

[Report 1964] / Medical Officer of Health, Bromyard R.D.C.

Contributors

Bromyard (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1964

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/a38cfca8>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>




Library

BROMYARD RURAL DISTRICT

Herefordshire

Joint
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and of the
Public Health Inspector
for the year 1964



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28959395>

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(As at 31st December 1964)

* J.L. POWELL (Chairman of the Council)	..	..	..	..	Edwyn Ralph
* J.T. ARNETT (Vice-Chairman of the Council)	..	..	..	..	Stoke Lacy
* Mrs. E.B. BABER	..	..	..	..	Linton
H.A. BAYLISS	..	..	..	..	Little Cowarne
* Major M.A. BELLVILLE (Chairman of the Housing and Health Committee)	..	..	..	..	Tedstone Delamere
T.G. BEMAND	..	..	..	..	Grendon Bishop
* Miss D.A. BOUCHER, M.B.E.	..	..	..	..	Cradley
G.J. BOWLER	..	..	..	..	Bishops Frome
* W.M. BRUNT	..	..	..	..	Thornbury with Hampton Charles
L.W. BOWCOTT	..	..	..	..	Much Cowarne
* F. CALE	..	..	..	..	Cradley
H.G. EDWARDS	..	..	..	..	Wolferlow
F.C.L. ESSENHIGH	..	..	..	..	Brockhampton
* O.H.M. HERFORD	..	..	..	..	Bredenbury
* H.C.C. HODGES	..	..	..	..	Avenbury
* A.L. JAMES	..	..	..	..	Whitbourne
S. LEIGHTON	..	..	..	..	Collington
* S. MEREDITH	..	..	..	..	Ocle Pychard
* R.H. MESS	..	..	..	..	Ullingswick
J.C. PAGE	..	..	..	..	Edvin Loach, Saltmarsh and Tedstone Wafre
* W.D. PORTER	..	..	..	..	Acton Beauchamp
T.L. RICHARDS	..	..	..	..	Stanford Bishop
* Miss M. SHEPHERD	..	..	..	..	Whitbourne
* O.J.E. SKYRM	..	..	..	..	Upper Sapey
* S.S. SPROSTON	..	..	..	..	Norton
* D.J. THOMAS	..	..	..	..	Pencombe with Grendon Warren
* J.H. WALLER (Vice-Chairman of the Housing and Health Committee)	..	..	..	..	Winslow
* Rev. W.G. WALTON	..	..	..	..	Bishops Frome

* Members of the Housing and Health Committee

G.D.K. NEEDHAM, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health,

Westfield Walk,

LEOMINSTER.

(Telephone: Leominster 2049)

N.E. WORSDALL,

Public Health Inspector,

Council Offices, New Road,

BROMYARD.

(Telephone: Bromyard 2341)

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health: C.A. PREECE

Clerk to the Public Health Inspector: Mrs. R.M.M. WILLIAMS

Clerk of the Council: J.B. SENIOR, Solicitor.

To the Chairman and Members, Bromyard Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1964, together with the report of the Public Health Inspector.

The chief activity of the year was in visiting with Councillor Miss Boucher the applicants for the flats at Kirkham Garden and Ocle Pychard. In all, 84 people were visited either by both of us, or occasionally, by one of us, and selection made on grounds of disability or ill-health or increasing inability to manage household tasks. Little account was taken of the condition of the present accommodation or of the financial status of the applicant, as it was felt that these had no bearing on whether or not the person concerned was likely eventually to become the responsibility of the County Welfare Officer. It is to avoid this that the partnership between the Welfare Department and the District Council has been formed to provide labour saving accommodation in which older people can, with some assistance from the Home Help Service and the resident warden, continue to live as independent human beings and not (at great expense) as residents of an old peoples home.

I would like to thank Mr. Worsdall for his most interesting report and congratulate him on the excellent results of all his hard work in the negotiations over rights of way for the Council's sewerage scheme.

G.D.K. NEEDHAM

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND VITAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	61,114
Estimated mid-year home population	6,850
Average number of persons per acre	0.11
Number of inhabited houses	2,245
Average number of inhabited houses per acre	0.04
Average number of persons per house	3.05
Rateable Value	£120,086
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£451

LIVE AND STILL BIRTHSLive Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	47	39	86
Illegitimate	2	1	3
	<hr/> 49	<hr/> 40	<hr/> 89

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

Comparability factor: 1.15	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960
Bromyard R.D. (Crude)	13.0	15.1	16.7	16.7	17.7
" " (Adjusted)	15.0	17.4	18.7	18.7	19.8
England and Wales	18.4	18.2	18.0	17.4	17.1

Illegitimate Live Births

Per cent of total live births:

Bromyard R.D. ..	3.4
England and Wales ..	figure not yet available

Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births:

	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960
Bromyard R.D.	21.9	9.6	17.2	8.8	14.2
England and Wales	16.3	17.2	18.1	19.1	19.8

INFANT DEATH RATESEarly Neonatal MortalityDeaths of Infants under 1 week old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

Bromyard R.D.	..	11.2
England and Wales	..	*

Neonatal MortalityDeaths of Infants under 4 weeks old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

Bromyard R.D.	..	11.2
England and Wales	..	13.8

Perinatal MortalityStill Births and Deaths of Infants under 1 week old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Bromyard R.D.	..	33.0
England and Wales	..	*

Infant MortalityDeaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

*figures not yet available

INFANT DEATH RATES (Continued)

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 related live births:

		1964	1963	1962	1961	1960
Bromyard R.D.	(Total	22.5	19.4	8.8	26.6	Nil
	(Legitimate	23.3	20.6	9.3	27.3	Nil
	(Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
England & Wales	(Total	20.0	21.1	21.6	21.6	21.9
	(Legitimate	*	20.8	21.3	21.2	21.5
	(Illegitimate	*	26.0	27.2	25.3	26.4

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Total number of Maternal Deaths .. Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Bromyard R.D. .. Nil
England and Wales .. 0.25

DEATHS

		Males	Females	Total
Total number of deaths from all causes:		45	41	86
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:				
Comparability factor: 0.74		1964	1963	1962 1961 1960
Bromyard R.D. (Crude)		12.6	14.8	13.7 15.8 11.3
" " (Adjusted)		9.3	10.9	10.1 11.4 8.8
England and Wales		11.3	12.2	11.9 11.9 11.5

Cancer

		Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Malignant Disease:		7	6	13
Cancer Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:				
		1964	1963	1962 1961 1960
Bromyard R.D.		1.90	2.63	1.91 3.39 1.70
England and Wales		*	2.17	2.18 2.15 2.16

Cardio-Vascular Disease

		Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Cardio-Vascular Disease:		23	24	47
Cardio-Vascular Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:				
		1964	1963	1962 1961 1960
Bromyard R.D.		6.86	7.32	7.34 8.41 5.10
England and Wales		*	5.22	6.14 6.10 6.00

*figures not yet available

DEATHS (Continued)Respiratory Disease (excluding Tuberculosis)

	Males	Females	Total		
Total deaths from Respiratory Disease:	6	4	10		
Respiratory Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:					
	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960
Bromyard R.D.	1.46	1.75	1.47	1.33	1.70
England and Wales	*	1.71	1.57	1.60	1.26

*figure not yet available

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

Disease	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	-	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3	3
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	4	1	5
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1	1
Diabetes	-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	6	13
Coronary disease, angina	8	6	14
Hypertension with heart disease	1	2	3
Other heart disease	6	8	14
Other circulatory disease	1	2	3
Influenza	-	2	2
Pneumonia	1	-	1
Bronchitis	5	2	7
Congenital malformations	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	2	8
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	2
All other accidents	1	2	3
	45	41	86

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN THE RURAL DISTRICT OF BROMYARD DURING THE YEAR 1964

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Whooping Cough	-	-	1	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	7
Measles	25	-	1	8	6	1	22	35	2	15	19	73	205
Scarlet Fever	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis:													
Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Non-Pulmonary	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN NORTH HERFORDSHIRE DURING THE YEAR 1964

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Whooping Cough	10	6	6	14	16	8	5	1	3	1	-	-	70
Measles	27	2	2	14	16	37	37	55	7	56	122	234	609
Scarlet Fever	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	8
Erysipelas	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Acute Pneumonia	1	-	2	-	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	8
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	9	-	14
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis:													
Pulmonary	1	1	-	-	1	2	2	1	-	2	-	-	10
Non-Pulmonary	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE - BROMYARD RURAL DISTRICT

Disease	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960
Whooping Cough	7	16	1	11	10
Measles	205	230	19	57	17
Scarlet Fever	1	1	-	1	4
Erysipelas	-	1	2	-	-
Acute Encephalitis:					
Post-Infectious	-	1	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	1	1	2	5
Food Poisoning	-	-	1	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	1	-	-
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	1	2	1	-	1
Non-Pulmonary	1	1	1	-	1

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE - NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE

Whooping Cough	70	29	13	126	70
Measles	609	507	337	583	189
Scarlet Fever	8	12	9	11	23
Erysipelas	2	3	5	3	4
Acute Encephalitis:					
Infective	-	2	2	1	3
Post-Infectious	-	1	2	-	1
Acute Pneumonia	8	13	15	18	18
Dysentery	3	7	1	62	123
Food Poisoning	14	7	5	11	39
Paratyphoid Fever	-	2	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	1	1	-
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	10	9	7	9	7
Non-Pulmonary	3	1	2	2	3
Malaria (Contracted abroad)	-	-	1	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Number on Register at 31st December, 1963.	12	21	5	6
New cases notified	-	1	-	1
Moved into district	1	-	-	-
Died	1	-	1	-
Moved out of district	-	1	-	-
Number on Register at 31st December, 1964.	12	21	4	7

Year	New Notifications	Total cases on Register	Deaths	Recoveries
1960	3	58	1	2
1961	-	53	1	4
1962	2	52	-	3
1963	3	44	-	2
1964	2	44	2	-

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

No action needed to be taken under this section during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S SECTION OF REPORTWATER SUPPLIES

By the end of 1964 the Herefordshire Water Board had completed Stage I of the River Teme Scheme except for some main laying and reservoir construction on the Cradley branch, and although complete sterilisation of all mains was not achieved until the early weeks of 1965, individual connections to certain lengths of main were permitted.

The parishes of Norton, Linton, Tedstone Wafre, Upper Sapey and Wolferlow were well served from that section of mains connected with the Tenbury R.D. system as an interim measure pending inauguration of the Teme scheme. Small Council estates at Tedstone Wafre, Stanford Bishop, Whitbourne, Wolferlow and Upper Sapey have an adequate, pure and wholesome water supply for the first time.

Although no precise figures can be available to the District Council, the quickening of public interest in the water scheme is obvious, especially from those resident in properties somewhat removed from the main water arteries. It is pleasant to record that several approaches to the Water Board by private groups have met with success and mains extensions are to be provided. Applicants for new connections have not been slow to make their demand to the water authority, and a relatively dry year stimulated interest.

For the last time, the Ministry must be told that water supply in most of the area was satisfactory neither in quantity nor quality. This sentence has given the writer more pleasure than anything he has recorded in the last ten years. Unfortunately, the Water Board have been obliged to expend much effort and expense in carrying water to two small village installations following partial failure of the borehole supplies; it is to be noted that three such village schemes will, within three years, be merged into the larger Teme scheme.

Water Sampling

Apart from routine sampling, there have been several tests on new mains prior to commissioning, and the results are given in this report. No evidence of plumbo solvent action, presence of fluoride or radioactivity has so far been collected in this area.

Routine Sampling

(1) <u>Public Supplies</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bacteriological	6	-	6
Chemical	-	-	-
(2) <u>Private Supplies</u>			
Bacteriological	3	7	10
Chemical	-	-	-

WATER SUPPLIES (Continued)Sampling of new public mains before connections made

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bacteriological	8	13	21
Chemical	N.A.	N.A.	6

The Ministry require details of any analyses taken of raw and purified water; it so happens that several samples were taken late in 1964 of water from the River Teme Whitbourne Scheme, and these are tabulated below:-

	Raw River	Clarified water	Filtered before	After full Treatment	
			Lime cl		
pH value	7.4	7.4	7.4 7.6	7.6	7.6
total solids dried at 180° C.	236	196	186 210	200	205
suspended solids	30.5	7.5			
Chlorides as Cl	30	20	20 17	17	17
temporary hardness as carbonate	76	72	72 136	112	134
permanent " " non "	58	66	64 10	32	20
total hardness	134	138	136 146	144	154
total alkalinity as CaCO ₃	76	72	72		
Calcium hardness as CaCO ₃	112	108	108		
Magnesium hardness as CaCO ₃	22	30	28		
Free CO ₂	5	6	6		
Iron in solution as Fe	0.01				
total iron as Fe	0.58	0.14	0.02		
Oxygen absorbed	1.7	1.1	1.0 1.45	1.15	1.30
total manganese as Mn	-	-	-		
Chlorine absorbed	1.34	1.34	1.34		
Free ammonia	0.06	0.04	0.02 0.07	0.04	0.05
residual aluminium in solution as Al	-	0.07	0.01		
Total residual aluminium as Al		0.063	0.01		
Albuminoid			0.10	0.08	0.09
Nitrate Nitrogen			1.27	1.40	1.04
Nitrite Nitrogen			0.001	0.001	-

WATER SUPPLIES (Continued)Dwellinghouses supplied direct from public mains

<u>District</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Approximate Population</u>
Bishops Frome	45	140
Edwyn Ralph	27	78
Bredenbury	50	147
Cradley	30	100
Fromes Hill	23	72
Ocle Pychard	19	53
Sparrington	8	29
Stanford Bishop	7	32
Stoke Lacy	30	92
Tedstone Delamere	10	34
Upper Sapey	20	71
Whitbourne	12	41
Ullingswick	4	14
Tedstone Wafre	6	23
Wolferlow	3	12
Winslow	3	10
Norton	33	110
Linton	9	31
	<hr/> 339	<hr/> 1089

In addition, about twelve dwellinghouses rely on outside standpipes but their numbers are expected to be reduced very soon.

Schools at Bredenbury, Bishops Frome, Upper Sapey and Cradley have public water supplies.

SWIMMING BATHS

There are no public swimming baths in the district.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Several parishes are under discussion for village sewerage schemes and some progress was made in 1964 in dealing with the various processes, doubtless all very desirable but frequently frustrating. Clearly, very few landowners welcome the imposition of sewage installations on their land, some object to manhole covers in fields and a few oppose any sewerage at all. The indiscriminate use of the local authority's executive power to force the sale of land or the laying of sewers in particular directions must be guarded against if any sort of good feeling is to be retained between elector and elected; at times this policy is bound to conflict with pure engineering considerations and on occasions the latter must be prepared to compromise. However, if negotiation fails and there is no reasonable alternative, the local authority has to be prepared to invoke their compulsory powers. At Cradley by Christmas 1964, there

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL (Continued)

were indications that negotiations might succeed; nevertheless, talking had gone on for 18 months or so and capital costs were rising all the time. It would be less than generous to leave the subject without acknowledging the public spirit of the many landowners who have so far willingly cooperated with the Council and their officers.

Progress to date may be summarised as follows:-

Cradley	-	Tenders in 1965
Bishops Frome	-	" " "
Linton	)	Schemes at Ministry and various negotiations
Pencombe	)	in progress with landowners, adjoining authorities
Bredenbury	)	and with other interested parties.
Whitbourne)	
Sapey Common	)	Draft plans prepared for initial submissions.

Many of these schemes are very expensive per property and without substantial Treasury support they are doomed to a premature death. In some cases a radical alteration to the present County Development Plan and the attitudes it engenders would help both impending developers and more especially, existing property owners, to secure modern sanitation. A revised plan is presently under consideration and this appears to give an opportunity for fruitful cooperation between the Planning and Sewerage and also the Highway and Water Authorities, all of which are surely engaged in slightly differing aspects of the same job - serving the local people.

Our varied and small Council Estate disposal works function to the extent of getting rid of drainage, but last year's warning is repeated - that modern standards are high. A spirit of co-operation exists between your officers and those of the River Board; providing increasing vigilance is accorded to the plants this satisfactory state of affairs should continue, but maintenance costs are bound to rise.

DISCRETIONARY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

	<u>1964 only</u>	<u>Total to Dec.1964</u>
No. of houses in respect of which full applications were made	17	265
No. of houses in respect of which grants were offered	19	254
No. of houses in respect of which applications were withdrawn	-	4
No. of houses in respect of which improvements were completed	19	217
Total values of works approved for grant	£20,707.10. 0.	£198,581.16. 7.
Total grant offered in respect of above works	£6,895.10. 0.	£79,239.12. 1.

STANDARD GRANTS

	<u>1964 only</u>	<u>Total to Dec.1964</u>
No. of houses in respect of which applications were made	31	91
No. of dwellings improved	15	62
No. of applications withdrawn or rejected	3	9
No. of applications approved	30	82
Value of grants paid	£2,137.14. 7.	£7,963.12. 3.

NEW HOUSES

No. of Local Authority dwellings completed (4 Stoke Lacy, 4 Edwyn Ralph)	8
No. of private dwellings completed	13
No. of Local Authority dwellings in course of erection at December, 1964.	55
No. of private dwellings in course of erection at December, 1964.	14

HOUSINGUnfit Houses

No. of houses subject to Time and Place Notices	2
No. of houses subject to Undertakings	6

The latest available "book" figure for Category V houses was 145 at the end of 1963; this figure is based upon the total Category V at the 1949 survey from which time annual deletions have been made as cottages were vacated, demolished or improved: no additions have been made in respect of cottages in higher 1949 categories which have since deteriorated. There must also be some dwellings which have been improved and repaired by the tenants without the Council's knowledge.

Obviously, a comprehensive reappraisal of the old categories 3 - 5 at least is becoming a matter for consideration for statistical purposes, and also to enable the Council to keep the housing position in its true perspective. But Bromyard is a peculiar area in this respect; it has had electricity for perhaps five to ten years; it has had mains water on any scale only for a matter of days;

HOUSING (Continued)Unfit Houses (Continued)

two of its villages might get sewerage in 1966/67; its population is widely distributed with hardly any village as such, and yet a most vigorous housing policy since 1946 including active encouragement of improvement grant schemes, and in this a big proportion of the rural landlords have cooperated frequently to the extent of executing works without grant aid. At the same time, some cottages situated at distances from County highways will continue to fall into disuse as the pressure for modern amenity increases and as their occupants realise such a standard is not practical at those locations.

With all this movement and especially the arrival of mains water, it is suggested that a survey conducted now might in itself be giving an "unreal" figure very soon.

HOUSING - GENERAL

Unfortunately, the rate of private completions did not reach the relatively high figure of 1963; in all, thirteen new dwellings were added to our lists and fourteen were in the course of construction. These figures should show signs of increase with mains water now within range, although the present County Development Plan is being interpreted in such a manner that a sudden quickening in building momentum is effectively barred. Whether this is good for the County as a whole is a matter for debate but in all fairness to the Planning Authorities it must be pointed out that far too many outline planning permissions are at present being "held" by landowners who, in many cases, apparently have little desire to begin building. This hoarding, intentional or otherwise, makes many arguments for and against the present County Planning policy quite useless and altogether distorts the image of demand.

Local Authority effort brought completion to the Westbury Estate at Stoke Lacy and The Crest, Edwyn Ralph; Stoke Lacy provides four types of accommodation and effectively balances the three bed houses previously built. Edwyn Ralph - a block of four one bed bungalows - is the Council's first adventure in central heating, in this case electric underfloor.

Work also began in 1964 on the large development at Kirkham Garden within the Bromyard Urban District, and at Holme Oaks, Ocle Pychard. Both follow Edwyn Ralph in breaking new ground. At Ocle Pychard a three storey centrally heated block mainly of bed-sitting type with shared sanitary accommodation is being erected to complete a "welfare" scheme of 12 units with a Warden. Kirkham Garden has perhaps taken more Committee time and aroused more outside interest than any previous Bromyard R.D. scheme; it is the most extensive and the first full "welfare" scheme complete with Club and other facilities to be provided in the area, and perhaps most interesting is its location outside the rural area. Bromyard Urban District is the market town for most of the rural district, and Kirkham Garden has a level access to shops, places of worship and centres of entertainment. A local appeal for funds to furnish the Club Room was launched on the Council's behalf by a local resident who, with two helpers, entered into the project with commendable energy.

HOUSING - GENERAL (Continued)

The buildings of the former Acton Beauchamp and Tedstone Wafre Schools, including substantial schoolhouses in each case, were purchased from the Herefordshire County Council, and the Council's Architects were instructed to convert each school into two dwellings. Apart from these buildings, the Council's miscellany of "private" dwellings numbers nine and has provided satisfactory accommodation for varied types of tenants.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The figures since 1953 are:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Properties</u>	<u>Loads</u>
1953	5560	16675	172
1954	6421	17371	182
1955	6487	18082	185
1956	7228	19591	202½
1957	7432½	19989	198
1958	7508	22758	243
1959	7957	23698	253½
1960	8036	23780	253
1961	8820	23561	306½
1962	8990	25904	295
1963	9480	27240	342
1964	9351	26917	354

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

(Mr. R. Tristram has prepared this report)

The numbers of complaints in the Bromyard Rural District were not so numerous during the past year; I think most people are now aware of the existence of Warfarin and like tackling the odd rat themselves.

The Contracts held in this district were slightly more than last year - a few new ones came along and one or two moved away from the district altogether. The operator himself found it easier to plan his routes and perhaps saved a little time in travelling.

After a rather dry summer there was a surprisingly early migration into the farm buildings from the fields; many farmers were able to get on with their harvesting so that early on, rodents had their supply of outside food cut off, and in consequence entered the buildings sooner. Perhaps the use of combines instead of ricks in many places prevented any large infestations building up.

A few questions were asked about rats' resistance to Warfarin, probably encouraged by a programme shown on television, but in the areas covered by our operators no such evidence came to light.

Several new rodenticides came on the market recently claiming to banish Warfarin resistant rats, but the Ministry of Agriculture have not given any go-ahead to Local Authorities so far; in any event, the prices are far too high for present contracts.

HOP-PICKING ACCOMMODATION

A summary of the 1964 position is given below:-

Total number of farms	.. .. .	67
Number of farms housing pickers	.. .. .	8
Number of farms with local pickers	.. .. .	59
Approximate number of pickers housed in 1964 (excluding travellers, gipsies & small children)		99
Estimated children	.. .. .	20
Estimated travellers	.. .. .	100

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD(a) Food and Drugs Act

Number of food shops	.. .. .	29
Number of public houses	.. .. .	25
Number of premises registered for sale of ice-cream	.. .. .	26

(b) Slaughter of Animals

Number of licensed slaughterhouses in district		Nil
Number of licensed slaughtermen	.. .. .	6

FACTORIES ACT 1937 to 1959

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number on Register</u>	
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	1
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	6
	Total ..	<u>7</u>
Number of inspections	3
Number of written notices	Nil
Cases in which defects were found or remedied	..	Nil

