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RURAL DISTRICT OF CHELTENHAM

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1961

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CHELTHENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1961

To the Chairman and Members of the
Cheltenham Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report on the health, environmental hygiene and sanitary circumstances of the Rural District for 1961. The Report is drawn up in accordance with Regulations 5(3) and 15(5) of the Public Health Regulations 1955, and Circular 1/62 of the Ministry of Health. Mr. E. H. Rosser, Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector, reports on the work of his department.

The health of the Rural District remained good and, in general, statistics are favourable. The increase in population, Birth Rate 18.6, Death Rate 9.2, and Infantile Mortality Rate 20.5, are features of a growing and thriving community.

The incidence of infectious disease was exceptionally light; undoubtedly due, in large measure, to the success of the campaigns for immunisation and vaccination. A sustained effort is necessary to maintain immunity at a level at which outbreaks of infectious disease cannot occur..

The five-year programme for dealing with unfit houses had already been completed. However, as required by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, a re-survey was made of houses in the borderline category. Some 280 houses were inspected but only in thirteen instances was statutory action required.

Main sewerage schemes were provided for Aston Cross in the parish of Ashchurch, and for the village of Swindon.

The County rent guarantee scheme for problem families living in Council dwellings continued to operate during the year. Most of these families were displaced from war-time camp sites and presented a very difficult problem. The scheme has met with limited success, although re-housing the families in good dwellings in different localities, brought about marked improvement in some cases.

I am grateful for this opportunity of expressing my thanks to members of the Council for their continued support and to the other officers for their ready co-operation and for supplying the details from which this Report is compiled.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

STEPHEN KNIGHT

Medical Officer of Health

CHELTHENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	....	81,940	
Registrar-General's estimate of mid-year population (including members of the Armed Forces)	....	31,140	
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1961)	....	9,403	9,688
Rateable Value (at 31.12.61.)	....	£464,263	
Sum represented by a penny rate	....	£1878	

VITAL STATISTICS

These statistics give particulars of the births and deaths in the Rural District.

MOTHERS AND INFANTS

1. LIVE BIRTHS:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Number: Legitimate ...	555	270	285
Illegitimate ...	31	17	14
Total ...	586	287	299

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population	... 18.8.
Area Comparability Factor (Births)	... 0.96
Corrected Birth Rate (18.8 x 0.96)	... 17.8

2. <u>ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS:</u> (per cent of Total Live Births)	... 5.1
---	---------

3. STILL BIRTHS:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Number: Legitimate ...	10	1	9
Illegitimate ...	-	-	-
Total ...	10	1	9

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population	... 0.32
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births	... 16.7

4. <u>TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS:</u>	... 596
--	---------

5. INFANT DEATHS

(i) Deaths of infants under 1 year

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Number: Legitimate ...	11	6	5
Illegitimate ...	1	-	1
Total ...	12	6	6

(ii) Neo-natal Deaths under 4 weeks

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Number: Legitimate ...	8	4	4
Illegitimate ...	1	-	1
Total...	9	4	5

(iii) Early neo-natal Deaths of infants under 1 week

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Number: Legitimate ...	7	4	3
Illegitimate ...	1	-	1
Total ...	8	4	4

6. INFANT MORTALITY RATES:

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births ...	20.5
Legitimate " " " " Legitimate live births ...	20.0
Illegitimate " " " " Illegitimate live births..	32.3

7. NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) ... 15.3

8. EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) ... 13.6

9. PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) ... 30.0

10. MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)

Number of deaths ...	None
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births ...	Nil

11. DEATHS:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Number ...	295	157	138
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population ...	9.2		
Area Comparability Factors (Deaths) ...	1.17		
Corrected Death Rate (9.2 x 1.17) ...	10.8		

POPULATION

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population is 31,140 showing an increase of 890 over that for the previous year and in accordance with the trend in recent years. The natural increase of population (excess of births over deaths), is 291.

BIRTH RATE:

The number of live births is 586, making the Birth Rate 18.8 per 1,000 of the population which compares favourably with the rate 17.4 for the Country as a whole.

DEATH RATE:

295 people died, the Death Rate being 9.2 per 1,000 of the population and much lower than the Rate 12.0 for England and Wales.

INFANT MORTALITY:

Twelve babies died under one year of age, so that the Infant Mortality is at the rate of 20.5 such deaths per 1,000 Live Births and here again, the infantile mortality in the Rural District compares favourably with that in the Country as a whole where the corresponding figure is 21.4.

CANCER

Thirty one men and thirty one women died of cancer. Ten of the male deaths were due to cancer of the lung and bronchus.

It will be noted from the accompanying table that there is no undue mortality from cancer in the Rural District.

Death Rates from Cancer per 1,000 population

	<u>England & Wales</u>		<u>Cheltenham R. D.</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Cancer of Lung	0.87	0.14	0.32	0.1
Other Cancers	1.5	1.8	0.67	0.9

CAUSES OF DEATH:

The causes of death in the following table are classified under the Abbreviated List of International Statistical Classification:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	1	-
3. Syphilitic disease	1	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasms, stomach	4	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	10	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	8
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	17	15
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-
16. Diabetes	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	16	19
18. Coronary disease, angina	35	16
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	3
20. Other heart disease	27	29
21. Other circulatory diseases	3	11
22. Influenza	1	1
23. Pneumonia	5	7
24. Bronchitis	6	1
25. Other disease of the respiratory system	4	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	3	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	2	5
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	12	13
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	1
34. All other accidents	2	2
35. Suicide	3	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
Total ..	159	144

BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES
IN THE DISTRICT FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS

	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>
Birth Rate (per 1,000 of the population)	17.7	18.5	19.0	19.8	18.8
Death Rate (per 1,000 of the population)	8.4	8.9	9.7	9.2	9.2
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births - deaths of infants under 1 year)	29.7	18.4	18.0	23.5	20.5
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births - deaths of infants under 1 month)	23.8	12.9	16.1	18.5	15.3

COMPARISON WITH THE BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES etc. FOR 1961

	<u>England & Wales</u>	<u>County of Glos:</u>	<u>Cheltenham R.D.</u>
Live Birth Rate	17.4	18.06	18.8
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total Live and Still Births)	18.7	14.73	16.7
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births deaths of infants under 1 year)	21.4	18.91	20.5
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births deaths of infants under 1 month)	15.5	13.86	15.3
Death Rate (per 1,000 of the population)	12.0	10.9	9.2

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1961
(excluding Tuberculosis)

	<u>Under 1 year</u>		<u>1 - 4</u>		<u>5 - 14</u>		<u>15 - 24</u>		<u>25 and over</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Scarlet Fever	-	-	2	1	2	3	-	2	-	-	4	6
Whooping cough	-	1	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	3	3
Poliomyelitis, paralytic, non-paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	3	5	68	71	83	93	2	1	1	2	157	173
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>Under 5 years</u>		<u>5 - 14</u>		<u>15- 44</u>		<u>45 - 64</u>		<u>65 and over</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	4	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	1	2
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	5

Scarlet Fever:

Only ten cases of scarlet fever occurred. Now-a-days this disease is mild in character and few cases occur.

Diphtheria:

The District remained free from diphtheria as it has done since 1949.

Whooping cough:

Only six cases were notified and no deaths occurred.

Measles:

330 cases of measles were notified. In a scattered district, measles is liable to be epidemic in one part or another during the year.

Poliomyelitis:

No cases of poliomyelitis occurred during the year.

Food Poisoning:

Only one case was notified. The agent was not identified.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following table shows the number of children immunised against diphtheria during 1961:-

Age at 31.12.61.	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	Under 15 yrs.
i.e. born in year	1961	1960	1959-57	1956-47	Total
<u>Primary Immunisation</u>	239	235	89	45	608
<u>Re-inforcing Injection</u>	-	72	98	370	540

Table of comparison showing the number of children immunised in 1959, 1960 and 1961, and the number of births in 1961:

No. of Live Births	Primary Immunisation			Re-inforcing Injection		
1961.	1959	1960	1961	1959	1960	1961
586	672	504	608	465	510	540

Generally, the position with regard to immunisation against diphtheria is satisfactory, the number of primary immunisations approximating to the number of births and a large proportion of the immunisations are completed before the children are a year old.

VACCINATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH:

A triple vaccine, (diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus), is in use at Child Welfare Centres and by many Doctors. 566 Children were vaccinated against whooping cough.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX:

The following table sets out the details of the records of vaccination received during the year:-

	<u>Under 1 yr.</u>	<u>1 yr.</u>	<u>2-4 yrs.</u>	<u>5-14 yrs</u>	<u>15 or over</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>Vaccination</u>	224	37	14	15	15	305
<u>Re-vaccination</u>	-	-	2	-	13	15

Only 39% of the babies under 1 year were vaccinated against smallpox. Although low, this is an average response.

Proportion of children vaccinated under 1 year of age, expressed as a percentage of the number of births during the year:-

<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>
34%	42%	38%	29%	52%	45%	39%

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS:

It is estimated that 84% of persons under 19 years of age have been vaccinated against poliomyelitis but only 40% of those between 19-40 years of age. This protection was offered to people under 40 years of age in 1960.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases

	<u>Children</u>		<u>All Persons</u>
	<u>0-4 yrs</u>	<u>5-14 yrs</u>	
Respiratory	-	1	5
Meninges and C.N.S.	-	-	-
Other forms	-	-	2

Deaths

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Respiratory	1	-
Meninges and C.N.S.	-	-
Other forms	1	-

Tuberculosis Register

The number of cases on the register, 31st December 1961, was as follows:-

<u>Respiratory</u>			<u>C.N.S.</u>			<u>Other forms</u>			<u>All forms</u>
<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
46	28	74	-	-	-	4	11	15	89

These tables set out clearly the position with regard to tuberculosis today. New cases appear, so infection is present, deaths are rare and a number of persons remain on the register.

Modern treatment often gives a rapid cure and tuberculosis could be eliminated if full support were given to preventive measures such as, Mass Radiography, B.C.G. Vaccination and tracing contacts.

The Council plays its part in giving priority in re-housing tuberculous persons.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Food and Drugs Act 1938 - Clean Food and Food Hygiene

Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, are in force for securing hygienic methods in the handling, wrapping and delivery of food for sale in the open air. The Food Hygiene Regulations require that clean food should be dealt with only by clean persons in clean premises, using clean equipment.

Food shops and similar establishments are inspected regularly to ensure that food is wholesome and that the premises comply with requirements.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

Section 47 - Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in need of care and attention

National Assistance (Amendment) Act 1951 - Section 1

These Acts give local authorities power to apply to the Courts for the compulsory removal of aged or sick persons who are living in insanitary conditions and are unable to provide for themselves and are not receiving, from other people, proper care and attention.

No action was necessary under these Acts but a number of old people living alone and in difficult circumstances were visited. The Home Help Service and Old People's Welfare Committee have been of great assistance to elderly people, enabling them to carry on in their own homes.

Old People's Welfare Committee:

The Council have set up an Old People's Welfare Committee to co-ordinate the efforts of voluntary workers on behalf of old people in the Rural District. This Committee has proved most useful, it meets quarterly and is attended by representatives from each parish, who report on the local situation.

Problem Families:

The scheme agreed between the County Council and District Council for the rehabilitation of problem families, continued to operate during the year. Under the scheme, the County Council guarantee 75% of the rent if the case is accepted.

When arrears of rent are such as to render a family liable to eviction from a Council House, the circumstances are reported to the County Social Welfare Officer. This Officer has been dealing with some fifty families in the Rural District. Eleven families were successfully rehabilitated; the arrears of rent were cleared and problems in the home resolved. In two cases there was complete failure and the District Council took steps to obtain possession of the premises.

At the end of the year, thirty families were being supervised.

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICES

Laboratory Facilities:

Samples of water, milk and ice-cream and pathological specimens are sent for bacteriological analysis to the Public Health Laboratory, Walton Street, Oxford. The laboratory is part of the Public Health Laboratory Service of the Ministry of Health and no charge is made for making use of its services.

Chemical examinations of specimens were undertaken by Messrs: Ellis and Turner, Public Analysts, Gloucester. This laboratory is now closed and such samples are submitted to the City Analyst, Bristol, or to the County and City Analyst, Worcester.

HOME HELP SERVICE

This Service is organised by the County Council and a charge is made according to a scale of assessment.

The Home Help takes over the running of the home where the housewife is temporarily incapacitated through illness. As noted elsewhere, the Service is very useful to old people who can no longer manage because of infirmity.

Miss L. C. Cross, the Area Home Help Organiser, reports that during the year, 153 cases received assistance through the Service. Help has been provided in all cases of real need.

Appeals for assistance from the Home Help Service should be made to the Divisional Health Office, Council Offices, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham. Telephone number - Cheltenham 55746 or 53179.

Nursing in the Home:

The area is covered by the District Nursing Association under the control of the County Council. Information is available from the Council Offices or the Divisional Health Office, Charlton Kings.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

Gloucestershire County Council

Apperley	2nd. Wednesday and last Thursday
Ashchurch	Alternate Tuesdays
Bishops Cleeve	Each Wednesday
Dumbleton	4th. Friday
Leckhampton	Each Friday
Prestbury	Each Tuesday
The Reddings	2nd. and 4th Thursdays
Shurdington	1st. and 3rd. Wednesdays
Stanway	2nd. Friday
Twyning	2nd Thursday
Warden Hill	Each Tuesday
Winchcombe	1st. and 3rd. Tuesdays
Witcombe and Bentham	1st. and 3rd. Tuesdays
Gotherington (Mobile Unit)	1st. Wednesday
Swindon Village (Mobile Unit)	2nd. Tuesday

These Centres are under the administration of the County Council. Nearly all mothers and babies attend. The bulk of the work falls upon the ladies of the local Voluntary Committees and the thanks of the community are due to them for their devotion to this work.

PROGRESS IN DEALING WITH UNFIT HOUSES

Housing Act 1957.

The year 1960 saw the completion of the Council's statutory duties in connection with the five-year programme of Slum Clearance. The programme was carried out in six instalments and although the original programme, as submitted to the Minister, referred to 322 Cat. V dwellings, it was found as the work proceeded that many owners had anticipated the Council's action, by so improving their houses as to justify re-classification into higher grades. Thus, the number finally represented to the Council was reduced to 250. Mr. Rosser gives, in his report, a summary of the Council's action in respect of these 250 dwellings.

Meanwhile the Council had received "Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular No. 2/60" in which the Minister suggested that those authorities who had completed or were nearing the completion of their current five-year programme, should make a final check in order to satisfy themselves that there were no houses in their district which had so far deteriorated as to require slum clearance action.

The Council decided to implement the Minister's suggestion by undertaking a re-survey of all the dwellings at that time classified in Cat. IV and this survey has proceeded during the year under review.

Altogether 280 dwellings were inspected and only 13 of these were found to have so deteriorated as to justify re-grading into Cat. V and condemnation. A further 13 had been voluntarily disused as dwellings or demolished by the owners without official action. The remaining 254 houses justified re-grading into Categories I., II., or III.

In view of the amount of voluntary improvement which has been going on all over the district, this did not surprise us. The survey has proved that the general standard of housing in the district has appreciated rather than depreciated. The 13 unfit dwellings were dealt with at a meeting of the Council early in 1962.

The effect of the Council's activities with regard to unfit dwellings has been to simplify the classification of houses in the district. Cat. V has been extinguished by slum clearance and Cat. IV has been eliminated leaving the three well defined categories of dwelling, viz.

- Category I. - In all respects fit for habitation
- Category II. - Fit for habitation but suffering from minor defects.
- Category III.- In need of repair, improvement or renovation but not sufficiently unfit for condemnation.

Mr. Rosser, in his report, gives a summary of the re-grading of the 280 dwellings inspected in the course of the re-survey of the Cat. IV dwellings.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

Stanton Open-air Pool

This concrete lined pool has a capacity of 70,000 gallons and is situated a few hundred yards to the east of the village. During the summer months it is in constant use, not only by bathers from Stanton and the surrounding villages but also by visitors to the Gloucestershire Education Authority's Summer Youth Camp, close by.

While the pool is maintained and administered by the Parish Council, the water is supplied by the Rural District Council, at a reduced rate. Chlorination is carried out by means of sulphate of ammonia and chloros and the pool is emptied, thoroughly cleansed and re-filled at approximately fortnightly intervals.

Samples for bacteriological examination are always taken in the early morning when the water is due for changing and the reports have been consistently satisfactory. The last report was as follows:-

Coliform bacilli (per 100 m.l.) - NIL

Plate Count 24 hours at 37°C - Less than one per m.l.

WATER SUPPLY

A considerable part of the Rural District is within the statutory supply area of the Gloucester and Cheltenham Corporations' water undertakings.

The Council's supply was satisfactory in quantity and quality throughout the year. All these supplies are chlorinated.

A total of forty-one samples were taken for bacteriological analysis from public and private supplies.

None of the waters are liable to have plumbo-solvent action. Contamination did not occur in any form.

	<u>No. of Houses</u>	<u>Estimated Population</u>	<u>No. of houses supplied direct into houses.</u>	<u>Population supplied direct into houses</u>	<u>Population supplied by means of standpipe.</u>
Alderton	168	521	159	493	-
Ashchurch	455	1,632	416	1,290	21
Badgeworth	439	1,916	379	1,175	554
Bishops Cleeve	1,349	4,376	1,339	4,212	133
Boddington	91	282	90	279	-
*Buckland	85	264	79	245	21
Coberley	81	254	36	112	3
*Cowley	102	319	92	285	3
Deerhurst	194	623	135	419	21
*Dumbleton	171	595	161	564	-
Elmstone Hardwicke	68	223	60	186	12
Gotherington	152	481	137	425	9
*Great Witcombe	32	99	32	99	-
Hawling	53	164	40	124	-
Leckhampton	1,224	3,800	1,176	3,646	6
Leigh	94	295	93	288	3
Oxenton	55	171	39	121	-
*Prescott	28	87	23	71	-
Prestbury	1,375	4,393	1,309	4,058	135
Shurdington	534	1,655	507	1,572	-
Snowhill	73	226	45	140	-
Southam	170	533	170	527	6
Stanton	95	295	95	295	-
Stanway	142	440	142	440	-
Staverton	109	763	105	636	115
Stoke Orchard	116	363	109	338	3
*Sudeley	44	136	34	105	-
Swindon	126	425	120	372	34
Teddington	59	186	59	183	3
Toddington	121	375	110	341	-
Twynning	249	911	134	425	140
Uckington	114	369	110	341	16
Up Hatherley	101	530	100	310	217
Walton Cardiff	16	59	16	50	9
Winchcombe	1,063	3,329	1,046	3,243	43
Woodmancote	340	1,132	340	1,054	58
	<u>9,688</u>	<u>32,222</u>	<u>9,037</u>	<u>28,464</u>	<u>1,565</u>

* Private or part-private supplies.

Note: The majority of the population supplied by means of standpipes are caravan dwellers.

CHELTHENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report by Public Health Inspector and Surveyor on the work of his Department for the year 1961.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have again the honour to present the Annual Report on the work of the Department for which I am responsible to the Council.

The activities of the Council have continued to increase and in the succeeding part of the report it is proposed to deal with various duties under separate headings, unless they have already been dealt with by the Medical Officer of Health.

HOUSING

The building of private houses has continued throughout the year and it is possible for anyone who wishes to purchase to find suitable accommodation within a short period. The number of completed private houses was 339 in 1961, as against 236 in 1960, and the number in course of erection had risen to 299 as against 159 at the end of 1960.

The number of houses completed in the District totalled 370 and based on an average of 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ persons per house, this means that 1295 persons have been provided with permanent accommodation during the year.

The efforts of this Council have been directed to providing housing at Bishops Cleeve, Deerhurst, Elmstone Hardwicke and Prestbury. 29 dwellings are now in course of erection at Winchcombe and 4 at Twynning.

The list of applications for Council houses fluctuates in the region of 300/350 and shows a slight decrease as against the previous year.

The occupation of caravans is still a feature of the housing of people in the district.

Temporary Housing

During the year the remainder of the families were cleared from the site at The Park, Stoke Orchard and rehoused at various Council House sites. All the buildings were demolished and the site cleared.

There are now no war-time buildings in occupation in any part of the District.

	Year ending <u>31.12.60</u>	<u>31.12.61</u>
No. of dwellings occupied	9	Nil
No. of visits	192	91

Repairs to Council Houses

Repairs to Council houses are generally carried out by direct labour, and at the end of the year we employed a total of twelve men upon this work (not including part time of the Foremen). The following figures show the work carried out:-

	Year ending	<u>31.12.60</u>	<u>31.12.61</u>
No. of houses repairable by the Council at the end of the year (others will be released from Contractors from time to time).		<u>1,466</u>	<u>1,466</u>
No. of repair orders completed by the Council's staff (an order may contain several items).		1,635	1,127
No. of repair orders completed by Contractors including electricity and gas.		<u>736</u>	<u>1,014</u>
Total		<u>2,371</u>	<u>2,141</u>
No. of Council houses reconditioned (by contract) - 27			
No. of Council houses reconditioning in progress - 12			
No. of houses overhauled and redecorated externally:-			
(a) By Contract		230	246
(b) By Direct Labour		<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>
		<u>236</u>	<u>247</u>
No. of houses redecorated internally on change of tenancy		9	7
No. of tiled surround fireplaces fitted		13	22
No. of defective draining boards replaced		55	58
No. of defective firebaskets replaced		32	24
No. of defective firebars replaced		85	99
No. of defective sinks replaced		11	11
No. of defective sanitary pails replaced		6	1
No. of W.C. pans replaced		18	26
No. of defective taps replaced		37	55
No. of defective flush boxes replaced		11	13
No. of defective chimney pots replaced		8	9
No. of defective lavatory basins replaced		5	7
No. of defective W.C. seats replaced		53	77
No. of gate posts renewed		39	44
No. of roofs repaired		163	136
No. of eaves gutters repaired		146	128

	Year ending	<u>31.12.60</u>	<u>31.12.61</u>
No. of visits to Council houses for various purposes		4,477	5,140
No. of cases where damage has been repaired at the tenant's expense		25	19
No. of applications to erect television aerials dealt with		127	45

Other activities in Housing

It will be recalled that in January, 1956 the Council undertook to deal with the dwellings in the district which were deemed to be unfit for habitation and incapable of being made fit at reasonable expense, within a period of five years ending December, 1960. In my report for 1960 I was able to report that the Council had dealt with these dwellings in six instalments at six special meetings, the last of which was held on November, 1960, one month within the time schedule.

The number of dwellings in the programme originally submitted to the Ministry was 322. To this number a further nine had to be added because of deterioration, making 331. But as the work progressed it was found that in no less than 81 cases, owners had anticipated the Council's procedure and improved their properties without waiting for formal action, so that the number actually dealt with was reduced to 250.

The Council's action with regard to these 250 dwellings is summarised below:-

Summary

Clearance Orders	19
Compulsory Purchase Orders	2
Demolition Orders	100
Closing Orders	14
Undertakings not to use for human habitation until made fit for that purpose	66
Undertakings to execute works to make fit for habitation	47
Demolished by owner without formal action following partial destruction by fire	<u>2</u>
Total	<u>250</u>

The completion of this programme meant the virtual elimination of all Category V dwellings in the district.

However, in 1960 the Minister addressed a circular to all Local Authorities (Ministry of Housing & Local Government Circular No. 2/60) expressing his opinion that in view of the work and preparation that had gone into building up the present rate of slum clearance, it was important to ensure that the momentum was maintained. He suggested that local authorities should now take stock of progress and that those authorities who had completed their current five year programme should make a final check to satisfy themselves that there were no more unfit houses requiring action.

After considering this circular, the Council gave instructions for a re-survey of all dwellings classified at that time in Category IV. This re-survey, which was carried out during the year under review, was conducted on the principle that a dwelling was either

sufficiently unfit to be re-graded in Category V and condemned, or alternatively that it was suitable for placing in Category III or such higher category as its condition warranted. Every Category IV dwelling was inspected, as well as a few in Category III which were known to have deteriorated. In the course of the re-survey, 280 dwellings were inspected and of this number, only 13 were found to have so far deteriorated as to justify condemnation.

The survey was worth carrying out if only for the assurance it gave that there is no serious deterioration in the general standard of housing in the district, but rather that a good deal of voluntary improvement has been carried out by owners without official action. The following summary shows the re-classification in categories:-

	<u>No. of dwellings</u>
Category I	46
Category II	40
Category III	168
Category V	13
Disused or demolished without official action	<u>13</u>
	280

The 13 dwellings regraded in Category V were made the subject of a final instalment dealt with by the Council early in 1962.

The re-survey has had the effect of simplifying the grading of dwellings in the district. All Category V dwellings will have been eliminated by slum clearance procedure and the former Category IV will have been extinguished leaving three well-defined categories of dwellings as follows:-

Category I - In all respects fit for habitation.

Category II - Fit for habitation but suffering from minor defects.

Category III - In need of repair, improvement or renovation but not sufficiently unfit for condemnation.

Housing Act, 1957

A. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas but as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 (1).	20
B. Unfit houses closed under Sections 16 (4) 17 (1) and 35 (1).	10
C. Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied	57
(1) After informal action	-
(2) After formal notice under Public Health Acts	11
(3) After formal notice under Sections 9 and 16	3
(4) Under Section 24 - Housing Act, 1957	
No. of housing inspections or re-visits	886

Improvement Grants

The provisions of the House Purchase and Housing Act 1959 have been fully implemented as regards Standard Grants. For a number of years the Council have fully operated the provisions of the regulations regarding Discretionary Grants and there is now a steady flow of applications under both headings.

During the year 47 applications for Discretionary Grants affecting 54 properties and 14 applications for Standard Grants affecting 16 properties were approved. The total number of Discretionary Grants approved since the Council became the authority for dealing with these cases has risen to 401 cases affecting 472 properties and the amount of grants approved totals £141,999 up to the end of 1961. The total number of Standard Grants so far approved affected 48 properties and the estimated amount of grants involved was £5,379.

The results have in all instances been very satisfactory and there is no doubt that this scheme has not only enabled properties to be brought up to a good standard, but it has been the means of retaining properties which possess features that are not present in modern houses. In addition, it has enabled accommodation to be retained and thus avoided the Council having to provide more houses for the occupants.

	Year ending: <u>31.12.60</u>	<u>31.12.61</u>
No. of houses in respect of which Improvement Grants were issued:-		
(a) Improvements	65	62
(b) Conversions	9	8
No. of inspections regarding Improvement Grants	592	353

Building Byelaws

The work in connection with the Building Byelaws is as follows:-

New houses completed:	<u>31.12.60</u>	<u>31.12.61</u>
Council houses	75	19
Private Enterprise	236	339
Gloucestershire County Council	16	-
Bishops Cleeve Housing Association	-	12
Total	<u>327</u>	<u>370</u>
No. of dwellings provided by conversion of existing buildings and dwellings		15
No. of houses in course of erection at:	<u>31.12.60</u>	<u>31.12.61</u>
Council	17	33
Private Enterprise	159	299
Bishops Cleeve Housing Association	-	44
	<u>176</u>	<u>376</u>
Total number of plans received and considered	553	563
No. of plans resubmitted	80	98
Total considered by Committee	633	661
Total number of plans approved - permanent	559	618
Total number of plans approved - temporary	-	1
Total number of plans disapproved	74	42
Temporary approvals renewed	30	20
Plans declared of no effect	-	-
Temporary buildings removed	1	-
No. of informal notices sent	14	2
No. of recommendations to Area Planning Officer	363	416
No. of visits to properties and sites	2877	3150

Each plan when received is checked and acknowledged and if there is any discrepancy and time permits, the owner's or architect's attention is drawn to this with a view to the necessary alterations being made prior to consideration by the Committee.

Every endeavour is made to inspect work at the following stages - excavation of foundations: completion of concrete foundations: dampcourse: roofing: testing of drains: installation of fittings: and completion.

In a number of cases the owners of houses have obtained loans through the Council under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act 1958, (as amended), and in such cases more frequent inspections are made and the work is closely checked before certificates are issued for payments.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Under this heading has been included the work in connection with milk supply, infectious diseases, water supply, nuisances, disinfestations, tents, vans and sheds, factories and workshops, pollution of streams, inspection of food premises, public conveniences and sewage disposal etc. The following figures show the activities during the year:-

Year ending	<u>31.12.60</u>	<u>31.12.61</u>
No. of complaints received or nuisances discovered	81	56
Nuisances abated	60	50
Complaints not justified	21	6
Informal notices sent	39	19
Statutory Notices served	4	2
No. of premises disinfested	23	19
No. of visits in connection with the above items	352	226
No. of new drainage systems installed	86	117
Visits to new drainage systems	235	266
No. of visits to public conveniences	63	64
Infectious disease visits	27	11
No. of visits in connection with street numbering	42	100

Inspection of foods

The following foodstuffs have been condemned:

	<u>cwts.</u>	<u>qrs.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>ozs.</u>
Canned fish			3	8
Canned meat	2	0	2	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fruit juice		1	7	6
Tomatoes			4	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tinned fruit	2	2	11	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Vegetables		3	8	11
Pickles				11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fruit pie filling			27	0
Preserves			2	0
Tinned rice				15 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cream				4
	6 cwts.	0 qrs.	12 lbs.	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs.

Tinned milk 7 pints
Sauces 480 fl.ozs.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excl. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	182	-	9	530	146	Nil
Number inspected	182	-	9	530	146	Nil
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	1	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5	-	-	37	1	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	2.75%	-	-	7.17%	1.37%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Total amount of meat condemned 1 cwt. 2 qrs. 25 lbs.

Methods of disposal of Condemned Food

Condemned food is disposed of as follows:

- (a) By burial in lime.
- (b) In suitable cases by disposal to knackers' yards by arrangement with the adjoining Public Health Authority.

No. of Special Examinations of a Stock or Consignment of food - None.
No. of visits to Slaughterhouse - 164.

Food Hygiene Regulations

Inspections are carried out periodically at food premises and no prosecutions were made.

The number of food premises in the District is as follows:-

Bakers	8	Grocers	9
Butchers	12	Sweet Retailers	2
Cafes	12	Hotels	10
Confectioners	3	Public Houses	44
Fishmongers	2	Factory Canteens	
General stores	49	Clubs	9
Greengrocers	7		

Food and Drugs Act 1955 (Section 16) (1)

Number of premises registered for the sale and storage of ice-cream.	89
Number of applications considered and licences issued during the year.	5
Number of premises registered for the preparation of preserved foods intended for sale.	4
Total number of visits in connection with the Food and Drugs Acts.	122

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960.

During the year the owner of a caravan site in the district appealed to the Magistrates against the conditions of the site licence issued by the Council, relating to the provision of fire hydrants, hand basins in the W.C. blocks, showers or baths and laundry facilities and the Council contested the appeal.

The Cheltenham Magistrates Court gave their decision on this appeal and upheld the Councils condition on fire hydrants but allowed the appeal against the provision of hand basins in the W.C. blocks and laundry facilities and varied the Councils requirements as regards baths.

It was ascertained that the Council have no right of appeal against the decision of the Magistrates Court in respect of this and similar appeals.

Work continued throughout the year in an endeavour to deal with all the caravans sited in the area, in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

The following figures show the position and activity during the year:-

Total number of sites	151	relating to	663	caravans
Licences issued	78	"	"	519 "
Under consideration	16	"	"	54 "
No. claiming exemption	9	"	"	11 "
Sites no longer in use	24	"	"	26 "
Remaining to be dealt with	24	"	"	53 "

- - - - -			
No. of recommendations to Planning Officer	-	105	
No. of visits to sites	-	439	
No. of informal notices served	-	1	

Factories Act 1937 - 1959

	Year ending <u>31.12.60</u>	<u>31.12.61</u>
No. of visits to factories	152	166
No. of informal notices served	Nil	2

See also additional information annexed to this report.

Sewage Disposal

During the year two schemes for providing sewers and disposal works were completed. Sewers and pumping equipment were provided to serve the hamlet of Aston Cross, Ashchurch, and also the village of Swindon.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government gave authority for the provision of sewers and disposal works for Dumbleton and Laverton and work was commenced.

The Council agreed for schemes to be prepared for the enlargement of the Sewage Works at Brockhampton and Winchcombe and the provision of sewers at Up Hatherley, Toddington and Staverton.

Samples of sewage effluents were taken periodically at the Council's sewerage works and 28 samples were submitted for analysis.

No. of visits to Sewage Disposal Works etc. - 1,755.

Water Supplies

The number of new connections made to the mains during the year totalled 356 and of these 246 connections were made to the Council's mains, 107 to the Cheltenham Corporation's mains and 3 to the Gloucester City mains.

No. of visits to supplies, mains, etc. - 152.

Particulars of Water Mains owned by the Council on
31st December, 1961.

Cast Iron and Asbestos

2"	14,895 yards
3"	89,445 yards
of which 4,700 are supply mains	
4"	84,760 yards
of which 26,710 yards are supply and pumping mains	
5"	5,895 yards
of which 1,770 yards are supply and pumping mains	
6"	28,850 yards
of which 4,820 yards are supply and pumping mains	
7"	11,250 yards
9"	920 yards

Galvanised, Asbestos and Copper

2"	2,165 yards
1 1/2"	5,050 yards
1 1/4"	3,900 yards
1"	7,260 yards
3/4"	16,215 yards
Total:	<u>270,605 yards</u>
= 153 miles, 1,325 yards	

Refuse and Salvage

Built up areas receive two collections and the remainder of the district one collection approximately every fortnight. This arrangement is satisfactory and has overcome previous difficulties which had been encountered especially at holiday times.

The controlled method of tipping is undertaken and refuse is tipped at Shurdington, Winchcombe and Twynning.

No. of visits to tips etc. 453

Vehicles: 4 Shelvoke & Drewry 16/20 cu.yd. fore and aft tippers.
2 Karrier 12 cu.yd. side loading tippers.

Year ending	<u>31.12.59</u>	<u>31.12.60</u>	<u>31.12.61</u>
No. of dwellings	9077	9348	9688
Quantity of Refuse collected (approx. cu.yds.)	35500	36500	38500
Distance travelled by vehicles (miles)	35807	37610	43393

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

No. of visits 122

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS 1928 and 1936

No. of informal notices served 5

No. of licences issued to store petroleum 90

No. of visits 106

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The visits and treatments made during the year by the Pest Operator are as follows:-

	<u>No. of premises treated</u>	<u>No. of visits</u>	<u>No. of premises inspected (incl. clearing of baits).</u>
Cheltenham R.D.C. premises	107	311	68
Other premises in the Cheltenham Rural District	<u>295</u>	<u>819</u>	<u>300</u>
Total:	<u>402</u>	<u>1130</u>	<u>368</u>

Total number of complaints received and visited 79

No. of informal notices served -

No. of visits by other members of the staff 99

Treatment of Sewers

Treatment of the Council's sewers were undertaken during June and November, the results were as follows:-

Manholes:-	Treated June '61	Infested June '61	Test baited Nov. '61	Treated Nov. '61	Infested Nov. '61
Ashchurch	-	-	6	-	-
Bishops Cleeve	-	-	12	-	-
Leckhampton	-	-	12	-	-
Prestbury	20	5	12	10	1
Shurdington	-	-	6	-	-
Winchcombe	7	12	12	7	-

LOANS FOR HOUSE PURCHASE

This is another heading under which there is considerable activity. The work involved is first in checking the plans and specifications prior to loan sanction and afterwards inspection of the work to see that it is satisfactory, and certifying payment at the appropriate stages.

During the year advances were made in 95 cases, these totalling £163,553, the total advances to the end of 1961 was 379, the amount loaned being £557,332. These figures do not include those relating to the Bishops Cleeve Housing Association and the Dowty Housing Association.

S U M M A R Y

The foregoing report deals with the principal sections, but during the year there were other fields of activity such as dangerous structures, Milk and Dairies Regulations, Street Numbering, inspection of housing sites etc. These have entailed many visits and inspections.

The summary of the visits apart from the maintenance of the Council's Water supplies, or the Clerk of Works on Housing, Water or Sewerage Schemes, is as follows:-

For the year:	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>
Temporary housing	299	192	91
Council House repairs	4760	4477	5140
Housing Act inspections	925	907	886
Improvement Grants	435	592	353
Building Byelaws	2251	2877	3150
<u>Public Health</u>			
Nuisances, Statutory Notices etc.	373	352	226
New drainage systems	296	235	266
Public conveniences	96	63	64
Infectious diseases	39	27	11
Street numbering	93	42	100
Slaughterhouse	157	149	164
Food and Drugs Acts	157	181	122
Tents, vans and sheds etc.	357	501	439
Factories and Workshops Act	184	152	166
Sewage Disposal Works etc.	1767	1746	1755
Water supplies	291	180	152
Refuse and Salvage	336	372	453
Public Rights of Way	162	109	122
Petroleum Act 1928 & 1936	141	113	106
Pest Destruction	2061	1950	1597
Miscellaneous Visits	219	237	323
Attendance at Meetings	98	90	88
	<u>15497</u>	<u>15544</u>	<u>15774</u>

No. of communications despatched from the
office during the year - 3634

The year has again been one of increased activity and I wish to thank all members of the Council's staff for the good work they have done during the year and for the friendly and close co-operation which has prevailed throughout with all departments.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for the kindness and consideration which they have afforded when dealing with the work of the Department.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. H. ROSSER

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

APPENDIX

Factories Acts 1937 to 1959

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
in respect of the year 1961 for the Rural District
of Cheltenham in the County of Gloucestershire.

Prescribed particulars on
the Administration of the
Factories Act 1937

Part 1 of the Act

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

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	54	44	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	87	120	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	-	-	-	-
Total:	141	166	-	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found

Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
		Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	1	1	-	-	-
S.7.- No defects were found under sections 2, 3, 4 and 6.					
Sanitary conveniences	2	2	-	1	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

Nature of work.	Section 110		No. of prose- cutions for not supplying lists.	Section 111		Prose- cutions.
	No. of out- workers in August list required by Section (110 (1)(c))	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council		No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises	Notices served.	
Wearing apparel	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

