



**The Viking Café** – for many this establishment was something of an institution. Rural bus passengers in particular will recall regularly enjoying the hospitality afforded here. Apart from the obvious absence of the Café itself, it is interesting to note the departure of the Old Gas Cottage, which once occupied the site where the Great Wall now stands.





**Old Gas Cottage** – as the townscape of Lerwick changes over time, it is all too easy to forget the buildings that have been demolished in order to make room for new ones. The old gas cottage was – as can be seen by these pictures of its demise – a fairly substantial old house. Despite this it was obscured and dominated by the bulk of concrete box built in front of it. There was also a small block-built office, which was

already demolished by the time these pictures were taken (bottom right-hand quarter of the lower picture). Latterly a local taxi firm used this as a Headquarters and it was entered by a set of steps leading up from the south end of the Viking bus park. The wall at the back of the bus park has undergone a series of re-paintings and advertisements in attempts to brighten it up, but these have generally been short-lived, as dampness tends to prevent paint from sticking to it for long periods of time. Recently an enormous plywood hoarding has been erected here and we wait with anticipation as to the nature of visual delight about to grace the car park in the coming days...

