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

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

BASINGSTOKE RURAL DISTRICT

for the year 1970

BASINGSTOKE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

September 1971.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year ending 1970 as directed by the Public Health Officers Regulations.

Vital Statistics - The increase in population during the year was 390, 110 less than the amount recorded for the preceding year. As in the previous year, this increase must be due to immigration as the number of deaths exceeded the number of births by 6.

Mortality - The picture is as in previous years following much the same pattern. 56% of all deaths occurred over the age of 75 years.

Social and Sanitary Circumstances - The main points of this section of my report are covered in the section prepared by the Chief Public Health Inspector, to whom it is my pleasant duty once again to record my thanks for his contribution.

I should also like to express my thanks to the Council and staff of the Public Health Department, especially Mr. Box and Mr. Ross, the Chief and Deputy Chief Public Health Inspectors for all their help during 1970.

Yours faithfully,

T.E. ROBERTS
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area	74,390 acres
Population - Registrar General's Estimate Mid. 1970 ...	22,650
Number of inhabitated houses	6,706
Rateable Value	£772,797
Product of penny rate	£3,121

VITAL STATISTICS

	1970	1969	1968
Live births	362	322	333
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	17.6	16.0	15.3
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	5.5 ~~13.0~~	8.0	4.2
Stillbirths	1	6	3
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	3.0	18.0	8.9
Total live and stillbirths	363	328	336
Infant deaths	11	5	8
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births			
Total	30.0	16.0	24.0
Legitimate	32.0	13.0	18.0
Neonatal (first 4 weeks) rate per 1,000 live births ..	28.0	12.0	18.0
Early neonatal rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)	25.0	12.0	15.0
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week)	28.0	30.0	23.8
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	Nil	Nil	Nil
Comparability factors .....(births)	1.10	1.10	1.10
(deaths)	0.55	0.53	0.48

BIRTHS		Male	Female	Total	1969	1968
Live births	Legitimate	194	148	342	297	316
	Illegitimate	7	13	20	25	17
Birth rate per 1,000 population (corrected)				17.6	16.8	16.8
Average for England and Wales				16.0	16.3	16.9

DEATHS	Male	Female	Total	1969	1968
Deaths from all causes	167	189	356	363	387
Death rate per 1,000 (corrected)			8.6	8.6	8.5
Average for England and Wales			11.7	11.9	11.9

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS

	Under 1 week	1 - 4 weeks	1 - 12 months
Congenital Abnormality	1	0	1
Prematurity	3	0	0
Atelectases	3	0	0
Cerebral Anoxia	1	0	1
Pneumonia	1	0	0

STILL BIRTHS	Male	Female	Total	1969	1968
Legitimate	1	0	1	6	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0	0	2

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH

Code No.	Disease	Male	Female	Total
B6(1)	Late effects of Respiratory T.B.	1	-	1
B19(1)	Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc., ...	1	-	1
B19(2)	Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	-	1	1
B19(3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	5	-	5
B19(4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	3	8	11
B19(6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	9	1	10
B19(7)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	1	7	8
B19(8)	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	2	2
B19(10)	Leukaemia	-	2	2
B19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	10	7	17
B21	Diabetes Mellitus	-	3	3
B46(2)	Other Diseases of Blood, etc.	-	1	1
B46(3)	Mental Disorders	-	1	1
B46(4)	Multiple Sclerosis	1	1	2
B46(5)	Other Diseases of Nervous System	3	1	4
B26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	2	-	2
B27	Hypertensive Disease	4	3	7
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	41	32	73
B29	Other Forms of Heart Disease	13	13	26
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease	6	24	30
B46(6)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	8	19	27
B31	Influenza	1	2	3
B32	Pneumonia	25	38	63
B33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	9	6	15
B33(2)	Asthma	-	1	1
B46(7)	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	1	1
B34	Peptic Ulcer	2	-	2
B36	Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	1	2
B37	Cirrhosis of Liver	1	-	1
B46(8)	Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	1	2
B38	Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	-	2
B46(9)	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	1	2	3
B46(11)	Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	-	1	1
B42	Congenital Anomalies	2	-	2
B43	Birth Injury, Difficult Labour etc., ...	2	2	4
B44	Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	4	1	5
BE47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	2	4
BE48	All Other Accidents	3	6	9
BE49	Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	2	-	2
BE50	All Other External Causes	1	-	1

EPIDEMIOLOGY

Notification of Diseases

	1970	1969	1968	1967
Measles	36	37	31	310
Scarlet Fever	1	1	-	1
Whooping Cough	3	1	2	2
Dysentery	4	1	-	13
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	3	2	6	5
Salmonella Typhimurium	1	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	1	-	2	1
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	-
	50	42	41	331

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

a) SMALLPOX

Age	Primary				Re-Vaccination			
	1970	1969	1968	1967	1970	1969	1968	1967
1 year	14	33	199	197	-	-	-	-
2 - 4 years	63	84	68	55	7	-	1	2
5 - 15 years	19	12	25	6	21	23	54	51
TOTAL	96	129	292	258	28	23	55	53

b) DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS

Course		1970	1969	1968
Primary	General Practitioners Local Authority Doctors	75) 69) 144	195	317
Booster	General Practitioners Local Authority Doctors	127) 483) 610	475	755

c) MEASLES

	1970			1969		
	1 yr	2-4 yr	5-15yr	1 yr	2-4 yr	5-15yr
General Practitioners	-	79	38	66	163	67
Local Authority Doctors	-	44	13	108	131	121
TOTAL	-	123	51	174	294	188

During part of the year, Measles Vaccination was suspended following advice from the Department of Health.

d) POLIOMYELITIS

		1970	1969	1968
Primary	General Practitioners Local Authority Doctors	127) 101) 228	232	508
Booster	General Practitioners Local Authority Doctors	111) 221) 332	334	378

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE - Health Visiting

The Health Visitor is informed of all births to mothers normally resident in the Rural District whether they occur inside or outside the rural boundary. They assist the mother and offer advice on all matters regarding immunisation and feeding, working at all times in close liasion with the family doctor to enable the child to receive the greatest benefit.

During the year, one Child Health Clinic ceased to operate. There are 13 Child Welfare Clinics situated in the Rural District.

No. of Children attending born in 1970	1969	1968	Total No. of Children	Total Attendances
224	228	267	772	3,003

DISTRICT MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

Year	Midwifery		General	
	Domiciliary Confinement including Hospital discharge before the 10th day	Visits	Cases	Visits
1970	252	2,320	260	4,206
1969	227	2,263	338	6,638
1968	84	1,263	269	6,887
1967	53	1,673	331	8,488

HOME HELP SERVICE

Applications									Weekly Case Load			Home Helps on Register 31.12.70		
Total Received and Investigated			Assisted			Advance Bookings								
1970	1969	1968	1970	1969	1968	1970	1969	1968	1970	1969	1968	1970	1969	1968
76	71	72	43	36	37	5	1	4	59	54	53	26	25	31

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 and 1951

There was no application under these Acts during the year.

OLD PEOPLES' WELFARE

Both the statutory and voluntary welfare services work individually and co-operate when necessary to bring the greatest benefit to the elderly people of the District. This service is administered centrally by the Hampshire Council of Social Service from Winchester.

VISITS, APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS TO WELFARE ACCOMMODATION

	1970	1969	1968
No. of cases visited	165	79	51
Applications	25	28	11
Admissions	18	24	9
Aged, Registered Handicapped Persons	34	29	29

INVESTIGATIONS MADE AND REFERRED TO :

	1970	1969	1968
Ministry of Social Security	-	-	1
Hospital Bed Service	-	-	-
Home Help Organiser	11	1	-
Miscellaneous	70	18	12
Placed in Private Accommodation (under County Placement Scheme)	-	-	-
Visits in Relation to Group Dwelling Scheme - Cavalier Close, Basing	13	3	1
Protection of Property	1	2	-
Meals on Wheels	60	38	28
Section 47. National Assistance Act	-	3	-

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

HOUSING

Number of dwellings completed since 1945 is as follows:-

	Total	1970	1969	1968
Private	1,937	178	219	73
Council	896	51	14	47

MAIN DRAINAGE

Continued development in the northern part of the district in areas where main drainage has yet to be provided still gives cause for concern. The matter is under review by the Council and a comprehensive scheme covering several villages is under investigation by Consultant Engineers.

WATER

Piped water supplies are available in all parishes. Regular sampling of water is carried out by the Department and the Statutory Water Companies and all were satisfactory.

FOOD SUPPLIES

In addition to routine inspections of food premises in the area, the Department continues to liaise with school kitchen supervisors and those responsible for hospital catering.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1970

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my twenty-third annual report concerning work carried out by your Public Health Department.

Throughout the year, routine work to maintain public health standards continued, but considerable time was involved in housing and drainage surveys and work study, which had its effect. Although routine visits to food premises, shops and factories continued to be made, the visits had to be confined to premises where open food is handled and those known to require regular supervision. The situation will not improve when the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970, come into operation on the 1st March 1972. The operation of these Regulations is extended to include the business of packing or storing eggs, fruit or vegetables on farm premises. The number of such premises in the district is unknown. Unless a regular inspection programme is maintained, experience has shown that standards generally relax.

On two occasions during the year employees withdrew their labour in support of wage claims. A one day strike in March made little impact on the services, but a strike of three weeks' duration during the autumn created difficulties which had not previously been experienced by ratepayers or the administration. These were fortunately minimised by the paper sack refuse collection service and no health hazard arose. Normal collections at hospitals were maintained throughout the stoppage. Ratepayers using the cesspool emptying service regularly were put to great inconvenience and a number of pits overflowed.

By the end of the year the effects of the Transport Act, 1968 and regulations made thereunder, were beginning to be felt, particularly in relation to the licensing of heavy goods vehicle drivers. The Council's drivers act also as loaders, and I foresee some difficulty in future recruitment when more congenial employment is so readily available in the district at attractive wage rates. I feel that provision must be made for some of the younger employees to attend drivers' training courses. Whether or not they continue in the Council's service after qualifying will depend upon their conditions of service and their loyalty, but this is a problem faced by every heavy goods vehicle operator.

Generally, a large volume of work has been undertaken by the staff in this department during the year, conscientiously and with courtesy to all concerned, and I wish to record my appreciation.

P.C. BOX
Chief Public Health Inspector

September 1971.

FOOD PREMISES

Inspections regarding food and food premises were as follows:-

	No. in District	No. of Inspections
General Provision Shops	50	71
Butchers Shops	5	14
Inns and Off Licences	42	37
Restaurants, Cafes, etc., ...	7	29
Bakehouses	2	4
Registered Ice Cream Premises	64	85
Registered Sausage Manufacturers ..	4	12
Hospitals and Old Peoples Homes ...	4	15
Premises Licensed for Sale of Milk .	20	43
Schools	20	14
Clubs	11	10
	229	334

During the year the number of routine visits to food premises fell. It was again noted that space generally in shops was found to be inadequate. The difficulties mentioned more fully in my previous report may be overcome in part, by the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970, which will require that the layout of food premises shall be such as to provide adequate space suitably sited, for the purpose of the removal of waste from food, the separation of unfit food and the storage of any such waste and unfit food prior to disposal. Many occupiers of food premises are still reluctant to provide refrigerated storage cabinets, display counters, etc., because of the shortage of available space.

The new Regulations make no changes regarding the temperature control of food, but a special study is being made to ascertain whether and to what extent legal requirements may be appropriate. The existing requirements apply to certain foods sold from premises on or from which a catering business is carried on. This includes the hot pies seen on display in heated cabinets in public houses. Regulations are satisfied if at closing time the pies are kept hot or if they are returned to the refrigerator until opening time and then returned to the hot-display cabinet. Of course, if they are kept hot, by the following day they are probably unsaleable. The question is - do they always go back to the refrigerator?

MILK SAMPLING

Grade of Milk	No. of Samples
Pasteurised	37
Untreated	4
	41

All samples were found to be satisfactory.

ICE CREAM SAMPLING

There are no ice cream manufacturers in the district.

14 samples were taken from registered premises selling prepacked ice cream and from travelling vendors. All were satisfactory.

HOUSING ACTS

Housing Re-Survey

The re-survey of older lower rated houses continued and by the end of the year 607 dwellings in 9 villages had been inspected. Details are as follows:-

No. of houses re-surveyed	607
Houses reasonably fit and with all amenities	401
Houses lacking amenities but capable of improvement	163
Unfit houses	43

Of the 43 houses found to be unfit, 10 have since been demolished or closed. 14 are being, or await improvement, and most of the remaining 19 are occupied by elderly persons who show indifference to having their houses fully improved, although several will connect W.C. and sinks to main drainage when sewers are available.

The above figures contain a higher proportion of unfit houses than will be revealed for the whole district, for the reason that those villages known to contain most unfit houses, were surveyed first.

Even so, it is perhaps surprising that approximately 28% of the properties surveyed still rely on pail closets, and have inadequate drainage systems or none at all. The outlook is however more promising as in 6 of the 9 villages surveyed, main drainage schemes have been approved by the Council, and when these are operating within the next few years, most substandard properties are likely to be improved and provided with modern sanitary facilities.

continued .....

HOUSING ACTS continued ....

Improvement and Standard Grants

During the year a further 42 improvement grants totalling £30,906. and 16 standard grants totalling £5,510. were approved.

Although grants for the improvement of nearly 1,000 houses have been approved since they were introduced, and this achievement must stand comparison with the most progressive rural districts in the country, there still remains a large number of dwellings likely to become subject to future applications. These grants, without a shadow of doubt, have played an important part in raising general housing standards. The considerable proportion of your Officers' time involved in dealing with owners' enquiries, interviewing architects and builders and advising applicants in the submission of schemes, has proved worthwhile in realising the potential value of a substandard or unfit dwelling, as an improved housing unit.

Slum Clearance

During the year :-

6 houses were demolished

3 houses awaited demolition

6 houses became subject to owners' formal undertakings.

72 houses were repaired as a result of formal and informal action by the Council and its Officers.

2 cases of overcrowding came to the notice of the department during the year, and the families have since been housed by the Council.

Housing Act, 1969 - Qualification Certificates

2 applications for Qualification Certificates were received and provisional approvals issued.

CARAVANS AND CARAVAN SITES

Two additional standings were provided on the Council's caravan site and both the access lane and service roads on the site were re-surfaced with tarmacadam.

Throughout the year, standings were fully occupied.

On the private sites in the district, the demand for standings continued unabated and there is no doubt that a further large site could become fully occupied. This site would comply with the County Council policy for caravans, but in a rural area the establishment of such a site within a village is difficult to achieve. Sufficient land within the accepted village boundary must be found and the problem of adequate services then arises. It may well be impossible for the village school to accommodate the additional children and for the bus service to meet the extra demand. If all these problems can be overcome, the cost of site development is the last formidable obstacle.

Caravans now found on private sites are invariably provided with a small bathroom and the communal toilet block and laundry are now outdated.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

It was again noticeable that very few changes occurred in the type of business and the number of persons employed. Few minor contraventions were noted. In all cases where plans are deposited for the construction of new premises or the alteration of existing premises, owners are advised regarding the requirements of the Act.

262 persons were employed in 78 registered premises in the district. The majority of these premises also receive inspections regarding food hygiene.

WATER SUPPLIES

Most of the district is supplied with main water by the Mid Southern and Thames Valley Water Boards. A few smaller hamlets continue to be served by independent piped supplies. Samples for chemical and bacteriological examination were taken at regular intervals from various points and all the results proved satisfactory. A number of isolated properties still rely upon shallow wells and rain water tanks and these are sampled as the occasion demands.

Swimming Pools

One swimming pool in the district remained open to the public and a further five are situated at schools. All were well maintained. Samples of pool water were taken regularly and found satisfactory.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse and Salvage Collection

The whole district now receives a weekly back-door paper sack collection of refuse and salvage. The collectors find this service cleaner and less arduous than the previous emptying of dustbins, but considerably more walking is involved now that kerbside collections have discontinued. The villages are tidier with the disappearance of dustbins from every gateway on collection day.

For the first time for many years staff changes were infrequent and recruitment presented no difficulties. Overtime working increased during the year, not only due to new development in several parishes, but also, as a result of employees' longer holiday entitlement, above average sickness, and increased absenteeism.

A great deal of time was spent during the year preparing for and assisting works study officers, who were engaged in producing an incentive bonus scheme for refuse collection services, and when this is introduced it is hoped that absenteeism will be reduced to a minimum.

Salvage of waste paper continued throughout the year, after the Public Health Committee had reconsidered future policy. The Council has a 5 year contract for the sale of waste paper at agreed minimum prices, but it is never easy to predict the paper board mill's demand for this commodity and only a resurgence of the national economy seems likely to overcome the present recession in this industry.

Refuse Disposal

All combustible refuse continued to be incinerated in the Borough Council's destructor at Wildmoor. Ashes from this plant, together with incombustible materials and bulky household articles collected by both Council's were disposed of at Marnel Dell, where very limited tipping space now remains. The Borough Council have undertaken to provide and maintain an alternative site to replace the facilities at Marnel Dell, but so far without success as most pits within a reasonable distance have been filled with excavated soil from the new town and M.3 Motorway. The buildings and equipment at Marnel Dell continued to attract the regular attention of vandals.

Cesspool Emptying Service

During the year this service tended to suffer whenever sufficient labour became unavailable fully to maintain regular refuse collections, and there were periods when one or more cesspool emptying vehicle stood idle.

At times, particularly following prolonged inclement weather, exceptional demands were made on the service and considerable overtime working resulted to prevent unreasonable delays in executing orders. Not until main drainage schemes approved for Cliddesden, Bramley, Monk Sherborne, Newnham and Pamber are operating, is there likely to be a significant reduction in demand for this service.

Charges for this work remained unaltered and are as follows:-

1st and 2nd loads	£2. 00 each
3th, 4th and 5th loads	£1. 55p each
6th / 10th loads	75p each
11th load	50p
12th and subsequent loads	25p each

Lay-Bys

The Council by arrangement with the County Council continued a regular clearance of litter from lay-bys. In October the Public Health Committee considered a report from the Hampshire Association of Parish Councils following a survey they carried out to ascertain the adequacy of toilet arrangements along trunk roads.

Most toilets at licensed premises and cafes are available to travellers only during business hours and hedgerows and woodlands near lay-bys showed evidence of considerable use and fouling.

As it has now been decided not to proceed with the service area complete with public toilet and ablution facilities at Kempshott, alternative arrangements must be made to accommodate motorists leaving the M.3 motorway, to prevent further serious contamination of the countryside in the southern part of the district.

PEST CONTROL

The number of infestations of rats found appears to remain fairly constant over the years and the same applies to infestations of mice, in spite of the tremendous increase that has been reported generally in South East England.

Although last year, warfarin resistant rats were detected only a short distance from the district, no evidence of resistance was found in this area.

The treatment of insect pests was continued during the summer months and the demand for this service increased, particularly in the case of wasps. A standing charge of £1. per treatment is made, excepting when some injurious effect upon health is likely to be involved. Charges are not recovered from persons in receipt of Social Security benefits or rate rebates.

MAIN DRAINAGE SCHEMES

Throughout the year the Bramley main drainage scheme progressed. Tenders were accepted for schemes at Monk Sherborne and Pamber Heath. Reports upon the need for main drainage at Little London, Pamber End, Pamber Green, Ramsdell, Charter Alley, Church Oakley and Silchester were considered by the Council and consultants were instructed to proceed with the preparation of schemes.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

The Basingstoke Borough refuse incinerator operated fully during the year with minimal grit and dust emission.

As in previous years a small number of low rated oil-fired boilers were installed in the district, mainly in the light industrial area adjoining the town.

The problem of nuisance from smoke emitted from charcoal producing furnaces was resolved by the expiry of planning consent. An application for renewal was refused and this decision was upheld on appeal. No other nuisances were reported.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

Minor complaints of a domestic nature were investigated and resolved by persuasion.

A car race meeting held close to a housing estate on the edge of a village produced exceptionally strong protest against the nuisance from noise. As the nuisance had abated by the time complaints were received, the matter could not be dealt with as a 'statutory nuisance'. However, as it was anticipated that further meetings might be held, use was made of the Public Health (Recurring Nuisances) Act, 1969, and a notice served on the owner prevented a recurrence.

CIVIC AMENITIES ACT AND REMOVAL OF VEHICLES REGULATIONS

The Council provides litter bins at the request of Parish Councils and these are emptied in the course of normal collections. As a result of publicity, ratepayers are now aware that the Council will remove bulky household articles free of charge.

During the year, the Council removed 21 vehicles abandoned on the highway, these were stored at the Council's Depot pending enquiries regarding ownership and eventually disposed of.

Arrangements were made for a breaker to remove a further 23 discarded vehicles at no cost to the Council.