

Peterlee Scene 15/01/82

BLOW IT UP!

PASSMORE SCULPTURE ROW CONTINUES

Following an outcry from critics who want to blow up his 20 foot high concrete Pavilion sculpture at Sunny Blunts, internationally famous artist Victor Pasmore is to travel from his home in Malta to face the townspeople of Peterlee.

"I have heard that Easington Council is considering a plan to demolish my sculpture, but I'd like to come across and find out what the true story is" he said.

"I want to look at the Pavilion, and speak to the Development Corporation, who constructed it – I've no doubt that I shall also be introduced to the local council".

The sculpture was originally designed as the centre-piece to the ornamental lake at Sunny Blunts, but it has habitually attracted vandals and trouble-makers.

Local residents, who feel very strongly about the sculpture which has aroused controversy since the day it was built, say that it is an "absolute eyesore", and "a monstrosity" and it should be demolished.

Easington District Council, who are now the proud owners of the sculpture, say it would cost £2,600 to clean up, and in the region of £4,000 to demolish.

They are considering different ways of resolving the whole issue.

Councillor Joan Maslin, one of the sculpture's severest critics, says "I'd like to tell him to his face what we all think of this monstrosity – if he's so keen on it, he should come and live here, within sight of it, so he can see what we all have to put up with every day".

Pasmore has not yet decided on a date to visit Peterlee, but he has said that it will be before March.