

AD 10/02/01

DEMOLISH PAVILION VOTE IS IGNORED

A concrete sculpture in Peterlee is to be cleaned up as a community project by local Scouts – even though local people have voted to have it demolished.

The Victor Pasmore pavilion at Peterlee. The question is: is it art . . . or an eyesore which just attracts troublemakers. Local folk have made up their minds – blow it up, they all agree.

At a public meeting residents from Oakerside Drive told council officials why the structure, designed by Victor Pasmore, has to go.

The said old people are being terrorized by hooligans who gather at the Pavilion and many are afraid to leave their homes at night.

“It’s not the fact that the sculpture is a monstrosity that bothers us, it’s the crowds of foul-mouthed louts who hang around it looking for trouble,” said Mr Peter Ditchfield who lives only yards away.

Residents claimed there was little point in cleaning it up since it would be covered in graffiti within hours.

CASH

But local Scouts said they’re prepared to repaint the building. “We’ll use a good quality anti-graffiti paint and I think residents will appreciate the improvement.” said Cub leader Jim Hayes.

Despite the vote for demolition, residents were told it could be a long time before Easington Council has the cash for the work.

But police are being asked to step up patrols and Peterlee Development Corporation is to be asked to arrange for its security patrols to call at the sculpture each night.

Meanwhile, the artist is due to visit Peterlee next month for talks with Easington Council and Peterlee Development Corporation about the fate of his work.