

[Report 1956] / Medical Officer of Health, Basingstoke R.D.C.

Contributors

Basingstoke (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1956

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/kkrcfrqt>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

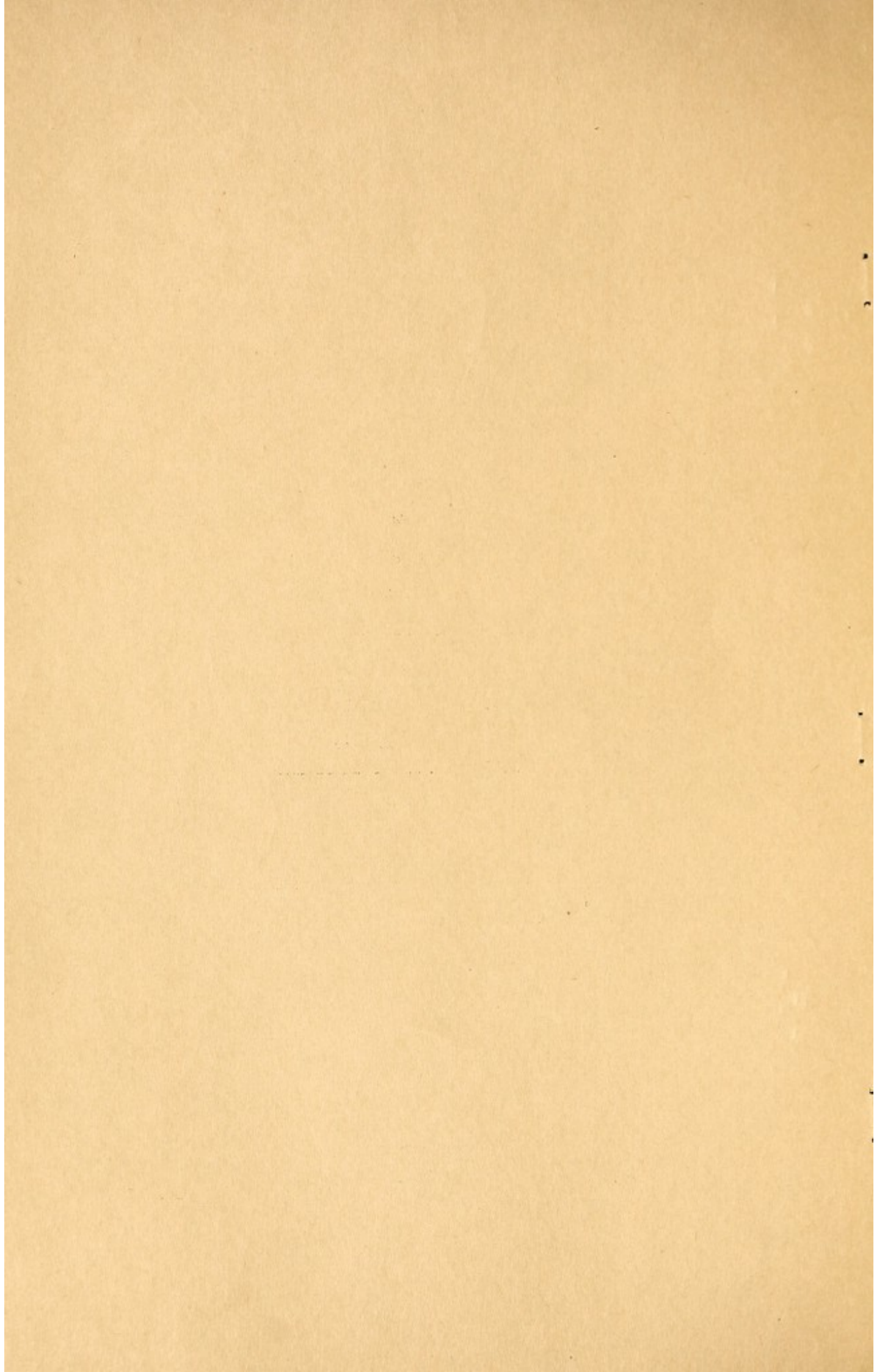
HEALTH
11 JUL 57
C.H. 23

Leamy

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for the
BASINGSTOKE RURAL DISTRICT
FOR THE YEAR 1956



S'han to



BASINGSTOKE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Department,
Eastlands,
London Road,
Basingstoke.

June 1957.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 1956.

The past year has been a heartening one in the field of public health. New interests are being uncovered - a fresh and ever increasing boost of vaccines, notably against poliomyelitis, while the others against whooping cough and tuberculosis are being increasingly accepted; Flouridation of water supplies to counteract early dental caries; Increasing provision of a domiciliary health service to help the aged and to tackle the problem family. Following new legislation there is a new interest in better housing, cleaner food and a general improvement in hygienic conditions.

Vital Statistics - Apart from an increase in deaths due to respiratory disease, which have been further analysed in this report, there are no marked changes.

General Health - An increase in illnesses, as registered in the National Health Insurance Office, during the months of February and March, and a smaller increase in October and November. The numbers of notifiable diseases were low, except for pneumonia, which was above average and largely in the very cold month of February.

Social and Sanitary Circumstances - Much progress is being made in the "Slum Clearance" programme. This has been further detailed by the Public Health Inspector. Construction of main drainage (sewers) has been completed in Sherfield on Loddon, North Waltham and Sherborne St. John and the Minister of Housing and Local Government has authorised that the first part of the scheme for sewerage to Basing be proceeded with.

There are heartening signs that sanitation in rural schools will be tackled at last. The County Council have doubled the grant for improvement and about six of the schools in the district are included for next year.

Work in connection with the recent Food and Drugs Act has been steadily going on during the year and is also described in the report.

My thanks are due to all members of the Health Staff and to the many Officials for help with this report.

Yours faithfully,

P.L. KARNEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

/A/

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	74,790 acres
Population - estimated mid year ...	17,590
Number of inhabited houses	4,713
Sum represented by a penny rate ...	£740
Rateable value	£185,427

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>
Live Births	∫ Legitimate	108	127	235	217
	∫ Illegitimate	7	11	18	20
Live Birth Rate per thousand (corrected figure)			16.12	14.79	16.40
Average for England and Wales			15.7	15.00	15.02

Births were largely at Basing (30); Bramley (25); Sherborne St. John (24); Oakley and East Oakley (17); Pamber (17); Candovers (12).

DEATHS.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>
Deaths from all causes	163	191	354	416	315
Death Rate per thousand (corrected figure)			8.44	19.83	15.27
Average for England and Wales			11.7	11.7	11.3

The age distribution and causes of death is as follows:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Causes of Death.</u>
Under one year	2	2	
1 - 19	-	2	
20 - 44	-	4	
45 - 64	-	27	∫ Cancer - 15: Coronary Thrombosis - 13: ∫ Other heart disease - 10: Vascular ∫ disease of brain - 6: Respiratory ∫ disease - 9:
65 - 74	-	55	∫ Cancer - 29: Coronary Thrombosis - 26: ∫ Other heart disease - 97: Vascular ∫ disease of brain - 48: Respiratory ∫ system - 49.
75 - 89	-	67	
90 +	-	6	

Summary of Deaths in Major Institutions in the District.

Deaths occurring in Park Prewett Hospital	-	105
" " " Basing Road Hospital	-	127

/B/

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND OTHER ILLNESSES.

General Health.

Records of new claims to sickness benefit received at Basingstoke National Insurance Office indicate an increase in illness in February and March and a smaller increase in November and December over the general average for past years. Attendance figures of school population also shows an increase in illness, but to a lesser extent, in the early months of the year. Notifications of pneumonia and deaths due to respiratory illness were unduly high this year.

Respiratory Disease.

Deaths due to respiratory disease were further analysed:-

Due to Broncho-pneumonia and pneumonia	-	40
Bronchitis	-	8
Hypostatic Bronchitis and pneumonia	-	4 +
Influenza	-	7
Broncho-pneumonia with heart disease as primary cause of death	-	8
Broncho-pneumonia with cerebral vascular disease as primary cause of death-	-	7
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	3

+ Secondary to other causes

About 50% of the cases were during January, February and March with 10 further cases in October.


The deaths due to influenza occurred among inmates (old people) of Basing Road Hospital.

Cancer and other Malignant Growths.

Deaths due to or associated with:-

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Average age at death.</u>	<u>Age range.</u>
Cancer of Lung	6	70	62 - 79
Larynx	2		
Stomach	5	67	61 - 74
Colon	9	67	49 - 81
Rectum	2		
Breast	5	62	49 - 78
Uterus	2		
Ovary	1		
Vulva	1		
Bladder	4	69	58 - 82
Testis	1		
Prostate	1		
Brain	1		
Pancreas	4	73	58 - 87
Lymphosarcoma	1		
Epithelioma	1		

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Age Groups	15 - 44	1	1
	45 - 64	8	7
	65 - 74	7	8
	75 +	6	8



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28908077>

Notifiable Diseases.

Whooping Cough	20
Scarlet Fever	11
Measles	18
Pneumonia	10
Food Poisoning	59
Dysentery	4
Erysipelas	2
Ophthalmia	1
Poliomyelitis	2
Meningitis	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	13
" Non - Pulmonary	2

The following table indicates the incidence of notifiable diseases during the year:-

	<u>Whooping Cough</u>	<u>Scarlet Fever</u>	<u>Measles</u>	<u>Pneumonia</u>
January	-	2	-	1
February	2	6	-	6
March	3	1	-	-
April	-	-	-	-
May	2	2	-	-
June	2	-	3	1
July	-	-	3	-
August	-	-	-	-
September	-	-	-	-
October	1	-	8	1
November	-	-	1	-
December	10	-	3	1

Apart from an outbreak of food poisoning (detailed later) and an increase in cases of pneumonia (primary), notifications of infectious diseases were low this year.

Poliomyelitis.

Two cases of poliomyelitis, one with mild paralysis, were notified early in the year. They were two isolated and unconnected cases. One was taken ill while returning from a visit to her relations in Austria.

Tuberculosis.

12 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis (9 males and 3 females) and two cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified. There were three deaths due to pulmonary tuberculosis.

Number of Cases on Register.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>
Pulmonary	65	55	120	107	93
Non-pulmonary	10	27	37	33	31

Gastro-Enteritis and other allied illnesses.

59 cases of food poisoning were notified. 58 cases with 2 deaths occurred in a large institution. The notable cause was Staphylococcus Aureus in milk. The outbreak occurred during the August Bank Holiday period. 4 cases of Sonne Dysentery were also notified. Several other cases of diarrhoea and vomiting occurred in Bramley towards the end of the year. This outbreak was later identified as Sonne Dysentery.

Immunisation - Diphtheria and Whooping Cough.

During the year 212 primary courses, of which 206 were combined with whooping cough, and 186 secondary or booster courses were carried out.

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>
Primary doses	212	226	233
Secondary doses	186	165	100

Immunisation in relation to child population as at 31.12.56:-

<u>Last complete course of injection (whether primary or booster)</u>	<u>Under 1 year</u>	<u>1 - 4</u>	<u>5 - 9</u>	<u>10 - 14</u>	<u>Total under 15 years</u>
1952 - 1956	45	726	770	246	1,787
1951 or earlier	--	--	481	1,048	1,529

Vaccination - Smallpox.

The percentage of children under one year successfully vaccinated during the year ending 31st December 1956 is:-

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>
Basingstoke Rural District	81%	70.42%	66%

/C/

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES.

The district comprises 34 parishes and is mainly agricultural and residential. In recent years there has been a considerable increase in new houses built, both by the Council and privately. Amenities have also improved - a piped water supply is in most areas and sewerage in the larger parishes, or is under construction. Considerable improvement in existing housing through Improvement Grants has also been made. Population increases tend to concentrate in parishes closer to the town of Basingstoke - expanding industries in the town providing the employment.

General Health Services.

The County Council is the Health Authority responsible for the administration of the Health Services under the National Health Services Act 1946. In order to make the fullest use of local knowledge and to widen interest they have devolved upon the District Health Sub-Committee as far as possible, responsibility for the supervision of the Health Services in the area, in particular the care of mothers and young children, health visiting, vaccination, and prevention of illness care and after-care (so far as that section does not relate to tuberculosis). The Medical Officer of Health is also part-time Assistant Medical Officer of the County and carries out duties associated with the above services in the district.

Maternity and Child Welfare - Health Visiting.

Child Welfare Centres are situated throughout the district. Activities at the Clinics, at which a doctor and nurse attend, include advice on feeding and child management, immunisation and the distribution of Welfare Foods.

Attendance at these centres has improved considerably in the last year or two, partly due to the introduction of the combined diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation, and more recently, vaccination.

District Midwifery and Home Nursing.Annual Statistics for 1956 - 1955 figures in brackets to comparison.

	CASES			VISITS			
	Gen:	Mid:	T.B:	Gen:	Mid:	T.B:	Clinics
<u>Bramley.</u>							
Miss Pettman (Miss Lock)	158 (193)	15 (12)	3 (2)	2058 (2073)	242 (397)	90 (36)	15 (14)
Miss Prior (Miss Gillard)	156 (179)	12 (15)	1 (2)	1838 (2265)	243 (438)	31 (34)	3 (25)
<u>Oakley.</u>							
Miss Witts.	154 (164)	12 (15)	2 (-)	1500 (1171)	215 (448)	- (37)	1 (-)
<u>Preston Candover.</u>							
Miss Wilson.	69 (129)	13 (5)	- (-)	1453 (1173)	198 (179)	- (-)	31 (20)
<u>Silchester.</u>							
Miss Oddie.	46 (63)	14 (16)	2 (-)	1618 (991)	264 (660)	71 (-)	- (-)
<u>Upton Grey.</u>							
Miss Arnold.	129 (139)	16 (12)	- (-)	890 (690)	300 (359)	- (-)	65 (58)

Analysis of the work done shows that 36% consists of injections only and 25% surgical dressings alone or with injections, 16% general care alone or care with injections. There was a slight decrease in domiciliary midwifery.

Home Help Services.Summary of cases assisted.

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>
Maternity.	12	8
General sickness.	5	7
Post Hospital.	3	2
Child Care.	4	3
Chronic sickness.	1	1
Aged sickness.	7	6
Aged and infirm.	10	11
Tuberculosis.	2	1
Total -	<u>44</u>	<u>39</u>

A special Home Help was allotted whole time for a period to help and instruct a problem family who were willing to be helped. Considerable immediate improvement was made and the Help was gradually withdrawn.

Old Peoples' Welfare.

Once again I am grateful to the Welfare Officer for statistics of the work of the Area Welfare Officer for the year (comparative figures for 1955 are given in brackets).

Visits, Applications and Admission to Welfare Accommodation.

No. of cases visited	-	56 (42)
Total cases visited	-	34 (28)
Applications	-	18 (9)
Admissions	-	8 (5)
Senile aged persons admitted to Mental Hospitals under Sec.2, Lunacy Act 1890	-	5 (4)
Visits to aged sick persons and referred to Bed Service for Chronic sick	-	3 (6)

These figures do not give a complete picture of the work undertaken on behalf of aged persons in the area by the County Welfare Department. Extensive efforts are made so that old people may continue to reside in their homes or with relatives and friends before consideration is given to admission to an Old Persons' Home. The specialist section helps in carrying out re-habilitation work in difficult cases.

One case of neglect was dealt with under the National Assistance Act 1944, Sec. 47. The lady was admitted to Basing Road Hospital under Court Order.

Problem families.

The essential core of the problem family situation consists of people of low mentality or psychopathic personality, trying to cope with and rearing inadequately too many children. In most rural areas the case is often the unstable farm worker. Much has been done to settle them by the increased provision of Council houses. The Housing Committee have always been extremely generous in their treatment of these families. Permanent housing gives them an opportunity to form attachments, friends and loyalties. The children are given a chance to remain in one school. Good housing, I believe, forms the biggest single factor of benefit to these families.

Although a vast amount of information has been accumulated as to their characteristics, little advance has been made towards breaking down the social problem. The County Council as an experiment placed a whole time Home Help with one of these families for a period. It is hoped more in this direction will follow.

Mention must also be made of the Welfare Department's experiment in rehabilitating evicted families. Work in the County is now directed by a special section. The readiness of all sections to get together in co-ordination Committees and in increased liason between Welfare, Housing and Housing Officials has been a happy feature during the year.

/D/

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Housing.

Number of dwellings completed since 1945 (as at 31.12.56).

	<u>Total</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>
Private	483	150	56	76
Council	397	60	15	47

The Council houses completed this year were at Moat Close, Bramley; Ramsdell; Steventon and North Waltham. Building at Goddards Close, Sherfield on Loddon was in progress.

Modernisation of Council houses at Cold Harbour, North Waltham, was commenced, those at Little Hoddington, Upton Grey, and Pack Lane, Oakley, being completed.

Details of re-housing under "slum clearance" are in the Public Health Inspector's report.

Water.

Piped water is now available in all the villages in the district with the exception of Ellisfield. The latter scheme still awaits negotiation between the Mid Wessex Water Company and Portsmouth Estate. .

Regular sampling of water is done both by the Department (details in the Public Health Inspector's report) and by the Statutory Water Company.

Sewerage.

Sewerage schemes at Sherfield on Loddon, North Waltham and Sherborne St. John have been completed or are under construction.

Basing - Following representation by the Council, the Minister of Housing and Local Government authorised the first part of the Basing Sewerage Scheme being proceeded with. In order to provide the maximum benefit, the proposed sewers at Hatch Lane and Byfleet Avenue, were omitted as new septic installations in this area work satisfactorily, and the scheme was altered to include older parts of Basing not in the original first part of the scheme. Accordingly, Crown Lane to the Church, from the Railway Bridge North to Peacock Corner and South again to the Railway Bridge in Milking Pen Lane, was included. Tenders have been called for.

Sewage works generally - Some difficulty is experienced in the use of detergents resulting from excessive accumulations of grease in the disposal plant fitments.

JUNE 1957.

BASINGSTOKE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1956.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following report concerning work carried out by your Public Health Inspectors during the past year:-

Number and Nature of Visits and Inspections.

Houses under Public Health Acts.	340
Houses under Housing Acts.	303
Houses under Housing Acts 1949 - 1954.	334
Overcrowded houses.	12
re Disinfection of Premises.	6
re Water Supply.	189
Petroleum Installations.	32
Moveable Dwellings and Camping Sites.	119
Factories.	26
Schools.	40
Refuse Collection and Disposal.	346
Rodent Control.	59
Cesspool Emptying Service.	73
Re-visits following service of notices.	115
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits.	108
Complaints received and investigated.	64

NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH.

Outstanding December 1955		Served 1956		Complied with 1956		Outstanding December 1956	
Statutory	Informal	Statutory	Informal	Statutory	Informal	Statutory	Informal
5	42	18	56	13	55	10	43

FOOD PREMISES.

Details of food premises in the district and of inspections made by the Public Health Department regarding the food therein, the hygiene of the processes and the structure and cleanliness of the premises were:-

	<u>No. in District.</u>	<u>No. of Inspections.</u>
General Provision Shops.	53	118
Meat Shops.	6	33
Inns and Off Licences.	44	7
Restaurants, Cafes, etc.	8	38
Bakehouses.	4	18
Registered Ice Cream Premises.	41	83
Registered Sausage Manufacturers.	5	18
Hospitals, etc.	7	9
Dairies and Milk Distributors.	36	86
Poultry Packers.	2	--
Schools.	24	40
Clubs.	11	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total -	<u>241</u>	<u>452</u>

MILK SAMPLING.

<u>Grade of Milk</u>	<u>No. of Samples</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Pasteurised.	39	38	1
Tuberculin Tested.	24	23	1
Undesignated.	20	18	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total -	<u>83</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>4</u>

All the undesignated milk samples proved negative for Myco. Tuberculosis. *Brucella abortus* organisms were isolated in two samples and the appropriate authority was informed.

ICE CREAM SAMPLING.

18 samples were taken and were reported upon as follows:-

Grade 1	-	13
" 2	-	4
" 3	-	nil
" 4	-	1

There are no ice cream manufacturers in this District and only pre-packed ice cream is sold.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

No public slaughterhouses exist in the area, but your Officers gave assistance to the local Borough Council in the inspection of meat for brief periods when they experienced staff shortages.

UN SOUND FOOD.

No cases of unsound food being exposed for sale were found, and it was not necessary to make any seizures of food.

221 lbs. of pork were voluntarily surrendered to your Officers.

FOOD HYGIENE.

Work in this field was greatly increased. The majority of food premises in the district have been fully inspected and occupiers informed, where necessary, of works needed to secure compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955. It was found, however, that in many cases the required works had been done voluntarily and this co-operation was greatly appreciated. Improvements were secured in 27 premises as a result of informal action. Before full compliance with the Regulations can be achieved throughout the district, many more visits and constant scrutiny by your Officers will be necessary, but a big step towards this goal was taken during the year.

Guidance in the basic principles of hygienic handling and preparation of food was given to a number of food handlers who appeared to need such help and Abstracts of the Regulations were sent to all occupiers of food premises.

WATER SUPPLIES.

All public main supplies were sampled regularly during the year. Where samples from private wells proved unsatisfactory, notices were served requiring owners to connect to main supplies where available.

The extension of the Mid Wessex Main Supply in the Milton Farm, Stratfieldsaye area resulted in the discontinuance of the unsatisfactory Estate river water being supplied to properties in the vicinity.

	<u>CHEMICAL</u>		<u>BACTERIOLOGICAL</u>	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Private	3	-	25	11
Public	18	3	26	1

The unsatisfactory chemical results obtained from public supplies refer to samples from the Lawn Farm bore well at Stratfield Turgis. Cleansing of the reservoir was carried out and further samples proved satisfactory.

HOUSING ACTS.

During 1956 a large proportion of your Officers' time was spent in securing a general improvement of housing conditions in the district. 303 inspections were carried out and many interviews with owners, their architects and builders were found beneficial and necessary before any property was brought to the notice of the Committee for statutory action to be commenced.

In August 1955 it was estimated there were 268 unfit houses in the district but by the end of 1956 this number had been reduced to 204, as a result of demolition, closure, or upon their being re-conditioned and made fit by the owners concerned. The Council's slum clearance programme will accelerate still further as new houses become available in Oakley, Old Basing and Pamber. The Housing Committee has found alternative accommodation for all displaced tenants where necessary.

Much useful housing work still remains to be carried out by the Public Health Department to ensure that Category 3 and 4 houses are not permitted to deteriorate still further and become subjects of future demolition orders.

To some extent this end will be achieved by way of grants made by the Council for improvement and re-conditioning and for the conversion of toilets into water closets where sewers are now available, but many owners are still unprepared willingly to face the expense involved.

HOUSING ACTS, contd.

Improvement Grants.

During the year the Council approved a further 35 applications for Improvement Grants in respect of 59 properties. One application was rejected.

Since grants were first made available to owners in 1950, over 220 houses have now been improved. This represents over 5% of the total number of occupied houses in the area and can be considered most satisfactory.

Enquiries from owners continue to be received steadily and a waiting list of applications for grants was necessary throughout 1956. During the period grants totalling £14,538 were made in respect of works costing £32,111.

Certificates of Disrepair.

No Certificates of Disrepair were granted during the year and one Certificate previously granted was revoked.

Repairs.

In the course of the year 78 defective houses were rendered fit as a result of statutory and informal action under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

REFUSE AND SALVAGE.

A regular fortnightly kerbside collection was maintained in all parishes throughout the year and central tipping continued at Kiln Lane, Sherborne St. John. Large quantities of surplus soil were delivered to the site during the year for covering purposes and the disposal site is now in a satisfactory condition. Regular treatments by the Council's Rodent Operators were carried out and no serious pest infestation arose.

In July a new S. & D. Fore and Aft Diesel Refuse Collection Vehicle of larger capacity was delivered. It has reduced journeys to the tip and proved the most economic and labour saving type of vehicle the Council possesses. Existing side-loading vehicle should eventually be replaced by this type of machine and then more frequent collections in the area will be possible without an excessive increase in cost.

Running costs on the Bristol 22 Angledozer have again proved negligible and it continues to level and consolidate the refuse at the tip face much more efficiently than the manual labour it replaced in 1953.

The garaging of the Council's vehicles in an unsuitable building at Old Basing was discontinued during the summer when the Council purchased their present depot at Coronation Road, Basingstoke. Petrol, oil, and other Council stores have been transferred to these premises. The building is capable of accommodating six large vehicles and maintenance and minor repairs to vehicles can be conveniently carried out. The employees also appreciate the toilet, washing and personal clothing storage facilities which they did not hitherto enjoy.

The bonus scheme for salvage workers was continued throughout the year with good effect. Poorer prices were offered by the paper mills during 1956 when the materials salvaged were as follows:-

	Quantity				Value		
	Tons	Cwts	Qrs	lbs.	£	s	d
Paper -	60	8	1	26	470	0	10
Rags -	1	5	0	21	37	0	6
Metals -	5	3	0	0	25	15	10
					£ 532	17	2

Comparative figures with former years, are:-

1955	-	£556
1954	-	£401

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE.

A new diesel powered vehicle was delivered in June and has given satisfactory results. At times exceptional demands were made upon this service and considerable overtime became necessary to prevent an accumulation of orders.

Loads were disposed of upon arable land and difficulty in obtaining suitable tipping sites was experienced, particularly during late Spring. This resulted in a considerable waste of employees' time and mileage and at a future date it may be found more advantageous for the Council to acquire suitable small sites for this purpose.

During the year 2,228 loads were removed, 12,491 miles covered and the income from the service was £2,650.18.6.

FACTORIES ACT.1947.

26 inspections were made and it was found necessary to serve four written notices, three of which were complied with.

SHOPS ACT 1950.

A total of 151 inspections were made, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences. Three written notices were served and complied with.

PESTS.

No premises were found with bed-bug or flea infestations.

CONVERSION OF TOILETS INTO WATER CLOSETS.

Since the arrival of main drainage in Sherfield on Loddon and North Waltham in June the Council has authorised 18 grants towards the cost of converting pail closets into water closets. These grants were equal to one half the reasonable cost of the works involved. It is anticipated that in the near future, many more owners will take advantage of the provisions in the Public Health Acts which enable the Council to assist in this direction.

RODENT CONTROL.

There was no unduly high incidence of rat and mice infestations in the district. Regular surveys of properties were carried out by the three Rodent Operators and the contract service for treatment of agricultural properties continued, in respect of 53 farms.

Details of rodent control work carried out during the year were:-

- 1) Number of Properties inspected -
 - a) Domestic and business - 1,438.
 - b) Agricultural - 162.
- 2) Total inspections carried out (including re-inspections) -
 - a) Domestic and business - 2,957.
 - b) Agricultural - 2,233.
- 3) Properties found infested by
 - a) Rats - 562.
 - b) Mice - 35.
- 4) Number of properties treated by Council's Rodent Operators - 526.
- 5) "Block Control" schemes carried out. - 97.

As the sewers provided by the Council are of recent construction and in good condition, disinfection works proved unnecessary.

LICENCES IN FORCE.

Petroleum	-	89
Slaughtermen	-	1
Slaughterhouses	-	1
Game Dealers	-	1
Moveable Dwellings	-	58
Milk Distributors	-	36
Premises registered for sale of ice cream	-	41

In conclusion, I would like to express appreciation to the Public Health Committee for the support I have received, and to the staff in the Department for their assistance and loyalty in carrying out our duties in a tactful and impartial manner.

Yours obediently,

P.C. BOX,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

