

Shell-shocked community



SOUND OF SILENCE AS STRUCTURE MEETS END

Philip Ly

THE sound shell in Liverpool's Bigge Park has been demolished.

It was torn down in heavy rain on Monday as a two-year project to revitalise the park, set to cost more than \$5 million, begins.

The plans fall under the council's Building Our New City program and also include removing the old bowling club.

The sight of the sound shell reduced to rubble came as a shock to Cr Peter Ristevski, who said he felt appalled and embarrassed to be a Liverpool councillor.

"There were violent storms on Monday so why was there such a big rush to demolish it before being debated in an open forum at

THE HISTORY

- Erected in 1974 as a memorial to former mayor Alex Grimson
- May have been influenced by the Opera House
- Turned into a mural for the Anzac centenary this year
- Demolished on Monday
- The bowling club is also set to go
- It is part of a revitalisation
- This will take two years and cost more than \$5 million

tonight's council meeting?" Cr Ristevski said.

Cr Wendy Waller said proposed changes to the park could be done without the demolitions and has called it "unnecessary".

"Killing off things and replacing them with new things is a false economy,"

she said. "It's an iconic part of our history, albeit recent."

Cr Anne Stanley said the move did not keep faith with the people of Liverpool.

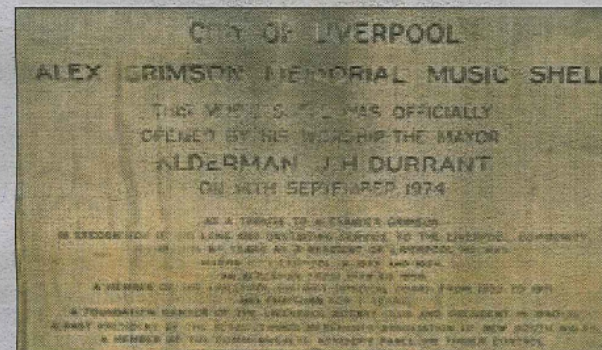
The council's chief executive Carl Wulff said the council has been transparent about removing the sound shell in its planning and design phases of the park's revitalisation.

Mr Wulff said the shell had not been used for entertainment for a long time and that little community support to keep it was shown in consultation.

Debris from the sound shell will be recycled and the area turfed for public access before more works to revitalise the park start in early 2016.



Bigge Day Out at the shell.



The plaque shows it was a memorial to a former mayor.



SHELL SHOCKED

Liverpool's historic sound shell in Bigge Park was reduced to a pile of rubble on Monday. Its speedy demolition took many by surprise. Full story page 7

