#### [Report 1955] / Medical Officer of Health, Aylesbury R.D.C.

#### **Contributors**

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AYLESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH A 100CT 17 C.R. 17 Public Health Department, 43, Buckingham Street, Aylesbury, Bucks.

July, 1956

To the Chairman and Members of the RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF AYLESBURY

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,



It is my privilege to present the annual report on the health and vital statistics of the district for the year 1955.

Incorporated in the report is that of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor Mr. Cant.

The increase in the total number of infectious diseases notified during the year, as compared with last year, was largely due to an epidemic of measles. Most of the scarlet fever and whooping cough cases were nursed at home, and there was no case of diphtheria notified during the year.

Late in July a number of cases of muscular weaknessoccurred in children between the ages of 2 and 11 years, which ultimately proved to be due to anterior poliomyelitis. The epidemic continued until November, and seventeen cases were notified. With the exception of one adult, all were children between 2 and 13 years of age. All cases were treated in hospital, and there were no deaths. Supervision of after care revealed that nine of the children had recovered completely, and in five other children there was only slight residual paralysis.

The majority of the dysentery cases were notified from the St. John's Mental Hospital.

There was no case of food poisoning notified during the year.

I have much pleasure in recording my thanks to the Council, the Public Health Committee, and all members of the staff in their varied spheres of work for their grand co-operation.

> I am, Your obedient Servant,

JOHN T.C.SIMS-ROBERTS M.B., CH.B.,
M.R.C.S.
L.R.G.P.
D.P.H.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITI	ONS OF TH	E AREA
(a) Area of the District		89,613 acres
(b) Total Population (Estimated mid-195	5)	31,870
(c) Number of inhabited houses (end of 1955, according to Rate Boo	ok)	8,829
(d) Rateable Value	£	186,211
(e) Sum represented by Penny Rate	£	740
UNEMPLOYEI		
At 31st December 1954 At	31st Decem	ber 1955
16 women 27 men	34 wome 30 men	n
43	64	
	_	
VITAL STATISTIC	<u>s</u>	
Total 195		1955 Cotal M F
Live Births - Legitimate 468 25	1 217	462 228 234
	.1 8	17 9 8
Still Births - Legitimate 3 Illegitimate -	2 1	10 6 4
195	54	1955
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population 15.	h	15.0
Birth Rate (Corrected) 17. Rate per 1,000 total (live & Still)		16.6
Birth Rate for England and Wales 15.		15.3 15.0
Date of the Color	The sure	un actional
DEATHS		
1954	2	955
Total M F	Total	M F
347 184 163	342	187 155
	19	1955
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average	Mana to The	
Standardised Death Rate Death Rate for England and Wales	. 10	10.7 10.1 11.7
Deaths of infants under one year of age		
1954	1955	
	tal M F	
Legitimate 14 7 7 Illegitimate 1 - 1	7 5 2	
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age		
Legitimate 9 4 5 Illegitimate	6 5 1	

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age		
	1954	1955
All infants per 1,000 live births	30.8	14.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	29.9	15.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	52.6	Total Land
Deaths from Cancer 62		

## ANALYSIS OF DEATHS

Disease		Nu	mber of	Deaths
		Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory		1	octof bo	1
Tuberculosis, other Syphilitic Disease		2	-	2
Acute Poliowarelitie		-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	• •	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach		7	6	7.7
" lung, bronchus		12	_	13
breast			1	
" uterus		-	2	1 2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms		20	14	34
Leukaemia, aleukaemia		2	2	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system		1	2	34 4 3 55 46
Coronary disease, angine		33	22	55
Mypertension with heart disease	::	23	23	
Other heart disease	::	27	31	9 58
Other circulatory disease		3	7	10
Influenza		3 3 13	i	4
Pneumonia Bronchitis		13	100	22
Other diseases of respiratory system		10	9 5 2	15
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum		1	2	15 33 2 5 2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	• •	3	-	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	• •	7	1 2	2
Hyperplasia of prostate		3 2	2	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	• •	-	_	-
Congenital malformations		-	2	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases		11		20
Motor vehicle accidents		2	9 2	4
Suicide		2	5	7
	• •	2	1	3

# Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases

I I O Y CLASSICO OF THE PARTY O	1954		1955	
Disease	No. of Cases Notified	No. of Deaths	No. of Cases Notified	No. of Deaths
Smallpox Measles Whooping Cough Scarlet Fever Pneumonia Puerperal Pyrexia Erysipelas Diphtheria Cerebro-Spinal Meningit; Acute Anterior Poliomye Dysentery Para-Typhoid Ophthalmia Neonatorum Malaria Typhoid Food Poisoning	6 13 21 11 3 2 - is - 1itis - 7 1	27	459 27 15 19 - 17 18 - - - - - - - - - - -	22

## TUBERCULOSIS

N	lew	Case	<u>s</u>					I	Deaths		DATE OF
Age Periods		Resp	irat	ory	Non-F	espi	ratory	Res	piratory	Non-Res	spira
		М	F		M	F		M	F	M	F
0		-	-		11=	1		-	-1138	1	-
0 5 15 25 35 45 55 55		2 3	1 2		- : : =	1		-	-		100
35 45		-	-		- =	ī		- 1	1 00000	TON E	-
55		-	1		=			-	-	ī	-
not known		_					-			2	
		5	5			1		1			
		-	-	-							

#### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

#### Hospitals

Hospital accommodation for the District is provided by the Royal Bucks and Tindal General Hospitals. Infectious disease cases are admitted to the Aylesbury Isolation Hospital.

These three hospitals are administered by the Royal Bucks and Associated Hospitals Management Committee.

Cases are admitted to the Stoke Mandeville Hospital or the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, if bed space is unavailable. Similarly, infectious disease cases are admitted to infectious disease hospitals within the Oxford region when there is no accommodation locally.

#### Pathological Specimens

The majority of specimens for examination are submitted to the Pathology Laboratory, Stoke Mandeville Hospital. The services of the Public Health Laboratories at Luton and Oxford are utilised whenever necessary.

#### Ambulance Services

The ambulance services in the area are the responsibility of the Bucks County Council. Six ambulances are stationed in the Borough of Aylesbury for the use of the town and surrounding district, and 1 utilicon and 4 sitting cars.

#### Maternity and Child Welfare

This service is controlled by the Bucks County Council.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at Aylesbury, Brill, Long Crendon,
Waddesdon, Quainton, Cuddington, Haddenham, Wendover, Whitchurch,
Worminghall, Aston Clinton, Dinton, Halton, Stone, Grendon Underwood,
and Westcott.

#### Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation.

The Bucks County Council, being the Local Health Authority as defined by the National Health Service Act, 1946, administer this service.

#### Treatment of Venereal Disease

A venereal disease clinic is held regularly at the Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury, where free treatment is given. This clinic is administered by the Royal Bucks and Associated Hospitals Management Committee.

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#### AYLESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department, Council Offices, 43, Buckingham Street, Aylesbury, Bucks.

August, 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of the RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF AYLESBURY

#### MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I have the honour to report on the work of the Inspector's branch of the Department for the year 1955.

#### HOUSING

The preparation of the Council's programme for slum clearance was completed and submitted for approval in June.

The final figure submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government being 314 properties.

Subject to the Council being given permission to build sufficient new houses the probable rate of re-housing was given as:-

				Fan	ilies :	rehoused
Year	to	August	1956		20	
11	11	H	1957		40	
- 11	11	11	1958		70	
11	17	11	1959		100	
11	H	II.	1960		100	
				Total	330	
						-

At a special meeting to investigate the need for additional staff in the Department, it was decided to appoint a temporary Sanitary Inspector to assist in the inspection of properties to be included in the slum clearance programme. The transfer of Mr. F. Lee from the Housing Department for this work was subsequently approved, but his services were not available before the end of the year.

The information asked for in Circular 28/54 is given below:—
The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation (excluding Survey for 5 year programme) ... 12

The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... 21

The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to (a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works or (b) the making of demolition or closing orders ... 8

The number of formal notices served requiring the execution of works	3
The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	17
The number of demolition or closing orders made	14
The number of houses in respect of which an Undertaking was accepted under subsection (2) of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	-
The number of houses demolished	. 3

## Improvement Grants

A further increase occurred in the number of applications received, the total for the year being 72. Of these, 7 were refused and 2 not proceeded with or withdrawn. Grants approved during the year amounted to £13,864.9s.3d. The properties were visited by your Sub-Committee prior to consideration of the applications by the full Committee.

Applicants for Grants are encouraged to discuss their proposals with your Inspectors, before submitting an application, and as a further aid some Notes have been prepared for issue with the official leaflet.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954
One Certificate of Disrepair was issued during the year.

## WATER SUPPLY

Mains water supplied by the Bucks Water Board is available in every village with the exception of the major part of Lower Winchendon.

A small extension along the Oving Road, Whitchurch was made possible by a grant of £75 from the Council.

Consideration was given to a proposed extension to Sedrup Green, involving an expenditure of £550, but agreement on contributions from various parties could not be reached, and no action had been taken by the end of the year.

A 40 yards extension at Ickford was made possible, this ensured a supply to 2 properties and possibly to 3 more at a later date.

At Woodham a main extension was finally carried out at the Woodham Brick Company's expense to supply their new houses. This enabled a service to be taken to the Station House where conditions had been causing concern for a long time past. Although this extension was finally carried out without a grant from the Council it was proceded by considerable negotiations between your Officers the Water Board, the Woodham Brick Company and the Railway Executive

No. of Houses in Rural District No. of Houses with piped water supply No. of Houses without piped water supply

325

#### FOOD INSPECTION

#### Slaughterhouses

There are seven private slaughterhouses licensed in the Rural District.

I am pleased to be able to report that your Officers have maintained a 100% inspection of all meat slaughtered. As the premises are widely scattered, these inspections involve a considerable amount of travelling, but in spite of this, no complaints of delay have been received from the trade.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

Carcases and C	ITal inspe	ected a	na conae	mned in	wnole	or in p	ert
	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses	
Number killed	223	64	40	992	929	-	
Number inspected	223	64	40	992	929	-	
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci							
Whole carcases condemned	- 17	-	1	1	2	-	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemmed	27	000		18	19		
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis							
and cysticerci	12.11	-	2.5	1.92	2.26	-	
Tuberculosis only		2544	destruction	20, 01B	le i ma	ali .	
Whole carcases condemned	1	-	organis a		refree ov of	To be	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	7	4			32	A	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	3.59	6.25	6134 m	-	3.44	-	
Cysticercosis		MORE &		0201029	NEW I		
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Sur or of	o co o o					
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration		1 9513	er byron	1 67 A		ic ii su	
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	-		The state of the s			The second second second	-

Number of visits to slaughterhouses	 • • •	563
Total number of carcases inspected	 2	2,248
Total weight of meat condemned	 :	2,179 lbs.
No. of licensed slaughtermen	 	18

#### Other Foods

New registrations for sale of Ice Cream were approved for 7 premises. In each case the Ice Cream being pre-packed.

The licences for sale of Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised and Sterilized milk issued during the year were as follows:-

## Dealer's Licences: -

Tuberculin Tested	 	15
Pasteurised	 • • •	15
a a Tierran		

## Supplementary Licences: --

Tuberculin Te	sted	 	10
Pasteurised		 	10
Sterilized		 	1

Action had to be taken concerning very unsatisfactory condition at a bakery towards the end of the year. The occupier being given a final notice to effect the necessary improvements in both premise and methods, before taking the case to Court.

One licence to deal in game was issued.

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

## Hardwick and Weedon Scheme

Negotiations for the purchase of the disposal site failed during the year, and a Compulsory Purchase Order was made.

A Public Inquiry into the Scheme and the Compulsory Purchase Order was held on 11th October, 1955 the result of which was still awaiting at the end of the year.

## Quainton Scheme

The major part of this Scheme was completed and the new works were in operation at the end of the year. The pumping section near Quainton Station had not been taken over.

Special consideration was given to the question of properties to be included in the slum clearance programme. After inspection by a small Sub-Committee it was agreed to exclude such properties from those due to receive notice that the scavenging service would be discontinued.

#### Aston Clinton, Weston Turville & Buckland Joint Disposal Works

The Council agreed to give the proposed extension to these works some priority in their programme as the work was now urgently necessary in view of the increased flow at Broughton Pumping Station and the Disposal Site.

#### Wendover Disposal Works

The Consulting Engineers were asked to report on these Works and the necessary extension to deal with the greatly increased flow at this site.

#### Grendon Underwood Scheme

The proposed sewerage scheme for Grendon Underwood was adopted, the estimated cost being £25,800. County Council approval was received, but the Public Inquiry had not been held by the end of the year.

#### Oakley Scheme

The Council's Consulting Engineers prepared the final scheme for Oakley and this was adopted in October and submitted to the Ministry. The estimated cost is £31,000.

#### Westcott Scheme

The scheme to drain Westcott Village and connect to the R.P.D. sewers for treatment at their disposal plant was adopted at an estimated cost of £8,200, and submitted to the Ministry. This scheme, though small, is of very considerable importance to the Council, owing to its effect on our labour problem.

#### Long Crendon Scheme

Amendments were made to the proposed scheme for the Lower End at Long Crendon, and a new site for the Pumping Station was under investigation at the end of the year.

### Cuddington and Lower Winchendon Scheme

The Council decided to consider a Joint Scheme for these two parishes, and the Consulting Engineers were instructed to prepare the necessary details later in the year.

#### Dinton Scheme

The possibilities of a gravitational scheme instead of pumping to Stone Works were investigated, but in October it was decided to go ahead with the original pumping scheme, and revised estimates were called for.

#### Chilton Scheme

To deal with the problem of drainage from the School and Council Houses at Chilton an Interim Scheme (forming part of the whole) was prepared at an estimated cost of £3,020, but no progress had been made at the end of the year.

#### Maintenance Works &c

The following maintenance works, and extensions were carried out or completed during the year under review:-

Wendover Sewage Works.

Conversion of sand filters to humus tanks.

Upper Winchendon, Wm. Neary Council Houses.

Upper Winchendon, Old Council Houses.

Waddesdon Sewage Works.

Whitchurch Sewerage.

Haddenham Sewerage.

Section of future sewer to form overflow from this site £350.10s.

Drainage overflow £249.10s.0d.

Additional Humus Tanks £1,174.13 New diesel sludge pump motor £67

Extension of sewer, Oving Road, £284.178.0d.

Overhaul of Pumps after 20 years' operation £139.10s.0d.

In addition details had been prepared for the following proposed works :-

Brae Hill Housing Site. Stoneview Council Houses, Oving.

Pumping Station and rising main.

Overflow drain and Disposal Site (Broad irrigation).

Works on new private housing sites at Wendover involved supervision of extensions of the sewerage system amounting to 1,130 feet of 9" sewer and 722 feet of 6".

## PUBLIC CLEANSING

I am pleased to report that despite the ever present labour problem, refuse collection was again well maintained, although all machines, including the reserve Side Loader, were fully engaged, and a fair amount of overtime had to be worked. By these means complaints were kept to the minimum, although at holiday times the loss of a day or two was very difficult to make up, and at these periods some inquiries were received from householders fearing they had been missed.

During the twelve months, absences due to both illness and holidays among all the men on refuse collection, cesspool emptying and sewage disposal sites totalled 939 man-days, equivalent to nearly 3 men through the whole of the year.

The time sheets show that the 3 Paxits and one 10 cu.yd Side Loader travelled 36,781 miles during the year, taking 1,518 loads to the Tip at Hartwell.

Returns of costs of Refuse Collection and Disposal in certain Borough and Urban Authorities are published officially each year, and in response to many requests, arrangements are now being made to include Rural Districts. At the time of writing I have the figures for this district for 1955/6 which I think are highly satisfactory in view of the distances to be travelled. The following is an extract:-

Total weight of refuse collected 5,886 tons.
Weight per 1,000 population per day 10.1 cwts.
Nett cost per 1,000 population 8 393
Nett cost per 1,000 premises £1,471

#### Hartwell Refuse Disposal Site.

On the Tip the Chaseside, with only one man, continued to cope with all the work in a very satisfactory manner. During the year it became necessary to plan the filling of 3 more water filled pits. An overflow drain was laid from the pits to the stream which effected a considerable lowering of the general water level over the whole area. The assistance of the Fire Service was enlisted and most of the water was pumped from the 3 pits after they had been severed from the main body by an embankment of soil. From this point everything that came in was put into the pits, and although the depth and looseness of the refuse made the handling of the Chaseside very difficult, the work was satisfactorily and safely accomplished by the driver Mr. R. Parker. This operation demonstrated the value of a capable and confident operator on such a machine.

The major part of the old refuse tip at Haddenham was levelled and consolidated with a hired bulldozer, and some new mud lagoons excavated at the same time for use by the cesspool emptiers. It is hoped to complete the levelling of this area during 1956.

The disused pits at Kingswood Lane became available for use and some refuse from the western end of the district was tipped there to avoid the long haul back to Hartwell with the midday loads.

#### Salvage.

Owing to shortage of labour and lack of storage facilities little could be done in connection with waste paper recover, although the volume of paper on the tip added considerably to the work and problems of disposal. A total of £133.12s.6d. was received for salvaged paper during the year.

#### Dustbin Hire Service

This service introduced late in 1954 expanded steadily during 1955. At 31st. December 850 bins had been delivered.

#### Cosspool and Pail Emptying Service.

The five cesspool emptying vehicles operating this service removed 6,477 loads of sewage, and dealt with the weekly cleansing of approximately 1,200 pail closets. Mileage for the year totalled 51,634. The difficulty in finding tips for disposing of cesspool contents continues. A few sites at convenient points would save much wasteful travelling time, and permit increased service to be given. One or two farmers whose help is greatly appreciated, provide very welcome opportunity for disposal on theiland, but facilities are badly needed in the following parishes:-Wendover, Aston Clinton, Broughton, Hardwick, Dinton, Stone, Chearsley and Oakley.

#### Costs.

The total expenditure on pail closet and cesspool emptying amounted to £8,312.17s.3d. for the year.

With the help of the Finance Department I have been able to make some comparison of costs between the pre-war period and the present time.

In 1936 pail emptying was carried out in the restricted area of one parish at an average cost of 2.06d. per pail. Today the service extends over a wide area entailing considerable travelling apart from the other obvious increases. I therefore feel that the current figure of 7.92d. is quite satisfactory.

The average cost of removing a load of sewage today is £1. In 1936 it was approximately 5/-.

#### Special Work

A limited amount of special work by Cesspool Emptiers is undertaken at a set scale of charges. Income during 1955 amounts to £137.7s.0d.

#### Vehicle Depot

Further consideration was given to securing adequate accommodation for the vehicles stationed at Hartwell. It was finally decided to prepare plans for a depot on the Disposal Site after agreement had been reached on extension of the Council's Lease. The old buildings were broken into on a number of occasion and although damage was done, the vehicles were fortunately not affected. It is to be hoped that next year the safe and adequate housing of these vehicles can be reported.

#### NEW BUILDINGS

During the year 575 plans were received, examined and reported upon.

These are summarised below:-

## Building Byelaws - Town & Country Planning Act

#### Dwelling Houses 85 for 217 houses Nev 2 for 197 houses Layout plans Outline applications 99 Conversions 8 Alterations and Additions 90 No. of Frivate Enterprise Dwellinghouses completed 113 Industrial New Factories and Workshops 1

Alterations and Additions
to Factories and Workshops 5
Outline applications 3

Miscellaneous

Agricultural Buildings 25
Private Garages 79
Caravans 18
Others 46

The visits recorded in the summary at the end of this report gives some indication of the time required to deal with the inspection of new building work.

During the year 220 houses were completed. Of this number 107 were Council Houses, bringing the Council's Post-war total to 1,203.

#### PETROLEUM STORAGE

A total of 82 Licences to store petroleum were issued during the year.

#### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

Inspections and treatment of premises under this Act is carried out by one operator. The service is free in the case of private houses, but where treatment is undertaken at business premises a small charge is made.

VISITS AND INSPICTIONS	
	1955
New Buildings	1,162
Dangerous Buildings	6
Ditches	15
Drain Tests	259
Drainage	570
Factories	7
Food Premises and Food Inspection	88
Housing Act, 1936	285
Improvement Grants, Housing Act, 1949	490
Infestation and Infectious Disease	5
Levelling	27
Milk Regulations	18
Miscellaneous	1.69
Movable Dwellings	33
Nuisances ··· ··· ···	54
Petroleum Acts	24
Public Health Act	138
Refuse Collection and Scavenging	175
Rodent Control	652
Sanitary Surveys	2
Sewage Works	232
Sewerage ··· ··· ···	258
Slaughterhouses	563
Water Supply	43

## STAFF

Water Samples

In March the General Purposes Committee of the Council considered the need for additional staff in the Department. It was decided to appoint one additional Sanitary Inspector to the permanent staff, and one temporary Inspector to assist in the inspection of properties in the slum clearance programme.

Mr. M. A. Belton was appointed to the permanent position, moving here from Banbury in October.

The transfer of Mr. F. Lee from the Housing Department for the temporary appointment was approved, but had not taken place at the end of the year.

Mr. A. Simpson, Junior Clerk, left the service of the Council in May. This vacancy was filled by Mr. G. Jennings.

Finally I would like to express my appreciation of the help and assistance given me by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and also of the loyal co-operation of the staff of the Department.

Your Obedient Servant,

R. A. CANT Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.