alternative codes for sporting clubs is an opportunity with the rise in popularity of casual or informal groups. The renewal of volunteers is both a challenge and an opportunity, with a strong desire from the committee to engage youth to address an ongoing dependency on long serving volunteers. Lastly, increasing regulation and professionalisation from the state is a growing challenge, putting pressure on volunteers and increasing costs of sports for the community.

4. What strategies or projects do you feel would improve sport and recreation in the community over the next five years?

• Funding – desire for a centralised and coordinated approach to grants that are open and who is applying for what (3 votes)
• Community group training for succession planning (2 votes)
• Participation youth 14-24 is very low. Sport becomes about performance, large population that don't have that level of skill. Socialisation decreases. Improve community inclusion. Pleasure of the sport vs competition (2 votes)
• Bigger pool (1 vote)
• Centralised venue / focal point around community recreation. Sporting club as opposed to singular clubs (Busselton and Australind have developed) (1 vote)
• Youth engagement – mentoring and training program for junior leaders to support volunteerism in the community (1 vote)
• Ability for qualification in sporting courses – small lottery for Bursaries scholarship (1 vote)
• Green fields site with club room and viewing site with ovals surrounding (Similar to Duggan Pavilion on Cowaramup Oval – bigger)
• Individual sporting groups to develop a 5-year vision so a singular strategic planning day could be held

Summary: The committee highlighted a number of potential projects and strategies from their vision, for the community over the next five years. The most popular item was a coordinated and centralised approach to grant funding for community groups and sporting club. Additional suggestions included community group training for succession planning, strategies to improve community inclusion in sports particularly for youth aged 14-24 and a centralised venue for community recreation events. This included the idea of a centralised sporting club as opposed to singular clubs, as well as a mentoring and training program for junior leaders to support volunteerism in the community.