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ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

PUBLIC HEALTH

AND

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

RURAL DISTRICT OF ABERGAVENNY

FOR THE

YEAR 1972.

S. M. JAMES, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Area Medical Officer.



ABERGAVENNY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

To : The Chairman and Members  
of  
Abergavenny Rural District Council.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

1972.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In 1972 Circulatory diseases were again the principal cause of mortality in Abergavenny Rural District as in the country generally. Most of these deaths followed chronic illness in the elderly aged 65 years and more. Malignant diseases formed the second main cause of death having, for some years, now, displaced other illnesses affecting the respiratory system. The battle against infectious diseases has been largely won although, now and again, we are rudely awakened to the dangers that forever hover around the corner. In this respect the incidence of Tuberculosis in and around Abergavenny still presents some problems. Despite the achievements of preventive and curative medicine as well as the raised standards of living we continue to have family outbreaks and sporadic cases of infection that, so far, have eluded near-complete eradication. We have also had more cases of infective hepatitis in the rural district recently either due to a real increase in incidence or possibly a more accurate diagnosis these days. However, our main health problem to-day lies in the prevalence of chronic diseases and many of these are attributable either to faults of commission or omission in the individual's way of life.

Overeating has long been the indulgence of the affluent. Its adverse effects on health were few in the days when man's physical effort burnt up the energy acquired from his massive daily diet. Nowadays, we find that



affluence is not confined to the privileged minority and, what is more, everyone's mode of life has changed. Cars, televiewing, washing machines, vacuum cleaners, electric cake mixers and many other products of industry have taken the sweat out of living. So, the hazards of overeating have become very real indeed. As one so often sees, overeating leads to obesity - exercise then becomes a chore so that posture deteriorates, feet become painful and changes occur in the skeleton with resulting loss of mobility. It may not rest here but go on to the degenerative forms of systemic disease such as illness of the heart or lung. What a formidable prospect for the 10 to 20 per cent of children and the 50 per cent of adults in Britain to-day that are considered to be overweight. Still the picture is not complete. Not only do some of us eat too much but what we eat may also be suspect.

Everyone agrees on the need for a balanced diet with sufficient protein, carbohydrate, fat, minerals and vitamins. Yet we seem to tamper with the quality of food at every stage of its production by the use of artificial fertilisers, antibiotics, hormones, preservatives and numerous other additives or extractors. We may recognise the importance in our daily diet of an adequate amount of "roughage" or the fibre originally found in vegetables, fruit and wholemeal bread but what happens in practice? Most of the fibre has been removed from the white loaf found in practically every British home to-day. Similarly, the manufacture of refined white sugar removes all the fibre of sugar cane and sugar beet. Nevertheless, too many cakes and sweets are eaten resulting in the rotten teeth of large numbers of our children and too little is done generally or individually to prevent such a happening. We have convincing evidence that we eat too much animal fat which often results in arterial disease and coronary thrombosis. Vitamin deficiency is also far from uncommon in this affluent age. Low levels of Vitamin C were found in over one-third of the elderly involved in a very recent South Wales survey which may account for much of the excessive



weariness and depression often encountered in this group of the community.

Communities such as the tribal villages of East Africa, living at or near subsistence level have virtually none of the killer diseases of so called civilisation. Primitive peoples, all over the world, do not suffer from coronary disease, cancer of the lung and bowel, high blood pressure, diabetes, stroke and bronchitis which commonly affect the jet set of Western society. Most of us may well prefer, if obligatory, to be afflicted by our own brand of disease but a further study of the differences between ourselves and those tribal villagers could possibly result in a level and quality of nutrition compatible with healthy living for both.


Apart from a faulty diet we are, by this time, well aware of the unpleasant chain of events initiated and promoted by alcoholism and drug addiction. We have conclusive proof of the adverse effects of cigarette smoking. We are also increasingly aware of the health hazards from exposure to the cold and wet, discomforts associated with our heavy rainfall and cool temperatures. All in all, there is a vital need for professional advice and education in the promotion of a good environment and the art of healthy living particularly when a recent opinion poll in a European country is said to have shown that health was rated as second to "standard of living".

Yours faithfully,

S. M. JAMES, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., M.F.C.M.,  
D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.





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VITAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres		62,685
Population		10,830
Number of Inhabited Houses (According to Rate Book 31/12/72)		3,442
Rateable Value		£236,690
1p Rate		£2,227

1972 :

<u>Live Births :</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	74	75	149	
Illegitimate	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>	
	78	80	158	

<u>Live Birth Rate :</u>	<u>Rural District</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>E. &amp; W.</u>
Per 1,000 population	14.6	15.3	14.8
Comparability Factor 1.10			

Adjusted Live Birth Rate  $14.6 \times 1.10 = 16.1$  15.8 14.8

<u>Still Births :</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	-	1	1	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Total	-	1	1	

<u>Still Birth Rate :</u>	<u>Rural District</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>E. &amp; W.</u>
Per 1,000 Live and Still Births	6	12.0	12.0

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>	
All causes	64	96	160	

	<u>Rural District</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>E. &amp; W.</u>
Death Rate per 1,000 population	14.8	12.0	12.1
Comparability Factor 0.49			
Adjusted Death Rate $14.8 \times 0.49 =$	7.3	13.1	12.1

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Death from Cancer (all forms)	8	17	25	
Deaths from lung cancer	4	3	7	
Deaths due to Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion			Nil	

	<u>Rural District</u>	<u>County</u>	
Maternal Death Rate (Rate per 1,000 Live Births)	0	0	



	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>
	1	3	4
	<u>Rural District</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>E. &amp; W.</u>
Infant Mortality Rate (Rate per 1,000 total Live Births)	25.0	17.0	17.0
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate-first 4 weeks	25.0	10.0	12.0
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (Under 1 week)	25.0	8.0	10.0
Perinatal Mortality (Still births and Infant deaths under 1 week) per 1,000 total live and still births	31.0	20.0	22.0

Perinatal Mortality in Abergavenny Rural District (1959-1972).

Year	Number of First Week Deaths	Number of Still Births	Perinatal Mortality Rate
1972	4	1	31.0
1971	-	2	14.0
1970	-	6	39.0
1969	1	-	6
1968	-	1	7
1967	2	1	21.7
1966	3	4	48.95
1965	2	7	51.7
1964	2	2	28
1963	-	-	-
1962	4	1	42.55
1961	2	1	28.99
1960	1	7	56.7
1959	2	2	32.0

PERINATAL MORTALITY (1959-1972).

Abergavenny Borough, Abergavenny Rural District and Monmouthshire  
County

Year	Abergavenny Borough	Abergavenny Rural District	Monmouthshire
1972	8.0	31.0	20.0
1971	36.0	14.0	24.0
1970	25.0	39.0	27.90
1969	63.0	6	27.33
1968	53.6	7	28.99
1967	37.5	21.7	29.09
1966	12.1	48.95	33.87
1965	31.25	51.7	35.98
1964	57.8	28.6	37.25
1963	30.6	-	35.82
1962	71.4	42.55	38.85
1961	46.1	28.99	39.9
1960	51.3	56.7	42.0
1959	23.9	32.0	47.7



NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (1972)

(Classified according to sex and age)

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1972.	ABERGAVENNY RURAL DISTRICT	
	S E X	
	Male	Female
Meningococcal Infection	-	1
Other Infective and Parasitic diseases	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	2	-
Malignant Neoplasm - Intestine	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	4	3
Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	-	4
Leukaemia	1	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	-	8
Diabetes Mellitis	2	1
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	-	1
Anaemias	-	1
Mental Disorders	1	2
Other Diseases of Nervous System	1	2
Hypertensive Disease	-	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease	16	14
Other forms of Heart Disease	8	10
Cerebro-Vascular Disease	9	8
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	3
Influenza	-	1
Pneumonia	9	22
Bronchitis and Emphysema	2	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	-	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	2	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	-	1
Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	2
Motor Vehicles Accidents	-	2
All other Accidents	3	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	64	96



NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (1972).

(Classified according to sex and age)

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>0-4</u>	<u>5-9</u>	<u>10-19</u>	<u>20-29</u>	<u>30-39</u>	<u>40 plus</u>	<u>Total</u>
Whooping Cough	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Scarlet Fever	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningo-coccal Meningitis	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poliomyelitis	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dysentery	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Poisoning	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Viral Encephalitis	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Pneumonia	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abortus Fever	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Infective Hepatitis	M	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
	F	0	1	0	1	0	1	3

TUBERCULOSIS

Notified                      Pulmonary      M 0    F 1      Non Pulmonary    M 0    F 0

Deaths                        Pulmonary      M 0    F 0      Non Pulmonary    M 0    F 0

Yours respectfully,

S. M. JAMES, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.





ABERGAVENNY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of the Public Health Inspector.

To : The Chairman & Members of the Abergavenny R.D.C.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to submit my report on the work carried out by this department during the year ending 31st December, 1972.

In an area of such outstanding natural beauty the safeguarding of visual amenities becomes of prime importance. All sections of local government both district and County Council, are involved in this task.

The Public Health Department involvement in this is by way of house improvement, caravan control, refuse and litter collection and disposal.

The regular collection of refuse, the expeditious removal of litter, dumped rubbish and abandoned motor vehicles are all matters aimed either wholly or in part at preserving the visual environment. These related activities obviously need to be co-ordinated and preferably carried out by the one authority. At the present time there is a split in responsibility between the local authority and the County Council for the collection of litter from trunk and other classified roads. This Council have already agreed to act as agents for the County Council in clearing trunk road laybys and also act on their own authority in sweeping the main village thoroughfares. There are, however, certain litter black spots at visually critical points, especially on some trunk roads, which must be brought under the umbrella of the Council's litter and refuse collection scheme to make it fully effective.

The general problem of discarded materials is rapidly expanding due to each of the constituent factors becoming increasingly "more". More residents, more visitors, more vehicles, more traffic, more wrappers, more boxes, more cans, more bottles, more paper, more plastics, more consumer goods with built in obsolescence, more of everything to throw away.

The collection and removal of all this discarded rubbish is in the main a duty for the local authority the exercise of which results in a heavy burden on the rates. The final disposal of rubbish, including unwanted motor vehicles, results in another costly charge to ratepayers. Also the problems of disposal are becoming increasingly more difficult to solve due not only to the amount being handled but also to the changing nature of rubbish generally. The increasing use of plastics and the difficulties involved in disposing of them is a good example of this.



All of this is a major problem, imposed upon local authorities who can do little to prevent it expanding let alone reduce its size.

Ultimate control over the expansion of this problem must be in reducing the amount of material that needs to be disposed of. Urgent government action seems to be called for to control the use of wrappings and packages, disposable containers and the general use of plastics. Also the stimulation of interest in the recovery and reuse of containers, with the possible use of subsidies, and the encouragement of industries for the recycling of waste materials.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their confidence and support and also the Clerk and other colleagues for their valuable help and assistance.

I am,

Yours Respectfully,

T. GREGORY.

Public Health Inspector.



No special action was taken in connection with this Act this year but some sites were visited for other reasons. Military accommodation was inspected and approved. No special action was taken.

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18. Nuisances.
18. Rodent Control and Disinfestation.
19. Refuse Collection and Disposal.
21. Sewage and Sewage Disposal.
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24. Water Supplies.

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AGRICULTURAL WORKERS (SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956.

No special action was taken in connection with this Act this year but where farms were visited for other reasons the sanitary accommodation was inspected and approved. No formal action was found necessary.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963.

A licence, containing conditions, was issued in respect of one premises and this was found generally to be satisfactory. 20 dogs are catered for at this establishment.

CARAVAN SITES.

Residential Sites.

21 Site Licences were issued in conjunction with temporary and permanent planning consents in respect of residential sites containing one caravan. Most of these temporary consents which have been renewed yearly for quite a few years and moves have been made in the past to have these planning consents made permanent or withdrawn. A little improvement seems to have been made in this direction, evident by the reduction in the number of temporary consents.

Four sites hold a permanent licence for one caravan only. From the number of enquiries made at this office it would seem that there is a need for a small residential caravan site within the area.

Holiday Sites.

Three sites are permanently licensed for six months of the year for holiday caravans, the sites containing 4, 7, and 25 caravans respectively.

Conditions generally on the sites are good although complaints are received from time to time from both residents and the general public and these are generally dealt with by reference to the licence conditions.

Caravan Club Sites.

There are a small number of small Caravan Club sites in the district but these operate without the need for a licence. A site catering for up to 70 vans opened this year. The layout, facilities, and control of this site are good.

CIVIC AMENITIES ACT, 1967.

Abandoned Motor Vehicles.

62 motor cars, 4 lorries, and 3 caravans were cleared from sites this year. Only a small number of these were removed by this authority, the bulk of the removals being effected by either the owners, were traced, or the National Parks Warden service. A great deal of this problem continues to arise from cars which have been stripped down for spares before being abandoned or parked in such a position as to be an eyesore. None of these cases were dealt with by formal action. I am again deeply grateful to the National Parks Warden for his untiring efforts in this connection.

Bulky Domestic Refuse & Abandoned Rubbish.

The well advertised free service for the collection and disposal of accumulations of rubbish and bulky items which has now been operating for two years is having a considerable effect in reducing the number of incidents of dumping in the countryside and on lay-bys. There is now a steady and regular demand for this service and incidents of dumping are few.





FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

A total of 20 premises were registered as factories during the year, plus 5 building sites and works of engineering construction which ranked as factories. In all cases these were factories in which only Section 7 of the Act (the provision of sanitary conveniences) is enforced by the Local Authority.

Action Taken.

A written notice covering 9 items was served in respect of defective sanitary conveniences at one factory. Informal action was taken in 5 other cases.

Outworkers.

3 Persons were notified as outworkers, these being engaged in knitted woollens and dressmaking.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	20	11	1	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	9	5	Nil	Nil
Total :	29	16	1	Nil



2.

Cases in which DEFECTS were found :-

Particulars  (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted  (6)
	Found  (2)	Remedied  (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector  (4)	By H.M. Inspector  (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	3	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	6	6	Nil	Nil	Nil



PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
) Making, sewing etc.	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
) Cleaning and washing	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
) Washing	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

Unsound Food

No unfit food was condemned during the year. A small quantity of unsound food (tinned meat and tinned fruit) was voluntarily surrendered.

Food Hygiene.

Visits of Inspection :

	No. of Premises	No. of Visits	No. of warnings verbal and written	No. of Infringements
Grocers	22	7	6	18
Other Food Premises	3	1	-	-
Ice-Cream Premises	27	13	-	-
Cafes	2	4	2	5
Street Vendors	6	3	3	9
Licensed Clubs	3	1	-	-
Licensed Premises	31	21	21	95
	94	50	32	127



## Food Hygiene

### Visits of Inspection (continued) :

	Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16 (Wash-hand basins, etc.)	Premises to which Reg. 19 applies (Sinks, etc.)	Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19 (Sinks, etc.)
Grocers	22	22	22
Ice-Cream Premises	27	-	-
Cafes	2	2	2
Licensed Clubs	3	3	3
Licensed Premises	26	31	31
Other Food Premises	3	3	3

In addition to the above visits 10 food stalls were inspected at the Abergavenny & Border Counties Show. Conditions generally were satisfactory.

Poultry Inspection. There are two small poultry processing premises within the district. Hygiene, poultry inspection, and waste disposal is well controlled.

### Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947 and 1952.

Only one premises is registered for the manufacture of ice-cream. The remaining 26 registered premises sell-prepacked ice-cream. Three street traders are known to operate within the district. Two of these sell loose ice-cream, which is manufactured outside the district, and one sells soft ice-cream frozen on the vehicle. No samples were submitted for bacteriological or chemical analysis.

### The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.

There are 12 producer/distributors in the area and these dairies are controlled by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food. A further 4 retailers are licensed by the County Council.

No milk samples were submitted for bacteriological or chemical analysis during the year by this Authority but action was taken to control the sale of milk from one farm, after notification of a case of *Brucella Abortus* by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.





H O U S I N G

I. Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

(1)	(a)	Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (Public Health Act and Housing Act)	...	264
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	417
(2)		Number of dwellings found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	Nil

II. Action under the Statutory Powers

Proceedings taken under Sections 9 to 16, Housing Act, 1957

(a)		Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	Nil
(b)		Number of unfit houses made fit as a result of informal action	...	46
(c)		Number of Closing Orders made	...	Nil
(d)		Number of Demolition Orders made	...	Nil
(e)		Number of unfit houses demolished	...	Nil
(f)		Number of unfit houses on which undertakings were accepted	...	63
(g)		Number of unfit houses subject to change of use	...	Nil
(h)		Number of unfit houses made fit as a result of formal action	...	4

As a result of the housing survey carried out in 1969, 188 houses were immediately found to be unfit. Since then a further 41 houses have been similarly classified. Of this total of 229 unfit houses, 161 have been dealt with either by formal or informal action to the stage where an undertaking to implement an improvement and repair scheme has been accepted from the owner. Action in a further 39 cases has been deferred pending a change in circumstances, immediate action being considered inappropriate at this stage due to the special circumstances affecting each individual case. Thus it can be seen that 19 unfit houses remain to be dealt with. However, it can be expected that a further and more detailed examination of certain classes of houses will reveal some additional unfit houses, this is the experience of the last two years, and that in order to complete the programme undertaken in 1969 a number in the order of 30 will need to be dealt with by April, 1974.

Improvement and repair schemes were completed in 50 cases during the year. This brings the total of unfit houses rendered fit since 1969 to 132 and represents excellent progress.



H O U S I N G (cont'd)

Improvement Grants

(1)	<u>Standard Grants :</u>		
	(a) Number of applications received during the year	...	5
	(b) Number of applications approved during the year	...	5
	(c) Number of applications withdrawn during the year	...	Nil
	(d) Expenditure ranking for grants approved during the year	... £	2,025
	(e) Number of cases in which work was completed		7
	(f) Expenditure paid out on work completed during the year	... £	3,081
(2)	<u>Discretionary Grants :</u>		
	(a) Number of applications received during the year	...	99
	(b) Number of applications approved during the year	...	99
	(c) Number of applications withdrawn during the year	...	Nil
	(d) Expenditure ranking for grants approved during the year	... £	151,374
	(e) Number of cases where work was completed during the year	...	36
	(f) Expenditure paid out on work completed during the year	... £	58,137

The number of applications approved during the year was nearly double the figure for 1971 and at 104 it is a surprisingly high total. This brings the total number of grants approved since 1969 to 236.

In only 43 cases was the work completed during the year. This brings the total of completions since 1969 to 116. It will be seen that this is less than 50% of the number approved during that period.

The lack of progress towards early completion can, for the most part, be traced to the now inadequate resources of the local building industry. The acute shortage of building blocks that occurred during the early part of the year also had a marked effect on progress in a number of cases.

The local building industry has undoubtedly expanded quite considerably over the last two years but, nevertheless, I am not optimistic about its ability to cope with the present demand.

QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATES.

Four applications were received during the year. Two Qualification Certificates, one Provisional Approval, and one refusal were issued.



OFFICES, YSHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

Class of Premises	Number of Premises		
	Registered during Year	Total Registered at end of year	Receiving a general Inspection during the year
Offices	-	2	2
Retail Shops	-	5	3
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	-	-	-
Catering Establishments open to the Public and Canteens	-	10	10
Totals :	-	17	15
Total Number of Visits to Registered Premises :			20

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Most of the activities of this department covered by the Public Health Act, 1936, have sufficient content to be dealt with in detail under their separate headings.

Nuisances.

A number of complaints were received during the year involving Statutory Nuisances, and these were settled without resorting to formal action.

RODENT CONTROL AND OTHER DISINFESTATION

This work, in respect of Council property and dwelling houses, is carried out by a Private Contractor under contract but, as usual, in order to give a more complete picture of rodent control work in the district, I have included the contractor's work in connection with business and agricultural premises.

There was no evidence this year of any warfarin resistant rats.

Rat activity in sewers remains at a very low level and conditions generally give no cause for concern.



PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS

	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	NON- AGRICULTURAL	AGRICULTURAL
1. a. * Total Number of properties in district	4,131	
b. Agricultural properties		538
2. a. Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	441	73
b. Number infested by (i) Rats	336	49
(ii) Mice	40	13
3. a. Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	147	68
b. Number infested by (i) Rats	32	53
(ii) Mice	12	8
4. Total No. of Treatments carried out including re-treatments	543	175

\* This figure includes 538 agricultural properties.

The houses in the district remain substantially free from insect infestation although the contractor is called upon to deal with a considerable number of complaints concerning cluster flies, wasps, bees and bats.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Most of the rural district is covered by the Council's collection scheme, which is under the control of the Public Health Inspector.

The collection, which is a kerbside one, is carried out weekly in most parts of the district with just three difficult or isolated small areas being served fortnightly.

The Council undertake to collect from householders, free of charge, all accumulations of refuse and bulky items such as furniture and kitchen equipment.





## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL (cont'd).

All domestic refuse is disposed of by pulverisation at the new plant which came into operation in June, 1971. This plant is a joint venture by the Abergavenny Borough Council, Crickhowell Rural District Council, and this Council, and is the first of its kind in South Wales. Bulky and other items which cannot be pulverised are disposed of by burying on the tip. With the increase in the number of such articles this is becoming a serious problem as far as tip control is concerned. Crushing, to reduce bulk, and the separation and removal of metal will need to be carried out in future.

### Litter Collection and Street Cleaning.

The sweeping of trunk road laybys and the emptying of litter bins is carried out by this Council as agents for the Monmouthshire County Council. These two tasks are now carried out together and a considerable improvement on the laybys has been effected.

Road sweeping is carried out in 4 villages using part-time employees. This is a most effective service, greatly appreciated by the local communities, which would be extended to cover three more villages if additional suitable part-time road sweepers could be recruited.



## SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Most of the populated parts of the districts are sewered, 1,855 houses being connected to a main sewer. The remaining properties in the area being farms and isolated cottages and hamlets, are served by septic tanks, earth and chemical closets. It is estimated that there are upwards of 900 septic tanks in the area, including 450 receiving farm drainage. These figures are not likely to be substantially reduced in the future and represent, in the main, a residual of properties which it is not possible to put on main drainage. Future action in this direction will continue to be in the nature of protecting streams from pollution and improving the size, construction and means of drainage of the older types of tanks. Complaints concerning nuisances caused by septic tanks are few but there continues to be a large number of requests from owners for information and advice. The response to these requests together with the work in this connection involved in house improvement and improvement grants is resulting in a speedy upgrading of septic tank drainage systems generally and the replacement of earth and chemical closets by water closets. This Council operates a septic tank emptying service at a small charge.

Three men are employed full-time on the maintenance of the sewage works under the supervision of the general foreman.

At the villages of Grosmont, Pandy, Llanddewi Rhydderch, Llanover, Llanarth, Llanellen, Bryn, Llanvair Kilgeddin, Great Oak, and Mardy, the means of disposal is through traditional sewage disposal works. On small Council housing sites septic tanks and tipper filters are used.

The sewerage system at the village of Govilon is connected to the sewage works owned by and situated within the area of the Crickhowell Rural District Council and that at Llanfoist village is connected to the Abergavenny Borough sewage works.

At the Mardy, Pandy, Grosmont, Llanover, and Great Oak works the sewage sludge is semi-dried on special beds and then dug out and removed from the site for final disposal. At the remaining works sludge removal and disposal is by means of a liquid sludge tanker vehicle. Final disposal is effected by either spraying the liquid on grassland or by digestion at the Pandy works. Spraying as a means of disposal is becoming increasingly more difficult due to the reluctance of farmers to co-operate. The situation can only be expected to get worse and so for the long term consideration will have to be given to alternative means of disposal. With the exception of the Great Oak works the treated sewage is disposed of by discharge into water courses and the quality of such effluents is controlled by the appropriate River Authority. The quality of the effluents from the Mardy, Llanvair Kilgeddin, Bryn, Llanover, and Llanellen works, has, over the years, been poor and gave cause for considerable concern. The Llanellen works is a relatively new construction and the working of the filter beds is being investigated in co-operation with this Council's engineering consultants as being the likely cause of the loss of efficiency. The situation at Mardy has been improved by the use of chemical flocculants in the raw sewage and at Bryn and Llanfair by means of recirculating treated sewage. A recirculation pump is waiting to be fitted at the Llanover works.



SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL (cont'd).

At the close of the year the details of the scheme for sewerage of the "Northern Area" (the villages of Brynygwenin, Llanfapley, and Llanddewi Rhydderch) had still not been finalised due mainly to local objections at Llanfapley, the location for the proposed sewage works, and to difficulties over land acquisition.

An improvement scheme at Mardy involving the construction of a new foul sewer and a separate surface/storm water sewer is expected to get under way in the coming year. The problem of sewage disposal at this location has still not been resolved but discussions are continuing towards agreement on disposal via the Abergavenny Borough Council's Llanfoist treatment works.

Further housing development in Llanfoist is being restricted due to the sewage treatment works being loaded to near maximum capacity.

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DETAILS OF HOUSES CONNECTED TO A MAIN SEWER

PARISH	WARD	No. of houses.	No. of houses connected to a main sewer.	REMARKS
Abergavenny Rural		71	9	
Llanddewi Skirrid		35		
Crucorney Fawr	Llanvihangel Crucorney	225	98	
	Oldcastle	9		
	Bwlch Trewyn	24		
	Lower Cwnyoy	46	8	
	Upper Cwnyoy	34		
	Fwthog	12		
Llantilio Pertholey	Fforest Mardy, Croesonnen, Llwynu (Remainder)	47 890 249	890	Sewerage scheme being prepared for Mardy. Joint sewerage scheme for Brynygwenin, Llanvapley, Llanddewi being prepared.
Llanarth Fawr	Llanarth	67	24	Minor improvement scheme for treatment works being prepared
	Clytha	64		
	Bryngwyn	79	23	
	Llanvapley	44	8	
	Bettws Newydd	25		
Llanover Fawr	Llanover	124	80	
	Llanvihangel-nigh-Usk	39		
	Llangattock-nigh-Usk	116	51	Recirculation systems installed at Llangattock-nigh-Usk and Llanvair disposal works working well.
	Llansantffraed	2		
	Llanvair Kilgeddin	86	20	
	Llanddewi Rhydderch	99	24	
Llanfoist Fawr	Llanfoist	270	220	Housing development restricted due to sewage disposal difficulties.
	Llanellen	*141	89	
	Llanwenarth Citra	87	8	
	Llanwenarth Ultra	455	390	
	Pwlldu	1		
Grosmont Fawr	Grosmont	*150	64	
	Llangua	23		
	Llangattock Lingoed	36		
	Llanvetherine	37	4	
		∅ 3,588	2,010	

\* Approximate figures.

∅ This figure varies from the housing figure given on page 4 because of the inclusion of caravans, mixed business/residential buildings, etc.





## SLAUGHTER HOUSES

There are no licensed slaughter houses in the Rural District. One licensed slaughterman resides within the area.

## WATER SUPPLIES.

The supply and distribution systems now administered by the Gwent Water Board remain basically as in previous years. The main sources of water being from springs at Grosmont, Llanvihangel Crucorney, Llanthony, Llwynu, and the Talybont and Grwyne Fawr reservoirs.

During the year, the following samples were taken for bacteriological examination :-

Source	Untreated Water		Treated Water	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Main Piped Supplies	57	18	87	4
Private Wells & Springs	4	11	-	-

Most of the samples from the main piped supplies were taken by the Gwent Water Board who regularly supply details of all the samples taken. Most of the unsatisfactory samples of untreated mains water continue to relate to two very small spring supplies to approximately six houses at the Deri side and Pwlldu. The possibility of a treated mains supply to both areas is still under consideration with some slight progress being made especially in connection with the Pwlldu supply.

The task of improving the private supplies to isolated houses continues, mainly in conjunction with the house improvement campaign. This aspect constitutes one of the least realised but most important aspects of house improvement in the rural district and is a field where the local authority is called upon to carry out investigations and to give detailed technical advice.



Parish	No. of Houses	Pop.	Ward	No. of Houses	Pop.	Direct to Houses		Stand Pipes	
						Houses	Pop.	Houses	Pop.
Abergavenny Rural	* 71	1,268		71	1,268	* 29	1,120		
Llanddewi Skirrid	33	100		35	100	13	36		
Crucorney Fawr	349	877	Llanvihangel Bwlch Trewyn Oldcastle Lower Cwmyoy Upper Cwmyoy Fwthog	225 24 9 45 34 12	554 63 23 117 89 31	153 14	379 35		
Llantilio Pertholey	1,080	3,267	All wards except Fforest	1,033	3,116	1,000	2,890		
Llanarth Fawr	277	835	Fforest Llanarth Clytha Bryngwyn Llanvapley Bettws Newydd	47 67 64 79 44 25	149 198 199 230 132 76	7 53 42 53 35 20	23 155 130 164 104 61		
Llanover Fawr	462	1,299	Llanover Llanvihangel-nigh- Usk Llangattock-nigh- Usk Llansantffraed Llanvair Kilgeddin Llanddewi Rhydderch Llanfoist Llanellen Llanwenarth Citra Llanwenarth Ultra Pwlldu Grosmont Llangua Llanvetherine Llangattock Lingoed	124 39 116 2 86 99 270 141 87 423 1 150 23 37 36	350 113 305 6 240 285 720 356 249 1,151 3 422 68 109 106	153 33 100 2 72 89 247 112 70 413 1 88 - 42 30	302 96 255 6 206 254 640 271 210 1,064 3 247 - 126 90		
Grosmont Fawr	246	705		150	422	88	247		
TOTALS	3,442	10,830		3,442	10,830	2,871	8,872		

\* Includes Pen-y-val Hospital





