

[Report 1970] / Medical Officer of Health, Beaminster R.D.C.

Contributors

Beaminster (Dorset, England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1970

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/z83fpefu>

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>


BEAMINSTER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR

1976



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

<https://archive.org/details/b28911118>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Communicable Diseases.....	5 - 8
Council Houses	32
Death, Causes of	10 - 11
Factories Act	25 - 26
Food Premises.....	15 - 19
Housing and Improvement Grants	22 - 23
Infantile Mortality	5
Joint M.O.H. Appointment	9
Meat Inspection	18
Members of Housing and Public Health Committee	2
Milk Supply	19
Movable Dwellings	31
Nuisances	31
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	20 - 21
Pest Control	24
Petroleum	31
Poultry Inspection	17
Public Cleansing	33 - 34
Report of Medical Officer of Health	3
Report of Public Health Inspector	12
Sewerage	32 - 33
Staff of Health Department	2
Statistics	4
Water Supplies	27 - 30

BEAMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

TOWN OFFICES,
BEAMINSTER,
DORSET.

Health Department
Telephone Number Beaminstor 362

Personal Telephone Number
of Medical Officer of Health

Dorchester 3131
Extension 470

HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Lt.-Col. J. T. A. WILSON, J.P., (Chairman)
Mr. R. C. BUGLER, (Vice-Chairman)

Mr. R. P. BIGGS, B.Sc.,
Major E. H. T. BOILEAU,
Mr. S. S. G. CHAFFEY,
Mr. S. P. CHAPMAN, M.A.,
(Ex-officio)
Mr. H.R. COSGROVE,
Air-Vice Marshal P.D. CRACROFT
C.B., A.F.C.,
Mrs. E. F. HOLDEN, (Ex-officio)
Mr. K. G. KNIGHT
Mrs. M. D. PEACOCK,

Mrs. B. H. PINNEY,
Mr. E. J. RAYMOND,
Mr. J.C. SHOOBRIDGE, M.B.E.,
Rev. J. SLATER,
Mr. G. J. STENHOUSE,
Mr. A. G. STEWART,
Major D. F. SYMES, T.D.,
Mr. P. F. TIARKS, M.C.,
(Chairman of the Council)
Mr. F. G. TOLMAN,
Mr. G. D. Warburton, B.E.M.,
Mr. J. R. WYATT.

STAFF - PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health	K. J. ADAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.; D.P.H.,
Public Health Inspector and Meat Inspector	R. PICKFORD, M.A.P.H.I.
Pupil Public Health Inspector	D. HAYBALL, (Joint appointment)

BEAMINSTER

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1970

GENERAL STATISTICS

	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>
Area in Acres	59,890	59,890
Registrar General's Estimated mid year Population ...	8,460	8,490
Number of Dwellings	2,960	3,039
Rateable Value (As at 1st April)	£187,847	£196,913
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£757	£798

VITAL STATISTICS 1970

Corrected Birth and Death Rates compared with other areas

(Births and Deaths per 1,000 population)

	<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>
Beaminster Rural District	12.6 (13.1)	11.9 (10.8)
England and Wales	16.0 (16.3)	11.7 (11.9)
Dorset	16.1 (16.8)	10.7 (11.9)

The figures in brackets are those for 1969

In calculating Birth and Death Rates, area comparability factors are issued by the Registrar General to "correct" irregularities in the age and sex structure of the population, and also to take into account any high mortality due to the presence of residential institutions.

BIRTHS AND INFANTILE DEATHS

	Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Live Births	48	37	4	2	91
Still Births	-	-	-	-	-
Deaths under 1 year ..	1	-	-	-	1
Deaths under 4 weeks .	1	-	-	-	1
Deaths under 1 week ..	1	-	-	-	1

Infantile Mortality Rate

The Infantile Mortality Rate is the number of deaths among infants under one year of age per thousand registered live births. There was one infantile death under one year of age and the area experienced 91 live births.

The National Rate was 18 deaths among infants under one year of age per thousand live births and the Dorset Rate was 13 deaths. Our figure is too small to work out an accurate comparative rate but the approximate figure compares quite well with the County Infantile Mortality Rate.

CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

(a) Diseases against which routine immunisation is offered:

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Poliomyelitis: No notifications of these diseases were received during 1970. This satisfactory position is due entirely to the national immunisation schemes. A few cases continue to occur in England and Wales so that it is vital to continue with this work.

Tetanus: This disease became notifiable in 1969. No notifications have been received. This is partly due to a national immunisation campaign against the disease also because infection by the tetanus spore is a rare though none the less serious event. Theoretically the tetanus spore is everywhere outdoors, and gains access to the body through a skin wound. The spore prefers to live without oxygen so that a deep puncture wound is more likely to encourage growth of the organism rather than a graze. Barbed wire, lacerations from mechanical equipment

in the field, motor cycle accidents etc. are typical events prejudicing an infection.

To be immune adults and children need three doses of tetanus toxoid at the prescribed intervals, followed by a boosting injection every five years. Persons who received injections in the armed services many years ago believe that they are still immune, others who after a cut receive anti-tetanus serum think that they are permanently immune. Nothing could be further from the case.

Measles: 118 cases of Measles were notified during the year. This disease is preventable by vaccination. The vaccine is freely available to young children in doctors' surgeries and in infant welfare clinics. However, public response though good for the other preventable diseases is not so forthcoming for measles. This is not due to apathy. It is common knowledge that a vaccine is available. Most mothers I have spoken to have considered the advantages and disadvantages of Measles vaccination and many of those who have declined to use the vaccine have done so for two reasons. The first is that the disease itself is mild in many cases, and the second is that they have heard from other mothers of the occasional symptoms the vaccine causes. Whilst they acknowledge that these symptoms are a small price to pay to abort an attack of the natural disease they are not happy that even these small complications should be inflicted upon their child by a decision of theirs.

Decisions parents have to make are more complex as our style of living becomes more sophisticated. A generation ago few parents had to take the decision whether Jill could fly to Austria with the school party or whether Jack could have a motorbike. Measles vaccination is a case in point. I am now frequently asked for advice on Measles prevention either in a family or connected with a place of work. In the case of the former a young baby is usually involved, in the case of the latter employers are anxious to avoid the nuisance value of the disease in time lost from work. The vaccine can be used preventively if given soon enough after exposure.

Vaccination and Immunisation Statistics 1970

Poliomyelitis		Whooping Cough		Tetanus		Diphtheria		Measles
Primary Course	Boosting dose	Primary Course	Boosting dose	Primary Course	Boosting dose	Primary Course	Boosting dose	
<u>1969</u>								
68	230	59	23	63	135	67	188	90
<u>1970</u>								
81	215	71	15	82	196	77	161	84

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the above figures.

German Measles: This disease is not notifiable and its effect on the average patient is mild. The danger lies in the effect exposure to the virus has on the foetus especially during the first three months of pregnancy. If pregnant women know they have been contacts of a case up to the sixteenth week of pregnancy it is advisable for them to consult their doctors. It is now possible to find by serological means whether they are immune. If they are not immune further serology in four weeks may show an increase in antibody concentration demonstrating that an infection has taken place. Consideration may then be given to terminating the pregnancy.

We hope this "stop gap" procedure will eventually complement and possibly yield to a national vaccination campaign against the disease which commenced during the year. Vaccination against German Measles will be offered in Dorset to girls in their fourteenth year, through the County Council Scheme. The vaccine is also available to family doctors and there is no reason why older girls should not have it, except that they must be absolutely sure that they are not pregnant at the time of receiving the vaccine nor liable to conceive for two months afterwards.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis: In 1970 responsibility for the follow up of local contacts from this disease was accepted by the County Health Department. Health Visitors trace contacts and give advice. It is also necessary to decide upon procedure, arrange chest x-rays and possibly to B.C.G. vaccinate young children. One case was notified during the year. The County Veterinary Officer asked for my help in a case where cattle previously tuberculin negative had on subsequent testing reacted. A source of human infection was suspected but chest x-rays of personnel handling cattle were negative

(b) Infections against which routine immunisation is not offered:

Infective Jaundice: Two cases were notified. Both on investigation were thought to be due to the Infectious Hepatitis virus. This is a difficult disease to control as the laboratory cannot grow the virus. It is thus impossible to say when a patient is infected except by clinical observation, or more important, when he is free of infection. The virus is present in the stool of a patient and there is usually, a history of using communal toilets or working in an institution where patients are incontinent. This was so in these two cases.

Other Diseases:

One case of Scarlet Fever and one case of Enccephalitis were notified.

Salmonella Enteritis: On five occasions the County Veterinary Officer informed me that rectal swabs taken from farm animals had grown Salmonella. This is a form of epidemic enteritis in animals which is transmissible to humans. It causes much inconvenience in the home and may be serious in the very young or for those already debilitated. A warning is always sent in writing to the householder and further visits may take place depending upon the seriousness of the original outbreak. On one occasion it was necessary to check a water supply where it was felt cattle could be infecting one another. Six stool specimens were submitted to the laboratory to check the human carrier state.

Undulant Fever. (Brucellosis): One case of Human Brucellosis was drawn to my attention by the Public Health Laboratory during the year.

Vermin: In April the Public Health Inspector and I carried out intensive investigation of bites which had occurred in boys attending a residential school. It was first thought that fleas were involved but none had been seen. Fleas come from many animal and bird sources and it is important that any flea obtained from an infestation is kept in a sealed container so that the host animal can be identified. In the event the symptoms abated with the use of Loxexane powder, and the cause of this infestation which had been experienced for several weeks was never fully understood.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

Specimens for bacteriological examination are dealt with at the Dorchester Public Health Laboratory under the directorship of Doctor G. H. Tee. This laboratory gives us an excellent "on the spot" service.

JOINT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH APPOINTMENT

Commencing in November 1969 the Dorchester and West Dorset County Districts agreed to combine with the Dorset County Council to form a joint medical officer appointment. I have now had the opportunity to work this area for one year.

I have to confess that when the appointment was constituted local government revision was much talked about, and I felt that this type of appointment would cease within three or four years. The work of course would go on, but it is unlikely that one doctor would be responsible for the diverse functions of the present M.O.H. appointment. It is more likely that some of these functions will be absorbed by other medical practitioners, or appointments will be created to cover one function over a wider area.

The new joint appointment works well and uses a medical officer for medical decisions and advice, rather than administrative ones. It leaves Chief Public Health Inspectors more firmly in charge of day to day functions in the Health Departments which makes for better working relationships at all levels. Daily appointments are made by my clerk if necessary in my absence and Council staff know that they have only to telephone to book my time.

The total resident population of the joint area is 58 000 but when peak working is experienced between mid June to mid August I am sure this number must rise to 90,000 or more. This summer population movement brings its own problems. The warm weather increases the risk of intestinal infections and one quickly becomes involved in investigations and complaints with London and the Midlands.

I am able to get to most Health Committees none of which conflict. The Joint Public Health staffing arrangements in Bridport M.B. and R.D.C. are very helpful and time saving to me.

CAUSES OF DEATH

Opposite is a table setting out the causes of death in the district. These are broadly similar to those experienced nationally. Cigarette smoking is associated with such illnesses as Ischaemic Heart Disease, Lung Cancer and Bronchitis. The remedy to some of this early disease is to an extent in our own hands. Few persons cannot by now have heard of the danger of smoking but they do little about it. Is this an indictment of early educational measures? It is generally believed that children start smoking at twelve to thirteen years. Do they become addicted to nicotine before their minds are sufficiently developed to weigh the consequences? One of the best methods of educating is to set an example. This has far better and longer lasting effects than formal lectures, films and other mass media. Smokers therefore are not only killing themselves, they are setting an example of a bad habit to the young which perpetuates itself through generations.

CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>Code</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
B.18	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	1
B.19(2)	Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	-	1
B.19(3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	5	-
B.19(4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	-	2
B.19(6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	6	1
B.19(8)	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	1
B.19(9)	Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	1	-
B.19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	4	-
B.21	Diabetes Mellitus	-	1
B.27	Hypertensive Disease	3	2
B.28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	18	11
B.29	Other Forms of Heart Disease	3	5
B.30	Cerebrovascular Disease	8	16
B.46(6)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3	5
B.32	Pneumonia	5	8
B.33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	1	1
B.34	Peptic Ulcer	1	-
B.37	Cirrhosis of Liver	1	-
B.46(8)	Other diseases of Digestive System	1	-
B.38	Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1
B.46(9)	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	1	-
B.46(11)	Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	1	1
B.43	Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc	1	-
BE.47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1
BE.48	All other Accidents*	5	-
<u>TOTAL ALL CAUSES</u>		<u>70</u>	<u>58</u>

* Accidents not due to motor vehicles, poisoning, fire, etc.

ADDITIONAL SUMMER POPULATION

We are all very much aware of the increase in population during the summer months. At a time when Local Government revision may make a number of our members representatives for a larger district council, I thought that you may be interested to get an idea of the size of the problem in two adjoining Rural Districts. The following is extracted from my Annual Reports.

"In an area with a seaboard the effect of holiday population becomes important to many public services. Water supplies, sewage works and refuse collection services are full extended. Food shops and public houses have greatly increased sales, swimming pools are taking full loads, and public conveniences and lay bys become repositories for all manner of waste.

Most townspeople now have access to a vehicle either by owning or hiring a car or even borrowing a delivery van. This is changing the use of a rural area in the summer. Coastal towns with boarding houses no longer monopolise the holidaymaker who now finds caravanning, tenting and bed and breakfasting more to his liking. Some families spend many hundreds of pounds on equipment and there are many touring caravans on our roads in summer, car and caravan having cost £3,000 or more. In 1970 an attempt was made to calculate the additional summer population at the height of the season. An approximate estimation is as follows:

	<u>Bridport R.D.</u>	<u>Dorchester R.D.</u>
Holiday Camp	Nil	1,000
Static Holiday Caravans (4 Persons per caravan)	5,360	4,600
Transit Caravans (3½ person per caravan)	1,730	1,350
Bed and Breakfast and Summer Lettings	1,200	1,540
Tents (4 persons per tent)	4,280	4,960
School Camping Parties, Scouts etc	600	350
	<hr/>	<hr/>
ESTIMATED ADDITION SUMMER POPULATION	13,170	13,800
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Registrar General's Estimated Mid-year Resident Population	8,490	18,400

....."

REPORT OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR
1979

INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES

This branch of the work was given some priority during 1970. Visits were made to all food premises within the district and in 23 cases it was necessary to draw the occupiers attention to various contraventions. In each case an informal notice was served.

The general standard of food hygiene in the district is fair but there is room for considerable improvement in some cases. The aim of the department is to achieve improved standards by education and advice and in this direction a talk was prepared on the subject of Safe Food. This talk is designed primarily for the housewife with the hope that she will then demand higher standards in food premises and thus prove a valuable ally in the campaign for improved food hygiene.

Towards the end of the year a circular letter was sent to the 13 branches of the Womens Institute within the district informing them that a talk was available and by the end of the year seven branches had invited me to visit them.

A short course on food hygiene for members of the food trade would be of value and this is under consideration. The main problem is the scattered nature of the rural district. The interest and support of food trade men will have to be obtained.

One particular aspect of food hygiene which gives rise to some concern is in Public Houses. Methods of glass washing leave much to be desired and the majority of publicans give little indication of being hygiene conscious. Breweries are also slow to encourage high standards of hygiene. During 1971 it is hoped to carry out some simple bacteriological tests on glasses in public houses in an endeavour to improve glass washing routines.

The table on the following page shows the number of food premises in the District and the number of visits made.

TYPE OF PREMISES	NUMBER IN DISTRICT	NUMBER OF VISITS
General Provisions	30	48
Licensed Premises with Catering	13	27
Licensed Premises without Catering	19	23
Butchers	4	8
Bakers and Confectioners	4	6
Restaurants	2	4
Greengrocers	2	2
Canteens	2	2
Sweet Shops	5	5
Fried Fish Shops	1	2
Wet Fish Shops	1	2
Dairies and Milk Distributors	11	5
Dried Milk Factory	1	2
Poultry Packing Station	2	49
Abattoir	1	89
Total	98	274

Premises Registered under Section 16 of The Food and Drugs Act	
Sale of Ice Cream	49
Preparation of Sausages and Cooked Meats	5
Fish Friers	1

Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles Regulations 1966

These regulations control food delivery vehicles, mobile shops and stalls. During 1970 six mobile shops were inspected. There are, no doubt, other vehicles operating in the district which have not yet been inspected.

Unsound Food

The following quantities of unsound food were surrendered during 1970:

Canned Meat 1 lb. 4 ozs.
Frozen Foods 3 lbs. 15 ozs.

Only one case of foreign matter in food came to the notice of the department. This concerned a packet of tea which contained lumps of chalk. The matter was taken up with the manufacturers who stated that lump chalk was used to mark crates and a piece must have inadvertently dropped into the packet. Steps were being taken to use some other means of marking the crates.

Poultry Inspection

There are two poultry processing premises in the district, both under the same management. During the year numerous defects were brought to the notice of the management and some improvements have been effected. The premises are still far from satisfactory but the owner has plans in hand to extend the buildings, when it is hoped that the unsatisfactory conditions will be remedied.

The present layout makes it necessary to slaughter and dress the birds in one room and chilling is carried out by placing the carcasses in tanks filled with cold water, no chlorination is employed. The owner has been advised that chlorination is desirable. Early in 1971 a series of swab tests from the tanks was commenced but results at the time of writing this report are inconclusive.

The drainage arrangements at the slaughtering establishment gave rise to much concern, the present system being totally inadequate. Large quantities of water are used in the cooling process and all the effluent is discharged to a septic tank which then discharges to an inadequate soakaway system, the result being that effluent is discharged over neighbouring farm land. The risk of such effluent containing Salmonella organisms is high.

The Public sewer passes close to the slaughtering premises but high trade effluent charges have so far deterred the owner from making a connection. The management has recently made further approaches to the Council on this subject and it is earnestly hoped that a solution may be found in the near future.

With the proposed enlargement of the premises it is reasonable to expect that the through put of birds will increase. During 1970 figures were as follows:-

Number of hens and chickens killed	-	322,333
Number of turkeys killed	-	8,118
Number of birds condemned	-	5,863(1.8% of total)
Weight of birds condemned	-	18,915 lbs
Number of visits made	-	54

Compared with the figures for 1969 the number of birds killed in 1970 shows an increase of 68,209.

Inspection of birds is carried out by spotters and this appears to be functioning satisfactorily.

Meat Inspection

There is one private slaughterhouse in the district at which meat inspection is carried out twice weekly. The standard of hygiene in the past twelve months has shown some improvement and the premises comply with the regulations.

Meat Inspection Statistics

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Number Killed	52	7	253	267	579
Number Inspected	52	7	253	267	579
Carcases condemned	-	-	1	-	1
Part Carcases condemned	2	-	-	-	2
<u>Offal Condemned:-</u>					
Livers	15	-	19	4	38
Part Livers	3	-	7	1	11
Plucks	-	-	-	6	6
Lungs	1	-	2	37	40
Part Lungs	-	-	-	4	4
Heads	2	-	-	15	17
Hearts	-	-	1	12	13
Mesentery and Intestines	-	-	-	1	1
Stomachs	-	-	1	-	1
Kidneys	-	-	-	3	3

Milk Supply

All milk producers are licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Dairies other than farm dairies and all Milk Distributors are registered by District Councils. There are two Dairies and nine Milk Distributors registered within this District.

Brucella Abortus

Milk sampling is carried out by the Dorset County Council. Any samples giving positive results for Brucella Abortus are notified to this department and visits are made to the farms concerned to ensure that the milk from any infected cows receives heat treatment before sale to the public. The farmer is also advised on the risks involved relating to Undulant Fever.

KNACKER'S YARD

There is one Knacker's Yard in the District. Conditions continued to be very poor and numerous contraventions of the regulations were brought to the notice of the occupier. Progress was slow and when the application for the renewal of the licence was received it was refused. This resulted in an effort being made by the occupier, the contraventions were eventually attended to, and the licence renewed. Close surveillance will continue to be necessary.

At the end of 1969 the Meat (Sterilization) Regulations 1969 came into force. These regulations require all knackers meat to be sterilized before entering the chain of distribution. "Sterilized" is defined as meaning treatment by boiling or by steam under pressure until every piece of meat is cooked through-out. This is now carried out at the Knacker's Yard.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

During 1970 an effort was made to visit as many registered premises as possible and a "general inspection" was made of 25 shops and offices. The total number registered being 36. Contraventions of the Act were discovered in 13 establishments and informal notices were served in every case.

The most prevalent contravention was the failure to provide adequate lighting and this was closely followed by defects and obstruction of floors, passages and stairs.

No accidents were reported during the year. A circular letter was sent to all occupiers reminding them of their legal obligation to notify any accident incurring the absence of any employee for more than three days, as it was felt that many employers were unaware of this requirement.

REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Number of premises newly registered during the year	Total number of premises registered at the end of year	Number of premises receiving a detailed inspection in 1970
Offices	NIL	14	8
Retail Shops	NIL	20	16
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	NIL	NIL	NIL
Catering Establishments Open to the Public	1	2	1
Canteens	NIL	NIL	NIL
Fuel Storage Depots	NIL	NIL	NIL
Totals	1	36	25

Total Number of visits of all kinds to registered premises - 35.

ANALYSIS BY WORKPLACE OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES AT
END OF YEAR

Class of Workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	43
Retail Shops	76
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	Nil
Catering Establishment Open to the Public	11
Canteens	Nil
Fuel Storage Depots	Nil
Total	130

Total Males 58
Total Females 72

ANALYSIS OF CONTRAVENTIONS

Section	Number of Contraventions Found		Section	Number of Contraventions Found	
4	Cleanliness	4	14	Seats (Sedentary Workers)	1
5	Overcrowding	2	15	Eating Facilities	Nil
6	Temperature	3	16	Floors, Passages and Stairs.	13
7	Ventilation	3	17	Fencing of Machinery	1
8	Lighting	15	18	Protection of Young Persons from dangerous machinery	Nil
9	Sanitary Conveniences	5	19	Training of Young persons working on dangerous machinery	Nil
10	Washing Facilities	5	23	Prohibition of Heavy Work	Nil
11	Supply of Drinking Water	Nil	24	First Aid	5
12	Clothing Accommodation	7		Other Matters	5
13	Sitting Facilities	1		Total Contraventions	70

HOUSING

Unfit Properties

In my last Annual Report I referred to the fact that the Department had no up to date information as to the number of unfit dwellings in the District and that a house to house survey would be necessary to obtain this information. It was not found possible during 1970 to carry out any survey and the practice of dealing with any unfit dwellings which came to notice was continued. Several properties are known to be unfit which are occupied by tenants, mainly elderly, who do not wish to move. In these cases no action has been taken.

The following five dwellings were represented to the Housing and Public Health Committee during 1970 as being unfit and incapable of being rendered fit at reasonable expense.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 5 Tunnel Road, Beaminster | - Informal undertaking not to relet accepted. The tenant remains in occupation. |
| 1 & 2 Sheering Cross Cottages, Thorncombe. | - Demolition Orders imposed. The properties are vacant. |
| Ebenezer Cottage, Stintford Lane, Beaminster. | - Demolition Order imposed. The tenant has been rehoused. |
| Oak Cottage, Thorncombe | - Undertaking to render fit within 12 months accepted. The occupants have been rehoused and the property has been rendered fit. |

During the year eleven properties which could be considered unfit were rendered fit voluntarily by the owners, all with the aid of Improvement Grants. One of these was the subject of a formal undertaking under the Housing Act 1957 and the undertaking was cancelled.

As a result of action under the Housing Act 1957 two families involving four persons were rehoused during 1970.

House in Multiple Occupation

One house in multiple occupation was discovered in 1970 following an application for rehousing from one of the tenants, the house is occupied by three families.

Two formal notices were served, one under section 19 of the Housing Act 1961 giving a direction as to the number of persons permitted to occupy each section of the house, and the other under section 15 requiring works to be carried out to separate a kitchen area from one of the living rooms. The latter notice expired on 31st December, 1970 when no work had been carried out. The Housing and Public Health Committee subsequently extended the period to 30th April, 1971.

Improvement Grants

The increased rate of applications for grants was maintained throughout the year and a considerable amount of time was devoted to the subject.

Improvement Grants

Applications received 48

Applications approved 46

Standard Grants

Applications received 15

Applications approved 13

In addition to the actual applications listed above numerous inquiries were received which involved many visits and discussions which did not come to fruition. It is estimated that one third of the time of the department is at present devoted to improvement work. A total of 236 visits were made in connection with improvement grants.

In order to publicise the grant scheme explanatory booklets were circulated with all rate demands last April.

Improvement Notices

A tenant of a dwelling lacking one or more of the standard amenities, may make representation to the local authority to use their powers under section 19 of the Housing Act 1964. These powers enable a local authority to require the owner to provide those standard amenities which are lacking. This is the only means of compulsory improvement and it is conditional upon the tenant making representation to the local authority. No representations were received during 1970.

Qualification Certificates

The Housing Act 1969 laid down a new standard for deciding rents. If a dwelling under a controlled tenancy is improved to reach the new standard (or if it already reaches it) the tenancy can be changed from a controlled to a regulated one.

To reach the required standard the dwelling must satisfy all of the following qualifying conditions:-

1. It must have all the standard amenities for the exclusive use of its occupants.
2. It must be in good repair.
3. It must be fit for human habitation.

A qualification certificate certifies that a dwelling satisfies these conditions and is issued by the local authority. (In the case of Beaminster R.D.C. the Public Health Inspector has been granted delegatory powers).

When the 1969 Act came into force it was anticipated that there would be a considerable number of applications for rent increase by means of qualification certificates but this has not been the case in this district. During 1970 only two applications were received for such certificates.

PEST CONTROL

Rodent treatments are carried out on behalf of this Council by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee. The service to domestic premises is provided free of charge.

Statistics for the 12 months ending 31st December, 1970 for the Beaminster Rural District are as follows:-

Number of Complaints received	127
Total number of visits made	1556
Treatments carried out:- Business Premises Private Premises Local Authority Premises Farms	 1 162 33 174
Total number of treatments	370

Sewers were test baited in the following parishes:- Beaminster, Broadwindsor, Corscombe, Halstock, Powerstock, Salwayash and Thorncombe. Isolated points of infestation were discovered but no serious sewer infestations were revealed.

Other Pests

Sixteen complaints were received during the year relating to insect pests. Flies, Ants, Silverfish, Bees, Cockroaches and Red Mite were encountered. The latter case of Red mite arose in a farmhouse where numerous minute insects were causing considerable nuisance in the bedrooms. The insects were indentified as Dermanyssus Gallinae, commonly known as the Red Mite of Poultry. Infestations are generally traced to abandoned birds nests and roosts in the upper parts of buildings. Appropriate advice was given and the nuisance was abated. In all cases of insect infestation treatment is carried out or advice given.

Two flea infestations were reported to the department during the year. One related to a 'approved school' where the boys living in one particular section suffered from bites. The entire block was fumigated but the complaint continued. A visit was made by the Medical Officer of Health when some of the boys were examined. It was concluded that some of the boys may have been keeping pets, the complaint possibly arising from animal fleas. The school management were advised that any such pets should be treated with insecticide powder and no further complaint was received.

The second case concerned a cottage which had become vacant, the entire dwelling was treated and no further nuisance arose.

PREScribed PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES
ACT 1961 AS REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL
SECURITY

Part I of the Act

1. Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Section 1,2, 3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	1	4	1	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	25	15	4	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding Outworkers premises).	1	6	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which Defects were found:-

Particulars (1)	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecution were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred by H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding(S2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage to floors (S6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences(S7)					
a Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b Unsuitable or defective	5	1	-	-	-
c Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	5	1	-	-	-

Part VIII of the Act
Outwork (Sections 133 & 134)

No outworkers were notified in the August list required by Section 133 and there has been no evidence of cases of default in sending lists to this Council. There have been no prosecutions for failure to supply lists. No instances of work in unwholesome premises arose for action under Section 134.

WATER SUPPLIES

The number of dwellings, population and properties in parish order supplied from the public mains are given in the following table. The figures have been obtained from the rate books which do not show metered supplies, the results should therefore be taken as a guide rather than an accurate statement.

Parish	Estimated Population (1961 Census)	Number of dwellings (as at 1/4/71)	Properties Supplied from Public Mains	Properties Not supplied from public mains
Beaminster	2,000	891	810	81
Bettiscombe	78	29	14	15
Broadwindsor	919	410	280	130
Burstock	96	36	26	10
Chedington	97	38	29	9
Chelborough East	69	18	4	14
Corscombe	301	132	65	67
Halstock	339	137	92	45
Hooke	119	28	13	15
Marshwood	303	114	48	66
Mosterton	177	86	65	21
Netherbury	1,072	425	267	158
South Perrott	155	64	49	15
Powerstock*	440	217	28	189
Seaborough	52	23	10	13
Stoke Abbott	355	98	58	40
Thorhcombe	743	254	134	120
Totals	7,315	3,000	1,992	1,008

* The 28 properties supplied in the parish of Powerstock are situated at West Milton. The village of Powerstock does not have a mains supply available.

Figures are not available of properties supplied by means of a standpipe.

Parishes without a supply of mains water are as follows:-

Parish	Estimated Population (1961 Census)	Number of Dwellings (as at 1/4/71)
Evershot	258	90
Mapperton	21	10
Melbury Osmond	251	77
Melbury Sampford	50	10
North Poorton	22	8
Pilsdon	44	8
Rampisham	151	57
West Chelborough	29	12
Wraxall	69	23
Total	895	295

From the above tables it will be seen that 1303 dwellings are without a supply of mains water. The provision of supply to those areas lacking one is problematic. The topography of the region, the dispersal of the populated areas, and the low rateable values, give rise to expensive installation costs against low revenue returns to an abnormally high degree and it seems inevitable that many dwellings can not expect to have a mains supply of water in the foreseeable future.

The number of private water supplies are very numerous and these are being investigated as and when they come to the notice of the department. During 1970 147 samples were collected from private supplies of which 48 showed pollution by faecal type organisms. In such cases advice has been given on suitable measures to improve the quality of the supply.

Particular attention has been given to the following areas:-

Pilsdon A survey of the private water supplies in this parish was carried out on the instruction of the Housing and Public Health Committee. Seven sources were located serving 13 properties. Unsatisfactory samples were obtained from two of the sources and the owners have been advised on the appropriate measures to take.

Evershot The Dorset Water Board have stated that they do not consider, even at the most optimistic estimate, that they could bring water to this area before the lapse of four or five years.

The village of Evershot is supplied by a water source belonging to the Strangways Estates Ltd., and about 70 properties receive water from it. Because of the doubts concerning the provision of a mains supply Strangways Estates Ltd., put forward a proposal to reorganize and improve their existing supply. A series of samples were taken and these proved satisfactory. The proposed scheme has been carried out and the position at present appears to be satisfactory. Periodical sampling of the water will be carried out.

Melbury Osmond The possibility of a mains supply being provided here is similar to that of Evershot. The source, which serves some 70 properties in the parish, consist of two springs which discharge into an open pond. It has been a source of concern to the Health Department for several years and samples have invariably shown Coliform pollution.

This source also belongs to the Strangways Estates Ltd., and discussions have taken place with them during the year in an endeavour to achieve some improvement. The provision of a proper collecting chamber and Chlorinator would, it is felt, go a long way to solving the problem but at the time of compiling this report no progress had been made.

Powerstock Following an enquiry from the Dorset Water Board for information as to any possible requests under Section 36 of the Water Act 1945, to proceed with schemes under guarantee, the Housing and Public Health Committee gave instructions for a survey of the water supplies in Powerstock.

Except for 4 private supplies water is provided by Mappercombe Estate which obtains its supply from 4 sources. The main source is at Eggardon Hill and the water from this source is passed through a sand filter. Numerous samples have been taken and indications are that the supply is fairly satisfactory. A final judgement however must be reserved until investigations have been completed.

Mapperton Estate Following a request from Storridge Farm a sample of water was taken and found to be polluted. Investigation revealed that the source of supply was situated at Mapperton Marsh Farm and that it served 8 dwellings in the area under 4 different ownerships. The matter was taken up with the agent for Mapperton Estate and a thorough investigation of the source was carried out. It was found that the water was obtained from numerous springs in the fields above Mapperton Marsh Farm, one area in particular appeared to be susceptible to pollution and it was arranged for this to be cut off from the supply.

Sampling was carried out over a period of seven months and the picture obtained was one of intermittent faecal pollution. Consideration was given by the Mapperton Estate to the possibility of chlorination but this was decided against because of the difficulty in ensuring adequate supervision and maintenance over a plant which would be serving properties under different owners. The Mapperton Estate finally

decided to fit individual household pressure filters to each dwelling concerned and at the time of writing one other owner had decided on a similar measure.

Mains Water Supply

In accordance with the requirements of the Public Health Act 1936 surveillance was maintained over public water supplies and 16 samples were taken from the mains. In one case an unsatisfactory result was obtained, the Dorset Water Board were informed and repeat samples revealed no further trouble.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS 1936 AND 1961

NUISANCES

During the year a total of 158 complaints were received, 111 of these related to rodent infestation. In addition to the complaints concerning insect pests and fleas already mentioned under pest control, 8 complaints referred to drainage nuisances and 6 to offensive odours. In all cases informal action and advice secured improved conditions.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960

In December 1970 there were 8 site licences in force, all for single residential sites. No problems relating to caravans were experienced during 1970.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENT

The Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963 is designed to regulate the keeping of boarding establishments for animals, and no person shall keep such an establishment unless licensed by the local authority. There are two such premises licensed by this authority and three visits were made during 1970.

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS 1928 & 1936

44 Licences for the storage of Petroleum Spirit were issued during 1970. A general inspection of all licensed premises is needed but no time was available for this in 1970.

The following information on Housing, Sewerage and Public Cleansing has been kindly provided by the Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. K.T. Bird.

COUNCIL HOUSES

No new Council houses were completed during the year but a unit in Clay Lane, Beaminster comprising twenty four one bedroom flats, four two bedroom bungalows, a communal room with guest bedroom and central services together with a house for a resident warden was commenced at the start of the year and was nearing completion at the close.

Since the War, 409 dwellings including 69 Bungalows and 42 flats have been built by the Local Authority in the following parishes:

Beaminster.....203	Marshwood.....8
(Fairfield 32; Hogshill Mead 39;	Mosterton.....8
Gerrards Green 97; Pimlico 3;	Melbury Osmond4
Woodswater Lane 5; Fleet Street 7;	Netherbury.....50
Pattle 20)	(Village 24; North Bowood 4;
Broadwindsor.....54	Salwayash 14; Melplash 8)
(Village 44; Drimpton 10)	South Perrott.....14
Burstock..... 4	Powerstock (West Milton)....4
Corscombe..... 7	Rampisham4
Evershot 4	Stoke Abbott.....4
Halstock 17	Thorncombe..... 24

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Beaminster

Completion, in early summer, of the delayed Long Sea Outfall Sewer at West Bay commissioned by Bridport Borough and Bridport and Beaminster Rural District Councils, made it possible to allow unrestricted connection of properties to the public sewers in Beaminster.

By the end of the year a contract to connect all Council estates in the area was well advanced and only a small number of unconnected private properties remained.

A trade waste consent was issued to Unigate Foods Limited in November in respect of their factory premises in North Street, Beaminster, and plans approved for removing the existing effluent discharge from the River Brit in 1971.

South Perrott, Mosterton and Chedington

Work continued on this scheme and at the end of the year the sewerage of the three villages was virtually complete and construction of the sewage treatment plant well advanced.

Netherbury

An outline scheme for sewerage this village was approved and details commenced with a view to construction being started in 1971.

Stoke Abbott

This scheme which had been held back by protracted negotiations for a sewage treatment works site was approved by the Ministry and contract documents commenced for construction to begin in the summer of 1971.

Drimpton

Agreement was reached with the owner of a site suitable for the sewage treatment works in November and it was possible to commence the preparation of an outline scheme for this village.

Halstock

The sewage treatment works serving this village reached its operating capacity in 1966, and the Council instructed Consulting Engineers to prepare an outline report on the future requirements.

This report had been held up by the absence of a Planning Advisory Map for the village but a start was made on this by the Dorset County Council during the year.

Cesspool Emptying Service

A free cesspool and septic tank emptying service was introduced in April. The service is operated by a Contractor on behalf of the Council and is limited to domestic premises where a main sewer is not available and one collection per year of cesspool contents up to a maximum of 800 gallons for each dwelling.

Programme for other sewerage schemes

Priority for future schemes remained unaltered as follows:

West Milton
Melplash
Evershot
Melbury Osmond

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Domestic Refuse Collection

There is a fortnightly kerbside collection, confined generally to public highways, for the whole of the district except Beaminster which has weekly collection.

20 New dwellings were occupied in Beaminster and 26 in the rural area during the year which increased the total number of domestic premises using the service to 3,000.

Litter Bins

24 Litter bins are provided by the Dorset County Council at lay-bys on classified roads, and these are emptied during the normal domestic refuse collections.

52 Litter bins are provided by the Council at various sites within the district and these are emptied either weekly or fortnightly during domestic refuse collection.

Street Cleansing

The Council introduced a partial street cleansing service in April with the purchase of a second-hand pedestrian operated suction sweeper.

The service was restricted to three man hours per week and confined to the immediate area of the Square, Beaminster.

15

15