ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

BASINGSTOKE RURAL DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1961.

BASINGSTOKE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Department,
"Eastlands",
London Road,
Basingstoke.

June, 1962.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the health of your Rural District for the year ending 31st December, 1961. In keeping with past custom, I should like to draw your attention to some features of the report in this preface.

General Health - The sickness rate was increased over the past year. This was due partly to the fact that 1960 was a year when the rate was well below average. The number of notifications of infectious diseases is however, well above last year's level and can be explained that 1961 was a "measles year". During the summer a case of poliomyelitis was queried in one of the parishes. Fortunately it was of a very mild nature with no paralysis and confirmation of the case took some time to be verified.

However, it did serve as a fillip to encourage Poliomyelitis Vaccination in the area concerned. Otherwise the response to Vaccination against poliomyelitis was disappointing and a shortage of vaccine towards the end of the year did not help matters when we were trying to offer 4th injections to school children.

Vital Statistics - There was an increase of births over deaths by 18, which however, was down on last year's figure as the number of deaths had increased by nearly 50. Other statistics compare with last year and show that diseases of the heart and circulation are the biggest single factors in the causes of death, namely 52%.

Social and Sanitary Circumstances - The second stage of the Basing sewerage scheme continued to make good progress.

As a result of the Caravan Sites and Development Act 1960 which came into force during the year, the standards which are now required leaves one in some doubt whether the setting up of a new site by a private developer would be an economic proposition. This is borne out by the fact that no new applications for such sites were received during the year. In view of the heavy demand for sites in the area the Council was left with no other alternative but to contemplate developing its own site. Plans are afoot to acquire one during the forthcoming year.

The end of the year saw the Department within sight of resolving the outbreak of Brucella infection in a herd of cattle in the district the milk from which had previously infected a child. When one realizes that this would not have occurred if only pasteurised milk were allowed to be sold, one wonders why the public pay more for raw milk which is potentially dangerous, when pasteurised milk is not only safer but cheaper to buy.

My thanks are due to the Council, Officers and Staff of the Public Health Department for their kindness and help to me since taking up my appointment. In closing I should be most ungracious if I were not to pay a very warm tribute to Dr. Karney, who guided the Department as a "locum tenems" in the four months preceding my appointment when the Public Health Department were without a Medical Officer of Health.

Yours faithfully,

T E Kulcsar

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area.....	74,790 acres	
Population - Registrar General's Estimate Mid 1961.	19,100	
Number of inhabited houses.....	5,038	
Rateable Value.....	(£197,400)	£203,578
Product of penny rate.....	(£783)	£811

VITAL STATISTICS.

	1961	1960	1959
Live births.....	317	318	298
Live birth rate per 1000 population.....	16.5	17.66	16.93
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	5.0	3.4	5.0
Stillbirths.....	4	2	6
Stillbirths rate per 1000 live and stillbirths.....	12.4	6.2	19.6
Total live and stillbirths.....	321	320	304
Infant deaths.....	9*	8	4
Infant mortality rate per 1000 live births - Total...	28.3	25.1	13.4
" " " " " " " - Legitimate	28.3	26.0	14.1
" " " " " " " - Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil
Neonatal (first 4 weeks) rate per 1000 live births...	25.2	15.7	6.7
Early Neonatal rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 live births)	18.9	12.8	13.4
Perinatal Mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week)...	31.1	18.9	26.8
Maternal deaths (including abortion).....	1	Nil	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1000 live and still births	0.05	Nil	Nil
Comparability factors.....(births.	1.15	1.20	1.20
(deaths.	0.59	0.58	0.53

* Correspondence with the Registrar General is being taken up by the M.O.H on this matter, as our returns show 12 deaths and not 9.

BIRTHS.		Male	Female	Total	1960	1959
Live births	Legitimate.....	168	133	301	307	283
	Illegitimate.....	10	6	16	11	15
Birth rate per 1000 population (corrected).....				18.9	21.2	20.3
Average for England and Wales.....				17.4	17.1	16.5

Births were mainly in Basing (19), Bramley (22), Silchester (18) and Upton Grey (12).

DEATHS.	Male	Female	Total	1960	1959
Deaths from all causes.....	142	157	299	304	251
Death rate per thousand (corrected).....			9.2	9.8	7.5
Average for England and Wales.....			12.0	11.5	11.6

MATERNAL MORTALITY.	Total	1960	1959
From all causes.....	one	Nil	Nil

INFANT MORTALITY.	Male	Female	Total	1960	1959
Legitimate.....	5	4	9	8	4
Illegitimate.....	-	-	-	-	-

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS.

	Under 24 hrs.	Under 1 week	1 - 4 weeks	1 - 12 months
Congenital Malformations	-	-	1	1
Prematurity	3	-	-	-
Atelectasis	-	-	-	-
Bronchopneumonia	-	-	1	1
Miscellaneous group	-	4	-	1

STILL BIRTHS.

	Male	Female	Total	1960	1959
Legitimate	1	3	4	2	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-	-

Analysis of Causes of Death.

Code No.	Disease	Male	Female	Total	1960	1959
1	Tuberculosis Respiratory	-	-	-	-	1
3	Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-	-	-
8	Measles	-	-	-	-	1
10	Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	3	-	3	6	4
11	Lung & Bronchus	6	2	8	5	9
12	Breast	-	5	5	5	6
13	Uterus	-	1	1	-	2
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	16	12	28	21	22
15	Leukaemia	2	-	2	1	1
16	Diabetes	-	4	4	6	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	14	16	30	32	32
18	Coronary Disease or Angina	33	21	54	45	27
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	4	8	12	7	9
20	Other Heart Disease	20	26	46	70	73
21	Other Circulatory Disease	6	6	12	10	13
22	Influenza	-	2	2	-	6
23	Pneumonia	8	28	36	35	20
24	Bronchitis	4	3	7	8	9
25	Other Disease of Respiratory System	1	-	1	4	1
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	-	1	3	1
27	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	2	1	3	1	-
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	-	2	4	1
29	Hyperplasia of Prostrate	1	-	1	1	1
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	-	1	1	-	-
31	Congenital Malformations	2	1	3	3	3
32	Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	8	11	19	21	15
33	Motor vehicle accidents	3	-	3	2	3
34	All other accidents	4	8	12	12	10
35	Suicide	2	1	3	1	-
36	Homicide	-	-	-	-	-

EPIDEMIOLOGY

New claims for sickness benefits followed much the same pattern as for 1960 with the exception for the month of June which was well above the seasonal average for the past years.

The last week of December, 1960, produced a mild epidemic of the "seasonal ailments" which was more than twice as high for the same week. Delays in postal services at this time of the year meant that a great majority of these claims therefore were not received by the Insurance Office until early 1961.

Notifiable Diseases.

Measles	368
Scarlet Fever	4
Pneumonia	2
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	14
Non Pulmonary	1
Erysipelas	2
Food Poisoning	2
Dysentery	9
Poliomyelitis	1

Immunisation - Diphtheria and Whooping Cough.

During the year 325 primary courses were given, of which 30 were with combined vaccine (with whooping cough) and 302 with triple vaccine (tetanus added). In addition 188 were given booster doses.

Vaccination - Smallpox.

The rate of children under one year successfully vaccinated during the year ending 31st December 1961 is:-

	1961	1960	1959
Basingstoke Rural District	50.0	76.1	60.4

Vaccination - Poliomyelitis.

Up to the end of the year 712 people received two doses of such vaccine and a further 910 had completed the course of three injections.

Certain sections of the population i.e. school children were recommended to secure further protection by being given a fourth dose. These were started some time during the late summer and 808 children received injections.

A shortage of vaccine which existed during the last two months of the year resulted in a drop in the number of "3rd injections" being given and our inability to give all the school children their fourth dose.

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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; there is now a piped water supply in most areas and sewerage in all the larger parishes. The estimated population as given by the Registrar General shows an increase of 1100 and this will no doubt steadily increase with the expansion in the Borough of Basingstoke.

General Health Services.

The County Council is the Health Authority. The local District Health Sub-Committee are responsible for helping and advising on these services.

Maternity and Child Welfare - Health Visiting.

Child Welfare Centres are situated throughout the district. Activities, 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 continued to be high.

District Midwifery and Home Nursing.
Annual Statistics for 1961.

	Home Confinements	Visits	General Cases	Visits
Basing	19	364	68	1346
Bramley	22	447	106	1281
Sherborne St. John	6	124	21	193
Preston Candover	9	163	68	920
Silchester	18	293	35	674
Upton Grey	12	1965	466	5754

Home Help Service.
Summary of cases assisted.

	1961	1960
Maternity	22	5
General Sickness	3	4
Post Hospital	5	5
Child Care	1	-
Chronic Sickness	10	4
Aged Sick and Infirm	38	16
Tuberculosis	2	-
Residential	-	-
Special	1	-

Old People's Welfare.

The care and welfare of old people continues to be attracting the interest of voluntary welfare groups. The district now has 6 Old Peoples Clubs. The club at Basing is extremely popular and now has a visiting service. It is possible that the increase in voluntary welfare work in this direction is partly responsible for the decrease in the call for the Home Help Service. Certainly, I now come to know of old people needing care and attention much earlier than previously, and I am able to put them in touch with some form of service.

Visits, Applications and Admissions to Welfare Accommodation.

No. of cases visited.....	68 (23)	
Applications.....	25 (10)	including 12 short stay applications
Admissions.....	24 (7)	including 10 short stay cases
Visits to aged sick persons and referred to bed service for chronic sick.....	6 (1)	

Figures in parenthesis refer to the year 1960.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Housing.

Number of dwellings completed since 1945 (as at 31.12.61).

	Total	Completed 1961	1960	1959
Private	862	113	104	75
Council	700	6	76	22

6 houses were completed by the Council, the majority being at Basing, as building here was previously held up owing to the absence of a sewerage scheme.

Slum Clearance.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government approved the Council's programme for the demolition of 44 houses within the next four years.

Water Supply.

Piped water supplies are now available in all parishes. Regular sampling of water is carried out by the Department (details in the Senior Public Health Inspector's Report) and by the Statutory Water Company.

Sewerage.

The second stage of the Basing sewerage scheme continued during the year, and some thought was given to the provision of sewers in other parishes when this was completed.

Food Supplies.
Milk.

During the year, routine samples were to be taken from Producers' vehicles in the district and these were all found to be satisfactory with one exception. This was the herd mentioned in the 1960 report to be infected by Brucellosis.

It has been found difficult to eradicate this from the herd but by the end of the year by a strict segregation and removal from the herd of infected animals, the position was slowly resolving itself. The lengthy time taken in achieving this despite vaccination by S.19 would appear to indicate that it might be contracted by hereditary transmission.

JUNE 1962.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1961.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my fourteenth annual report concerning work carried out by your Public Health Inspectors.

Number and Nature of Visits and Inspections.

Houses under Public Health Acts	344
Houses under Housing Acts	209
Improvement Grants and Standard Grants	381
Overcrowded Houses	11
re Housing Applications	127
re Water Supply	98
Petroleum Installations	52
Moveable Dwellings and Camping Sites	234
Factories	26
Schools	5
Food Premises	240
Refuse Collection and Disposal	372
Rodent Control	31
Cesspool Emptying Service	62
Re-visits Following Service of Notices	114
Miscellaneous Visits	78
Complaints Received and Investigated	63

FOOD PREMISES.

Inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors regarding food and food premises were as follows:-

	No. in District.	No. of Inspections.
General Provision Shops	49	61
Butchers Shops	4	12
Inns and Off Licences	41	15
Restaurants, Cafes, etc.	10	31
Bakehouses	4	8
Registered Ice cream Premises	60	21
Registered Sausage Manufacturers	8	14
Hospitals and Old Peoples Homes	4	10
Dairies and Milk Distributors	8	47
Schools	22	5
Clubs	11	8
Watercress Growers	7	8
Total -	228	240

MILK SAMPLING.

Grade of Milk	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised	16	16	) Nil
Tuberculin Tested	5	5	)
Total -	21	21	

15 samples were subject to the Milk Ring Test and 7 gave a positive result. 1 guinea pig test was made.

ICE CREAM SAMPLING.

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

Grade 1 - 6
Grade 2 - Nil
Grade 3 - Nil
Grade 4 - Nil

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

WATERCRESS.

Chlorination of watercress after bunching continued to be practised by all growers in the district with satisfactory results.

FOOD HYGIENE.

Routine inspections during the year revealed an increasing awareness among food handlers of the need for hygiene in the handling of food. It is an unfortunate fact that in premises such as roadside cafe's etc., where food is handled the most and is distributed to a wide range of people, the type of labour attracted is the least satisfactory.

A good many of the food premises in this area are small village shops where most of the food sold, is pre-packed. During the year a large increase in the sale of frozen foods was noted. The provision of the necessary refrigerator has reduced still further the limited space available in this type of shop, and is in itself often an obstacle to easy cleansing. Furthermore, the refrigerated cabinets tend to be overloaded and their design is such, that it is questionable whether all the foods are kept at the required temperature. These problems will be aggravated as the demand for frozen foods increases.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Public mains were sampled regularly during the year. Of 16 samples taken from private sources, 10 proved unsatisfactory. Action was taken to provide a satisfactory alternative supply in these cases, or improvements to wells were made when no piped supply was available.

Properties within reasonable distance of the new mains were inspected and 2 Statutory Notices were served requiring the provision of an internal supply. Both were complied with.

Relatively few houses in the district are now without a piped water supply.

SWIMMING POOL.

The swimming pool at Old Basing was once more opened to the public during the summer, but the weather was again such that the pool was used infrequently. Sampling proved the water to be of satisfactory purity.

HOUSING ACTS.

During the year much of your Officers' time was spent in securing improvement of general housing standards. The many interviews with owners, their Architects and Builders proved beneficial. Most of the repairs and improvements effected, resulted from an informal approach and only occasionally were unsatisfactory housing conditions brought to the notice of the Council, with the request that Statutory action be taken.

The "slum clearance" programme maintained steady progress and the following details shew the action taken during the first six years of the ten year programme.

Total unfit at 31.8.55.	5c 93	5b 79	5a 96	Total 268
Properties Demolished	53	13	13	79
Orders served and awaiting demolition	2	1	2	5
"Time and Place" Notices awaiting consideration ...	-	1	1	2
Closing Orders..	2	11	3	16
Owners' Formal Undertakings accepted	17	13	10	40
Improved and rendered fit for habitation.	17	20	29	66
In course of improvement and re-conditioning.. ...	-	7	7	14
Action deferred.	2	-	-	2
	93	66	65	224
Still to be considered by Council (before the end of 1965)	-	13	31	44

A great deal of housing work still remains, to ensure that properties originally placed in higher categories do not deteriorate, and become the subject of future demolition orders.

During 1961, a further 6 families comprising 19 persons were re-housed from unfit houses. Formal action resulted in 5 more houses being demolished, 1 was closed, and the Council accepted from owners undertakings to use 7 dwellings for purposes other than human habitation. The Housing Committee offered alternative accommodation to all displaced tenants.

Cases of statutory overcrowding in the district are few, but 2 cases were relieved during the year.

Improvement Grants.

Applications in respect of 40 properties were approved during the year. 6 applications were refused. Since the Act was introduced in 1949, grants have been approved in respect of 418 properties. Enquiries from owners relating to these grants continue steadily.

Repairs.

69 houses were rendered fit for habitation, as a result of informal action by your Officers.

Standard Grants.

Applications approved -	21
Applications refused -	Nil
Applications withdrawn -	2
Total -	23

There was again a decrease in the number of applications received for these grants.

CARAVANS AND CARAVAN SITES.

During 1961, the majority of the licensed sites in the district were improved to conform with licensing requirements, and in most cases site operators and occupiers alike welcomed the improvements.

Since the initial licences were issued under the new Act, all applications for licence that had been received had been in respect of individual caravans only. Since it is planning policy to discourage sites for individual caravans, and since no proposals were in hand from private individuals to provide a site for a number of caravans, the Council felt it should provide such a site. At the end of the year, therefore, plans were in course of preparation to purchase land and to provide a model site for approximately 60 caravans.

During the year more gypsy families were found to be camping in the district than hitherto. They occupy land either by way of trespass, or by camping on the highway. It is no solution to harass them from one site to another, but on the other hand unless this is done, their pitches become foul and ugly blots in the area. There are heartening signs that the County Council is prepared to tackle the problem in a more comprehensive manner than a District Council can hope to achieve.

REFUSE AND SALVAGE COLLECTIONS AND DISPOSAL.

Weekly collections were maintained in all parishes. Three diesel powered Shelvoke and Drewery 18 cu.yd. "Fore and Aft" tipping vehicles were in daily service and a 13 cu.yd. loader of the same manufacture held in reserve. All gave satisfactory service.

The development of new estates and the general increase in the volume of refuse to be collected resulted in the vehicles and labour force working to full capacity and overtime. The reduction of the normal working week to 42 hours also had its effect. There is now no further adjustment of collection schedules practicable and it may well be that during the coming winter, when daylight working hours are restricted, and collections are at their heaviest, additional labour will be found necessary to man the reserve vehicle for regular service. This vehicle is however, already over ten years old and has its limitations.

During the late summer the Kiln Lane Site at Sherborne St. John was closed and tipping commenced at Marnel Dell. The Council retains complete control of this tip but large quantities of refuse are accepted from the Borough Council by agreement. Trade refuse delivered to the site is disposed of at a standard charge of 7s. 6d. per load.

The Drott BTD Crawler Tractor at the refuse tip continues to prove ideal equipment for the heavy nature of the work involved. All road and clearance work at Marnel Dell was carried out by this machine and direct labour.

During the year the following materials were salvaged and a bonus for the employees continued:-

	Quantity				Value
	Tons	Cwts	Qrs	lbs	
Paper -	97	17	2	25	£689 - -
Rags -	2	9	1	14	£63 - -
Metals -	11	5	2	-	£57 - -
					£809 - -

Comparative figures with former years are:-

1960 - £856
1959 - £663
1958 - £586

The annual mileage covered by this service was 28,090.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE.

A new 800 gallon Shelvoke and Drewry diesel powered vehicle was delivered in May, 1961, and the 750 gallon Commer Karrier vehicle was retained for emergency use.

Regular overtime was again necessary to cope with demands made upon the service. It was hoped that the provision of main drainage to properties in Old Basing would releive the service of considerable work, but, the installation of modern conveniences and drainage systems in unsewered areas, more than counter-balanced the work still to be undertaken.

Charges for the work remained unchanged since 1957, and were:-

1st load (or part load)..... 30/-
Subsequent loads (or part loads)... 23/-

A 10% reduction on all charges where a contract is entered into, continues.

These charges are reduced by one half for the third and subsequent emptying of a domestic pit during the financial year.

Extensive use was made of sewers for disposal purposes, but the existing sewage works are inadequate for all loads to be discharged in this manner.

During the year 2,170 loads were removed, 12,566 miles were covered, and the income from the service was £2,433.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948.

23 inspections were made and it was found necessary to serve 2 written notices, both of which were complied with.

SHOPS ACT 1950.

59 inspections were made, relating to the ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences. 3 notices were served and complied with.

MAIN DRAINAGE.

In the parishes of Old Basing, North Waltham, Sherborne St. John and Sherfield-on-Loddon, a further 177 properties were connected to public sewers during the year.

Provision of sewers and an enlarged disposal works at Old Basing was in progress, and in the areas concerned 148 properties had already been connected by the end of the year.

CONVERSION OF PAIL CLOSETS INTO WATER CLOSETS.

In the parishes where public sewers are available the Council have now assisted owners of 145 properties towards the cost of converting pail closets into water closets in accordance with the provisions of Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

PESTS

Again no flea or bed bug infestations were reported. The bulk of the complaints received were in respect of flies, wasps and cockroaches.

RODENT CONTROL.

The systematic inspection of properties throughout the district was maintained. Infestations on farms, although not heavy, were found to be more widespread, due possibly to grain being left in the fields by the use of combine harvesters.

Test baiting of sewers revealed only one minor infestation.

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

1) Number of properties inspected:-

(a) Domestic and business	-	1,234
(b) Agricultural	-	110

2) Total inspections carried out (including re-inspections):-

(a) Domestic and Business	-	2,890
(b) Agricultural	-	953

3) Properties found infested by:-

(a) Rats	-	448
(b) Mice	-	37

4) Number of properties treated by Council's Rodent Operators	-	485
5) "Block Control" schemes carried out	-	62

The Council's policy of providing a free disinfestation service to householders continued, but treatments at business and agricultural premises were carried out upon request and repayment of the cost involved.

NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH.

Outstanding December 1960		Served 1961		Complied with 1961		Outstanding December 1961	
Statutory	Informal	Statutory	Informal	Statutory	Informal	Statutory	Informal
18	40	19	20	31	31	6	29

LICENCES IN FORCE.

Petroleum	-	90
Game Dealers	-	2
Moveable Dwellings	-	34
Milk Distributors	-	8
Premises registered for the sale of ice-cream	-	60
Premises registered for the manufacture of sausages	-	8

Staff changes occurred regularly and I find I am the only member on the staff of the Department to have completed the year covered by this report. In such a transitional period, my thanks are due both to former and present staff, and particularly to the latter who have so readily ensured the continuity of work in hand.

Yours obediently,

P. C. Box

Senior Public Health Inspector.