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Pavilion rust— £7,000 bill

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URGENT repairs costing £7,000 are to be carried out on Worthing's Pavilion after Christmas. A report on the future of the building—which is coming to the end of its forecast 10-year life—is to be prepared.

Mr Graham Bishop, borough engineer, told members of Worthing Borough Council's leisure and recreation committee on Monday that the

bases of some of the support girders of the Pavilion were recently found to be in 'an advanced state of rust.'

He said these needed repairing urgently and the committee agreed. He explained that in 1968 the Pavilion had been given a 10-year-life expectancy, so since then only minor repairs had been carried out on it.

Some of the steelwork of

the Pavilion structure was now 'very very corroded indeed,' he said.

Mr Bishop suggested as it was nearly the end of the 10 years that he should prepare a report on the future and condition of the Pavilion, and this was also agreed.

He added that during the urgent repairs after Christmas the Pavilion would be out of use during the day for about eight weeks. That might mean a 'struggle,' he said, to alter events already booked, especially as the Assembly Hall was being decorated around that time too.

Said Mr Leslie Southey: 'We do not want a West Pier situation in Worthing.' Mr Ronald Clapp was sorry that the repairs could not have been done sooner, as the Assembly Hall was being re-decorated at the same time.

Mr Michael Yorke said it was 'absolutely stupid' to have both places out of use at the same time.

Mr Bishop said it would take about two or three months to prepare a report on the building. Mr Stanley Elliott, chairman, said it would then be a question of cost as to what was decided. The committee may decide to spend money on a new building in another spot, he said.

There is about 70 tons of steelwork in the structure of the Pavilion, Mr Bishop explained, and after about another two years a lot of

money would have to be spent on it.

'If the Pavilion is found to be unsafe generally,' said Mr Clive Walley, 'we will have wasted the £7,000.' Mr John Mansell then asked what would the committee feel if there were a freak storm, causing loss of life.

'Either you spend the money or you close the Pavilion straight away,' added Mr Bishop quickly.

Members agreed to the repairs and a report being drawn up.



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