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Contributors

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BRIDGE-BLEAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1958

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Chairman of the Council

COUNCILLOR H. ANDERSON, J.P., F.R.I.B.A.

--oOo--

Public Health Committee 1959

Councillor A. Taylor - (Chairman).
Councillor J. F. Montgomery - (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor F. E. Spanton.
Councillor A. R. Palmer.
Councillor F. V. Lee.
Councillor A. J. Ross.

Ex Officio Members

Councillor H. Anderson (Chairman of the Council)
Councillor G. Mount (Vice-Chairman of the Council)

Clerk to Council

L. J. WILLIAMS, Esq.

--oOo--

MALCOLM S. HARVEY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.



PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Senior Public Health Inspector ...	...	J. W. A. Brewster.
Additional Public Health Inspector	...	G. L. Almond.
Transport Officer ...	...	L. Bond.
Rodent Operator. ...	...	A. Vinten.
<u>Clerical Staff:</u> Clerks in the		Mrs. M. Price.
Senior Public Health Inspector's		Miss E. A. Dowson.
Office (on reporting).		

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Offices: Public Health Department, Rural District Council Offices,
41 Old Dover Road, Canterbury, (Telephone 4216/7)

To the Chairman and Councillors,
Bridge Blean Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present an Annual Report for the year 1958. In the hope that it may prove readable and of interest, it is presented in a rather different form than usual. Your Senior Public Health Inspector has with commendable expedition already reported on his work during the year and that report is added to this for circulation to the statutory recipients and neighbouring Health Departments. Matters concerning public health remain of vital importance and your interest in them is a proper practice of local government of the Rural District. My thanks are expressed to the Senior Public Health Inspector and other chief officers for their co-operation in work and report, and to the Council for their interest.

Your obedient servant,

Malcolm Hawery

LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The District has remained unchanged in area, recorded as 55,868 acres, made up of the chalk downs to the south, traversed by the sand and alluvium of the Stour Valley and bound on the north by the heavy clay cap overlying the tail of the North Down. The underlying chalk is the water laden sponge sipped by a public far greater in number than our 19,180 population, with Water Boards eager to sip the more. Where the soil is shallow our chalk is excellent arable; where there is depth of sand is fruit and chestnut, and in the clay and alluvium fine pasture land and hops, an agricultural district full of variety and interest, with the secret of the treasure beneath the chalk disclosed by a coal mine in the arable and its scar of spoil. The new schools and the hospitals of Canterbury have reached out as near as possible to this rurality, while our villages are the location of new desirable residences for professional and managerial householders.

Work is provided by agriculture, horticulture, coal mining and paper making, and by the trade and commerce of Canterbury, with education and hospital work, both in our District and in the City, two big sources of employment. The level of unemployment amongst men is very low and little more than a turnover figure in the under 50's. Women are involved in seasonal work in the fields, orchards and hop gardens with an unrealistic rise in the number of unemployed during winter. The introduction of machine picking of hops has reduced the September invasion of the District by hop pickers, but has not reduced the employment of locals in other aspects of hop growing.

HOUSING.

The Council's housing policy has sought to house people in their own village or parish, but in the provision of houses for old persons some concentration of units is inevitable. The Council are landlords of 749 dwellings, 268 pre-war and 481 postwar in construction, of which the variations in size are given later in the report. The need for more dwellings suitable to house elderly persons has been seen and will be met in the redevelopment of Sturry and in other projects.

BIRTHS.

The 231 births during 1958 was a drop of 35 on the previous year and was confined to the female sex only. The consequence of this was that while there were 28 more girls than boys born in 1957, in 1958 there were 7 more boys than girls. The number born outside wedlock rose from 9 to 18, 12 of them boys, an increase of 8 boys on the previous year's number. No explanation is offered for these sex variations. Our birthrate stands at 12.1 per 1,000 births for 1958 corrected for population variation to 15 per 1,000, which was below the rate for England and Wales.

VACCINATION & IMMUNISATION.

The County Council provides the services for the care of mothers and young children and offers protection to our children by vaccination and immunisation against smallpox, poliomyelitis, diphtheria and whooping cough. The protection against poliomyelitis was extended to those up to age 15 (and subsequently in 1959 to those born since 1933). A total of 2,378 persons received the two dose course during the year and 93 had received a third injection. Excluding the 271 persons outside the age groups to 15, this indicates that the child population is as well protected against poliomyelitis as against diphtheria, because the number of children under 15 who are fully protected (i.e. primary immunisation or booster dose in 1954 or since) against diphtheria is 2,096. 1,044 other school children had a waning protection from diphtheria immunisation prior to 1954.

The progress on diphtheria immunisation and smallpox vaccination has probably suffered from the attention to poliomyelitis protection. Primary diphtheria immunisation represented only 70% of the birth intake, while booster injections were confined almost entirely to 4 to 6 age group and were under 10% of those in need of a booster.

Smallpox vaccination was below 50% of infants. Whooping cough protection was more popular, perhaps because our senses are more acute than our sensibility and we appreciate a greater danger with our hearing of current whooping cough than we perceive in the freedom of world travel and transmission of smallpox.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Measles.

The most prevalent disease was measles, of which 242 cases were notified. 238 of these cases occurred in the first half of the year and 135 of them in the 5 to 9 age group. As usually happens, the school infant departments were the focus of the epidemic. Detail is given later in the tables.

Whooping Cough.

The most disturbing disease was whooping cough. Although only 33 cases were notified, 5 of these were in children under 1 year of age. The table given later shows how the cases occurred in all ages throughout childhood. It is not so much the mortality, there were no deaths, but the stress that causes debility dragging over months that one fears from this disease.

Scarlet Fever.

This disease can never be disregarded. As a notifiable infection it is more an indicator of the presence of a particular type of nose and throat infection than a clinical entity capable of control. But as a disease it is a sleeping leviathan, whose reappearance to do as much damage by the thrashing of its secondary movements as by its own bite, is always feared. There were indications of the presence of types of haemolytic streptococci damaging to the kidneys, in cases of acute tonsillitis in the district, while the cases of scarlet fever were in general mild and easily nursed at home given suitable accommodation. 12 cases of scarlet fever were notified during the first three-quarters of the year.

Pneumonia.

Pneumonia was notified in 11 cases, of whom 8 were over 65 years old and 3 between 45 and 64 years old. It was only absent during the summer.

Others.

There were no cases of food poisoning notified. 5 cases of dysentery occurred, 3 in children.

The summer and autumn remained free of poliomyelitis and the two reported cases were the tail of the 1957 incidence.

There was a scare over a possible case of typhoid that proved to be miliary tuberculosis. It is interesting that the decline in typhoid and the greater control of tuberculosis has made such cases a rarity and few medical students of today will have any opportunity to consider such a differential diagnosis.

One case of reaction to vaccination was investigated as a possible case of generalized vaccinia. It proved to be an absorption reaction resulting from the use of a dressing that excluded air.

Tuberculosis.

Eight cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, of which 4 were in men over 65. See tables for details.

DEATHS AND DEATH RATE.

There were 321 deaths in the district during the year, but a number of these were in hospital units for the chronic sick or infirm. The total is consistent with that for 1957 (320). The total gives a death rate of 16.7 per 1,000, but the factor to correct for local concentrations of elderly persons reduces our comparable death rate to 8.6 per 1,000.

The causes of death show that diseases of old age, of the heart and circulation are evenly disposed between the sexes. It is in chest diseases, especially bronchitis and in cancer of the lung that a marked difference is seen. Deaths from bronchitis are three times as high in males than in females and all the 8 lung cancer deaths were in males. While smokers cough is not confined to males, its effects are certainly more marked in men.

The number of stillbirths dropped to 4 (8 in 1957) and of infant deaths to 3 (4 in '57).

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS.

The help or interest of the Medical Officer of Health is sought in a wide variety of matters. Approaches about the suitability of the local climate for particular ailments is not unusual. Enquiries during the summer months about the presence of poliomyelitis or the possibility of it occurring are now less frequent. It is, however, in the day-to-day activity of the Councils' officers that one is called on most frequently for a medical opinion or advice on the public health aspect of a matter.

Several cases of aged or infirm persons were visited, but none were the subject of action under Section 47 National Assistance Act. In general, co-ordination of action with the County Council services or friendly supervision is enough.

Housing Cases.

There is a free exchange of views with the Housing Section on special cases and especially on those where the Chest Physician suggests rehousing. One particular case of a physically handicapped, middle aged person was helped through co-operation between this Authority and Canterbury County Borough on combining allocation with an exchange of tenancy.

One case of statutory overcrowding was awaiting legal action and was dealt with in the current year.

Sewage Disposal & Sewers.

Some progress was made on achieving improvements by a separation of soil from sink and bath waste to avoid overloading watertight cesspools in watergathering areas, the sink and bath waste going to a soakaway.

Conditions at Chartham were investigated. Several meetings with Water Board officers were held on the Adisham question, now to be the subject of a County Council consultants' investigation.

The Senior Public Health Inspector's report contains much detail on the public health supervision of the District and follows after the tables now presented.

VITAL STATISTICS 1958.

Population 19,180 Mid 1958.

Live Births:	Male 119)	231	Illegitimate	Male 12)	18
	Female 112)			Female 6)	
Live Birth Rate	12.1 per 1,000 population				
	(Correction Factor 1.25) -				
				<u>Corrected Live Birth Rate</u>	15 per 1,000
				England and Wales	16.4 per 1,000
Stillbirths:	Male 2)	4	Illegitimate -	Nil.	
	Female 2)				
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total (live still births)	16.1 per 1,000 live and still births.				
	England and Wales 21.6 per 1,000 live and still births.				
Total Births:	235 (live and still)				
Infant Deaths: (under 1 year)	Male 1)	3	Illegitimate	Male 1)	2
	Female 2)			Female 1)	
	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:			13 (total)	
	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 legitimate births:			4.7 (legitimate)	
	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 illegitimate births:			111 (illegitimate)	
Neonatal Deaths: (under 4 weeks)	Male -)	2	Illegitimate	Male -)	1
	Female 2)			Female 1)	
Neonatal Deaths: (under 1 week)	Female 1				
Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:	8.7				
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births:	7.79%				
Maternal Deaths:	Nil				
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births:	Nil.				
Deaths all causes:	Male 166)	321			
	Female 155)				
Death rate per 1,000 population:	16.7				
	(correctinn factor 0.51)				
	Corrected			8.6 per 1,000 population	
	England &				
	Wales			11.7 per 1,000 population	

<u>CAUSES OF DEATHS.</u>	M	F	Total 1958	1957	1956
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	-	1	1	2	4
Tuberculosis, Other.. ..	-	1	1	-	-
Other infectious or parasitic diseases	3	1	4	1	2
Cancer Stomach	6	3	9	5	12
Cancer Lungs and Bronchus	8	-	8	9	6
Cancer Breast	-	1	1	1	5
Cancer Uterus	-	2	2	2	4
Other Cancers	15	17	32	25	24
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	-	-	-	4	4
Diabetes.. ..	1	1	2	3	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.	16	18	34	33	36
Coronary Disease, Angina	23	10	33	43	30
Hypertension with Heart Disease ..	3	5	8	3	25
Other Heart Disease	31	40	71	61	96
Other Circulatory Diseases	11	11	22	16	23
Influenza.	1	-	1	2	1
Pneumonia.	12	11	23	26	11
Bronchitis	14	5	19	19	9
Other Respiratory Disease	3	1	4	7	5
Ulcers of Stomach and Duodenum ..	1	2	3	3	7
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea ..	-	-	-	1	1
Nephritis, Nephrosis.. ..	2	7	9	5	4
Hyperplasia of Prostrate	3	-	3	3	2
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ..	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformation	-	-	-	3	2
Other defined and illdefined diseases	10	13	23	35	30
Motor Accidents.	1	-	1	2	3
All other accidents	2	3	5	4	6
Suicide	-	2	2	2	2
Homicide or War	-	-	-	-	-
Total Deaths by Sexes	166	155			
Total Deaths	-	-	321	320	355

The causes of the 3 infant deaths were:-

<u>Cause</u>	<u>Age</u>
Dead body found: Lack of attention at birth	Unknown
Acute Haemorrhagia Bronchopneumonia	4 weeks
Prematurity (29 weeks)	16 hours

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	Age Grouping								Quarter					
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15+	Total	1	2	3	4	Total
Measles	5	9	16	24	33	135	19	1	242	78	160	3	1	242
Whooping Cough	5	2	3	4	5	11	2	1	33	15	5	6	7	33
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	3	1	7	-	-	12	3	4	5	-	12
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2(p)	2	2	-	-	-	2
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	2	5	1	2	-	2	5

CHEST AND OTHER DISEASES

Disease	Age Grouping						Quarter					
	Under 5	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-65	Over 65	Total	1	2	3	4	Total
Tuberculosis Lung Respiratory	-	-	1F	2M	1F	4M	8	3	3	2	-	8
Other	-	1F	-	-	-	1F	2	-	2	-	-	2
Acute Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	2M 1F	6M 2F	11	4	3	-	4	11
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	2M	-	2	-	2	-	-	2

IMMUNISATION & VACCINATION

		Under 5	5-15	Over 15	Total
Smallpox	Primary Vaccinations	106	-	6	112
	Revaccinations	1	5	21	27
Diphtheria	Primary	151	11	-	162
	Reinforcing	14	85	-	99
Whooping Cough	Primary	207	13	-	220
Poliomyelitis	2 injection course	701	1406	271	2378
	3rd injection completed	37	54	2	93

COUNCIL'S PROVISION OF HOUSES IN THE DISTRICT

	Pre-War	Post War	Total
4 bedroom parlour	2	12	14
" " non parlour	4	-	4
" " flats	2	-	2
3 bedroom parlour	104	308	412
" " non parlour	139	56	195
" " flats	6	-	6
2 bedroom parlour	1	-	1
" " non parlour	10	69	79
" " flats	-	6	6
" " bungalows	-	12	12
" " prefabs	-	12	12
1 bedroom flats	-	6	6
	268	481	749

1959 Proposals

3 bedroom houses	20	
2 bedroom houses	18	
2 bedroom flats	6	
2 bedroom bungalows	8	
1 bedroom flats	18	(12 in 1 unit)
1 bedroom bungalows	6	
	<u>76</u>	



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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my intention in future to present a yearly report on conditions in the district, as I believe used to be done at one time by my predecessor. I hope that with the earlier presentation this report will be of interest and will not have lost its freshness. Matters beyond his control always prevent your Medical Officer of Health from presenting his report until later in the year.

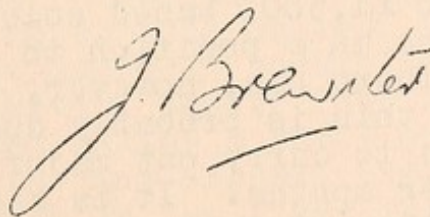
At the beginning of the year under review the establishment of the Department was severely depleted. I am pleased to say, however, that by the month of February Mr. G. L. Almond had been appointed to fill the post of Additional Public Health Inspector and Miss E. Dowson to the post of Shorthand Typist. Naturally it took some months before these persons became fully conversant with their new posts and the district, as well as dealing with the accumulation of work, but by the middle of the year the leeway had been made good. Although I regretted the halt to the approval of Improvement Grants the six months standstill was in a way very welcome at the time.

During the year more new legislation was placed on the Statute Book and the financial provisions of the Housing Acts were consolidated into one Act. The Public Health Inspector is having to become more of a Lawyer every day and no doubt members of the Council have missed the familiar sounds of various sections and titles of Acts now repealed.

I would like at this stage to thank members and officers of the Council for their assistance and guidance during this my first year in a senior post.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Brewster". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Your obedient servant,".

H O U S I N G

As is to be expected, housing work forms the major part of our duties. Nearly nine hundred visits were made during the year in dealing with various aspects of housing work. I feel that during the year it has been possible for the first time since the outbreak of war to ask for properties to be brought up to the required standard as laid down in Section 4 of the Housing Act, 1957. During nearly twenty years, when only urgent items could be dealt with, thousands of houses have gradually deteriorated, and although a start has been made on the really unfit properties, numerous dwellings, given the benefit of the doubt during the 1954/5 Survey, are now unfit. With this in mind a further survey is to take place and house to house inspections of the village of Bridge are already in progress. At the Conference of the Association of Public Health Inspectors, which it was my pleasure to attend, complaints were made as to the very low standard to be considered in classifying a house unfit. Why for instance, should it not be possible to consider low ceiling heights, steep and narrow staircases, separate access to Bedrooms, the condition of yards and paths as well as decorative repair, all of these are considered when dealing with an Improvement Grant and the tenant in challenging a rent increase can complain of these matters in addition to broken window and door fittings, gates and fences etc. Local Authorities are also expected to provide baths and hot water systems to their new houses. I would like to see the Improvement Grant Scheme made simpler by allowing the cost of repair to rank for assistance where the properties are made available for letting, as unless the older properties are saved our villages will soon consist of Council House estates. Perhaps the Government's new Bill which will make the purchase of old houses more easy will help to solve part of a very serious problem.

(a) Improvement Grants

The decision of the Council to suspend the making of Grants continued well into the year under review, in fact the first applications were not considered until September. During this standstill period numerous applications were withdrawn. At the end of the year, however, the majority of the outstanding applications had been dealt with and the ceiling figure of £1,250. allocated per month for Improvement Grants was found to be sufficient although in my estimates for next year I recommend this figure be increased to £1,500. based solely on the fact that the Department will then be in a position to step up the approval of Grant applications. There has, however, been a falling off of applications although this is probably due to the fact that applicants do not wish to carry out major alterations or improvements during the winter months. It is a great pity that enquiries are not made at this time of the year as it would assist the Department in maintaining a steady flow rather than having a flood of applications during the Spring, so leading to saturation of the machinery and disappointment to applicants over delay.

Despite the short period Grants to the value of nearly £5,000. were approved, working out at an average of £272. per property. Of the eighteen applications approved, one new unit of accommodation will be provided and one unfit house rendered fit. At least half of the properties were well below Housing Act standard and in the years to come would have been included in a slum clearance programme. It is also important to bear in mind that one of the conditions attached to Improvement Grants is that the owner must keep the property in a reasonable state of repair during the next twenty years.

Of the improvement work completed during the year thirty-eight properties have been brought up to the required standard. Nine were owner/occupied, ten were agricultural properties and nineteen were tenanted. The reason for the high number of tenanted properties is due to the fact that eighteen of them belong to the Chartham Paper Mills. One acknowledged failure of the Act, of course, is that owners of property available for letting have not made use of the Improvement Grant Scheme.

A certain amount of publicity has been given to the statement from the Government that it is their intention to introduce a new form of Improvement Grant. Under the House Purchase and Housing Bill, which at the date of this report has received two readings, the new Grant will be for a maximum of £150. for the provision of a fixed bath or shower in the bathroom, a hot water supply, a water closet and facilities for storing food. It is interesting to note that Local Authorities must give a Grant if the applicant satisfies certain requirements. I do not think that this new scheme, should it become law, will be of much assistance in an area of this nature, because in most cases the major part of the cost of improving property is taken up with the provision of drainage or building Bathrooms and it will be noted that these items do not rank for assistance. However, where you have a property which is connected to a main drainage scheme and there is also a boxroom or spare bedroom available for conversion to a Bathroom then I think this Grant will be of interest to the owner.

(b) Slum Clearance

Credit restrictions which have curtailed the house building programme have naturally slowed up progress on slum clearance work. It has been impossible to follow the five year programme and Representations are having to more or less follow the building programme except where it has been possible to re-house families in casual vacancies. However, twenty four unfit properties were dealt with during the year making a total of 96 out of the programme figure of 159. This means that approximately three fifths of the problem has been dealt with in the first three of a five year programme, so we are more or less holding our own. I am quite certain that with the speed up of house building that this Authority

Housing (Contd)

(b) Slum Clearance

will complete its programme in the allotted time. A table setting out progress to date, Parish by Parish, is included in the appendix to this report.

For the first time the house building programme is to include dwellings specially designed for elderly people and I sincerely hope that 'assisted' units will also be built. A large percentage of unfit properties are occupied by elderly people who can only be re-housed in special accommodation and who surely deserve some of the comforts of modern conveniences in their later years.

(c) Rent Act, 1957

This Act, as you know, came into force in the middle of 1957 and it was noticeable at the commencement of 1958 that there was a falling off in the demand for Rent Act Certificates - at the end of the year the average was about one per month. Although the number of applications for Rent Act Certificates appeared to be higher than received by neighbouring rural districts, there was not the expected avalanche and I share the views of the Chief Public Health Inspector to the City and County Borough of Canterbury that the main reason is that tenants were afraid of receiving Notice to Quit, especially was this the case where elderly people were concerned. Also, of course, the procedure for obtaining Certificates was very complicated. It was very important for the Public Health Inspector to remain completely impartial in this matter and so it was not possible to give tenants much assistance in completing their list of defects. I think I am right in stating that the major part of our time under this Act has been taken up with explaining to landlord and tenants the correct procedure to follow in either applying for a rent increase or challenging same. In cases where Certificates were issued no owner challenged the items contained therein neither have there been any appeals against cancellation or non-cancellation of Certificates.

Although a certain amount of work has been carried out by landlords under this Act I do not think it is the answer to the problem of dealing with unfit houses. The tenants in their applications seem to have been more interested in the condition of external decoration and such things as fixtures and fittings to doors and windows. In some cases quite obvious and serious defects have been over-looked although it was possible for the Local Authority to deal with these items under the Public Health Act,

Particulars as to the number of applications received and Certificates granted are contained in the appendix to this report.

F O O D A N D D R U G S

I am pleased to be able to report an increase in the amount of work in this field. Personal visits and informal notices have been fairly successful and it was not thought necessary to take proceedings against the occupier of any food premises although I feel that some action on these lines may have to be taken in respect of one or two licensed premises where informal notices have been outstanding for some time. Although the provision of new equipment is a step in the right direction I feel that education of the food handler is the only way to ensure clean food. This will call for continual visits to premises where food is prepared in order to point out to the occupier or staff the mistakes that are being made. It is a great pity that the British public do not complain more when they see food being mishandled, as even regular visits from a member of the Health Department cannot possibly observe all faults. The various categories of premises coming under the scope of the Food and Drugs Act are set out in the appendix and for the first time the figure for cafes, restaurants etc. includes licensed premises where main meals are served.

Milk and Dairies

I am also pleased to be able to report a further improvement on the amount of work carried out in this field. There has been an increase in the number of milk samples taken and these particulars together with the number of dealers and supplementary licenses issued are set out at the end of the report. Although it is always satisfying when carrying out routine sampling to receive satisfactory reports, one does wonder from time to time whether this work is necessary. The receipt of an unsatisfactory report causes one to realise that only by carrying out regular sampling is it possible to keep a check on the various food products produced. This in fact is what happened during the year. Over thirty samples were taken all of which were satisfactory with two exceptions. These two unsatisfactory samples came from a producer retailer of a T.T. herd licenced by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. After a complete inspection of the dairy and bottling equipment the trouble was traced to the unsatisfactory sterilisation of bottling equipment. The producer retailer has since given more attention to this point with a result that there has been an improvement in subsequent samples.

Ice Cream

My remarks about the regular sampling of milk equally apply to ice cream, although the number of samples taken was not very high, once again there appeared an unsatisfactory report. The

Food and Drugs (Contd)

Ice Cream

offending sample was from one of the many vans which tour the district. In this particular case the unsatisfactory report was referred to the Health Department at Deal for action by that Authority. As you know, the majority of the tradesmen within our district retail pre-packed ice cream and as far as possible I want to concentrate on sampling from the many vans that tour various villages. This of course, makes sampling very difficult as they do not stick to fixed routes or times.

Slaughterhouses and Knacker Yards

Routine visits were made at the beginning of the year to the private slaughterhouse at St. Augustines Hospital, Chartham, and some two hundred animals were inspected. The slaughterhouse has now closed so that there is now no regular killing carried out in the district.

The one knacker yard situated at Tyler Hill receives regular visits and on the whole the premises are satisfactory. Any nuisance arising was due to the carelessness of the operators in that waste products were not consigned immediately to the appropriate containers, although it is only fair to state that the owner of the knacker yard does experience some difficulty in arranging for the regular collection of bones and hides etc.

Food Inspection

Three cows and one hundred and ninety nine pigs were slaughtered and inspected at St. Augustine's Hospital slaughterhouse. With the exception of three pork carcasses the meat was passed as fit for human consumption.

Some 316 lbs of canned food together with other foods was condemned during the year and disposed of at the various refuse tips.

W A T E R S U P P L I E S

It is pleasing to report that under this heading the rural district is well to the fore. Approximately one per cent of the properties which are without a mains water supply are situated in scattered areas such as Denstroude, Blean; Marshside; Hoath Road; and Mayton Lane, Sturry, etc. The aim therefore, must be to ensure as far as possible that the remaining one per cent are either connected to a mains supply or have a satisfactory supply

of their own. To this end forty three samples were taken during the year of which eighteen proved to be unsatisfactory.

The following action was taken in respect of the unsatisfactory reports.

Water Act, 1945

Five Notices were served on owners to provide a satisfactory supply, at the end of the year six were outstanding. (2-1957, 4-1958).

New Extension Schemes

(i) Marshside

The Council agreed to proceed with the two schemes for providing water to five cottages at the Northern end of Marshside and to an area known as Under-the-Wood where seven properties are involved. All of these cottages rely on impure shallow well water and this was the main reason for the majority of them being included in the slum clearance programme for the Parish of Chislet.

(ii) Denstroude

This scheme to serve seven properties has been approved although work has not yet been commenced.

(iii) Bigberry Woods, Chartham Hatch

No further action was taken in this matter as there were no strong Public Health grounds for such an extension which would have been a costly one. The three bungalows rely on rainwater tanks.

(iv) Mayton Lane, Broad Oak, Sturry

This is a very scattered area containing eleven properties most of which have their own satisfactory spring supply. Four cottages with rainwater tanks nearer to the village of Broad Oak did experience some difficulty and it was felt that the matter should be investigated. The cost of such a scheme however was prohibitive, and as the cottages in question are in a poor structural condition and also lack drainage it is quite likely that in the near future they will be condemned.

(v) Covet Lane, Kingston

The owners of the two properties involved are receiving a Grant towards the cost of this extension. Work is expected to begin early in the new year.

Water Supplies (Contd)

(vi) Mystole, Charthan

Water samples taken at regular intervals are satisfactory. The lack of protection to exposed pipework and storage tank has resulted in breakdowns during severe winter weather. The individual owners are attempting to form themselves into an incorporated association in order to take over the existing installation which might then be connected to a mains supply if the Council would enter into a guarantee agreement.

(vii) Buckwell Farm

The scheme for extending the mains from Little Rushbourne Farm to serve Buckwell Farm and four cottages was considered by the Finance Committee some time ago and was turned down on account of cost. There are strong Public Health grounds for providing these properties with a mains supply but in view of the fact that the owners of the property were investigating, through the National Farmers Union, a private extension from the Calcott area, no further action was taken by the Department during the year.

Completed Schemes

Two small schemes were completed during the year, namely at Ansdore, Waltham and Stone Street, Waltham, where the mains was extended from the Elham R.D.C. area. The total number of properties involved was eleven.

D R A I N A G E A N D S E W A G E

The problems attached to drainage increase as also do complaints especially from the Northern part of the district. I am sure I am not alone in hoping for some relief from these problems and complaints when areas such as Sturry and Blean are sewered. Conditions in the latter area are at times intolerable. A new problem has also arisen with the Water Company's defining areas in which they aim to secure watertight cesspools. The time must surely come when rate-payers will have to bear the burden of more main drainage schemes or else individual owners must carry out improvements to existing drainage systems which will cost anything from £50-£200., per dwelling resulting in an even heavier burden on the scavenging scheme.

Apart from securing improvements and abating nuisances the village of Upstreet was surveyed during the year and a report presented to the Council. In this village the sub-soil does not allow soakage and cesspools overflow to the open ditch which also takes, in many cases, sink wastes direct. As a result of this report the Engineer & Surveyor was instructed to draw up a scheme

for this village. In addition to this scheme the sewerage of Hoath village was in progress at the end of the year and plans for Tyler Hill and the Hollow Street area of Chislet had also been prepared.

In order to obtain a clearer picture of the problem the Officers of the Council are now preparing an order of priority for proposed schemes. This order will bear in mind dangers to public health, water supplies, savings on the scavenging scheme as well as finance and future development. Despite the need for new schemes I feel that consideration must also be given to the existing arrangements for the disposal of cesspool and pail closet contents where the problem is not so much as to disposal but as to safe disposal. We are very fortunate in being able to discharge a considerable amount into sewers of our own and neighbouring authorities and also to be the owners of several acres of isolated woodland. An experiment was recently carried out by the Engineer & Surveyor at the Littlebourne works in order to try and dispose of pail closet contents, I am sorry to say that the experiment was a complete failure. Whether the experiment would be more successful at the newly designed Westbere works remains to be seen, if not this is a matter which must receive urgent consideration.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE

Cesspool Emptying

Four vehicles with one part time are engaged on cesspool emptying. Two of the full time vehicles operate on a rota system in the Blean/Tyler Hill and Hoath/Chislet areas. The other vehicles deal with requests from the remainder of the district. The demand for the service is continually increasing and during the year over four hundred extra orders were received, mainly due to the number of new properties constructed (57) and increased emptying of Council house cesspools. It was possible to cope with the increase of work by working some overtime during the summer months but mainly by economies carried out in the pail emptying service which released an emptier for an extra day per week.

Pail Emptying

One machine is engaged full time on this work and one machine part time. As reported above some economies were made in this service by a considerable amount of re-routing which enabled more pails to be emptied per day, as well as reducing mileage.

Public Cleansing and Salvage (Contd)

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Four vehicles maintain a weekly collection over the district with the exception of odd outlying properties where only a fortnightly or monthly collection is carried out. The number of new dwellings and conversions during the year has amounted to 71 which have all had to be included in the existing rotas, necessitating minor adjustments from time to time. Where there is not a back door collection it is impossible to make wholesale changes in the collection date without a written notice to each occupier. It is quite obvious that if the rate of building continues as at the present moment an additional refuse vehicle will have to be put into service, within the next five years.

On the subject of refuse disposal we are very fortunate in the number of tips that we have in use which reduce the length of haul although control measures present some problems. One man is employed full time at Sturry, our main tip, except for the Friday of each week when he assists at Oldridge Wood. One man is also employed part time at Chartham where with the neighbouring specialized Paper Works it is important to keep the fly population down as much as possible. The other and smaller tips can only receive attention when spare labour is available.

Salvage

It is possible to again report that the income from salvage is in the region of £1,000., the exact figure being £982., which is slightly below that for last year. No special effort is made to increase the amount of salvage collected because at the moment we are able to more or less reach the target as set by our contract with the Paper Mills. Enquiries were made of a local firm as to the amount they would pay for waste paper and it was found that the figure was very little above the cost of baling so I felt that until the situation in the salvage world improves we should be satisfied with our present efforts.

Apart from small amounts of scrap iron it does not pay us to attempt to salvage any other material. The salvage and collection of such material would be very difficult bearing in mind the number of refuse tips in use also labour costs would be prohibitive.

General

One or two of the refuse vehicles are reaching the end of their useful life and after much consideration the Public Health Committee decided to replace one of these by a new Bedford diesel side loader. The saving in the purchase of this vehicle as

compared with the purchase of a Dennis machine is over £400. It will be interesting to observe the performance of the new vehicle as further replacements will be needed next year.

The tremendous saving in fuel since the majority of heavy vehicles have been converted to diesel is now well known. I think it is only right to mention in this report of the savings made by carrying out so much of our own repair work at the Garage. The provision of new equipment such as the recent purchase of an Injector Tester, saves time and money and enables the Department to maintain the high scavenging standards.

The total number on the scavenging staff excluding tip attendants is now twenty four (ten drivers, twelve mates, one mechanic and assistant). This is the lowest figure on the pay roll for many years. In my opinion the Council are fortunate in the type of men now in their employment and it is interesting to note that over half of them have been with this Authority ten years or more, the record being held by Mr. L. H. Hogben who commenced duties in 1930. Naturally, complaints from the public are received from time to time, some of which are justified, the employee responsible is usually one who flits from job to job. Despite the nature of the work only 165 days were lost through sickness, this figure would have been far lower but for the fact that two employees suffered severe illness accounting for 103 days.

R O D E N T A N D P E S T C O N T R O L

Of nearly seven hundred rodent inspections, treatment was carried out at over two hundred properties. With the large number of refuse tips and sewage works under the control of this Authority it was necessary to carry out regular visits as a refuse tip can soon be the source of infestations over a large area.

A test on the sewers was made in April and a number of man-holes in the Upper and Lower Harbledowns, Littlebourne and Sturry areas were baited, no takes were recorded.

The advice of the Department is often sought on the identification and eradication of various insects etc. During the summer months in particular, numerous wasp nests are dealt with and other common complaints concern ants, fleas and cockroaches. No reports on the presence of bed bugs have come to light for several years now.

C L E A N A I R A C T

The remaining parts of this Act came into force during the year. Smoke abatement from industrial plant presents few problems in this area, although complaints have been received in connection with Chartham Paper Mills. This firm has already notified the Council of its intention to instal a new furnace (Section 3) and proposes to take other steps to prevent any nuisance arising. The matter will have to be carefully watched during 1959.

In discussing Smoke Control Areas one immediately pictures built up areas, I am sure the time will come, however, when even rural areas will have to be considered. Any observer noticing, as I did, the domestic smoke hanging over the low lying village of Bridge one late afternoon at the end of the year would see the reason for this remark. I think a start should be made on providing all new Council Houses with suitable grates for burning smokeless fuel and making it one of the conditions of tenancy that such fuel must be used.

In order to keep up-to-date on this very important subject the Additional Public Health Inspector and myself are attending lectures arranged by the Canterbury Technical College and the East Kent Branch of the Association of Public Health Inspectors.

M O V E A B L E D W E L L I N G S

We have in the area five sites holding licences under the Public Health and Town and Country Planning Acts. One of these sites has not yet come into use and two others are for holiday purposes only. The residential sites are at Broad Oak (60 dwellings) and Blean (10 dwellings). Eight licences for individual caravans were issued.

F A C T O R I E S A N D W O R K P L A C E S

The full details as to the number of factories and workplaces in the district and inspections and work carried out are contained in the appendix to this report. I can only add that there has been a marked increase in the number of inspections in this respect and in my opinion a once yearly visit is all that is required in view of our limited duties.

H O P P I C K E R S C A M P S

Work in connection with hop pickers accommodation grows less each year. Two farms which used to provide accommodation for pickers from London and the Medway towns have gone over to using machines. There are now only eight farms providing accommodation consisting of eleven camps which can house approximately fifteen hundred persons, although it is found in practice that these camps are now under-occupied as farmers seem to prefer transporting

pickers from neighbouring villages. Naturally, farmers are loath to spend a considerable amount of money on improving the existing accommodation and so the efforts of the Department are concentrated on ensuring clean sites, suitable and satisfactory sanitary accommodation and sampling of water where the mains supply is not available.

In practice it has been found that the farmers never bother to notify the Department as to when the huts are available for inspection or as to the likely number to be accommodated. The usual procedure is to prepare the huts etc a few days prior to the arrival of the pickers, and this does not allow much time to rectify any defects or omissions. With the gradual disappearance of camps I feel that there is now not much point in trying to have this matter rectified even though it is a contravention of the Byelaws.

S H O P S A C T

Several complaints were received during the year of two shops, one in Chartham and the other at Upstreet, not observing the requirements relating to Sunday trading and half day closing. I am pleased to say that both matters were satisfactorily dealt with. This Act is most unworkable and is long overdue for re-drafting. The majority of visits have been in connection with sanitary matters and I do not consider qualified Health Officers have the time these days to supervise hours of closing or Sunday trading.

I N F E C T I O U S D I S E A S E A N D

D I S I N F E C T I O N

Under this heading things have been fairly quiet, I do not wish it to be otherwise. There are no doubt many reasons for the improved health of the nation but one which should not be overlooked is the day to day efforts of all sections of the Health Department team in the environmental field.

Immediately notifications of the more important diseases are received investigations are carried out and where required by the occupants or thought desirable, disinfection follows. Prompt investigation serves little purpose, however, if the Medical Practitioner is late in notifying the Health Department, which is the case on far too many occasions.

M I S C E L L A N E O U S

Under this heading I wish to make brief comments on other matters which form part of the Departments duties.

The Litter Act, surely one of the shortest pieces of legislation, came into force during the year and gives this Authority powers to deal with part of a serious problem. A study of the Act will show how limited those powers are.

The licensing of plant under the Waste Foods Order was completed early in the year. All that is now required is for these plants to be supervised.

No action was called for in respect of the Heating (Fireguard) Appliances Act, or the licensing and supervision of Pet Shops.

A P P E N D I X
S T A T I S T I C S

H O U S I N G

Slum Clearance Programme - Progress Report

	No. on Survey	Demolished	Demolition Order	Closing Order	Closed	Unofficial Undertaking	Made Fit	Work in Progress	Action in Progress		To be represented
Adisham	26	-	13	5	-	-	4	-	3		1
Barham	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		-
Bekesbourne	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
Bishopsbourne	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
Blean	18	-	-	-	1	-	4	1	-		12
Bridge	18	4	-	-	-	-	8	2	4		-
Chartham	8	-	1	-	1	4	-	-	2		-
Chislet	26	2	-	-	1	-	3	-	1		19
Fordwich	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-		1
Hackington	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-		3
Harbledown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
Hoath	6	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-		5
Ickham	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-		3
Kingston	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-		2
Littlebourne	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
L. Hardres	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		3
Patixbourne	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
Petham	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-		-
Sturry	6	1	1	-	2	-	-	2	-		-
Thanington	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-		-
U. Hardres	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-		-
Waltham	4	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-		2
Westbere	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
Wickhambreaux	13	-	3	2	1	-	1	-	1		5
Womenswold	10	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-		7
	159	7	21	8	10	4	27	7	12	= 96	63

Rent Act - Certificates Granted and Cancelled

- 25 Applications were made for Certificates.
- 3 Certificates were not issued.
- 6 Certificates were granted in respect of all defects.
- 5 Certificates were granted in respect of some defects.
- 9 Undertakings accepted.
- 2 Not dealt with during 1958.

- 13 Applications were made for the revocation of Certificates.
- 9 Certificates were revoked.
- 4 Applications were refused.

Inspections and Action Taken etc.

Housing Statistics

A.	New houses erected by the Council	11
	New houses under construction by the Council.. .. .	23
	New houses erected by Private Enterprise	71
	Houses demolished under Housing Acts	4
	Houses demolished by other persons	2
	Houses otherwise closed for human habitation under Housing Acts	29
	Houses otherwise closed for human habitation by other persons	Nil
	Conversions of properties into dwellings under Housing Act	Nil
	Conversions of properties into dwellings by other persons	3
	Conversions of properties in progress under Housing Act	1
	Conversions of properties in progress by other persons	1
B.	<u>Inspections of Dwelling Houses during the year</u>	
	1. (a) Number inspected under Housing Acts	101
	(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose	447
	(c) Number of miscellaneous Housing Visits	110
	2. Number of dwelling houses found to be unfit for human habitation (Section 16)	26
	3. Number of dwelling houses found to be unfit for human habitation (Section 9)	1
	4. Number of representations made to Local Authority with a view to:-	
	(a.) serving of notices requiring the execution of works (Section 9)	1
	(b) the making of Demolition or Closing Orders (Section 16)	26
	5. Number of cases of overcrowding known to the Local Authority at 31st December, 1957	7
	6. Number of such cases identified during 1958	2
	7. Number of cases of overcrowding at 31st December, 1958	3

C. Remedy of Defects without Service of Notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action under Housing Acts	Nil
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action under Public Health Acts.. .. .	26

D. Action under Statutory Powers

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957.

1. Number of dwelling houses on which notices were served requiring repairs.. .. .	1
2. Number rendered fit after service of formal notices (i) by owners (ii) by Local Authority in default..	Nil Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts

1. Number of houses inspected under Public Health Acts	39
2. Number of houses visited under Public Health Acts.. .. .	208
3. Number of dwelling houses on which statutory notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.. .. .	28
4. Number in which defects remedied after service of formal notices:	
(i) by owners	9
(ii) by Local Authority in default	Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 16 and 23 of the Housing Act 1957.

1. Number of dwellings on which Demolition Orders were made	17
2. Number of dwellings demolished under Demolition Orders.. ..	4
3. Number of houses in respect of which an Undertaking was accepted under sub-section (4) of Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957 ..	7

(d) Proceedings under Sections 17(1), 17(3) and 18 of the Housing Act, 1957.

1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms on which Closing Orders were made (Section 18)	Nil
2. Number of Closing Orders made under Section 17(3).. .. .	Nil
3. Number of Closing Orders made under Section 17(1).. .. .	7

F O O D A N D D R U G S

The various categories of premises coming under the scope of the Food and Drugs Act are as follows:-

- Cafes, Restaurants and Hotels etc - 28.
(includes licensed premises serving main meals only)
- Bakehouses - 7.
- Butchers Shops - 12.
- Shops - 91.
- School Canteens and Kitchens - 24.
- Licensed Premises - 68.
- Other premises (Hospitals, Factory Canteens etc) - 8.

FOOD AND DRUGS (CONTD).

Milk and Dairies

No. of Bacteriological Samples taken - 14.
(including 7 from St. Augustines Hospital, Chartham)
No. of unsatisfactory samples - Nil.
No. of statutory samples taken - 18.
(including 9 from St. Augustines Hospital, Chartham)
No. of unsatisfactory samples - 2.

1949. No. of licences granted under Milk (Special Designation) Regulations,

	<u>Dealers</u>	<u>Supplementary</u>
Pasteurised	14	7
Sterilised	8	1
Tuberculin Tested	10	7

Ice Cream

Details of sampling:-

Grade I 7
Grade II 1
Grade III 1 (Unsatisfactory).

FOOD INSPECTION

Amounts of food condemned during year.

3 Carcases English Pork. 120 lbs Canned Fruit.
62 lbs Canned Meat. 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs Canned Fish.
70 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs Canned Vegetables. 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs Soup.
17 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs Other Foods. 2 lbs Canned Milk.
10 Bottles Squash. 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs Preserves.
40 Bottles Sauce.

RODENT CONTROL

Summary of Visits and Treatment

	Private	Local Authority	Farm	Business	Total
Inspections	265	201	173	36	675
Treatments	152	43	11	6	212

W A T E R S U P P L Y

<u>Name of Parish</u>	<u>Source of Supply</u>
Adisham .. .. .	.. Thanet Water Board
Barham .. .. .	.. Mid-Kent Water Co.
Bekesbourne .. .. .	.. Thanet Water Board.
Bridge .. .. .	.. Thanet Water Board.
Bishopsbourne.. .. .	.. Thanet Water Board.
Chartham . .. .	.. Canterbury Water Co.
Chislet .. .. .	.. Canterbury Water Co.
Fordwich.. .. .	.. Canterbury Water Co.
Hackington .. .. .	.. Canterbury Water Co.
Harbledown .. .. .	.. Canterbury Water Co.
Hoath .. .. .	.. Canterbury Water Co.
Ickham and Well .. .. .	.. Thanet Water Board.
Kingston . .. .	.. Mid-Kent Water Co.
Littlebourne .. .. .	.. Thanet Water Board.
Lower Hardres.. .. .	.. Canterbury Water Co.
Patricxbourne .. .. .	.. Thanet Water Board.
Petham .. .. .	.. Mid-Kent Water Co.
St. Cosmus & St. Damian in the Blean .. .. .	.. Canterbury Water Co.
Sturry .. .. .	.. Canterbury Water Co.
Thanington Without.. .. .	.. Canterbury Water Co.
Upper Hardres.. .. .	.. Mid-Kent Water Co.
Waltham .. .. .	.. Mid-Kent Water Co.
Westbere.. .. .	.. Canterbury Water Co.
Wickhambreaux.. .. .	.. Thanet Water Board.
Womenswold .. .. .	.. Thanet Water Board.

F A C T O R I E S A N D W O R K P L A C E S

Visits and Action

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Secs 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	14	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec.7 is enforced by Local Authority	65	72	3	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	1	1	-	-
	73	87	3	-

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

2. Cases in which Defects were Found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspctr | By H.M. Insptr.	
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	1	-	- | -	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	1	- | 1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	- | -	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork).	-	-	- | -	-
Total	4	1	- | 1	-

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE ETC

Particulars of Vehicles

Veh. No.	Index No.	Registered	Make	Duties
1. (Diesel)	HKE 604	1945	Dennis	Cesspool
2. (Diesel)	HKT 301	1947	Dennis	Cesspool W/N.S.
3. (Diesel)	JKL 224	1947	Dennis	Cesspool W/N.S.
4. (Diesel)	HJK 374	1945	Dennis	Cesspool
5. (Petrol)	FKK 759	1939	Dennis	Cesspool
6. (Diesel)	LKE 684	1948	Dennis	Cesspool W/N.S.
7. (Diesel)	LKK 917	1949	Dennis	Cesspool W/N.S.
8. (Petrol)	HKE 686	1945	Dennis	Refuse
9. (Petrol)	HKJ 373	1945	Dennis	Refuse
10. (Diesel)	NKN 457	1951	Dennis	Refuse
11. (Diesel)	SKN 127	1954	Dennis	Refuse
12.	GJG 238	1952	Ford Van	Surveyors
13.	JKN 566	1947	Morris Van	Garage
14.	GJG 927	1953	Ford Van	Finance
15.	LJG 468	1956	Austin Van.	Finance
16.				
17.	OJG 424	1958	Austin Van	Rodent Control
18.	LJG 469	1956	Austin Van	Surveyors
19.	HFN 414	1953	Ford Van	Surveyors
20.	JKM 503	1947	Ford Van	Surveyors

