

Tony Clyne PPN representative on the Joint Policing Committee

A recent meeting of the Joint Policing Committee held in the Wexford Council Chamber on the 28th March 2022.

Some of the issues I raised I asked would it be more cost effective for the Gardaí to lease Garda Cars rather than purchase them where it would be possible to have new cars every 2 years and also when a car was out of commission due to being serviced they would have a replacement car.

I also suggested that a marine Garda unit be set up as the hold tried and tested way of smuggling especially drugs into small harbours and coves which cannot be patrolled by land based Gardaí

I also pointed out that there 6 registered landing strips in Wexford for small private planes which could land and drop a small package of drugs which could be valued up to 1 million euros this could be done in a matter of minutes. I was pointing this out to highlight the difficulty the Gardaí had in monitoring the importation of drugs which is a scourge on the county and country.

The Superintendent replied that The Gardaí was leasing some Garda cars.

There followed a long discussion on the drug problem in Wexford the Chief Garda Superintendent Anthony Pettit said that drug related intimidation where relatives of drug users are being threatened into paying drug debts and called on targeted families to come forward in confidence to the Gardaí as this is a criminal matter and drug intimidation is becoming an issue in Wexford.

Last year 4 people came before the courts accused of intimidation with 1 in Gorey where 2 men were accused of blackmail and extortion were convicted and sentenced to 10 years in prison. The committee were also addressed by former Limerick hurler Ciaran Carey on drugs and Ms Blackburn of Limerick counselling service MY MOVE who answered a question by one County Councilor who is also a manager of a GAA team who knows there is a small problem in his club but he doesn't what the players can do what he can do as a manager and what the community can do she replied that what he and JPC members were doing today was to inform themselves was a fantastic step in the right direction .

Another councilor also a team manager spoke to a mother with a son and daughter in a GAA club and sat 25 members of a panel down following a particular incident and discovered that 18 of them were using cocaine this is a problem in soccer and rugby clubs as well.

Another councilor involved in sport asked if there would be an appetite among sporting clubs for a situation where it would be part of someone's membership that they would be available for testing.

The Chief Superintendent then gave the committee an update on Garda matters.

The meeting then concluded

