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ARTIST TO FACE CRITICS AT PETERLEE

Internationally famous artist Victor Pasmore is to visit Peterlee and face critics who want to blow up one of his sculptures. From his home in Malta today the artist said he wants to "find out for himself what the outcry is all about."

"I have heard that Easington Council is talking about demolishing my sculpture but I want to come and see what the true position is." He said.

"It is too soon for me to say what my views are until I've seen the Pavilion for myself. I shall be speaking to the Development Corporation, which built it, and I've no doubt I will be introduced to the local council as well."

The artist's decision to visit the new town comes amid mounting demands for the demolition of the 20ft high concrete work of art known as The Pavilion at Sunny Blunts.

It was designed as a majestic centre-piece with ornamental lake and viewing platform, but local residents say it is an eyesore and monstrosity which attracts vandals and trouble-makers would cost £2,600 to clean off the vandals' own art work, or £4,000 to blow up the structure. The Council is currently considering ways to resolve the problem.

The artist has not yet decided on a date for his visit, although he has said it will be before March.

Coun. Joan Maslin, one of the critics, said today: "I would like to tell him face to face why I think The Pavilion should be blown up, and I'm sure many tenants would like the opportunity, too."

"if he is intent on keeping the sculpture then I will suggest we allocate him a house near it so he can live there and see what residents have to put up with."