

Drugs gang is jailed for 22 years

TOOM ABIRS on the imprisonment of members of criminal gang who ‘saw themselves as untouchable’

SIX members of a criminal drugs gang who “saw themselves as untouchable by the law” have been jailed for a total of 22 years.

Police arrested the gang in March last year, seizing £350,000 of drugs and £50,000 in cash from properties in this county and Buckinghamshire.

Bank accounts and assets totalling about £1.5m have also been frozen ahead of future court hearings.

Half a dozen men from Oxfordshire were jailed on Friday at Reading Crown Court and three other were sentenced at an earlier hearing.

Nicholas Dean, 46, of Roman Way, Bicester, was sentenced to eight years and six months in prison for conspiracy to supply class-A drugs (cocaine) and conspiracy to supply class-B drugs (cannabis).

His brother Jason, 44, of Ash Grove, Headington, got four years and six months in prison for possessing class-A drugs (cocaine) with intent to supply and money laundering.

Roy Davis, 63, of Franklin Close, Haddenham, was sentenced to two years and three months in jail for conspiracy to supply class-A drugs (cocaine).

Nathan Reddy, 48, * of Radcliffe Road, East Oxford, received three years and six



■ SENTENCED: From left: Nicholas Dean, Jason Dean, Roy Davis, Nathan Reddy, Andrew Layden Essex, Roland Yeates

months for conspiracy to supply class-A drugs (cocaine) and conspiracy to supply class-B drugs (cannabis).

Andrew Layden Essex, 51, from Balfour Road, Blackbird Leys, was handed two years and four months in prison for conspiracy to supply class-A drugs (cocaine) and conspiracy to supply class-B drugs (cannabis).

Roland Yeates, 50, from Holton, near Wheatley, got a year’s jail for offering to supply class-A drugs (cocaine) and being concerned in the supply of class-A drugs (cocaine).

All six men admitted the offences.

Police said they would be applying for Serious Crime Prevention Orders (SCPOs) against the Dean brothers.

The five-year orders would

prohibit the number of bank accounts, phones and cars that can be owned by the pair on their release from prison.

Three other Oxfordshire men were given non-custodial sentences at earlier hearings.

Martin Oliver, 44, of Rutten Lane, Yarnton, admitted possessing cannabis and was given an 18-month conditional discharge for 18 months with £85 costs.

Alex Ramsdale, 24, of Windmill Lane, Wheatley, admitted possessing cocaine and was given 200 hours’ unpaid work with £85 costs.

Paul Woodburn, 43, of Wootton, near Woodstock, admitted possessing a weapon for the discharge of CS gas and was given a four-month curfew with £85 costs.

Police praised the undercover team that brought the gang to

justice. A policeman referred to as ‘Mike Taylor’ gained their trust and was later sold cocaine and cannabis in 16 separate deals at car parks in Oxford.

He paid £10,700 cash in total and received drugs hidden in plastic shopping bags, as well as crisp and cigarette packets, with a combined street value of £104,000.

The deals, which were usually of about an ounce at a time, were carried out in Mike’s car at locations including a B&Q car park, outside the Pear Tree services, in a car park at Wheatley and in a car park in St Giles, Oxford.