

[Report 1971] / Medical Officer of Health, Chorley Borough.

Contributors

Chorley (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1971

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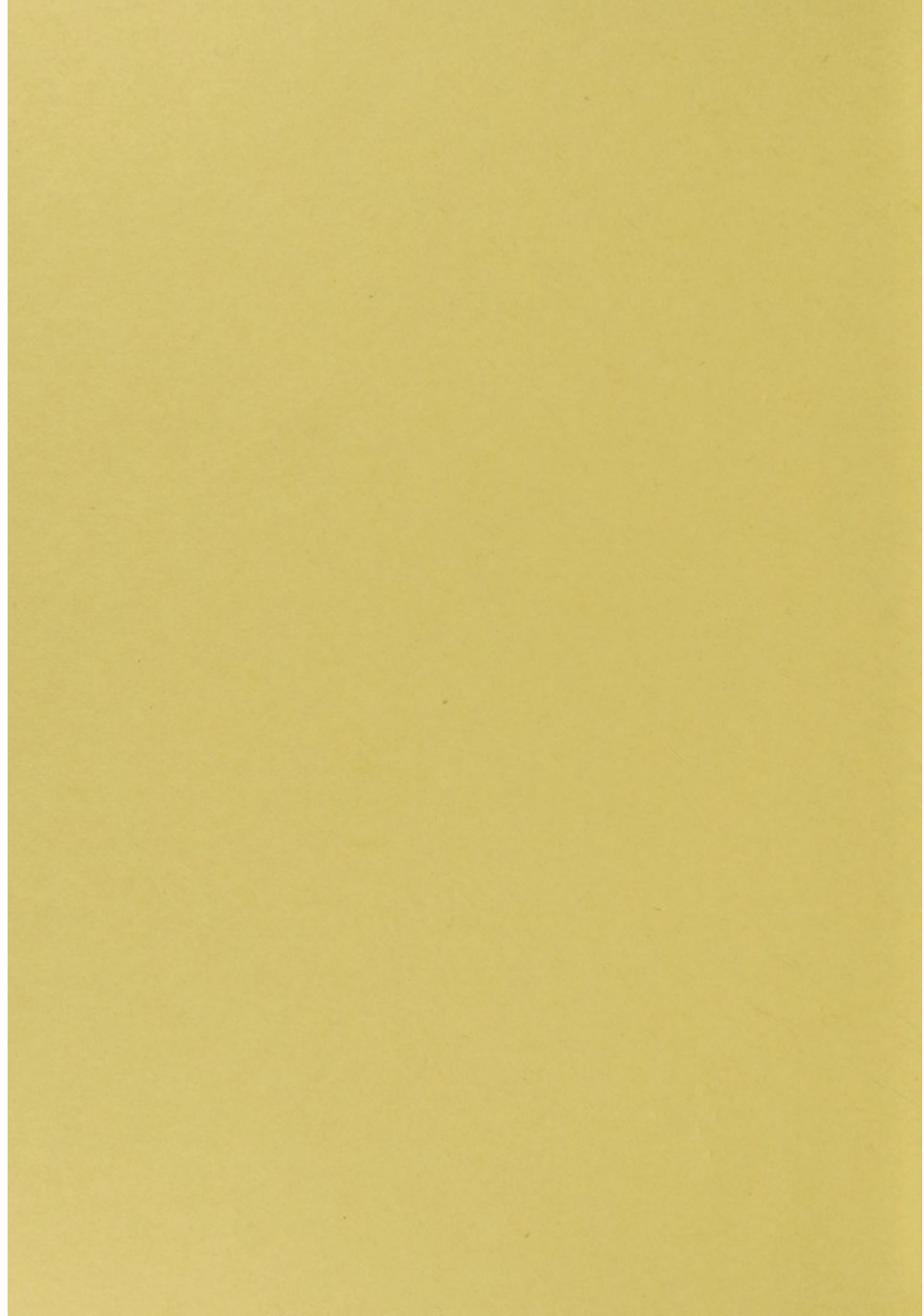


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THE HEALTH OF CHORLEY

1971



THE HEALTH OF CHORLEY


FOR 1971

BEING THE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE

BOROUGH OF CHORLEY



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BOROUGH OF CHORLEY

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1971

The Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor H.V. Davies.

Alderman	W. BLEASDALE	Alderman	G.R. RIGBY, J.P.
"	W. LOWE	"	I. SELLERS, J.P.
"	Mrs. C. MONKS, O.B.E., J.P.M.P.	"	T.C. SHORROCK
"	W. RAWCLIFFE, J.P.	"	W. WILCOCK, J.P.
Councillor	Mrs. M.M. BLACKBURN	Councillor	R. HEAPS
"	H. BIBBY	"	R.A. HEYES
"	H. CLARKE	"	D. IRVINE
"	W. CORCORAN	"	P. KEANE, J.P.
"	D. DUNN	"	J.M. MARSDEN
"	F. FIELD	"	M. PEARSON
"	J. GLYNN	"	A.D. ROSCOE
"	W. GOODIER	"	T. ROWLANDSON
"	F. HADDON	"	K.E. SANDHAM
"	A. HEALD	"	D.E.R. SEABROOK, J.P.
"	Mrs. M.M. BLEASDALE	"	M.A. THOMPSON
		"	W.B. THOMPSON

Chairman of the Health Committee:

Alderman G.R. RIGBY, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Health Committee:

Councillor J.M. MARSDEN

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

J. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., L.D.S., D.P.D.

Divisional Medical Officer to the Health Division No. 4, Lancashire County Council, also Medical Officer of Health to the Urban District Councils of Adlington, Fulwood, Leyland, Longridge, Walton-le-Dale and Withnell, and to the Rural District Councils of Chorley and Preston.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

Also Senior Assistant Medical Officer, Health Division 4.

L.M. MAYER-JONES, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

J.G. KELLY, M.A.P.H.I., M.Inst.M. (a) (b) (c)

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

J.L. FEAR, M.A.P.H.I., (a) (b)

(Resigned November 1971)

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

F. MYERS, M.A.P.H.I.,

K.W. TITTENSOR, M.A.P.H.I. (d) (b) (Resigned July 1971)

W.J. THORNTON, M.A.P.H.I. (d)

I.L. PARR, M.A.P.H.I. (From September, 1971)

(a) Also holds the Royal Society of Health Certificate as a Meat and Other Foods Inspector.

(b) Also holds the Royal Society of Health Certificate as a Smoke Inspector.

(c) Also holds the Royal Society of Health Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.

(d) Holds the Diploma of Public Health Inspectors' Examination Board.

Pupil Public Health Inspector:

D.M. WORTHINGTON.

Clerical Staff:

R. HEAPS, (Retired April 1971) B. HIRST, (from April 1971)

MRS. D. PROCTOR. MISS K. GARDINER.

General Foreman:

A. PRETTY.

PART 1

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND VITAL STATISTICS.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

BOROUGH OF CHORLEY

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough for the year ended 31st December, 1971.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population of the Borough at the middle of 1971 was 31,470 which is a very considerable increase of 690 on the estimate for mid 1970. The preliminary report of the 1971 Census gives the population of the Borough as 31,609. The number of live births assignable to the Borough was 549 of which 291 were males and 258 females and of the total 40 (a decrease of 4 on the previous year) were illegitimate. The number of live births in the previous year was 491 so that there were 58 more births in the year 1971. The crude birth rate for the year 1971 was 17.4 (adjusted 18.6) per 1,000 estimated population whilst the birth rates for England and Wales and the County of Lancaster were 16.0 and 16.7 (adjusted 17.06) respectively. The ratio of the Borough's adjusted birth rate to the national rate was 1.16. The birth rate for the Borough in 1971 was in fact the highest recorded since 1967. The number of deaths assigned to the Borough for the year 1971 was 419 and is 9 fewer than in the previous year. The crude death rate for the Borough was 13.3 (adjusted 13.6) per 1,000 estimated population. The death rates for the Country as a whole and for Lancashire were 11.6 and 12.07 (adjusted 13.15) respectively.

It may be recalled that in my last report I expressed doubts on the accuracy of the annual estimate of the population of the Borough which showed a continued decrease and it is pleasing to see that the preliminary report of the 1971 census shows an increase of 829 over the estimate for mid 1970.

The Registrar General provides a table giving the causes of death in age groups and this table is reproduced in the Report. From this it will be seen that 171 of the 419 deaths occurred in persons 75 years of age or over and a further 114 were between 65 and 74 years of age. Those two groups together accounted for 285 or 68 per cent of the total of 419 deaths in the Borough during the past year.

In regard to causes of death the number who died from malignant diseases (including leukaemia) increased by 9 from 88 to 97, with cancer of the lung deaths 25 compared with 17 in 1970. This gives a death rate for cancer in the Borough of 3.08 per 1,000 population against a national figure of 2.39. The comparable figures for lung cancer are 0.70 and 0.63. The Royal College of Physicians in its Report last year drew attention to evidence that smoking and in particular cigarette smoking is even more damaging to health than was previously thought to be the case.

Deaths from heart diseases numbered 129 a decrease of 15 compared with 1970; those from ischaemic heart disease (coronary disease) decreasing from 125 to 106. Deaths from cerebro-vascular disease (strokes) fell from 62 to 54 whilst those from pneumonia, bronchitis and emphysema showed a drop of 7 from 47 to 40. Motor vehicle accidents caused 8 fatalities in 1971 compared with 4 in the year 1970. A disturbing feature is that no fewer than 5 persons in the Borough committed suicide, 3 more than in 1970. Such deaths are a sad reflection on society.

The number of infants who died in 1971 before reaching one year of age was 12, compared with 8 in the previous year. This gives an Infantile Mortality Rate for the Borough of 22 per 1,000 live births compared with the corresponding rates for the Country as a whole and Lancashire of 18, and 17.7. This increase in the number of infant deaths is disappointing but not surprising as it was considered probable that the exceptionally low rates of recent years would be subject to occasional setbacks. It is again pleasing to report that there were no deaths attributable to child birth or abortion, in fact there have been no such deaths since 1958. There was one death due to respiratory tuberculosis but this is the first death from this cause in the last three years.

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year was 120 including 3 cases of tuberculosis compared with 598 including 7 cases of tuberculosis in 1970. The number of notifications of both measles and infective jaundice fell dramatically from the previous year. In the case of measles the figures were 337 in 1970 and 35 in 1971, and for infective jaundice 222 and 32. During the year circulars were issued by the Department of Health and Social Security advising that routine vaccination against smallpox need not now be recommended in early childhood. This advice is based on the fact that the smallpox eradication programme of the World Health Organisation has made such remarkable progress that the chances of introduction of smallpox into Britain have substantially diminished. The number of serious complications from vaccination in childhood, though few, is now considered to be out of proportion to the risk from smallpox in this Country. Vaccination continues to be recommended for travellers to and from Countries where smallpox is endemic or where eradication programmes are in progress and for health service staff who may come into contact with patients. There must however, be no relaxation in regard to seeking the advantage of protection provided by immunisation and vaccination against other infectious diseases such as diphtheria, poliomyelitis, tetanus, whooping cough, measles and german measles. Vaccination against german measles became available in 1970 and is offered to girls between the ages of 11 and 14 years of age. Recently the Department of Health and Social Security has informed local Health Authorities that on the recommendation of the Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, vaccination against german measles may be given to women of childbearing age who are at special risk of acquiring rubella or transmitting it to others provided they request it and are seronegative.

This disease is now recognised as a serious danger to women during pregnancy because of its potentially harmful effects on the unborn child resulting in congenital abnormalities.

Perhaps no subject, in recent times, has received more publicity and aroused more concern than environmental pollution and it seems proper that the danger to health should be fully appreciated. Pollution can, of course, arise from a multitude of sources and control may be extremely simple or vastly complex. Some types of pollution may require national or even international intervention to produce measures for control but nevertheless much can be done at local level in this matter. Local Authorities have an important role to play in the supervision of food and water supplies, housing, clean air, refuse collection and disposal. Indiscriminate disposal of trade waste in areas around Chorley has occurred on occasions and to detect such happenings required constant vigilance. In regard to atmospheric pollution a report in regard to the implementation of the Clean Air Act 1956 is being prepared at the request of the Health Committee.

Housing conditions in the Borough continue to improve as a result of the repair and clearance of unfit dwellings and the erection of new ones. One small clearance area was officially represented and a further 25 individual houses were dealt with as unfit for human habitation. A total of 161 new dwellings were completed during the year comprising 28 by the Council and 133 by private enterprise. The Council now has two schemes of flatlets for the elderly Cotswold House and Douglas House, each comprising 24 flatlets both being under the kindly supervision of residential wardens. In addition eight bungalows are connected by a bell system to Douglas House. The value of such housing schemes for the elderly can not be over estimated.

Delay in the Government's decision regarding the New City of Central Lancashire has restricted development in the Borough for some years but as stated in last year's Report, Chorley has been included in the area designated for the New City. During the past year the membership composition of the Central Lancashire Corporation was announced under the Chairmanship of Sir Frank Pearson Bt., M.B.E., J.P., M.A., and quickly got down to business. The Astley area of the Borough seems likely to be one of the first to be developed.

Food hygiene in the various food premises in the Borough, meat inspection in the Council's Public Abattoir and milk sampling all continued to receive careful attention during the year. In regard to milk sampling particular attention is paid to sampling for brucella infection which if present in milk can cause the disease known as undulant fever in man. Two such positive samples were obtained during the year and appropriate action taken. Heat treatment renders the milk safe for consumption. The ultimate aim is, of course, the eradication of the disease from dairy herds and the Government's scheme towards this end is making progress.

During the year 1971 a new Home for the Elderly (Healey View) accommodating 52 persons was completed by the County Council and this additional provision for the many in need of such accommodation is most welcome.

Mention must also be made of the County Council's plans for extensions to the School Clinic, in Collison Avenue to provide a Health Centre for a number of General Medical Practitioners in the Borough. It is intended that work on this project will commence in 1972 and be completed in about approximately a year.

Dr. J.K. Brown has been appointed Medical Officer (Departmental) by the County Council to succeed Dr. Doris J. Black.

Mr. R. Heaps who had been Senior Clerk in the Health Department for over forty years retired last year and was elected a local Councillor. His subsequent death this year (1972) is a matter of deep regret.

My sincere thanks are again due to Mr. Kelly and the staff of the Health Department for their willing assistance and co-operation at all times. I am also, grateful to other officers and staff of the Council for their readiness to help whenever the need arises.

I must also express my gratitude to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued support and encouragement.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. Walker,

Medical Officer of Health.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Borough of Chorley is a compact industrial Lancashire town covering nearly 4,292 acres, of which about 680 acres were added in 1934, from the surrounding rural area, including the Duxbury Estate (650 acres) and part of the parishes of Euxton and Heath Charnock. The Borough has been included in the proposals for the New City of Central Lancashire.

The town is situated approximately at the centre of a triangle formed by the County Boroughs of Preston, Wigan and Bolton, and is placed on elevated ground (average about 300 feet) at the approaches to the Pennine Range, which rises sharply to the East, the sea being located approximately 10 miles to the West. The subsoil is mainly clay with outcrops of sand and gravel.

The majority of the houses in the centre of the town are of the terraced type. There are several municipal housing estates, and much new private housing development has taken place in recent years. The town is well provided with several small green recreation grounds, and possesses in Astley Park, near the centre of the town, a large natural parkland of much beauty, comprising nearly 100 acres.

The principal industries are cotton weaving, spinning and bleaching, motor works, manufacture of floor coverings, laundries and the assembly of telecommunication equipment and brewery distribution depot. A large proportion of female labour is normally employed.

VITAL STATISTICS

The following is a summary of the principal statistics for the years 1970 - 1971.

	1970	1971
Population (estimated mid 1971)	30,780	31,470
Number of Deaths (corrected)	428	419
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	13.9	13.3
Live Births	491	549
Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	16.0	17.4
Still-Births	12	9
Still-Births (per 1,000 live and still births)	24	16
Total live and still births	503	558
Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year)	8	12
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births total	16	22
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births legitimate	16	18
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births illegitimate	23	75
Neo-Natal Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births (first-four weeks)	12	13
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births (under one week)	10	9
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 live and stillbirths)	34	25
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	9	7
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	0	0
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	0	0
Number of deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis	0	1
Death Rate per 1,000 population from Respiratory Tuberculosis	0	0.03
Number of Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis	0	1
Death Rate per 1,000 population from all forms of Tuberculosis	0	0.03
The Borough covers an area of 4,292 acres		
Population Census, 1961	32,262	
Population Census, 1971	31,609	
No. of inhabited houses (Rate Books)	11,425	11,475
Rateable Value of the Borough	£1,058,367	£1,082,204
Product of Penny rate	£4,319	£4,267 (£10,241)

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 wks.	4 wks. and under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS									
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 and over	
B46 (8) Other Diseases of Digestive System	M F	3 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 1		
B38 Nephritis and Nephrosis	M F	1 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 1	-		
B39 Hyperplasia of Prostate	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		
B46 (9) Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	M F	2 1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1		
B42 Congenital Anomalies	M F	3 2	1 2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		
B44 Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	M F	2 1	2 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
B45 Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	M F	1 2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
BE47 Motor Vehicle Accidents	M F	3 5	-	-	-	1	1	2	1	-	-	1		
BE48 All Other Accidents	M F	8 4	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	5		
BE49 Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	M F	2 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 1	-	1		
BE50 All Other External Causes	M F	3 -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-		
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M F	204 215	3 4	4 1	2 -	2	4 2	4 2	2 5	16 10	40 33	58 56	71 100	

TABLE 1

Year	Live Births	Deaths (All Causes)	Stillbirths	Maternal Mortality	Infant Mortality							
					Total		Neo-Natal					
					No. of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	No. of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Live Births				
1971	549	17.4	419	13.3	9	16.0	Nil	Nil	12	22.0	7	12.0
1970	491	16.0	428	13.9	12	24.0	Nil	Nil	8	16.0	6	12.0
1969	466	15.0	484	15.6	6	13.0	Nil	Nil	5	11.0	3	6.0
1968	516	16.6	410	13.2	9	17.0	Nil	Nil	9	17.0	6	12.0
1967	559	17.9	444	14.2	5	9.0	Nil	Nil	11	20.0	7	13.0
1966	504	16.2	454	14.6	10	19.5	Nil	Nil	13	25.8	9	17.9
Avg. 5 years 1966-1970	505	16.3	444	14.2	8	16.5	Nil	Nil	9	17.9	6	12.1
* Adjusted Live Birth Rate (Comparability Factor, 1.07) = 18.6 per 1,000 Death Rate (Comparability Factor 1.02) = 13.6 per 1,000												

TABLE 11
Infant Mortality Rates

Year	CHORLEY	England and Wales	Lancashire
1966	25.8	19.0	19.9
1967	20.0	18.3	20.9
1968	17.0	18.3	19.4
1969	11.0	18.0	19.0
1970	16.0	18.0	19.8
1971	22.0	18.0	17.7

TABLE 111
Birth Rates (Crude)

Year	CHORLEY	England and Wales	Lancashire
1966	16.2	17.7	17.86
1967	17.9	17.2	17.55
1968	16.6	16.9	17.32
1969	15.0	16.3	16.9
1970	16.0	16.0	16.9
1971	17.4	16.0	16.7

TABLE 1V
Death Rates (Crude)

Year	CHORLEY	England and Wales	Lancashire
1966	14.6	11.7	12.73
1967	14.2	11.2	12.18
1968	13.2	11.9	12.28
1969	15.6	11.9	12.4
1970	13.9	11.7	12.5
1971	13.3	11.6	12.07

General Provisions of Health Services in the Borough
Hospital Accommodation

Infectious Diseases

The Deepdale Isolation Hospital, Preston, is the one to which patients are normally admitted, although in cases of emergency Isolation Hospitals further afield may be utilised.

General Hospital Facilities

For patients from Chorley there are the undermentioned hospitals, all of which are under the control of the Manchester Regional Hospital Board and administered locally by the Preston and Chorley Hospital Management Committee. These are:-

Preston Royal Infirmary
Sharoe Green Hospital, Fulwood
Chorley and District Hospital, Chorley
Eaves Lane Hospital, Chorley
Lostock Hall Continuation Hospital
Longsands Continuation Hospital, Fulwood
Ribbleson Hospital, Preston
Heath Charnock Hospital, Chorley.

St. Joseph's Hospital, Mount Street, Preston, a voluntary hospital for medical and surgical cases, is also available but only for some geriatric accommodation under the National Health Service.

Veneral Diseases

Specialised clinics are held at the Preston Royal Infirmary. Advice and treatment are free and strictly confidential.

Laboratory Service

The Public Health Laboratory under the directorship of Dr. L. Robertson is situated in Meadow Street, Preston, alongside the Preston Royal Infirmary. Bacteriological examinations of routine samples of milk, ice-cream and water were continued during the year, together with the biological examination of milk for the presence of tubercle bacilli and brucella organisms, also the examination of faecal specimens and suspected foods in cases of food poisoning and dysentery.

Chemical analyses are usually carried out by the County Analyst.

The Group Laboratory is also situated at Preston Royal Infirmary and provides a very comprehensive service.

Services Provided by the County Council

The following services are administered on behalf of the Lancashire County Council by Divisional Health Committee No. 4, Medical Officer, Dr. J. Walker, Joint Divisional Officer, East Cliff, Preston, PR1 3JQ. Telephone Preston 54868. The local Medical Officer is Dr. J.K. Brown, School Clinic, Collison Avenue, Telephone Chorley 2709.

Ambulance Service

There are 4 ambulances and 4 dual purpose cars stationed at the Ambulance Station in Preston Street, Chorley. The work done by this station covers the area of the Borough and surrounding districts. All these vehicles are fitted with radio, and are in direct contact with the County Ambulance Headquarters at Broughton.

Midwifery Service

There are two domiciliary Midwives serving Chorley who attend expectant mothers who are confined at home.

Home Nursing Service

There are established in various parts of Chorley 4 District Nursing Sisters, 4 District Nurses and 2 male District Charge Nurses. The duties of these nurses include nursing care of patients in their own homes and they arrange for the loan of nursing equipment in suitable cases.

Home Help Service

Home helps are employed in Chorley and help a variety of cases including confinements, sickness, old age and infirmity, and Tuberculosis cases. Night helps are also employed where needed.

Ante-Natal Clinics

Ante-Natal sessions take place at the Maternity Unit at Chorley and District Hospital.

Child Welfare Centres

Two Child Welfare Centres are open each week in the district, one at Eaves Lane, each Wednesday afternoon, one at Collison Avenue open on Tuesdays and Fridays. A Doctor and Health Visitor attend each clinic and advice is readily given in infant care and management and baby foods sold.

Cervical Cytology

Facilities for the early ascertainment of cervical cancer are available for mature women, by appointment, at the School Clinic, Collison Avenue.

Vaccination and Immunisation

Vaccination and Immunisation of children against Poliomyelitis, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus and Measles are available free of charge at County Council Clinics as is vaccination against Rubella (German Measles) for girls between 11 and 14 years of age.

School Medical Services

Medical and hygiene inspections are carried out at all the schools and clinic sessions are held at Collison Avenue, Chorley, for a variety of treatments including minor ailments, dental care, speech therapy, orthopaedic and ophthalmic conditions. The County Council make special provisions for residential schooling for various categories of handicapped children such as the blind, partially sighted, deaf and dumb, epileptics, delicate and backward.

Convalescent Care

In suitable cases arrangements are made for the admission of patients to convalescent homes.

Welfare Services

Residential homes are provided to accommodate elderly and infirm persons who have no longer anyone to adequately care for them. One such home is Coniston House, Tootell Street, Chorley. A new home, Healey View in Botany Brow accommodating 52 elderly persons was opened in 1971. Handicapped persons are also assisted.

Short term care for elderly people was available during the year, mainly to give a respite for persons caring for elderly relatives at home, or to allow them to take a holiday.

Chiropody Service

Chiropody sessions were held at the School Clinic, Collison Avenue, during the year for persons of pensionable age, expectant mothers, and registered handicapped persons. In addition a domiciliary service is available for those unable to attend clinics.

A similar service was also available through the Chorley Voluntary Old Peoples' Welfare Committee.

Family Planning

A Family Planning Clinic is in operation at the School Clinic, Collison Avenue on Tuesday evenings and Thursday afternoons. It is staffed by the Family Planning Association.

Mental Health Service

Mental Welfare Officers serving the area are available to give advice. There is a Training Centre and Hostel for mentally sub-normal adults in Weldbank Lane, Chorley. A Youth Club for sub-normal children is held each Friday evening at Newtrees, Stump Lane, Chorley.

Health Centre Provision

Plans have been prepared for extensions to the School Clinic, Collison Avenue to provide a Health Centre for a number of General Medical Practitioners in the Borough. It is intended that work on this project will commence in 1972 and be completed in 1973.

National Assistance Act 1948 (Sec. 47)
National Assistance (Amendment) Act 1951

No. of applications made during the year	One
No. orders made 	One.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The statutory basis of notification and prevention of infectious disease was changed on the 1st October, 1968, by the introduction of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968. This Act amended the list of notifiable diseases and certain relevant sections of earlier Acts. Under this Act, the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1968 were made and became operative also on 1st October.

The number of notifications received during the year was 119 including 3 cases of tuberculosis as compared with 598 including 7 cases of tuberculosis in 1970.

Measles

The number of cases of measles notified was 35 as compared with 337 in the previous year. Supplies of vaccine are ample and parents are urged to take advantage of the protection offered for children who have not had measles.

Infective Jaundice

This disease was made notifiable in 1968 under the Public Health (Infective Jaundice) Regulations and during the year under review 32 cases were notified as compared with 222 in 1970.

The diseases affected both adults and children and tended to affect adults more severely than children. The following tables show the age incidence and distribution of cases throughout the Wards in the Borough.

Age Group	-5	5+	10+	15+	20+	30+	40+	50+	60+
No. Cases	2	9	7	6	4	1	3	-	-

Ward	North	South	East	West
No. Cases	9	8	5	10

Infective Jaundice is a virus infection and its spread is very difficult to control. It was made notifiable in order to obtain more precise information concerning the incidence and the circumstances in which the various forms of the disease are spread. Such information, it is hoped will in due course, lead to useful measures of control.

Scarlet Fever

25 cases were notified during 1971 as against 24 in the previous year. The disease continued, as in recent years to be of a mild nature.

Whooping Cough

24 cases of whooping cough were notified during the year under review. 3 cases were notified in 1970.

Food Poisoning and Dysentery

There were no major outbreaks of these diseases during the year.

Only one case of suspected food poisoning was notified during the year although a further four were otherwise ascertained.

The cause of the suspected case is unknown. In the other instances two were found to be due to S. Virchow, one S. Typhimurium, the other unknown.

I am pleased to report that there were no cases of dysentery.

General

During the year there was a Cholera outbreak in Spain and it was necessary to visit a number of local residents who had returned home from the Provinces involved.

An outbreak of S. Typhimurium phage type 1A occurred elsewhere in Health Division 4 and as it was found to be a milk-borne outbreak, it was necessary to carry out inquiries in the Borough Area amongst those who were supplied with raw milk from the infected source. I am pleased to say that no cases arose in the Borough out of this incident.

Prevalence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases (except T.B.)

1971 and 1970

1971

	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Total Cases
Measles	15	18	1	1	35
Scarlet Fever	5	9	5	6	25
Whooping Cough	8	4	12	-	24
Food Poisoning	-	-	1	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Jaundice	2	19	10	1	32

1970

	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Total Cases
Measles	61	215	53	8	337
Scarlet Fever	12	4	-	8	24
Whooping Cough	-	-	2	1	3
Food Poisoning	-	2	3	-	5
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Jaundice	75	70	46	31	222

Tuberculosis

New Cases and Mortality during 1971

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Year								
Under 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 - 44 years	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64 years	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
Totals	2		1		1		-	
1970 Totals	6		1		-		-	
1969 Totals	6		5		-		-	

No. of cases on the register at the end of the year were:-

Respiratory	37
Non-Respiratory	15
Removed from Register	4

Mass Radiography

No public surveys were carried out during the year.

Total Solids in Solution	96
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 15 mins	0.56
" " " " in 3 hrs.	1.12
Ammonia	0.005
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.05
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.49
Nitrogen as Nitrites	Nil
Combined Chlorine	15
Free Chlorine	0.03
Total Hardness (as Ca CO ₃)	41.5
Carbonate Hardness (as Ca CO ₃)	12
Calcium Hardness (as Ca CO ₃)	24
Lead	Nil
Copper	Nil

Zinc	Nil
Total Iron	0.20
Apparent Colour - Hazen Units	15
Flouride (F)	0.091

The amount of flouride in the water is typical of amounts occurring naturally in waters in this district and is appreciably less than the one part per million which has been suggested as an added amount for the control of dental caries in children.

Complaints are received from time to time concerning the quantity and quality of the water supply and all these are investigated. I am pleased to report the full co-operation of the Water Undertaking in these matters. None of the quality complaints were serious and all satisfactorily dealt with. As far as quantity is concerned the problems that do arise are due principally to worn out, damaged or partially occluded service or distribution pipes usually serving a number of houses and the Department then undertake action under the Public Health Acts, to remedy the situation. This is invariably done informally by agreement with the property owners.

It is interesting to note that the average daily consumption of water per head of population at 53.3 gallons increased only slightly over 45.6 in 1970. This figure includes supplies used for industrial and commercial purposes. There would I suggest be little change in the overall quantity used in these two years.

Private Supplies

The seven dwellinghouses including four farms are on private supplies derived from shallow wells or springs. 2 samples were taken from these sources and submitted for bacteriological examination, and were satisfactory on both occasions. The persons concerned were advised of the results and it was suggested that they boiled the water before using it for drinking or culinary purposes. It is accepted however that such a small number of samples does not give a complete picture of the ever changing conditions of the water used at these premises, though the users are no doubt well adapted to it. It is not practicable unfortunately to provide these dwellings with a mains water supply at the present time.

2. Swimming Baths

There is only one swimming bath operative in the town and this is situated in the Town Centre and is owned and operated by the Corporation. The water used is from the public supply and it is subjected to filtration and chlorination in accordance with standard public health practice. A sauna bath was provided during the year.

During the year regular sampling of the bath water for bacteriological examination was undertaken and all 34 samples proved generally satisfactory. One sample taken for chemical analysis also proved satisfactory.

3. Astley Park Paddling Pool

This pool is available for use during the summer months and notwithstanding the careless action of individuals visiting the park and roaming animals, every effort is made by the Parks Department to maintain a clean pool by means of periodic thorough cleansing and chlorination.

4. Sewerage

With the exception of outlying farms and cottages and houses in Euxton Lane, Bolton Road, Wigan Lane and Carr Lane areas all properties are connected to the sewerage system. During the year under review 161 new houses were connected to the system.

Sewage Disposal is effected at Common Bank where the works were reconstructed in 1970. Sewage is received from Chorley, Euxton and the Royal Ordnance Factory via four sewers which discharge into a new collecting chamber from thence into two large diameter concrete pipes. It then passes through two screens (one under normal conditions), the screenings being deposited onto a conveyor belt for subsequent disposal. Grit is then removed by means of a Dorr Detritor from which the normal flow passes to two circular mechanically scraped sedimentation tanks which give a retention period of just above seven hours at normal dry weather flow. From the Sedimentation tanks the flow passes to the surface aeration plant which consists of two channel tanks each equipped with five high intensity Keesener Rotors. The flow then passes to the final settling tanks. Facilities are available for the use of existing percolating filters at the lower works if required as an alternative to the final settlement tanks, and throughout the plant storm water overflow arrangements are provided in the form of storm sewage tanks. Temporary sludge drying beds are provided but arrangements are being made to transport certain quantities of sludge to a disposal site outside the Borough.

5. Rivers and Streams

The pollution of waterways is an important aspect of the environmental scene, and the recent public outcry about the state of town and country should assist those concerned in the prevention of pollution. Complaints on these matters are referred to the Lancashire River Authority who are responsible for the administration of the appropriate legislation.

PART 2.

CLEAN AIR.

FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

HOUSING.

MISCELLANEOUS DUTIES.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION (GENERAL).

by

J. G. KELLY, M.A.P.H.I., M.Inst.M.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

BOROUGH OF CHORLEY

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to present my Annual Report to you for the year ending 31st December, 1971.

After several years of comparative stability there were several staff changes. The first of these, Mr. Ronald Heaps, Senior Clerk retired in April after over forty years service in the Department. He was succeeded by Mr. Bernard Hirst of the Borough Treasurers. In July Mr. K.W. Tittensor, Additional Public Health Inspector since 1966, left to take up an appointment with Derby County Borough, and after a short delay he was succeeded by Mr. I.L. Parr from Leyland. Mr. John Fear, my Deputy since early 1968 was appointed Chief Public Health Inspector to the Coalville U.D.C. in Leicestershire and took up this post in December. To all these I offer my thanks, congratulations and best wishes for the future.

In the Housing sphere, 1971 was a mopping-up year and the time when a new Housing Programme was required. This was in fact submitted to the Council in November in the form of a 'Report on Housing in Chorley'. The major aim was to complete clearance programmes within ten years and also expedite the re-habilitation of older soundly constructed houses.

Clean Air on the domestic side produced further interest and steps were in hand at the end of the year to place recommendations to the Council on the subject.

Work in the Public Slaughterhouse continued at a high level though the throughput was slightly less than in 1970. Meat Inspection fees were increased during the year so that this aspect of our work should be self-supporting.

Public Cleansing continued at a high level of service, the replacement of vehicle fleet progressing satisfactorily. We can look forward to a sound fleet by the middle of 1972. Much additional pressure was placed on the Department in this field and my grateful thanks are due to all those concerned with the service for good work particularly Mr. A. Pretty.

On the subject of environmental health, the routines so necessary to avoid major problems were interfered with by staff changes and meat inspection responsibilities. There is every need in my view, for an authorised meat inspector to be appointed in addition to the present establishment so that appropriate attention can be given to normal public health problems including those of area private sector house improvement and clean air. To me this is to be realistic.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Dr. J. Walker, Medical Officer of Health, my Deputy and all the Staff and employees of the Department for their continued keenness and co-operation and kind assistance, the Chairman and Vice Chairman and Members of the Housing Committee and finally to the Chairman and Vice Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support and encouragement throughout the year.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J.G. KELLY,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Summary of Public Health Inspectors' Visits and Inspections:

Building Plans	16
Clean Air (including observations)	24
Diseases of Animals	12
Drainage (Inspections and Tests)	437
Entertainment Places	3
Factories	89
Food Premises	630
Food Inspections:-							
Routine and Condemnation	288
Sampling - Food and Drugs	91
Bacteriological	152
Public Abattoir (Days)	302
Housing:-							
Housing Acts - Repairs	25
Closing/Deml.	65
Slum Clearance	386
Overcrowding	10
Imprt. Grants	278
Houses in Multiple Occupation	65
Rent Act	16
Public Health - Repairs	395
Vermin	19
Re-inspections	182
Infectious Diseases	186
Miscellaneous	616
Nuisances	406
Pet Animals Act	7
Public Cleansing	264
Public Conveniences	18
Rodent Control	229
Schools	4
Shops Act	5
Swimming Baths	21
Tents, Caravans, etc.	12
Water Supplies	127
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	160
Health Education	2
Interviews	459
Civic Amenities	174
Noise	83

1. CLEAN AIR

(a) GENERAL

The legislation now covering the subject is contained in the Clean Air Acts, 1956 - 1968, and the Regulations made thereunder.

The legislation enforceable generally by a local authority is laid down by the Clean Air Acts 1956 - 1968 and can be summarised below:-

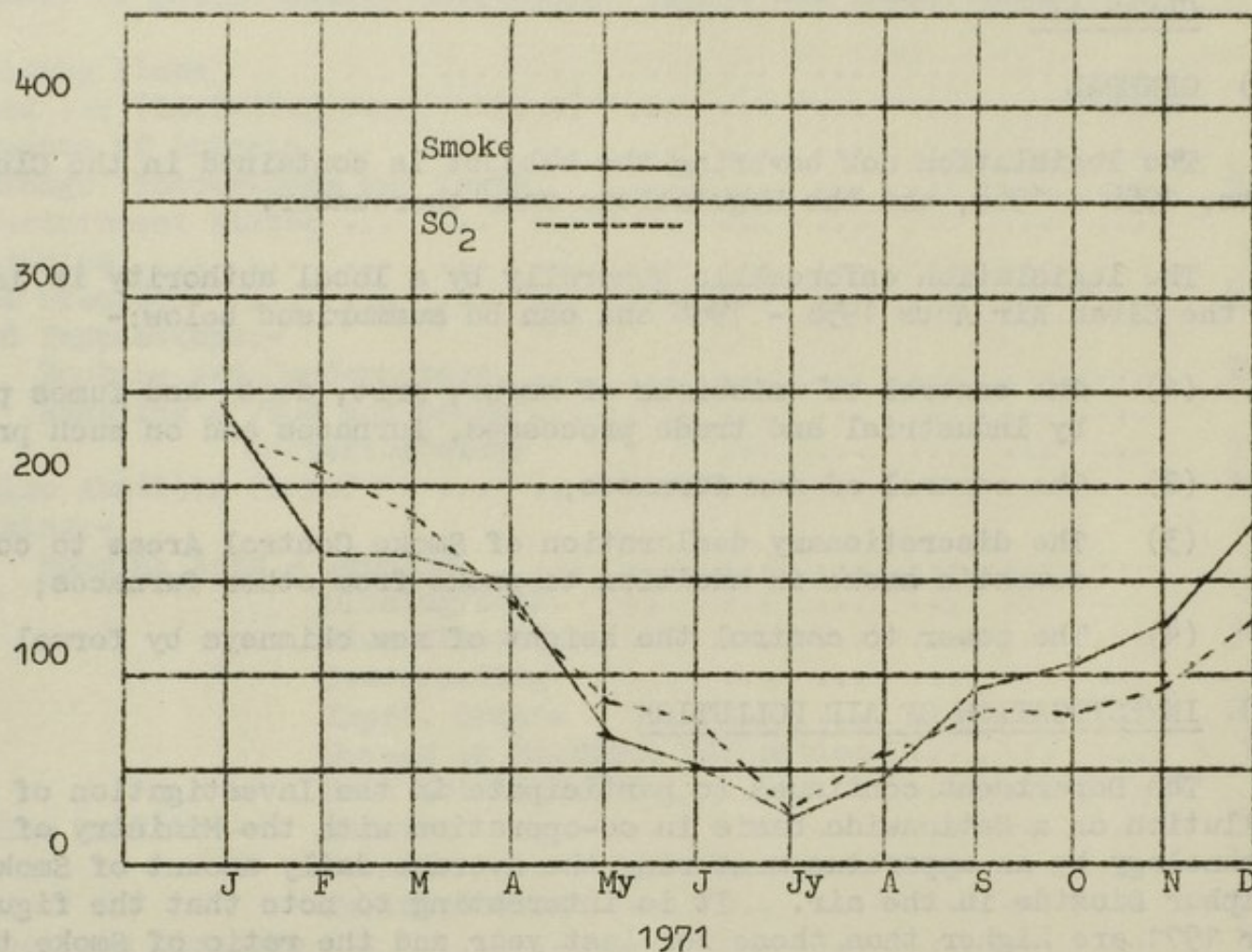
- (1) The control of emissions of smoke, grit, dust and fumes produced by industrial and trade processes, furnaces and on such premises;
- (2) The control of new furnaces;
- (3) The discretionary declaration of Smoke Control Areas to control domestic smoke in addition to smoke from other furnaces;
- (4) The power to control the height of new chimneys by formal means.

(b) INVESTIGATION OF AIR POLLUTION

The Department continues to participate in the Investigation of Air Pollution on a Nationwide basis in co-operation with the Ministry of Technology by an apparatus measuring the average daily amount of Smoke and Sulphur Dioxide in the air. It is interesting to note that the figures for 1971 are higher than those for last year and the ratio of Smoke to Sulphur Dioxide has increased. Whilst these differences can be brought about partly by changes in weather conditions, I consider that such a change is undesirable and indicates that domestic smoke control is vital. It is still evident that smoke concentration tends to vary in proportion to population for industrial emissions continue to improve. See table on next page.

(c) INDUSTRIAL

Attention continued to be given to the industrial aspects of Clean Air during the year and the position is generally good. Some five smoke observations were made of which all proved satisfactory. It is fair to state however, that problems do arise from time to time from industrial and other premises and every effort is made to reach a satisfactory conclusion. Seventeen visits were made to industrial premises regarding emission of smoke, installation of new plant, plan alteration and the erection or demolition of chimneys. I am pleased to report once again that management has in general been co-operative in this field, and to the extent that the department is notified in cases of breakdowns likely to result in unlawful smoke emissions.



Ratio Smoke / Sulphur Dioxide

1.05 0.78 0.90 1.04 0.88 0.71 0.93 0.88 1.10 1.27 1.35 1.38

(d) INSTALLATION OF NEW FURNACES

No applications for prior approval were received during the year but there were 4 notifications of intention to install new furnaces.

Fuel Used	Notifications
Coal	Nil
Gas (Towns)	Nil
Oil	4 (4)
Electricity	Nil

The number in brackets denotes the number of furnaces involved.

(e) NEW CHIMNEYS

The Clean Air Act 1968 introduced the principle of formal approval of chimney height under certain circumstances. These concern the rated input of fuel to a furnace and are (a) pulverised fuel in any quantity; (b) solid matter at a rate exceeding 100 lbs/hour and (c) liquid or gaseous fuels at a rate exceeding $1\frac{1}{4}$ million BTU/hour.

Prescribed forms are to be used for the formal application and sufficient detailed information given to enable the authority to make a decision. These applications must be dealt with within 4 weeks.

To enable local authorities to judge the soundness of proposals concerning chimney heights the Ministry of Housing and Local Government have issued guidance notes.

Clean Air Act 1968, Sec. 6

No. applications received during year	2
No. approved	2
No. refused	Nil

(f) DOMESTIC

The subject of smoke control has again not yet been debated with a view to a policy being formulated. This has been due principally to the economic situation and the regrettable acknowledged shortage of solid smokeless fuels in various parts of the country. In view of this latter position no new smoke control orders could come into operation before April 1971. This caused an unfortunate setback in clean air progress particularly as many people are being geared up to using for their own convenience the range of authorised fuels. However, by the end of the year the fuel situation had improved and it was possible to foresee plans being made towards a Smoke Control Programme in the Town.

Information is being gathered so that a policy document can be presented to the Council early in 1972 on the subject. Local Authorities, hitherto not in defined 'Black Areas', are now being encouraged to submit area programmes to the Department of Environment so that they can commence the declaration of Smoke Control Areas. There are many of these Authorities already engaged in reducing pollution in this way from domestic sources.

2. FOOD CONTROL

(a) Milk Supply

Since 1956 Chorley and the surrounding districts have comprised a Specified Area, so that the only milk retailed within the Borough is designated milk, that is Untreated, Pasteurised or Sterilised.

The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1963 came fully into force on the 1st October 1964, revoking the previous regulations. The principal change from the Council's view relates to the use of the new special designation "Untreated" for raw milk, instead of the previous designation "Tuberculin-Tested".

The following Licences were issued under these Regulations:-

Dealers (pre-packed) milk licences for untreated,
pasteurised and sterilised milk 93
Dealer (pasteuriser) licence -
Dealer (steriliser) licence -
144 visits were made to dairies and milk shops.
Dealers' licences provide for more than one designation in
many cases.

The Food and Drugs (Milk) Act 1970, was placed on the Statute Book last year to authorise the treatment of milk by the application of steam. This method of heat treatment hitherto prohibited because it involved the addition of water to milk, operates on the principle of heating the milk by direct contact with steam and the removal afterwards of excess water so that the original compositional standard is maintained.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

54 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, and the results are shown in the following tables:-

	No. of Samples	RESULTS		
		Satis.	Unsat.	Void Samples
UNTREATED MILK				
(a) Methylene Blue Test	43	37	5	1
HEAT TREATED MILK				
(b) Methylene Blue Test	8	8	-	-
(c) Phosphatase Test		8	-	-
(d) Turbidity Test	3	3	-	-
(e) Colony Count Test	-	-	-	-

BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

Total number of Samples submitted - 78

Results	Positive	Negative	No Result
(a) Tuberculosis	-	11	-
(b) Brucellosis - Ring Test ...	2	76	-
(c) Brucellosis - Culture Test	2	-	-
(d) Brucellosis - Biological Test	-	11	-

The Ring Test for Brucellosis is essentially a screening test so it is the practice to subject ring test positive samples to culture in order to confirm the presence of the organisms. In all cases of confirmed brucellosis in milk samples the local authority in whose area the farm is situated is informed so that investigations can be made. The information is also passed to the producer.

Brucellosis - Sampling Scheme

Local arrangements continued to operate having regard to recommendations contained in the Ministry of Health Circular 17/66. Samples of milk from the producer-retailers situated in the Borough and samples from five producer retailers situated in adjoining areas who retail milk within the Borough boundary have been taken bi-monthly and examined for brucella organisms. This scheme was intended to widen the scope of the original system, with a view to preventing the sale of infected untreated milk. Milk found to be infected e.g. culture positive, must be subjected to heat treatment until the producer concerned has eliminated affected cows with the aid of their own veterinarians and the milk has satisfied a further series of tests.

Two samples of milk were found to be positive on culture test. One of these originated from a farm situated outside the Borough, the second from within the Borough. The appropriate steps were taken to ensure the cases were properly dealt with.

The Brucellosis (Area Eradication) (England and Wales) Order 1971

In November 1971, Lancashire was included in the North West England No. 1 Eradication Area. This implies that restrictions have been imposed on the movement of cattle into and within the area, the holding of markets, approval of cattle dealers premises, precautions against spread of the Disease, and the sale of reactors. The objective of course is the ultimate eradication of the Disease throughout the Country.

Chemical Analysis

40 samples of milk were obtained for analysis under the Food and Drugs Act 1955, and submitted to the Public Analyst, and found to be genuine.

(b) Ice Cream

There are 156 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. One of the premises is also registered for the manufacture of ice-cream, although within the meaning of the Food Standard (Ice Cream) Regulations 1959, the produce is in fact, a milk ice, the prescribed standard of composition for which being much lower than that of ice-cream.

28 samples were taken for subjection to the methylene blue reduction test and the results were generally satisfactory, the provisional grading used being by nature of a guide to hygienic practices only.

PROV. GRADE	Premises			
	1	11	111	1V
Soft Ice Cream	-	-	-	-
Other Ice Cream	19	2	3	4

(c) Food Hygiene

The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970, came into force on 1st March 1971.

The routine inspection of food premises continued throughout the year as far as staff changes would allow and 38 informal notices were served regarding contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations. Whilst it is satisfactory to report a continued improvement in the method of handling and storage of food in the great variety of premises in the town, much more has to be done about the insufficiency of storage space. Continued vigilance by the Public Health Inspectors is essential to maintain a high standard of food hygiene and no relaxation of effort can be acceptable. Many retailers have for some time relied upon delivery men to replenish bread, confectionery and meat products in their shops without realising in many cases that they alone are responsible for sales that take place. Problems have arisen concerning the staleness of these articles and extreme care is required to ensure that the method is not abused, resulting in the sale or exposure for sale of stale or even unfit food. The responsibility for the sale of unsound food in these cases is clearly that of the retailer, and considerable care is required to ensure proper stock rotation and replacement.

Much has been said and written about the principle of prior approval and registration of all food premises, and there is little doubt the advantages of securing the prior approval of premises which are to be used for the sale of food. This would enable the Council to be satisfied before business commenced that the premises were suitable for such use and fully complied with the relevant regulations. It is therefore an important issue for which there are precedents in the field of clean air. Registration, however, is different in my view. Registration implies a similar procedure to prior approval in the case of a new business but otherwise it can proffer few additional benefits over the normal routine inspection of food premises to secure their compliance with Regulations. The major advantage would be the threat of cancelling a registration in case of default with requirements. None of these ofcourse can be substituted for the maintenance of hygienic buildings and practices where failure to do so can be the cause of food poisoning outbreaks. These can only be reduced by constant attention and education of those employed in the food trade.

(d) General Markets and Cattle Market

The standard of food hygiene on the General Market and Cattle Market continues to remain high. This position must be maintained as the market generally has a high reputation in the area. All stall-holders selling open food sell from built-in stalls provided with all facilities in accordance with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

(e) Food Premises

No. Premises	Fitted to comply Sec. 16	Sec. 19	
		To which apply	Fitted to comply with
90	86	84	80
8	8	4	4
1	1	1	1
29	29	29	29
31	31	31	31
20	20	20	20
25	21	-	-
86	86	86	86
1	1	-	-

Number of Food Premises and Hawkers Registered

Sec. 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955:-

Ice Cream Premises	156
Potted and preserved food premises	30

Sec. 14, Lancashire County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951:-

[illegible]

(f) Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Sampling:- The Corporation is the Food and Drugs Authority for the Borough and every effort is made to ensure the satisfactory performance of these duties which if properly done takes time and patience.

During the year 87 samples were taken from a range of foodstuffs for analysis by the Public Analyst and of these 69 were found to be genuine.

The following table indicates the variety sampled:-

<u>Food</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Food</u>	<u>No.</u>
Steakets	1	Gravy Salt	1
Currants	1	Beef Sausages	2
Ham & Tongue Pasties	1	Peeled Potatoes	4
Buttermilk	1	Meat & Potato Pies	3
Zinc & Castor Oil Cream	1	Sausage Rolls	1
Dairy Cream	1	Aspirin Tablets	3
Tinned Plum Tomatoes	1	Beef Flavour Granuels	1
Anti Coagulent	1	Milk Ice	1
Margarine	1	Mixed Pickles	1
Cough Mixture	1	Steak Pies	1
Pork Sausages	3	Whisky	2
Gin	1	British Cream Sherry	1
Cornish Pasties	11	Hamburgers with Onion	
Milks	40	and Gravy	1

Eighteen of these samples required comment and advice was given to the manufacturer or retailer as appropriate. These samples were as follows:-

<u>No. of Samples</u>	<u>Food</u>	<u>Comment</u>
4	Peeled Potatoes	Excess of Sulphite preservative
5	Cornish Pasties	Low in Meat Content
1	Steakets	Labelling
1	Buttermilk	"
2	Meat & Potato Pies	Low in Meat Content
1	Zinc & Castor Oil	Zinc Oxide content too high
1	Anti Coagulent	Labelling
1	Pork Sausages	Contained preservative without declaration
1	Mixed Pickles	Excess of Sulphite
1	Aspirin Tablets	Excess of Free Salicylic Acid.

The Preservatives in Food (Amendment) Regulations 1971, were made and became operative during the year.

(g) Complaints concerning food

Eighteen complaints were received and thoroughly investigated during the year. This number continues to show awareness amongst members of the public and those responsible in schools and other establishments to the many possible dangers attached to staleness, mould, inefficiently cleansed containers and foreign bodies, in the form of insects or particulate matter such as dust or grit.

In two cases it was necessary to recommend legal proceedings to be taken, one a case involving unfit meat pies, the second concerned a complaint about glass in jam. Both of these cases were awaiting Court Proceedings at the end of the year.

ARTICLE	NATURE OF COMPLAINT	ACTION
Fresh Cream Trifle	Foreign Body	Firm Concerned Warned
2 Tins Peaches	" "	" " "
Tea	" "	" " "
St. Ivel Cheese	" "	" " Interviewed
Meat & Potato Pie	" "	" " Warned
Pork Luncheon Meat	" "	" " "
Mixed Peel	" "	" " "
Fruit Cocktail	" "	" " "
Baked Beans	" "	" " Interviewed
Mixed Pickles	Soft	" " Warned
Chicken	Offensive Smell	Retailer Interviewed - No further action
Brussell Sprouts	Poor Quality	Firmed Concerned Interviewed
Beef Steak	Labelling	" " "
Apple Puff	Mouldy	Firm Concerned Warned - No further action
Dressed Crab	Decomposed	Firm Concerned Warned
Steak & Kidney Pie	Unfit	Legal Proceedings
Whole Young Carrots	Mouldy	Firm Concern Warned
Jam	Contained Glass	Legal Proceedings

(h) Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

- (i) No. of egg pasteurisation plants in district at end of year
 None
- (ii) No. of samples of liquid egg submitted to Alpha Amglaze
 test and their results None

(j) Public Slaughterhouse and Meat Inspection

In the Borough of Chorley all slaughtering of animals for human consumption is carried out at the Council's Public Abattoir.

The throughput for the year showed a slight decrease compared with 1970 but continued to be high demanding all out effort for management and supervision.

The manual staff of one Abattoir Caretaker and three labourers was maintained during the year although changes of personnel occurred.

Works of repair and maintenance have been carried out during the year and further items are yet to be completed. It is essential however to realise that the premises are after all a food factory and as such demands a high standard of maintenance to ensure smooth running and compliance with the various regulations covering this type of premises.

I am again pleased to report that 100% meat inspection was maintained throughout the whole of the year, although regular overtime by Public Health Inspectors was necessary to ensure that the Meat Inspection Regulations and management requirements were satisfied. It is clear that the appointment of an Authorised Meat Inspector in addition to present establishment is essential if Departmental work is not to be unduly disrupted, but the importance of an efficient meat inspection service must not be underestimated particularly as a wide area is served by the premises.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

14 Slaughtermens licences were issued during the year.

The following table indicates the annual throughput at the Public Abattoir over the last six years and a comparison with the year 1961.

Animals Slaughtered 1966-1971

	1961	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Cattle	3,079	8,681	12,166	11,390	11,153	12,359	11,269
Calves	42	59	349	122	107	51	17
Sheep	10,845	20,671	25,631	23,207	20,794	24,440	24,089
Pigs	3,696	2,364	1,938	1,472	1,458	1,443	1,276
Total	17,662	31,775	40,084	36,191	33,512	38,293	36,651
* Equiv. Cattle Units	7,110	14,017	18,377	16,808	16,077	17,986	16,731
* Av. Equiv. C. Units per week	137	270	353	323	309	346	322

* One Cattle unit is equivalent to one unit of cattle, three calves, five sheep or two pigs.

Animals Slaughtered and Inspected

	Cattle Excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number Killed	5,033	6,236	17	24,089	1,276
Number Inspected	5,033	6,236	17	24,089	1,276
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis --- Whole Carcase condemned	1	5	3	8	1
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	1,413	5,155	-	1,220	100
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis	28.0%	82.7%	17.6%	5.3%	7.9%
Tuberculosis only --- Whole carcase condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
Cysticercosis --- Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	-	3	-	-	-
Carcase submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	3	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Disposal of Condemned Meat and Offal

Condemned Liver sold for pharmaceutical purposes is collected by an approved processor and the bulk of the income from this is repaid to the butchers concerned.

All other condemned meat and offal is stained green prior to being sold for processing of which there was a total of 92,582 lbs. disposed of during the year from the Abattoir.

(k) Inspection of Other Foods

<u>Type of Food</u>										<u>Qty. Condemned (lbs)</u>
Ham (Canned)	672
Tongue (Canned)	90
Corned Beef (Canned)	18
Pork	35
Lamb	40
Sausage Meat	23
Poultry	111
Beef	164
Bacon	6
Melons	1,235
Fish	48
Flour	116
Luncheon Meat	8
Croquettes	7
Hamburgers	3
Chocolate	156
Cheese	46
Corned Mutton	24
Eggs	6 doz.
Tripe	1,350
Apples	6

Tins, packets of other food (including frozen foods) 2,403 in number.

(1) Poultry Inspection

(i)	No. of poultry processing premises within the district	1
(ii)	No. of visits to these premises	32
(iii)	Total No. of birds processed during the year	10,000
(iv)	Types of birds processed	1-2 year old hens & turkeys
(v)	Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption	None
(vi)	Weight of poultry condemned as unfit for human consumption	None
(vii)	Comments on poultry processing and inspection: The spotter system was employed. Less than 10% were slaughtered on the premises the remainder were purchased in a dead and eviscerated state.	

(m) Slaughter of Poultry Act 1967

No. on register - One.

3. HOUSING

(a) General

Of the total number of houses in the Borough just over one fifth are owned by the Corporation. Nearly two-thirds are of the terraced type and a quarter semi-detached. Almost 85% of the private houses are owner-occupied.

In November a 'Report on Housing in Chorley' was presented to the Council being the result of a sample survey carried out over the previous year or so. The report concerned the aspects relating to unfit houses, the improvement of houses and houses in multiple occupation.

The section on unfitness indicated that there were some 550 - 600 houses which would require to be dealt with in the ten year period 1971-1981 of which some 45% would be included in the first five year programme i.e. 1971-1976. The latter half comprises approximately 300 properties but this forecast portion is subject to alteration from time to time.

In the tables that follow I wish to stress that the figures given for displaced persons do not indicate the total number of persons rehoused by the Council as a Housing Authority. They refer only to houses in respect of which action has been taken under the Housing Act 1957, Parts II and III.

During the year 5 individual houses were represented as unfit for human habitation under the Housing Act, 1957 and 7 houses were officially represented in the following clearance area:

Borough of Chorley (Moor Road) Clearance Area 1971 (7 houses)

The total number of houses erected or otherwise acquired by the Council up to the end of 1971 was 2,436.

(b) Clearance Areas and Individual Unfit Houses Demolished

Clearance Areas

	Houses Demolished	Persons Displaced
Houses Unfit for Human Habitation	9	23
Houses on land acquired under Sec. 43(2)	-	-

Not in Clearance Areas

	Houses Demolished	Persons Displaced
As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17, Housing Act 1957	1	
Local Authority owned houses certified unfit	-	3

(c) Unfit Houses Closed

	Houses Demolished	Persons Displaced
Under Section 16 Housing Act 1957	6	15
Parts of buildings closed under Section 18 Housing Act 1957	-	-

(d) No. of new houses erected during the year

(1) By the Local Authority	28 houses
(2) By other bodies or persons	133

(e) Particulars of housing scheme

- (i) In hand at end of the year.
24 Old peoples bungalows.

(f) Inspections of Dwelling-houses during the year

(1) (a)	Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for house defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	420
(b)	No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purposes	1,312
(c)	No. of dwelling-houses in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	192
(2)	Total No. of dwelling-houses existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which:-	
(a)	Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have been made (at any time)	16
(b)	Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have not yet been made	228

(g) Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notice

No. of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 289

(h) Actions under Statutory Powers during the year

A. Proceedings under Sections 9 and 16 of the Housing Act 1957

(1)	No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repair	-
(2)	No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice	
(a)	By Owners	-
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	-

B. Proceedings under the Public Health Act

(1)	No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	13
(2)	No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied	
(a)	By Owners	22
(b)	By Local Authority	-

C. Proceedings under Sec 16, 17 and 35 of the Housing Act, 1957

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	-
(2) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	10
(3) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings have been received and accepted	-

D. Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act

(1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	-
(2) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit		-

(i.) Housing Act 1969

The Improvement of Houses

The Housing Act 1969 streamlined the legislation concerning the improvement of houses and dealt with it in three particular categories namely 'Improvement Grants', 'Standard Grants' and 'Special Grants'. It also produced a further principle that of 'General Improvement Areas' where a consolidated effort could be made to improve houses, the environment or both on a voluntary basis. Whilst the procedure needs careful study and preparation, the major factor is public relations, very necessary to reach a fruitful conclusion. It is hoped that consideration will be given to this method of rehabilitation in Chorley in the near future. It will require tactful, energetic staff well versed in the subject and capable of dealing with the public, so an organised multi-disciplinary team is essential to achieve the proper goal.

A quarter of the private houses in Chorley are middle-aged, terraced, and although structurally sound, are lacking in bathroom, hot water and inside w.c's. These houses will still be standing in twenty or thirty years but at the present rate of improvement it would be twenty five years or more before they are all brought up to present day standards. The 1969 Housing Act has faced this problem in two ways, firstly by offering the incentive of increased improvement grants with fewer conditions and secondly by encouraging the making of General Improvement Areas where an all out effort is made to secure improvement of the houses and the Council can receive a grant of £50 per house for environmental improvements such as tree planting, grassed areas, car parking facilities and play spaces.

A number of areas in Chorley would benefit from such treatment and provide modernised houses in reasonable surroundings at a moderate cost to the owners and the Council.

A summary of action taken during the year under the Housing Act 1969 is as follows:-

Improvement Grants Etc:-

Action During Year:-	Private Bodies or Individuals		Local Authority	
	No. of Schemes	No. of dwelling houses or other Buildings	No. of Schemes	No of dwelling houses or other Buildings affected
(a) Submitted by private individuals to Local Authority	14	14	-	-
(b) Approved by Local Authority	5	5	-	-
(c) Submitted by Local Authority to Ministry	-	-	-	4
(d) Finally approved by Ministry	-	-	-	-
(e) Work completed	-	2	-	-
(f) Additional separate dwellings included in (a) above	-	-	-	-

Standard Grants:-

(a) Applications submitted to Local Authority	70
(b) Applications approved by Local Authority	69
(c) Work completed	71

(j) Rent Act 1957:-

No. of applications for certificates of disrepair	...	-
Certificates of disrepair issued	...	-
Certificates of disrepair cancelled	...	None
Undertakings given	...	None

(k) Housing Act 1969, Part III

No. of applications for qualification certificates	...	13
No. qualification certificates issued	...	-
No. qualification certificates refused	...	5
No. applications not yet determined	...	8
No. applications for provisional qualification certificates	...	None
No. provisional qualification certificates issued	...	None
No. provisional qualification certificates refused	...	None

(l) Houses In Multiple Occupation

65 visits were made to dwellings used for multiple occupation during the year and all of these were inspected for the purposes of the Housing Act, 1961. Persons intending to purchase houses for conversion to Multiple Occupation or self-contained flats are encouraged to obtain advice from the Department relating to their responsibilities under the Housing Acts.

Preliminary notices were served under Section 15 and 16 of the Act and co-operation with owners of the properties involved has been generally good, although difficulties are being experienced in obtaining agreement concerning means of escape in case of fire.

It is estimated that of the 33 properties known to be in multiple occupation the details regarding separate occupancies are as follows:-

No. of separated occupancies	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
No. of houses involved	8	1	5	5	4	-	8	1	1

An increase in this type of accommodation has been noted no doubt due to the presence of the College of Education and the motorway construction personnel.

The Housing Act, 1969 made further provision concerning houses in multiple occupation in that it introduced a new definition of such properties and extended the powers of local authorities to deal with them.

In the report submitted to the Council in November, a Code of Practice was set out for their information so that the requirements of the Department relative to Houses in Multiple Occupation could be understood and publicised. In fact these recommendations had been used by the Department for the past few years.

(m) Prosecutions - None.

4. PUBLIC HEALTH GENERAL

(a) Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

(1) Introduction

The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 provides for the Health, welfare and safety of persons employed in these types of premises. Its requirements are very similar to those of the Factories Act and include provisions relating to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation, lighting, sanitary conveniences, washing facilities, drinking water, seats, safety of machinery, first aid and fire precautions.

This report relates to the work carried out by the Borough Council acting as the Local Authority in offices and shops, where it has enforcement responsibilities. The requirements regarding fire precautions in these premises are dealt with by the Lancashire County Council acting as the Fire Authority. Offices and shops within the curtilage of factories, and railway premises in the vicinity of the permanent way are the responsibility of H.M. Factory Inspectorate.

(2) Registration of Premises

The following table shows the number of registrations made since the Notification of Employment of Persons Order 1964 became operative. This Order requires employers intending to employ persons in premises covered by the Act to register with the appropriate authority. Notifications must be made on the prescribed form O.S.R.1., copies of which may be obtained from the Public Health Department.

Class of Premises	Number of Premises Registered			No. General Inspections made
	1966 to 1970	1971	Total to 31.12.71	
Offices	108	3	111	21
Retail Shops	203	7	210	70
Wholesale Premises and Warehouses	11	-	11	8
Catering Est. and Canteens	14	-	14	7
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-	-	-
Total	336	10	346	106

The number of premises registered to date totals 346. This figure may seem low in comparison with the number of these types of premises in the town, but it must be stressed that a large proportion of these are wholly family concerns and as such are not registerable under the Act. However the employment of one person who is not a close relative on these premises may bring the whole premises within the scope of the Act.

(3) General Inspections

A total of 106 general inspections were made during the year and many re-inspections following the service of informal notices.

(4) Visits of all kinds

A total of 160 visits of all kinds were made by the inspectors to registered premises during the year.

(5) Analysis of persons employed

An analysis of the persons employed in registered premises by the class of workplace is given in the table below:-

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons Employed
Offices	856
Retail Shops	930
Wholesale Depts., Whrsts.	304
Catering Estabs. open to the Public	179
Canteens	-
Fuel Storage Depots	-
Total	2,269
Total Males	1,063
Total Females	1,206

(6) Exemptions

No applications for exemptions from either Section 5(2) (Space), Section 6 (Temperature), Section 9 (Sanitary Conveniences) or Section 10 (Washing Facilities) were made during the year.

(7) Contraventions Found

In the course of the general inspections carried out it was necessary to serve 17 informal notices in respect of contraventions found and a summary of these is given in the table as follows:-

Contraventions Table

Contraventions	Offices	Retail Shops	Wholesale D & Warehss.	Cat. Ests. & Canteens	Fuel Storage Depots	Total
Cleanliness (Sec. 4)	1	2	-	-	-	3
Overcrowding (Sec. 5)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Temperature (Sec. 6)	1	-	-	-	-	1
" Thermometers	-	5	-	-	-	5
Ventilation (Sec. 7)	-	1	-	-	-	1
Lighting (Sec. 8)	2	3	-	-	-	5
Sanitary Conveniences (Sec. 9)	3	-	-	-	-	3
Washing Facilities (Sec. 10)	1	3	-	-	-	4
Drinking Water (Sec. 11)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acc. for Clothing (Sec. 12)	-	1	-	-	-	1
Sitting Facils. (Sec. 13)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Seats for Sed. Wrkrs. (Sec. 14)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eating Facils. (Sec. 15)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Floors, Passages and Stairs (Sec. 16)	4	8	-	-	-	12
Safety of Machinery (Sec. 17)	-	-	-	-	-	-
First Aid (Sec. 25)	2	5	-	-	-	7
Info. for employees (Sec. 50)	1	1	-	-	-	2

8. Accidents

Six accidents were reported to have occurred on registered premises during the year, five concerning retail shops and one a warehouse. Three were caused by falling objects, one a cut when a knife slipped, one through strain due to lifting an object, the remaining one due to a Fork-Lift Truck running over a persons foot.

9. Prosecutions

No prosecutions were instituted during the year.

(b) Factories Act 1961

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspection's	Written Notices	Occupation's Prospected.
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	3	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities	183	83	8	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out workers premises)	1	3	-	-
TOTAL	187	89	8	-

2. Cases in which defects are found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspector (4)	by H.M. Inspector (5)	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1.) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)					
(a) Insufficient ...	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	8	4	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outworkers) ...	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ...	8	4	-	-	-

(c) Offensive Trades

There is one premises registered for the purpose of carrying on trade classified as "offensive", under the Public Health Act, 1936 namely gut scraping (one). The premises are regularly inspected to ensure that the bye-laws referring to them are complied with.

(d) Movable Dwellings

Under the Chorley Corporation Act, 1926 (Sections 92-3) no tent, caravan, or similar structure is permitted to remain within the Borough, nor is it permitted for any land to be used to provide accommodation for such, without the consent of the Council.

(e) Rodent Control

Properties other than Sewers

1. Number of properties in district
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification
- (b) Number infested by
 - (i) Rats
 - (ii) Mice
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification
- (b) Number infested by
 - (i) Rats
 - (ii) Mice

Type of Property	
Non Agricultural	Agricultural
13,209	16
728	4
264	2
464	-
93	-
50	-
8	-

Apart from the enormous amount of damage caused by rodents to food-stuffs other materials, and to the fabric of buildings, they are potential carriers of food poisoning organisms. Most rat infestations originate from rats gaining access to buildings by way of defective drains from the public sewers and to control the rat population in the sewers an annual treatment by laying poison bait in the manholes is carried out.

On the subject of mouse control however, certain difficulties were encountered using warfarin and it has been found necessary to resort to other poisons to ensure adequate treatment. Alphachloralose is now used although in certain situations one of the quick acting poisons such as Zinc Phosphide would be necessary.

Sewers

Sewer treatment was carried out during the month of May and I am pleased to report the results were quite satisfactory.

(f) Disinfestation

Vermin

Infestations of bed bugs or fleas are now a comparatively rare occurrence but it was found necessary to disinfect 1 house during the year. Modern insecticides have made this work easier and they are extremely effective, re-infestations being almost unknown. When necessary bedding and other suitable material is treated by steam in the Department's own steam disinfector. The major problems concerned cockroaches.

Other Pests

The advice of the Department is frequently sought concerning the eradication of many types of insect pests, and in some cases treatment is carried out. It must be realised however, that the Council is statutorily bound to concentrate its efforts on those pests intimately concerned with public health, although the staff are always willing to give advice when other problems are brought to them.

(g) Schools

1. Chorley All Saints C.E.
2. " Duke Street County (Junior)
2. " Duke Street County (Infants')
3. " Highfield County (Junior & Infants')
4. " Hollinshead Street Congregational (Infants')
5. " Parochial (Junior & Infants')
6. " Sacred Heart R.C. (Junior & Infants')
7. " St. George's C.E. (Junior & Infants')
8. " St. James C.E. (Junior & Infants')
9. " St. Joseph's R.C. (Junior & Infants')

11.	Chorley	St. Mary's R.C. (Junior & Infants')
12.	"	St. Peter's C.E. (Junior & Infants')
13.	"	St. Gregory's R.C. (Junior)
14.	"	St. Gregory's R.C. (Infants')
101.	"	Southlands County Secondary
104.	"	St. Augustine's R.C. Secondary (Boys')
105.	"	St. Alban's C.E. Secondary
107.	"	St. Michael's C.E. Secondary
108.	"	St. Hilda's R.C. Secondary (Girls)
130.	"	Grammar, Southport Road.
150.	"	Highfield Nursery School
151.	"	Duke Street Nursery School
200.	"	Astley Park School.

Progress is still being made with improvement to the older schools and heating, lighting and other facilities are generally satisfactory.

(h) Sanitary Accommodation

The various types of closets other than water closets in the Borough are as follows:-

Privy Middens	3
Closets attached to above middens	4
Pail Closets	12
Waste Water Closets	188

The privy middens and pail closets are located amongst the farm and outlying properties near the Borough boundary, and none exist where sewers are available. They are mostly emptied by the owners, but the Corporation undertakes the emptying of some privy middens and all the pail closets.

Two waste water closets were converted to water closets during the year.

(i) Drainage

A free service is provided for the clearing of stoppages in drains where simple rodding or plunging is effective, one man being employed practically full-time on this work. A total of 818 stoppages being cleared in the year.

When it is found necessary to excavate and open a drain, a Statutory Notice is served on the owner under the Public Health Act 1961 and if this is not complied with, the work is carried out in default by the Borough Engineer's Department and a charge is made.

(j) Infectious Diseases and Food Poisoning

Whenever necessary routine enquiries were made concerning all notified cases of infectious diseases and food poisoning, and 186 visits were made in this connection.

All of the five notifications of suspected food poisoning were single cases. It was possible to find the causative organism in 3 of the cases but the actual causal vehicles could not be found.

(k) Noise

Complaints concerning noise during the year entailed 176 visits being made to investigate the source and secure a reduction. These visits usually take considerable time and many have to be carried out outside normal working hours particularly at night. The problems encountered require thorough investigation by the Department and the firms concerned, so that the most effective way of reducing the noise can be decided without reducing the efficiency of the plant beyond the point where it is economically viable. This is usually difficult to achieve and very often the improvement secured seemed very small to the complainants, who are only satisfied by the complete elimination of the sound. The terms of the Noise Abatement Act 1960 as they affect trade and industry are such as to recognise that all noise cannot be prevented.

Many difficulties arise because noisy plant is carelessly sited within works, or alternatively dwellings are erected adjacent to works where noisy operations are carried out, so much could be done therefore, by careful planning to avoid these problems in the future.

The problems encountered during the year involved those from metal fabrication premises, fairs, and the manufacture of plastics.

5.. MISCELLANEOUS DUTIES

(a) Diseases of Animals Act, 1950

The Department is responsible for the administration of the Act and the various orders made thereunder within the Borough. Any action taken under the various duties imposed is outlined below.

Swine Fever

9 Licences from outside sources checked.

Fowl Pest

- Licences from outside sources checked.

Foot and Mouth Disease

No Licences issued.

Importation of Animals Act

No Licences issued. 11 from outside sources checked.

Transit of Animals Order

These orders deal with the conveyance of animals to prevent unnecessary suffering. Several minor contraventions were dealt with and rectified by informal action.

Tuberculosis Area Eradication Order 1950

No notices prohibiting movement of bovine animals were received.

Waste Foods Order 1957

This Order prohibits the feeding of unboiled waste foods to certain animals or to poultry and lays down other prohibitions and requirements in order to prevent the spread of foot and mouth and other diseases. Any person having 5 or more weaned pigs, or more than 50 head of poultry, who collects or receives waste foods for them must boil waste foods in plant for which he holds a licence from the local authority. Two licences are in force in the Borough. The importance of these requirements are not fully realised until an outbreak of contagious animal disease occurs.

(b) Shops Act, 1950-65

The enforcement of the provisions of the Act relating to closing hours, Sunday trading, and the employment of young persons, is the responsibility of the Department. The health, safety and welfare of shop employees is now covered by the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963 which is reported on earlier in this report. Advice was given during the year particularly in relation to hairdressers and Sunday trading.

(c) Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

The purpose of this Act is to secure the proper cleanliness of filling materials used in manufacturing bedding, toys, baby carriages and other articles of upholstery.

There are three registered premises where filling materials of the type listed are used in manufacturing articles of upholstery.

(d) Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952

This Act prohibits the sale or letting of unguarded electric fires, gas fires or oil heaters.

Most manufacturers now fit guards of an approved type to their appliances so it is unusual to find new articles not properly equipped. Vigilance is still necessary, however, particularly in the case of second-hand dealers, and householders are frequently advised to fit guards to their fires when unguarded ones are noticed during the course of inspections for other purposes.

(e) Pet Animals Act, 1951

This Act provides that no person shall keep a pet shop without a licence, so as to ensure that animals in such shops are kept under suitable conditions and that mammals will not be sold at too early an age. 5 Licences are now in force.

(f) Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964

There were eight persons on the register at the end of the year.

6. PUBLIC CLEANSING

(a) Refuse Collection

(1) Vehicles:-

The following diesel-engined vehicles comprised the fleet engaged in Refuse Collection at the end of the year.

Two Shelvoke and Drewry 15 cu. yd. Fore and Aft Tipping Vehicles (1970)
Three Shelvoke and Drewry Pakamatic 20, rear loading compression vehicles (1969, 1967, 1971).

One Karrier Ramillies 20 cu. yd. rear loading compression vehicle (1966)

One Karrier Bantam 12 cu. yd. dual tip (1964). (Civic Amenities work and spare).

House refuse is changing all the time for it is getting more bulky and this makes it imperative that consideration is continually being given to ways and means of dealing with it expeditiously and efficiently. The vehicle fleet though still comprising small wheelbase vehicles is being brought up to date and I look forward to a fleet of satisfactorily designed vehicles by the middle of next year.

Whilst vehicles used for the collection of refuse have been hitherto exempted from the Plating and Testing Regulations, it is now known that this exemption is to be removed in April 1972. This will mean a further improvement in vehicle maintenance and planned replacement. Servicing periods will be more frequent and general responsibilities tightened. The so called spare vehicle is no longer a 'traditional spare' in fact since the advent of the Civic Amenities Act, it has been used throughout the year removing bulky items from houses and clearing derelict sites and grassed areas throughout the Borough where people continue to dump refuse.

As time goes by no doubt consideration will have to be given to larger vehicles but having regard to the proposed re-organisation of Local Government, changes of this nature are best delayed.

(2) Labour

The establishment provides for 28 men including drivers to be employed on refuse collection.

4 teams of one driver and four collectors	20
1 team of one driver and two collectors	3
1 team of one driver/loader and two collectors	3
1 team of one driver/loader and one collector (spare)	2
	<hr/>
	28

I have been fortunate in our drivers passing the Heavy Goods Vehicle Driving Test when all the appropriate training for them has been done within the Department. However, I can foresee a problem in being able to retain drivers in this service having regard to financial benefits obtainable in other fields so it is necessary to keep the whole problem under constant review. The policy of the Department is to train and promote where possible.

It will be seen from the table at the end of this report that the degree of absenteeism due to sickness and casual absence fell from 11.1% in 1970 to 6.3% in 1971, making it easier to ensure a smooth running service. It became essential however, to employ two temporary employees during the summer period because of increased holiday entitlement for the established staff.

As the service of refuse collection in any town is important and one which is under daily scrutiny by the ratepayers it must be of the highest calibre. The number of premises to be served in Chorley is increasing steadily accompanied by the factor relating to the length of carry. For example to replace a block of old terraced houses by the same number of detached or semi-detached properties increases the time involved on collection and therefore the effort involved to maintain the service.

The fact that domestic refuse collection does not take place during the two holiday weeks e.g. July and September has resulted in few complaints, but to assist householders who have storage problems arrangements were made during the year whereby those with a problem could obtain from the department a refuse sack free of charge. Remarkably only a small number of householders took advantage of this service on each occasion.

(3) Bonus Scheme

I am pleased to report that the bonus scheme introduced in April 1966 operated successfully during the year and achieved its main objects, the incentive to increased efficiency and quality of service. A weekly collection has been maintained since its introduction and the quick return to normal after holidays has been very satisfactory. There is no doubt however, that some alterations or amendments to the scheme are required to bring it up to date.

The estimated number of dustbins or their equivalent emptied weekly at the end of the year was 13,886.

(b) Storage of Refuse

The system whereby the owner or occupier of any dwelling-house and certain business premises can be required to provide a suitable dustbin, under the Chorley Corporation Act, 1926, continued to work well although it does not ensure that premises have a bin of standard size. The Report on Refuse Collection recommended that a Municipal Bin Provision Scheme is the most advantageous from all points of view. However with the changing character of refuse the $2\frac{1}{2}$ cu. ft. bin will have to give way to a bin of larger capacity e.g. $3\frac{1}{4}$ cu. ft. in the near future, and to enable a further increase in efficiency these larger bins will have to be of lighter weight e.g. plastic.

During the year six preliminary notices were served on persons responsible to provide dustbins, all being complied with.

Galvanised Dustbins to BSS 792/1947 $2\frac{1}{2}$ cu. ft. capacity with noiseless Rubbertex lids are purchased for re-sale to the public and with reasonable use should have an average life of 10 years. A quantity of $3\frac{1}{4}$ cu. ft. capacity Plastic bins were obtained with a hope that they could be used in dwellings centrally heated by electricity, gas or oil. Infact the new Council dwellings completed during the year were provided with them. With proper care however, these bins can be used generally and many authorities doing this have a very small replacement incidence.

During the year the following bins were sold:-

B.S.S. Rubbertex Lids	496
Brockhouse type $3\frac{1}{4}$ cu. ft.	73

(c) Refuse Disposal and Salvage

All refuse is disposed of by semi-controlled tipping at Lower Burgh Tip where the salvage depot is also situated. Four men are engaged in this work as follows:-

- 1 Tractor Driver
- 1 Tip Man
- 1 Paper Salvage Baler
- 1 Watchman.

An International B.100 Loader was employed during the whole of the year.

Industrial and commercial concerns may take advantage of the facilities offered at the tip between the hours of 7a.m. and 3.30p.m. Mondays to Fridays, and because a charge must be made, the present position is 25p per ton a minimum load to Borough ratepayers. People who use the tip regularly or frequently may enter into a quarterly contract.

Where persons outside the Borough wish to use the tip however, the material to be disposed of is carefully vetted and a more economic charge is made.

The income from the sale of waste paper during 1971 was below the forecast level and was the only commodity salvaged by the Department. The sale of this material secured a gross income of £1,811.17 out of which £235.87 was distributed in the form of an incentive bonus amongst the collection and disposal staff. The price for mixed paper was £10.25 per ton.

In Chorley it has been noted that in recent years the larger firms and supermarkets have installed baling machines and are deriving their own benefit from the sale of waste paper and cardboard. This has reduced our potential and thus thrown the department back on that produced principally by small businesses and householders. The sales were in fact hit by a general recession in the trade so it was not possible to stimulate collections.

The salvage of paper and cardboard however, does relieve expensive tipping space and contributes to a reduction in fire hazards.

(d) Civic Amenities Act 1967 (Part III)

This part of the Act received much publicity but one wonders if those to whom it was particularly directed had ever heard of its provisions.

A statutory duty was placed on local authorities to provide a place where local residents could dispose of refuse at all times free of charge. Power was given to us to deal with abandoned motor vehicles and other refuse including "things". It also increased the penalties for persons found guilty of dumping with the intention of abandonment. It was also to be noted that the Act applied to any land in the open air which is certainly supplementary to the restricted provisions of the Litter Act and the Public Health Act 1961. Unfortunately the Act did not provide for local authority expenditure in removing refuse etc., from occupied land to be recovered from the occupiers for I think that in many cases this would have stirred these occupiers into taking some form of action to prevent their land becoming an unauthorised tip.

I am pleased to report that the arrangements made in Chorley for local residents to deposit refuse, namely on a piece of land adjacent to the entrance of our Lower Burgh Tip, has been well used although difficulties are still being caused by people dumping refuse on various open spaces in the Borough. During the year considerable attention was given to the tidying up of various sites and the spare refuse collection vehicle was used whenever possible on this work.

There were 1,005 requests from householders to remove bulky items and other refuse during the year and these were dealt with by the Department whenever transport and labour was available. The arrangements for the collection of unwanted articles from dwellings has vastly improved and in general no charge is made. It must be noted that the number of requests for 1971 showed a 65% increase on the number of 612 last year - a considerable increase of work and quality of service. Charges will continue to be made however, for the removal of accumulations on which significant time has to be spent and in every case where the refuse is of commercial or industrial origin.

Abandoned Motor Vehicles

The new law dealing with abandoned motor vehicles has proved reasonably straight forward to use, and although there are times when informal action is taken, it is essential that the provisions of the Act are always used where difficulties could be encountered. It is the practice of the department that such vehicles are photographed for record purposes before being dealt with.

The place of safe custody for vehicles awaiting enquiries as to ownership etc. is situated in the Town's Yard, Back Street, and arrangements for disposal are through the good offices of a local car breaker.

The following table shows the action taken during 1971 concerning abandoned vehicles:-

ABANDONED VEHICLES

No. remaining at end of year 1970	30		
(1) No. found during year			31
(2) No. dealt with informally		37	
(3) No. otherwise removed		2	51
(4) No. dealt with under the Act		12	
(a) Wrecks		9	
(b) Runners		3	
(5) Disposal of (a) and (b)			
(i) No. removed after action commenced	1		
(ii) No. re-claimed	1		
(iii) No. disposal of	9		
(iv) No. awaiting disposal	1		
(6) No. remaining at end of year			10
(7) No. of private enquiries re disposal of vehicles		Nil	

(e) Protective Clothing and Welfare

All employees are issued with overalls and in April 1961 a laundering service for them was commenced, so that the men could hand in a dirty pair of overalls at the end of each week and collect a clean pair. Despite the obvious advantages of this system to the men the majority have continued to have their own overalls washed at home. Few make regular use of the laundering service.

In addition to overalls and waterproof clothing, gloves and goggles are issued to refuse collectors if requested and rubber boots and donkey jackets are issued to men employed on the tip.

All men engaged on refuse collection are allowed free use of the slipper bath facilities at the Public Baths. Few however take advantage of this, due to the changing housing circumstances of most of them.

(f) Street Cleansing

The Borough Engineer is responsible for the cleansing of streets and snow clearance.

(g) Public Conveniences

There were 8 public conveniences under the control of the Department. They were cleansed and maintained by a staff of 2 male (full-time), 1 male (part-time) and 1 female (full-time), and 2 females (part-time). Other conveniences provided at Astley Hall and the Recreation Grounds are under the supervision of the Parks Department. The insufficiency of public conveniences throughout the Borough is noticeable, but certain improvements to existing conveniences are carried out from time to time but it is difficult to provide a good image with old and unsatisfactorily sited buildings. The market conveniences, however are well equipped, with wash and brush-up and free hand washing facilities and the premises in general are well used.

Because of the changes to decimal currency, the coin-operated locks fitted at all conveniences were removed and the facilities made available free of charge.

Regretfully, it must be recorded that damage to fittings and buildings was again prevalent throughout the year. However, the manufacturing industry have now concentrated on near vandal-proof installations which combined with new planning and design should ensure that future conveniences are less liable to human frailties. It will be essential therefore for consideration to be given to the whole subject of the provision of public conveniences as soon as the present economic position permits finance to be used for this purpose. In my view public conveniences should be simply but aesthetically designed, well lit and signposted, near vandal-proof and sited in the public eye. This would I feel reduce the likelihood of vandalism.

(h) Refuse Collection & Disposal

Monthly Statistics of Time Lost Due to Sickness, Accidents and Casual Absence

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
No. of Working Days in Month	21	20	23	20	21	22	22	22	22	21	22	22
Poss. No. men/days per month	687	640	739	652	672	711	715	720	703	672	682	701
Average strength of section	32.7	32.0	32.1	32.6	32.0	32.3	32.5	32.7	32.0	32.0	31.0	31.9
(a) Sickness/Accident	34	60	23	13	35	22	32	17	5	58	57	63
(b) Casual Absence	22	18	16	-	11	6	10	8	2	5	3	2
Percentage Loss due to												
(a) Sickness/Accident	5.0	9.4	3.1	2.0	5.2	3.1	4.4	2.3	0.7	8.6	8.4	9.0
(b) Casual Absence	3.2	2.8	2.2	-	1.6	0.8	1.4	1.1	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.3
Percentage Total	8.2	12.2	5.3	2.0	6.8	3.9	5.8	3.4	1.0	9.3	8.8	9.3
Average Strength of Section	32.2	Average Monthly Loss %							
Established Strength	32.0	(a) Sickness/Accident	5.1
					(b) Casual Absence	1.2
					Total	6.3

	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Average Monthly Loss %					
(a) Sickness/Accident	4.0	3.4	7.2	9.1	5.1
(b) Casual Absence	1.7	1.4	2.1	2.0	1.2
Total (a) + (b)	5.7	4.8	9.3	11.1	6.3
Established Strength	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0
Average Strength of Section	31.7	31.6	31.9	32.7	32.2

Refuse Collection & Disposal
Financial Statistics

Refuse Collection

No. Premises

Cost per 1,000 Premises

Cost 1,000 Population

Refuse Disposal

Cost per 1,000 Premises

Cost per 1,000 Population

Salvage of Paper

Tonnage Sold

Cost per ton sold

Income per ton sold

1968/9	1969/70	1970/71
11,983	12,190	12,280
£2,505	£2,657	£2,998
£ 965	£1,041	£1,196
£ 428	£ 488	£ 494
£ 165	£ 191	£ 197
249	216	199
£8.13s.	£8.19s.	£11.14s.
£8. 3s.	£8.16s.	£10.16s.

