# Kirstie Allsopp’s partner faces backlash over Victorian pub renovation in North Kensington



Families living near a Victorian pub in North Kensington owned by Kirstie Allsopp’s partner, Ben Andersen, have expressed strong displeasure over renovation plans, describing the newly installed railings as “Poundland Prison Chic” and likening them to “motorway crash barriers.” The pub, formerly Ariadne's Nectar Bar, is undergoing a transformation led by Andersen’s company, Wentworth Andersen, aimed at restoring it as a traditional pub. However, residents argue that the black metal railings surrounding a new front terrace clash with the area's historic character and conservation status. One neighbour criticised the railings as a poor substitute for Victorian wrought iron, stating they are not appropriate for the site or the conservation area, adding that the effect looks more like “prison chic” or an “abandoned industrial park.”

The renovation has sparked ongoing tensions with the local community, which is particularly sensitive to maintaining the historical and architectural integrity of the area. The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council has received complaints not only about the railings but also about the construction of an outdoor terrace that some residents claim bypasses necessary planning permissions. Officials have reportedly launched investigations into potential violations, and planning enforcement officers are now involved in the case. The pub is being converted into what may become a microbrewery or distillery, which has added to concerns about its suitability and impact on local residents and pedestrian access.

Earlier in the redevelopment process, Mr Andersen had proposed reinstating a historic lightwell—an architectural feature traditionally used to provide daylight and ventilation to pub cellars. This plan was withdrawn following backlash from locals who feared it could be exploited as a vantage point for upskirting, a concern intensified by the fact that upskirting became a criminal offence in 2019. The controversy around the lightwell led to significant local opposition, prompting Andersen to promise an alternative design solution.

Despite the criticism, Kirstie Allsopp has publicly defended the project, emphasising that there is substantial community support for reopening the pub, which she believes meets a genuine local need. Speaking about the venture, she said, “We really really want to open that pub. The community wants us to open that pub. There is a need for that pub.” She added that Wentworth Andersen hoped to open the pub as soon as possible, underscoring their commitment to the project despite the disputes.

Kirstie Allsopp and Ben Andersen have been a couple for around 20 years and share two sons. While this development has been a focal point for local controversy, other aspects of their life together include a comfortable home in Notting Hill reflecting an eclectic mix of traditional and modern design influences. Allsopp’s public persona often touches on her West London roots, lifestyle preferences, and advocacy on various social issues, standing somewhat in contrast to the heated local disputes surrounding the pub renovation.

Overall, this ongoing conflict illustrates broader tensions that arise when historic neighbourhoods face modern development initiatives, especially in conservation areas where residents are keen to preserve architectural heritage. The case highlights the balancing act between revitalising local amenities and maintaining the character and safety standards that long-time residents expect. As the council’s investigation continues, the outcome remains awaited by all parties involved.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15029295/Kirstie-Allsopp-husband-pub-pound-shop-prison.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://ardwatalab.net/news-headlines/kirstie-allsopps-property-developer-partner-ben-andersen-in-row-with-neighbours-over-illegal-terrace-at-their-new-pub), [[3]](https://readertts.com/article/page/mirror/3am/celebrity-news/location-location-locations-kirstie-allsopps-34510601), [[4]](https://www.15minutenews.com/article/2024/03/01/239383510/kirstie-allsopp-is-caught-up-in-row-with-furious-neighbours-after-her-partner-bought-victorian-pub/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[2]](https://ardwatalab.net/news-headlines/kirstie-allsopps-property-developer-partner-ben-andersen-in-row-with-neighbours-over-illegal-terrace-at-their-new-pub), [[3]](https://readertts.com/article/page/mirror/3am/celebrity-news/location-location-locations-kirstie-allsopps-34510601), [[4]](https://www.15minutenews.com/article/2024/03/01/239383510/kirstie-allsopp-is-caught-up-in-row-with-furious-neighbours-after-her-partner-bought-victorian-pub/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15029295/Kirstie-Allsopp-husband-pub-pound-shop-prison.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15029295/Kirstie-Allsopp-husband-pub-pound-shop-prison.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15029295/Kirstie-Allsopp-husband-pub-pound-shop-prison.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[5]](https://www.ginnydougary.co.uk/kirstie-allsopp-talks-britains-education-system-working-hard-and-filling-your-house-for-free/), [[6]](https://www.standard.co.uk/showbiz/my-london-kirstie-allsopp-7186772.html)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15029295/Kirstie-Allsopp-husband-pub-pound-shop-prison.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://ardwatalab.net/news-headlines/kirstie-allsopps-property-developer-partner-ben-andersen-in-row-with-neighbours-over-illegal-terrace-at-their-new-pub), [[3]](https://readertts.com/article/page/mirror/3am/celebrity-news/location-location-locations-kirstie-allsopps-34510601), [[4]](https://www.15minutenews.com/article/2024/03/01/239383510/kirstie-allsopp-is-caught-up-in-row-with-furious-neighbours-after-her-partner-bought-victorian-pub/)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15029295/Kirstie-Allsopp-husband-pub-pound-shop-prison.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://ardwatalab.net/news-headlines/kirstie-allsopps-property-developer-partner-ben-andersen-in-row-with-neighbours-over-illegal-terrace-at-their-new-pub> - Kirstie Allsopp's partner, Ben Andersen, is facing disputes with neighbours over renovations at a Victorian pub in North Kensington. Residents have raised concerns about the construction of an outdoor terrace, alleging it bypasses planning laws. The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council is investigating the matter, with planning enforcement officers involved. The pub, located on Latimer Road, is being transformed into a microbrewery or distillery. The development has sparked tensions, with locals questioning the appropriateness of the changes in a conservation area. Kirstie Allsopp and Ben Andersen have been together for 20 years and have two sons together.
3. <https://readertts.com/article/page/mirror/3am/celebrity-news/location-location-locations-kirstie-allsopps-34510601> - Kirstie Allsopp's partner, Ben Andersen, is embroiled in a dispute with neighbours over renovations at a Victorian pub in North Kensington. Residents have reported safety concerns and potential planning violations to the council. The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council is investigating the matter. The pub is being converted into a microbrewery or distillery. Locals have raised issues about the construction of an outdoor terrace and the impact on pedestrian access. Kirstie Allsopp and Ben Andersen have been together for 20 years and have two sons together.
4. <https://www.15minutenews.com/article/2024/03/01/239383510/kirstie-allsopp-is-caught-up-in-row-with-furious-neighbours-after-her-partner-bought-victorian-pub/> - Kirstie Allsopp's partner, Ben Andersen, is facing backlash from neighbours over renovations at a Victorian pub in North Kensington. Residents have complained about the construction of an outdoor terrace and potential planning violations. The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council is investigating the matter. The pub is being transformed into a microbrewery or distillery. Locals have raised concerns about the impact on pedestrian access and the appropriateness of the changes in a conservation area. Kirstie Allsopp and Ben Andersen have been together for 20 years and have two sons together.
5. <https://www.ginnydougary.co.uk/kirstie-allsopp-talks-britains-education-system-working-hard-and-filling-your-house-for-free/> - Kirstie Allsopp discusses her Notting Hill home, shared with her partner Ben Andersen and their two sons. The house is a mix of different styles and influences, reflecting the family's eclectic taste. Kirstie mentions the presence of a nanny, housekeeper, personal assistant, and close family and friends nearby. The home is described as comfortable and lived-in, with large glass windows overlooking communal gardens. The family enjoys a mix of traditional and modern elements in their home decor.
6. <https://www.standard.co.uk/showbiz/my-london-kirstie-allsopp-7186772.html> - Kirstie Allsopp, a true West Londoner, resides in North Kensington. She has lived in her current house for six years and previously rented in the area. Kirstie shares her thoughts on various London experiences, including theatre and tourist attractions. She also discusses her favourite shops and how she gets around town. Kirstie mentions her taste in music and recent purchases, as well as her wardrobe choices. She shares her experiences with recent holidays and her preferences for travel destinations.
7. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/lifestyle/10868367/Kirstie-Allsopp-I-dont-want-the-next-generation-of-women-to-suffer-the-same-heartache.html> - Kirstie Allsopp discusses her views on women's issues, including fertility and the challenges women face in balancing career and family. She expresses concern over the lack of honest conversations about fertility and the pressures on women to achieve multiple milestones within a short timeframe. Kirstie reflects on her own experiences and the struggles she has witnessed among friends. She advocates for more open discussions about these topics to better support women in their personal and professional lives.