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Work of art? Not likely, say Peterlee folk

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 centre piece with an ornamental lake at Sunny Blunts.

Built by Peterlee Development Corporation in the late sixties, "The Pavilion" cost thousands. The Corporation later built a costly viewing platform so people could admire the work of art.

But only vandals have appreciated its worth. The sculpture is covered with obscene scrawl and graffiti. Local residents say 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 only demolition will provide the final solution. And unlike 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 at £4,000.

#### SLUM ESTATE

Meanwhile, artist Victor Pasmore – who also 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 is not prepared to keep it in a decent condition, it 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.