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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DUNMOW

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1971

together with the

REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DUNMOW
HEALTH, ESTATES AND WORKS COMMITTEE

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

E. J. VAUGHAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

G. L. FIELD, M.A.P.H.I.

Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

D. R. JONES, M.A.P.H.I.

Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

Public Health Inspector

R. M. SECKER, M.A.P.H.I.

Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

Meat Inspectors

W. G. MOODIE

D. F. M. FREEMANTLE

A. J. R. CAWDRON

(to 30th June 1971)

R. M. MCWHINNIE

(from 2nd August 1971)

Secretary

Miss I. M. HUME

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Braintree.
CM7 6HB

July 1972

To The Chairman and Members of Dunmow Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting for your information the annual report on the health, vital statistics and sanitary circumstances of the Dunmow Rural District.

I am grateful to Dr. A. Afnan, Area Medical Officer, West Essex for providing statistics of the duties undertaken at the various Essex County Council clinics in the area.

VITAL STATISTICS

The Registrar General's mid-year estimate of the district's population for 1971 was 24,060, an increase of 120 over last year's figure.

The birth rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.03 was 18.1 and above last year's figure of 14.5.

In 1971 there were 24 illegitimate births in the area, representing 6% of the total live births.

During the year there were 5 infant deaths giving an infant mortality rate of 12 per 1,000 live births compared with the same figure for 1970 and with the national figure for 1971 of 18.0. The causes of the 5 deaths were (1) Gastrostenosis (2) Anencephaly (3) Anoxia, failure to establish respiration, extreme prematurity. (4) Atelectasis with prematurity. (5) Prematurity. Ante-partum haemorrhage.

During 1971 reports from both the Royal College of Physicians and the World Health Organisation emphasised again the health risks of cigarette smoking and were accompanied by a national campaign to reduce the incidence of coronary heart disease, lung cancer, bronchitis, emphysema and other diseases by discouraging the smoking habit.

Among residents in the Council's area there were in 1971 5 deaths due to motor vehicle accidents. Dunmow is sited on a narrow, twisting main road to the coast, much used by both agricultural and heavy commercial vehicles, including loads of new cars travelling from the

Midlands to Harwich and elsewhere. The nearest hospital casualty department is nine miles from the town. Improving access roads to the ports and seaside resorts and the provision of by-pass route are matters receiving serious consideration by everyone interested in accident prevention and the qualitative improvement of life in the area.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE

3 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified in 1971.

It is a sad commentary on the incompleteness of response to the measles vaccination campaign that 56 cases of measles were notified during the year, twice as many as in 1970. Measles is an unpleasant illness with risk of lung and ear infections causing permanent defects in unvaccinated children.

There were 6 cases of infective hepatitis and 9 of food poisoning notified. Interest was aroused in the area by cases of food poisoning caused in humans due to contact with imported tortoises which were infected.

STAFF MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

Staff medical examinations continued to be carried out for Dunmow Rural District Council relating to the Superannuation Act 1937, to the Licensing of Heavy Vehicle Drivers and to fitness for undertaking certain hazardous duties.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. SECTION 47

No action was taken in 1971 but a certain amount of work was undertaken concerning elderly, vulnerable residents to prevent action being taken relating to this section of the Act.

REHOUSING ON MEDICAL GROUNDS

Home visits throughout the area have continued to be undertaken by your medical officer for the purpose of deciding the degree of priority in each case on medical grounds.

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

With regard to your public water supplies reference was made in last year's Annual Report to the relationship between the quality of drinking water and disease. Since then there has been increasing interest in the association between soft water and the development of coronary heart disease, although there are other causative factors such as cigarette smoking, stress and strain and inadequate physical exercise. The Lee Valley Water Company provides hard water in the Council's area, and

generally East Anglia is fortunate in this respect compared with the West of Britain where water is mainly soft. The Eastern region however is less fortunate than the West with regard to the quantity of drinking water available for the expanding population.

Mr. Field has referred to the weekly refuse collection service and to the legal requirement for the refuse vehicle drivers to hold a Heavy Goods Vehicle Licence which necessitated the medical examination of employees in 1971 for this purpose. With reference to refuse disposal the Council decided after a public enquiry to extend Merks Hill refuse tip and it is envisaged that this will serve the area until a more modern system of refuse disposal can be made available. A condition of the planning approval was that effluent from the refuse tip should receive treatment and not be permitted to drain to the watercourse, and a decision was made that effluent should be collected and pumped to the sewer. It was decided nationally in 1971 that refuse disposal should be transferred from local district councils to larger Authorities, in the case of Dunmow Rural District Council to Essex County Council, when the reorganisation of Local Government becomes effective.

With regard to sewerage and sewage disposal your Chief Public Health Inspector has referred to the Council's intention to commence work at the Hatfield Heath sewage works and Takeley sewage works during the first half of 1972. The Department of the Environment gave authority late in 1971 for the Council to invite tenders for the Lower Chelmer Valley sewerage scheme phase 3.

Proposals for Common Market entry late in 1971 roused speculation nationally among staff in Public Health Departments especially with regard to meat inspection which is supervised by Veterinary Health authorities on the Continent.

64 Council dwellings were completed in 1971 and 26 were in the process of construction at the end of the year. The value to elderly residents in the area of the Council's provision of warden attended flatlets for them has been much appreciated and this system of housing has received great praise and attention. 42 of these flatlets were constructed during the year with 3 for wardens.

I have pleasure in recording my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and support in 1971. I am grateful also to other officers for their help in preparing this report.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

ELIZABETH J. VAUGHAN

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	... 72,834
Population	... 23,000
Number of houses according to rate books	... 8,682
Rateable value	... £876,938
Sum represented by a penny rate	... £8,310

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	218	182	400	
Illegitimate	16	8	24	
Total live births	234	190	424	
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population				... 17.6
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births				... 6.0
Birth rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.03				... 18.1
Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population				... 16.0

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	-	-	-	
Illegitimate	1	-	1	
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births				... 2.0
Total live and still births - 425				
Rate per 1,000 total births England and Wales				... 12.0

<u>Infant Deaths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Deaths of infants under 1 year				
Legitimate	3	2	5	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Total infant deaths	3	2	5	

<u>Infant Mortality Rates</u>				
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births				... 12.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births				... 13.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births				... Nil
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)				... 12.0
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)				... 12.0
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)				... 14.0
Infantile mortality for England and Wales per 1,000 live births				... 18.0

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths	... Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	... Nil

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
	118	112	230	

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	... 9.6
Death rate corrected by comparability figure of 0.96	... 9.2
Death rate per 1,000 population England and Wales	... 11.6

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES 1971

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar General and the classification is given under the seventy-three headings based on the International Abbreviated List (B list) of the International Classification. The original list, circulated to Medical Officers of Health in 1968, has been changed to include additional headings in order to improve comparability with statistics published each year in the Registrar General's Statistical Review. Only those cause headings with deaths allocated to them are shown.

	Male	Female
Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases ...	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus ...	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	3	2
Malignant neoplasm, intestine ...	4	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	11	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	-	7
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, prostate ...	1	-
Leukaemia ...	1	-
Other malignant neoplasms ...	3	8
Benign and unspecified neoplasms ...	-	1
Other diseases of nervous system ...	2	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease ...	-	2
Hypertensive disease ...	4	1
Ischaemic heart disease ...	31	29
Other forms of heart disease ...	8	6
Cerebrovascular disease ...	10	18
Other diseases of circulatory system ...	5	5
Pneumonia ...	10	8
Bronchitis and emphysema ...	5	1
Asthma ...	1	-
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	-	1
Peptic ulcer ...	2	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia ...	1	1
Cirrhosis of liver ...	1	-
Other diseases of digestive system ...	-	4
Other diseases, genito-urinary system ...	-	2
Congenital anomalies ...	1	1
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc. ...	2	-
Other causes of perinatal mortality ...	-	1
Symptoms and ill defined conditions ...	1	2
Motor vehicle accidents ...	5	-
All other accidents ...	2	2
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries ...	1	-
	<hr/> 118	<hr/> 112

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

(a) Under the control of the Essex County Council:-

(i) Clinics were held at the following Centres during the year 1st January to 31st December 1971:-

			<u>Attendances</u>
<u>GREAT DUNMOW</u> - Essex County Health Services Clinic, New Street			
Child Heath	1st Friday	10 a.m.)	1,167
	Every other Friday	2 p.m.)	
Cytology Clinic	as required	9.30 a.m.	127
School Clinic	2nd and 4th Monday	9.30 a.m.	35
Dental Clinic	Thursday all day	10 a.m.	574
<u>FELSTED</u> - Memorial Hall			
Child Health	2nd Tuesday	2 p.m.	384
<u>GREAT EASTON</u> - Village Hall			
Child Heath	Last Friday	2 p.m.	134
<u>HATFIELD BROAD OAK</u> - Village Hall			
Child Health	1st Tuesday	2 p.m.	257
<u>HATFIELD HEATH</u> - Congregational Church Hall			
Child Health	3rd Tuesday	2 p.m.	215
<u>HIGH RODING</u> - Women's Institute			
Health Visitor's Advisory Clinic	1st Thursday	2 p.m.	105
<u>STEBBING</u> - Congregational Schoolroom			
Child Health	2nd Friday	2 p.m.	166
<u>TAKELEY</u> - Village Hall			
Child Health	2nd Monday	2 p.m.	234
<u>THAXTED</u> - Church Hall			
Child Health	1st Friday	2 p.m.	301

(ii) Home Help Services:-

This useful service is administered from the Social Services Department, 39 Audley Road, Saffron Walden.

(iii) Ambulance Service:-

The Ambulance Station is situated in New Street, Dunmow. A full 24 hour cover is provided.

(b) Under the control of the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board:-

(i) Chest Clinics:-

These are held at St. Michael's Hospital, Braintree; Herts and Essex General Hospital, Bishop's Stortford; and Saffron Walden General Hospital, and cater for the needs of the Dunmow population.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

DISEASES	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	9	1	-
Infective Hepatitis	6	-	-
Measles	56	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	3	2	1
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	5	-	-
Totals	81	3	1

	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 19	20 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 64	65 and over	Age unknown
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	9	1	1	1	1	-	1	1	-	3	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	1
Measles	56	-	2	1	8	7	32	2	-	1	-	-	-	3
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	5	-	2	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	81	1	5	3	10	7	35	5	1	5	1	2	2	4

INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1971

DISEASES		Total Notified	Aythorpe Roding	Little Bardfield	Barnston	Broxted	Great Canfield	Little Canfield	Chickney	Great Dunmow	Little Dunmow	Great Easton	Little Easton	Felsted	Great Hallingbury	Little Hallingbury	Hatfield Broad Oak	High Easter	Hatfield Heath	High Roding	Leaden Roding	Lindsell	Margaret Roding	Stebbing	Takeley	Thaxted	Tilty	White Roding
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	56	-	-	7	1	1	1	-	-	17	-	2	-	11	-	4	2	-	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	81	2	-	7	1	1	1	1	-	20	-	2	-	14	-	6	6	-	4	-	2	-	-	1	7	1	-	6

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Age not known	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

<u>Primary Courses</u>	<u>By General Practitioners</u>	<u>By County Staff</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus	468	87	555
Diphtheria & Tetanus	20	2	22
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Tetanus	18	1	19
Poliomyelitis	494	90	584
Smallpox	249	-	249
Measles	468	66	534
Rubella	29	103	132
<u>Reinforcing Doses</u>			
Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus	270	8	278
Diphtheria & Tetanus	223	14	237
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Tetanus	162	2	164
Poliomyelitis	403	14	417
Smallpox	65	-	65

February 1972

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

All Local Authority functions, not least those relating to Public Health, were overshadowed during the year by the Government's proposals for the re-organisation of Local Government. I predicted in my last report that we should probably see Regional Boards set up to administer Sewerage and Refuse Services. The Central Government's proposals are, that Sewerage shall be taken away from Local Authorities and administered by new Regional Water Authorities who will also be responsible for water supplies, the control of water resources and prevention of river pollution; also that the Refuse Service shall be split, the new District Councils being responsible for collection and the proposed County Councils will deal with disposal. In the case of disposal it is considered that the larger authority will have greater resources and can deal with the problem over a much greater area. Experience in the past has not shewn larger authorities to be the "trend setters" it has invariably been the smaller councils which have been prepared to risk installing new and perhaps unproved plant and methods and who are deserving of our gratitude and admiration.

A major issue with which the Council was concerned, was the proposed extension of the Merks Hill Refuse Tip and following a Public Inquiry approval was given for tipping to take place subject to certain conditions.

The Takeley and Hatfield Broad Oak Sewerage Schemes were approved by the Department of the Environment and were out to tender. Proposals to improve the Lower Chelmer Valley Sewerage by increasing disposal facilities were submitted to the Department of the Environment for approval. It was unfortunately necessary to restrict applications for development in all the parishes served by these schemes, until the improvements have been completed.

64 Council dwellings in the Parishes of Leaden Roding, Stebbing, Thaxted and Little Hallingbury were completed during the year and 26 in Great Dunmow were in course of construction. 80 private dwellings were constructed which include 45 on one estate in Barnston.

One Meat Inspector left to take up another appointment but apart from this the technical and clerical staff of the Department remained unaltered. I am grateful to them all for carrying out their duties with tact, enthusiasm and efficiency.

I again wish to thank members of the Council for their continued support and express appreciation to my Chief Officer colleagues and their staff for their continued assistance.

Yours faithfully,

G. L. FIELD

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(a) Public Water Supplies

Water supplies in the district are provided by the Lee Valley Water Company. During the year supplies were adequate and given on a subsequent page are details of the population served by mains water by parishes.

Fluoride

The Fluoride content of the water supply was as follows:-

Thaxted	... 0.4 mg. per litre
Great Dunmow	... 1.0 mg. per litre
Hatfield Heath	... 0.6 mg. per litre

Analysis

7 samples of water were taken for analysis and were found to be satisfactory. A copy of a report on one sample by the Counties Public Health Laboratory appears on a following page.

Private Water Supplies

3 samples were taken from private supplies and 2 were found to be unsatisfactory. One was from a well and arrangements were being made to provide chlorination equipment. The second was found to be caused by the decaying remains of a bird which made it necessary to clean out and flush the pipes and tanks.

Swimming Pools

Pools are provided at the Helena Romanes Comprehensive School, Great Dunmow, the Felsted School, and Primary Schools at Great Easton, Stebbing, Hatfield Broad Oak and Dunmow (2). Regular checks on the chlorine content and acidity of the water were made by the Public Health Inspectors. The latter gave rise to concern where hypochlorite solution is used and to a lesser degree where "Chlorpils" are in use due to causing alkalinity which resulted in eye irritation. In an attempt to counteract this, sodium bisulphate was added to the water with varying degrees of success, but the results were generally disappointing. No such problem was experienced where gaseous chlorine was used.

Lee Valley Water Company

Tap over kitchen sink, Coldharbour Farm, Little Canfield

Chemical Results in Parts Per Million

Appearance:	Clear and bright	Turbidity	Nil
Colour	Nil	Odour	Nil
pH	7.6	Free Carbon Dioxide	15
Electric Conductivity	590	Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C	420
Chlorine present as Chloride	23	Alkalinity as Ca CO ₃	265
Hardness as Ca CO ₃ : Total	340	Carbonate: 265 Non-carbonate	75
Nitrate Nitrogen	6.2	Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.00	Permanganate Value	0.00
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.00	Residual Chlorine	Absent
Metals: Iron, Zinc, copper, lead,			
Manganese: Absent			

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from a very minute trace of iron. The water is very hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not considered excessive. The water conforms to the highest standard of organic quality.

These results indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic uses, from the aspect of the chemical analysis.

6th July 1971

Counties Public Health Laboratories

POPULATION IN EACH PARISH HAVING MAIN WATER SUPPLY

Parish	No. of Houses	Census Population 1971	No. of houses on main supply	Estimated Population on main supply
Aythorpe Roding	80	223	73	202
Little Bardfield	89	223	73	192
Barnston	210	452	159	352
Broxted	201	520	196	510
Great Canfield	138	392	132	380
Little Canfield	116	297	114	289
Chickney	13	32	5	20
Great Dunmow	1,682	4,531	1,639	4,420
Little Dunmow	138	354	131	340
Great Easton	290	754	277	728
Little Easton	149	337	125	300
Felsted	871	2,999	827	2,910
Great Hallingbury	327	944	293	870
Little Hallingbury	446	1,248	421	1,200
Hatfield Broad Oak	971	2,623	949	2,580
High Easter	217	597	201	527
High Roding	148	374	140	358
Leaden Roding	149	385	133	350
Lindsell	79	196	76	190
Margaret Roding	72	189	68	181
Stebbing	430	1,201	410	1,161
Takeley	853	2,260	861*	2,212
Thaxted	865	2,095	802	1,960
Tilty	22	73	20	69
White Roding	126	391	117	373
	8,682	23,600	7,994	22,674

DRAINAGE AND SANITATION

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

I am grateful to the Engineer and Surveyor for this part of the report.

There are 16 sewage disposal works, 20 sewage pumping stations and 17 smaller works in the district. There are also approximately 60 miles of sewers.

Connections to sewers

During the year 124 new properties were connected to the Council's sewers.

Future Works

Hatfield Heath Sewage Works and Takeley Sewage Works

These two schemes have been combined into one Contract and tenders had been invited at the end of the year. It is expected that the total cost will be in the region of £500,000 and that the work will commence during the first half of 1972.

Lower Chelmer Valley Sewerage Scheme Phase 3

At the end of the year this scheme had been prepared and authority received from the Department of the Environment to invite tenders.

HOUSING

Improvement Grants

The increased number of applications for Improvement Grants evident after the passing of the Housing Act 1969 continued to be maintained.

15 Standard Grants - value £4,300 and 44 Improvement Grants - value £36,007 were approved. 24 Standard Grants - value £6,907 and 41 Improvement Grants - value £30,500 were paid on completion of the work.

We encouraged where possible the latter type of grant as this results in a far more satisfactory dwelling on completion of the work as not only are the standard facilities provided but the whole structure of the dwelling is renovated and improved. 12 months were allowed on the initial approval of grants for completion of the works and it was found that in the great majority of cases this period is adequate, but if work cannot for some reason be completed in this time a six months extension is allowed.

384 visits were made in connection with grants covering inspections with owners or agents to advise on the possibility of grant being made, inspections in respect of actual applications prior to pricing up the work and final inspection for payment of the grant on completion.

At the Dunmow Trades Fair held in the summer the Council agreed to take part in the Exhibition and the Public Health Department prepared and staffed a stand promoting Improvement Grants, using exhibition material loaned by the Department of the Environment. Considering the time and effort involved the results were most disappointing as only some 60 people showed interest in the stand over the course of some 3 days. Even after all the national and local publicity house owners still cannot accept that a Local Authority will give them up to £1,000 as a virtual gift and no strings attached.

The question of declaring a General Improvement Area was considered, but after a great deal of thought it was felt that no part of any parish in the district lent itself to the purpose. There are no large terraces or blocks of sub-standard houses, as the majority of property is fairly well maintained and over the years a large number have already been improved. One area was however originally thought to be a potential General Improvement Area but on investigation only a very small number of houses in the area were found to be lacking in the standard amenities; as applications for improvement grants were being made it was decided that, at the current rate of improvement, to declare an area was pointless.

Slum Clearance

3 properties subject to Demolition Orders were demolished. 3 Closing Orders and 3 Undertakings were revoked on completion of works which made the properties fit for human habitation. 1 Undertaking not to relet was accepted and 1 Notice of Time and Place had been served in respect of a property for formal consideration in 1972.

9 sub-standard cottages were improved and made fit without resorting to formal action.

It has become extremely difficult to determine what is reasonable expense when considering property for slum clearance, when old cottages classed as unfit and where formal action is contemplated are being sold for in excess of £4,500. If a purchaser is prepared to pay that amount it is ludicrous to class repairs costing £2,000 as unreasonable.

Housing Act 1969 - Rent Provisions

10 applications for Qualification certificates were received in respect of premises already provided with all the standard facilities, and two Qualification Certificates were issued.

4 Provisional Qualification Certificates were issued following the approval of Standard and Improvement Grants.

Given below are tabulated details of housing action taken during the year:-

1. Inspection of Dwelling houses during the year

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	... 257
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	... 280
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Regulations	... 115
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	... 121
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... 1
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... 4

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	... 12
---	--------

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year

A - Proceedings under Public Health Acts, 1936 and 1961

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	... Nil
(b) By Local Authorities in default of owners	... Nil

B - Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act 1957

- | | |
|---|---------|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | ... Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices: | |
| (a) By owners | ... 12 |
| (b) By Local Authorities in default of owners | ... Nil |

C - Proceedings under Sections 16 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1957

- | | |
|---|---------|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... Nil |
| (3) Number of written undertakings accepted | ... 1 |

D - Proceedings under Sections 17, 19 and 27 of the Housing Act, 1957

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| (1) Number of Closing Orders made | ... Nil |
| (2) Number of houses demolished | ... 4 |

E - Proceedings under Section 27 of the Housing Act, 1957

- | | |
|---|---------|
| (1) Number of Demolition Orders revoked | ... Nil |
|---|---------|

F - Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing Act, 1957

- | | |
|--|---------|
| (1) Number of Closing Orders revoked and Demolition Orders substituted | ... Nil |
|--|---------|

G - Proceedings under Section 42 of the Housing Act, 1957

- | | |
|--|---------|
| (1) Number of houses in confirmed clearance areas demolished | ... Nil |
|--|---------|

H - Proceedings under Sections 34 and 53 of the Housing Act, 1957

- | | |
|--|---------|
| (1) Licences in force for temporary occupation | ... Nil |
|--|---------|

4. Overcrowding - Part IV, Housing Act, 1957

No action was necessary during the year.

The following information relating to Council and Private Housing has been supplied by the Engineer & Surveyor.

Council Housing

New Building during 1971 was as follows:-

- | | |
|--|--------|
| Number of Council houses completed | ... 64 |
| Number of Council houses under construction at end of the year | ... 26 |
| Number of Council houses approved but not commenced at end of year | ... 29 |

The total number of houses owned by the Council at the end of the year was:-

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Pre-War houses | ... 675 |
| Cottages purchased post-war | ... 21 |
| Post-war houses | ... 1243 |
| | <hr/> 1939 |

The houses by types are as follows:-

1-bed houses	...	2
2-bed houses	...	171
3-bed houses	...	1182
3-bed house/shop	...	1
4-bed houses	...	39
1-bed bungalows	...	87
2-bed bungalows	...	236
1-bed flats	...	60
2-bed flats	...	161

10 houses have been sold to tenants (5 pre-war and 5 post-war).

Housing Applications

There were 360 applications for Council houses at 31st December.
During the year there were 38 re-lettings.

Private Housing

New Building during 1971 was as follows:-

Number of Private houses completed	...	80
Number of houses built by other authorities	...	Nil
Number of Private houses under construction at end of year	...	83
Number of Private houses with detail plans approved but not commenced at end of year	...	135

Total building since the War

The total number of houses built in the district since the War is:-

Council houses	...	1243
Housing Associations	...	12
Private houses	...	2067
Essex County Council	...	30
		<hr/> 3352

Maturity Loans

Whilst the Council continue to operate the maturity loan scheme and a number of enquiries were made in respect of loans during the year none were followed up with firm applications. One loan which had been approved the previous year was paid.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Staff 1 Foreman
 1 Vehicle Mechanic
 5 Driver/Loaders
 10 Loaders
 1 Tractor Driver
 1 Cesspool Emptyer Driver
 1 Female Paper Baler

20

Vehicles 2 No. Shelvoke & Drewry 50 cu. yd. Pakamatics
 2 No. Shelvoke & Drewry 35 cu. yd. Fore & Aft Tippers
 2 No. Karrier 25 cu. yd. "Dual Tip"
 1 No. Shelvoke & Drewry 1100 gallon Cesspool Emptyer
 1 No. Morris 1000 Pick-up Truck
 1 No. International BTDS Drott crawler tractor with
 4 in 1 Bucket

Refuse Collection and Disposal

(i) Refuse Collection

A regular weekly collection was maintained throughout the year. The staff position was much more static than in previous years as only 3 men left the Council's employ all of whom were replaced. There was a considerable reduction in the number of days lost due to sickness and absenteeism from $277\frac{1}{2}$ days in 1970 to 191 days in 1971. Of this latter figure 77 days were attributable to two men having to undergo hospital treatment. The tractor driver was used less on refuse collection than in previous years and from September onwards he was not employed on collection at all.

In November the Council agreed to the appointment of a second spare refuse loader to ensure the availability of additional labour cover for holidays and sickness to ensure that the tractor driver could always be available for tip work.

144 new dwellings received a collection during the year including 64 Council flatlets and bungalows at Thaxted, Leaden Roding, Little Hallingbury and Stebbing where either plastic bin liners or paper sacks were used. All the additional properties were absorbed into the existing rounds with the appropriate bin bonus being paid. In the forthcoming year however when additional flats and bungalows are provided in Dunmow the rounds of the fifth vehicle will have to be adjusted to employ it on domestic collection on Friday instead of utilising it on special collections of bulky refuse.

The legal necessity for drivers to hold a Heavy Goods Vehicle Drivers Licence began to cause problems as holders of this licence are comparatively rare and are able to obtain drivers jobs with much higher pay and better working conditions than are available in a Public Cleansing Service. To relieve the situation it was decided that we should train our own drivers with the Cleansing Foreman as the instructor. Two men were submitted for test, one passing at the first attempt and the other at the second - a very creditable achievement to the two men concerned and to the Foreman who trained them. Subsequently the Council agreed to pay a plus rate to a loader who held a Heavy Goods Vehicle Driver's Licence.

(ii) Refuse Disposal

Tipping continued at the refuse tip at Merks Hill, Great Dunmow but the area on which disposal took place was filled by the end of the year. All through the year the problem of disposal was uppermost in everyone's thoughts and at times this problem appeared insoluble. It was only by constant rolling of the refuse prior to final levelling in the tip, as was subsequently recommended in the Working Party Report on Refuse Disposal, which enabled tipping to be continued for so long.

In April a Public Inquiry was held to consider the Council's appeal against the planning refusal to extend the tip into adjoining woodland, by clearing and tipping in the centre of the wood and leaving a belt of trees around the perimeter. This appeal lasted for three days including site visits. The Secretary of State's decision was received on 22nd October and this was in favour of the Council. Certain conditions designed to prevent causing pollution or nuisance were incorporated in the approval but these were all matters to which the Council had agreed at the Inquiry.

The Council submitted a scheme of working for the new tip, to the County Council which was accepted and the Landscape Officer in the County Planning Department was requested to prepare a tree planting scheme. Steps were taken to have the site cleared and an access road constructed to enable the new tipping area to be brought into use and it was anticipated that tipping would commence in January 1972. One of the conditions of the planning approval was that effluent from the tip should be treated and not allowed to drain to the watercourse. It was decided that all effluent should be collected and pumped to the sewer; the scheme had been designed and was going to tender as the year ended.

The B.T.D.8 Crawler Tractor became exceedingly expensive to maintain due to its increasing age (5 years), and it spent almost as much time under repair as it was working. In the last year of its life repairs costing £1,440 were incurred. If the Council's future refuse disposal arrangements had not been so uncertain this tractor would have been replaced much sooner - it is apparent, with this type of equipment on this type of work, that three years is its useful life, after which the wisest course of action is replacement. As soon as it was known that tipping could continue at Merks Hill the Council agreed to purchase a new tractor and an International Drott 125B Power Shift Loader with 4 in 1 Bucket was delivered in December. In the short time this vehicle was in use the advantages of the power shift were very apparent, in speeding up movement of the machine particularly when changing from forward to reverse and vice versa, without having to change gear as with the machine provided with a conventional gearbox.

A joint meeting with representatives from neighbouring authorities was held to consider the provision of a plant for the incineration of the refuse collected in the areas administered by these Councils. As the Government's proposals for the future of Local Government had previously been published there was no enthusiasm for the proposal and it was decided to pursue it no further. Personally I am convinced that incineration is the long term solution to refuse disposal, providing as it does a residue which is not only smaller in quantity than with any other method but one which is also sterile.

Salvage

The "stop-go" policy relating to waste paper collection was once more very evident, this time being "stop" and in the latter half of the year it became increasingly difficult to sell the paper collected. There is good reason for Local Authorities to be wary of increasing collections when exhorted by the industry to do so, as invariably no sooner are the increased collections in operation than a recession occurs.

This resulted in a reduction of the quantity sent to the Mills this being only 63.13 tons a reduction of some 17 tons over the previous year. The gross income derived from this tonnage was £700.88.

Litter

The collection of bulky domestic refuse continued to be undertaken free of charge and 347 collections were made during the year.

2 additional litter baskets were erected and 1 replacement provided. Thaxted Parish Council provided 6 litter bins and erected them in the centre of the Parish.

Delivery of litter containers continued to be a problem and for this reason it became necessary to purchase from alternative suppliers but even so delivery was still very protracted.

8 lay-bys on the public highway continued to be cleared on behalf of the County Highways Department for the appropriate fee. Larger containers were provided, but it is not so much litter in the accepted sense which we remove but old furniture, garden refuse and the rubbish which lorry drivers sweep off their lorries. Persons dumping these materials on lay-bys are thoughtless and anti-social and it is small wonder that the Highways Department are experimenting with the removal of litter bins from certain highways in the County, in an endeavour to ascertain if this will solve the problem. I understand that it has alleviated the situation.

Abandoned Vehicles

22 abandoned vehicles were removed from various points in the district. They were as in previous years taken to the scrap yard at Felsted where they were eventually broken up. The cost to the Council of removal of vehicles was increased from £1 per vehicle to £3 per vehicle on the highway and £2 where on other land.

Vehicle Maintenance

Maintenance of all the Council's vehicles continued to be carried out by a mechanic assisted as necessary by the Cleansing Foreman. As I have commented previously a great deal of repair work had to be done on the International Drott prior to the purchase of new equipment.

Major work carried out included:-

1. Fitting new engine, track sprockets, track adjustment spring, radiator and steering clutches to International Drott.
2. Overhauling braking systems on both Karriers.
3. Overhauling engine and providing new clutch on Karrier 2.

4. Overhauling hydraulic tipping rams on Karrier 3.
5. Fitting new clutches in both Pakamatics.
6. Fitting new engine and clutch in Long Wheel Base Land Rover.
7. Repainting Ford Transit and one Morris 1000 van.
8. Repairing accident damage to Fore and Aft Tipper.
9. Overhauling steering on both Karriers and both Pakamatics.

It will be seen that this was a formidable list of repairs but in addition minor running repairs, greasing and general maintenance had to be carried out as well as the, by no means small task of puncture repair and tyre changing.

A fantastic amount of work is necessary to keep a fleet of vehicles on the road and also a great deal of effort is required in locating and obtaining spare parts quickly. To achieving these ends my grateful thanks must go to the Mechanic and Foreman for carrying out the work, often long after normal working hours and to my two Public Health Inspector colleagues who carry a great deal of the responsibility for ensuring that the spare parts are available for use.

In the future we have to remember that the Plating and Testing Regulations will apply to municipal vehicles and this will make the maintenance of these vehicles even more onerous.

I consider that with the stringent annual testing, the maximum life the Council allows for its refuse and other heavy vehicles must not exceed 7 years. In addition to allow vehicles to be off the road to be prepared for test it will be necessary to keep, with a fleet the size of ours, two spare vehicles instead of the present one, as at times now this affords inadequate cover for breakdowns.

To facilitate the washing of vehicles a concrete washdown area was provided at the Depot.

Cesspool Emptying

The cesspool emptier continued to be engaged on emptying cesspools, septic tanks and small sewage plants serving Council houses and removing sludge from the sewage disposal works. Land disposal was employed whenever the land was available and it was possible to get the vehicle on and off. A major effort was made after harvest, to remove onto arable land prior to ploughing, the maximum amount of sewage sludge possible and over a period of 3 weeks some 200,000

gallons of sludge was moved with the one machine. This entailed working over the weekends and to ensure no contravention of legislation relating to Drivers Hours more than one driver was employed.

When it was not possible to get onto the land all cesspool contents and sewage sludge was taken to the Felsted Sewage Works for treatment.

It has become more and more apparent that this vehicle is a most valuable asset to the Council's sewerage undertaking for emptying pump wells in times of power or pump failures, for assisting in clearing blocked sewers and also for sewer flushing. It has also been used to damp down a fire on the refuse tip.

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

The Council's Public Health Inspectors made 2,488 visits and inspections in the course of the year. Details of these are given below.

Complaints received and investigated ... 118

Inspections under Housing Acts

Housing inspections ... 115

Housing applications verified for other authorities ... 8

Improvement grants ... 384

Inspections under Public Health Acts

Caravan Sites ... 109

Offensive accumulations ... 11

Water supplies ... 5

Drainage, cesspools, etc. ... 254

Ponds, ditches and watercourses ... 19

Refuse Collection and Disposal ... 454

Public conveniences ... 64

Infectious Disease Prevention

Visits to private houses ... 130

Factories, Shops and Schools

Factories ... 44

Schools ... 2

Outworkers ... 2

Food and Drugs Act

Slaughterhouses ... 56

Knackers Yard ... 8

Butchers ... 2

Bakers and Confectioners ... 6

Dairies ... 3

Cafes, restaurants and canteens ... 5

Hotels and Public Houses ... 7

Fishmongers ... 1

Other Food Premises (Grocers etc.) ... 18

Sampling

Water ... 7

Rodent Control

Visits ... 227

Treatments ... 200

Clean Air Act

Visits ... 9

<u>Abandoned Vehicles</u>	...	115
<u>Petroleum Regulations</u>		
<u>Licensing and Pressure and Seepage tests</u>	...	52
<u>Swimming Pools</u>	...	11
<u>Meat Inspection visits</u>	...	1610
<u>Animal Boarding Establishments</u>	...	5
<u>Offices, Shops and Railway Premises</u>	...	33
<u>Searches</u>	...	793
<u>Nuisances Detected and Notices Served</u>		
Nuisances detected	...	108
Informal notices served	...	35
Notices outstanding 1st January 1971	...	5
Notices outstanding 31st December 1971	...	8
Statutory Notices served	...	Nil
Legal Proceedings	...	1

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat Inspection

Once more a considerable increase in the number of animals slaughtered was evident. 163,515 animals were slaughtered compared with 148,712 in 1970 - a 10% increase. This involved a greater workload on the three Authorised Meat Inspectors - no increase had been made to the establishment for over 5 years during which time the number of animals slaughtered had increased from 115,864 to 163,515 and it had become evident that three men were no longer capable of dealing with this amount of work and a recommendation was being made to the appropriate Committee to appoint an additional Inspector.

Carcases inspected and condemned:

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. Slaughtered	11,180	34	60	12,673	139,568	-
No. Inspected	11,180	34	60	12,673	139,568	-
<u>All diseases except</u> <u>Tuberculosis and</u> <u>Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	9	-	8	3	153	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,827	3	9	379	11,293	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	16.4	8.8	28.3	3.0	8.2	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	1,282	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.9	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	4	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Pigs which arrived dead or died in lairs were examined for scheduled diseases but were not inspected.

Slaughterhouses

Six premises were licensed, one less than in the previous year, as the occupier of the slaughterhouse at Thaxted decided not to renew his licence. Regular inspections were made of all the premises and I am pleased to report that continuing improvement took place to ensure compliance with the current regulations.

The blood dewatering plant at the Hatfield Heath Abattoir proved troublesome at intervals during the year when on occasions offensive odours were discharged to the atmosphere. This resulted in complaints from inhabitants in the locality particularly after July. Whilst some complaints were justified, others were not. The occupiers of the Abattoir were most perturbed at the situation and contacted a Consultant to obtain his advice on the best method of dealing with the problem and the installation of an after burner to consume the odours was being considered.

Knackers Yard

The one knackers yard in use in the district which is at Little Hallingbury, continued to be run in a most satisfactory manner. The statutory returns under the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958 showed that 40 horses, 207 cattle and 1,194 pigs, calves and sheep were slaughtered there during the year.

The Meat (Sterilizing) Regulations 1969 which came into force two years ago result in knacker meat no longer being sold from these premises as all meat and offal is now sent to a plant situated outside the district for sterilization.

Licensing

The number of licences in force at the end of the year was:-

Private slaughterhouses	6
Knackers Yard	1
Licensed Slaughtermen	34
Game Dealers	7

Food Inspection

The following complaints were received:

1. Foreign bodies in bread
2. Mouldy apple puffs
3. Mouldy crumpets
4. Wire and muslin in tin of corned beef
5. Piece of bandsaw in sliced loaf
6. Wasp in doughnut

These matters were all taken up with the suppliers or manufacturers concerned but after extensive investigations it was decided not to take formal action and letters warning the firms to take better precautions were sent. In the case of the mouldy apple puffs as a result of our efforts the manufacturer - a firm of national repute - arranged for all future products to be date stamped.

The following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and condemned:

- 5 x 1 doz. cartons pineapples
- 3 x 7 lb. bags of cornflour
- 12 x 1 lb. 12 oz. tins of tomatoes
- 715 lbs. bananas
- 9 x 5 kg. trays grapes
- 12 boxes grapes
- 26 x 6 trays of melons
- 35 x 9 trays melons
- 138 x 1 doz. lettuce
- 252 x 12 boxes cucumbers
- 3 x 3 kg. boxes chicory
- 32 x 30 boxes celery
- contents of 1 shop refrigerator

Poultry Inspection

2 poultry processing premises are operated in the district. Only turkeys from home bred stock are processed which in 1971 totalled 55,000. None of the birds are eviscerated. Birds showing evidence of being unsound are rejected by employees engaged in the processing. Slaughtering is in the main normally restricted to the period immediately prior to Easter and Christmas. 7 visits of inspection were made by Public Health Inspectors during the year.

1.5 % of the birds slaughtered are rejected as unfit for human consumption resulting in a weight of 5 tons 13 cwt.

Hygiene at both premises is good. Whilst there is at present no legal requirement for inspection of birds to be carried out, during processing, it is considered that this is an aspect which will need to be given closer attention in the future, particularly so where birds are eviscerated. It is, however, felt that it is unnecessary to have a Public Health Inspector on the line throughout the processing cycle to inspect the birds but that a "spotter" system should be adopted with the Inspector available for consultation.

Ice Cream

There are 129 premises registered under Section 16 Food and Drugs Act 1955 for the storage and sale of ice cream.

Food Premises by Type of Business

Grocers and General Provisions	... 67
Bread and Confectionery	... 12
Butchers	... 12
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	... 4
Fishmongers	... 2
Sweets	... 12
Cafes and Restaurants	... 24
Public Houses and Hotels	... 64
Works Canteens	... 9
School Canteens and Cooking Centres	... 16

Included in the above lists are the following premises as registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955:-

Manufacture of sausages and preserved food	... 18
--	--------

Food Processing Premises

Bacon Curing Factory	... 1
Beet Sugar Factory	... 1
Brewery	... 1
Egg Packers	... 2
Banana Ripening Plant	... 1

Atmospheric Pollution

No nuisances occurred during the year. The plans of 2 boiler installations requiring the checking of chimney heights were examined and advised upon.

Disinfestation

3 disinfestations were undertaken in respect of fleas.

Section 60 National Assistance Act 1948. Burial of the Dead

It was necessary during the year to arrange the burial of two persons, one in Takeley and one in High Easter, who died with no next of kin.

PETROLEUM

Licences were in force in respect of the following:-

Storage of petroleum spirit 139

Storage of petroleum mixture 2

1 new installation was brought into use after passing a pressure test and complying with the Council's licensing conditions.

1 installation was taken out of use and the tanks filled with weak mix concrete.

As in 1970 Toluene was found stored without a licence so it was found stored on another premises in Great Dunmow in 1971. No application had been made for a licence to store and the usual plea of ignorance to the law relating to licensing was made. The occupier of the premises constructed a satisfactory storage building to contain this material and on complying with the Council's licence conditions was issued with a licence.

Complaints of gas in the sewers were received from residents in certain areas of Hatfield Heath. Tests by the Gas Board however proved negative and investigations by the Council's staff likewise showed no evidence of gas. Following a call out on a Sunday it was found that petrol was present in the sewer in part of the village some half a mile away from where the householders had complained of the smell of gas. The sewer was opened up in the vicinity of a petrol station and petrol was present in the subsoil water. Although the petrol tanks and pipe lines had only been installed some 9 years earlier tests were carried out and a section of suction pipelines not surrounded by concrete was found to have been attacked by the surrounding clay resulting in numerous holes through which petrol in the pipe was draining away into the surrounding subsoil. The affected pump was taken out of use until a new suction pipe had been provided which solved the problem. It was necessary to flush the length of sewer affected for several days, with the cesspool emptier to clear all traces of petrol which were present.

Great care is necessary in handling petrol and petroleum mixtures and all too often lack of this care is exercised, with spillage occurring on petrol station forecourts, and persons smoking when handling petrol. It is essential that licensing conditions are strictly enforced and all persons handling the liquid made to realise that they are dealing with a potentially very dangerous material if precautions are not taken.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

As can be seen from the table of premises and visits etc. the re-inspection of registered premises and initial visits to new establishments was again achieved with only minor infringements being noted.

It is perhaps interesting to note that the standards observed in premises in regard to space per person etc. is in all cases very much above the statutory minimum, as both working efficiency and staff job satisfaction determine a far superior standard.

Now that the Act is well established and accepted, a satisfactory re-inspection rate can be achieved by a public health inspector who is always a professionally qualified officer carrying out a comprehensive inspection of a particular premises for all relevant legislation.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

	Number of Premises Registered During Year	Total Number of Registered Premises at end of year	Number of Registered Premises Receiving General Inspection	Number of Persons employed
Offices	2	32	0	151
Retail Shops	-	77	23	312
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	-	-	-	-
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens	-	11	1	42
Fuel storage depots	-	2	1	51
	2	122	33	571
Total Males				251
Total Females				320

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS

The Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963 came into force on 1st January 1964. Standard conditions were approved by the Council and following a prior inspection premises were licensed as under:

Pyes Farmhouse, Barnston
Apple Tree Cottage, Gaston Green, Little Hallingbury
The Chestnuts, Latchmore Bank, Little Hallingbury
Silver Pines, Little Hallingbury
Whitedale, Canfield Road, Takeley
Simpkins Farm, Church End, Lindsell
Normandale Farm, Little Hallingbury
Paddocks, Wrights Green, Little Hallingbury
Grange Farm, Sparrows Lane, Hatfield Heath

SCRAP METAL DEALERS

The Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964 came into force on 1st April, 1965. This requires all dealers to be registered. The number registered is 14.

RODENT CONTROL

As in previous years the control of rats and mice in the area continued to be exercised by staff of the Public Health Department. There was a reduction in the number of visits made to 191 in the case of rats and 36 in respect of mice. 418 packets of rat poison were issued.

The Council's Refuse Tip was treated when necessary but continued to remain virtually free from infestation. The Engineer and Surveyor's staff continued to treat the sewage disposal works and also carried out a treatment of the sewers in Thaxted.

Notification was received that the Dunmow Rabbit Clearance Society, who treated agricultural land for rats and mice, proposed to cease operations in September. The Council considered whether to employ full time rodent control staff to carry on this work on farms and business premises, but after considerable debate decided not to do so, but to continue with the Council's present services and refer all requests from farms and business premises to the West Essex Rabbit Clearance Society, who had intimated that they were able and prepared to carry out this work.

In July two Public Health Inspectors attended a 3 day conference on Pest Control at Queen's College, Cambridge, which was organised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The whole subject of pest control was covered including not only rats and mice but also insect pests.

CONTROL ACTION

The following details of action taken under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 are given in the form required by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food:-

	Type of Property		
	Dwelling Houses (ii)	Agri-cultural (iii)	Total (iv)
Number of properties in Area	8,636	250	8,886
Premises inspected as a result of notification	227	-	227
Premises inspected as a result of Survey under the Act	-	-	-
Total number of inspections (including re-inspections and inspections primarily for other purposes)	227	-	227
Number of properties found to be infested with rats (common rats)	191	-	191
Major infestations	-	-	-
Minor infestations	191	-	191
Number of properties found to be seriously infested with mice	36	-	36
Number of infested premises treated by the Council's Public Health Inspectors	91	-	91
Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act	-	-	-

CARAVANS and other MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The position relating to caravans remained very similar to the previous year. A circular from the Department of the Environment in December drew the attention to the necessity to ensure that the fire fighting provisions in the recommended licence conditions were complied with. Fire fighting provisions adopted in this district require a much higher standard than the recommended code particularly in the case of the sites for more than 4 caravans.

Conditions on all sites, particularly the larger ones, continued to be good and it was unnecessary to take any formal action.

Parishes	Sites	Caravans	Tents	Huts
Barnston	2	2	-	-
Broxted	1	1	-	-
Little Canfield	1	1	-	-
Great Dunmow	1	2	-	-
Great Easton	1	1	-	-
Great Hallingbury	1	1	-	-
Little Hallingbury	2	2	-	-
Leaden Roding	1	1	-	-
Lindsell	1	1	-	-
Stebbing	2	3	-	-
Takeley	8	253	-	-
Thaxted	1	1	-	-
White Roding	1	2	-	-
Totals	23	271	-	-

FACTORIES

Particulars of the premises registered by the Council under the Factories Act, 1961, and the inspections made are to be found as follows:-

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

Premises	Number on Register			
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	45	4	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by local authorities	84	40	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by local authorities (excluding out-workers premises)	-	-	-	-
	129	44	-	-

2. CASES in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			to H. M. Inspector	by H. M. Inspector	
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	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to out-workers)	-	-	-	-	-
Totals					

Outworkers Section 133 2 notifications of outworkers were received.

BYELAWS

The following is a list of the Council's Byelaws now in force:-

Byelaws with respect to new streets.

Byelaws for the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery
of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air.

Byelaws for the sanitary conditions and management
of private slaughterhouses.

Byelaws for the sanitary conditions, management and
keeping of records for Knackers' Yards.

Byelaws as to Hairdressers and Barbers.

SECRET

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Findings and Recommendations	Committee's Findings and Recommendations		Action	Status
	Findings	Recommendations		
(I) The Committee finds that the existing conditions of the program are unsatisfactory and that the program is in need of a complete reorganization.				
(II) The Committee finds that the existing conditions of the program are unsatisfactory and that the program is in need of a complete reorganization.				
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