# Andrew Castle gains approval for luxury mansion in Surrey



Former British tennis star Andrew Castle has secured approval for the construction of a £5 million luxury mansion in a private area of Surrey, following a protracted battle with his neighbours over the plans. Castle, 61, aims to replace a 1930s cottage with a new four-bedroom home that is projected to be three times larger than the existing structure.

The decision comes after planning officers dismissed objections raised by the neighbouring family, who expressed serious concerns regarding privacy, views, and the overall impact of the development on the residential amenities of the area. Planners stated that the new build would not adversely affect the local residential environment, saying it was "considered acceptable in terms of scale, form, bulk, height, massing, spacing and design.”

Despite the approval, conditions were imposed on the plans, including the installation of obscure glazing on the gym's rear window to help maintain privacy for the neighbouring properties. The proposed mansion, which will include an upstairs gym, an outdoor swimming pool, and a detached pool house, will occupy over 5,700 square feet of space, dwarfing the original cottage which was measured at around 1,800 square feet.

The objections from Castle's neighbours highlighted their unhappiness with the scale of the proposed development. They described the plans as "wholly unacceptable" and raised concerns that their main bedroom would be significantly overlooked, compromising their privacy. Their grievances were documented in a detailed 12-page letter submitted with the planning application, emphasising that they felt inadequately consulted about the project.

One neighbour indicated that had there been proper discussions prior to the submission of the plans, their concerns regarding the design and placement of the new house could have been addressed effectively. The objections also included fears of loss of sunlight, and a diminished sense of openness due to the size of the proposed two-storey property.

Castle, a former BBC commentator and British number one player, and his wife Sophia, 57, purchased the cottage last year for £3.75 million. Estate agents had noted its significant potential for expansion and improvement. The couple now hopes to realise a profit from the development and has engaged in the planning process since submitting proposed demolition plans shortly before Christmas in 2022.

The mansion, once completed, is expected to feature a spacious open-plan kitchen, multiple bedrooms with en-suite facilities, and modern amenities designed to cater to luxury living, including a swimming pool and a state-of-the-art gym. The proposed garage, cycle storage area, and enhanced security features—such as sliding entrance gates—outline Castle's vision for a contemporary family residence in the affluent area of Surrey.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This URL is the source of the article about Andrew Castle's luxury mansion plans in Surrey, detailing the approval process and neighbour concerns.
* <https://www.planningportal.co.uk> - This website provides general information on UK planning regulations and could support the discussion on planning approvals and conditions for new developments.
* <https://www.surrey.gov.uk/planning> - This Surrey County Council website offers insights into local planning policies and procedures, which could corroborate the planning process for Castle's mansion.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/tennis> - As Andrew Castle is a former BBC commentator and tennis player, this BBC Sport website could provide background information on his career.
* <https://www.rightmove.co.uk> - This property website could provide information on luxury homes in Surrey, supporting the context of Castle's £5 million mansion plans.