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AYLESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR1971OF THEMEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTHAND THECHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

DR. A. W. PRINGLE, B.A., M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

DR. G. SLOCOMBE, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

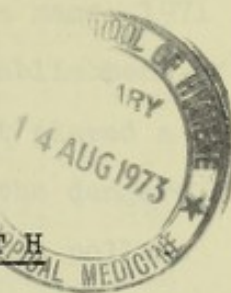
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

R.A.CANT, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., M.S.E.

DEPUTY CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

D.C.MULLEY, M.A.P.H.I.

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AYLESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR

1971

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

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DR. G. SLOOMER, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

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R. A. GALT, M.A.P.H.I., M.B.S.H., M.S.B.

DEPUTY CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

D. C. MULLIX, M.A.P.H.I.

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AYLESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

DR. A.W. PRINGLE
B.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

84, WALTON STREET,
AYLESBURY,
BUCKS.

June, 1972

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

If, like the Chinese, one wanted to give a year a name, 1971 might be called the Year of the Environment. The establishment of a Ministry specifically concerned with the environment played a considerable part in drawing everyone's attention to the dangers of allowing industrial waste of all sorts to continue to pollute our land, sea and air, and led to a general assessment of the value to the quality of our lives of maintaining a healthy and pleasant environment. This is no easy task because of the conflicting interests involved, but clearly there was a new determination to strike a balance between an advancing technology, with its prospects of increasing wealth, and the natural expectation of a safe environment. These two objectives are not incompatible provided a strong line is taken and there are encouraging signs that this is the intention. No cases of dumping of dangerous industrial waste were reported in the District during the year, although other waste has been all too frequently dumped in ditches and other unauthorised places. There are several local industries which cause nuisance from time to time due to non-toxic atmospheric pollution, but these have been in the locality for many years and are conscious of the need to reduce pollution by any available means. They serve as a reminder, if any is needed, that once an industry with potential for the production of nuisances becomes established it is very often a slow and difficult business to achieve abatement.

AYLESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Last year in my Report I wrote about the uncertainties which existed about the future structure of an integrated National Health Service, and the role which the present Public Health Service would be required to perform within it. Since then the way ahead has become only a little clearer and planning is still more in the nature of a theoretical exercise than a practical possibility. The last of four Government Papers is expected this summer, which will allow something under two years to bring about the radical changes required if the service is to be ready to function on 1st April, 1974. However, I have no doubt that it can be done, but it will require a period of intensive administrative work lasting considerably after 1974, and the greatest care will have to be taken that patient care in no way suffers while the new order is being established. In June, 1971, I submitted a paper to the Committee outlining how I visualised the relationship between the Area Health Board and the newly constituted Local Authorities might develop locally, and at the time of writing there is nothing which I could usefully add to it. The report of the Working Party on Collaboration, established by the Minister, is expected to be available in the first half of 1972, and should give some useful pointers.

Vital Statistics

There were no very remarkable features in the vital statistics for 1971. The birth rate rose slightly compared with the previous year and was marginally above that for England and Wales. It has, however, in common with the national birth rate, shown a steady decline over the past 10 years. For example, 10 years ago the local rate was 20.8 (16.6 in 1971) and the national rate was 17.4 (16.0 in 1971). If the decline continues some of the national population forecasts made earlier in the last decade will have to be modified. It has been pointed out that it will only take a further small decline and there will be no natural population increase. This, of course, applies to the country as a whole without taking into consideration regional variations in the birth rate.

The infant mortality rate based on 9 deaths within the first year of life was raised compared with the exceptionally low figure for the previous year. The rate was still below that for England and Wales. An analysis of the causes of death showed that with one exception deaths were due to prematurity or severe congenital abnormalities and the infants concerned only survived for a matter of hours or days. The one exception was a child aged 4 months who died of bronchopneumonia, probably of virus origin. This is a worrying infection in infancy because of the rapid onset of symptoms and deterioration which may take place within a few hours.

It is good to report that once again there were no maternal deaths in the District.

Tuberculosis

Only one new case of respiratory tuberculosis was notified. This is encouraging but like the old saying "One swallow does not make a summer", it would be more realistic to regard this as an exceptionally low figure which is unlikely to be repeated next year. A better appreciation of the situation can be obtained by studying the figures over the last 10 years which have remained at a uniformly low level but nevertheless show no evidence that complete eradication of the disease is at hand in spite of vaccination of school children, effective treatment and contact tracing. The mobile X-Ray Unit was able to make special visits to some local factories and institutions but no new cases were found.

Venereal Disease

Figures obtained from the special clinic at the Royal Bucks Hospital show that there were fewer cases attending with venereal disease than the previous year. For the second year in succession no new cases of syphilis attended the Clinic, and looking back over the last ten years this disease shows a steady decline locally. The number of new cases of gonorrhoea was 14, and non-specific urethritis 64. It is interesting to note that 41 other people consulted the specialist and were found not to be suffering from venereal conditions.

Your Public Health Inspectors made visits to food shops and restaurants, to farms where cattle were known to be infected with salmonellae, to homes of people who had been in contact with infectious diseases and to follow up complaints about allegedly infected food. In these spheres of activity it was of interest to read their reports and where necessary advise on the course investigations should take. So often in this kind of preventive work it is not possible to put a finger on any particular incident and say with confidence that the action taken has prevented others from becoming infected but some satisfaction can be gained from the lack of outbreaks of food poisoning and other intestinal infections in the District.

In July the Spanish Authorities admitted that there were 7 cases of cholera in villages near Zaragosa but it seems possible that the outbreak was more widespread. Two cases who had been on holiday in Spain subsequently developed symptoms on return to this Country and were confirmed by laboratory tests. General Practitioners in the area were alerted and asked to notify any suspicious cases by telephone but no further action was necessary. The front line of defence against the spread of cholera has been, and will be for the foreseeable future, sound systems for the conveyance and disposal of sewage. From this point of view alone the Council's special attention to improvements and extensions of sewage systems in the District are to be welcomed.

A glance at the table showing prevalence of infectious diseases will show that there was a dramatic fall in the number of measles notifications as compared with the previous year. However, the response to measles vaccination has not been as satisfactory as one would hope, mainly, I believe, because of the slight febrile reaction which occurs in some cases a few days after vaccination. It is very short-sighted not to have children vaccinated because of the possibility that they may suffer a mild indisposition when a quite serious illness could be avoided later. Until such time as a sufficiently high general level of immunity can be achieved it can be expected that limited outbreaks of the disease will continue.

There were two cases of typhoid fever in the Wycombe Rural District in September, which gave rise to some publicity and are mentioned here because a family contact obtained employment as a ward orderly in a local hospital before the first case was diagnosed. A thorough investigation followed and until it was possible to clear him and his hospital contacts several wards had to be isolated, causing some unavoidable inconvenience to the patients.

Drug Dependence

The Committee continued to meet and discuss ways of assessing and preventing drug abuse. One concrete and worthwhile achievement was a general agreement reached with local pharmacists and medical practitioners that amphetamine drugs would no longer be held in stock locally. A pilot scheme for obtaining information on the number of incidents of drug abuse was put into operation, and may prove worth applying generally. At their request a successful course on drugs was held for school teachers in Aylesbury in September. The so-called soft drugs constitute the main problem in this area, and the Committee did not have any evidence that there was an increase in their use during the year.

Health Centres

Although it does not come strictly within the terms of this Report it will be of general interest to note that the Haddenham Health Centre was nearing completion at the end of the year. Government approval was obtained for the construction of a Health Centre on a site on Aylesbury Road, Wendover in November, 1971 and it is confidently expected that it will be ready for occupation early in 1973. The General Practitioners concerned have participated in the planning of these Centres from the start so that their combined use with Local Authority services should not give rise to any difficulties on either side. The construction of further Health Centres in the District will almost certainly be the concern of the Area Health Board.

Medical Students

I had the pleasure of welcoming and talking to a total of 12 medical students at different times throughout the year. These students had elected to spend two weeks during their final year learning about Local Authority Health Services, and I was glad to have the opportunity of showing them something of the environmental health services in the District. It is very encouraging to see that an increasing number of students are sufficiently interested in preventive medical services to give up two weeks during a busy year to study them in practice.

Another successful course on food hygiene for those engaged in the food industry was held at the Aylesbury College of Further Education. Nineteen people passed the Certificate Examination of the Royal Institute of Public Health & Hygiene at the end of the Spring term 1971. It should be recorded that Miss M. Blears, Head of the Department of Catering, Fashion and Home Management, at the College, has been responsible for the organisation of these courses which have made a valuable contribution to maintaining the standard of food hygiene in the area. Those of us who contribute by lecturing consider our time well spent.

I would like to thank the members of the Committee for their continued advice and support throughout the year, my Deputy, Dr. Slocombe, the Chief Public Health Inspector, and the staff of the Public Health Department for their willing co-operation at all times.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. W. PRINGLE,

B.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

(a)	Area of the District.....	89,307 acres
(b)	Total Population (estimated mid-1971).....	38,740
(c)	Number of inhabited houses (end of 1971) according to Rate Book....	12,360
(d)	Rateable Value.....	£1,447,442
(e)	Sum represented by a Penny Rate (new pence).....	£14,220

VITAL STATISTICS

	1970			1971		
	Total	M	F	Total	M	F
Live Births - Legitimate	537	253	284	586	329	257
Illegitimate	35	15	20	38	15	23
Live birth rate per 1,000 population		15.0			16.1	
Birth rate (corrected)		15.5			16.6	
Birth rate for England & Wales		16.0			16.0	
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births		6.0			6.0	
<u>Still Births</u>						
Number	5	4	1	11	7	4
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births		9.0			17.0	
Total live and still births	577	305	272	635	351	284

DEATHS

	1970			1971		
	Total	M	F	Total	M	F
	395	209	186	376	186	190
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population.....		10.3			9.7	
Standardised Death Rate.....		9.9			9.3	
Death Rate for England and Wales.....		11.7			11.6	
<u>Infant Deaths</u>						
Number	5	4	1	9	7	2
<u>Infant mortality rates:</u>						
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births		9.0			14.0	
- do - Legitimate		9.0			15.0	
- do - Illegitimate		-			-	
Infant mortality rate for England & Wales		18.0			18.0	
<u>Neo-Natal mortality rate:</u>						
(Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)						
Number	3	3	0	8	7	1
Rate		5.0			13.0	

	1970			1971		
	Total	M	F	Total	M	F
<u>Early Neo-Natal mortality:</u>						
(Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)						
Number	2	2	-	7	6	1
Rate		3.0			11.0	
<u>Perinatal mortality:</u>						
(Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)						
Number	7	6	1	18	13	5
Rate		12.0			28.0	

DEATHS FROM CANCER (all ages)	74
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ANALYSIS OF DEATHS

<u>Disease</u>	<u>1971</u>		
	<u>Number of</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases ...	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity etc. ...	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus ...	2	1	3
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	4	4	8
Malignant neoplasm, intestine ...	5	7	12
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	14	7	21
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	-	5	5
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	-	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, prostate ...	1	-	1
Other malignant neoplasms ...	7	17	24
Diabetes mellitus ...	-	1	1
Other endocrine etc., diseases ...	2	-	2
Anaemias ...	-	1	1
Mental disorders ...	1	4	5
Other diseases of nervous system ...	3	2	5
Chronic rheumatic heart disease ...	-	2	2
Hypertensive disease ...	4	2	6
Ischaemic heart disease ...	48	37	85
Other forms of heart disease ...	7	11	18
Cerebrovascular disease ...	19	28	47
Other diseases of circulatory system ...	10	8	18
Pneumonia ...	13	26	39
Bronchitis and emphysema ...	10	2	12
Asthma ...	-	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	5	2	7
Peptic ulcer ...	5	1	6
Intestinal obstruction and hernia ...	1	-	1
Cirrhosis of liver ...	1	1	2
Other diseases of digestive system ...	2	1	3
Nephritis and nephrosis ...	-	2	2
Other diseases, genito-urinary system ...	1	1	2
Diseases of skin, subcutaneous tissue ...	-	1	1
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system ...	2	2	4
Congenital anomalies ...	5	1	6
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc. ...	1	1	2
Other causes of perinatal mortality ...	3	-	3
Symptoms and ill defined conditions ...	1	-	1
Motor vehicle accidents ...	3	1	4
All other accidents ...	7	4	11
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries ...	2	1	3
All other external causes ...	-	1	1
	<u>186</u>	<u>190</u>	<u>376</u>

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES:

	1970		1971	
	No. of Cases Notified	No. of Deaths	No. of Cases Notified	No. of Deaths
Measles	187	-	7	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	6	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	49	-	39
Acute Meningitis	1	-	1	-
Dysentery	-	1	-	-
Food Poisoning	7	-	2	-
Infective Jaundice	3	-	1	-
Leptospirosis	1	-	-	-
	<u>199</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>39</u>

TUBERCULOSIS

1 9 7 1

Age Periods	New Cases Notified				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
75 +	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>1</u>							

Hospitals:

The Hospitals serving the District are the Royal Bucks, Tindal General, Stoke Mandeville and St. John's Hospital, Stone. Infectious disease cases are admitted to the Aylesbury Isolation Hospital which is attached to Stoke Mandeville Hospital and the Grove Hospital. Linslade is available for the admission of cases of smallpox at short notice.

Accident cases are taken to the Accident Department at the Royal Bucks Hospital.

St. John's Hospital Stone admits psychiatric patients from a wide area and facilities provided for treatment have been progressively expanded over the years.

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

The Sir Henry Floyd Auditorium at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, since its opening in 1969, has become an important centre for post graduate medical and para-medical education. Regular meetings for all branches of the health service were held in these very pleasant surroundings throughout the year.

Pathology Laboratory, Stoke Mandeville.

Routine samples of milk, water and other specimens requiring bacteriological examination were sent to this laboratory throughout the year. Reports were received with the minimum of delay, and the help and advice given by the Medical Director were much appreciated.

Ambulance Services

These are provided by the Bucks County Council and are under the direction of the County Medical Officer. Ten ambulances, six dual purpose vehicles, and one ambulance/sitting/wheelchair purpose built vehicle with hydraulic tail lift are available at the Ambulance Headquarters, Buckingham Road, for use in the Borough and surrounding Districts. There is two-way radio link between all vehicles and Headquarters. The majority of long distance journeys are carried out by train, stretcher cases being accommodated in reserved compartments.

Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough, Measles and German Measles Immunisation, and Smallpox and Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

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

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.

Child Health Clinics

<u>Fixed Centres:</u>	<u>Sessions</u>	<u>Total number of children attending</u>	<u>Doctor attends</u>
Aston Clinton	1st & 3rd Friday	84	3rd Friday
Brill	3rd Friday	51	Each session
Grendon Underwood	2nd Monday	60	Each session
Haddenham	2nd & 4th Thursday	136	-
Long Crendon	2nd & 4th Thursday	136	2nd Thursday
Quainton	1st Tuesday	80	Each session
Stone	4th Tuesday	71	Each session
Waddesdon	3rd Tuesday	89	Each session
Wendover	Each Monday	436	Each session
Weston Turville	3rd Thursday	58	Each session
Whitchurch	4th Friday	70	Each session
Halton	2nd & 4th Tuesday	112	-

Mobile Health Clinics

Bierton	1st Tuesday	33	Each session
Cuddington	1st Monday	20	Each session
Chearsley		27	Each session
Dinton		18	Each session
Shabbington	3rd Thursday	14	Each session
Ickford	3rd Thursday	14	Each session
Worminghall	3rd Thursday	13	Each session
Oakley	3rd Thursday	31	Each session

Children attending during 1971

Total number of children attending
during the year:-

Child Health Clinics 1383

Mobile Child Health Clinics.. 170

1553

Child Health Clinics (Cont'd).....

There has been a change in emphasis in examinations carried out at these Clinics. Whereas in the past they were directed towards revealing physical defects and nutritional faults only, they are now equally concerned with the child's developmental progress. The children are seen, if possible, soon after birth and thereafter periodically to compare their progress with developmental norms for their age. Early methods of testing vision, hearing and other senses have been devised by Dr. Mary Sheridan and others, and these are also applied with a view to detection and treatment of defects as early as possible. Closer ties with the hospital paediatric department have been developed so that, after consultation with the child's general practitioner, specialist advice can be easily obtained. The usual range of child immunisations, including more recently measles, are carried out at the Clinics.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors) :-

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.....	8	2	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.....	52	2	2	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	37	3	-	-
Total	97	7	-	-

PART VIII

(Sections 133 and 134)

OUTWORK

There are 16 outworkers registered in the District engaged in the making of wearing apparel. The premises in which the work is carried out have been inspected and found to be satisfactory in accordance with conditions laid down in the Act.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including

inspections made by Public Health Inspectors) :-

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 are to be enforced by local Authority.....	22	2	2	-
(11) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local Authority.....	37	3	-	-
(11A) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	97	7	-	-
Total	97	7	-	-

PART VIII

(Sections 133 and 134)

OUTWORK

There are 16 outworkers registered in the District engaged in the making of wearing apparel. The premises in which the work is carried out have been inspected and found to be satisfactory in accordance with conditions laid down in the Act.

AYLESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH & SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT

R. A. CANT, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., M.S.E.
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
& SURVEYOR

DEPUTY
D. C. MULLEY, M.A.P.H.I.

Telephone: AYLESBURY 4211 (Three lines)

84, WALTON STREET,
AYLESBURY,
BUCKS.

June, 1972.

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

In submitting my report on the work of the Inspectors' branch of the Department for the year 1971 I must refer to the changes effected in the duties and responsibilities. During the year Mr. W.A. Mather was appointed Engineer to the Council, taking over responsibility for existing Sewage Disposal and Sewerage schemes and also for preparation and introduction of new systems. This changed a close association extending over 25 years. I take this opportunity of recording my deep appreciation of the invaluable support and assistance he has given me during that time, particularly whilst acting as my Deputy over the last 17 years.

H O U S I N G

The Housing Act, 1969 was intended to induce greater activity in repair, improvement and renovation of existing properties. In my last report I referred to the considerable increase in Improvement Grant applications for 1970. This increase was maintained during 1971 though not at quite such a high level. Nevertheless, 141 applications represent a considerable degree of activity as members associated with the special Sub-Committee will appreciate. The figures given below show that approvals have been issued affecting over 1,400 properties since Grants were introduced, a quite significant proportion of the older private properties in the District.

Housing (Cont'd).....

It can fairly be said that the beneficial effect of this work is now being reflected in the general appearance of localities as well as in the individual properties.

In July, Circular 46/71 was issued urging local authorities to exercise their discretion freely; to ensure that administration did not delay decisions; and cancelling any restrictive advice contained in Circulars prior to 64/69. It was felt that the Council's procedure for dealing with applications already met the requirements set out in the Circular and no variation was necessary.

Whilst a small proportion of unfit houses fall to be dealt with each year, I consider there is no slum clearance problem as such in this Rural District.

In two instances Compulsory Improvement Notices were served, but these were isolated cases.

Applications for Qualification Certificates are still limited and no problems or disputes have arisen in dealing with those received. These certificates verify the standard of repair and availability of amenities, and are required when owners seek to make adjustments in rents.

No. of applications received (a) under Section 44(1) = 20

(b) " " 44(2) = 2

No. of certificates of provisional approval issued = 2

No. of qualification certificates issued:

(a) under Section 46(3) = 2

(b) " " 45(2) = 8

No. of applications refused - under Section 45(2) = 9

Repairs and Demolition:

77 properties were repaired as a result of formal and informal action during the year.

12 properties were represented as incapable of repair at reasonable expense and the appropriate notices were issued. As a result of these and earlier representations, 6 Demolition Orders and 10 Closing Orders were made, and 8 Undertakings to repair were accepted.

8 Demolition Orders and 11 Closing Orders were cancelled after satisfactory completion of reconditioning works.

5 properties were demolished.

Improvement Grants:

The number of applications shows an increase compared with last year from 118 to 141. Approvals were given to 113 Improvement and 20 Standard Grants. 8 Improvement Grants were refused.

Grants, Improvement and Standard, actually paid during the year for completed works totalled £49,089.

The total figures, since the introduction of grants, up to 31st December, 1971 are as follows:-

Improvement Grants:

No. of Grants on Council property.	...	...	...	3
No. of private properties covered by applications received.	...	...	...	961
No. approved.	...	...	...	877
No. refused	...	...	...	68
No. withdrawn	...	...	...	16
				<u>961</u>

Grants paid during the year. £46,828

Standard Grants:

Total number of applications received to date ... 459

Grants actually paid during the year for completed Standard Grant works totalled £2,261 in respect of 14 properties, of which 3 were Higher Limit Grants providing, in addition to the 5 standard amenities, 3 bathrooms.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

As previously indicated the provision and maintenance of these services now comes under the control of the Engineer. The availability of schemes however still involves the Department when properties are connected to the new systems. Drainage systems have to be altered and in some cases completely renewed. There is also the conversion of pail closets to W.C's involving grants in addition to the constructional details.

For the record I list developments in this field during 1971.

Disposal system for Honeybidge Council Houses,						
Boarstall...	...	...	...	...	...	- Completed.
Haddenham Sewage Works & Pressing Plant	...					- Completed.
Stone Sewage Works Reconstruction...	...	...				- Completed.
Quainton Pumping Main...	...	...	...	...		- Part relaid.
Waddesdon Sewage Works Approach Road	...	...				- Renewed.
Cleaving of certain sewers by jetting.						
Stone Regional Scheme...	...	...	...	...	...	- In progress.
Chearsley Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	- Commenced in November.
Ludgershall Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	- Commenced in November.

Preparations were also being made for schemes in other parishes.

Public Conveniences:

New Public Conveniences were opened at Wendover during the year, the old premises closed and finally demolished.

Provision of such facilities at Haddenham was under consideration where a site had been agreed.

Refuse Collection:

The routine collection service operated effectively, though at times availability of drivers presented problems. Preparations were made for the training and testing of drivers to enable those without the basic qualifications to apply for licences to drive Heavy Goods Vehicles. A general purpose vehicle was introduced to deal with collections of large refuse and maintenance of laybys. The demand which led to the introduction of this vehicle has increased during the year and continues to do so. It is almost certain that yet further provision may have to be made in this section of the service to deal with the requests being received.

A report was prepared for a Street Sweeping and Cleansing Scheme, but after consideration the Council decided against extending the limited operations at present confined to the Parish of Wendover.

The dumping of litter and rubbish though not fortunately widespread in this area, is very troublesome in one or two particular locations. In conjunction with the Police a number of prosecutions have been taken when evidence has been available.

Refuse Disposal:

The deliberations in conjunction with the Aylesbury Borough Council concerning methods of refuse disposal continued. It was ultimately decided not to pursue the question of incineration but to investigate proposals for bulk transfer and disposal by contract. Tentative arrangements were approved with a firm of Disposal Contractors but these had not been finalised at the end of the year.

It had become necessary however to terminate general tipping at Hartwell and arrangements were made for an interim scheme of bulk transfer by a local haulage contractor to complete the filling of the small tip at Kingswood and then continue in conjunction with the Aylesbury Borough Council to tip at the site used by that

Refuse Disposal: continued.

Authority at the Calvert Pits of the London Brick Company. Whilst this arrangement was something of an improvisation, it has operated efficiently and successfully. It is also gratifying to note that in present circumstances the cost is quite economical.

The tip at Kingswood was ultimately covered and prepared for sale.

Application was received for licence to use the former Woodham Brickworks site for refuse disposal. This was approved with suitable conditions agreed in conjunction with the Bucks County Council.

Salvage:

Baled waste paper was disposed of during the year to the value of £493.67.

Cesspool Emptying:

The preparations for a bonus scheme for this work were completed. The scheme was introduced, and although the 3 machines continued in use they were manned by a Driver only. The arrangement has functioned satisfactorily to date.

Pail Closets now total 133, but work on new sewerage systems holds out the early prospect of a drastic reduction in this number.

FOOD INSPECTION

Inspection of food premises and mobile shops has been maintained. One prosecution was taken when a £50 fine was imposed. Firm action was also necessary in respect of two public houses.

The number of premises in the District subject to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970 are as follows:-

Retail Shops	183
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Wholesale Shops & Warehouses	9
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Catering Establishments and Licensed Premises	126
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Total	318
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Food Inspection (Cont'd).....

Carcases for retention in a cold store within the District are received from outside the area and these are checked before eventual release.

No. of visits to slaughterhouses	...	...	...	60
No. of carcases inspected	...	...	...	167
Weight of meat condemned at slaughterhouses	...	...	...	1 cwt 27 l
" " " " " wholesale premises	...	...	...	- 47
" " other foods condemned	...	...	...	6 " 59

5 additional premises were registered for the sale of ice-cream.

There are two poultry slaughtering establishments in the District only one of which is concerned with the dressing of carcases. Approximately 40,000 broilers are processed each year of which some 3% are rejected as unfit.

WATER SUPPLY

The District is effectively covered by the Bucks Water Board. So far as this area is concerned there has been no question regarding quality during the year under review. The fluoride content recorded for the sources supplying this District varies between 0.09 and 0.12 milligrammes per litre.

It has not been possible to ascertain the number of properties supplied from public mains. The private supplies remaining, however, are now very limited.

PEST DESTRUCTION

This work is carried out by one operator who, in addition to routine visits, attends to infestations reported by householders. Business premises are also covered but any service provided is charged for. The infestations dealt with are principally of rats and mice, but help is afforded with a variety of other pests whenever possible. It has been necessary, however, in relation to wasps' nests, which can occur in very large numbers during a defined period, to undertake destruction only at a charge and when circumstances permit.

LOCAL LAND CHARGES

Information concerning notices served is supplied when official search of the Land Charges Register is applied for. This information relates not only to Housing and Public Health Act notices but also Planning Permission conditions. 1,236 were dealt with during the year.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The following is a statistical summary of work under this Act during the year:-

REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	No. of premises registered during year.	No. of Registered premises at the end of year.	No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	2	36	3
Retail shops	2	98	14
Wholesale shops, Warehouses	-	3	1
Catering establishments, open to the public, canteens	-	21	1
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-
<u>Total:</u>	4	158	19

TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY INSPECTORS TO REGISTERED PREMISES UNDER THE ACT 46

4 minor contraventions were dealt with during the year.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENT ACT, 1963

6 existing Licences were renewed for the year.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

One Pet Shop Licence was renewed under the Act in respect of premises at which are kept tropical and cold water fish, terrapins and cage birds etc.

PETROLEUM STORAGE

The revised form of licence incorporating new constructional requirements and licensing conditions drawn up by authorities in the County was introduced for 1971 licences in accordance with the latest Home Office Model Code.

A total of 84 Licences were in force at the end of the year.

There are no major installations or distributing depots in the district.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT, 1964

5 registrations remained effective with this Authority at the end of the year.

STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING

Street naming and numbering was confined to new estates and similar developments, there being no extension of street naming to further villages within the District. Some re-numbering had to be undertaken to cope with new development.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

One instrument is operated in this District in connection with the National Survey of Air Pollution. The weekly readings are recorded and sent to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research every month.

A review of procedure in connection with applications for Building Regulations and Planning approvals was undertaken and still being pursued at the end of the year. The object being to simplify the process and speed up the determination of applications.

Whilst some benefit may be achieved the consultations which have now to be carried out add considerably to the delays and have a cumulative effect on the general administrative procedure. The involvement of the River Boards in regard to foul as well as surface water drainage is particularly serious in my view. It is reaching the stage where in certain instances any development is likely to be prohibited, on the grounds of alleged inadequacy of sewers or treatment plant. Whilst it is not possible logically to oppose such intervention, it gives rise to serious concern for the much needed extension of building to combat the appalling rise in prices of both land and property. If completely adequate sewerage and disposal plants are to be made available before building takes place, there will need to be a totally different approach to the provision of these desirable facilities. In my experience it has always been necessary to convincingly demonstrate the need and prove gross pollution before any approval could be obtained. Perhaps this will be one of the many changes we are now promised.

The enforcement of Building Regulations has been much in the news during the past year. Many people seem to expect Local Authorities to provide a full architectural and surveying service. This is of course, quite impossible. To attempt to do so would necessitate a Clerk of Works on every site which is clearly impracticable. If a Council approves a plan or works in progress which do not conform to the Building Regulations, there must be a liability, but not when something is done without their knowledge. On the other hand the builder has at all times a responsibility to comply with Building Regulations.

There is often misunderstanding over the making of final inspections upon completion, it being assumed that such an inspection confirms completion in accordance with Building Regulations. Building Inspectors can see no further through bricks and mortar than other people and the final inspection gives approval only to that which can be seen.

DANGEROUS BUILDINGS

Action had to be taken in a number of cases concerning dangerous buildings. In only one instance was it necessary to make application to the Court for an Order.

NEW BUILDINGS

The number of plans submitted during the year totalled 1,000.
These are summarised as follows:-
Building Regulations - Town and Country Planning Acts.

Dwelling Houses

New	..	..	..	..	..	..	73 for 142 houses
Layout plans	..	..	..	..	..	..	18 for 151 houses
Outline applications	..	..	..	..	..	..	175
Conversions	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
Alterations and Additions	..	..	..	..	..	..	313
Change of Use	..	..	..	..	..	..	14

Industrial

New	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Alterations and Additions to Factories and Workshops	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Outline applications	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Change of use	..	..	..	..	..	..	9

Miscellaneous

Agricultural Buildings	..	..	..	..	..	..	60
Private Garages	..	..	..	..	..	..	147
Caravans	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Others	..	..	..	..	..	..	85
Applications cancelled	..	..	..	..	..	..	16

Number of Dwellings completed

Private	..	..	..	..	..	..	125
Local Authority	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
							<u>148</u>

Decisions on 11 Planning Appeals were received, of which 3 were allowed and 8 dismissed.

Notices under section 65 of the Public Health Act 1936 relating to contravention of Building Regulations were served in respect of 6 houses.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

New Buildings	3223
Abandoned Vehicles	41
Animal Boarding Establishments and Pet Shops	15
Clean Air Act	63
Cleansing (including Work Study)	92
Civic Amenities Act	83
Dangerous Buildings	86
Ditches & Watercourses	56
Drainage	554
Drain Tests	687
Factories	7
Food Premises and Food Inspection	202
Housing Acts	254
Improvement Grants	1070
Infestation and Infectious Diseases	50
Land Drainage	47
Levelling and Surveys	2
Miscellaneous	127
Moveable Dwellings	43
Nuisances	145
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963	46
Petroleum Acts	66
Public Health	105
Refuse Collection and Scavenging	111
Refuse Collection (Work Study)	69
Refuse Disposal	157
Rodent Control	1838
Sewage Works	55
Sewerage	260
Slaughterhouses	60
Smoke Abatement	2
Street Naming and Numbering	41
Water Supply	16
Water Samples	17

STAFF

During the year Mr.J.B.Lowther resigned on leaving the District, having served the Council for 24 years, and Mr.J.E.Sale was appointed to fill the vacancy as Wages, Accounts and Records Clerk.

Mr.J.E.Baker was appointed as Junior Technical Assistant, a new post in the New Buildings and Planning Section of the Department and Miss J.Johnson was appointed as Junior Typist.

Finally, I wish to record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their courtesy and assistance at all times and particularly to the Staff of the Department for their work during the year under review.

Your obedient Servant,

R. A. CANT, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., M.S.E.

Chief Public Health Inspector
and Surveyor.



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