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ABINGDON AND FARINGDON DISTRICT
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE



REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR
THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY-SIX



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Abingdon and Faringdon Districts Joint Public Health Committee

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
ABINGDON AND FARINGDON DISTRICTS
JOINT HEALTH COMMITTEE

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my annual report for 1966.

May I again begin by expressing my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Councillors of the Authorities that I serve who have been so friendly and helpful, to the General Practitioners and Nurses of the area for their support and co-operation and most of all to the Public Health Inspectors for their continued loyalty, industry and cheerful efficiency in carrying out the great volume and variety of tasks referred to in this report.

Year after year I never cease to be surprised by the constancy or regularity of certain figures. For example when one thinks of all the varied factors, including economic, housing, psychological, emotional, social and sexual, which are involved in the conception and subsequent birth of a baby, is it not remarkable that a population of some 67,000 should produce in 2 successive years 1,269 and 1,270 live babies, as shown in the table of Infant Mortality?

Is it not equally remarkable, when one thinks of the even greater variety of factors, including so many different diseases, which culminate in the death of a person, that the deaths in Abingdon Borough and Faringdon Rural District should vary, compared with the previous year, by only 7 and 5 respectively, while Abingdon Rural District with a population of some 35,000 should have exactly 258 deaths in two successive years?

* * *

Throughout the last war, my wife (a doctor) and I were working in a group of Universities near the wartime capital of China, Chungking. As cow's milk was almost non-existent we spent some time perfecting a substitute. This we made from soya-bean flour, sugar and salt and added calcium; the only available source of calcium at that time was the floor sweepings from the local toothbrush factory which used pig's bones for the handles. This bone dust was ground, sterilised and sieved through silk and added to the other ingredients. This milk was originally developed for use in baby welfare clinics and then proved invaluable for university students, many of whom were under-nourished and suffering from T.B.

Leaving China by plane to India and ship past Australia and Panama, our first touch with Western culture was Boston U.S.A. where we visited Harvard Medical School. Imagine our surprise when, taken to the Nutrition Clinic, we found that almost all their 'patients' were concerned with reducing their excess nutrition!

No one who sees the vast sums spent on efforts to reduce and the multiplicity of conflicting theories and opposite solutions that recur in women's magazines, will believe that there is any simple answer to a problem of such widespread complexity and magnitude. I would hesitate to suggest there is, were it not that some time ago a headmaster told me he had solved his problem of overweight by practising what he had heard me telling a teenage girl 18 months before. These obese girls and boys have usually been told they must eat less, but that is just what they can't do — they like their food. So I start by saying they need to make a real effort to enjoy their food much *more*. When they look surprised and ask how? I reply "Well at present, you take a nice mouthful, give it a few chews and then throw it away". They give a look of even greater surprise and so I go on, "No, I don't mean out on to the table or the floor. You'd soon get thinner if that's what you were doing. But by popping it down the little red lane, you have just as certainly lost all chance of further enjoyment from it. Now if, just for fun, you stop doing that and keep on chewing as long as it continues to taste nice, I think you'll be surprised or even amazed to find you can still taste it 3, 4, or 5 times as long as you do at present. But you will need to concentrate your thoughts on getting more enjoyment".

If the children show interest or curiosity, I suggest that this simple but very great change in their eating procedure may produce its required effect in three ways:

- (1) By the muscles of mastication in the jaw becoming tired.
- (2) By the flow of saliva drying up.
- (3) By finding themselves left alone at the table from which the food is being cleared out of temptation's way.

An additional aid to this method of reducing is to cultivate the habit of munching, before the meal, a wide variety of raw vegetables. The thing to do is, ten or fifteen minutes before the meal, go on doing what you normally would do but at the same time munch raw vegetables. In this way, before you sit down to the

meal, the appetite will be partially slaked and the gastric space partly filled with foods that are less fattening than most of what follows.

Most people have never tried and so do not know how much more tasty almost all vegetables (except potatoes) are when raw than cooked. Why on earth we waste time and money on spoiling their taste and texture by cooking I cannot understand. To the literally hundreds of mothers who have said to me 'Oh doctor, he won't eat his cabbage', I reply 'Well, would you eat your lettuce if he cooked it as you cook his cabbage?'.

* * *

One cannot read the papers or listen to radio or TV these days without being conscious of a widespread feeling of disillusion and disappointment. Opinions may vary widely as to whether and to what extent the present government is to blame. Perhaps it is as an antidote to this atmosphere of depression that the mass media have exaggerated to such proportions cases of heart replacement which at present can only affect a minute number of persons.

And yet for years a procedure hundred and thousands of times more important, because it can improve the health of millions and millions of children, is crying out to be used for the public good, and next to nothing is done.

Fluoridation, namely the addition to the public water supply of fluorine in a dilution of one part per million (the proportion that may be found in a cup of tea), is a very simple, completely safe, extremely cheap, quite tasteless, odourless and colourless way of reducing dental decay in children by about half. This has been proved by thousands of scientific papers and approved by every national medical, dental and related scientific organisation in the English-speaking world.

It is especially appropriate at this time of financial stringency as it results in a great saving of expense. The American Dental Association, quoting a report of the U.S. Public Health Service, said: 'The money value of fluoridation may be estimated on the value of the potential costs of treating cavities now prevented by this measure. On this basis, the potential return on a national annual investment in fluoridation would amount to 56 dollars for every dollar invested'.

Four years ago on this page, I quoted Mr. Enoch Powell, the Minister of Health, as saying: "For the sake of a private fad or

personal quirk, they" (the aforementioned anti-fluoridation "cranks") "are satisfied to see whole generations of children grow up suffering avoidable pain and ill-health. This must not be allowed to happen. Indeed, I am sure it will not happen". I disagreed with that last sentence as strongly as I could by saying "But it has happened for years, it is happening now and it will increasingly become more certain to continue to happen unless vigorous action is taken".

Fifty-two weeks later, I repeated this but added, 'One can only hope that the new Government will demand a speedy end be brought to this shameful story of years and years of delay'. That was over three years ago and, during these three years, not one single Authority has started fluoridation. (Birmingham started 3½ years ago).

What can be the explanation? I won't repeat what I have shown on these pages in the past to be the main reasons for the astonishing and lamentable failure to put into effect one of the most beneficial and easily applied partial remedies for one of the most common and troublesome ills of western civilization — dental decay. But I do want to stress what I have not said here before, though I have pressed it repeatedly from the 'vice-chair' of the Fluoridation Study group of the Society of M.O.'s H. at which the Ministry is represented. It is in my opinion a great mistake to adopt the attitude which seems to have been that of the Ministry in recent years, i.e. that the outpourings of the 'anti's' can be treated with the contempt that they deserve and therefore ignored. I feel that each should be answered and shown up as the false rubbish it usually is whenever and as soon as it appears. It is this attitude of ignoring them that is in no small degree responsible for the votes against fluoridation in so many Council Chambers.

Many people are not aware of the great handicaps imposed on officers like Medical Officers of Health in trying to get a wise, scientifically based decision in local government. The final decision is taken by the vote of the full Council, the large majority of whom are not on the Health Committee and so have not heard a word spoken by the M.O.H. on the subject on which they must vote. It is true they have his printed report but they don't have to read it and it is often quite plain that they have not done so when they ask a question which is clearly answered in his report. They can be excused, for this report is perhaps ten printed pages out of about 150 for that one meeting. They can however stand up and quote some rubbish they have

read in their morning's mail and the M.O.H. is powerless to show that it is quite untrue. He cannot say a word, for expert testimony is heard only in the small committee. This state of affairs further emphasises the need for the Ministry to take a strong lead in countering the 'anti's' propaganda.

A second thing I would beg the Minister to arrange is that the costs of fluoridation, a mere 1 million pounds a year, be covered by the Treasury instead of by the local authorities. This may sound like robbing Paul to pay Peter, and it is a mere fraction of a farthing out of the national pound. It would however satisfy those Councillors, such as some in Oxford, who argue that fluoridation is a charge on the rate-payers when the savings come to the tax-payers (who pay for dental services, etc.).

In the face of the years and years of delay, may I quote Dr. Jackson, Professor of Children's and Preventive Dentistry at Leeds University: "Even if it were decided today to build ten dental schools turning out sixty graduates a year from now on, the length of time it takes from a decision in principle to its practical enactment is so long that no substantial relief of this problem (of the shortage of dentists) could possibly be achieved by the year A.D. 2000".

"It does not need any supernatural powers of perception to predict that the increased population will have serious consequences on the future dental health services in the United Kingdom".

"One factor alone can help to relieve the situation, and that is fluoridation, but because fluoridation itself takes many years for full community benefits to be felt, it becomes not only a social necessity but a very urgent one".

* * *

Some time ago the Society of Medical Officers of Health advised the Minister that, in their view, the only way to secure fluoridation was to make it compulsory as has been done in Eire with great success. Though I agree that, as fluoridation is such a totally beneficent measure, and the opposition to it stems from such a tiny minority of unscientific persons, there is a lot to be said for making it the law, this does seem to be an effort to pass the buck, and the Minister has made it quite clear that he will not accept it.

What the Minister should do, however, is to secure that local democratic decisions be implemented. For example, the democratically elected representatives of the six million people served by the (London) Metropolitan Water Board have long ago voted by over 80% for fluoridation, but for some inexplicable reason Water Boards in this country seem to have adopted the idea that they can't act until they have 100% unanimity. If we are to follow the policy of the last few years and let the tail wag the dog, we should go ahead with fluoridation in those areas where only a small percentage voted for it. Put that way it sounds too crazy for words, but this is what we ARE doing in the vast London area.

What is needed is a clear lead from the Ministries of Health and Local Government, backed by whatever pressure can be generated, supported by persistent reminders from the millions of parents, whose children are being deprived of the protection they need, that this is a democracy and it is high time that the will of the majority was obeyed.

Yours truly,

NORMAN PARFIT.

VITAL STATISTICS

In this first section are collected the various tables which summarize the vital statistics of the three Authorities grouped together. It is followed by sections which deal separately with matters affecting the health of each Authority. All figures in brackets refer to 1965.

AREA AND POPULATION

The following table gives the area of each district with the estimated population at the middle of 1966. It shows that the population densities of the Abingdon Borough and the Faringdon Rural District are very close to the national average for England and Wales. Abingdon Rural District however, has a density of over three times that of the average Rural District only one-third of this excess being due to the parishes which are on the outskirts of Oxford, namely Cumnor, North Hinksey and Kennington.

District	Area in Acres	Est. Mid 1966 Pop.	Increase on 1965	Persons per acre
Abingdon Borough	1,754	16,410	300	9.35
Abingdon Rural	41,185	35,550	980	0.86
Faringdon Rural	55,726	15,880	250	0.28
Total	98,665	67,840	1,530	0.68

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

The following table shows the totals of Births and Deaths and the 'corrected' rates per 1,000 of population. 'Corrected rates' are those which take due account of the actual age and sex composition of each area by being multiplied by the 'comparability factor' supplied by the Registrar General. They may then be fairly compared with those of the nation as a whole or with the corrected rates of any other area. The factors for Births and Deaths are as follows: Abingdon Borough 0.96: 1.28; Abingdon Rural 0.93: 1.26; Faringdon Rural District 1.02: 1.07.

The degree to which these factors vary from the standard 1.00, shows how much the population of the Authorities are similar to, or differ from, the national average. The figures show that, as far as women of child-bearing age are concerned our populations vary little from the average, but that Abingdon Borough and Abingdon Rural District have about one-quarter less old people than the average.

District	Births	Birth Rate per 1,000 of Pop.	Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 of Pop.
Abingdon Borough	290 (301)	17.0	136 (143)	10.5
Abingdon Rural	654 (658)	17.1	258 (258)	9.1
Faringdon Rural	337 (332)	21.4	141 (146)	9.5
Total	1281 (1,291)	18.13	535 (547)	9.56 (9.58)

INFANT MORTALITY

District	Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Live Births	Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births
Abingdon Borough	—	288	—
Abingdon Rural	11	648	17.0
Faringdon Rural	5	334	15.0
Total	16 (18)	1,270 (1,269)	12.60 (14.2)
England and Wales			19.0 (19.0)

STILL BIRTHS				
District	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total	Per 1,000 Total Births
Abingdon Borough	2	—	2	6.9
Abingdon Rural	6	—	6	9.2
Faringdon Rural	3	—	3	8.9
Total	11	—	11	8.59

CAUSES OF DEATH

The 534 deaths in the area were accounted for as follows:-

Cause	Abingdon Borough	Abingdon Rural	Faringdon Rural	Total 1966	Total 1965
Coronary disease, Angina	31	46	34	111	(127)
Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	1	1	4	(4)
Other Heart Diseases	12	24	13	49	(48)
Total Heart Disease	45	71	48	164	(182)
Vascular Disease of the Nervous System (Stroke)	8	23	19	50	(70)
Other Circulatory Disease	5	24	6	35	(23)
Cancer of the Lung, Bronchus	6	12	5	23	(21)
Cancer of the Stomach	3	5	1	9	(11)
Cancer of the Breast	4	6	4	14	(7)
Other Cancers	14	37	8	59	(69)
Total all Cancers	27	60	18	105	(108)
Pneumonia	10	16	12	38	(31)
Bronchitis	7	7	12	26	(14)
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	—	—	3	(—)
Influenza	—	2	—	2	(—)
Other diseases of the Respiratory System	3	—	1	4	(1)
Road Accidents	4	5	3	12	(16)
All other Accidents	4	7	4	15	(19)
Congenital Malformations	3	5	1	9	(7)
Ulcer of the Stomach	1	3	2	6	(2)
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	2	3	6	(3)
Gastritis, Enteritis	2	2	—	4	(—)
Suicide	2	1	1	4	(1)
Diabetes	2	—	1	3	(7)
Nephritis	1	—	1	2	(6)
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	—	—	1	(4)
Other defined and ill defined diseases	7	24	9	40	(54)
Total all causes	136	258	141	534	(547)

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table gives the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during 1966 (with the 1965 figures in brackets).

Diseases	Abingdon Borough	Abingdon Rural	Faringdon Rural	Total all Districts
Measles	23 (278)	190 (430)	44 (178)	257 (886)
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	9 (5)	13 (8)	5 (2)	27 (15)
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulm)	— (4)	1 (1)	— (—)	— (5)
Scarlet Fever	13 (10)	6 (6)	2 (2)	21 (18)
Whooping Cough	— (7)	9 (—)	1 (—)	10 (7)
Pneumonia	5 (—)	3 (5)	— (—)	8 (5)
Erysipelas	4 (—)	2 (—)	— (—)	6 (—)
Dysentery	— (3)	2 (3)	1 (7)	3 (13)
Food Poisoning	— (1)	1 (—)	2 (—)	3 (1)
Encephalitis	— (—)	1 (—)	— (—)	1 (—)
Polio	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Totals	54 (310)	226 (455)	55 (190)	355 (955)

TUBERCULOSIS (New Cases)

The following table shows the number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year. It distinguishes between the more serious cases affecting the lungs (Pulmonary) and those affecting other parts of the body.

Age Periods	Abingdon Borough		Abingdon Rural		Faringdon Rural		Total (All Districts)	
	Pul.	Non Pul.	Pul.	Non Pul.	Pul.	Non Pul.	Pul.	Non Pul.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6—10	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
11—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16—20	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
21—25	—	—	3	—	1	—	4	—
26—35	3	—	2	—	—	—	5	—
36—45	—	—	2	—	3	—	5	—
46—55	3	—	2	—	—	—	5	—
56—65	2	—	2	—	1	—	5	—
Over 65	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total 1966	9	—	13	—	5	—	27	—
Total 1965	5	4	8	2	2	—	15	6
Total 1964	7	—	17	3	5	—	29	3

ABINGDON BOROUGH

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

The number of new houses completed during the year was 91 consisting of 17 Council houses and flats and 74 built by private persons. A further 175 houses were under construction at the end of the year, of which 92 were Council houses and 83 were private.

The above additional Council houses brought the number erected since the war to 1,650 and with the 583 pre-war houses makes a total of 2,233 Council houses (including those purchased).

The rent of pre-war houses, including rates, ranged from £2.10.8 to £3.9.1 with an approximate average of £2.19.10 per week for a 48 week. Rents for post-war houses ranged from £2.10.8 for a bed-sitter to £4.9.8 for a 4 bedroom house with an average of £3.9.6.

The number of applicants for Council houses at 31st December 1966 was 385. This was 23 more than at the end of 1965.

CARAVANS

At the end of the year the number of caravans within the Borough with limited planning consent was 2. This compares with 7 at the end of 1965.

MORTUARY

The Mortuary continues to be controlled by the Borough, and provides mortuary facilities for all North Berkshire.

The Mortuary was used on 136 occasions, 134 of them involving post mortem examinations. The figures for 1965 were 130 and 120 respectively.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Although the total figure of animals inspected at the Caldecott Farm Abattoir shows a slight decrease, the amount of work has in fact again increased by reason of the fact that the proportion of cattle slaughtered more than doubled. The Local Authorities now have some control over the permitted hours of slaughter but not sufficient to prohibit week-end killing, and inspection is still carried out on Saturdays and Sundays.

The following table gives the details:-

Caldecott Abattoir

	No. Inspected	No. found to be affected				Whole carcasses	
		T.B.	% of Total	Other Conditions	% of Total	T.B.	Other Conditions
Cattle	6,730	1	—	2,265	33.65	—	11
Calves	491	—	—	10	2	—	14
Sheep	13,699	—	—	692	5	—	13
Pigs	23,953	213	.9	9,354	39	3	63
Totals	44,873	214	—	12,505	27.8	3	101
1965	(45,328)	(278)	(.6)	(10,310)	(22.74)	(4)	(121)

Weight of diseased and unsound meat and offal condemned:

Meat	...	13,262 lbs.	(5 tons, 18 cwts. 52 lbs.).
Offal	...	50,444 lbs.	(22 tons, 10 cwts. 40 lbs.).

Analysis of Principle Causes of Condemnation of Carcasses

Disease	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Emaciation	—	3	3	10	16
Peritonitis	5	1	—	5	11
Pleurisy	—	—	2	7	9
Moribund	—	—	4	8	12
Pyrexia	1	—	—	3	4
Oedema	—	1	—	1	2
Immaturity	—	3	—	5	8
Injury	1	—	1	1	3
Pneumonia	1	4	—	4	9
Pyæmia	1	—	—	1	2
Abscess	—	—	—	7	7
Enteritis	1	—	—	—	1
Metritis	—	—	2	2	4
Septicaemia	1	1	—	4	6
Other conditions	—	1	1	5	7
Totals	11	14	13	63	101

Detailed examination was also carried out for *cysticercus bovis* in the 6,730 cattle inspected and cysts were found in 21 animals (.31%). The affected carcasses were subjected to cold storage treatment in accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963.

FOOD OTHER THAN FRESH MEAT

The following quantities of food and meat (other than meat inspected at the Slaughterhouse) was condemned during 1966.

296 lbs. Frozen Food	26 lbs. Canned Vegetables
288 lbs. Meat	20 lbs. Canned Fruit
98 lbs. Canned Meat	20 lbs. Fish
30 lbs. Biscuits	7 lbs. Confectionery

FOOD PREMISES (Food Hygiene [General] Regs. 1960)

The various types of premises and the number of visits paid in the course of food inspection duties were as follows:-

Type	Number	Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16	Premises to which Reg. 19 Applies	Premises in which Reg. 19 Complies	Number of Visits
Grocers	40	37	40	40	61
Licensed Premises	29	27	29	29	2
Butchers	13	13	13	13	4
Cafe and Restaurants	12	12	12	12	17
Greengrocers	10	9	10	10	10
Sale of Ice Cream	9	9	9	9	7
Sale or Manufacture of Preserved Food	9	9	9	9	11
Bakeries	7	7	7	7	12
Fishmongers	5	5	5	5	6
Milk Distributors	2	2	2	2	3
Sausages and Other Meat Products-Factory	1	1	1	1	1

MILK

During the year 42 samples of milk were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. The results were as follows:-

	No. taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
T.T. Pasteurised	34	31	3
Untreated	8	7	1

ICE CREAM

16 Samples of Ice Cream were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination 15 of these were found to be Provisional Grade I, and 1 to be Provisional Grade II. None were Grade III or IV.

HOUSING

(1) Houses which were considered unfit for human habitation	3
(2) Houses with defects remedied as a result of informal action	56
(3) The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to	
(a) serving notices requiring execution of works	Nil
(b) making closing or demolition order	5
(4) Informal notices requesting execution of works	3
(5) Houses rendered fit after service of formal notice	Nil
(6) The number of demolition or closing orders made	5
(7) The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking not to re-let was given	Nil
(8) The number of houses demolished	6

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

During the year 7 applications for Discretionary Grants and 17 applications for Standard Grants were received and approved. As well as considerable structural improvements the following additional amenities were provided:

Hot Water Systems	17
Water Closets	14
Wash Hand Basins	18
Food Stores	12
Baths	18
New Bathrooms	2
Alterations to Kitchens	2

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

An improved system was brought into operation during the year. In place of a kerbside collection refuse is brought from the premises whenever possible and the bins returned to the gate. This was greatly helped by the delivery in the Autumn of a new refuse vehicle incorporating a packing device.

The first section of tipping at Boxhill was completed during the year, and following an unsuccessful attempt to introduce a relay system of collection with disposal at Radley, tipping was resumed at Boxhill and will now continue until the level over the whole area has been raised.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The new Sewage Disposal Works has been in operation, except for the Sludge Digester Plant, since August 1965 and by adjustments and control has continued to give improved effluents, well within the Royal Commission standards.

Much of the original 88 acres of sewage lagoons involved in the original land treatment works, has been returned to agriculture or reserved for future housing or gravel extraction proposals.

WATER

From April 1967, the new Oxfordshire and District Water Board became operative and ultimately local supplies such as the Wootton Adits, Lashford Lane Well, and the Borehole, The Square, Abingdon, will be dispensed with, unless retained for emergency use.

A small infestation of crustacea and molluscs in part of the water supply distribution system in the north-east part of the town was dispersed by controlled flushing of the mains.

THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

As far as it is known most of the premises to which the Act applies are now registered, and inspections are made when this can be fitted in with other duties, priority being given to new premises and in cases of change of use or tenancy.

Only 2 accidents were reported during the year, fortunately neither very serious.

Type	No. of Premises Registered	No. of Persons Employed
Offices	91	473
Retail Shops	106	578
Wholesale shops and Warehouses	7	21
Catering Establishments and Canteens	13	49
Fuel Storage Depots	3	4
	220	1125

Number of inspections carried out under the Act: 24.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

	No.	Inspections	Notices	Prosecu- tions
Factories without mechanical power	1	1	—	—
Factories with mechanical power	60	23	—	—
Totals	61	24	—	—

There was one outworker — engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S VISITS FOR 1966

Public Health Acts and General Sanitation

Refuse Collection and Disposal	264
Mortuary	146
Drainage and Sewerage	47
Pest Destruction	47
Offensive Trades	37
Litter	12
Housing Defects	11
Noise Nuisance	9
Water Supplies	8
Animals	5
Accumulations and Deposits	4
Filthy and Verminous Premises	4
Places of Public Entertainment	3
Scrap Metal Dealers Act	2
Miscellaneous	51

Clean Air Act

Smoke Observations	36
Miscellaneous	17

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act

Shops	9
Offices	3
Accidents	3
Miscellaneous	5

Housing

Improvements Grants	98
Housing Inspection	33
Slum Clearance	20
Miscellaneous	34

Petroleum Acts

Tank Testings	52
Miscellaneous	6

Food and Drugs

Meat Inspection	602
Market Stalls	118
Milk	42
Food Complaints	35
Other Food Inspections	18
Water	27
Catering Premises	17
Ice Cream	16
Bakers	12
Greengrocers	10
Confectioners	9
Mobile Shops and Hawkers	9
Fishmongers	6
Butchers	4
Dairies	3
Miscellaneous	21

Factories Act

Power Factories	23
Miscellaneous	4
Outworker	1
Building Sites	7

ABINGDON RURAL DISTRICT

This table gives certain essential figures as a background against which the following pages can be viewed.

	Est. Pop. Mid 1966	Area in Acres	Total Dwellings (a)	Council Houses	Rateable Value (b)	Product of 1d. Rate (c)
Appleford	352	862	100	13	6171	25 13 0
Appleton-with-Eaton	967	2077	269	69	20155	80 18 4
Besselsleigh	64	906	22	2	1841	7 0 2
Cumnor	4517	5690	1265	324	158455	619 13 5
Draycott Moor	692	1054	152	52	12438	48 2 10
Drayton	2447	2609	672	108	49475	202 9 8
Frilford	263	1148	69	—	8751	34 8 11
Fyfield and Tubney	590	2746	183	39	15010	58 17 4
Garford	114	1068	39	4	1919	7 17 10
Kennington	4152	1369	1152	197	114978	461 7 5
Kingston Bagpuize	253	1109	80	—	6486	26 10 10
Lyford	69	774	30	—	869	3 6 9
Marcham	1034	2513	257	166	30867	120 13 4
Milton	792	1466	252	32	45595	145 11 2
North Hinksey	5224	1069	1446	48	192823	752 14 11
Radley	2470	2862	415	86	72029	263 10 0
St. Helen Without	2779 (d)	2005	994	11	135258	613 2 11
South Hinksey	422	509	104	8	16382	65 12 2
Steventon	1469	2401	437	133	44779	178 8 1
Sunningwell	1275	1332	278	43	36342	139 2 7
Sutton Courtenay	2646	2101	780	320	119718	480 1 6
Wootton	2753	1523	778	227	89459	376 5 11
Wytham	206	1992	66	—	8696	34 1 7
Gas Board	—	—	—	—	1779	7 3 9
Electricity Board	—	—	—	—	20479	88 5 6
Totals	35550	41185	9840	1882	1210754	4,840 19 11
Totals for 1965	34570	41185	9628	1726	1186924	4,740 2 0

(a) Excludes residential caravans, includes R.A.F. married quarters.

(a) & (b) at 1.4.66.

(c) For year 1965/66.

(d) Excludes R.A.F. Personnel.

PART 'A' HOUSING

CONSTRUCTION

The total number of new houses completed during 1966 was 410, 290 of these were built by private enterprise, 120 by the Council.

A further 212 were under construction at the end of the year of which 65 were Council houses.

The following table shows their distribution:-

Parish	Council Houses		Private Enterprise	
	completed	Under construction 31.12.66	completed	Under construction 31.12.66
Appleford	—	—	5	9
Appleton with Eaton	5	—	2	1
Cumnor	—	—	15	22
Draycott Moor	—	—	47	73
Drayton	—	—	2	1
Fyfield and Tubney	—	—	2	—
Kennington	—	—	43	13
Kingston Bagpuize	—	—	1	—
Marcham	110	65	—	4
Milton	—	—	1	2
North Hinksey	—	—	2	7
Radley	—	—	4	1
St. Helen Without	—	—	45	4
South Hinksey	—	—	1	4
Steventon	—	—	4	2
Sunningwell	—	—	104	4
Sutton Courtenay	—	—	7	2
Wootton	5	—	5	9
Totals	120	65	290	158
Totals for 1965	23	185	396	222

TEMPORARY DWELLINGS

All 16 bungalows at Tubney Woods are still in use and 5 prefabricated bungalows at Wootton were still occupied at the end of the year.

IMPROVEMENTS

The amount of improvement work completed during the year was encouraging compared with previous years.

No Improvement Areas have yet been declared and if voluntary improvement continues at its present rate, this may prove unnecessary.

Although some housing improvements are carried out spontaneously many schemes are the subject of Grant applications. The following tables

show (a) the number of grants approved during the year and (b) the extent of the grant work involved, parish by parish.

(a)	No. approved 1966 ('65)		Total No. approved since		Amount paid 1966	Total amount paid
Standard Grants	22	(30)	1959	214	£3,065	£23,541
Discretionary Grants	17	(4)	1952	388	£4,615	£104,974

(b) Parish	Con- versions	Bathrooms	W.C.s	Hot water systems	Food stores	Wash hand basins
Appleford	—	3	3	3	3	3
Appleton with Eaton	—	1	1	1	1	1
Cumnor	—	3	3	3	3	3
Drayton	—	2	2	3	3	2
Fyfield	—	4	4	4	4	4
Kennington	—	1	1	1	1	1
Kingston Bagpuize	1	2	2	2	2	2
Marcham	—	1	1	1	1	1
North Hinksey	3	5	4	5	5	5
Radley	1	2	4	3	5	3
Steventon	2	5	4	5	5	5
Sutton Courtenay	—	—	—	1	1	—
Tubney	—	1	1	1	1	1
Wootton	—	1	—	2	1	1
Totals	7	31	30	35	36	32

RENT ACT, 1957

No Certificates of Disrepair were issued during the year.

HOUSING ACT, 1957

(a) Houses inspected under Section 3 of the above Act	19
(b) Houses represented to Local Authority with a view to:-	
(i) Serving notices requiring execution of works	Nil
(ii) the making of Demolition Orders	1
(iii) the making of Closing Orders	5
(c) Number of Closing Orders made	10
(d) Number of Demolition Orders made	5
(e) Number of Demolition Orders revoked	1
(f) Number of Closing Orders revoked	1

251 visits were made during the year in checking properties on which Demolition Orders had previously been made. As a result of this action, 14 houses were subsequently demolished.

CARAVANS

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

The situation concerning caravans remained fairly static during the year and the total number of visits relating to all aspects of caravan control was 216.

A total of 29 applications were considered during the year. 16 out of 23 new applications and 4 out of 6 renewals were approved.

The distribution of caravans in the district was as follows:-

(a) **Council owned sites**

Pebble Hill Caravan Park, Radley	100 caravans.
Woodland Caravan Park, Radley	108 caravans

No difficulty was experienced with the running of these Parks and there was a waiting list throughout the year. A serious fire occurred in one of the caravans on the Pebble Hill site during the year and within minutes the caravan was a total loss; this despite adequate fire fighting precautions available on the Park. It would appear that even with the most sophisticated of fire fighting equipment, once a caravan blaze develops there is very little that can be done about it; fortunately on this occasion, the caravan was empty and no personal injury was involved.

(b) **Licensed private sites**

A total of 38 licences covering 244 caravans were in force at the end of the year distributed as follows:-

	No. of Sites		No. of Caravans	
	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary
Appleton	—	1	—	1
Besselsleigh	—	1	—	1
Cumnor	4	5	14	21
Draycott Moor	1	1	6	4
Drayton	3	3	51	17
Frilford	—	1	—	1
Kennington	2	—	2	—
Kingston Bagpuize	2	—	5	—
Marcham	—	2	—	2
North Hinksey	—	1	—	1
Radley	2	—	83	—
St. Helen Without	—	2	—	5
South Hinksey	1	1	1	1
Steventon	—	2	—	9
Sunningwell	1	—	16	—
Sutton Courtenay	—	1	—	1
Wootton	1	—	2	—
Totals	17	21	180	64

(c) **Exempted sites**

31 exempted caravans were in use throughout the district mainly as over-spill bedrooms. The question of defining a bona-fide exempted caravan used 'incidentally to the enjoyment of a house' is still left to individual authorities to interpret. This is a matter which clearly needs clarifying as the variation in interpretation is vast.

(d) **Unauthorised sites**

70 visits were made during the year to unauthorised caravan sites many of which were on lay-bys, etc., where gypsies and other itinerant caravanners usually park and make a nuisance of themselves.

The 'black spots' of the area have undoubtedly been along the Western By-Pass, at Wytham Turn and the disused portion of the old Southern By-Pass, near Betty Lane, South Hinksey. These two points have highlighted the need for permanent sites to be made available to this type of caravanner who visit this area at infrequent periods, and have usually no local ties or connections.

PART 'B' ENVIRONMENTAL CIRCUMSTANCES

WATER SUPPLY

(a) Quantity

Wells are still used in some areas where mains supply is not available and most of these are of the shallow type. The following tables give details of dwellings supplied by the two Water Boards serving the area.

OXFORD CITY WATER UNDERTAKING

Parish	Total No. of Dwelling Houses	No. of Dwelling Houses supplied with mains water	No. of Dwelling Houses supplied by standpipe
Appleton	269	245	—
Besselsleigh	22	20	—
Cumnor	1265	1248	—
Draycott Moor	152	152	—
Frilford	69	51	—
Fyfield and Tubney	183	142	—
Garford	39	36	—
Kennington	1152	1132	—
Kingston Bagpuize	80	71	—
Marcham	257	254	—
North Hinksey	1446	1444	—
Radley	415	383	—
St. Helen Without	994	980	—
South Hinksey	104	104	—
Sunningwell	278	267	—
Wootton	778	766	—
Wytham	66	37	—
Totals	7569	7332	—

The water department of the City of Oxford reported that during 1966 no restriction of use of any kind took place.

THAMES VALLEY WATER BOARD

Appleford	100	88	—
Drayton	672	670	7
Lyford	30	18	—
Milton	252	183	5
Steventon	437	428	5
Sutton Courtenay	780	778	3
Totals	2271	2165	20

It was reported by the Board that the quantity of water available during the year was satisfactory.

(b) Quality

The quality of mains supplies continues to be satisfactory and no complaints were received during the year.

The following table shows the sampling programme for the year and it will be seen that 21 samples taken from wells were found to be unsatisfactory. In all such cases occupiers of dwellings served are advised to boil all water intended for drinking and domestic purposes.

Bacteriological Examination

	Highly Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Suspicious	Unsatisfactory	Total
Wells	16	1	2	21	40
Land springs	—	—	—	2	2
Totals	16	1	2	23	42

Oxford City Water Undertaking

It was reported that bacteriological samples were taken at least weekly from each of the service reservoirs in the area and from mains taps. The results were satisfactory showing the water to be of good quality.

Thames Valley Water Board

Samples were collected regularly from the pumping station and distribution system and the bacteriological quality was of a satisfactory standard.

PUBLIC CLEANSING**(a) Refuse Collection**

The kerbside collection of refuse continued in 1966 as in previous years. Despite the yearly increase in the amount of refuse to be collected and its increasingly bulky nature, the service was maintained with the help of an extra 35 cu. yd. Pakamatic vehicle. Two 35 cu. yd. Pakamatic vehicles, one 25 cu. yd. and one 18 cu. yd. fore and aft tipper together with four drivers and nine loaders was the total labour force and vehicle strength involved. The need for special collections to dispose of bulky articles and materials not normally assigned to the dustbin continued to increase during the year and 160 such special collections were made free of charge.

(b) Refuse Disposal

Tipping of refuse continues to be carried out in gravel pits at Radley. Arrangements were much the same as in 1965 with the owner of the tip being responsible for maintenance of access roads, etc.

Litter bins manufactured and maintained by the department and consisting of converted oil drums were still in use and 150 were distributed throughout the district.

Arrangements for the disposal of abandoned cars proved to be quite satisfactory and the department were responsible for arranging the removal of 8 disused motor vehicles.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL**Wytham Main Drainage**

Work on the main drainage for the village of Wytham commenced on 1st November, 1966, and was progressing satisfactorily at the end of the year. Sewage will be pumped to North Hinksey to form part of the main Botley/Kennington scheme.

Frilford, Fyfield and Tubney

Negotiations with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government continued throughout the year but in November the Council were informed that loan consent for a scheme to provide main drainage to the Parishes of Frilford, Fyfield and Tubney would not be granted at the present time. Technical details are being discussed with the Ministry Representatives in order that tenders may be invited immediately approval is received.

Main Drainage of Other Areas

The delay in receiving Ministry approval for the Frilford, Fyfield and Tubney Scheme has meant a similar delay on the five year programme for sewerage the remaining part of the district.

DRAINAGE

Septic tanks continue to be the source of many complaints and 82 visits were made during the year to advise owners on the proper maintenance of tanks and provision of effluent drainage systems.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND SMOKE CONTROL

This subject continues to occupy very little of the Department's time but two notifications for the installation of new furnaces were received during the year of which one involved prior approval. No serious difficulties were experienced.

DISINFESTATIONS

Inevitably a few complaints continue to be made concerning infested premises and 15 visits by Inspectors were made during the year to such premises.

The major part of the work under this heading was the destruction of wasp nests and 55 nests were destroyed involving 111 visits. A charge of 10s. 0d. per nest was made in most cases.

RODENT CONTROL

Rodent control is carried out by staff engaged jointly by the Abingdon Borough Council and this Authority.

During the year 5,943 visits were made to premises in the District of which 236 were agricultural. 414 premises were found to be infested and 503 bodies of rats and mice recovered.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS

Seven scrap metal dealers were registered with this Authority at the end of the year.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

No premises in the district are registered under the above Act.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

This Act requires that premises used for boarding dogs or cats must be Licensed each year. Local veterinary surgeons continue to carry out inspection on behalf of the Council and at the end of the year four licences were in force.

AGRICULTURAL (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956

Sanitary Conveniences on Farms

It is estimated that 150 agricultural units come within the scope of the above Act and during the year 41 visits were made. No serious contraventions were found and it was not necessary to serve any notices.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOOD) ORDER, 1957

Eight inspections to premises with licensed plant for the boiling of waste food were made during the year.

3 premises are licensed and conditions generally were found to be satisfactory

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

No serious complaints warranting further action by the department were made concerning noise during the year.

11 visits were made to premises but in every case the complaints were dealt with informally. These involved such matters as barking dogs, etc.

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 & 1936

65 premises in the district were licensed for the storage of petroleum and 93 visits were made concerning the implementation of the above Acts.

It was necessary to serve four informal notices for minor contraventions mainly in connection with fire appliances and display of notices.

PART 'C' OFFICES AND SHOPS

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

129 premises were registered at the end of the year as follows:-

Offices	...	...	...	...	...	43
Retail shops	...	...	...	...	...	63
Wholesale shops and warehouses	...	...	...	...	...	2
Catering establishments open to the public and canteens	...	...	...	...	...	20
Fuel storage depots	...	...	...	...	...	1

By the end of the year 76% of registered premises had received a general inspection and a total of 164 visits of all kinds were made to such premises. 79 contraventions were noted, most of these concerning unsatisfactory first aid equipment, absence of thermometers and Abstract of the Act. No accidents were reported during the year.

PART 'D' FOOD INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION

Food Premises

The following table shows the breakdown of the 216 food premises in the District to which 185 inspections were made.

Premises	No.	Complying with Reg. 16	Reg. 19 applies	Complying with Reg.19
Grocery and general stores	63	63	53	53
Public Houses	47	47	35	35
Confectionery	12	12	12	12
Butchers	9	9	9	9
Kitchens (schools, canteens, etc.)	47	47	47	47
Greengrocery	6	6	6	6
Bakehouses	3	3	3	3
Cafes	2	2	2	2
Off Licences	4	4	—	—
Fishmongers	1	1	1	1
Food Factories	2	2	2	2

71 premises were registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 as follows:-

Storage and sale of ice cream	61
Manufacture of sausages	6
Cooking of hams	2
Others	2

Poultry Inspection

One poultry packing station exists in the area which, during the year under review, had a total throughput of 231,068 birds as follows:-

Turkeys	158,042
Hens	39,288
Capons	32,537
Others	701

26 visits were made to the premises where the standard of hygiene can be described as only fair. The premises are not purpose built and as the business has increased so the buildings have been enlarged. It is hoped, however, that with the co-operation of the management, conditions may improve as time goes by.

Live birds are delivered to the stunning point in crates and the subsequent defeathering and evisceration is carried out on a 'line' system. Edible offal is removed and packed about half way through the process and the carcasses are finally immersed in a chilling tank prior to storage and eventual packing.

The Public Health Inspectors have been instrumental in advising both the management and staff regarding the fitness of the offal in particular. As a result of this advice, the staff on the line, the majority of whom are foreign, have at least some ideas as to the fitness of the items they are packing. Each carcase is inspected individually and antemortem inspection is also carried out. The latter often reveals the presence of moribund birds which are immediately removed from the consignment.

Although definite legislation along the lines of the Slaughterhouse Acts is still awaited, it should be remembered that time is a precious commodity so far as the Public Health Inspector is concerned.

On one occasion last December the Public Health Inspectors were called out during the evening to inspect a consignment of turkeys destined for France. Some sixty-five birds were inspected and passed as fit for human consumption. The official certificate was issued for the export of these birds.

The output figure of 231,068 birds is expected to be considerably increased during the next year.

FOOD HAWKERS

The following 20 businesses were registered under Section 122 of the Berkshire County Council Act, 1953, enabling the selling of food to be carried out within the District.

Fishmongers 3; Butchers 2; Greengrocers 2; Bakers 5; Ice Cream 3; General Provision 3; Caterers 2.

MILK AND DAIRIES

A total of 9 premises are licensed by the County Council for the sale of milk. Bacteriological sampling continues to be done by the Department. During the year 26 samples were taken, 20 from Schools and 6 from dealers, and all proved satisfactory.

ICE CREAM

67 samples of ice cream were procured mainly from premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drug Act, 1965. Of these, 57 fall into Provisional Grade 1 and 10 into Grade 2, while none were Grade 3 or 4.

UNSOUND FOOD

A total of 10 cwt. 105 lbs. of food was voluntarily surrendered after examination. It consisted of:-

Poultry Viscera	8 cwt. 69 lbs.
Meat and Poultry Shops	31 lbs.
Canned Meats	30 lbs.
Fruit and Vegetables	1 cwt. 86 lbs.
Total	10 cwt. 105 lbs.

All condemned food is collected and disposed of on the Council's refuse tip.

Six complaints of unsatisfactory food were received during the year, four of which concerned foreign bodies.

In one instance a shop keeper was prosecuted after selling infested chocolate subsequently found to be four years old. A fine of £15 was imposed.

A further case concerned the sale of mouldy crumpets resulting in seizure of further stocks in a retail shop. Prosecution under Sections 8 of the Food and Drug Act, 1955, resulted in a fine of £15 being imposed.

PART 'E' FACTORIES

Registered Premises

The total number of premises registered at the end of the year was 57 as follows:-

(i) Factories without power:-

Joinery	5
Dressmaking	1

(ii) Factories with power:-

Motor vehicle repairs	18	Carpentry	1
Light engineering	5	Oar Manufacture	1
Agricultural engineering	5	Plastics	1
Bakehouses	3	Waterworks	1
Saw Mills	3	Plant repairs	1
Electrical engineering	3	Asphalt	1
Laundry	2	Joinery works	1
Tyre remoulding	2	Electrical vehicles	1
Radio repairs	2		

Building, etc., sites

There were 9 large building and engineering sites in the district during the year and sanitary accommodation was found to be satisfactory at those visited. No complaints were received from employees.

Outworkers

6 outworkers were listed during the year all of whom were engaged in the wearing apparel industry. 8 visits to outworkers homes were made during the year.

	No.	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories without mechanical power	6	2	—	—
Factories with mechanical power	51	14	2	—
Other premises		2	—	—
Totals	57	18	2	Nil

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' WORK 1966

Number of visits made	2040
" " complaints received	56
" " Informal Notices served	117
" " Statutory Notices served	4
" " Prosecutions	2
" " Office interviews	317

Matters in relation to which visits were made:-

Housing

Housing inspections	22
Improvement Grants	190
Improvement Areas	11
Certificates of Disrepair	1
Others	417

Public Health

Drainage	82
Refuse Collection	64
Septic Tanks	42
Water Supplies	29
Refuse Disposal	26
Housing Defects	21
Litter	17
Verminous Premises	15
Accumulation of Refuse	15
Animals	11
Water Courses	7
Refreshment Houses	3
Infectious Diseases	2
Tents, Vans and Sheds	1
Suitable or Sufficient Sanitary Accommodation	1
Miscellaneous	68

Caravans

Council Sites	79
Private Licensed	39
Exempted	15
Unauthorised	70
Miscellaneous	13

Noise Abatement	11
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Petroleum	84
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Scrap Metal Dealers	1
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Diseases of Animals (Waste Food)	8
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Pet Animals Act	3
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Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	2
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Food and Drugs

Grocers	49
Kitchens (Schools, Canteens, etc.)	43
Poultry Inspection	26
Food Complaints	26
Butchers	25
Food Factory	14

Food Inspection	18
Street Vendors and Vans, Stalls	11
Bakers	8
Confectioners	7
Greengrocers	7
Licensed Houses	6
Fishmongers	4
Ice Cream Premises	70
Food Poisoning	1
Chemist	1
Miscellaneous	7
Offices and Shops	
Retail Shops	114
Offices	34
Catering establishments open to the public	9
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	4
Fuel Storage Depots	1
Miscellaneous	2
Factories	
Factories and Workshops	16
Outworkers	8
Miscellaneous	2
Air Pollution	
Installations	6
Smoke Observations	3
Miscellaneous	3
Farms (Sanitary Accommodation)	41
Samples	
Ice Cream	70
Water	48
Milk	27
Miscellaneous	16

FARINGDON RURAL DISTRICT

This table gives essential figures as a background against which the following pages can be viewed:

Parish	Est. Pop. Mid. 1966	Area in Acres	Total Dwellings	Council Houses 31.12.66	Rateable Value (a)	Product of 1d. Rate (b)
Ashbury	656	5609	183	44	11409	43 12
Baulking	122	1580	39	—	1568	6 5
Bourton	318	1260	89	12	5866	19 16
Buckland	558	4505	189	—	13022	53 12
Buscot	248	2887	71	—	5496	21 15
Charney Bassett	251	1209	91	—	4344	16 11
Coleshill	224	2014	74	—	3423	12 15
Compton Beauchamp	86	1812	38	—	2316	9 1
Eaton Hastings	114	1570	36	—	2175	8 1
Faringdon	3676	3547	1165	310	112995	468 4
Fernham	165	1016	59	8	3562	13 —
Great Coxwell	228	1435	95	12	4214	16 4
Hatford	117	933	32	—	6662	34 —
Hinton Waldrist	239	2016	82	14	4239	17 7
Kingston Lisle	286	2040	79	12	4934	19 17
Little Coxwell	186	887	71	—	4255	16 14
Littleworth	215	2350	78	—	3670	14 10
Longcot	423	1894	140 (c)	34	8027	32 —
Longworth	879	2291	244	56	15480	65 12
Pusey	98	1040	32	—	2063	7 13
Shellingford	199	1761	66	2	3665	12 5
Shrivenham	2601	2695	655 (d)	96	88414	375 8
Stanford-in-the-Vale	1457	2927	417	96	28956	119 5
Uffington	604	2929	200	54	11429	44 —
Watchfield	1834	1517	506 (e)	70	58068	259 11
Woolstone	81	1942	46	—	2511	9 19
South Western Gas Board	—	—	—	—	6803	11 —
South Electricity Board	—	—	—	—	2433	27 9
Totals	15880	55726	4774	820	421999	1755 6
Totals for 1965	15630	55726	4674	799	396085	1584 7

(a) As at 31.3.66.

(b) To nearest shilling.

(c) Includes 11 Military Quarters.

(d) Includes 82 Military Quarters.

(e) Includes 347 Military Quarters.

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

New houses completed during the year number 99 of which 21 were Council Houses and 78 were Private.

A further 30 Private Houses and 12 Council Houses were under construction on 31st December, 1966.

The distribution of these houses is shown by the following table:-

Parish	Council Houses		Private Enterprise	
	Completed	Under construction 31.12.66	Completed	Under construction 31.12.66
Ashbury	8	—	2	—
Buckland	—	—	2	1
Charney Bassett	—	—	15	2
Faringdon	—	—	11	1
Fernham	—	12	—	—
Great Coxwell	—	—	9	6
Hatford	—	—	1	1
Hinton Waldrist	—	—	1	—
Little Coxwell	—	—	1	—
Longcot	—	—	10	6
Longworth	—	—	3	1
Shellingford	—	—	4	1
Shrivenham	13	—	8	8
Stanford-in-the-Vale	—	—	6	3
Uffington	—	—	2	—
Watchfield	—	—	3	—
Totals	21	12	78	30
Totals for 1965	23	21	65	93

RENTS

Maximum rents, which are based on the Gross Value for rating purposes, range in the case of pre-war houses from £1 2s. 9d. to £1 7s. 11d. and for post-war houses from £1 6s. 0d. to £2 1s. 2d. Tenants, however, receive rebates which may amount to 12s. 6d. for pre-war houses or 19s. 0d. for post-war houses. These rebates may reduce rents to minimum figures between 12s. 3d. and 14s. 7d. for pre-war houses and between 14s. 0d. and £1 2s. 2d. for post-war houses.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

The following shows the distribution in individual parishes of the 52 Caravans which were licensed for varying periods under the above Act. This number is 25 less than the number for the preceding years.

Parish	Sites	Caravans	Parish	Sites	Caravans
Ashbury	1	1	Shellingford	1	1
Bourton	1	1	Shrivenham	2	2
Eaton Hastings	1	1	Uffington	3	3
Faringdon	3	42	Watchfield	1	1

REFUSE COLLECTION AND SERVICE

Delivery of a new 35 cu. yd. compression type refuse collecting vehicle was taken early in the year and this enabled the collection of refuse to be carried out weekly throughout the whole district instead of fortnightly as it had been hitherto. For some years there had been requests for a weekly service from some of the more urbanised areas.

In addition to the compression type vehicle mentioned above the Council's fleet consists of two fore and aft tippers, one of which is in regular use and the other kept for reserve. The collection is from the kerb side and disposal is by tipping at Stanford-in-the-Vale where facilities continue to be shared by Wantage Rural District Council.

SALVAGE

A certain amount of waste paper was salvaged during the year. The receipts amounted to £73 compared with £68 8s. 0d. during 1965.

WATER

Quality

The water supply was satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

Extensions

Work was completed on the connecting main at Woolstone linking the Ashdown Park supply to water from Buscot and giving a much better pressure at Woolstone and Uffington.

New Connections

During the year a further 88 connections were made to the water mains.

Oxfordshire & District Water Board

As from April 1st, 1967, the Council's Water Undertaking will be transferred to the newly formed Oxfordshire & District Water Board.

DETAILS OF DWELLINGS RECEIVING WATER FROM PIPED SUPPLIES EITHER PUBLIC OR OTHER SOURCE

Parish	Dwellings	Inside the House	Standpipes
Ashbury	183	177	4
Baulking	39	39	—
Bourton	89	88	1
Buckland	189	186	—
Buscot	71	67	4
Charney Bassett	91	87	—
Coleshill	74	70	4
Compton Beauchamp	38	38	—
Eaton Hastings	36	31	4
Faringdon	1165	1159	3
Fernham	59	55	4
Great Coxwell	95	94	—
Hatford	32	29	3
Hinton Waldrist	82	80	2
Kingston Lisle	79	78	1
Littleworth	78	77	—
Little Coxwell	71	68	3
Longcot	140 (c)	137	3
Longworth	244	221	4
Pusey	32	29	3
Shellingford	66	66	—
Shrivenham	655	655	—
Stanford-in-the-Vale	417	414	3
Uffington	200	194	6
Watchfield	506 (e)	506	—
Woolstone	46	42	4
Totals	4777 (4678)	4687 (4577)	56 (67)

(c) Includes 11 Military Married Quarters.

(e) Includes 347 Military Married Quarters.

EXAMINATIONS

Routine sampling of all piped supplies was carried out during the year and the highly satisfactory results of the bacteriological examinations are shown in the following table. Where supplies are chlorinated, all samples were taken after such treatment.

Supply	No. of Samples	Ministry of Health's Grading			
		Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Ashdown Park	5	5	—	—	—
Folly Hill	16	16	—	—	—
Thames Valley Water Board	3	3	—	—	—
Totals	24	24	—	—	—

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Work was completed on both the Longworth and Charney Bassett Sewerage Schemes and these were brought into operation.

After protracted negotiations work was started towards the end of the year on the Faringdon Main Drainage Scheme which involves a new disposal works and additional sewers within the town and Faringdon Park grounds to alleviate flooding problems. This scheme will take approximately 18 months to complete.

A tender was let and work commenced on the main drainage village scheme for Bourton.

MEAT

The small slaughterhouse in Faringdon was the only one in operation in the Rural District — animals slaughtered here are for local retail trade.

The following is a list of carcasses inspected and meat found to be unfit for human consumption:-

No. inspected	Steers and Heifers 358	Calves 3	Sheep and Lambs 1026
All diseases except T.B.			
Whole carcasses condemned			
Carcasses of which some part was condemned	8	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected with diseases other than T.B.	2.23	—	—
Tuberculosis only	No meat was found infected with T.B.		

OTHER FOODS

During the year the following foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered after examination had shown them to be unfit for human consumption.

267 mixed pkts. Frozen Foodstuffs	4 lbs. Jellied Veal (Tinned)
240 pkts. Frozen Fish	6 lbs. Ox Tongue (Tinned)
187 lbs. Tops and Rump Beef	189 mixed pkts. Frozen Vegetables
144 pkts. Meat Products.	158 pkts. Peas (Frozen)
84 lbs. Scotch Top Piece	19 pkts. Mousse
51 Chickens Frozen	7 jars Dairy Cream
17 lbs. Beef Shins	5 tins Orange Juice
14 lbs. Pork Liver	5 doz. bottles Malt Vinegar
14 lbs. Pigs Kidney (Frozen)	

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

Two dairies and seven distributors are registered in the district and conditions, whenever routine visits were made were found to be satisfactory. All licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations are issued by the Berkshire County Council.

FOOD PREMISES

The number of food premises in the district is given below, set out in the manner prescribed.

Category of Trade	Number of Premises	Number of Premises fitted to comply with Regulation 16	Number of Premises to which Regulation 19 applies	Number of Premises fitted to comply with Regulation 19
Licensed Premises	48	48	46	46
Grocers and General Stores	44	44	42	42
Butchers	7	7	7	7
Confectioners	7	7	—	—
Cafes	5	5	5	5
Bakehouses	4	4	4	4
Greengrocers	3	3	3	3
Fish Frying Establishments	2	2	2	2
Fishmongers	1	1	1	1

HOUSING

Houses inspected under the Housing Acts	6
Number of Closing Orders made	—
Number of Closing Orders Determined	—
Number of Demolition Orders	—

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Two applications for Discretionary Grants under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958, were approved by the Council. Altogether work under the Scheme was completed to nine properties during the year.

RODENT CONTROL

A free service to all private householders was given during the year, while occupiers of business premises were charged the cost of labour and materials used. Regular attention was paid to the Council's own property and the service operated satisfactorily. The rodent operator combined the work with general duties in the Public Health Department.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Premises	Inspections		No. of Written Notices	Prosecutions
	No. on Register	Inspections Made		
Factories without mechanical power	7	2	—	—
Factories with mechanical power	36	33	—	—
Totals	43	35	—	—

Cases in which defects were found — 1.

There were two outworkers in the district employed on manufacture of wearing apparel.

SUMMARY OF HEALTH INSPECTOR'S WORK DURING THE YEAR 1966

Number of visits made	1280
" " complaints received	60
" " notices served (Informal)	12
" " notices served (Statutory)	Nil
" " prosecutions	Nil

Miscellaneous matters in relation to which visits were made:-

Council House applications	174
Refuse Disposal	134
Refuse Collection	141
Slaughterhouse	112
Petroleum Storage	64
Butchers Shops	39
Cafes and Inns	26
Other Food Premises	69
Shops other than Food	58
Caravans	37
Water Supplies	45
Improvement Grants	49
Rodent Control	32
Factories and Workplaces	35
Milk Supplies	31
Water Courses	18
Schools	32
Water Samples	24
Mortuary	22
Housing Act	14
Nuisances	32
Sewerage	8
Food Stalls and Vehicles	19
Bakehouses	5
Dairies	8
Miscellaneous Visits	52





