

[Report 1962] / Medical Officer of Health, Chepstow R.D.C.

Contributors

Chepstow (Wales). Rural District Council. nb2006021759

Publication/Creation

1962

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CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1962



"High Trees",
Chepstow, Mon.

CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
LIST OF RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Chairman:- Colonel E. R. Hill

Vice-Chairman:- D. F. E. Price

Councillors

Mr. B. Beale	Mr. R. A. Mawhinney
Mr. L. Budden	Mr. A. H. Morgan
Mr. D. T. Coleman	Mrs C. L. Morgan
Mr. E. M. Davis	Mr. R. A. Newall
Mr. C. A. Evans	Mr. W. J. Parker
Rev. J. B. Evans	Mr. G. Pōwell
Mr. W. H. Gale	Mr. G. E. Pritchard
Mr. L. H. Gardner	Mr. A. V. Reece
Mr. D. P. George	Mr. E. G. Saunders
Mrs G. I. Heath	Mr. R. Skinner
Mr. C. L. Hill	Mr. S. Sparkes
Mr. W. E. G. Hodges	Col. D. R. Stanley
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Mr. L. T. Jacka	Mr. F. Vicarage
Mr. L. A. Jones	Mr. F. C. Walker
Mr. S. G. Jones	Mr. W. T. Walkley
Mr. D. I. C. Lewis	Mr. A. M. Williams
Mr. W. Little	

Officers of the Council

Clerk	-	Mr. T. T. Birbeck, F.A.I., F.R.V.S.,
Medical Officer of Health	-	Dr. E. N. Dowell, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor	-	Mr. L. Whittingham, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Cert.S.I.B., M.A.Rur.S., Certified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
Public Health Inspector and Deputy Surveyor	-	Mr. D. C. Powell, A.M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H., Cert.S.I.B., Incorporated Sanitary Engineer, Certified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

T. T. BIRBECK,
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

TELEPHONE NO. 1 2214/2215

"High Trees,"
Chepstow, MON.

4th October, 1963.

The Chairman and Members,
Rural District Council of Chepstow.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary
Conditions of your District for the year ended 31st December, 1962.

The health of your district continues to be satisfactory.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking
Mr. Whittingham and Mr. Powell for their help and co-operation.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

E. N. Dowell

Medical Officer of Health

CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL - 1962

Statistics

The estimated mid-year population was 11,780. In 1950 it was 10,090.

The natural increase i.e. the figure that the number of births exceeds the number of deaths, was 69. The natural increase in 1961 was 58.

Births

<u>Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	104	102	206
Illegitimate	3	5	8

The highest number of births recorded since 1950 was 208 in 1959. The lowest was 158 in 1953.

The live birth rate per 1000 population for Monmouthshire was 17.99.

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	7	2	9

In 1958 there were 7 still births.

Infant Mortality

Deaths of Infants

Under one year of age

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	1	2

The following gives a list of the deaths of infants under one year of age, giving age at, and cause of death:-

(1) Female	1 hour	Congenital Heart Disease
(11) Male	1 hour	Atelectasis of Lung

CHESBOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
The infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births for Monmouthshire was 25.02.

<u>Deaths</u>			
<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	78	67	145

There were 134 deaths in 1959 and 115 deaths in 1960.

During the year three deaths occurred at the County Welfare Home which is situated in your District.

There were 7 deaths attributed to neoplasm of the lung in 1956.

The death rate per 1,000 of population for Monmouthshire was 13.67.

The following table gives a classification of the cause of death and the number attributed to each cause.

DEATHS - 1962

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast		3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus		1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	9	3
Diabetes		2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	13	9
Coronary disease, angina	23	18
Hypertension with heart disease	1	2
Other Heart Disease	4	12
Other Circulatory Disease	5	3
Pneumonia	1	
Bronchitis	7	2
Other diseases of respiratory system		1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	
Congenital malformations	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	2
Motor Vehicle accidents	1	1
All other accidents	2	1
Suicide	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
All causes	78	67
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

Diphtheria

For the tenth consecutive year no case was notified.

Diphtheria Immunisation

During the year 200 children were immunised against diphtheria and 93 were given a booster dose. Of the number immunised, 53 were babies born in 1962 and 94 were babies born in 1961.

There were no cases of poliomyelitis in 1962, so it was not necessary to suspend immunisations.

Vaccinations. (Smallpox)

This was the year that smallpox came to South Wales. As a result 3,254 primary and 1,095 re-vaccinations were completed. In 1961 only 104 primary vaccinations were carried out.

There were no complications notified.

Poliomyelitis

As in 1960, there were no notifications. In 1961 one case was notified.

From May 21, the Monmouthshire County Council made arrangements for oral poliomyelitis vaccine to be used in their clinics.

Dysentery

For the third consecutive year, no notifications were received.

Food Poisoning

As for dysentery, the return was nil.

Tuberculosis

The following were the notifications of new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis received during the year:-

(1)	Male	55 years	Lungs
(2)	Male	58 years	Lungs
(3)	Male	10 years	Lungs
(4)	Female	35 years	Lungs
(5)	Female	27 years	Lungs

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector's Annual Report for the
Year 1962

Inspections during the year

Dairies and Cowsheds	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Food Preparing Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	206
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Food Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	392
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	141
Drain Testing	..	..	..	..	..	..	56
Sewerage	..	..	..	..	..	..	213
Water Supply	..	..	..	..	..	..	126
Housing	..	..	..	..	..	..	154
Infectious Disease & Disinfection	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Nuisances	..	..	..	..	..	..	62
Disinfestation	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Shops Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	236
Refuse Collection and Disposal	..	..	..	..	..	..	207
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	95
Building Byelaws	..	..	..	..	..	..	521
Petrol Licences	..	..	..	..	..	..	67
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	826

Work Done

By Owners after Informal Notices:-

Housing Repairs	..	..	..	..	..	..	38
Drainage Repairs	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Nuisances Abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	12

By Owners after Statutory Notices:-

Housing Repairs	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Drainage Repairs	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Nuisances Abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	4

Notices Served

Informal under Housing Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	39
Informal under Public Health Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	46
Statutory under Housing Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Statutory under Public Health Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	5

WATER SUPPLY

The Statutory Water Undertakers within the Council's District are the Newport and South Monmouthshire Water Board and the Council's activities are confined to sampling for bacteriological examination in addition to ascertaining generally the sufficiency and wholesomeness of the supplies and the supervision of the few remaining public wells. The following table shows the results of the bacteriological analyses on samples taken during the year.

Parish	Samples	<u>RESULTS</u>			
		Raw	Treated	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Severn Tunnel Area	15	-	15	15	-
Devauden	9	-	9	9	-
Tintern	6	6	-	6	-
Shirenewton	5	-	5	5	-
Mathern	2	-	2	2	-
St. Arvans	4	-	4	4	-
	41	6	35	41	-

Although improvements have been effected to existing supplies there are still several areas in which the problem of a public piped supply needs urgently to be considered. Among these the Llangwm and Gaer Vawr areas are the worst with Itton, Llansoy and parts of Devauden not showing very much improvement.

The Council considered the question of fluoridation of water but after lengthy deliberations decided against such a measure.

HOUSING

During the year a further 223 Council and 21 private houses were built in the district but at the end of 1962 the number of applicants remaining on the Council's Housing list was still 314 compared with 301 in the previous year. It will therefore be seen that despite the Council's heavy building programme the demand for houses among local people is still as great as ever whilst the new houses are being occupied by steel workers from Llanwern who formerly lived outside the district.

The general standard of cleanliness in the Council's own houses remained high with the exception of a hard core of about a dozen tenants. These were dealt with informally although it is difficult to envisage any real improvement in the long term. There was one case of overcrowding which was abated although it required a threat of notice to quit upon the tenant before satisfaction was obtained. No cases of infestation was found. Although it is not possible to undertake a systematic inspection of all houses because of the staff problem, I am certain it is not needed as the difficult families soon become apparent by one means or another.

The improvement grant system continued to operate during the year and the following table indicates what the Council is doing in this direction.

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
		£
Standard Grants, 1962	13	1,880
Total to December, 1962	57	7,540
Discretionary Grants, 1962	28	9,301
Total to December, 1962	139	39,251

Although there were only 41 applications made for grant, a large number of informal enquiries were made and this necessitates considerable time being spent by the Department in advice. It was found in many cases that Builders Estimates appeared to be high for the work involved and one has the impression that a little extra is added when the Contractor becomes aware of the fact that the applicant is liable to be given a grant of £400. No certificates of disrepair were issued during the year.

A further two houses were dealt with as being unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered fit at reasonable expense and therefore scheduled for demolition. In each case undertakings not to relet were accepted. It is hoped to carry out a further survey of unfit houses in the near future to check on dwellings which were regarded as border line cases when the original survey was carried out.

There were nine applications for temporary licences to station caravans for living accommodation and this brought the total in the district to 45. The Council considered the question of developing their own site at Caldicot but no progress was made with this project and eventually it was resolved to build houses instead on the site. Negotiations were carried on with the British Transport Commission for the acquisition of Sudbrook Institute which would be modernised and converted into accommodation for problem families.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Refuse was collected in the district by two vehicles at a net cost of £6,334. This compares with £6,053, £5,512 and £2,991 for the years 1961, 1960 and 1955 respectively. It will be noted that the cost has more than doubled in seven years and whilst the rises in wages and other overheads will undoubtedly account for a considerable portion of this increase, it is estimated that 40% more refuse is now being collected. In view of the proposed rapid increase in population at Caldicot, demonstrations of compression type refuse vehicles were seen during the year with the object of purchasing an additional vehicle during the forthcoming year.

Every part of the district receives a weekly collection and certain establishments such as schools, hotels, shops and hostels receive two collections per week at no extra charge. Weekly collections are also made of trade refuse from Sudbrook pulp mill for which a charge is made and this realised a total of £104 for the year.

Disposal is effected at two tips within the district and one in the neighbouring urban district, the cost of which is shared with that authority. Although the tips in our own area are only partly controlled, credit is due to the chargehand responsible for the day to day supervision as the standard of these tips is exceedingly good.

The tips are regularly inspected for the purpose of rodent control and no problem is experienced, whilst spraying is undertaken in the summer to keep down flies.

FACTORIES ACT

The following tables show the inspections of factories within the district - the supervision of which is partly divided between this Authority and the Factory Inspectorate. In addition, the assistance of the Alkali Inspector is sought where nuisances occur from factories coming within his jurisdiction and it is pleasing to record that cordial relations and active co-operation are always maintained with both these departments.

Premises	Number of Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	17	43	-	-
Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	25	52	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority - (excluding outworkers premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	42	95	-	-

Ctd.....

	Number of cases in which defects were:				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding					
Unreasonable temperature					
Inadequate ventilation					
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective					
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)					
TOTAL:	3	3	-	-	-

RODENT CONTROL

The Council employ a Rodent Operative who also assists with other duties as required and the number of visits and infestations treated are shown below:-

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All other Premises	Agricultural
No. of Properties Inspected as a result of				
(a) Notification		291	2	
(b) Survey	3	346	41	179

In addition to the above surface treatments, the sewers at Caldicot, Rogiet and Sudbrook were baited and whilst no major infestations were discovered the following table shows the work involved.

No. of Manholes Baited	232
No. of Manholes showing partial take of poison	31
No. of Manholes showing no take.	201

The refuse tips are inspected each week and the banks of streams in the district are also investigated. As will be seen from the table above, farms and other agricultural buildings are inspected but the farmers generally wish to carry out their own treatment if any infestation is found. The usual rick control was exercised during the threshing season.

SEWERAGE

The Council have embarked upon a programme of providing village sewerage systems wherever possible throughout the major portion of the district and although progress is somewhat slow in this field, the results are now beginning to show.

The largest of these schemes is in the Southern part of the district at Caldicot which is the main development centre and the scheme in this area, embracing the neighbouring parishes of Rogiet and Portskewett, has been divided into four stages. The first part of this scheme has been completed and approval was given during the year for the second phase to commence and this included the disposal works with outfall to the River Severn. When completed, this will allow further land at Caldicot to be released for development and will also eradicate 52 cesspools and pail closets in the area.

The St. Arvans scheme was commenced during the year and the Contract amounting to £23,930., provided for the connection of 58 dwellings. The effluent from the disposal works will be discharged into a fault in the rock strata which has functioned (continuously) for over 50 years taking surface water and sewage effluent without trouble or nuisance.

Once again no progress can be reported on the joint Undy/Magor scheme and the area now appears to be stagnating from lack of development which is not being permitted until sewerage facilities become available. This scheme has been considered regularly for the past 10 years, and is still as far away as ever it was.

Difficulties were experienced in the acquisition of land at Tintern for disposal works and pumping stations but these were resolved later in the year. A portion of this scheme was installed as the Council seized the opportunity presented when part of the main road through the village was widened to lay 120 yards of the sewer. It was hoped to commence the main scheme during the following year.

Agreement was finally reached with the Ministry of Works regarding the installation of a sewerage scheme in Caerwent and they were assured by the Council that every effort would be made to ensure that no damage during the excavations would be done to the Roman remains. The Council's Consulting Engineers were therefore instructed to execute the necessary work.

The Council also instructed their Engineers to prepare a report on a scheme for Mathern and Pwllmeyric which would serve 107 existing dwellings and make provision for the building of a further 91. At the end of the year, the report was awaited.

The cesspool emptying scheme operated satisfactorily providing a free service for all domestic premises at a cost of £1,916. This service has become overloaded and it was envisaged that a second vehicle would soon need to be purchased. As the present emptier is a trailer type vehicle it could be released for two days per week to augment the Refuse Collection Service and continue for three days on cesspool emptying.

Regular inspections of sewage disposal plants to Council estates were carried out and samples of effluent taken to ensure that they were functioning correctly. Upon receipt of an unsatisfactory analysis the necessary remedial work was put in hand.

Considerable difficulty is experienced from time to time at Caldicot where a sewer is laid at a very flat gradient across the Council's own housing site and this results in blockages occurring, and causing a nuisance. It was decided to install additional manholes on this section to make inspection and cleansing easier.

FOOD

The following table shows the number and type of food premises in the district.

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Inspections</u>
Bakehouses	3	11
Butchers	5	31
Fish and Fruit Premises	6	29
Food Vehicles	6	19
Ice Cream Premises	34	44
Provision Shops	39	163
Restaurants and Kitchens	30	95

The following foodstuffs were examined and found to be unfit for human consumption. They were disposed of at the Refuse Tip at Portkewett.

<u>Description</u>	<u>Reason for Condemnation</u>	<u>Amount in Lbs.</u>
Tinned Goods	Decomposition	26
Meat - Bacon	Decomposition	14

The quantity of foodstuffs condemned remains consistently low each year and contrasts with the position of 10 years ago when a considerable amount of imported tinned goods were found unfit.

Routine visits are made under the Food Hygiene Regulations to all the premises tabulated above in addition to Works and School Canteens. The standard generally is very good and no formal notices were served during the year. The three bakehouses were found to be satisfactory and two of them were internally decorated. The transport of bread and meat was also investigated and gave no cause for complaint. There were two new premises registered for the sale of ice-cream but in each case, it was prepacked. There are no manufacturers within the district neither are there any slaughterhouses within the district. Meat is bought "off the hook" in Newport by local butchers and as stated previously, its transport was quite satisfactory.

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH.
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