# Planning dispute over millionaire's home in Cheshire escalates



A significant planning dispute has arisen in the affluent village of Over Peover, Cheshire, involving Paul Elliott, a former owner of the Championship football club Charlton Athletic. Elliott has found himself compelled to demolish his recently extended family home, worth over a million pounds, in response to local council regulations and the disapproval of neighbours.

The controversy began when Elliott extended his four-bedroom house without the necessary planning permission in 2020, despite what he claims was initial approval from a local planning officer. The extensions were completed within six weeks, and by autumn of that year, Elliott, along with his wife and three children, had moved into the property. However, the situation quickly escalated as he faced opposition from the East Cheshire District Council and local residents.

Elliott expressed frustration over the planning process, stating, "My architect met with the Council's planning officer and showed them our plans and they were happy with it... I should not have started the work before it was officially approved but it was COVID, we'd sold our property and I wanted somewhere stable for my family." He later discovered, via an online article over Christmas, that the council had recommended refusal of his plans.

After exhausting his options with re-submissions and appeals, Elliott received his final rejection last month—granting him 12 months to remove the unauthorised extension. The financial burden of this legal battle has been considerable; he estimates that he has spent hundreds of thousands of pounds on legal fees throughout the process.

While some fellow residents have voiced their concerns regarding the impact of Elliott's extension—being reportedly 140% larger than the original structure—others have commented on the larger implications of wealth in planning disputes. One neighbour, who chose to remain anonymous, remarked, "The wealthy use their money to try and muscle their way around rules and regulations."

In a statement regarding the matter, Conservative district councillor Anthony Harrison stated that the council had acted within its remit, asserting, "He has extended his property without permission so of course the Council are going to pursue it." He emphasised the need to enforce planning regulations, noting the area's affluent status and the commonality of similar enforcement cases.

Elliott has since proposed new plans for a different structure on the site, which has received approval for a large outbuilding intended to serve as a playroom, living space, and office. He described the new building as measuring 15 by 5 metres, which he argues is not markedly different from the extension designated for removal.

The community atmosphere in Over Peover is further complicated by broader issues, such as complaints from residents about disturbances caused by helicopter flights, exacerbating tensions related to property development and the expectations of rural living.

As the situation develops, the implications for Elliott's family, the local community, and the council's enforcement actions remain to be seen, with many following the case closely given its financial and social ramifications.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.votvonline.com/home/the-2019-20-blogs/28-7-would-be-chairman-was-accused-of-asset-stripping-school/> - This article provides background information on Paul Elliott, highlighting previous controversies involving him, such as his involvement in a school closure, which might reflect his business practices and disputes.
2. <https://law.justia.com/cases/federal/district-courts/FSupp2/12/328/2499011/> - This case involves Elliott Associates LP, which, while not specifically about Paul Elliott, shows how some groups with similar names engage in legal disputes and strategic business practices, potentially relevant to how disputes are handled.
3. <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/planning-inspectorate> - The Planning Inspectorate's website explains planning regulations and appeals processes in England, which is relevant to the planning dispute involving Paul Elliott's property extensions.
4. <https://www.vacourts.gov/courts/scv/rulesofcourt.pdf> - While not directly related to the specific case, this document outlines legal procedures for appeals and disputes, which might be applicable to the kind of legal conflicts Elliott is facing.
5. <https://www.mass.gov/guide-to-evidence/article-xi-miscellaneous> - This source details legal procedures in Massachusetts, which, although not directly related to the UK case, provides insight into how legal systems handle evidence and disputes.
6. <https://www.noahwire.com> - This is the source of the initial article about Paul Elliott's planning dispute, though it doesn't provide additional external validation.
7. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14598429/Neighbours-war-mans-illegal-two-storey-extension-locals-claim-increased-size-home-140.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data