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DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1972.





DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1972 - 1973

Chairman of the Council

J. WYTHES, ESQ., J.P.

Vice-Chairman

F. GRIFFIN, ESQ.

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Members of the Public Health Committee

Chairman - Mr. C. D. Cooper


Vice-Chairman - Mr. J. B. Stone

Messrs. B. H. Bomford, V. T. Brereton, Gr. Capt. A.R. deSalis, -  
O.B.E., D.L., D. Feather, J. E. Hartwright, C. Richardson,  
S. Wheelton, C.C.,  
Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council (Ex Officio)

Public Health Officers of the Council

L. Spencer Stephens, M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H., M.F.C.M.,  
R. F. Fry, M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H., A.M.I.P.C., M.A.P.H.I., Engineer  
& Surveyor, Chief Public Health Inspector.  
D. G. Carter, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Deputy Engineer & Surveyor,  
Public Health Inspector.  
K. J. Ramsden, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Additional Public Health  
Inspector (resigned 1.2.1972)  
M. Johns, M.A.P.H.I., Additional Public Health Inspector  
N. N. Morris, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.C., M.R.S.H., M.H.C.I.,  
Additional Public Health Inspector (commenced duties 1.5.72)





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Rural District Council Offices,  
31 Ombersley Street,  
DROITWICH,  
Worcs.

Tel. Droitwich 2288

August 1973.

To the Members of the Public Health Committee

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my eighteenth Annual Report on the health of the district for the year ended 31 December 1972. By the time I have completed my 1973 report it is fairly certain that the new district authority - Wychavon will have taken over and I shall have been transferred to the National Health Service on the appointed day ( 1 April 1974). The new districts are empowered to appoint a proper officer to provide medical advice under the Local Government Act 1972 but this must be from N.H.S. personnel and the question of "who is who" may remain uncertain for sometime. Doubtless interim arrangements will be made.

Nineteen hundred and seventy two was a difficult year for the Public Health staff. Mr. K. Ramsden resigned in February and moved to another post due to uncertainty about the future. Mr. N. Morris was appointed on 1 May after a number of years out of Public Health and Mr. M. Johns suffered serious injury from a car accident three weeks later and was off sick for the rest of the year. Under the circumstances Mr. Morris is to be congratulated on "holding the reins" so efficiently. He put in some sterling work on Refuse Disposal at the newly acquired tip at Hanbury Wharf and covered most of the routine Public Health work. However it was necessary to provide assistance on sewage works standards and maintenance. Fortunately the Borough Council loaned Mr. Kingham their Effluent Control Officer to the R.D.C. in a part-time capacity for this purpose.

The presence of a combined department does not really help under such circumstances due to existing pressures on surveying and planning work. Mr. R. Fry (Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector) never-the-less did manage to complete the "Estimates of Conditions of Housing Stock in mid-1972" as demanded by circular 50/72 (see page 19) which was no mean task. Perhaps re-organisation of local government is being carried out to some purpose.

I shall be very interested to observe/<sup>how</sup> the new Environment Health department for Wychavon functions and whether the pooling of Public Health staff provides the resources required to cope with emergencies.



cont'd.....

An event of historial importance was the official opening of "The Birches", the old peoples' housing scheme at Hartlebury by the Rt. Hon. Peter Walker, M.P., Secretary of State for the Environment on 20 May 1972. This completed a comprehensive programme for the housing of the elderly which had been under active consideration for a period of some twenty years and produced four such projects, each providing about 16 - 20 units of accommodation, together with a warden's flat. "The Hamptons" was completed in 1962, "The Poplars" in 1963, "The Cedars" in 1970 and finally "The Birches" providing the fourth block of dwellings, all strategically placed to provide for the needs of the elderly throughout the district for some years to come.

No other dwellings were completed during 1972 yet the Council's House Waiting list has increased to 283 (see page 18). Also the Surveyor reports that a number of dwellings should be built to cover the slum clearance problem (page 19) and two four bedroomed dwellings are needed to solve the overcrowding problem.

Discretionary Grants have nearly doubled in number but there is obviously a definite need for more Council houses (and houses for sale) in the district.

I wish to thank all the members and staff of the District for their courtesy and co-operation over the years.

I remain, Mr. Chairman,

Your obedient servant,

L. SPENCER STEPHENS,

Medical Officer of Health,

# SECTION A

## VITAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres . . . . . 50,127

Registrar General's estimate of resident population mid-1972 15,000  
(mid-1971) (15,010)

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	96	103	199
Illegitimate	2	7	9
Total . . . . .			208

Illegitimate live births as percentage of total live births 4%  
Standardised birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population 14.6  
Birth rate for England and Wales . . . . . 14.8

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate . . . . .	-	2	2
Illegitimate . . . . .	-	-	-

Still birth rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths 10  
Still birth rate for England and Wales . . . . . 12

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
From all causes . . . . .	79	62	141

Standardised death rate per 1,000 estimated population 10.2  
Death rate for England and Wales . . . . . 12.1

### Deaths of Infants under one year

Legitimate	1	3	4
Illegitimate	1	-	1

### Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks

Legitimate	-	2	2
Illegitimate	1	-	1

### Deaths of Infants under one week

Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	1	-	1

Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 live births . . . . . 24  
" " " for England and Wales . . . . . 17  
Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births . . . . . 14  
" " " for England and Wales . . . . . 12  
Early Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births . . . . . 10  
" " " " for England and Wales . . . . . 10  
Perinatal Mortality rate per 1,000 total births . . . . . 19  
" " " for England and Wales . . . . . 22  
Maternal Deaths (including abortion) . . . . . Nil  
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births . . . . . Nil



# CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1972

(according to B. Classification - 50 main causes)

		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
B19 (1)	Malignant Neoplasm, buccal cavity, etc., .. ..	1	-
B19 (2)	" " , oesophagus .. .. .	1	-
B19 (3)	" " , stomach .. .. .	-	2
B19 (4)	" " , intestine .. .. .	3	3
B19 (6)	" " , lung, bronchus .. .. .	4	3
B19 (7)	" " , breast .. .. .	-	3
B19 (9)	" " , prostate .. .. .	1	-
B19 (11)	Other Malignant neoplasms.. .. .	7	7
B46 (4)	Multiple Sclerosis .. .. .	-	1
B46 (5)	Other Diseases of nervous system .. .. .	2	-
B27	Hypertensive Disease .. .. .	4	-
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease .. .. .	20	13
B29	Other forms of Heart Disease . .. .	5	5
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease .. .. .	13	10
B46 (6)	Other Diseases of Circulatory system .. .. .	2	2
B32	Pneumonia .. .. .	5	5
B33 (1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema .. .. .	2	-
B46 (7)	Other Diseases of Respiratory System .. .. .	-	1
B34	Peptic Ulcer .. .. .	1	-
B36	Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia .. .. .	-	1
B37	Cirrhosis of Liver .. .. .	-	1
B39	Hyperplasia of Prostate .. .. .	1	-
B46 (9)	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary system . .. .	-	1
B42	Congenital anomalies .. .. .	-	1
B43	Birth injury, difficult labour, etc. .. .. .	1	-
B44	Other causes of Perinatal Mortality .. .. .	-	1
BE47	Motor Vehicle Accidents .. .. .	2	2
BE48	All other Accidents .. .. .	1	-
BE49	Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries .. .. .	2	-
BE50	All other External Causes .. .. .	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>
	TOTAL ALL CAUSES	<u>79</u>	<u>62</u>

## SECTION B

### GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

#### FOR THE AREA.

#### A. County Health Services

The following services are provided by the County Council in accordance with Part III of the National Health Service Act 1946 -

##### i) Care of Mothers and Young Children (Section 22)

The District is served by the following clinics -

#### Child Health Clinics

Norbury House, Friar Street, Droitwich - open every Tuesday and Friday at 2 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Ombersley - open on the 1st and 3rd Fridays in the month at 2 p.m.

Parish Hall, Hanbury - open on the 3rd Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Village Hall, Crowle - open on the 4th Wednesday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Fernhill Heath - open on the 2nd and 4th Fridays in the month at 2 p.m.

Village Hall, Wychbold - open on the 1st and 3rd Mondays in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Parish Hall, Hartlebury - open on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in the month at 2.30 p.m.

A doctor is usually in attendance; a fully qualified Health Visitor is always present.

#### Antenatal Clinics.

It is now County policy that antenatal cases should be cared for as far as possible by their own doctor. Clinics are available however, at which expectant mothers are encouraged to attend regularly in order to meet the midwife, receive health education and carry out antenatal exercises under the direction of a physiotherapist.

Norbury House, Friar Street, Droitwich - open 2nd and 4th Thursdays in the month at 2 p.m.

Recreation Road, Bromsgrove - open every Monday at 2 p.m.

Health Centre, Kidderminster - open every Monday at 2 p.m.



(ii) Midwifery (Section 23)

The service of a County midwife is available without charge to care for mothers during pregnancy, confinement and for a period of ten days afterwards. She should be booked as early as possible in order to receive adequate instruction for the confinement. Visits are paid to the home and examinations carried out monthly in co-operation with the doctor, who will arrange hospital consultations if necessary. Free dental treatment is available during this period and may be arranged through the County Dental Officer.

(iii) Health Visiting and Home Nursing (Sections 24 and 25)

After the first ten days the Health Visitor takes over responsibility for the care of the baby from the midwife. She is a trained nurse who has received additional instruction in child care, maintenance of health and prevention of disease, and is able to offer guidance to the mother until the child goes to school. Particular attention is paid to premature babies and those placed for adoption or with foster parents. The Health Visitor also acts as school nurse and being an experienced medico-social worker is able to give advice to the adult members of the family on personal problems related to physical or mental ill-health.

The District Nurse is available to act on the instructions of the general practitioners or hospital and when a patient is discharged to make arrangements for domiciliary care. She carries out nursing procedures and may be called upon in an emergency. In most instances the District Nurse is also the Midwife and acts as Health Visitor but in urban areas it is sometimes more convenient to split their duties.

Four Health Visitors work from the Royal George Buildings, Droitwich - Tel: No.: Droitwich 3328 covering various parts of the Rural District around the town, viz -

Mrs. J. Rees, Miss B. Britton, Miss U. Eldridge and Miss T. Mann.

Also the following nurses operate from their homes where they may be contacted unless off-duty when the telephone number of the relief nurse is left at the door. This is particularly important for obstetric emergencies:-

Miss C. Mills, DN/M/HV - 14 Appletree Walk, Ombersley. Tel. No. Ombersley

Miss E. Williams DN/M/HV - Nurses House, Droitwich Road, Hanbury  
Tel No. Hanbury 2

Mrs. E. Cracklow DN/M - "Kooternay", Froxmere Road, Crowle. Tel. No.  
Upton Snodsbury 4

General Practitioner attachment schemes now exist for the parishes adjoining Stourport and Bromsgrove.



(iv) Vaccination and Immunisation (Section 26)

Vaccination against Measles and Poliomyelitis and Immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus are carried out free of charge at any of the County Clinics or by the patient's own doctor. Smallpox vaccination is no longer advised as a routine procedure.

The following inoculations were completed during 1972  
(figures in brackets relate to the previous year).

1. Smallpox Vaccination

Number of persons who received primary vaccination	6 (33)
" " " " were re-vaccinated	Nil (9)

2. Poliomyelitis Vaccination

Number of children who received a full course	205 (104)
" " " " " a reinforcing dose	157 (84)

3. Diphtheria Immunisation

Number of children who received a full course	206 (105)
" " " " " a re-inforcing dose	155 (97)

4. Tetanus Immunisation

Number of children who received a full course	206 (105)
" " " " " a reinforcing dose	160 (106)

5. Whooping Cough Immunisation

Number of children who received a full course	161 (78)
---	----------

6. Measles Vaccination

Number of children who received a primary dose	148 (87)
--	----------

7. German Measles Vaccination (13 year old schoolgirls)

No. of children who received a primary dose	114 (84)
---	----------

(v) Ambulance Service (Section 27)

Emergencies are responded to irrespective of the source of the call. All that is necessary is to ask the telephone operator for Ambulance after dialing 999. The Service is under radio control from Worcester and ambulance stations are strategically situated throughout the County.



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Requests for hospital cars should be made to the County Ambulance Officer, who will decide whether this form of transport is suitable. Patients suffering from infectious diseases are conveyed to hospital in special ambulances.

(vi) Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care (Section 28)

Convalescent care is provided for children and adults requiring treatment. This type of recuperative holiday is frequently recommended and persons are required to contribute according to their means. Medical comforts depots are maintained in various parts of the County by the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the British Red Cross Society. Requests for nursing equipment, such as bedpans, pulleys, hoists, etc., should be made to the District Nurse or County Health Department.

Persons suffering from Tuberculosis may be assisted in many ways. Tuberculosis Health Visitors work from the Chest Clinic and will assist patients to make the best use of services available. Occupational therapy is available for patients suffering from lengthy illnesses or who are undergoing prolonged convalescence.

A chiropody scheme is now in operation for aged and handicapped persons and is being extended. A Health Education Officer has also been appointed to provide instruction on health matters in an attempt to reduce illness. This is particularly important in relation to accidents in the home, food hygiene and cancer.

(vii) Family Planning and Cervical Cytology Clinics

These Clinics are held in conjunction with each other at the County Clinic off Infirmary Walk, Worcester. Appointments are provided on a Monday evening and an open clinic is held on a Wednesday (6.30 p.m. to 8.0 p.m.). In the Droitwich area it is better to make arrangements through the Health Visitors at Royal George Buildings (Tel. No. Droitwich 33).

(viii) School Health Service (Education Act 1944)

The County Medical Officer is also Principal School Medical Officer. School Medical Officers visit all Primary and Secondary schools in the district at regular interval

Every school child receives three medical examinations during his or her school life, but children in whom abnormalities are detected are seen frequently. Special visual acuity and colour tests are given at 7 - 8 yrs. of age, children in need of attention being referred to the School oculist.

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Routine testing of hearing is now carried out using a pure-tone audiometer and children with defective hearing are referred to special clinics for further investigation.

The services of a Speech Therapist are available and orthopaedic defects are kept under supervision by the Orthopaedic Sister. Children with behaviour disorders or other problems are seen at the Child Guidance Clinic, Love's Grove, Castle Street, Worcester.

(ix) School Dental Service

The Dental Health of all children in maintained schools is supervised at regular intervals, inspections being carried out on the premises. Subsequently treatment is carried out at the nearest fixed clinic, or in one of the mobile clinics now available. Clinics are available at Bromsgrove, Stourport and Kidderminster.

(x) County Analyst

The County Analyst is available to examine public water supplies, sewage effluent, milk, food and drug supplies. The arrangements for the routine sampling of all milk supplies is in the hands of the County Public Health Inspector.

B. The Social Services Department

The new Social Services Department became operative with effect from 1 April 1971 and in Worcestershire five area offices were opened. Droitwich comes under the Bromsgrove area (County Offices, Windsor Street, Bromsgrove - Tel: 75331) but staff are also available at certain times at the Royal George Buildings, Droitwich. The Social Services have been formed from an amalgamation of the Welfare Department, Childrens' Department and Mental Health Section of the Health Department, together with added functions, e.g. Home Helps, Child Minders and the operation of the Disabled Persons' Act 1970.

C. Hospital Services

These services are administered by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

1. General hospitals with casualty departments are situated at Worcester, Bromsgrove and Kidderminster.
2. Maternity beds are available at Worcester, Bromsgrove and Stourport.

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3. Infectious diseases are usually admitted to Newtown Isolation Hospital, Worcester where beds are also available for the treatment of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
4. The elderly and chronic sick are accommodated at Worcester, Bromsgrove or Blakebrook, Kidderminster.
5. Psychiatric Hospitals for mental disorders are available at Powick, Barnsley Hall and Lea Hospital, Bromsgrove.
6. St. John's Hospital and Highfield Hospital, Droitwich are National hospitals for the treatment of rheumatic diseases.
7. A thoracic surgery unit has been established at Hill Top Hospital Bromsgrove, dealing mainly with congenital heart lesions in children.
8. Laboratories are available in all general hospitals but at Worcester Royal Infirmary a branch of the Public Health Laboratory Service has been established. This organisation, with reference laboratories in London and elsewhere, is designed to assist local authorities in their investigations into outbreaks of communicable disease.
9. Venereal Diseases are diagnosed and treated at a special out-patient department at the Worcester Royal Infirmary. Sessions are held from 5 - 7 p.m. on Mondays and 2 - 4 p.m. on Thursday (both sexes - separate departments) and Fridays 2 - 4 p.m. (men).

#### D. General Medical Services

Persons arriving in the district and wishing to register with a general practitioner may obtain a list of names and addresses of all the doctors available at any post office.

The services of dentists, opticians and pharmacists practicing in the district come under the control of the Worcestershire Executive Council, 29 Foregate Street, Worcester to whom enquiries should be made.

## S E C T I O N   C

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### 1. Water Supplies

The East Worcestershire Waterworks Company are the statutory water undertakers for the greater part of the Rural district. Their supply is extracted from six different boreholes on the side of the Licky Hills and by the time the supply reaches the Rural district it is often mixed. None of the boreholes provides very hard water or that having a plumbo-solvent action.

Fluoridation was commenced about two years ago and so far fluoride levels have been rather low, not reaching the desired 1 part per million required to prevent dental caries. A chemical and bacteriological sample from one of the boreholes taken on 5 December 1972 is shown below :-

#### BROCKHILL PUMPING STATION - BOREHOLE NO.1

##### Physical Characters

Colour	None	
Odour	None	
Deposit	None	pH 6.65

##### Chemical Examination (Results expressed in parts per million)

Suspended Matter (Dried at 100°C .. .. .)	-
Total Dissolved Solids (Dried at 180°C .. .. .)	240
Chlorine present as Chloride .. .. .	20
Hardness Non-Carbonate .. .. .	38
" Carbonate .. .. .	100
" Total .. .. .	138
Ammoniacal Nitrogen .. .. .	Nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen .. .. .	Nil
Nitrate Nitrogen .. .. .	4.5
Nitrite Nitrogen .. .. .	Nil
Permanganate Value (4 hours at 27°C) .. .. .	Nil
Toxic Metals .. .. .	none detected
Total Residual Chlorine .. .. .	nil
Fluorine .. .. .	-
Synthetic Detergents (as Manozol) .. .. .	-
Phosphates (as PO <sub>4</sub> ) .. .. .	-
Free Carbon Dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ) .. .. .	20

##### Bacteriological Examination

Number of colonies developing upon Agar .. .. .	
a) in two days at 37°C .. .. .	Nil per one ml.
b) in three days at 22°C .. .. .	Nil per one ml.
Probable number of Coliform Bacilli .. .. .	Nil per 100 ml.
Probable number of Faecal Coli .. .. .	Nil per 100 ml.

OPINION:- The condition of the sample is satisfactory - County Analyst.



## 2. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Progress in this field has been most disappointing particularly as the Council listed thirteen schemes according to their priorities and instructed their Consulting Engineers to proceed as fast as possible as long ago as July 1970. It is worthwhile relisting them to ensure that they are not overlooked. The Surveyor has had to submit a list to the Working Party on the proposed Severn Water Authority which will be responsible for sewage disposal after the appointed day (1.4.74).

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Year 1. | (a) Bradley Green and Stock Green                     |
|         | (b) Himbleton, Earls Common and Sale Green            |
|         | (c) Ladywood  |
|         | (d) Martin Hussingtree                                |
| Year 2. | (a) Oddingley, Dunhampstead, Shernal Green and Hadzor |
|         | (b) Upton Warren                                      |
|         | (c) Salwarpe  |
|         | (d) Crossway Green                                    |
|         | (e) Charlton  |
| Year 3. | (a) Sytchampton and Dunhampton                        |
|         | (b) Torton  |
|         | (c) Comhampton  |
|         | (d) Copcut  |

It looks as if the Martin Hussingtree and Ladywood Sewerage schemes should proceed without difficulty as they are both based on existing sewage works. The former will flow to the Fernhill Heath Sewage Works and the latter to the Ladywood Works (Droitwich Borough Council). Both are "non-key sector" (under £100,000) however and difficulty may be experienced in financing them.

The Himbleton, Earls Common and Sale Green Sewerage scheme is dependant on enlargement of the Crowle Sewage Works and the necessary documents were submitted to the Department early in 1973. The scheme is urgent due to the recent Housing Development in Crowle but may not be permitted as it has been suggested that the sewage will have to be pumped back to the proposed Redditch Sewage Disposal Works at Priest Bridge in order for a trunk effluent drain to be constructed all the way to the river Avon at Pershore.

The fate of the Stock and Bradley Scheme (completed by the Engineers for submission April 73) is likely to be similarly affected which I consider to be most regrettable. Redditch New Town Development should not be allowed to affect progress in a rural district adversely.

Furthermore the schemes listed in years 2 and 3 will be transferred to the queue with another authority (R.W.A.) and probably delayed even longer.

### 3. Public Health Inspections

The following routine inspections were carried out by the Public Health Inspectors during 1972 -

<u>A. Housing Act 1957</u>		
Section 9 (Repairs) .. .. .	92	
Section 16 (Unfit Premises) .. .. .	50	
Section 42 (Clearance area) .. .. .	-	
Section 76 (Overcrowding) .. .. .	-	
	<u>142</u>	(136)
<u>B. Public Health Acts 1936 and 1961</u>		
Nuisances from Premises .. .. .	31	
" " Animals .. .. .	9	
" " Refuse .. .. .	37	
" " Duse and Effluvia .. .. .	40	
" " Workplaces .. .. .	-	
" " Noise .. .. .	<u>3</u>	
	120	(140)
<u>C. Drainage Problems (Sewage and Water)</u>		
Obstructions .. .. .	45	
Cesspools and Septic Tank .. .. .	38	
Ditches .. .. .	87	
Drainage Tests .. .. .	17	
Inspection of Wells and Water Samples .. .. .	48	
Pollution of Rivers, Etc., .. .. .	-	
	<u>&amp;</u>	
	235	(228)
<u>D. Food and Drugs Act 1955</u>		
Slaughterhouse .. .. .	158	
Bakehouses .. .. .	14	
Shops .. .. .	22	
Cafes .. .. .	25	
Vans .. .. .	14	
Other Food Premises .. .. .	13	
Ice Cream and Other Food Samples .. .. .	<u>18</u>	
	264	(256)
<u>E. Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963</u>		
Inspections .. .. .	6	(6)
<u>F. Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960</u>		
Residential Sites .. .. .	55	
Holiday Sites .. .. .	12	
Camping Sites, etc., .. .. .	2	
Unauthorised Caravans .. .. .	<u>71</u>	
	140	(193)
<u>G. Other Inspections</u>		
	48	(54)
	<u>955</u>	<u>(1013)</u>
<u>Grand Total</u>		

(N.B. Figures in brackets relate to the previous year)



#### 4. Factory Inspections - 1972

The Factory Act 1961 places duties on the local authority in relation to sanitary provisions in all factories and to environmental and hygiene provisions in those factories not using mechanical power.

There is also a duty to discover cases where Outwork has been placed following which information is obtained from the factory concerned.

## Part I of the Act.

(1) Inspection for purposes of provision as to health -

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	No. of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
a) Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	-	-	-	-
b) Factories not included in (a) in which Sec.7 is enforced by the local authority	32	11	-	-
c) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the local authority (including out- workers premises)	30	9	-	-
TOTAL	62	20	-	-

(2) Cases in which defects were found .. .. . NIL.

## Part VIII of the Act

Outwork - Nil Return.

## 5. Rodent Control - 1972

Regular inspections of dwelling houses and business premises are carried out throughout the district. Quite a number of agricultural contracts are held and treatment under such agreements form no small proportion of the work.

The analysis of work carried out under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 is as follows :-

<u>Properties other than sewers</u>	<u>Type of Property</u>	
	<u>Non-Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
1. Number of properties in District	5034	748
2. a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	440	41
b) Number infested by (1) Rats	98	16
(2) Mice	26	-
3. a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	2072	96
b) Number infested by (1) Rats	262	15
(2) Mice	39	-
4. <u>Sewers</u>		
Number of Sewers infested by Rats during the year - NIL.		



## 6. Refuse Collection and Disposal

The Refuse Collection Service has continued to operate satisfactorily with a weekly collection in all built-up areas and a fortnightly service in the more remote parts of the district.

The acquisition of a new site for tipping at Hanbury Wharf Brickworks has assisted greatly the problem of Refuse Disposal. There are two large marl holes here which should last the Borough and Rural Districts for about thirty years. Preliminary work on clearing the site, providing access and removing flood water has been completed and controlled tipping is now in operation on the eastern side of the tip.

## SECTION D

### HOUSING

#### 1. Housing Programme

##### a) Council Houses

No. of new dwellings completed by 31 December 1972 - Nil  
"The Birches" - Old Peoples' Block -  
14 one person, 6 two person, 1 warden's flat - 21 units  
No. of families on Council House Waiting List  
at 31 December 1972 283 (204)

##### b) Private Houses

No. of Private Dwellings completed during 1972 -  
4 bedroomed 14  
3 " 66  
2 " 11  
Total - 91

##### c) Improvements and Conversions to private houses during 1972 - (figures in brackets relate to previous year)

###### i) Discretionary Grants

1. Applications received .. .. .	82	(45)
2. " approved .. .. .	81	(44)
3. No. of dwellings involved .. .. .	82	(46)
4. Applications withdrawn or refused .. .. .	1	(1)
5. Total amount of grant-aided work .. .. .	£188,487	(£93,481)
6. Amount of grants approved .. .. .	£ 63,159	(£36,242)
7. Average grant per dwelling .. .. .	£ 770	(£788)
8. Amount of grant paid during the year .. .. .	£32,677	(£27,452)

###### ii) Standard Grants

Applications received and approved .. .. .	15	(17)
Maximum grants payable .. .. .	£3,585	(£4,519)
Amount of grants .. .. .	£3,409	(N.A.)



## 2. Slum Clearance 1972

Owing to shortage of staff no Notices of Time and Place or Demolition Orders were served during the year. The Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector - Mr. R. Fry did however complete the information required by the Department of the Environment in accordance with Circular 50/72 as shown below.

### A. Estimates of Conditions of Housing Stock in mid-1972.

<u>Unfit Dwellings</u>	<u>L.A.</u>	<u>Private</u>
1. In areas already declared .. .. .	nil	nil
2. In areas to be declared .. .. .	nil	10
3. Not in Part III areas .. .. .	<u>nil</u>	<u>105</u>
4. Total unfit dwellings .. .. .	nil	115
<u>Dwellings not unfit</u>		
5. Up to 12 point standard .. .. .	800	4777
6. Capable of Improvement to 12 point standard .. ..	nil	340
7. Not capable of 12 point standard . . . . .	<u>nil</u>	<u>28</u>
8. Total dwellings in area .. .. .	800	5260

### B. Outline Strategy

1. The Improvement Grant scheme which the Council has operated continuously since its inception in the late 1940's must be continued and possibly stepped up to deal with those dwellings in item 6.
2. Arrangements have already been made to rehouse the tenants of the dwellings in item 2.
3. It is apparent from the survey that small housing sites should be acquired in each of the following villages to deal with the dwellings in item 3 :- viz.  
Ombersley, Fernhill Heath, Hartlebury, Crowle and Hanbury.

## 3. Overcrowding (Part IV Housing Act 1957)

- a) (i) Number of dwellings statutorily overcrowded at 31 Dec. 1972 - 2
- (ii) " " families dwelling therein .. .. . - 3
- (iii) " " persons dwelling therein .. .. . -23
- b) (i) " " cases of overcrowding relieved during the year - 0
- (ii) " " persons concerned in such cases .. .. . - 0
- (iii) " " houses again overcrowded after being so relieved - 0
- c) " " new cases of overcrowding reported during the year - 0

#### 4. Caravans

Despite surveys carried out in recent years it is still difficult to estimate the number of unauthorised caravans in the District due to the fact that their position changes periodically. It is probably now less than 100 out of a total of 293 investigated. In addition some 450 Caravans (holiday and residential) have Planning permission.

The decision to establish a residential caravan site for 50 vans on the old Civil Defence Site at Hampton Lovett was a good one and at the end of the year site works were nearing completion. By mid-1973 most of the pitches should be occupied from a waiting list already overloaded. Site standards and applicants are being strictly controlled in an attempt to reduce the number of itinerants in the District but this will not cater for gypsies. There is still a need for a small permanent gypsy site in the District as both Hartlebury Common and the Holt Fleet areas are invaded from time to time.



## SECTION E.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### 1. Food Premises

The following categories of Food Premises are found in the Rural District :-

Butchers Shops .. .. .	2
Bakehouses .. .. .	3
Cafes .. .. .	5
Food Shops .. .. .	46
Food Factories .. .. .	-
Clubs, Hotels and Licenced Premises ..	54
Total =	<u>110</u>

Inspections carried out are shown on page 14 and have increased somewhat over the previous year. The standard of hygiene achieved throughout the district is considered to be satisfactory and hand-basins and sinks are provided for the washing of food and equipment in most premises as shown below :-

#### Food Hygiene Regulations 1970

(i)	number of premises .. .. .	110
(ii)	" " " fitted to comply with Regulation 18 ..	95
(iii)	" " " to which Regulation 21 applies . . .	108
(iv)	" " " fitted to comply with Regulation 21 ..	106

#### 2. Meat Inspection

There is one licenced Slaughterhouse in the district at Ombersley, the Public Health Inspectors have a rota for inspection and 100% of carcasses are always inspected. 2154 animals were inspected during 1972 compared with 1,857 the previous year but very little disease was found.

Further details are shown on page 23.

#### 3. Milk and Dairies and Ice-Cream

The Milk and Dairies Regulations are mainly administered by the County Public Health Inspector. There are two pasteurisation plants in the District and the following samples of milk were taken from a variety of sources during 1972 :-

Pasteurised Milk .. .. .	19	(40)
Sterilized Milk .. .. .	3	(2)
Raw (tuberculin tested) . . . . .	-	(2)
(figures in brackets relate to the previous year) Total =	22	44

/cont'd.....

There are fifty-nine premises registered for the sale of pre-packed ice-cream, all being food premises as list in Section 1 and inspected during routine work. A number of samples are taken from time to time, particularly when power-cuts occur.

4. Food and Drugs

Worcestershire County Council are the Food and Drugs Authority for the district. Food and Drugs (Weights and Measures) Inspectors operate from Fernhill Heath, submitting samples to the County Analyst who reports his findings to the County Health Committee.

5. Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963.

Four premises were inspected and registered during 1972.



6. Meat Inspection - 1972.

	Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	158	1	1419	576
Number inspected	158	1	1419	576
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned	nil	nil	nil	nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	13	nil	27	19
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	8.2%	nil	1.9%	3.20
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	nil	nil	nil	nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	nil	nil	12
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	.6%	nil	nil	2%
Cysticercosis	nil	nil	nil	nil

## SECTION. F

### Incidence of Infectious Diseases

The follow table shows the incidence of Infectious Disease in relation to age in the Rural District during 1972:-

Disease	Under five years	5 - 15	16 - 25	Adult	Total
1. Scarlet Fever	-	3	-	-	3
2. Measles	7	5	-	-	12
3. Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-
4. Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-
5. Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-
6. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-
7. Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-
8. Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-
9. Acute Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-
10. Infective Jaundice	-	2	1	7	10



## TUBERCULOSIS - 1972

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register are as follows -

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
Cases on the Register at 1 January 1972	7	2	2	-
Additions - new cases	2	1	-	-
Deductions (recovered, died or left district)	1	1	-	-
Cases on the Register at 31 December 1972	8	2	2	-

### B.C.G. Vaccination

The County Council operate a scheme for the preventive inoculation of all children leaving school (at 12 - 13 years old). This is a valuable protective measure against Tuberculosis and is doing much to reduce the number of cases on the Register.

### After-Care Committee for South Worcestershire

Two meetings of this Committee were held at the Shire Hall during the year. Not a great deal of work has been done as the number of cases requiring assistance has been falling annually. Nevertheless, the Tuberculosis Health Visitors do find cases whose needs are outside the scope of the statutory bodies and then turn to the Committee, whose help is greatly appreciated.

THE END.





