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BOROUGH OF COMBRIDGE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1967

COWBRIDGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH 1967

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
Cowbridge Borough.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1967 prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Board of Health Circular 1/67.

As mentioned in previous reports the statistics can be misleading in view of the population of the Borough.

The Council's scheme for 18 housing units was well in hand at the end of the year and will provide accommodation for the many needy families in the Borough. Twenty-three houses were erected by private enterprise - twenty-two of these on the Druids Green Estate. Work was progressing on 32 private houses at the end of the year.


There were no new cases of Tuberculosis and so the number of cases on the Register remain as two.

Environmental health matters are included in the body of the report. All main services are provided in the Borough and the absence of any industries in or near the area provides an atmosphere free from pollution.

I wish to thank the Mayor, Aldermen, Councillors and Officials for their co-operation during the year.

N. K. CONTRACTOR.

Medical Officer of Health



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SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Cowbridge is one of the smallest Charter Boroughs in England and Wales. It is not certain whether there was any Saxon settlement of the district but the Normans certainly occupied the area, and were responsible for the old town walls, part of which still remain.

It was in earlier times an important centre for here the Great Sessions and Quarter Sessions were held, and the County goal was sited in the Borough.

It is still a market town and the local centre for Education, Banking and Professional Offices. The local Fire Service, Ambulance and Police Headquarters for the area are sited in the Borough and the Petty Sessions Court sit here.

There are only a few family factories in the town. It is mainly residential in character with the usual shops required for a rural community.

A list of the factories registered with the Council is as follows.

1. Messrs. D. Brown & Sons Ltd., Printers.
2. Mr. A. Sanders, Boot Repairer.
3. Messrs. Arthur Jones & Sons Ltd., Builders' Yard.
4. Messrs. Robert Thomas & Sons Ltd., Builders' Yard.
5. Messrs. Frank Sanders (Cowbridge) Ltd., Garage Proprietors.
6. Messrs. West End Garage
7. Glamorgan County Council Builders Yard.
8. Mid-Vale Garage, High Street.

Mains Water, Electricity and Sewerage is provided throughout the town.

SECTION "A"

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in Acres).....	84)
Number of inhabited houses according to the rate book....	323)
Sum represented by the penny rate.....	£170)
Rateable value of the district.....	£ 42,387)
Population (Registrar General's estimate).....	1,150)

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births

<u>Births Registered - 1967</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate Live Births	14	8	22
Illegitimate Live Births	-	-	-
	14	8	22

Still Births

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate Still Births	Nil	1	1
Illegitimate Still Births	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Nil	1	1

Birth Rate per 1,000 Population

Birth Rate Cowbridge Borough (adjusted)	19.3
Birth Rate for England and Wales	17.2
Birth Rate for Administrative County of Glamorgan (adjusted)	16.9
Birth Rate for Urban Areas in the Administrative County	16.5

Infant Mortality

Number of Deaths under 1 year of age	Nil
Infant Mortality Rate for Cowbridge per 1,000 births	Nil
Infant Mortality for England and Wales	18.3
Infant Mortality for Administrative County of Glamorgan	19.0
Infant Mortality for Urban Areas in Glamorgan	20.0
Still Births (1)	43.0

Death Rate per 1,000 Population

Number of Deaths Cowbridge Borough	5
Crude Death Rate for Cowbridge Borough	4.3
Crude Death Rate for England and Wales	11.2
Crude Death Rate for Administrative County of Glamorgan	11.8
Crude Death Rate for Urban Areas in Glamorgan	11.9

Causes of Death 1967

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	1	-	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	1	-	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	-	1	1
Coronary Disease, Angina	-	1	1
Bronchitis	-	1	1
Totals	2	3	5

SECTION "B"

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

WITHIN THE BOROUGH

a) Medical Officer of Health

Dr. N. K. Contractor, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health. (Also Medical Officer to the Cardiff and Cowbridge Rural District Councils, and Medical Officer, South East Division, Glamorgan)

b) Public Health Inspector.

Hubert Thomas, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Public Health Inspector.
(Also Chief Public Health Inspector, Cowbridge Rural District Council)

Committee Dealing with Health Matters.

The Monthly Meetings of the Council deal with health matters as the occasion demands.

Ambulance Facilities.

An ambulance is stationed at the Ambulance Station, Cowbridge.

Hospitals

There are no hospitals or nursing homes within the area. Infectious cases are usually admitted to the Isolation Hospital at Cefn Hirgoed or Cardiff.

Medical and surgical cases are admitted to any of the Board's Hospitals in Bridgend, Cardiff, Pontypridd and Llandough.

Maternity cases usually enter the Bridgend or Cardiff Hospitals.

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological specimens are examined at the Ministry of Health's Public Laboratory at Cardiff and chemical analyses are carried out by the County Public Health Laboratory also at Cardiff.

Meals on Wheels.

The Borough Council has an arrangement with the Rural District for the twice-weekly delivery of meals to the aged and infirm people in the town. The meals cost the recipient 1/6d. and the deficit is met equally by the County and Borough Councils.

Meals delivered 1966	507
Meals delivered 1967	555

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

A hard water of high bacterial quality is provided by the Mid-Glamorgan Water Board throughout the Borough.

With one exception all properties in the Borough are connected to these mains.

Swimming Baths and Pools

There are no swimming baths in the Borough.

Schools

There are two schools in the area; the Cowbridge Grammar School and Y Bontfaen Elementary School. Representations were made to the County Council regarding the position of the toilets at the Elementary School during the year. Both the girls and boys toilets are sited some distance from the main school buildings. The County Authorities stated that they proposed to build a replacement school in the near future. An infants classroom was recently provided.

Both schools are provided with water closets and mains water.

Rivers and Streams

The River Thaw passes through the town and no flooding has taken place in the Borough from this source. There was some flooding in the West end of the town during the year, caused by surface water from fields west of the town.

HOUSING

a) New Council Houses - No new Council Houses were completed during 1967. The Council's Estates remain as follows:-

Broadway	12
Borough Close	36
Cae Stumpie	14
Church Street and Southgate	3
The Butts and Bush House	4
Town Hall (Caretaker's House)	1
Total	<u>70</u>

- b) New Council Houses. - A scheme for the construction of 6 maisonettes, 6 ground floor flats and 6 houses was nearing **completion** during 1967.
- c) Private Enterprise - Twenty-three houses were completed by private enterprise during 1967. Work on a further 32 houses was in progress at the end of the year.
- d) Selection of Tenants. - Tenants for Council Houses are selected by a points system and this works well. The home conditions of applicants are verified by a visit by the Public Health Inspector who reports upon the points awarded to the Council. The final selection is made by the housing committee.
- e) Demolition or Closure of Unfit Houses. - One closing order was made during the year and four persons rehoused by the Council.

HOUSING IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

- a) Discretionary Grants. The following grants were approved during the year.

<u>Property</u>	<u>Synopsis of Work</u>	<u>Grant</u>
Bear Lane Cottage	Bathroom, etc.	£ 400
31, Eastgate Street	Bathroom, etc.	£ 400
73, High Street	Bathroom, etc.	£ 400
47, Eastgate Street	Bathroom, etc.	£ 400
40, Westgate Street	Bathroom, etc.	£ 400

- b) Standard Grants. - Standard grants were made in respect of the following properties :-

27, Eastgate Street.
5, Eastgate Street.
1, Aubrey Terrace.

A total of 30 Discretionary and 12 Standard Grants have been granted by the Council since the commencement of the scheme.

Plans

The following plans were submitted for approval under the Building Byelaws:-

(a)	New houses or flats	4
(b)	Conversion of premises into houses or flats	Nil
(c)	New business premises	3
(d)	Additions or alterations to houses or business premises	12
(e)	Stores and garages	12
		31
		—

Included in (a) is an Old Peoples' Home for the Glamorgan County Council.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

- (a) Street Cleansing. - The main highway through the town is cleansed by the Glamorgan County Council Highways Department who employ a mechanical street sweeper for that purpose. The unclassified roads are cleansed by the Borough roadman. Street litter bins are provided at certain points in the town.
- (b) Refuse Bins. - Almost all properties in the town are provided with properly constructed refuse bins. The Public Health Inspector takes informal action for the provision of bins as the occasion demands.
- (c) Cesspools. - There are no cesspools in the Borough.
- (d) House Refuse Collection and Disposal. All food premises have a twice-weekly collection and private dwellings and other premises have a

collection once weekly. This service is carried out by the Rural District Council at the cost of the Borough. Disposal is arranged at the District Council's central refuse disposal site at Llanharan.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

The joint sewage disposal works with the adjoining parishes in the Rural District provided in 1956 is already too small to deal with the considerable housing development in the locality. The Consulting Engineers are preparing a scheme for its enlargement and meetings with the County Planning Officer were held to establish the estimated growth of the drainage area. In the meantime all further development is held up pending the completion of the new scheme.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The air in the Borough is relatively pure there being no factories or works within the area or in the neighbourhood.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960

There are no licenced caravan sites within the Borough.

DOMESTIC PESTS.

- (a) Rodent Control. Arrangements are made with the Rural District Council for the use of their rodent operative and the Borough Council pay an inclusive charge for his services and the material used. Warfarin is now exclusively used and has proved to be satisfactory and reasonably safe to use. There are no farms in the Borough.

Details of the works carried out during 1967 are set out below:-

	<u>Type of Property</u>	
	<u>Non-Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
Number of properties in district	443	Nil
Total inspected following notification	37	Nil
Number infested by (i) Rats	35	Nil
(ii) Mice	2	Nil
Total properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	Nil	Nil
Number infested by (i) Rats	Nil	Nil
(ii) Mice	Nil	Nil

- (b) Other Pests. The Public Health Inspector gives advice where required on modern methods of eradicating domestic pests.

MILK SUPPLY

All milk sold in the Borough is either Pasteurised or Tuberculin Tested. There are no registered dairies in the town but three retailers, with dairies in other districts, retail milk in the Borough.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1955

Routine inspections are made of premises handling food for sale in the Borough and the attention of occupiers is drawn to any infringements of the Hygiene Regulations.

All the licensed premises in the town have satisfactory sanitation connected to the Public Sewer with arrangements for glass washing in or adjacent to the public bars.

ICECREAM

No icecream is manufactured in the Borough. Seven retailers are registered with the Council and all sell icecream manufactured by one or other of the principal manufacturers.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND FOODS

There are no public or private slaughterhouses in the Borough. The four butchers purchase their supplies from a wholesaler or have their animals slaughtered at the Public Slaughterhouse at Bridgend where the Public Health Inspector of that area carries out an inspection and marks the meat before it leaves the premises.

On occasions meat is found to be unfit in butchers' shops. A certificate for the meat condemned is given and arrangements made for its removal to a licenced dealer outside the area.

The amount of food condemned during 1967 is as follows:-

Hind Quarter Ox Beef (Home killed) 17 lbs.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960

Twenty-six food premises in the Borough comply with Regulation 16; and each of the 23 premises to which Regulation 19 applies conform with the Regulations.

There are no poultry processing premises in the Borough.

SHEEP AND CATTLE MARKET.

The Borough Council own a sheep and cattle market which is leased to two firms of auctioneers. Auctions are held on Mondays throughout the year and also on fair days and occasional sales of store stock. New cattle pens and covered sale ring were provided in 1957. The market has a public water supply and is connected to the public sewer. Electric light is available for loading of vehicles in darkness and a lorry wash and car park is sited at the rear of the market. Preliminary talks took place with the Auctioneers with regard to the proposal to provide a new sheep market.

CINEMAS.

There is no cinema within the Borough.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963.

This Act came into force on the 1st August, 1964 and the position at the end of 1967 was as follows :-

Registered Premises.

(a) Registered during 1967

Offices	1
Retail Shops	Nil
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	Nil
Catering Establishments open to the Public	1
Fuel storage premises	Nil
Total	<u>2</u>

(b) Registered at end of year.

Offices	18
Retail Shops	18
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	1
Catering establishments open to the Public	7
Fuel Storage premises	Nil
Total	<u>44</u>

(c) Inspections Carried Out.

Offices	10
Retail Shops	14
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	1
Catering Establishments open to the Public	7
Fuel Storage Premises	<u>Nil</u>
Total	<u>32</u>

Total Visits Made 47

(d) Persons Employed.

Offices	65
Retail Shops	46
Wholesale departments, warehouses	16
Catering Establishments open to the Public	41
Canteens	<u>Nil</u>
Fuel Storage Depots	<u>Nil</u>
Total	<u>168</u>

Males 51. Females 117

(e) Exemption.

No exemptions were applied for and no prosecutions were made during the year.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases.

Three cases of Measles, four cases of whooping cough and two cases of scarletina were notified during the year. All cases were nursed at home.

Tuberculosis.

The position at January and December 1967 remained unchanged as follows :-

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On Register 1st January, 1967	2	-	-	-	2
On Register 31st December, 1967	2	-	-	-	2

Housing Conditions.

Both of the cases of tuberculosis are satisfactorily housed and it was not necessary to draw the attention of the Council to any matter during the year.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

The report on the action taken in connection with Factories in the area is set out below:-

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Notices.
Factories in which:- Section 1 (Cleanliness)) Section 2 (Overcrowding)) Section 3 (Temperature)) Section 4 (Ventilation)) Section 6 (Drainage of Floors)) are enforced by the Council.	1	Nil	Nil
Factories in which:- Section 7 (Sanitary Conveniences) only is enforced by the Council	6	14	Nil
Total	7	14	Nil

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, 1967.

	Inspections	Preliminary Notices	Statutory Notices
Drainage and Sewerage	29	Nil	Nil
Meat, Foods and Food Premises	43	Nil	Nil
Milk and Dairies	1	Nil	Nil
Housing	84	3	Nil
Public Health Act	19	Nil	Nil
Infectious Diseases	4	Nil	Nil
Factories and Workshops	14	Nil	Nil
Offices and Shops	32	Nil	Nil
House Refuse	62	Nil	Nil
Water Supplies	2	Nil	Nil
Works in Progress	51	Nil	Nil
Miscellaneous	37	Nil	Nil
Total	378	3	Nil

