

Sports centre bill increases by £56,000

THE BILL for Worthing Town Council's indoor sports centre to be built at West Park has gone up by £56,000 in the two years since the council approved the plans of Mr Frank Morris, the borough architect. The parade and open spaces committee is recommending the council next month to accept a tender for the work of £349,800 from Walter Llewellyn and Sons Ltd., of Eastbourne.

In December, 1968, the council approved plans for the project at a then estimated cost of £250,000 plus furniture, fixtures and fittings.

Llewellyn's tender includes £16,000 worth of furnishings, £2,800 in fees for designing the steel structure, £5,100 for drainage works and £6,000 to cover contingencies.

Also taking into consideration a four per cent "tolerance" the original exclusive estimate has jumped from £250,000 to £306,000.

Mr Morris told the Gazette on Monday that the increase on the estimate was no shock as it not only took into account the dramatic rise in costs and wage increases in the building industry in the past two years but also allowed for any price or wage increases between now and when the contract was completed in 1972.

"We are in a period of enormous inflation which no one could have foreseen two years ago," said Mr Morris.

There were eight firms in the running for the works and Mr Morris said that the tenders were "very competitive."

"They were, in fact, the best

set of tenders we have had for a long time, which indicates that the work was very desirable," he added.

Provided the council accepts the tender, work is expected to begin almost immediately. It will take 22 months to complete.

The centre is to be built in the north-west corner of West Park. It will include facilities for many sports, including squash, basketball, archery, badminton, judo and weight lifting.

SEATS FOR 640

There will be portable, collapsible seating for about 640 spectators.

The scheme also includes a cafe, changing rooms, car park and an outdoor all weather soccer pitch.

In his design Mr Morris was influenced by the advice of Worthing Sports Advisory Council. He visited many similar projects carried out by other authorities.

Research was carried out on the latest construction for this type of building and also to ensure that the dimensions of the facilities to be provided met with national requirements for each sport.

Councillor D. H. Morey, deputy chairman of the parade and open spaces committee, told a reporter that the committee was "not unduly surprised" at the increase in cost over the original estimate, "taking into consideration all the special cir-