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## IF YOU DON'T APPRECIATE IT BLOW IT UP – PASMORE

A 20ft high concrete work of art in Peterlee may be blown to smithereens – because it's an eyesore no one wants.

The sculpture, by internationally famous artist Victor Pasmore, was designed as a majestic centrepiece with ornamental lake at Sunny Blunts,

Built by Peterlee Development Corporation in the late 80's The Pavilion cost thousands of pounds. The Corporation later built a costly viewing platform so people could stand and admire the work of art.

But only vandals have ever appreciated its true worth, adding art work of their own. The sculpture is covered with obscene scrawl and graffiti. Local residents claim The Pavilion is now a monstrosity and they want rid of it.

Now Easington District Council, which has inherited the sculpture, is to consider demolition.

In a report to the authority's Housing Committee Chief Officer Mr David Miller says it would cost £2,500 to clean The Pavilion and apply anti graffiti paint, but adds that this would not solve all the problems.

Only demolition will provide the final solution but, unlike some new town houses Mr Miller says the structure is so well built it would have to be blown up or "burst" using hydraulic equipment. Blasting is the cheapest method at £4,000.

Meanwhile artist Victor Pasmore – who designed the housing estate at Sunny Blunts – claims the area will "degenerate into another typical slum council estate" if his sculpture goes.

But he added; "if the council can't appreciate a modern work of art and are not prepared to keep it in a decent condition they should certainly blow it up."

The Council's Housing committee will consider the situation at its meeting on Monday when the fate of The Pavilion could be determined.