ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1972

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

SURVEYOR AND CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL.

Councillor J.F. Lee, J.P.

VICE-CHAIRMAN.

Councillor T.J. Turnor.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND PLANS COMMITTEE.

Chairman : Councillor Mrs. D.J. Marshall.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor R. Wykes.

HOUSING COMMITTEE.

Chairman : Alderman H. Wileman, J.P.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor R. Hextall.

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL.

J.E.R. Wilkinson.

ACCOUNTANT AND DEPUTY CLERK.

C.M. Taylor, F.I.M.T.A.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

A. Hamilton, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

SURVEYOR AND CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

C.S. Curtis, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H., D.P.H.H. (Hons).

ASSISTANT SURVEYOR AND ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

H. Batteson, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

W.E. Farley, M.A.P.H.I., M.Inst. P.C.

Rural District Council Offices,
South Street,
Ashby-de-la-Zouch,
Leicester,
LE6 5BU.

May, 1973.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Rural District Council of
Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit for your attention the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1972 concerning the sanitary circumstances, sanitary administration and vital statistics of the district.

Directions as to the suggested contents of such annual reports are usually contained in a circular from the appropriate Ministry - in this case Circular 1/73, dated 1st January, 1973 from the Department of Health and Social Security, and, as far as is reasonably possible, the directions contained therein which are applicable to this Authority are followed.

Along with this Report, as usual, is submitted the Annual Report of your Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector. I understand that Mr. Curtis has completed 25 years service with the Council and that he is taking the opportunity to provide some comparisons and make some comments on conditions then and now. I know that there is no need for me to commend his remarks to your attention, nor do I doubt that they will be of considerable interest to you, largely because of their intrinsic worth but partly also because of the imminent demise of this Authority as we have all known it.

I would like to thank all the members of the staff of the Public Health Department for their keenness and friendliness; all the other members of your staff with whom I have had contact for their co-operation; and no less the members of the Council for the courtesy and consideration they have invariably extended to me personally.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

ANDREW HAMILTON.

Medical Officer of Health.

Private Residence :

"Barony",
15, Neville Drive,
Coalville,
Leicester,
LE6 3DX.

Telephone No:

Coalville 3723

Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (in acres).	28,169
Resident Population (R.G.'s estimate).	14,740
Number of occupied dwellings.	5,364
Number of occupied Council houses.	1,302
Rateable value, (1st April, 1972).	£488,200
Sum represented by a penny rate. (Estimated).	£4,852

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.	M.	F.	Total.	1972.	England & Wales 1972 (Provs.)	Ashby R.D.C. 1971.
Legitimate.	94	91	185			
Illegitimate.	4	1	5			
	98	92	190	190		244
Crude Live Birth rate per 1,000 population.				12.9	14.8	16.6
Area Comparability Factor.				.99	1.00	1.03
Adjusted Live Birth rate per 1,000 population.				12.8	14.8	17.1
Ratio of local Adjusted Birth rate to National rate.				.86	1.00	1.07
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total Live Births.				3	9	4
Still Births.	**M.**	**F.**	**Total.**			
Legitimate.	2	3	5			
Illegitimate.	-	-	-			
	2	3	5	5		1
Still Births rate per 1,000 total live and still births.				26	12	4

Total Live and Still Births.

	M.	F.	Total.	1972.	England & Wales 1972 (Prov:)	Ashby R.D.C. 1971.
Legitimate.	96	94	190			
Illegitimate.	4	1	5			
	100	95	195	195		245
Deaths of Infants (under one year).						
Legitimate.	2	-	2			
Illegitimate.	-	-	-			
	2	-	2	2		5
Infant Mortality Rates.						
Deaths under 1 yr. per 1,000 live births.				11	17	20
Legitimate infant deaths under 1 yr. per 1,000 legitimate births.				11	17	21
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births.				-	21	-
Deaths of Infants (under 4 weeks of age).						
Legitimate.	-	-	-			
Illegitimate.	-	-	-			
	-	-	-	-		3
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births).				-	12	12
Deaths of infants (under 1 week of age).						
Legitimate.	-	-	-			
Illegitimate.	-	-	-			
	-	-	-	-		1

	1972.	England & Wales 1972 (Prov:)	Ashby R.D.C. 1971.
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births).	-	10	4
Peri-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week and still births combined per 1,000 total live and still births).	26	22	8
Maternal Mortality (including abortion).			
Number of deaths.	0		0
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births.	0		0
Deaths. M. 91 F. 71 Total. 162	162		168
Crude death rate per 1,000 population.	11.0	12.1	11.4
Area Comparability Factor.	1.08	1.00	1.07
Adjusted death rate per 1,000 population.	11.9	12.1	12.2
Ratio of local adjusted death rate to National rate.	.98	1.00	1.05

Births.

Only 12 of the 190 births registered occurred at home. The birth rate at 12.8 compares with that for England and Wales at 14.8 and with last year's rate for the district at 17.1

The illegitimate live births per cent of total births was 3, that for the country as a whole was 9 and for the district last year 4.

Deaths.

162 deaths of people resident in the area took place, 84 of them in other districts and most of these in hospital. The death rate at 11.9 is slightly below the national rate.

Infantile Mortality.

The infantile mortality rate is 11, compared with last year's figure of 20. The rate for England and Wales is 17, so we are well below the national rate. The deaths of 2 babies under 1 year of age have been credited to the district, both occurring in hospital.

Population.

The estimated population has increased from 14,680 to 14,740 - a rise of 60.

Meals on Wheels.

This service continues to function satisfactorily, sometimes with a depleted list and sometimes with a "full house". 15 visits, involving 14 persons, were paid. In 2 cases the applications were rejected, and in 3 cases the persons visited indicated that they did not wish to take part. The meals provided appear to be of a satisfactory standard.

Chiropody.

As envisaged in my last Report a chiropody service for elderly people was started in Swannington early in the year, and that already in operation at Measham continued successfully, there being two sessions held there weekly with good attendances of patients at both.

National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951.

No formal action was necessary during the year.

Food Hygiene.

Much attention continues to be paid to food hygiene and apart from routine inspection and supervision it was considered necessary during the period of power cuts experienced in the early part of the year to set out in a circular letter to food shops and restaurant owners steps advisable to be taken to minimise the likelihood of damage to frozen food. A leaflet was prepared and made available to the public generally informing shoppers of important points which should be observed in food shops to attain satisfactory hygienic standards and inviting them to notice whether such standards were, in fact, being practised where and when they made their purchases, and if not considered satisfactory to make the fact known to the person in charge. It is true that much can be done by the public themselves by observation, by complaint when necessary, and by praise when merited.

Food Poisoning.

No cases of food poisoning were notified but it was found necessary to secure many faecal specimens from one person, a resident in our area, who was found to be excreting salmonella organisms, (Salmonella enteritidis), following consumption, along with others, of a meal in an adjoining district. Although the patient's husband had had approximately the same food he remained unaffected. The occurrence was brought to our notice by the Medical Officer of the district concerned and it was thought that the vehicle of infection was probably cold turkey.

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE.

Causes of Death.	SEX	Total all Ages.	Under 4 weeks.	4 weeks & under 1 year.	AGE IN YEARS. 1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 and over.
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity, etc.	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach.	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Leukaemia	M	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other Malignant Neoplasms	M	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Other Endocrine etc Diseases	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Anaemias	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Meningitis	M	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Multiple Sclerosis	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other Diseases of Nervous System	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hypertensive Disease	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	7	7
	F	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	10	7
Other Forms of Heart Disease	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Cerebrovascular Disease	M	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	5
	F	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	14
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
Influenza	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	2
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Bronchitis and Emphysema	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asthma	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Peptic Ulcer	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other Diseases of Digestive System	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
All other Accidents	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All other External Causes	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	91	-	2	-	-	1	1	2	3	18	34	30
	F	71	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	10	19	40

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases during 1972.

14 cases of infectious disease were notified during the year, as below :

Age.	Measles		Scarlet Fever		Meningitis (Pneumococcal).	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year.	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 2	1	-	-	-	-	-
2 to 3	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 to 4	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 to 5	-	1	-	-	-	-
5 to 9	1	1	1	-	-	-
10 to 14	-	1	-	-	-	-
15 to 24	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 and over.	-	-	-	-	1	-
Total.	2	3	1	-	1	-
Total - both sexes.	5		1		1	

Age	Tetanus		Infective Jaundice.		Tuberculosis.					
					Respiratory		Meninges & C.N.S.		Other.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 2 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 - 4 years.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5 - 9 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 19 years.	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 24 years.	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 years.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 - 74 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 75 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total.	-	-	2	3	-	2	-	-	-	-
Total - both sexes	-		5		2		-		-	

Table showing incidence of Notifiable Diseases in each Parish during year 1972.

Parish.	Scarlet Fever	Infective Jaundice	Measles	Pneumococcal Meningitis	Tuberculosis.		Totals.
					Respiratory	Other	
Appleby Magna.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bardon.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chilcote.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Coleorton.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Heather.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measham.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Normanton-le-Heath.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oakthorpe and Donisthorpe.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Osgathorpe.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Packington.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ravenstone.	1	2	2	1	-	-	6
Snarestone.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Staunton Harold.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stretton-en-le-Field.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swannington.	-	-	1	-	2	-	3
Swepstone.	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Worthington.	-	3	1	-	-	-	4
Totals.	1	5	5	1	2	-	14

Table showing Incidence of Notifiable Diseases in each month during year 1972.

Month.	Measles	Infective Jaundice.	Pneumococcal Meningitis	Respiratory Tuberculosis	Scarlet Fever	Totals.
January.	2	-	-	-	-	2
February.	1	-	-	-	-	1
March.	-	-	-	-	-	-
April.	1	-	-	-	-	1
May.	-	-	-	-	-	-
June.	-	-	-	-	-	-
July.	-	-	-	-	-	-
August.	-	-	-	-	-	-
September.	-	1	-	-	-	1
October.	-	-	-	1	-	1
November.	-	4	-	1	1	6
December.	1	-	1	-	-	2
Totals.	5	5	1	2	1	14

The two cases of pulmonary tuberculosis referred to in a preceding table were members of the same family - mother and daughter. The names of many contacts were ascertained by the Health Visitor and as many as possible were followed up at the Chest Clinic at Markfield Hospital, but not all co-operated in attending there in spite of repeated efforts by the Chest Physician. It is understood that two positive contacts were identified, residents of an adjoining district. The mother and her four children were in-patients at Markfield Hospital for some time, the three unnotified children having been admitted for observation - and possibly as an act of kindness as well.

The whole family, who had been living in unsatisfactory housing conditions - although owner occupied - were rehoused by your Council on discharge from hospital just before Christmas.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SURVEYOR AND CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

1st March, 1973.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Rural District Council
of Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Twenty-five years ago today, I commenced working with the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Rural District Council, for the first six years under the benevolent guidance of Mr. John P. Cook, and as this will, in all probability, be the last Annual Report I shall present to this Council, (we shall have ceased to exist as a separate Authority by the time another report can be submitted), I thought it might be of interest to members if an indication is given in the report of some of the changes which have taken place during this period.

During the year under review a start was made on the Coleorton and District Sewerage Scheme - a scheme originally prepared in 1944, but deferred for a number of reasons. In 1952 a Public Enquiry was held, but, even then, only part of the scheme, (Worthington village), was approved. In 1962 a further section of the scheme was agreed and carried out - the Newbold, Griffydam area.

Mining subsidence in the 1960's became extensive in the Coleorton area and it would have been foolhardy to proceed further with the scheme. In 1969, however, we became aware of the fact that mining subsidence was to cease in the area and steps were taken to revive the Coleorton part of the scheme. A local inquiry was held in 1971, the scheme, at an estimated cost of £460,000, was approved in a matter of weeks, contracts were let and the work started in record time. In 1955 the cost of the whole scheme would have been in the region of £97,000.

When this scheme is completed it will mean the end, to all intents and purposes, of pail closets in the area.

The Chilcote sewerage scheme should commence in the near future as should the Gracedieu scheme and every village in the district will then be sewered apart from Lount. All the sewage works which are to remain have, with one exception, been modernised and are producing very satisfactory effluents, the results are well within the Trent River Board's requirements. The one exception is in process of modernisation.

The figures on subsequent pages show some of the changes over the past 25 years. 25 years ago 550 houses used wells as their sole supply of drinking water; 1600 houses had pail closets; 413 had privies as against figures today of 30 houses using wells; 273 with pail closets and no privies. In 1947 there were 182 complaints of insanitary conditions in dwelling houses and a total of 282 notices were served requiring abatement of nuisance of one sort or another. In addition 67 Statutory notices were served resulting in 25 Court cases. During the year under review 32 complaints only were received. It was necessary to serve a total of 47 notices and 2 Statutory notices - it was not necessary to take any proceedings in Court. In 1947 a council house, complete with all services, cost about £1400 and a private house £1100, (this latter figure did not include new road construction costs or sewers, water mains, etc. as private houses were built along existing road frontages); in fact only 8 private houses were built in that year. At the end of 1947 we had 1105 applications for Council houses as against 212 at the end of 1972 and there were 79 cases of Statutory over-crowding.

By the end of 1972 we had offered a total of 1350 Improvement or Standard grants.

As short a time ago as 1954 13.8% of all cows slaughtered in the district were suffering from tuberculosis in some organ or part, (1972 - Nil), as were 7.9% of other cattle, (1972 - Nil); just over 1 in 3 of all cows slaughtered were affected by diseases other than tuberculosis as were 1 in 6 of other cattle. Although 1 in 9 of cattle on average are now found to be suffering from some unsound condition it is invariably of a minor nature such as a lung affected with parasites or a liver with abscesses and which seldom at the time of slaughter has any effect on the remainder of the animal or on its fitness for human consumption.

It is not possible to show by statistics the improvements effected in general food hygiene, the only way would be to resurrect some of the shops, cafes, etc. of 25 years ago and place them alongside the present ones.

The improvements have been the result of a long, slow, laborious slog consisting of a mixture of pleading, cajoling, explaining, very occasionally threatening, and only, I am pleased to say, on very few occasions by legal proceedings.

The word "environment" is now very much in use. For the past 100 years it was only of interest to those engaged in public health work and the people who had to live in slums and in generally poor conditions - they, of course, did not refer to the conditions under which they lived as their poor and unsatisfactory environment but when they complained this was what they were talking about.

A few years ago our politicians suddenly realised that the man in the street was determined to live in better conditions and was no longer prepared to put up with an increasing amount of pollution of all kinds and almost before we knew what was happening we were bombarded with promises of better things - we even had a Ministry re-named - The Department of the Environment. As a result it certainly is a fact that considerable effort is being channelled towards preventing further deterioration, and to improving existing conditions. It is up to all those interested directly in public health work to make sure that the general public's interest is retained and further stimulated, and it is essential that when the new district councils are formed that there is a strong environmental health team available to deal with the changing emphasis and circumstances. When one compares some of the present day figures with those of 25 years ago it will be seen that in those days we were dealing with complaints regarding general insanitary conditions, unfit houses, overloaded sewers and sewage works, diseased food, etc; in the future we must have a team to deal with general pollution of the atmosphere, noise, control of working conditions, welfare, safety, planning and research into environmental health problems and advice and education, in addition to the control of generally insanitary and unsatisfactory conditions.

Particulars of water supplies to dwelling houses :

Internal Mains Water Supply.		Mains water from External standpipes.		Well water Supply.	
No. of dwelling houses.	Population.	No. of dwelling houses.	Population.	No. of dwelling houses.	Population.
	Est:	Est:	Est:	Est:	Est:
5334	14580	-	-	30	70
(3180)	(11249)	-	-	(555)	(2500)

Number of parishes with piped water supply :

from public mains : 16 (12) from private reservoirs : Nil

Number of parishes without a piped supply : 1 (part) - Bardon.

Water Supply from Wells.

Number of samples taken for analysis.			
Satisfactory.		Unsatisfactory.	
Chemical.	Bacteriological.	Chemical.	Bacteriological
-	-	-	6
(8)	(8)	(-)	(-)

The following figures were supplied by the Engineer to the North West Leicestershire Water Board :

Piped Supplies and Raw Water.		Results of Analyses.	
Bacteriological		Chemical	
Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
86	2	-	-

(Figures in brackets are those of 25 years ago).

Extension of public water supplies :

1. Improvements to Distribution System.

   (a) 398 yards of 4" pipe - Ashby Road, Ravenstone.
   (b) 13 yards of 4" pipe - Measham to Appleby Magna.
   (c) 1,219 yards of 8" pipe - Measham to Appleby Magna.

2. Housing Site Developments.

   (a) 135 yards of 4" pipe - off Ashby Road, Ravenstone for Mr. W. Pearce.
   (b) 69 yards of 4" pipe - Phase 2, Atherstone Road, Measham for Messrs. Pat Pateman & Son.
   (c) 186 yards of 4" pipe - off Narrow Lane, Donisthorpe for Ashby-de-la-Zouch Rural District Council.
   (d) 73 yards of 3" pipe - Parkfield Crescent, Appleby Magna for Ashby-de-la-Zouch Rural District Council.

3. In connection with Road Works and Industrial Development.

   152 yards of 4" pipe - Pisca Lane, Heather.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Village.	25 years ago.	December, 1972.
Acresford.	No sewers. Drainage to cesspools, ditches, etc.	Sewers provided; sewage pumped to Donisthorpe.
Appleby Magna.	No sewers. Drainage to cesspools, ditches, etc.	Sewers provided; sewage pumped to Snarestone.
Bardon.	No sewers.	Scattered area - impossible to sewer.
Chilcote.	No sewers. Drainage to septic tanks and old roadside sewer.	Scheme for provision of sewers and construction of works agreed by Council. Negotiations in progress for purchase of land for construction of works.
Coleorton.	No sewers, drainage to cesspools, ditches, etc.	Provision of sewers now in progress. Effluent to be treated at Worthington works.
Donisthorpe.	Sewers and sewage disposal works. Sewage works overloaded.	Sewage works enlarged and improved and now dealing with effluent from part of Ashby Woulds U.D.C. in addition to the villages of Donisthorpe and Acresford. The works are producing effluents well within the Trent River Authority's standards.
Heather.	No sewers. Drainage to cesspools, old roadside drainage system and ditches.	Sewers provided and sewage works constructed. Scheme agreed with Market Bosworth R.D.C. for these works to be abandoned and sewage pumped to sewage works at Ibstock.

Village.	25 years ago.	December, 1972.
Measham and Oakthorpe.	Sewers and sewage disposal works at Measham. Sewage works overloaded.	Works overloaded. Satisfactory effluent being obtained despite this, but scheme in course of preparation for enlargement of the works to deal with a population of 5,000.
Newbold.	No sewers, drainage to cesspools, ditches, etc.	Sewers provided. Effluent treated at Worthington works.
Newton Burgoland.	No sewers. Drainage to cesspools, ditches, roadside drains, etc.	Sewers provided. Sewage pumped to Snarestone.
Normanton-le-Heath.	No sewers. Drainage to cesspools, roadside ditches, etc.	Sewers provided. Sewage pumped to Ravenstone works.
Osgathorpe.	No sewers, drainage to cesspools, ditches, etc.	Sewers provided in the village. Sewage pumped to Coalville U.D.C. A pumping station has been provided for Mill House Estate and sewage is pumped to Coalville U.D.C. sewers. Negotiations in progress for the purchase of land for a pumping station at Gracedieu and scheme prepared for laying sewers. Sewage to be pumped to Coalville U.D.C.
Packington.	No sewers. Drainage to cesspools, ditches, brookcourse.	Sewers provided; sewage pumped to Ashby-de-la-Zouch U.D.C. works.
Ravenstone.	Sewers and sewage disposal works. Works very badly overloaded.	Sewage works reconstructed and modernised. Effluents well within the Trent River Authority's standards.

Village.	25 years ago.	December, 1972.
Snarestone.	No sewers. Drainage to cesspools, old roadside drains, ditches, etc.	Sewers provided and works constructed. Effluents well within Trent River Authority's standards.
Staunton Harold.	Drainage to cesspools, ditches and dilapidated private works.	Drainage to septic tanks and one modernised private works.
Swannington.	Sewers and sewage works.	Old sewage works abandoned. Sewage pumped to Coalville Urban District Council Works.
Swepstone.	No sewers, drainage to cesspools, ditches and roadside drains, etc.	Sewers provided. Sewage pumped to Snarestone works.
Worthington (including Griffydam).	Drainage to cesspools, ditches, roadside drains, etc.	Sewers provided. Works constructed. These works are now being enlarged and improved to deal with sewage from the Coleorton scheme.

Inspections of sewers and ditches and work in hand	122
Blocked sewers cleared	17
Inspection of sewage works and pumping stations.	153
Ditches cleaned out.	5
Number of septic tanks constructed during the year	18
Number of septic tanks abolished during the year	8
Number of septic tanks/cesspools at 31st December, 1972 ...	486
Visits in connection with new sewage scheme	220

The work study scheme instituted in 1971 has proved of benefit both to the workmen and the Council.

NEW DRAINAGE SYSTEMS AND CLOSET CONVERSIONS.

(other than work in connection with Improvement Grants/ Standard Grants.

New drainage systems laid to sewer, (other than new houses) ...	37
New water closets constructed to replace pan closets.... ...	5
Pail closets abolished..	5
Septic tanks provided...	-
Visits of inspection	52

A grant of £30.00, or half the cost, whichever is the less, is given towards closet conversion.

Closet Accommodation.

Total number in district at 31st December, 1972 :

Privies : Nil (413)	Pail Closets : 273 * (1600)	Water Closets : 5139 (1745)

* When the Coleorton Sewerage scheme is completed in 1973 the number of pails in the district will be reduced to about 100.

(Figures in brackets indicate position 25 years ago).

COMPLAINTS.

Set out below are details of the various complaints which have been received, together with a table showing repairs, etc. carried out.

	December 1972.	25 years ago.
Dwellings rendered fit or defects remedied.	11	Not avail:
Complaints received.	32	182
Premises inspected.	29	182
Groundless complaints.	2	17
Revisits to work in hand.	172	294
Premises at which nuisances abated.	39	177
Drains relaid, repaired, trapped or ventilated or cleared, (does not include sewers).	9	84
Cesspools cleansed or repaired (other than routine emptying).	4	5
Damp walls remedied.	7	-
Ditches cleaned out.	11	24
Plastering repaired.	6	-
Offensive accumulations removed.	6	12
Roofs repaired.	11	12
Eaves gutters and rain water pipes repaired or renewed	11	-
Floors repaired.	3	-
Doors repaired or renewed.	5	-
Cellar flooding abated.	3	-
Fly or insect nuisances abated.	3	-
Windows repaired.	24	-
Water closets repaired.	1	13
Noise nuisances abated.	3	-
Offensive smells abated.	4	2
Miscellaneous nuisances abated.	7	40
Ponds filled in.	1	-
Disused cars removed.	8	-
Dangerous trees demolished.	1	-
Privies converted to pans.	-	8
Privies converted to water closets.	-	6
Privy closets cleansed.	-	9

	December 1972.	25 years ago.
Dustbins provided.	*457	30
Ashpits cleansed.	-	9
Houses cleansed, lime washed or distempered.	-	7
Fireplaces repaired.	-	13
Coppers repaired.	-	1
Sinks repaired.	-	1
Miscellaneous visits (all purposes).	185	-

* By Local Authority.

Inspections made.	December 1972.	25 years ago.
Animal keeping.	15	7
Bakehouses.	5	4
Drainage works.	139	248
Dwelling houses (all purposes).	789	1048
Infectious diseases.	20	15
Food premises.	379	77
Refuse collection and disposal.	363	166
Rodent Control (other than those carried out by Rodent Operator).	4	39
Shops and Offices.	109	24
Slaughterhouses and meat inspection.	96	43
Tents, vans, sheds, etc.	20	3
Water supplies.	10	97
Factories and workplaces.	67	19
Food poisoning.	20	-
Other inspections.	1188	126
	3224	1916

Notices.

Preliminary.	Housing	Public Health.	25 years ago.
Outstanding on 1st January, 1972.	-	17	79
Issued during the year.	-	16	282
Complied with during the year.	-	11	300
Outstanding on 31st December, 1972.	-	22	61
Statutory.			
Outstanding on 1st January, 1972.	-	4	23
Issued during the year.	-	2	67
Complied with during the year.	-	4	59
Outstanding on 31st December, 1972.	-	2	31

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960.

Itinerants and the parking of caravans on roadside verges, etc. always present a problem in rural districts and there seems to be little future in chasing the occupants from one district to another and from one county to another. The Council decided to build a caravan site in an effort to help overcome this problem and this was constructed in 1964 on land owned by the Council in Appleby Magna. The site for 15 vans, together with an ablution block, showers, toilets, etc. was constructed at a cost of some £5,000.

In practice it was found that once people had moved on to this site they wanted to remain there as more or less permanent residents and there has been little movement to or from the site so that it has, in actual fact, become in all but name a small housing site - and we are still faced with the problem of the itinerants.

The present charge at the site is 30p. per day for daily tenancies and £1.50p. per week for weekly tenants. The occupants can have electricity laid on to their vans, (this is charged for by meter), and they can also have water laid on.

The total number of licensed sites is 49.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENT ACT, 1963.

There are five animal boarding establishments within the rural district which are licensed by this Authority. 15 visits were made to these premises throughout the year and items requiring attention have been brought to the notice of the licensees. The animals are boarded mainly during the summer months. When visits were made to the premises they were found, generally, to be satisfactory and the animals well cared for.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

For the fourth year co-ordination of rodent control measures between urban and rural districts continued as part of a county wide scheme and there was co-operation with the farmers via the National Farmers' Union; for a number of years there has been co-operation with Ashby-de-la-Zouch Urban District Council, the Rural District Council's rodent operator being loaned to that Authority for a certain number of hours each week. Prior to 1952 little work on rodent control was carried out and the first steps to put matters on a proper basis commenced in that year when a man was employed part time on these duties. In 1967 the Council agreed that the job should be full time and the operator was provided with a van. There has, to my knowledge, been one death in the Rural District during this period from Weil's disease - a disease carried by rats.

Inspections by rodent operator	:	1,687
Infestations dealt with	:	397

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

Routine inspections have continued and 109 visits have been made. Minor unsatisfactory items are dealt with at the time of the visit but informal notices are sent with a view to getting the relevant provisions complied with under the Act.

This Act has now been in operation since 1964. In no case in this district have desparately poor conditions been found, but the Act has served a very useful purpose in that it has been possible to obtain improvements regarding the general welfare of persons employed in offices, etc. and in particular to obtain improvements in such matters as lighting and heating. The Act requires notification of accidents and investigations are made with a view to preventing repetition.

The Act applies to premises where persons, (other than family), are employed for at least 21 hours each week. This means that because of change in circumstances of employment it is possible for premises which one week had to comply with the Act, to be exempt from the provisions of the Act the following week. This is an obvious weakness in the Act.

Two accidents were reported during the year, both of them occurring in office premises and were of a minor nature. When enquiries were made into the cause of the accidents, it was found that no contravention of the Act had occurred.

Type of Premises.	Businesses Registered	Inspections made.	Contraventions.		
			Found	Remedied	Outstanding at 31.12.72.
Offices.	8	12	3	2	1
Retail shops.	32	64	6	12	6
Wholesale shops, Warehouses, etc.	4	8	3	2	2
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens, etc.	5	19	2	1	1
Fuel Storage Depots.	3	6	-	-	-
TOTAL.	52	109	14	19	10

Analysis of Contraventions.

Cleanliness	:	1	Sanitary Accommodation	:	1
Temperature	:	3	Floors and Passages	:	4
Lighting	:	2	First Aid	:	3

CIVIC AMENITIES ACT, 1967.

A number of cars were abandoned on verges of highways and on private land and these were removed and destroyed.

There were 17 visits.

HOUSING.

New Houses.				
Houses completed during the year.	Prefab:	Permanent.	Average cost per house, (including site works, etc.)	
			December, 1972.	25 years ago.
By Local Authority.	- (10)	34 (8)	£3500 (one bed: flat to £5500 (3 bed: house)	£1400
By Private Enterprise	- (-)	91 (8)	£6000 to £12000	£1100
Houses in course of erection.				
By Local Authority.	- (-)	46 (38)	£3500 (one bed: flat to £5500 (3 bed: house)	£1375
By Private Enterprise.	- (-)	92 (8)	£7000 to £14000	£1200

(Figures in brackets indicate numbers 25 years ago).

	December 1972	25 years ago
Total number of post-war houses completed by Local Authority.	1059	18
Total number of post-war houses completed by private enterprise.	1248	8
Total number of applicants for Council houses at end of year.	153	1105
Total number of applications for Council houses received during year.	73	N.A.
Total number of Council houses in the district prior to 1939.	312	312
Total number of pre-war houses purchased by the Council and renovated.	23	-
Total number of occupied Council houses in the district.	1302	346
Total number of occupied houses in the district.	5364	3760

During the year 28 dwellings were completed at Dyson's Close, Measham and at the end of the year 32 dwellings were under construction at Ivy Close, Donisthorpe; 4 of the 8 dwellings under construction at Normanton-le-Heath were completed, as were 8 at Appleby Magna. 4 dwellings were under construction at Ravenstone and 4 at Swepstone. The modernisation scheme for 282 pre-war Council houses was commenced. There was considerable discomfort and inconvenience to tenants, but once the work was completed all agreed it had been well worth while.

New buildings, additions, extensions, etc.	December 1972	25 years ago.
New dwellings by Local Authority.	40	10
New dwellings by private enterprise.	91	8
New houses drained to sewer.	125	10
New houses drained to septic tanks.	6	8
New houses with water from public mains.	131	18
New houses under construction at year end.	138	46
Visits of inspection to properties under construction.	521	126
Visits to Council properties.	37	N.A.
Visits in connection with alterations to existing buildings.	143	N.A.

BUILDING REGULATIONS.

During the year 372 applications were submitted for consideration under the Building Regulations.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1947.

Applications for planning permission were again higher than the previous year - 380 applications being dealt with.

LOANS FOR HOUSE PURCHASE.

46 properties were inspected during the year as a result of requests for loans and in the majority of cases loans were approved. 55 visits of inspection were made.

IMPROVEMENT AND STANDARD GRANTS.

Improvement Grants.

These grants are discretionary, the Council itself being able to decide, as a matter of policy, whether to give grants or not, but, if they refuse a grant application, or give less than 50% of the amount eligible, they must give reasons in writing to the applicant. It has always been this Council's policy to give 50% grant.

Grants were first introduced by the Housing Act, 1949. The working of this part of the Act was not mandatory on district Councils - it was to be purely voluntary. This Council decided that they would make the fullest use of the improvement grant provisions and have continued to do this to the present date although a number of adjoining Authorities at various times did suspend action in this connection. Originally, if a dwelling was sold within 20 years of the owner obtaining a grant, a proportion of the grant had to be repaid to the Local Authority; subsequently this period was reduced to ten years, then to three years and has now been completely abolished. This abolition has led to considerable controversy, especially in the larger cities because it is alleged speculators take advantage of it, but here, in this district, the greater proportion of people taking advantage of the Act have been owner/ occupiers so that there has been no problem in this respect. Originally a maximum grant of £400 was payable for improvement work, but this has recently been increased to a maximum of £1,000 and a certain proportion of this can be paid in respect of repair work necessary at the property quite apart from the improvement grant work. There is no doubt that the Act has been responsible for the improvement of many properties which would not have been improved without grant aid.

Standard Grants.

Standard Grants were introduced by the Housing Act, 1959 and it became the duty of all local authorities to give grant aid to suitable properties - the local authority has no discretion in this matter. Grant aid was to be given to the provision of a bath or shower, a wash hand basin, hot water system and water closet in or contiguous to a building, together with satisfactory facilities for the storage of food. Subsequently the provisions were altered and grant aid can now be given towards the provision of a bathroom with bath or shower, hot water system, wash hand basin, new sink and a water closet.

General.

A total of 521 Improvement Grants and 829 Standard Grants have been offered to owners of property in the district.

Every owner of property in the rural district has been sent details of the procedure necessary to enable them to obtain grant aid and sketch plans showing 4 typical ways of carrying out conversion work have been sent to them.

Quite apart from giving grants to private owners the Council purchased 23 houses from owners who were not prepared to renovate the houses and have, themselves, carried out modernisation schemes.

Number of Improvement Grant applications approved.	owner/occupied	20
	tenanted	7
Number of Conversion Grant applications approved.	owner/occupied	4
	tenanted	1
Number of Improvement Grants refused.		-
Dwellings improved during the year.		25
Total amount Council have paid by way of Grant		£22,253

Amenities provided :

Baths.	15
Wash hand basins.	15
Water closets.	14
Hot water systems.	13
Sinks.	15
Drainage.	14
New windows and repairs to windows.	77
New floors.	52
Fireplaces.	32
Central heating.	13
New food stores.	10
Septic tanks.	7
Damp proof courses.	19
New roofs.	6
Roofs repaired.	11
Power circuits.	16
New eaves gutters.	13
Eaves gutters and rain water pipes repaired.	8
External paving.	14
Lighting systems renewed.	16
Pails abolished.	2
Plaster repaired.	43
Walls replastered.	55
Ceilings replastered.	30

Visits and re-visits.	235
Total number of offers made since inception of scheme, (including informal offers).	571

Grants completed by villages.

Appleby Magna.	...	3
Coleorton.	...	6
Chilcote.	...	1
Donisthorpe.	...	3
Heather.	...	1
Lount.	...	1
Measham.	...	1
Newton Burgoland.	...	1
Packington.	...	2
Ravenstone.	...	3
Swannington.	...	1
Staunton Harold.	...	2

The maximum amount which may be paid when Standard Grants are given are as follows :

Fixed bath or shower.	...	£30
Wash hand basin.	...	£10
Sink.	...	£15
Hot and cold water supply to bath.	...	£45
Hot and cold water supply to wash hand basin.	...	£20
Hot and cold water supply to sink.	...	£30
Water closet.	...	£50

or one half of the cost, whichever is the less.

Additional payment may be made where the work involves the building on of a bathroom, conversion of outbuildings, construction of a septic tank or laying on water to a dwelling for the first time. Total grant aid must not exceed £450.

Applications approved.	owner/occupied	41
	tenanted	11
Works completed.		35
Total paid by way of grant.		£4,804

Amenities provided :

Fixed baths or showers.	17
Re-positioning of baths.	4
Re-positioning of wash hand basins.	7
Wash hand basins.	19
Hot and cold water supply to baths.	21
Hot and cold water supply to wash hand basins.	24
Hot water supply to kitchen sinks.	12
Hot and cold water supply to kitchen sinks.	4
New sinks.	6
Internal water closets.	27
Septic tanks.	5
Pails abolished.	4
Visits and re-visits.	180
Offers to owners during the year.	68
Total number of offers made since inception of scheme, (including informal offers).	829

Grants completed by villages.

Acresford	...	1
Appleby Magna	...	3
Coleorton	...	3
Donisthorpe	...	3
Griffydam	...	2
Measham	...	7
Newbold	...	4
Newton Burgoland	...	3
Oakthorpe	...	4
Osgathorpe	...	1
Ravenstone	...	2
Swannington	...	2

Qualification Certificates.

Number of applications for Qualification Certificates.	4
Certificates issued.	1
Provisional certificates issued.	4
Applications deferred.	-
Applications refused.	-

SLUM CLEARANCE.

Houses Demolished.			
	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year.	
		Persons	Families
In Clearance Areas.			
Houses unfit for human habitation.	-	-	-
Houses included by reason of bad arrangements, etc.	-	-	-
Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957.	-	-	-
Not in Clearance Areas.			
As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957.	2	6	4
Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health.	-	-	-
Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts.	-	-	-
Unfit houses included in Unfitness Order.	-	-	-
Unfit houses closed.			
Under Sections 16(4). 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957.	1	2	1
Under Sections 17(3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957.	-	-	-
Parts of buildings closed under Section 18 Housing Act, 1957.	-	-	-

Houses demolished for other reasons	:	6
Houses lost by conversion	:	-
Houses gained by conversion	:	-
Number of Demolition Orders made	:	16

Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied.

	By Owner	By Local Authority
After informal action by Local Authority.	11	-
After formal notice under		
(a) Public Health Acts.	-	-
(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957.	-	-

Visits of inspection : 51

CONSUMER PROTECTION.

379 inspections have been made to the food premises within this Authority's district, in an effort to maintain a steady improvement in the standard of food hygiene. Minor items requiring attention are dealt with at the time of the visit; informal notices are served as necessary.

Gradually the public are becoming more aware of the need for higher standards in food hygiene and persons who wish to open food premises are now seeking advice from the department at an early stage, rather than waiting to be told what is necessary. This is obviously a step in the right direction.

Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966.

Inspections were made of food vehicles whether they originated within this Rural district or are from outside, but retail within this area. Some 38 inspections were made and any points which arose from these resulted in informal notices being sent to the owners of the vehicles.

The Meat (Sterilisation) Regulations, 1969.

Routine inspections have been made to the knacker's yard and slaughterhouses to ensure that the requirements of the above Regulations are carried out. Co-operation with other district authorities has been maintained in an effort to ensure that all unfit meat and offal is transported from the slaughterhouses, etc. in lockable containers.

MEAT INSPECTION.

For some years after the war no slaughtering was carried out in the rural district, meat being supplied to butchers' in the district from the Regional Slaughterhouse at Coalville.

In 1954, the Government decided that local slaughterhouses should be re-licensed and after a report on the many slaughterhouses which had been in operation prior to the war you decided to offer licenses in respect of nine of these subject to necessary improvements being carried out. In the event, six occupiers only carried out the necessary work and these were licensed. 100% meat inspection was immediately carried out and has continued ever since. At that time it is interesting to note that a considerable number of cows, as apart from bullocks, were slaughtered and that the incidence of disease was relatively high. No cows have been slaughtered in this district for the past 14 years.

In 1959, following the introduction of the Slaughterhouses Act, we were able to apply much more stringent conditions to the licensing of slaughterhouses and these were immediately reduced to two - one an existing slaughterhouse which was completely re-constructed; the other a completely new slaughterhouse altogether.

During the year under review the re-constructed slaughterhouse has ceased to be used as such.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed.	178 (178)	– (195)	– (4)	337 (832)	– (396)
Number inspected.	178 (178)	– (195)	– (4)	337 (832)	– (396)
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.					
Whole carcases condemned.	–	–	–	–	–
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned.	18 (32)	– (58)	– –	13 (69)	– (8)
Percentage of number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.	10.11 (18)	– (29.7)	– –	4.15 (8.3)	– (2)
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned.	–	–	–	–	–
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned.	– (14)	– (27)	– –	– –	– (7)
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	– (7.9)	– (13.8)	– –	– –	– (1.8)
Cysticercosis.					
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned.	–	–	–	–	–
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	–	–	–	–	–
Generalised and total condemned.	–	–	–	–	–

(Note : Figures in brackets indicate the 1954 numbers and percentages.)

Ice Cream.

Number of premises registered for manufacture and retail.		...	Nil
Number of premises registered for manufacture only.		...	Nil
Number of premises registered for retail only.		...	40
Number of samples taken.		...	38
Results of samples taken :	Grade I	...	17
	Grade II	...	12
	Grade III	...	9
	Grade IV	...	-

Ice cream is purchased from national manufacturers, with two exceptions - manufacturers in adjoining districts. Two additional premises were licensed during the year.

Milk Supply.

Dairies (other than dairy farms) and distributors (Section 8, Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949).

Number on Register	:	Dairies	-
		Distributors	1
Number of Inspections	:	Dairies	-
		Distributors	3

Biological Milk Samples taken by County Council.

Number of routine bulk samples taken	...	28
Results satisfactory	...	28
Evidence of living Brucella Abortis	...	-

Bacteriological Milk Samples taken by County Council.

Untreated milk samples	...	28
Satisfactory	...	25
Failed Methylene Blue Test	...	3

Meat and Other Foods.

Number of licensed slaughterhouses in area.	...	1
Number of animals slaughtered therein.	...	515
Number of animals examined therein	...	515
Number of animals inspected at time of slaughter.	...	360
Number of knacker's yards in area	...	1
Number of visits to knacker's yard.	...	6
Number of visits to slaughterhouse	...	96

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970.

Food Premises in Categories.	Number.
Licensed premises.	44
Cafes, restaurants, etc.	4
General stores.	37
Works canteens.	6
Butchers' shops.	5
School canteens.	17
Off-licensed shops.	7
Fish and Chip shops.	3
Greengrocer's shops.	2
Bakeries.	2

Work in connection with the inspection of food premises continued during the year.

Number of premises inspected	...	127
Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	379
Number of informal notices served	...	41
Number of informal notices complied with	...	44
Number of informal notices outstanding at 31st December 1971	...	39
Number of premises modernised	...	3
Number where hot water supply laid on	...	1
Number of premises cleaned and redecorated	...	5

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

Part I of the Act.

Inspections for purposes of provision as to Health, (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	Written Notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	1	1	-
(ii) Factories in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	36	39	11
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	12	27	-
	49	67	11

	No. of cases in which defects were found.		
	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Sanitary Conveniences.	11	9	-
Other Offences.	-	-	-

Part VIII of the Act.

Outworkers (Sections 110 and 111).	Number of Outworkers in August list required by Section 111 (1) (c).
Wearing apparel making, etc.	10

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Damage had continued to be caused to the public conveniences, especially those at Donisthorpe. Glass windows were replaced with very thick reinforced perspex sheets screwed into position, but even some of these have been smashed. It has proved impossible to keep light fittings intact and serviceable. The Council did consider demolishing these conveniences but finally decided that they must be maintained as a public service and decided to make the access from Church Street rather than from Ramscliff Avenue in an effort to give vandals less privacy in which to cause damage.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

In 1947 three side loading refuse collection vehicles, with a total carrying capacity of 21 cubic yards, were in use. At the present time we are using three rear loading dustless vehicles with packing mechanism, giving a total compressed carrying capacity of 145 cubic yards. We now have one refuse tip which is also used by Coalville Urban District Council and Ashby-de-la-Zouch Urban District Council whereas 25 years ago we had five sited in strategic parts of the district - this was essential, of course, because the distances travelled by the side loading vehicles had to be kept to a minimum. The present tip consists of some 52 acres of scrub land. Tipping is at present carried out along with backfilling following extraction of coal on part of the site. Cesspools are emptied on request.

Over the years the public have expected improvements in the service given. In 1956 a bonus scheme was negotiated with the Union and the workmen and the collection period reduced from a 3-weekly period to about 7 working days. This was followed in 1970 by a Work Study scheme and a weekly service has been given for the past 2 years.

In the early years after the war there was great difficulty in persuading owners of property to provide dustbins. There were numerous Court cases throughout the country when different decisions were given by the Courts - in some cases it was decided that the provision of the dustbin was the responsibility of the owner of the

property and in other cases it was the tenant's responsibility. In 1950 the Council decided that dustbins should be provided to all properties by the Local Authority as a charge against the rates. We were one of the first authorities in the country to do this and I can well remember being told from the rostrum at one of the Annual Conferences, when the controversy was at its height, "You cannot do this", but we did and so have a lot of other authorities since. 512 bins were provided in the first year.

Visits of inspection : 363

STREET LIGHTING.

Street lighting in the rural district was the responsibility of the Parish Council, but in 1963 we suggested that we should take over street lighting with a view to modernising and improving the system.

The Parish Councils agreed and we provided 793 sodium lamps to replace the 470 tungsten.

The lighting on the trunk road which passed through the district was improved in the built-up area by the provision of 50 x 200W sodium lamps on 30 ft. standards and now, 8 years later, the lighting system through Measham can still stand comparison with any.

In 1969 the County Council became responsible for certain lights on highways and in 1972 this Council decided that all street lighting in the rural district be further improved with a view to all systems being adopted by the County Council and at the end of the year a tender had been accepted for the first stage of this work.

It is impossible not to feel regret that after next March the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Rural District Council will cease to exist, as such, and we shall become part of a larger entity. No doubt some members of the Council will go forward and serve on the new body and I am sure they will take with them the same desire to serve their "parishioners" on that Council as they did on the old one.

Unfortunately, the greater majority of existing Councillors will not be able to serve on this new Authority and they will no doubt view this with some dismay but I am sure they will feel that they have benefited the district by the service they have given to the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Rural District Council and will have benefited themselves by the knowledge they have gained in so doing.

An unbiased person reading this report on the Council's activities will, I think, agree that it shows that because an authority is small it does not mean that they cannot get things done and that its standards need be lower than those of a larger organisation - on the contrary, it shows that a high standard has been set and has been achieved, and is one which will bear comparison with that of any authority in the County, or, indeed, in the country.

On a personal note, may I say that I have experienced 25 happy years with the Council and I have been treated with the greatest consideration by all members of the Council. There have, of course, been many changes, two members only remaining of those who interviewed me 25 years ago - Alderman H. Wileman, who has served on the Council since 1936 and Councillor H. Blackett, who joined the Council in 1937.

Co-operation with other officers of the Council has been first class. I have been extremely fortunate with my own staff, who have been loyal, enthusiastic and energetic and the relationship with the other chief officers, the Clerk of the Council, (who arrived here in 1949), and the Accountant, (who arrived in 1950), simply could not have been improved upon. The late Dr. A.McM.W. Segerdal served as Medical Officer of Health until 1969 and was followed by Dr. Andrew Hamilton, these gentlemen acting as both adviser and friend.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C.S. CURTIS.

I N D E X.

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