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BRAINTREE RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR

1970

Schofield, Printers, Braintree, Phone 1239



BRAINTREE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

Dr. ELIZABETH J. VAUGHAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

C. ORGAN, M.A.P.H.I., CERT.R.S.I. (Meat and other Foods)

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

W. R. GAGE, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector

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Meat Inspector

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R. F. TWITCHETT

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Junior Clerks

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Mrs. G. G. STONE

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
Town Hall,
Braintree, CM7 6HB

August 1971

To the Chairman and Members of Braintree Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my annual report on the health, vital statistics and sanitary circumstances of the area.

I am grateful to Dr. J. A. Slattery, Area Medical Officer, Mid-Essex, for providing statistics of the work carried out at the Essex County Council Clinics in the area.

Vital Statistics

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population is 24,440 which shows a decrease of 680 since 1969. During 1969-70 there was a phased exodus of personnel from Wethersfield Air Base with their families, many of whom lived in the Council's area and this fact is related to the diminished size of the population.

There were 462 live births recorded in 1970 giving a corrected birth rate of 19.7 per 1,000 population which is well above the national average of 16.0 and above last year's figure of 16.8.

The corrected death rate was 11.0 compared with 11.7 for England and Wales and 10.0 for the Council's area last year. Deaths from coronary heart disease rose from 58 in 1969 to 67 in 1970 and deaths from motor vehicle accidents rose from 3 in 1969 to 7 in 1970.

There were again 7 infant deaths in the area, 2 were due to atelectasis (one with endocardial fibroelastosis also), 1 to prematurity, 1 to anoxia with respiratory distress syndrome, 1 to asphyxia neonatorum and 1 to congenital heart disease with transposition of the great vessels. One death has not been accounted for in the records. The infant mortality rate for the area was 15.0 compared with 18.0 for England and Wales.

Notifiable Infectious Disease

Measles was the commonest cause of notification of infectious disease in 1970 with 115 cases. There were 3 cases of scarlet fever, 2 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, 6 cases of whooping cough and 2 of food poisoning notified during the year.

Environmental Hygiene

Water has been generally pure and adequate in quantity during 1970 and reports have been supplied by Colchester Water Board. There was some contamination of water at Terling Springs but a new gas chlorinator with ancillary equipment, which stops the pumps if chlorination fails, was installed to give protection against further contamination. The fluoride level at Petches Bridge was 0.65 p.p.m., below the recommended level of 1 p.p.m. necessary to prevent dental decay, while at Coggeshall the level was 3.6 p.p.m., high enough to cause mottling of teeth. At Terling Springs the fluoride level was inadequate at 0.15 p.p.m. Water at Petches Bridge and Coggeshall works was moderately hard but was softened at Petches Bridge. At Terling Springs water was very hard.

Achievements in sewerage and sewage disposal associated with the Rayne and Panfield scheme were notable contributions in environmental hygiene during European Conservation Year 1970. Unfortunately, at a Local Investigation failure to obtain the Ministry's agreement to the siting of the proposed treatment works has caused regrettable delay in proceeding with the Coggeshall/Kelvedon scheme. The total lack of main drainage at Blackmore End, Fairstead and Jasper's Green which I referred to in my report a year ago is a matter that continues to need action.

During the year refuse tipping commenced at the newly-acquired Shalford tip and there were no complaints in 1970 relating to rats or flies from the tip, it being well sited.

In 1970 there were 66 new Council houses, flats and flatlets and 218 privately-built houses in the Council's area, with 2 conversions of other buildings.

I am grateful to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and support and to Mr. Organ and his staff and also my colleagues in other departments for their co-operation throughout the year.

Yours faithfully,

ELIZABETH J. VAUGHAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	59,234
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	24,440
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books	8,416
Rateable value	£775,948
Sum represented by a penny rate	£3,080

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate	233	210	443	
Illegitimate	10	9	19	
Total live births	243	219	462	
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population				18.9
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births				4.0
Birth rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.04				19.7
Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population				16.0

STILL BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate	1	—	1	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births				2.0
Rate per 1,000 total births England and Wales				13.0
Total live and still births	463			

INFANT DEATHS

Deaths of infants under 1 year —			
	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	4	7
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total infant deaths	3	4	7

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	15.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	16.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	11.0
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	11.0
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	13.0
Infantile mortality for England and Wales per 1,000 live births	18.0

MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)

Number of deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	Nil

DEATHS

	Male	Female	Total	
	156	116	272	
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population				11.7
Death rate corrected by comparability figure of 0.94				11.0
Death rate per 1,000 population England and Wales				11.7

All the above rates are calculated on the estimated population given by the Registrar General.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES 1970

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar General and the classification is given under the sixty-five headings based on the International Abbreviated List 1968, with additional headings included to improve comparability with statistics published each year in the Registrar General's Statistical Review. Only those cause headings with deaths allocated to them are shown, headings with no deaths allocated to them are omitted.

	Male	Female
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	2	—
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity, etc. ...	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus ...	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, intestine ...	7	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	10	5
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	6
Malignant neoplasm, prostate ...	3	—
Leukaemia ...	—	1
Other malignant neoplasms ...	11	6
Benign and unspecified neoplasms ...	—	1
Diabetes mellitus ...	1	1
Other endocrine, etc. diseases ...	1	1
Anaemias ...	—	1
Other diseases of nervous system ...	1	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease ...	1	3
Hypertensive disease ...	3	2
Ischaemic heart disease ...	47	20
Other forms of heart disease ...	4	6
Cerebrovascular disease ...	16	15
Other diseases of circulatory system ...	6	9
Influenza ...	2	4
Pneumonia ...	10	16
Bronchitis and emphysema ...	4	3
Asthma ...	—	1
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	2	—
Peptic ulcer ...	—	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia ...	1	3
Cirrhosis of liver ...	1	—
Other diseases of digestive system ...	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis ...	1	—
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	1	—
Other diseases, genito-urinary system ...	—	3
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system ...	2	1
Congenital anomalies ...	2	1
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc. ...	—	2
Other causes of perinatal mortality ...	1	—
Motor vehicle accidents ...	2	5
All other accidents ...	2	6
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries ...	2	1
Total All Causes ...	151	134

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

(a) Under the control of the Essex County Council:—

(i) Child Welfare Clinics were held at the following Centres during the year:—

			Attendances
COGGESHALL			
St. Peter's Room	1st & 3rd Tuesday	2.00 p.m.	756
School Clinic	2nd Monday	10.00 a.m.	65
CRESSING			
Mission Hall, Tye Green	1st Monday	2.00 p.m.	219
GREAT BARDFIELD			
Town Hall	1st Monday	2.00 p.m.	321
TERLING			
The New Village Hall	1st Tuesday	2.00 p.m.	353
HATFIELD PEVEREL			
Church Hall, Maldon Road	2nd & 4th Tuesday	2.00 p.m.	829
KELVEDON			
St. Mary's Hall	2nd & 4th Friday	2.30 p.m.	1,001
WETHERSFIELD			
Village Hall	3rd Monday	2.15 p.m.	405

(ii) Home Help Service:—

This service is administered from the Area Health Office, 75 Springfield Road, Chelmsford, until July 1971, and then from the Social Services Department, 23 Bocking End, Braintree.

(iii) Ambulance Service:—

The Rural District of Braintree is served by the Ambulance Station, Braintree and Witham.

(iv) Laboratory Services:—

The Essex County Council provide a laboratory service which includes the bacteriological and chemical analysis of water samples, the chemical analysis of sewage effluents, the bacteriological examination of ice cream, and the examination of other foods for pathogenic organisms. These examinations are carried out by either the Counties Public Health Laboratories, Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C.1., or the Public Health Laboratory, Chelmsford and Essex Hospital, New London Road, Chelmsford.

(b) Under the control of the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board:—

(i) Chest Clinics:—

These are held twice weekly at St. Michael's Hospital, Braintree.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Diseases	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	2	—	—
Infective Hepatitis ...	1	—	—
Measles	115	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	1	—	—
Paralytic Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	3	—	—
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary ...	2	—	—
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary ...	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	6	—	—
Totals ...	130	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED MONTH BY MONTH

Diseases	Total Notified	Month											
		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Diphtheria ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Measles ...	115	7	20	26	5	1	9	13	28	6	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paralytic Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	3	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary ...	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	4
Totals ...	130	8	20	28	6	1	12	13	28	6	2	2	4

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE

Diseases	At all ages											
	Under 1 year											
	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-34	35-44	45-64	65 and over	Age unknown
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	115	6	5	14	18	17	48	2	—	—	—	3
Meningococcal Infection ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paralytic Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	3	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	6	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ...	130	6	5	14	19	19	55	2	1	3	2	—
												4

INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1970

Diseases	Total Notified	Great Bardfield	Bradwell	Coggeshall	Cressing	Fairstead	Faulkbourne	Feering	Finchingfield	Hatfield Peverel	Kelvedon	Black Notley	White Notley	Panfield	Pattiswick	Rayne	Bardfield Saling	Great Saling	Shalford	Stisted	Terling	Wethersfield
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	115	—	1	19	4	1	—	4	1	—	16	12	10	17	—	5	—	—	2	—	10	13
Meningococcal Infection ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Paralytic Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	6	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	130	—	3	20	4	1	—	5	1	—	17	19	10	18	—	5	—	—	2	—	10	15

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-9 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-14 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-19 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-24 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-34 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-44 years ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-54 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-64 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Primary Courses	By General Practitioners	By County Staff	Totals
Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus ...	147	137	284
Diphtheria and Tetanus	1	21	22
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Pertussis	—	—	—
Tetanus	6	4	10
Poliomyelitis	170	156	326
Smallpox	195	—	195
B.C.G.	—	22	22
Measles	256	51	307
Rubella	3	119	122

Reinforcing Doses

Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus ...	65	33	98
Diphtheria and Tetanus	67	166	233
Diphtheria	1	2	3
Pertussis	4	—	4
Tetanus	34	53	87
Poliomyelitis	125	274	399
Smallpox	28	—	28
B.C.G.	—	—	—

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,
St. Peter's Close,
Bocking, Braintree.

August 1971

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting this, my 24th report, on the Sanitary Circumstances of the District and the work of the Public Health Inspectors' and Housing Department for the year ending 31st December, 1970. Once again it follows the usual pattern and brief details of as many of the duties as possible are given in the text or tabular form.

Apart from the later comments on Sewerage and Sewage Disposal, Refuse Disposal and the Civic Amenities Act, there is little out of the ordinary to comment upon. Normal routine work which to a very large extent is unseen, yet plays a most important part in the work of the Department, was maintained fairly smoothly but at times with quite a build up, particularly on the Improvement Grant side where, of necessity, so much time has to be spent on detail. However, this was overcome with the minimum of complaints from applicants.

Way back in the 'fifties, mention was made in this report of the urgent need for a sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for, amongst other places, the villages of Rayne and Panfield. What a pleasure it is to see this scheme a reality and now in commission! Looking back over the years one wonders how ever we managed to avoid serious trouble in these two villages where, to say the least, conditions regarding sanitation have been at times appalling. Now these black spots are beginning to disappear and in the very near future will be completely forgotten except to those who have been so closely concerned with them.

Early in the year, negotiations for the acquisition of land at Shalford for tipping of refuse were completed; a mechanical excavator was purchased, and tipping commenced. This is the first time in my experience over a number of years, where the Council has had what I consider to be a really satisfactory tip, and one which should continue to give good use for many years to come. It was also the first time when we had the right equipment to handle the refuse and considerable thought and time was given to this aspect and the actual method of working the tip.

Tipping was started at a time when weather conditions were absolutely at their worst but in spite of this the early and most difficult phase passed without too many problems. Later in the year

it was possible to see how much the initial planning was so necessary and justified. By the end of the year not one single complaint of smell or nuisance from rats or flies had been received though naturally the latter two aspects are given particular attention.

Last year I commented upon the large amount of domestic refuse deposited by householders—sometimes from outside the District—in ponds, ditches, spinneys, etc. 1970 was National Conservation Year when every effort was made to publicise such things as irresponsible dumping which damaged the appearance of the countryside. How this publicity was interpreted I fail to understand because the amount of dumping considerably increased!

However, it was fortunate that with a certain amount of re-organisation within the refuse collection section it was possible to devote much more time and energy to this problem than had been possible previously with the result that many of the old sores were cleared up and effective control maintained over the district generally.

In conclusion, may I express my thanks and appreciation to all other Officers of the Council for their help and co-operation throughout the year; to Councillors for their support and interest; and particularly to the staff of the Public Health and Housing Department for their loyalty and efficient manner in which they have carried out their duties sometimes at personal inconvenience.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. ORGAN,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

WATER

The provision and maintenance of an adequate and satisfactory water supply throughout the Council's area, became the responsibility of the Colchester Water Board in April 1969 and this section of the report is based largely on information supplied by that Authority. Since their records are kept in a different manner to those of this Council prior to April 1969 it is not possible to give separate information on some aspects; in addition figures quoted refer to the year 1st April, 1970 to 31st March, 1971, and not the calendar year of 1970.

So far as can be ascertained, the public supplies remained satisfactory in both quality and quantity although there were a few complaints of lack of pressure and complete loss of water, the latter due to burst mains or constructional works.

Sixty-eight samples of water were taken by the Council's Officers during the year from supplies within the area and 1,367 by the Board over the whole of this area. Of the latter 1,280 were satisfactory, 12 suspicious and 75 unsatisfactory. Of these unsatisfactory samples, 2 were taken from the tower at White Courts, Black Notley and 1 from the tower at Great Saling. These were immediately washed out and chlorinated and subsequent samples proved satisfactory.

Water from all sources apart from Terling Springs is chlorinated to give a residual of 0.2 p.p.m.

Raw water from Terling Springs appears to have given a little more trouble than usual which has resulted in a more detailed sampling programme following confirmation that many of the springs were prone to contamination, a fact previously well known to this Council. A new gas chlorinator and ancillary equipment which will stop the pumps if the chlorinator fails, has recently been installed and this should give adequate protection.

During the year 7.04 miles of mains were laid in the Braintree Urban and Rural Districts and 483 houses connected to the Board's distribution system. Separate figures for the two authorities are not available.

Details of the amount of water pumped at the three stations in the area are given below together with a typical Analyst's report on each water. In addition to the quantities shown 212,063,000 gallons were taken in Bulk from the Lea Valley Water Company, West Suffolk Water Board, Chelmsford R.D.C. and Essex Water Company to augment supplies in the Braintree and Halstead Rural Districts.

Details of the functioning of the various works in the District are given below.

Petches Bridge Waterworks

Number of gallons pumped 1970/1971	...	...	...	132,164,000
Daily average pumped 1970/1971	...	...	...	362,000

Analyst's Report on a typical sample of this water

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, faintly alkaline in reaction and free from metals. The hardness of the water is very moderate and its content of mineral and saline constituents is not considered excessive. The water conforms to the highest standard of organic quality.

These results show effective softening treatment and indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes, from the aspect of the chemical analysis. Fluoride content 0.65 p.p.m.

Coggeshall Waterworks

Number of gallons pumped 1970/1971	...	...	...	31,943,000
Daily average pumped 1970/1971	...	...	...	88,000

Analyst's Report on a typical sample of this water

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from a very minute trace of iron. The hardness of the water is very moderate; its somewhat high content of mineral and saline constituents is not considered excessive for drinking and domestic uses. The water conforms to the highest standard of organic quality.

These results are substantially normal for this source. They indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic use but the content of fluoride 3.6 p.p.m. is higher than considered most desirable (from the aspect of causing mottled enamel).

Terling Waterworks (Springs)

Number of gallons pumped 1970/1971	...	...	...	33,558,000
Daily average pumped 1970/1971	...	...	...	92,000

Analyst's Report on a typical sample of this water

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a very minute trace of iron. The water is exceedingly hard in character but contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality.

These results indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for public purposes, from the aspect of the chemical analysis. Its high hardness will however be disadvantageous for uses with soap. Fluoride content 0.15 p.p.m.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Generally

During the year further progress was made in the provision of new schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal within the district.

The Rayne and Panfield Scheme was commissioned in November, 1970, and connections of the various estates which were drained to small plants were made to the new system. By the end of the year considerable progress had been made with individual connections and quite a number of nuisances were thereby abated.

Work was also started on individual house connection by private owners, and it will be necessary to actively pursue the matter of private connections to the scheme if it is to be fully utilized.

Further progress was made on the Great Saling and Shalford Scheme; tenders were invited and work on the scheme should commence early in 1971.

A Local Investigation was held early in the year for the Coggeshall/Kelvedon Scheme and although this was agreed in principle, the Ministry were unable to agree to the proposed site for the treatment works.

It was therefore necessary for alternatives to be investigated and it is hoped that a new site will be found and the necessary applications made early in 1971.

The above has resulted in serious delay to this most important scheme which is vital both to existing and future development in these villages.

Negotiations were continued during the year for the acquisition of a treatment works site for the Bradwell and Stisted Scheme and this scheme will be submitted very early in 1971.

Final details of the new White Notley works were completed during the year and preparation of the Tender Documents commenced. Tenders will be invited early in 1971.

Although considerable progress was made during the year there is still a great deal to be done especially with regard to the large Coggeshall and Kelvedon Scheme.

Furthermore there are some small isolated areas such as Jaspers Green, Blackmore End and Fairstead and Blake End where the provision of main drainage facilities is the only solution to unsanitary conditions.

Preparation of outline schemes for these areas should be commenced as soon as possible.

The detailed position with regard to the various works is as follows:—

Coggeshall and Kelvedon

It is difficult to report favourably on the condition of these works. With the problem of obsolete design and gross overloading maintenance problems are increasing.

Both pumping stations serving the works are only maintained in running order by constant repair and a great deal of maintenance.

The age and obsolete patterns of the mechanical equipment results in constantly increasing expense.

The problem of flooding of the pump chambers still exists and the only solution is the provision of the new scheme as soon as possible.

Hatfield Peverel and Terling

These new works and associated pumping stations continue to operate well.

During the year the effluent lagoon was completed and has resulted in a marked improvement in the effluent standard.

The discharge from the creamery is of considerable importance and close supervision is necessary to obviate difficulties at the treatment works.

Rayne and Panfield

It is pleasing to report on these works which were first commissioned during the year.

By the end of the year the plant was operating well.

Wethersfield

Both Civilian and Air Ministry sections of these works continue to operate very well, producing very high quality effluents.

During the year, with the run down of R.A.F. Station, Wethersfield, there was a marked decrease in the flow from the Air Ministry sewers.

The Great Bardfield pumping station has been in operation nearly twenty years and the pumping equipment is now showing signs of wear.

Consideration will soon have to be given to the extensive re-conditioning of these pumps.

White Notley

Little further can be said regarding these grossly overloaded works.

The provision of the new works on this site is an urgent necessity.

The White Notley sewage pumping station continues to operate within the design capacity of the plant.

Cornish Hall End

Little trouble is experienced with this small plant which continues to operate well.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Collection of Domestic Refuse

Once again, this service continued to be maintained to, it is hoped, the satisfaction of the ratepayers. The only point of criticism seems to have been the "close down" week in August which was an inconvenience to some. For a number of years now this method of closing down for one week has been adopted to clear one week's holiday and so ease the staggering of the remainder over the holiday period but with the addition of one extra man to the service it should in the future be possible to spread the entire holidays from May to October.

There were no further extensions to the use of plastic bin liners but this is a must for the future since the saving in time is so considerable; it gets rid of the unsatisfactory practice of the householder having to return his own bin; and from a hygienic aspect is much to be preferred.

No new vehicles were acquired during the year and the ones in use functioned satisfactorily apart from the occasional breakdown.

Trade Refuse

The number of bins collected was 74 per week from 37 premises and the income from this source for the year was £181 12s. 0d.

Disposal of Refuse

As stated in the introduction to this part of the report, a large area of the disused gravel pits at Shalford were finally purchased with an option to purchase the remainder in due course if required. The total area ultimately available is approximately 30 acres giving a tipping life of anything up to 20 years, and possibly more depending on how carefully the area is worked.

It was realized at the commencement of the negotiations to acquire, that the land was not the easiest to plan or work. Most of it was pitted with mounds of spoil and sand of varying shapes and sizes and in order to make full use of the pit these mounds would have to be moved and used for immediate cover or stock piles for future use. Considerable thought went into this and eventually a plan of campaign emerged which has proved very successful.

There is, however, one aspect which has given cause for concern. Again, considerable thought was given to what would be the right type of equipment to purchase and after a number of demonstrations under actual working conditions, a decision was made. It was a difficult decision in view of no previous practical experience with this type of equipment and one which was probably not quite the right one. In the first place the amount of earth moving has proved more than originally anticipated and some of this is very hard and compact; secondly, the fine sand which makes up most of the material to be moved, when mixed with water or grease forms a carborundum-like paste which has resulted in excessive wear to bushes, bearings and other parts, thus necessitating frequent and somewhat expensive overhauls. In all there was much more wear and tear on the machine than had been thought possible.

Civic Amenities Act, 1967

111 visits were made in connection with abandoned motor vehicles as a result of which 18 were removed for disposal as scrap at a cost to the Council of £36. £6 of this was recovered from offending owners. No prosecutions were taken under this legislation but some thought may have to be given to this action if only to act as a deterrent.

During the year considerable progress was made in clearing up dumps around the countryside, some of which have existed for a number of years, and the District is probably tidier than it has been for some years.

In spite of the fact that the service is organized to cope with almost anything, and with a minimum amount of delay, dumping still persists and it can only be assumed that much of this comes from outside this District. Where dumps are cleared it is proposed to erect notices drawing attention to the offences and penalties under the Act.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, 1970

Housing Inspections	80
Revisits and inspections of work in progress	166
Visits and inspections re Improvement Grants	328
Visits to premises and interviews with owners, builders, etc. ...	149
Visits re Council House applications and exchanges	382
Visits and inspections prior to removals to Council Houses ...	158
Visits and inspections following rent arrears and Notices to Quit ...	107
Visits re overcrowding and permitted numbers	8
Visits to Old Persons' Flatlets	355
Visits re Garage Allocations	61
Visits to investigate Complaints	231
Notifiable Disease enquiries	32
Infestations by insect pests	29
Infestations by rats and mice	4
Visits to premises re Water Supplies	11
Water Samples taken	68
Visits to premises re drainage to sewer	40
Conversion of Pail Closets, etc.	2
Drains inspected and tested	4
Refuse Collection	186
Sewage Works	16
Inspection of Swimming Pools (Samples Taken)	4
Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960	15
Clean Air Act, 1956	4
Abandoned Cars	111
Inspections re Atmospheric Pollution	2
Inspections re Smoke/Grit Nuisances	2
Refuse Tips (Controlled)	241
Refuse Dumps	31
Noise Abatement Act, 1960	6
Visits to Food Preparing Premises	12
Inspections of Cafes	14
Inspections of Butchers' Shops	46
Inspections of Public Houses	11
Inspections of Canteens, including Schools	25
Inspections of Bakehouses	9
Inspections of Ice Cream Premises	4
Inspections of Dairies	1
Inspections of Shops (General)	36
Inspections of Grocery Shops	5
Inspections of Fish Shops	2
Inspections and Visits to Slaughterhouses	887
Inspections of Knacker's Yard	16
Inspection Power (Factories Act, 1961)	5
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963	11
Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963	5
Licensing Act, 1961	3
Miscellaneous Visits and Inspections	305

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Details of the number and types of premises registered under this Act, the number of persons employed therein, and the inspections carried out by the Department, are given in the table on the following page.

Routine inspections have been maintained so far as practicable; the standard is improving; and there were no accidents reported during the year.

Movable Dwellings

No new site licences were issued under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, during the year, the number continuing to be licensed being 10.

Caravans are really no problem in this District. Those licensed are quite well maintained and the others which appear from time to time, mostly on farms, are those occupied by casual farm workers who come into the area for pea-picking and other forms of harvesting. Generally speaking they do not create problems although litter is sometimes left behind.

Atmospheric Pollution and Smoke Abatement

Once again, there is little to report under this heading. Complaints received were largely relating to one source of trouble which has existed over many years and which cannot be completely eliminated. This is now aggravated by new residential development in close proximity.

Vermin Infestation

Little action necessary during the year.

Rag, Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951

There are no premises registered under this Act and so far as is known, no persons are operating in contravention of the Act.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no common lodging houses within the Rural District.

Rodent Control

Again, this service was well maintained during the year and much appreciated by the ratepayers, industrial and domestic. The number of inspections carried out by the two Operatives were 796 non-agricultural premises of which 486 were infested by rats and 87 by mice; 148 agricultural premises of which 118 were infested by rats and 94 by mice.

In addition 220 premises were inspected by the Department where other duties were the primary reason for the visit; 27 were found to be infested by rats and 38 by mice. Mice are becoming more and more difficult to control but there are as yet no Warfarin-resistant rats known to be in this area. It was a particularly bad year for wasps and bees and during the peak period it was extremely difficult to keep up with the complaints.

Factories

Information regarding premises falling within the scope of the Factories Act and of inspections made, is given in tabular form on page 24.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Details of Premises, etc.

	Number of Premises Registered During Year	Total Number of Registered Premises at end of Year	Number of Registered Premises Receiving General Inspection	Number of Persons Employed
Offices	—	36	12	134
Retail Shops	1	61	33	154
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	—	9	2	56
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens ...	1	11	11	32
Fuel Storage Depots	—	1	—	10
	2	118	58	386
Number of visits of all kinds (including General Inspections) to Registered Premises		65	Total Males	Total Females
			187	199

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Particulars of the premises registered by the Council under the Factories Act, 1961, and of the inspections made are to be found as follows:—

(I) INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	4	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	56	5	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	60	6	—	—

(II) Cases in which DEFECTS were found:—

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were:—				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not incl. offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	—	—	—	—	—

Part VIII of the Act
OUTWORK
(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing Apparel { Making etc. Cleaning and Washing	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
All Others						

HOUSING

The number of additional units of accommodation provided in the District during 1970 was a decrease of 21 on the previous year's figure.

Details are as follows:—

New Council Houses, Flats and Flatlets	...	...	...	66	
Private Enterprise Houses	...	...	...	218	
Conversion of other buildings	...	...	...	2	
					286
Less: Cases of reconditioning where units of accommodation were reduced:—					
Number of dwellings lost	...	...	...	9	
Number of properties demolished	...	...	...	55	
					64
					222

At the end of the year there were 366 outstanding applications for housing accommodation, a decrease of 169 on the previous year. The percentage of the total known to be in genuine and urgent need for re-housing is comparatively low, i.e. about 20 per cent.

During the year the Council completed 66 units of accommodation which was an increase on 1969. The housing programme for 1970 allowed for a further 58 units at Hatfield Peverel and Rayne.

The 66 new units produced were at Phase II Fabians Farm Estate, Coggeshall and the Central Area at Hatfield Peverel.

77 dwellings were modernised to varying degrees and of these 35 received assistance from the Council by way of either a Discretionary or Standard Improvement Grant.

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were made during the year.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958

House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959

Housing Acts, 1961/1964/1969

Figures for the year ending 31st December, 1970:—

	Discretionary Grant Schemes	Standard Grant Schemes
(a) Number of Applications received	30	15
(b) Number of Applications approved by Council	28	15
(c) Number of Improved dwellings resulting from works at (b)	35	15
(d) Number of Improved dwellings completed	21	14
(e) Total amount involved in Grants approved	£18,779	£3,062
	£21,841	
(f) Actual amount paid in respect of the Standard Grant schemes completed at (d)	£2,700:1:2d.	

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply and Dairies

Eleven distributors and one dairy remain registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations.

All Licences for Designated Milks are dealt with by the Essex County Council.

The only complaints received were from outside the District and related to cartoned milk contaminated by mice. It was never completely established that the contamination did not arise at the point of delivery but as a precaution, an extensive survey and treatment was carried out at the Dairy in the District.

Brucella Abortus

There were no cases of Brucellosis notified as a result of samples taken by the Essex County Council.

Ice Cream Premises

No samples of ice cream were taken during the year owing to the difficulty in obtaining a freezing medium for use in transit to the laboratories.

Meat Inspection

Tabular information on this aspect of the work is given on the next page. The figures are very close indeed to those of last year with the exception of the total amount of meat condemned which shows a considerable rise, due largely to the number of whole beef carcasses condemned being greater.

Once again, no beef animal was found to be affected with Tuberculosis in any degree and the percentage of pigs so affected was considerably down. Other diseases and conditions still prevail, however, and are often more difficult to detect.

Cysticercosis also seems to be on the decline.

100 per cent inspection of all food animals killed as required by the 1963 Inspection Regulations, was maintained without any undue problems.

Routine visits to the three slaughterhouses by an Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food were made on a number of occasions and apart from minor details, comments were most favourable. There is a particularly good relationship with the Ministry's Inspectors, who are only too ready to assist on any unusual problems.

In addition to the animal meat condemned the following articles of food were similarly dealt with:—

28 tins of Meat	29 tins of Fruit
2 tins of Vegetables	79½ lbs. of Poultry
21 lbs. of Fish	6 lbs. of Meat
7 lbs. of Fruit	399 packets of Frozen Foods

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

There were few complaints of unsound or unfit foods received from householders and these were of a comparatively minor nature. Each was, however, fully investigated either within the District or with the co-operation of the Authority concerned.

It is certain there must be other cases of unsound food than are reported, but housewives are known to have a certain reluctance to pass on complaints to the Council and often just return the offending article to the shop from which it is bought. This, of course, does not help Authorities in their efforts to produce and maintain satisfactory food products.

No legal proceedings were instituted during the year.

Food Hygiene Regulations

Tabular information showing the number and types of premises falling within the scope of these Regulations and giving certain additional information as required by the Ministry of Health is set out overleaf.

Routine inspections were maintained as far as possible with emphasis on these premises where open food is sold.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses	Other Animals
Number Killed and Inspected	2,944	155	260	2,434	10,519	21	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci							
Whole carcasses con- demned	18	41	30	3	48	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	690	78	84	73	1,137	10	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Dis- eases other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	24.04	76.77	43.84	3.12	11.26	52.38	—
Tuberculosis only							
Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	63	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tub- erculosis	—	—	—	—	0.59	—	—
Cysticercosis							
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and tot- ally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Total quantities of Meat condemned

Beef	Pork	Veal	Mutton	Horse Flesh	Total
36,795 lbs.	14,461 lbs.	2,719 lbs.	264 lbs.	557 lbs.	54,796 lbs.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

Number of premises in District

1. Bakeries ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
2. Butchers ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
3. Catering Establishments	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
4. Ice Cream ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
5. Grocery and General Stores ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
6. Public Houses ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63

	Complying with Regulation 16 (1)	Regulation 19 Applicable (2)	Complying with Regulation 19
Bakeries ...	7	7	7
Butchers ...	14	16	14
Catering Establishments	38	39	39
Ice Cream ...	4	1	1
Grocery and General Stores	55	61	58
Public Houses	60	61	61

(1) Provision of wash hand basin with hot and cold running water.

(2) Provision of sink with hot and cold running water.







