



COUNTY OF WETASKIWIN NO. 10
SUMMARY REPORT
CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS
Sustainability of Recreation Facilities and Halls
Feb. 27/2019 Winfield Agriplex Hall, and
Feb. 28/19 Millet Agriplex Hall

1. Overview

- 1.1. Through Strategic and Business Planning and budget deliberations, Council identified the need to host additional citizen engagement to discuss certain County programs and services and obtain feedback from stakeholders. This session supplements the various citizen engagement events currently in place in accordance with legislation, as well as the direction of Council.
- 1.2. For 2019, Council directed administration to host two Citizen Engagement Sessions to obtain input regarding the sustainability of recreation facilities and halls in the County of Wetaskiwin, subsequent to the 2014 Recreation Needs Assessment and Master Plan, and Council Strategy.

The Recreation Needs Assessment was completed to document the present and future needs for recreation, trails, parks, open spaces and programs in the County of Wetaskiwin. This was achieved by identifying possible needs that are not currently being met, creating an inventory of current indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, and evaluating programs and services. Through this study, strategies were provided to meet identified needs for the residents of the County of Wetaskiwin No. 10 over the next 15 years. Specific questions for the engagement sessions were based on the Recreation Needs Assessment and Master Plan Implementation Strategy.

It was also agreed that a general County project update be provided at the sessions, along with a Public Works department display, for information purposes, as well as a Feedback booth for attendees to submit questions/comments for response via the County website following the sessions.

The feedback gathered in this consultation will provide information to Council and Administration regarding stakeholder opinions pertaining to the sustainability and funding of the facilities and halls which will assist Council in making more informed decisions moving forward.

2. The Event

- 2.1. The Citizen Engagement Sessions were held on February 27 & 28, from 7-9 pm, at the Winfield Agriplex Hall and the Millet Agriplex Hall. Approximately 45 stakeholders attended Winfield and 45 residents attended Millet, along with 7 County Councillors, the Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, Director of Leisure and Community Services, Director of Public Works, Director of Finance, Communications Officer, and Municipal Intern.
- 2.2. Notification of the event was provided via direct mail to approximately 50 community groups who have received grant funding from the County of Wetaskiwin, and via two weeks advertisement in the County pages of the Pipestone Flyer, which is the County's official community newspaper. The notice of the meeting was also placed on the County's website and Facebook page.

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2.3. The format for both evenings included the general services presentation, the Recreation Facilities and Community Halls presentation, electronic voting on recreation questions, and a selection of facilities exercise. **Note that following the February 27 Winfield session, Council directed Administration to change the questions for the Millet Session.

3. Topics shared in the County of Wetaskiwin general presentation included:

- 3.1. Communications & Engagement – County website main source of information, supplemented by the new County of Wetaskiwin Facebook page.
- 3.2. RCMP Contracts. As a rural municipality, the County does not have to pay for RCMP service. We employ 3 Community Peace Officers and 2 Bylaw Officers. For the first time, Council has entered into an agreement with the RCMP and Alberta Solicitor General for the hiring of a full-time Enhanced RCMP Member to serve the western portion of the County, and a full-time Crime Analyst to serve the eastern portion of the County. It is anticipated these positions will be filled sometime in 2019.
- 3.3. New Fire Invoicing. For the 2019 tax year we are implementing a Fire Services Operating Mill Rate based on property assessment. What this means to you as a ratepayer is you will see a new charge on your 2019 Assessment and Tax Notice. Should you have a fire on your property, you will not receive an invoice, unless it is deemed negligent burning took place or contravention of our Fire Bylaw. This County wide Fire Services Operating Mill Rate is in addition to the Zone Capital mill rate.
- 3.4. County wide budgeting. Council decisions regarding projects for the year for road construction, gravelling, and paved roads will be based on need County wide, and not just within a specific division.
- 3.5. Cannabis Legalization. Following the federal legalization of Cannabis in Canada last year, the County engaged the public through a survey and Open House in regards to the sale, distribution, production, storage, and consumption of cannabis in the County of Wetaskiwin. After consultation, Council decided to restrict all public consumption and retail sales of Cannabis in the County; however, the Land Use Bylaw was amended to allow for cannabis production facilities.
- 3.6. Mountain Pine Beetle – 10 sites confirmed in the County. Attack all pine trees, usually mature trees aged 80-120 years old. (They do not attack aspen, spruce or fir trees.) Early detection and control by residents important. County staff will provide identification of pine beetle.
- 3.7. Snowplowing of Private Residential Driveway Program – discontinued effective September 2018. View the County website for a list of private contractors or call public works at the County office.

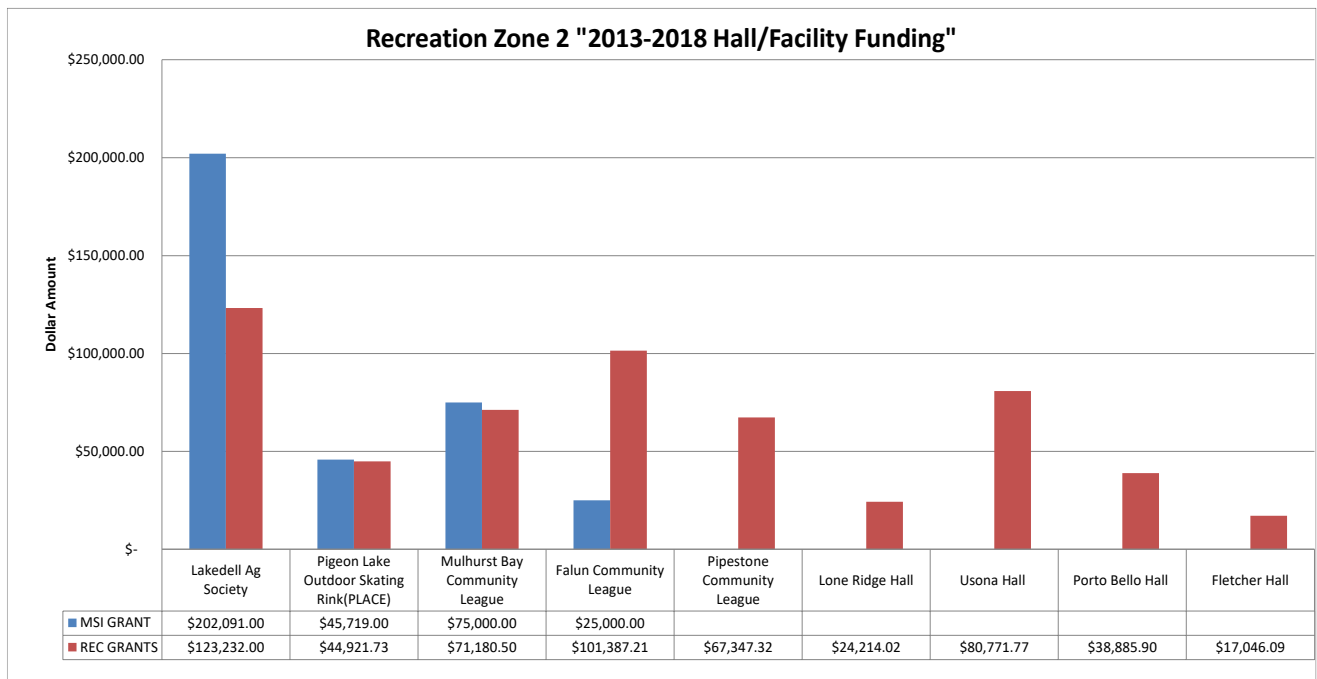
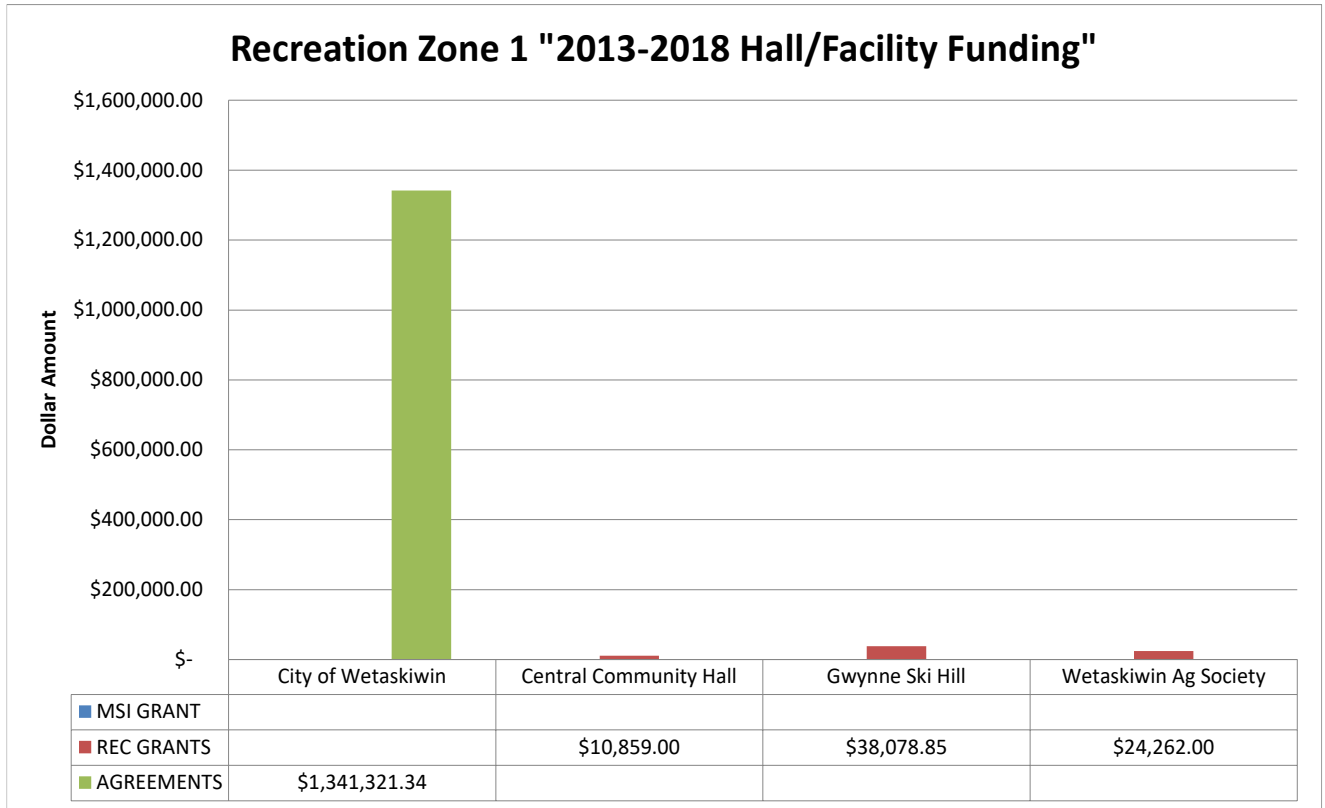
4. Information shared in the County of Wetaskiwin Sustainability of Recreation Facilities and Community Halls presentation included:

- 4.1. Explanation of the 2014 Recreation Needs Assessment and process followed.
- 4.2. Explanation of the Needs Assessment Findings.
- 4.3. Outline of Facility Inventory.
- 4.4. County Funding distributed since 2013.
- 4.5. Explanation of the Needs Assessment Consultant Recommendations.
- 4.6. Facility Conditions Index, Age of Facilities and Current estimated Replacement Value.
- 4.7. Next Steps.

If you wish to view the Recreation Needs Assessment and Master Plan, and Council Implementation Strategy, please visit the County of Wetaskiwin website at www.county.wetaskiwin.ab.ca.

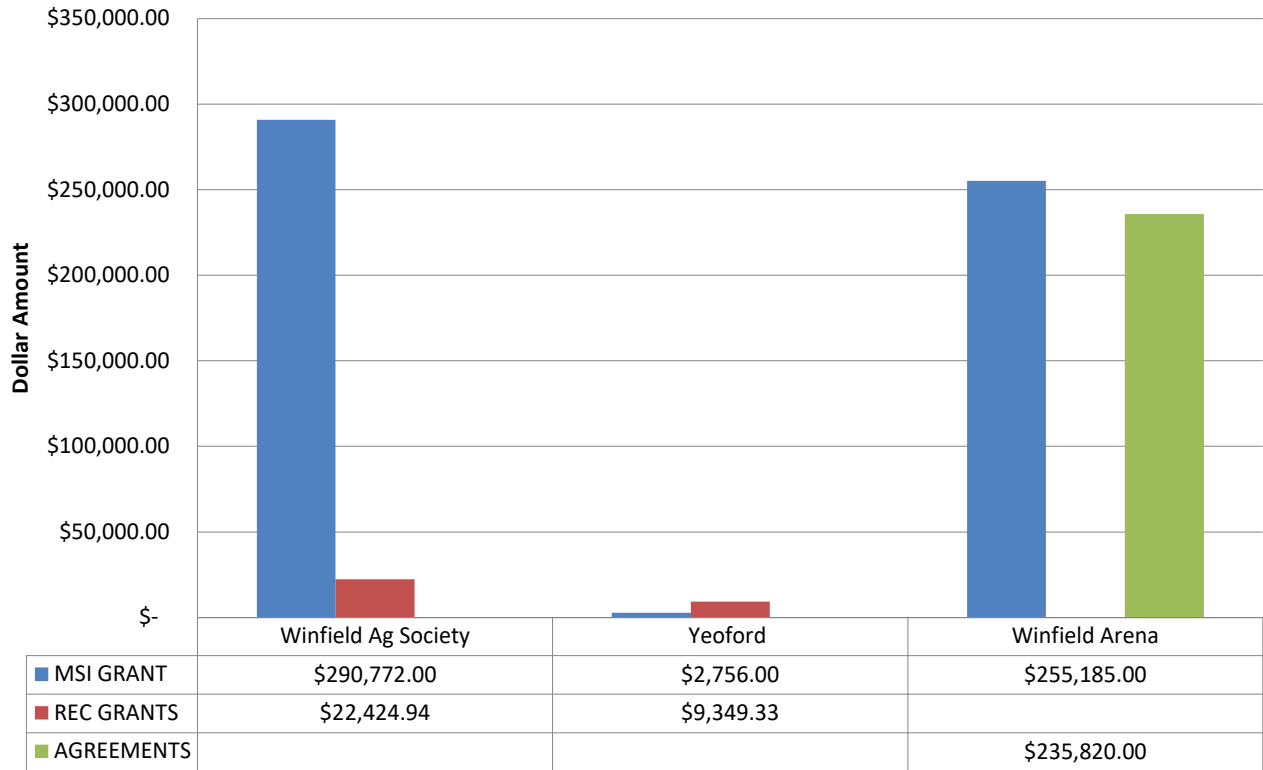
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The following charts were displayed during the two sessions:

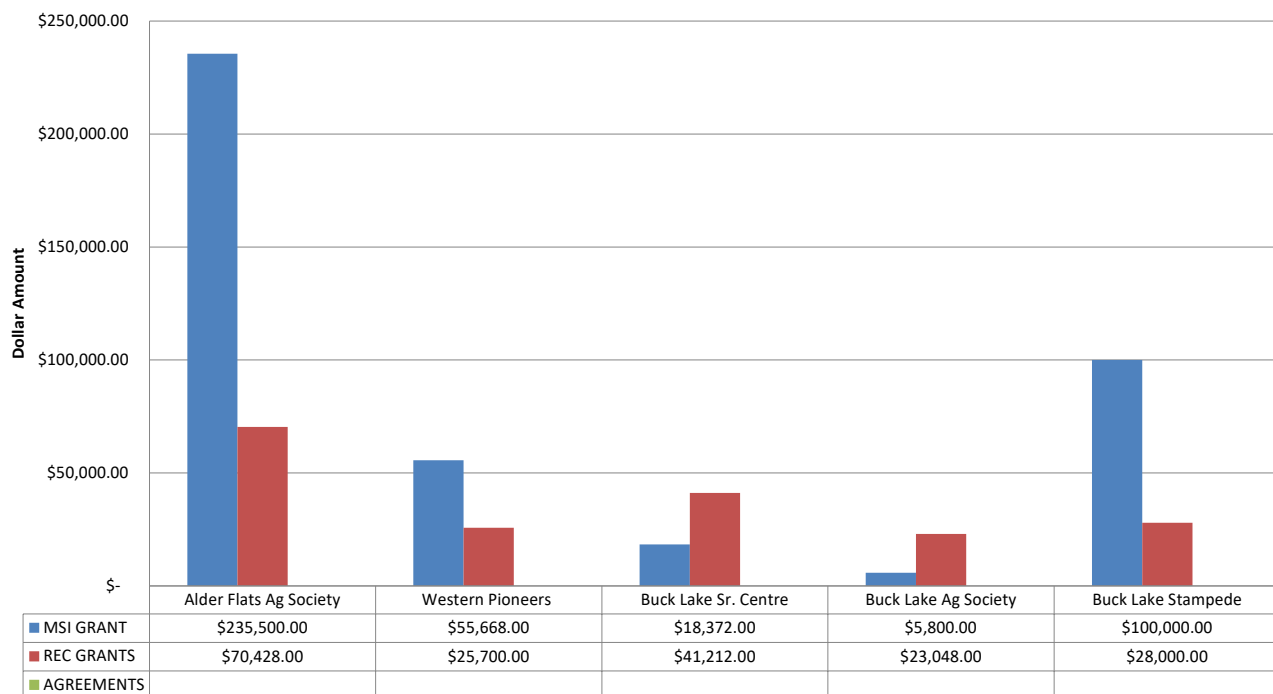


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Recreation Zone 3 "2013-2018 Hall/Facility Funding"



Recreation Zone 4 "2013-2018 Hall/Facility Funding"



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Recreation Zone 5 "2013-2018 Hall/Facility Funding"



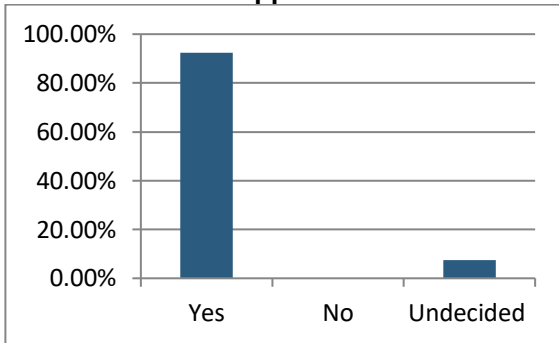
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5. Results of specific questions asked and answered via electronic voting device, following the Sustainability presentation, are:

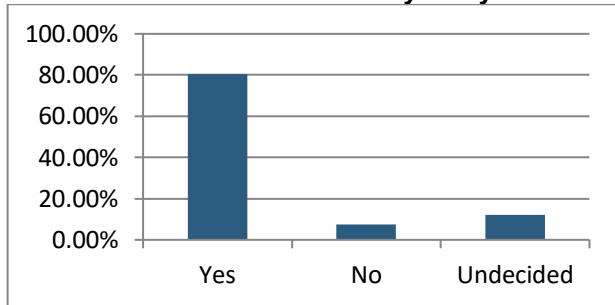
Winfield Citizen Engagement

1. Test question regarding hockey!

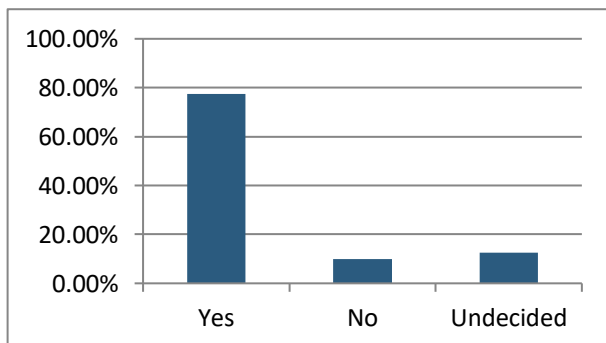
2. Do you agree that the County, through the Leisure and Community Services Department, should work more closely with volunteers and provide additional support to them?



3. Do you agree that the County should update the recreation Master Plan every five years?



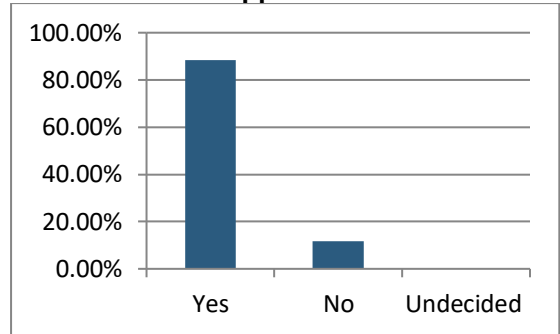
4. Do you agree that the County in conjunction with interested community associations who own and/or operate major parks and recreation facilities should prepare long range development plans for these properties?



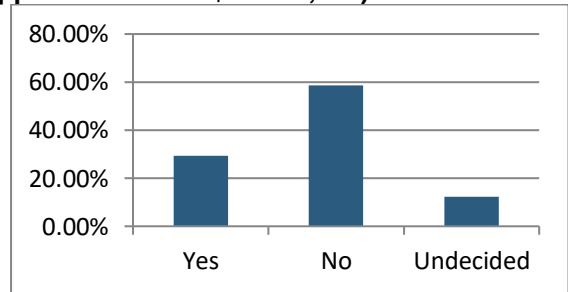
****Millet Citizen Engagement**

1. Test question regarding hockey!

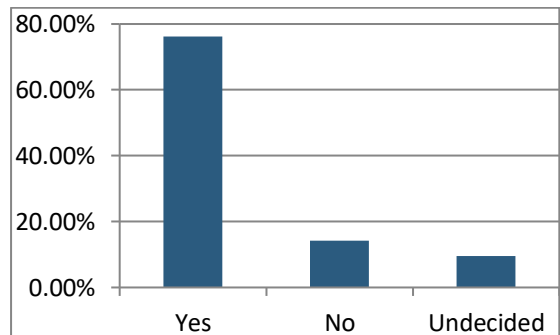
2. Do you agree that the County, through the Leisure and Community Services Department, should work more closely with volunteers and provide additional support to them?



3. Do you agree that the County should update the recreation Master Plan every five years (approximate cost \$60-100,000)?



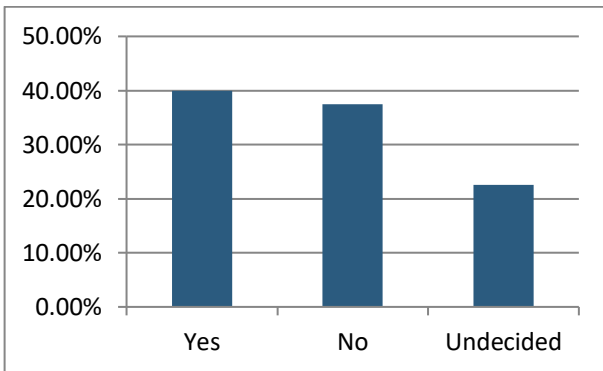
4. Do you agree that the County in conjunction with interested community associations who own and/or operate major parks and recreation facilities should prepare long range (5-10 years) development plans for these properties?



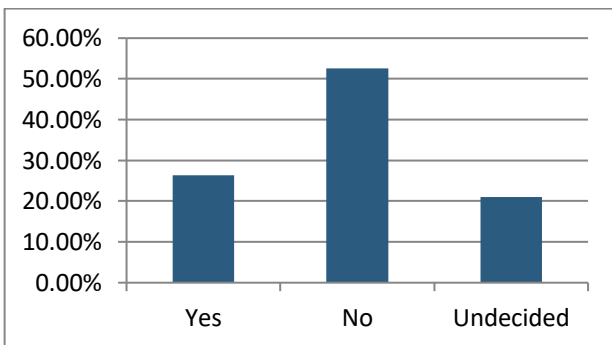
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Winfield Citizen Engagement continued

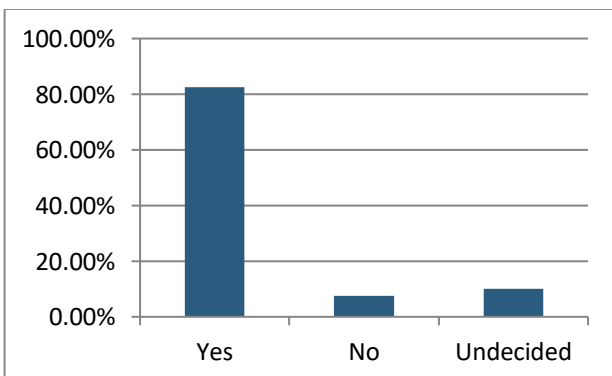
5. Do you agree that the County should update the Recreational Trails Master Plan with current costs for an expanded recreational trail system?



6. Do you agree that the County should implement the Recreational Trails Master Plan and expand recreational trails in the County?

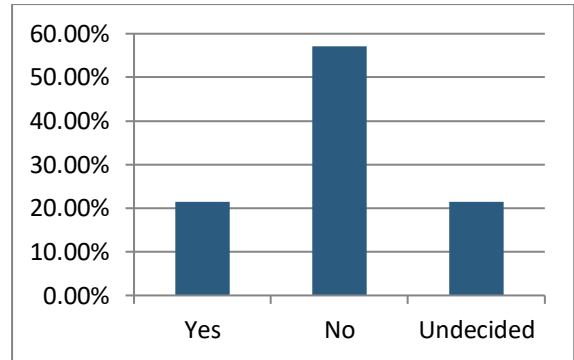


7. Do you agree the County should adopt a long-range strategy for the continuous improvement of parks and open space areas?

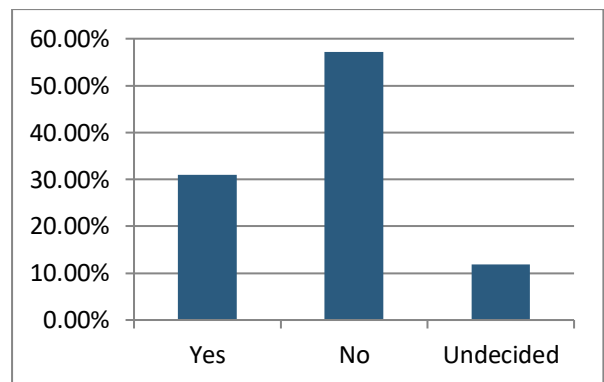


Millet Citizen Engagement continued

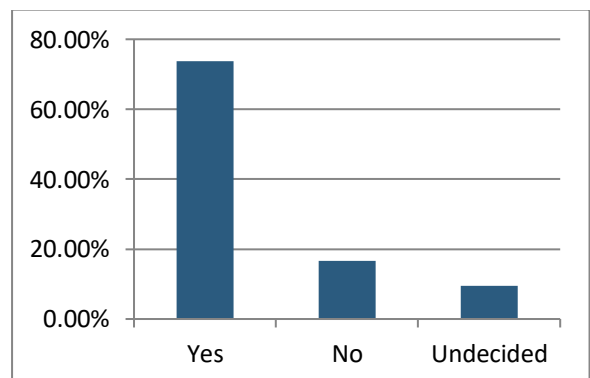
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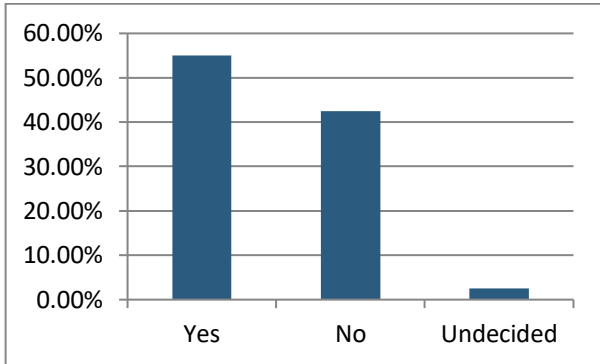
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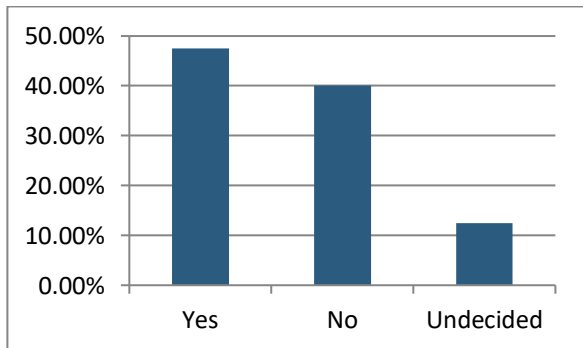
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Winfield Citizen Engagement continued

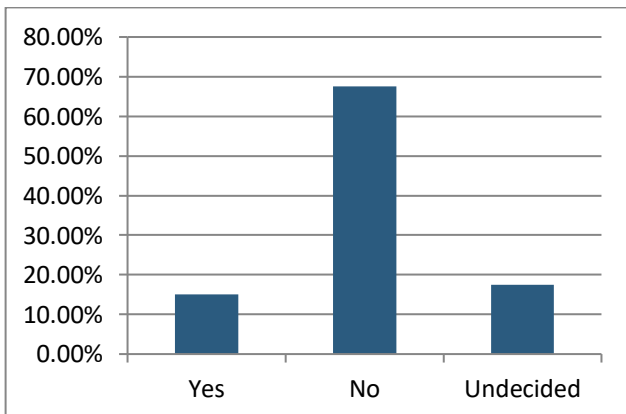
8. Do you feel there is a duplication of recreation facilities and halls in the County?



9. Should Community Groups be required to provide a matching contribution of 50% for all program, event, operational and capital funding requests to the County of Wetaskiwin?

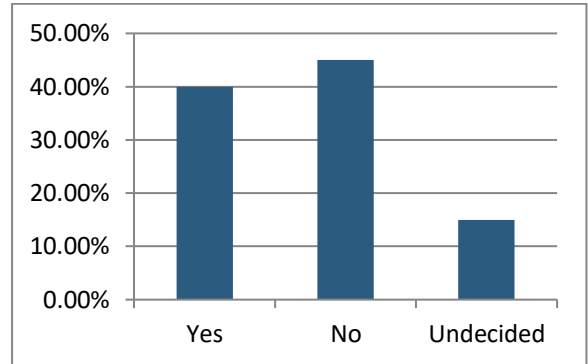


10. Would you support a significant tax increase in order to provide sufficient funding for all current recreation facilities and halls?

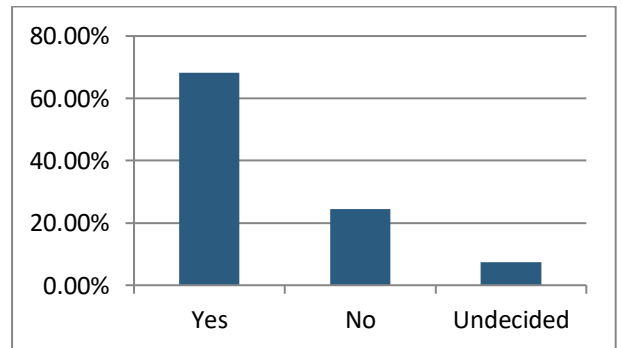


Millet Citizen Engagement continued

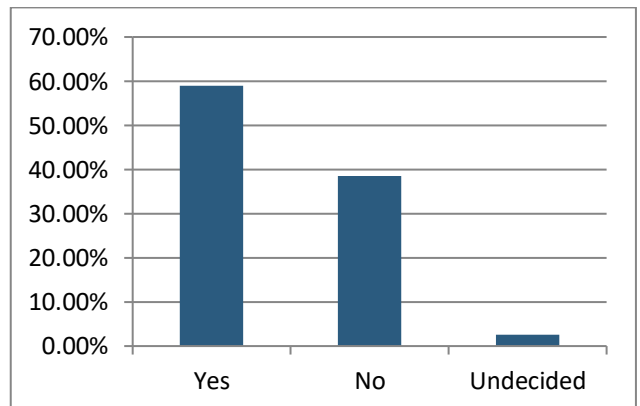
8. Do you feel there is a duplication of recreation facilities and halls in the County?



9. Should Community Groups be required to provide a matching contribution of 50% for all major (\$20,000+) capital funding requests to the County of Wetaskiwin?



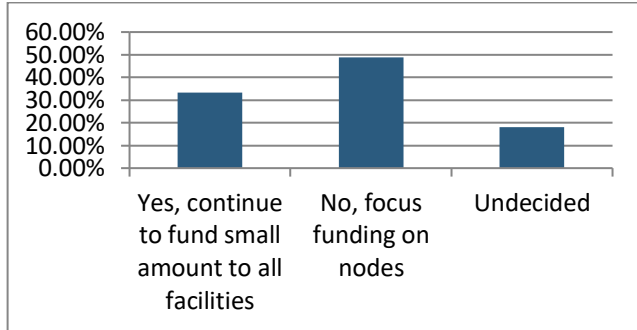
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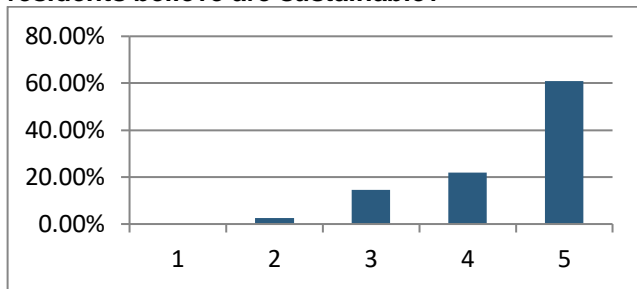
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Winfield Citizen Engagement continued

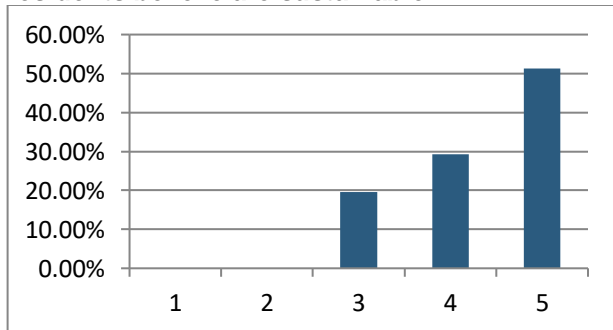
11. Should Council continue to fund small amounts to all our recreation facilities, or should Council focus on nodes to create fewer facilities that would be better maintained?



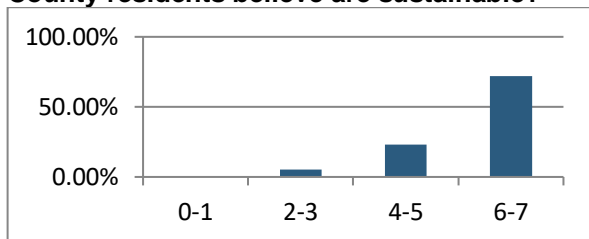
12. How many curling rinks do County residents believe are sustainable?



13. How many rodeo grounds do County residents believe are sustainable?

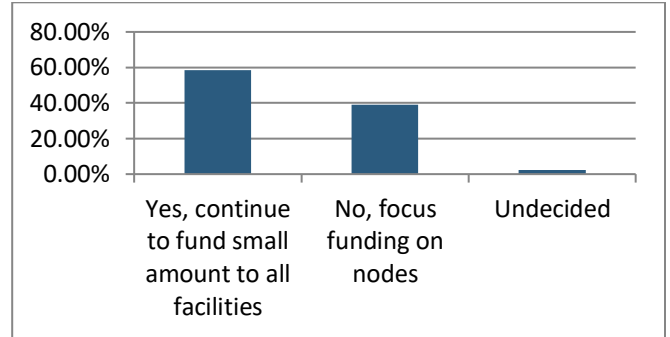


14. How many outdoor skating rinks do County residents believe are sustainable?

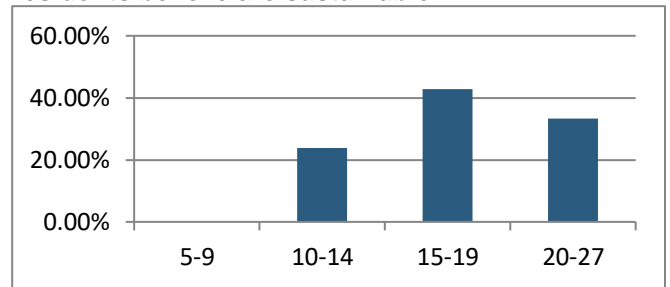


Millet Citizen Engagement continued

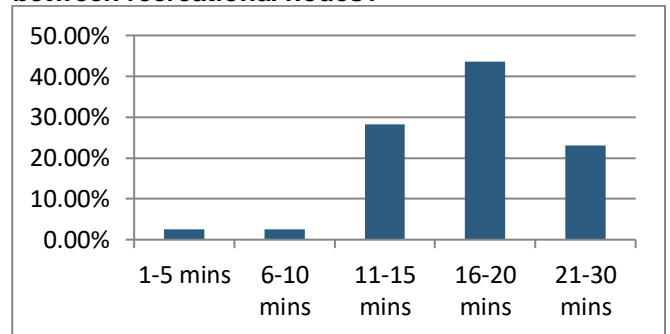
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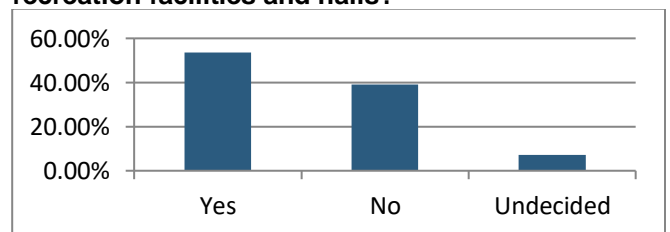
12. How many community halls do County residents believe are sustainable?



13. How far would you be willing to drive between recreational nodes?



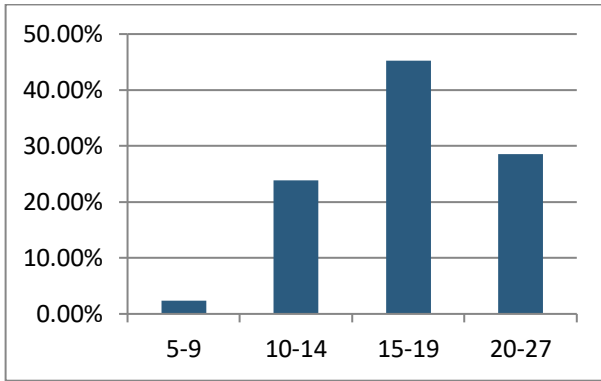
14. Would you support a tax increase in order to provide sufficient funding for all current recreation facilities and halls?



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Winfield Citizen Engagement continued

15. How many community halls do County residents believe are sustainable?



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6. Results of selection of facilities exercise for the four categories Halls, Curling Rinks, Rodeo Grounds and Outdoor Rinks are:

REC ZONE 1	WINFIELD MEETING	MILLET MEETING	TOTAL
CENTRAL COMMUNITY HALL	5	6	11
ANGUS RIDGE COMMUNITY HALL	1	9	10
WETASKIWIN AG. SOCIETY HALL	6	17	23
HAULTAIN HALL	1	8	9
NEW SWEDEN HALL	0	0	0

WETASKIWIN CURLING RINK	11	23	34
WETASKIWIN AG. RODEO GROUNDS	8	26	34
WETASKIWIN OUTDOOR RINK	9	7	16
GWYNNE OUTDOOR RINK	4	6	10

REC ZONE 2

LAKEDELL COMMUNITY HALL	38	47	85
FLETCHER COMMUNITY HALL	0	0	0
MULHURST BAY COMMUNITY HALL	9	23	32
MULHURST BAY LEGION HALL	0	11	11
FALUN COMMUNITY HALL	17	50	67
PIPESTONE COMMUNITY HALL	0	12	12
PORTO BELLO COMMUNITY HALL	0	10	10
LONERIDGE COMMUNITY HALL	8	25	33
USONA COMMUNITY HALL	2	20	22

LAKEDELL CURLING RINK	47	51	98
USONA CURLING RINK	9	34	43
LAKEDELL RODEO GROUNDS/INDOOR	34	64	98
LAKEDELL SCHOOL OUTDOOR RINK	29	15	44
PLACE OUTDOOR RINK	10	68	78
MULHURST BAY OUTDOOR RINK	0	3	3
USONA OUTDOOR RINK	4	2	6
PIPESTONE OUTDOOR RINK	0	13	13

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Top 5 Selections for the four categories are:

HALLS			REC ZONE
1	LAKEDELL COMMUNITY HALL	85	2
2	WINFIELD AGRIPLEX HALL	83	3
3	FALUN COMMUNITY HALL	67	2
4	BUCK LAKE COMMUNITY HALL	56	4
5	ALDER FLATS COMMUNITY HALL	35	4
5	BUCK LAKE SENIORS HALL	35	4

CURLING RINKS			REC ZONE
1	LAKEDELL CURLING RINK	98	2
2	ALDER FLATS CURLING RINK	80	4
3	USONA CURLING RINK	43	2
4	WETASKIWIN CURLING RINK	34	1
5	MILLET CURLING RINK	27	5

OUTDOOR RINKS			
1	ALDER FLATS OUTDOOR RINK	87	4
2	PLACE OUTDOOR RINK	78	2
3	LAKEDELL SCHOOL OUTDOOR RINK	44	2
4	WETASKIWIN OUTDOOR RINK	16	1
5	PIPESTONE OUTDOOR RINK	13	2
5	MILLET OUTDOOR RINK	13	5

RODEO GROUNDS			
1	LAKEDELL RODEO GROUNDS/INDOOR	98	2
2	BUCK LAKE RODEO GROUNDS	85	4
3	WINFIELD RODEO GROUNDS	58	3
4	WETASKIWIN AG. RODEO GROUNDS	34	1
5	ALDER FLATS RODEO GROUNDS	31	4

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7. Summary of Feedback booth Questions and Comments, along with our Answers:

Attendees were provided the opportunity to submit questions/comments to the Feedback booth for response via the County website for public viewing.

Q. Regarding Snow Removal – Mowing equipment not allowed on Municipal property! Is/are snowplows, tractors or bobcats allowed on municipal property to clear driveways to roads? – A. Residents utilizing equipment for moving/snowplowing on County property do so at their own risk. You must be careful when plowing driveways that the equipment does not affect the safety of the travelling public. Further, it is illegal to move the snow from the driveway and pile onto the County right of way (ie across the road). The snow should be piled within your property.

Q. In regards to the Bus going to events at Jubilee. Why not bring in entertainment to the community, rather than bus people out? How much rec money is being used for this venture? A. Unfortunately our recreational infrastructure will not support a Broadway show (Come From Away) or a national tour event (Cirque du Soleil) as these events require larger facilities that can accommodate the required seating capacities, typically these venues are located in large urban centres. The County of Wetaskiwin bus trips are funded through the County of Wetaskiwin-Family Community Support Services (FCSS), 80% of the total cost is covered through provincial grants and the remaining 20% is covered by program registrations. In 2018 the total cost for 9 bus trips provided by the County of Wetaskiwin FCSS was \$42,672.26, 80% (\$34,137.80) was covered by the FCSS Provincial grant and the remaining 20% (\$8,534.46) was covered by program registrations.

Q. I support the development of trails in the County. I am not convinced that they will generate much revenue to make it worth it for County taxpayers. Sure some of us will use them but so will many outside people who don't have to pay to develop, use, or maintain them. Can you provide stats to confirm what revenue the County could see? To show it's worth spending my tax dollars. A. These amenities are public goods that are provided for, and maintained by, local government for residents to access at no cost per visit. As such, the actual value of trails/parks and recreation amenities is difficult to readily quantify. Unlike selling tickets to a sporting event, a public trail/park does not increase revenues with additional visitors. In fact, the greater the usage, the greater the costs to clean and maintain it. However, Independent research shows that trails and parks enhance property values, attracts visitors to the area, provides recreational opportunities for residents, improves human health, and boosts economic development.

C. These events need to be advertised better. A. Notification of the event was direct mailed via Canada Post on January 31, 2019 to approximately 50 community groups, an advertisement published February 7 & 14, 2019 in the County pages of the Pipestone Flyer newspaper, and on January 30, 2019 published on the County website and Facebook page.

C. The sticker activity, in my opinion, is a waste of time and effort and is misleading. We need to look at the usage for different activities in the different halls or recreation facilities. A. Council will use the information from the sticker activity along with other information such as financial statements and reports from the volunteer groups to determine how to move forward with a decision. There may also be future citizen engagements to discuss next steps.

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C. As hard as it is, it's a business decision, the maintenance on older buildings you have to decide if it is worth expenses. A.....n/a

C. If provincial transfers go back up, no more problem. A.....n/a

8. Next Steps

Administration provided the summary to Council for review on April 9, 2019, and the resulting Council direction is that Administration and Council collaborate to investigate the creation of facility nodes and funding models for recreation facilities and community halls. (Ref. Council Resolution CG20190409.009)

Thank You

The County of Wetaskiwin Council and Administration would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone who participated in the Citizen Engagement Sessions for their valuable input regarding the sustainability of recreation facilities and community halls. The County of Wetaskiwin is your home, your community, and we appreciate your time and effort to be a part of the decision making process for your community and the entire County.

If you have further questions please contact Jeff Chipley, Assistant CAO at 780-361-6223 or email jchipley@county10.ca.

County of Wetaskiwin No. 10
780-352-3321 / Toll Free 1-800-661-4125
Website: www.county.wetaskiwin.ab.ca