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for the year

1970



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THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND LICENSING COMMITTEE, 1970

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Alderman K.W. JOHNSON

Vice-Chairman

Councillor N.G. ROUND

The Mayor

Alderman W.C.J. RAY, D.F.C.

Members

Aldermen D.C. HERBERT, B.J. SHAW, Councillors A.N. BROWN,  
Mrs. D.E. COOK, L. HUGHES, C. WILLETTS, Miss J.K. GRAINGER,  
and F. GODDARD.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

J. TWOMEY, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., N.U.I., D.T.M. & H., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

A. ARCHER (a.b.c.)

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

A.R. HUMPHRIES (a.b.c.)

Senior Public Health Inspector:

D. SPURRIER (a.b.c.)

District Public Health Inspectors:

R.J. SHAW (d.c.) (until 30.4.70)

I.B.W. CUTLER (d.c.)

J.E. EVANS, B.Sc. (e)

G.L. ADAMS (d.f.)

H.G. WILLIAMS, B.Sc. (e) (from 1.6.70)

Pupil Public Health Inspectors:

C. RICKETTS (until 30.9.70)

W.J. OSBORNE

Technical Assistants:

C.G. BANFORD (until 30.4.70)

R.M. CORBETT (from 8.6.70)

D.G. HOOPER (from 29.12.70)

Chief Clerk:

L.S. QUARTLY

Clerk to Medical Officer of Health:

Mrs. P. PETERS

Secretary to the Chief Public Health Inspector:

Mrs. P. MARSH

Clerk/Shorthand Typists:

Mrs. M. CHECKETTS (until 6.8.70)

Miss E.A. ARMSTRONG (until 30.1.70)

Mrs. J.M. BROWN (from 2.3.70)

Mrs. P.D. HACKETT (from 13.7.70 to 16.8.70)

Miss S.L. MORRIS (from 20.8.70)

- (a) Public Health Inspector's Certificate
- (b) Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate
- (c) Smoke Inspector's Certificate
- (d) Diploma of the Public Health Inspector's Education Board
- (e) B.Sc., in Environmental Health
- (f) Diploma of Air Pollution Control



ANNUAL REPORT, 1970

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Halesowen.

Vital Statistics

The estimated mid-year population was 52,320 as against 51,930 at the corresponding time of the previous year.

The Infant Mortality Rate, Adjusted Death Rate, Stillbirth Rate are all close to the national average.

Causes of Death

The pattern of mortality is similar to that of previous years, just less than half the deaths being caused by diseases of the heart and blood-vessels. As far as is known to medical science, we can best protect ourselves against this group of diseases by what I have elsewhere termed the rule of three: keep active, keep weight down, keep off cigarettes.

Bronchitis took a heavier toll of life than usual in 1970, a fact probably connected with the influenza outbreak early in the year. There is no recorded death from pulmonary tuberculosis, and this may be regarded as an indication of present trends in the prevention and treatment of this disease.

Another but very much less happy sign of the times is the fact that 118 people died of malignant diseases, of which lung cancer was the most common type. Tobacco, and especially cigarettes, is known to be a cause of lung cancer and it is somewhat disappointing that innumerable warnings on smoking risks have not been more effective. However, it is relevant that the tobacco industry in Britain alone spends an estimated £52,000,000 a year on all forms of advertising and to combat this, the Health Education Council has until recently been able to spend only £100,000 a year.

Control of Infectious Diseases

The usual work was carried out during the year without major incident.

Vaccination against measles was started in 1968 and was slowed down in 1969 as one of the vaccines then in use was found to have unacceptably severe side-effects. This accounts for the fact that the number of measles notifications in 1970 (198), though considerably less than in many years before the introduction of vaccination, was higher than in 1969 (103). During 1970 an adequate supply of measles

vaccine of a type that causes few ill-effects became available and vaccination was offered to all children between the ages of one and two years. We may, therefore, now look forward to seeing a progressive decline in the incidence of measles, possibly leading to its eradication as an endemic disease of this country.

#### Precaution against Imported Diseases

As usual, surveillance was carried out of persons at risk because of recent arrival from infected areas overseas without adequate protection by vaccination.

#### Halesowen Home Safety Committee

Talks and film shows on home safety were shown to various groups as in previous years. The publication of a monthly column on the subject in the 'Circular' was continued, the space being kindly afforded free of charge by the proprietor, Mr. H. Taylor. Poster displays were shown in the libraries and other public places.

Representations were made by the Committee to appropriate bodies on the subject of safety hazards to which it was wished to draw attention.

Once again some 15,000 captioned paper bags were distributed by the Committee to the pharmacists of the Borough. Each bag carried the following captions:-

Always Lock Pills and Medicines away from Children  
Flush away or Burn all Unused Pills and Medicines  
Never take Pills or Medicines Prescribed for Others  
Never take Medicines in the Dark.

#### The Place of Health Education

Sweeping changes are being planned in the National Health Service and among the aspects to be considered, health education will, no doubt, be included. Generally speaking, our medical service is geared to curative medicine. A doctor's training makes him more interested in and efficient at treating disease than preventing it. This is unfortunate but, to a great extent, it reflects the attitude of the public. As Sir John Peel, Surgeon Gynaecologist to H.M. the Queen, pointed out recently, it is vastly easier to obtain finance whether



from public or private sources to develop treatment and research than to publicize methods of prevention.

"Cancer research is oversubscribed, cancer education almost entirely unfunded. The efforts required by both educator and the person to be educated to promote health needs are not easily obtained. To do something or not to do something in order to prevent the development of a disease or a disorder in the future requires the sort of motivation that few people have instinctively and a great many actively resist. When the Royal College of Physicians recently published its second report on the harmful effects to health of smoking cigarettes, there appeared a leading article in at least one newspaper denouncing the arrogant doctors for daring to tell the public how they should order their lives. Unless there is a radical change of attitude on the part of both the profession and the public in this area, progress towards a healthier population must remain inevitably slow."

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

This post was not filled during the year.

#### Acknowledgments

I would like to express my appreciation for the support and co-operation which I received from the Mayor, the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, Mr. J.B. McCooke, Mr. A. Archer, the other Chief Officers of the Council and the staff of the Public Health Department. I am also deeply indebted to Dr. C. Starkie, Medical Officer of Health, Kidderminster Borough Council, for having made himself available to deal with emergencies during my occasional absences from the district.

J. TWOMEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

January, 1972.



## SECTION A

## Statistics and Social Conditions

Areas of the district .....	5,237 acres
Population census, 1961 .....	44,445
Population (R.G.'s est. June 1970) .....	52,320
Rateable Value (31st December, 1970) .....	£2,500,499
Sum represented by the penny rate (est.) .....	£10,280
Number of inhabited dwellings at the end of 1970 .....	18,750
Number of persons per dwelling .....	2.79

## Deaths in Halesowen

	Male	Female	Total
	325	252	577
Crude death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ..			11.03
Area comparability factor .....			1.10
Adjusted death rate .....			12.14
Death rate for England and Wales .....			11.7

The adjusted death rate is obtainable by multiplying the crude death rate by the comparability factor.

The following vital statistics relate to mothers and infants for 1970:

## Live Births:

Number .....	907
Rate per 1,000 population .....	17.34
Illegitimate Live Births (per cent. of total live births) ..	3.19

## Stillbirths:

Number .....	10
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births .....	10.9
Total Live and Still Births .....	917
Infant Deaths (deaths under one year) .....	16

## Infant Mortality Rates:

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births .....	17.64
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	17.08
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births .....	34.48

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births) .....	12.13
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births) .....	11.03
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) .....	21.81
Maternal Mortality Rate including abortion per 1,000 total live and still births for Halesowen .....	1.09
Neo-natal Mortality Rate infant deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births for England and Wales .....	12.3
Birth rate adjusted by comparability factor of 0.96 .....	16.61
Birth rate of England and Wales .....	16.00
Still birth rate for England and Wales .....	13.00
Perinatal Mortality Rate for England and Wales .....	23.5
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales .....	18.2
Death rate from respiratory tuberculosis, England and Wales, per million population .....	18
Corresponding figure for Halesowen, per million population ..	Nil
Cancer of the lung and bronchus per million, England and Wales .....	618
Corresponding figure for Halesowen (34 deaths) .....	649
Other cancer per million, England and Wales .....	1,363
Corresponding figure for Halesowen .....	1,605



# VITAL STATISTICS

	Males			Females		
	Total	Legit.	Illegit.	Total	Legit.	Illegit.
Live Births	467	451	16	440	427	13
Still Births	5	5	-	5	5	-
Deaths of Infants:						
Under 1 year of age	8	7	1	8	8	-
Under 4 weeks of age	6	5	1	5	5	-
Under 1 week of age	6	5	1	4	4	-



[illegible]

	M	F	Total	% M	% F	Total %
B26 Chronic rheumatic heart disease ...	1	4	5	20	80	50
B27 Hypertensive disease ...	10	3	13	77	23	69
B28 Ischaemic heart disease ...	92	51	143	64	36	80
B29 Other forms of heart disease ...	7	20	27	26	74	37
B30 Cerebrovascular disease ...	29	49	78	37	63	55
B46(6) Other diseases of circulatory system	18	5	23	78	22	42
B31 Influenza ...	2	3	5	40	60	25
B32 Pneumonia ...	19	12	31	61	39	46
B33(1) Bronchitis and emphysema ...	39	12	51	76	24	65
B33(2) Asthma ...	-	2	2	-	100	10
B46(7) Other diseases of respiratory system	7	1	8	88	12	35
B34 Peptic Ulcer ...	4	2	6	67	33	25
B36 Intestinal obstruction and hernia	-	1	1	-	100	5
B37 Cirrhosis of liver ...	2	2	4	50	50	20
B46(8) Other diseases of digestive system	3	3	6	50	50	25

[illegible]



COMPARATIVE FIGURES OF INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
AND MORTALITY RATES FOR HALESOVEN

	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959
Food Poisoning	4	5	4	2	-	2	6	3	-	6	7	4
Measles	198	103	237	294	194	511	285	794	10	545	39	699
Scarlet Fever	25	30	17	36	29	24	19	50	25	13	37	57
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	5	11	33	50	11	1	23	30	-	6	66	29
Dysentery	-	4	26	3	-	3	2	15	50	-	2	12
Polio-myelitis (paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Respiratory T.B. (new cases)	7	7	2	12	7	5	10	7	7	11	14	21
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	2
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Jaundice	4	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neonatal Mortality Rate	12.1	4.7	4.8	8.9	10.4	21.4	12.4	13.6	10.6	16.8	14.4	16.6
Infant Mortality Rate	17.6	9.5	8.4	11.4	19.6	21.4	19.3	21.9	11.9	18.4	23.1	24.1
Perinatal Mortality Rate	21.8	17.5	11.9	22.5	18.1	21.7	25.8	33.4	28.6	31.6	41.9	43.8

## SECTION B

### General Provision of Health Services in the Borough of Halesowen

#### 1. (a) Public Health Officers

The staff of the Public Health Department is given on page 3.

#### (b) Laboratory Facilities

The work is carried out at the Worcester County Laboratory by the County Analyst, Mr. W.E. Jones, M.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Bacteriological work is done by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Royal Infirmary, Worcester, under the Medical Director, Dr. R.J. Henderson, M.D., Ch.B.

#### 2. Ambulance Service

The ambulance service is provided by the Worcestershire County Council and during the year six ambulances and fifteen whole-time drivers were employed. The ambulances are radio-controlled and a twenty-four hour service is operated from the station.

The hospitals used by the inhabitants of the Borough in addition to those in the City of Birmingham and the County Borough of Wolverhampton are the Corbett Hospital and Wordsley Hospital at Stourbridge, the Guest Hospital at Dudley, and the Brooms Grove General Hospital.

Maternity cases are taken to the Mary Stevens Maternity Hospital at Stourbridge, the Birmingham Maternity Hospital Queen Elizabeth Medical Centre, and premature babies to the Unit at the Marston Green Hospital, Birmingham.

Patients suffering from infectious diseases are carried by the special ambulance stationed at the Hayley Green Hospital.

#### 3. County Council and Voluntary Agency Services

The Worcestershire County Council are the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority for the area. In conjunction with the W.V.S. there is a "Home Help" and "Meals on Wheels" service.

#### 4. Tuberculosis

Sanatorium treatment and the provision of dispensary treatment are the responsibility of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

#### 5. Infectious Diseases

Infectious disease cases are admitted to Hayley Green Hospital. This hospital is under the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board and administered by Group 17, Dudley, Stourbridge and District Hospital Group, Birmingham Region.



## 6. School Clinics, Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Sessions

These are provided by the County Council and the District has three centres: Hill and Cakemore, Halesowen and Cradley.

## 7. Welfare Foods

Distribution of welfare foods is carried out from the Infant Welfare Centres, and three shops in the Borough.

### SECTION C

#### Housing

Details of the inspection of houses are given later in the report. In 1970, 208 dwellings were erected, 27 by the local authority, and 181 privately. The Council at 31st December, 1969 owned 5,258 dwellings.

### SECTION D

#### Diphtheria Immunisation

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics are maintained by the County Council. During the year, most babies were being immunised with triple antigen to confer immunity against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. The number of children treated at the clinics and by the General Practitioners during 1970 was as follows:-

	Primary Treatment Completed	Boosting Doses
Under 5 years	697	258
Five to 15 years	24	635
	<u>721</u>	<u>893</u>



Measles Notifications, 1970

	WARDS								
	Belle Vale	Cakemore	Centrel	Cradley	Hasbury	Hayley Green	Hill	Lapal	Total
January	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
February	1	-	1	2	2	2	1	-	9
March	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4
April	1	-	14	-	15	10	-	-	40
May	5	1	1	-	-	7	2	1	17
June	21	2	10	5	4	6	-	2	50
July	11	1	5	7	3	4	5	-	36
August	5	1	4	9	-	3	1	-	23
September	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	3
October	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
November	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
December	1	-	2	-	-	1	1	2	7
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	51	5	37	24	28	35	11	7	198
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

# Tuberculosis

Eight new cases were reported during the year.

Age Periods	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	7		1	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	-	1	-
5-	-	-	-	-
15-	-	-	-	-
20-	-	-	-	-
25-	2	-	-	-
35-	1	-	-	-
45-	-	-	-	-
55-	2	-	-	-
65-	2	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-
	<u>7</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

Cases remaining on Tuberculosis register:-

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1969	54	44	6	13
1970	53	42	6	13

Year	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	
	New Notifications	Deaths
1958	18	2
1959	21	-
1960	14	3
1961	11	-
1962	7	3
1963	7	4
1964	10	1
1965	6	1
1966	7	-
1967	12	1
1968	2	1
1969	7	-
1970	7	-

# Deaths from Cancer of Lung, Bronchus

Year	Males	Females
1950	10	1
1951	13	1
1952	9	2
1953	8	2
1954	10	1
1955	18	1
1956	12	2
1957	9	1
1958	22	2
1959	15	2
1960	27	-
1961	14	1
1962	14	2
1963	19	2
1964	15	1
1965	25	1
1966	20	4
1967	17	2
1968	27	4
1969	36	5
1970	17	7



Notifiable Disease, 1970

Disease	Total	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	65-	Age Unknown
Scarlet Fever	25	-	-	-	2	-	15	4	3	1	-	-
Measles	198	7	30	26	38	25	64	4	2	-	-	2
Whooping Cough	5	-	-	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis Paralytic	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis Non-Paralytic	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-
Meningococcal Infections	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Respiratory Tuberculosis	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	-
Typhoid	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	4	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-

Public Health Department,  
Council House,  
Halesowen.

January, 1972.

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1970 was a year in which the quality of the environment increasingly became a subject for regular discussion not only by workers in the public health field and by scientists but by interested people in every walk of life. The popular press, radio and television are all playing an important part in warning the community of some of the effects of technological progress and of increasing affluence, effects in respect of which too little attention has so far been paid. More cars, for example, mean better mobility and easier shopping, but they also mean more noise, more air pollution, more parking problems and an increasingly difficult disposal problem when the cars become obsolete.

All this adds up to the fact that local government is increasingly involved in a wide variety of new situations and that it is no longer possible to tackle these in quite the same way as problems were tackled 50 years ago. Many authorities have seen this trend develop and some - and Halesowen is one - have adjusted their management systems to take account of the new circumstances by further developing interdepartmental consultation and by forming inter-disciplinary teams to deal with particular problems.

In the preparation of this Report I should like to record the interest and enthusiasm of all the staff and to colleagues in other departments and particularly to the Town Clerk, Mr. J. B. McCooke and his staff.

A. ARCHER

## DEMOLITION, REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSES

The total number of houses in the Borough at the end of 1970 was 18,750, and this figure is steadily increasing as council and private development continues. There are 5,263 council houses of which 1,766 were built before 1945.

### Slum clearance

The Council began dealing with unfit houses in the 1930's and by the outbreak of war in 1939 had made 405 demolition and closing orders. Progress from 1945 to the end of 1970 was as follows:-

	dwellings
undertakings accepted	21
closing orders	41
demolition orders	377
clearance orders (48)	406
compulsory purchase orders (30)	614
council owned property:	
- included in clearance areas	4
- certified as unfit	34
total	1,497

Of this total of 1,497 dwellings, 1,407 have been dealt with since 1955.

### Property dealt with during 1970

#### Part II of the Housing Act, 1957

	dwellings
houses reported as unfit	7
demolition orders made	6
closing orders made	2
undertakings accepted	-



Part III of the Housing Act, 1957

The following clearance area was declared during the year:-

	dwellings
Lodgefield Road No.4	2
	—
total	2
	—

The following orders were made and submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government/Secretary of State for the Environment during the year:-

	dwellings
Windmill Hill Compulsory Purchase Order 1970	15
Malt Mill Lane No.1 Compulsory Purchase Order 1969	5
Belle Vale No.2 Clearance Order 1970	4
Whitehall Road No.1 Clearance Order 1970	5
Malt Mill Lane No.1 Clearance Order 1970	5
	—
total	34
	—

The following orders were confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government/Secretary of State for the Environment during the year:-

	dwellings
Windmill Hill Compulsory Purchase Order 1970	5
Beecher Road Compulsory Purchase Order 1969	12
Cocksheds Lane No.2 Compulsory Purchase Order 1969	7
Cocksheds Lane No.1 Clearance Order 1969	5
Hagley Road No.3 Clearance Order 1969	6
Narrow Lane No.1 Clearance Order 1969	10
Nimnings Road No.1 Clearance Order 1969	10
Olive Lane Compulsory Purchase Order 1969	19

	dwellings
Wassell Road No.1 Clearance Order 1969	4
Hill and Cakemore Compulsory Purchase Order 1969	139
Beaumont Road No.1 Clearance Order 1969	3
New John Street Compulsory Purchase Order 1969	19
Queen Street Compulsory Purchase Order 1969	9
Gorsty Hill Road No.1 Clearance Order 1969	4
Malt Mill Lane No.1 Compulsory Purchase Order 1969	5
Lodgefield Road No.1 Clearance Order 1970	9
Belle Vale No.2 Closing Order 1970	4
Whitehall Road No.1 Clearance Order 1970	5

total	275
-------	-----

Rehousing from slum clearance property during 1970.

During the year the Council rehoused families from the following properties subject to orders under the Housing Act, 1957 :-

from property dealt with under Part II	14
from property dealt with under Part III	51

total	65
-------	----

Dwellings demolished during 1970

2, Banners Lane

6 & 8, Belle Vale

73 and 75, Blackberry Lane

89, 91, 92, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100 & 101, Cocksheds Lane

5 & 7, Furlong Lane

315, Long Lane

93, Lyde Green

67, 69, 71, 73, 75 and 77, Two Gates



## Improvement of houses

### Improvement areas

The surveys in Hill & Cakemore and Cradley districts continued throughout the year. It was decided to declare a general improvement area in Hill & Cakemore before the area in Cradley and co-ordinating meetings have been held involving the Department of the Environment Regional Office, the Town Clerk's Department, the Public Health Department, The Borough Surveyor's Department, the Borough Treasurer's Department, and the Worcestershire County Council Planning Department. Plans for environmental improvements were drawn up and meetings were held in May, 1970 with the general public to discuss the planning future of the area and in July, 1970 to discuss the proposed general improvement area. An exhibition lasting a week was arranged with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and two caravans were loaned by the Ministry so that information could be given on bathroom conversion. Two huts were set out as display rooms to show plans of environmental improvements and to display a model of one of the suggested schemes. By the end of 1970, 180 out of the 220 houses in the Hill & Cakemore area had been inspected and it is proposed to submit the scheme to the Council for the area to be declared early in 1971. Although emphasis was placed on the Hill & Cakemore Improvement area further inspections were made throughout the year in connection with the Cradley Action Area No.3 and out of 267 houses (including 44 Council houses) in this area 80 have been inspected.

### Improvement grants

#### Standard grants

	applications		grants		amount	number of houses	
	received	approved	paid	refused	paid	tenanted	owner/ occupied
1964	66	59	38	7	5,500	3	35
1965	39	37	32	-	4,737	2	30
1966	38	35	23	-	3,857	3	20
1967	44	42	23	-	3,373	5	18
1968	50	41	50	1	8,353	17	33
1969	46	36	39	-	6,014	15	24
1970	49	32	40	4	7,122	9	31



amenities provided:-

fixed bath	29
wash-hand basin	30
hot water supply	33
water closet	32
sink	22

Under the Housing Act, 1969, the sink replaced the food store as a standard amenity.

Discretionary grants

	applications		grants		amount	number of houses	
	received	approved	paid	refused	paid	tenanted	owner/ occupied
					£		
1964	10	8	8	2	1,835	1	7
1965	5	4	6	1	1,845	1	5
1966	1	-	2	1	503	1	1
1967	1	1	3	-	922	2	1
1968	2	2	1	-	382	-	1
1969	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
1970	23	11	5	8	3,308	3	2

Following the Housing Act, 1969, it can be seen from the figures that there was a sharp increase in the numbers of improvement grant applications during 1970, and it is likely that this figure will increase further during 1971.

Qualification certificates

The Housing Act, 1969 introduced a system of regulated tenancies in place of controlled tenancies. For a qualification certificate to be granted for a house the house must have all the standard amenities and be in a satisfactory state of repair. The qualification certificates are granted by the Council and must be refused if the house does not have the standard amenities or is in a poor state of repair.

applications	46
refusals	6
certificates granted	1

Repair and maintenance of dwellings:

Complaints of disrepair have been dealt with as follows:-

Informal notices requiring work to be carried out	22
Statutory notices (Section 93 Public Health Act, 1936) requiring repair work to be carried out	25

#### WATER SUPPLY

The water supply to the Borough is from boreholes at Churchill and at Hagley, and from the Hayley Green Works which is fed from the Birmingham Corporation Elan Aqueduct. All supplies are satisfactory both in quality and quantity and are not subject to plumbo solvency

Only the Hayley Green Works supply showed any measurable amount of fluoride, the supply being affected by the introduction of fluoride by Birmingham Corporation Water Department. The average fluoride content for the year was 0.85 p.p.m.

All the houses in the Borough are supplied direct from the public mains. During 1970 the following samples of water were taken:-

Churchill Pumping Station	51 raw	50 chlorinated
Hagley Pumping Station	51 raw	50 chlorinated
Hayley Green Works	52 raw	52 chlorinated

Seven samples of raw water from the Hayley Green Works contained coliform bacteria. All other samples, however, were satisfactory both biologically and chemically.

Fifty two samples taken direct from the service main at the Fire Station, Hagley Road, were also satisfactory as were ten taken at Waxland Road. The chemical results are as follows:-

	<u>Waxland Road</u>	<u>Fire Station</u>
	<u>parts per million</u>	
alkalinity (CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	102	110
chlorides (Cl)	21.2	21.1
ammoniacal nitrogen (N)	trace	trace
albuminoid nitrogen (N)	.01	trace
oxidised nitrogen (N)	5.9	6.0
oxygen absorbed (3 hr. at 27°C)	.16	.18
temporary hardness	102	101
permanent hardness	69	69



	<u>parts per million</u>	
total hardness	171	170
iron (Fe)	trace	trace
manganese (Mn)	nil	nil

The following main extensions were carried out in Halesowen during 1970:-

	size of mains	3"	4"	6"
		<u>yds</u>	<u>yds</u>	<u>yds</u>
site				
Hurst Green Estate		-	66	-
Hayseech		76	619	-
Mogul Lane	}	120	-	-
Netherend Lane				
Tenter Street	}	3	95	9
Bronsgrove Street				
Alexandra Road		136	-	-
		<hr/>		
totals		335	780	9
		<hr/>		

#### SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

The main sewerage for the Borough and the treatment of sewage is the responsibility of the Upper Stour Main Drainage Authority, whose district is comprised of the Boroughs of Halesowen and Stourbridge and parts of the County Boroughs of Dudley and Warley.

The Authority consists of twelve members from the constituent authorities as follows:-

Dudley County Borough Council	-	6 members
Warley County Borough Council	-	2 members
Halesowen Borough Council	-	2 members
Stourbridge Borough Council	-	2 members

The new trunk sewer from Manor Lane to New Road, which was completed in 1969, has helped to eliminate surcharge conditions in the Runbow and other tributary sewers, and in turn has helped to eliminate the previous pollution from this source into the River Stour.

The construction of a sewer and dual syphon from Park Lane Halesowen via Saltbrook End to Dunns Bank, Dudley is well advanced and it is expected that work will be completed during May 1971. This will relieve the local



authorities surcharged sewers in the Mogul Lane area where there has been some cases of flooding in recent years.

#### Sewage disposal

The Authority Freehold Treatment Works at Lye, provides treatment for a maximum of nine million gallons per day. The Works was commissioned in August, 1967 and is producing effluent of a very high standard. This has relieved the previous overloaded condition at the adjacent Caledonia Works as well as providing a measure of relief at the Whittington Hall and Whittington House Sewage Farm. Sewage from the Borough is now mainly treated at the Freehold Works although there is still some flow to the Caledonia and the Whittington Sewage Farm.

The Drainage Authority have considered a comprehensive report with a 25 year programme of trunk sewer construction and extensions to the sewer works. Their consulting engineers have prepared a detailed scheme which is now awaiting Ministry approval and it is anticipated that tenders will be invited later in 1971. The scheme includes the following capital works at a total estimated cost of £2,300,000:-

- (a) 100% extension to the Freehold Sewage Treatment Works at Lye,
- (b) 54" and 27" dia. trunk sewers in the Stour Valley between Lye and Dunns Bank,
- (c) 21" intercepting sewer from Hayley Green to the Freehold Works,
- (d) Sludge pumping station and twin 8" dia rising mains from the Freehold Works to the Roundhill Works,
- (e) Modern Sludge Disposal Plant at Roundhill Works.

#### FOOD MANUFACTURE, PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION

Routine inspections of all food premises including cafes, restaurants, canteens, retail shops and wholesale premises were carried out throughout the year. The frequency of inspections of any particular premises depended upon the type of trade carried out, the structure of the premises and the efficiency of food handling staff.

The storage and stock control at retail shops of various perishable foods was carefully watched during the year. A number of complaints are received every year which can be attributed directly to insufficient attention to stock rotation. It is essential that the maxim "first in, first out" is always followed in food storage.

An investigation was carried out during the year into the sale and storage of yogurt in retail shops, following a successful prosecution against a retailer who sold a yogurt 10 days after the last date of sale recommended by the manufacturers. It was found that although the leading brands of yogurt are coded either to indicate the date of manufacture or the last date of its shelf life, many retailers were ignorant of the meaning of the code and were prepared to leave the rotation of their stocks of yogurt to the



van salesman. Where necessary retailers were given advice on the meanings of the codes and warned of the perishable nature of the yogurt. The smaller retailers with only occasional demand for yogurt were found to be changing over from normal yogurt to the deep frozen variety which can be stored for longer periods in a normal frozen food cabinet.

#### Food premises

The following is a summary of the number of food premises in the Borough at the end of 1970:-

butchers	35	confectioners (bread and sweets)	20
cafes	14	fishmongers (wet fish only)	1
fish and chip shops	19	school canteens	25
greengrocers	31	works canteens	21
grocers	104	hospitals	3
wholesale premises	6	licensed premises (including licensed restaurants)	76
bakehouses	1		
tobacconists/newsagents	17		

#### Food condemned

Frozen foods	18 cwts	0 qrs.	25 lbs
canned meat	4 cwts	2 qrs.	11 lbs
raw meats at retail and wholesale premises	19 cwts	0 qrs.	20 lbs

The large quantities of frozen food and raw meat condemned was due mainly to refrigerator breakdowns. This equipment sometimes breaks down overnight or weekends and the contents thaw out. The shelf life of these foods is very short once they have thawed and as they should never be refrozen they are surrendered for destruction.

#### Complaints

19 complaints were received from the public during the year. These included 7 complaints involving foreign objects in food; 8 complaints involving mould on food. In every case complaints were carefully investigated. Consultations with retailers and manufacturers usually resulted in measures being taken to prevent similar complaints due to the same cause. On two occasions legal proceedings were instituted against retailers. In both cases the obvious cause of the complaint was inadequate stock rotation at the retail shop. The importance of efficient stock rotation, to ensure that the oldest products are sold first, is continually being impressed upon retailers. The complaints received were as follows:-

- discolouration of chicken bones
- sickness alleged to be due to eating beef curry
- foreign matter in milk
- insects in semolina

mould on apple squares  
 mould on apple pie  
 foreign matter on bacon  
 insect in bread loaf  
 fermentation in mineral water  
 mould on pork pie (2 complaints)  
 mould on beef patties  
 sour yogurt  
 hair in sausage roll  
 metal in stewed steak  
 mould on chocolate roll  
 foreign material in pork pie  
 mould on cheese  
 blown yogurt carton

The number of complaints involving food which are brought to the department is thought to be a small proportion of the total number of incidents which occur. The public are encouraged to enquire about any food which they think is not up to the usual standard and all complaints are thoroughly investigated, not necessarily to prepare for legal proceedings, but primarily to prevent a possible recurrence.

#### Sampling of food and drugs

214 samples of food were submitted to the Public Analyst during the year for chemical analysis. The sampling programme was designed to cover as far as possible the whole range of food normally purchased by the housewife, with special attention being given to new and locally produced products. The following 21 samples were reported as unsatisfactory:-

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| stewed steak with gravy (2 samples) | - low meat content product; brought up to standard after consultations with manufacturer.  |
| choc dates                          | - coating on dates was not real chocolate; product re-named by manufacturers.  |
| pork sausage                        | - low meat content; product re-named as simply 'sausage'.  |
| pork sausage                        | - low meat content; follow-up sample satisfactory after advice given to manufacturer.  |
| bitter lemon drink                  | - contained prohibited cyclanates; stock withdrawn from sale.  |
| bitter lemon drink (2 samples)      | - contained prohibited cyclanates; stock should have been withdrawn by retailer at beginning of year but due to misunderstanding the cans were still on sale; all stocks were later withdrawn. |



stewed steak with gravy	- low meat content; follow-up sample satisfactory.
cornish pasty and steak and kidney pie	- informal samples; low meat content; manufacturers no longer in business.
pork sausage	- low meat content; follow-up sample satisfactory.
canned okra (oriental vegetable)	- salt not declared on label; label amended by manufacturers.
fruit drink (2 samples)	- no fruit content; excessive quantity of artificial sweetener; legal proceedings instituted against manufacturers; case dismissed.
diet cereal	- label incorrect; amended by manufacturers.
pork sausage	- contained preservative; no notice displayed but corrected by retailer.
long grain rice	- not 'long grain rice'; incorrect labelling by packers; product withdrawn from sale.
cherry ciderette drink	- contained excess saccharin sweetener; legal proceedings instituted against manufacturer; not within statutory 2 month limit.
canned ham	- sour and blown; batch of cans not correctly heat treated; stock withdrawn from sale.
beef patty	- low meat content; follow-up sample satisfactory.

<u>food sampled</u>	<u>number examined</u>	<u>number unsatisfactory</u>
almonds	2	
baking powder	2	
beverage mix	2	
bread	5	
butter	15	
cereal products	1	
cheese	8	
cheese spread	2	
coffee	3	
cream	5	
cream confectionery	1	

<u>food sampled</u>	<u>number examined</u>	<u>number unsatisfactory</u>
diet foods	2	1
fish cakes, canned	2	
fish paste	3	
flavouring	3	
flour	1	
flour confectionery	7	
fruit canned	12	
ice cream	3	
lard	4	
margarine	4	
mayonnaise	1	
meat products, canned	16	5
meat products, open pack	14	3
milk, canned, condensed, evaporated	3	
mince meat	1	
pancake mix	1	
potato products	2	
preserves	6	
saccharin	1	
salad cream	3	
sauce	3	
sausage, beef	2	
sausage, pork	16	3
shandy	1	
soft drinks	20	6
soup, canned, dried	5	
spices	6	
spirits	3	
sugar confectionery	8	1
vegetables, canned	7	1
vinegar	3	
wine	1	
yogurt	1	
others	3	1
<hr/>		
totals	214	21
<hr/>		

#### Milk sampling

In addition to 25 samples of milk submitted to the public analyst for chemical analysis, 19 samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. The chemical samples included 4 taken from a local milk producing farm to investigate the possibility of contamination of the milk due to chemical pollution of the animals drink



supply. All of the routine chemical and bacteriological samples were satisfactory.

#### Milk distribution

88 licences have now been issued under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963, for the sale of milk from the shops in the Borough; 11 new licences being applied for during the year. As in previous years all the milk is processed and/ or bottled outside the Borough.

#### Ice Cream

11 samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination; 4 from mobile vehicles and 7 from shops registered for the sale of ice cream. The results are given below:-

	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV
from vans	3	1	-	-
from shops	7	-	-	-
<hr/>				
totals	10	1	-	-
<hr/>				

All samples were bacteriologically satisfactory.

#### Meat inspection

There are four licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough. Three of these were used for slaughtering during the year, usually two of three times each week. Inspection of carcasses and offals were carried out whilst slaughtering was taking place or immediately after. The quality of animals killed was very high and very little diseased meat was found.

Diseases and conditions affecting parts of organs of animals inspected:-

disease or condition	cattle	pigs	sheep	total
abscess	13	5	2	20
arthritis	-	1	-	1
ascaris	-	126	-	126
bacterial necrosis	1	-	-	1
bruising	-	2	-	2
cysticercus ovis	-	-	1	1
fasciolasis	8	-	45	53
fatty change	1	-	4	5
fibrosis	1	-	-	1
pericarditis	-	6	-	6
peritonitis	2	6	4	12
pleurisy	-	3	-	3
pneumonia	-	63	-	63
presteral calcification	1	-	-	1
tuberculosis	-	2	-	2
totals	27	214	56	297



# Details of animals slaughtered

	cattle excluding cows	cows	pigs	sheep	calves
animals slaughtered and inspected	359	-	893	1,445	-
all diseases except tuberculosis and cysticercus bovis	-	-	-	-	-
a) whole carcass condemned	-	-	-	-	-
b) carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	25	-	162	55	-
c) percentage of number inspected with disease	7	-	19	3	-
tuberculosis;					
a) whole carcass condemned	-	-	-	-	-
b) carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	2	-	-
cysticercosis;					
a) whole carcass condemned	-	-	-	-	-
b) carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	1	-
c) carcasses subjected to refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-

The total weight of meat rejected as unfit was - 8 cwt 3 qr. 1 lb.

## WORKING CONDITIONS IN OFFICES AND SHOPS

A large number of offices and shops were inspected under both the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, and the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, and the conditions were generally good. The majority of premises inspected were relatively modern and had been provided with the required structural facilities when built. Plans of the proposed new premises are carefully examined when they are submitted for building and planning consent and advice on requirements of the Acts is given at the planning stage thus avoiding expensive alterations once the building is occupied. Newly opened premises were inspected as soon as possible after opening to determine whether they required registration, and advice was given where necessary on registration and compliance. A complete survey of all the trade premises in the Borough was started during the year and about a third of the premises were covered; this included 438 trade premises, of which 112 were found to be covered by the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act. Although the Act has been in operation since 1964, 32 of the 112 premises covered were not registered by the employer. This once more underlined the fact that a surprising number of employers are ignorant of the existence of the Act or the need to register their premises. Of the 112 premises registered, 69 were found to be unsatisfactory in one or more matters, and letters were sent advising employers of their responsibilities. Most of the contraventions were relatively minor items and employers usually attended to them as soon as possible.

### Registered premises and general inspections

class of premises	number of premises registered during the year	number of registered premises at end of year	number of premises receiving a general inspection during the year
retail shops	35	198	120
offices	30	62	60
wholesale shops and warehouses	-	11	7
catering premises	3	52	32
fuel storage depots	-	-	-
<b>totals</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>219</b>



Number of contraventions of the Act found -

cleanliness	66
overcrowding	nil
temperature	36
ventilation	13
lighting	7
sanitary conveniences	25
supply of drinking water	nil
washing facilities	24
clothing accommodation	nil
sitting facilities	2
seats (sed. workers)	nil
eating facilities	nil
floors, passages and stairs	26
fencing (exposed parts of machinery)	1
first aid	45
other matters	146
	<hr/>
total	391
	<hr/>

Reported accidents on registered premises

work place	number reported and investigated	action taken	
		informal advice	no action
offices	-	-	-
retail shops	10	1	9
wholesale premises	2	-	2
catering premises	5	-	5
fuel storage	-	-	-
totals	17	1	16



## Cause of accidents

place	cause
retail shops	power driven machinery (1 case) vehicle in motion, not moved by power (1 case) use of hand tools (2 cases) falls from one level to another (1 case) falls on the same level (1 case) stepping or striking against an object (1 case) handling goods (2 cases) others not classified ( 1 case)
catering establishments	falls on or from fixed stairs (2 cases) falls from one floor to another (1 case) falls on the same level ( 1 case) handling goods (1 case)
warehouse	handling goods (2 cases)

All accidents are investigated to find out whether any of them could have been avoided. Most of the accidents reported were found to be due to unforeseeable falls on stairs or floors and accidents due to the dropping of goods.

## AIR POLLUTION

### Domestic smoke control

During the two previous years there have been serious setbacks to the Halesowen smoke control programme. In 1968 there were no orders made because of the economic situation and of the two orders made during 1969, the larger of the two had the operative date postponed for twelve months until July, 1971, because of a possible shortage of solid smokeless fuel during the winter of 1970/71. In fact the expected shortage did not seem at all apparent and very few complaints were made to the department. Mainly, the complaints arose from a customer ordering a specific fuel and expecting almost immediate delivery. Where the customer gave an alternative fuel and allowed a reasonable delivery time difficulties did not arise.

The Halesowen No.30 Smoke Control Order came into operation in June 1970 and represented the first real progress into the northern sector of the Borough. This order included 305 dwellings, 3 commercial and 4 other premises and covered 139 acres. Even though all owners and occupiers concerned were notified in writing about the confirmation and operative date of the order some confusion arose due to reports in the press of smoke control orders being suspended but eventually the position was clarified.

In addition to No.30 Smoke Control Order becoming operative and No.32 Smoke Control Order being made, the Halesowen No.33 Smoke Control Order, which covers some 1,100 dwellings in the town centre was approved by the Public Health and Licensing Committee and should be confirmed in 1971.

In orders before the Halesowen No.31 Smoke Control Order, work in council houses has been carried out by the local authority's contractors working under the supervision of the officers of the department with the tenant being offered a limited choice of appliances. For the No.31 Smoke Control Order the policy was altered and the tenants were treated in the same way as private householders and allowed to carry out work and claim grant on any type of approved appliance; the only proviso was that the appliances should remain if the tenant leaves the house.

The following figures show the progress achieved by December, 1970:-

Smoke control programme	dwellings	acres
covered by orders operative or confirmed at 31st December, 1970	9,649	3,327
orders becoming operative during 1971	1,693	282
estimated addition covered by orders to be made during 1971	2,342	358
final objectives for whole of the Borough	18,995	5,237

Smoke control orders confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government/Secretary of State for the Environment at the end of 1970 :-

order	operative date	dwellings	acreage
Lapal No.1	Nov. 1961	489	82
Highfields No.1	Oct. 1961	93	3
Howley Grange No.1	Jan. 1962	375	37
Central No.1	Nov. 1962	57	5
Central No.2	Nov. 1962	14	2



order	operative date	dwellings	acreage
Long Innage	Nov. 1962	50	5
Dencil Close	Nov. 1962	54	4
Holcroft Road	Nov. 1962	24	3
Bath Meadow	Nov. 1962	70	4
Furlong Lane	Nov. 1962	30	2
Central No.3	Dec. 1962	339	19
Central No.4	Apr. 1963	31	2
Hawne No.1	Apr. 1963	8	1
No.14 Cradley Fields	July. 1963	22	3
No.15 Hope Street	May. 1963	65	5
No.16 Cocksheds Farn	May. 1963	20	2
No.17 Spring Street	Sept. 1963	38	5
No.18 Hayley Green	Nov. 1963	1,047	520
No.19 Colley Gate	Nov. 1963	36	3
No.20 Colley Gate	July 1964	35	3
No.21 Hasbury	June 1964	51	301
No.22	July 1965	1,135	322
No.23 Lapal	Nov. 1964	554	87
No.24	July 1966	578	81
No.25	Oct. 1967	978	1,181
No.26	July 1966	71	6
No.27	June 1967	133	13
No.28	Aug. 1968	1,191	192
No.29	Oct. 1968	63	13
No.30	June 1970	305	139
No.31	July 1971	1,014	214
No.32	July 1971	679	68
		<hr/>	<hr/>
totals		9,649	3,327
		<hr/>	<hr/>

Progress at 31st December, 1970

	National	West Midlands	Halesowen
percentage acreage covered by confirmed smoke control areas (black areas)	46.5	34.4	63.5
percentage dwellings included in confirmed smoke control areas (black areas)	56.2	37.4	51.0

Gas remains the first choice and appears to have taken custom from solid fuel due partly to the possibility of fuel shortage from time to time.



Place conversions in smoke control are (percentages)

Smoke control order	gas	electricity	solid smokeless fuel	oil
No.18 (operative date 1.10.63)	2	9	89	-
No.25 " " 1.10.67	63	3	34	-
No.28 " " 1.8.68	56.5	5	38	0.5
No.30 " " 1.6.70	47.7	18.7	33.6	-
No.31 " " 1.7.71	67	18	15	-
No.32 " " 1.7.71	65	18	17	-

#### INDUSTRIAL AIR POLLUTION

The threatened shortage of solid smokeless fuel which affected the domestic programme also made its presence felt, but to a smaller extent, in the industrial field, and one small non-ferrous foundry converted their coke fired crucible furnaces to oil. Towards the end of the year the operators of two traditional cupolas approached the West Midlands Gas Board with a view to converting their cupolas to partial gas firing. This conversion not only results in the replacement of some 45% of the coke but also gives some of the advantages of the hot blast cupola in that an increase on output of some 25% is said to be obtained. There is also a greater degree of control of the melt.

Afterburners have for some time been used in a small way to control emissions of combustible material from cupolas, in keeping with trends in other modern equipment where combustible fumes from the plant are led back through the combustion area before being passed to atmosphere. During 1970 a problem was encountered where it was felt that this solution could be applied. The problem was oil fume being emitted from a tempering furnace where nuts and bolts which had been previously quenched in oil were treated. As the heat treatment of the nuts and bolts is critical (time and temperature) it was not felt that leading the fumes back through the combustion chamber would be satisfactory as this could interfere with the combustion process giving rise to fluctuations in temperature. As the furnace itself was gas fired the industrial section of the West Midland Gas Board was approached and eventually an air blast injector type burner was installed into the stack serving the furnace. The burner is in use only for approximately 15 minutes each hour when the oil fumes are emitted and the Gas Board estimate that the fume is reduced by approximately 75%.

This latter problem typifies the ones which are now being increasingly encountered. Previous difficulties of smoke and other emissions from



boiler plant have largely given way to emissions by other industrial processes. The solid fuel boiler has been in the main superseded by those fired by gas or oil and although these are frequently poorly maintained they still appear to operate reasonably satisfactorily and emissions, which are in any case rare, are usually of short duration and quickly put right. The public are now rightly expecting a higher standard of environmental pollution control, and complaints are made much more often of more obscure types of pollution, the source of which is not always obvious. In some types of process we need better methods of measuring emissions and precise regulations which define acceptable levels of emission. The existing nuisance provisions of the Public Health Act 1936 are unwieldy and largely unworkable.

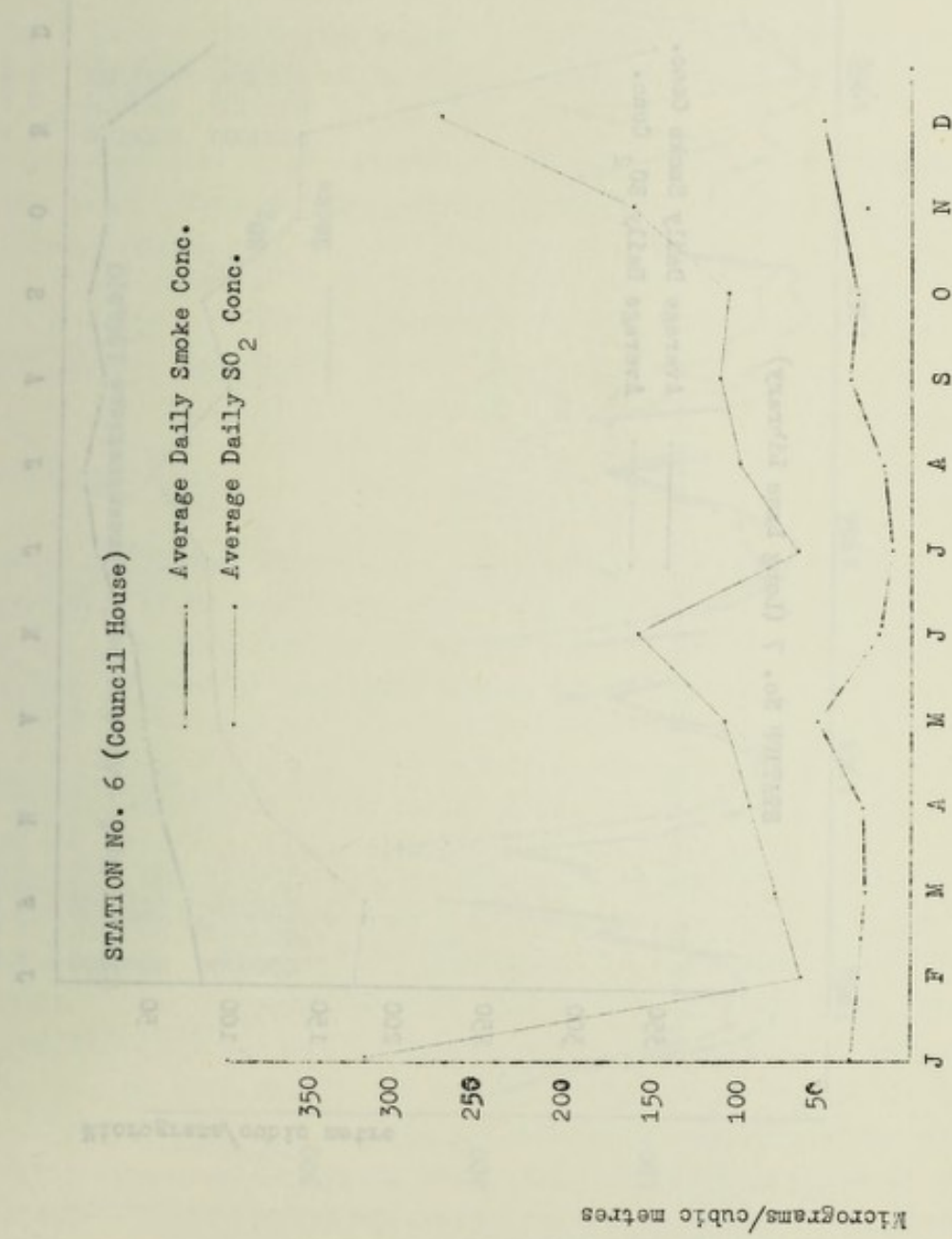
Although the measurement from industrial processes may present problems the measurement of smoke and  $\text{SO}_2$  in the atmosphere has continued at the two stations in the Borough and the results are shown on the accompanying graphs. As can be seen the general levels of smoke and  $\text{SO}_2$  are steadily decreasing.

The use of British Standard deposit gauges is generally limited to monitoring emissions from particular sources, such as foundries, but the results received are only rarely of any value. This is mainly due to the necessity to leave the gauge out for four weeks and any deposit could have been a small steady emission, or two or three relatively heavy emissions and it is hoped that during 1971 a more successful means of monitoring fall-out can be devised and implemented.

#### NOISE CONTROL

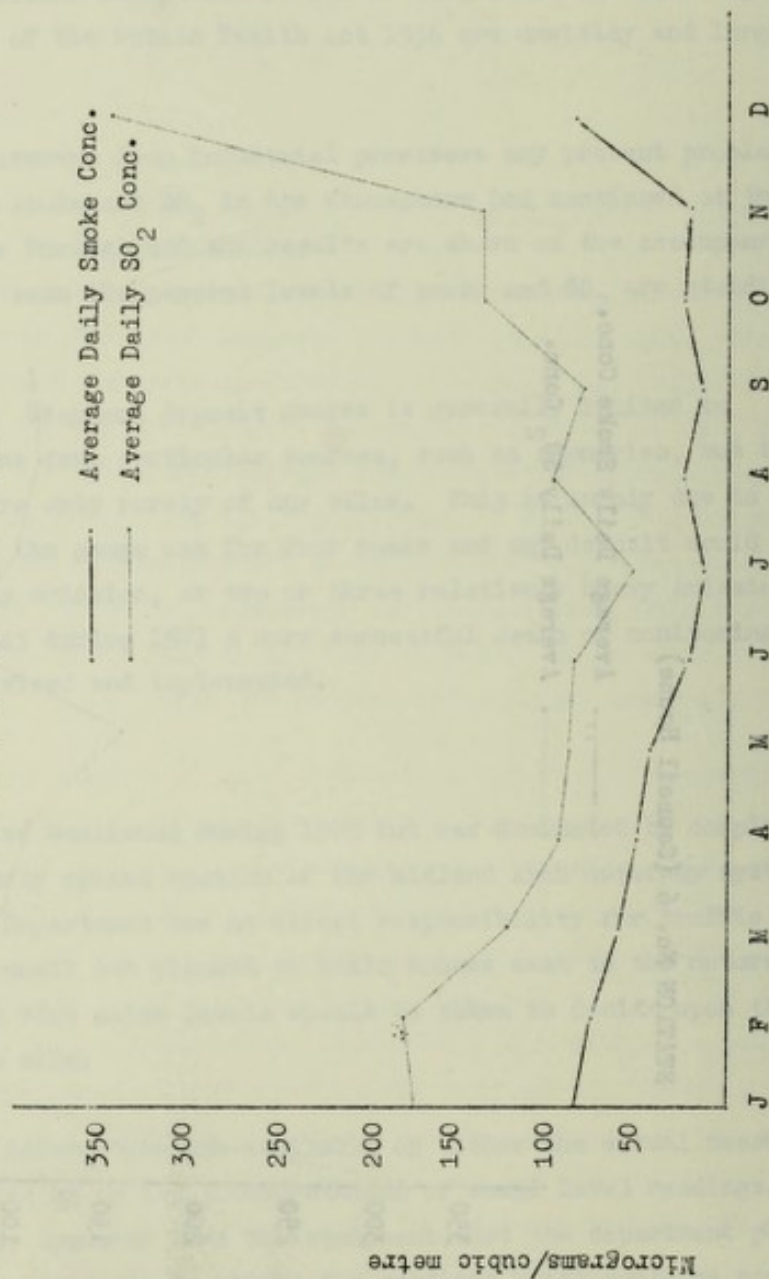
The problem of noise continued during 1970 but was dominated by complaints of noise from a newly opened section of the Midland link motorway system. The Public Health Department has no direct responsibility for traffic noise control but the council had planned to build houses next to the motorway and it was decided that noise levels should be taken to decide upon the suitability of the site.

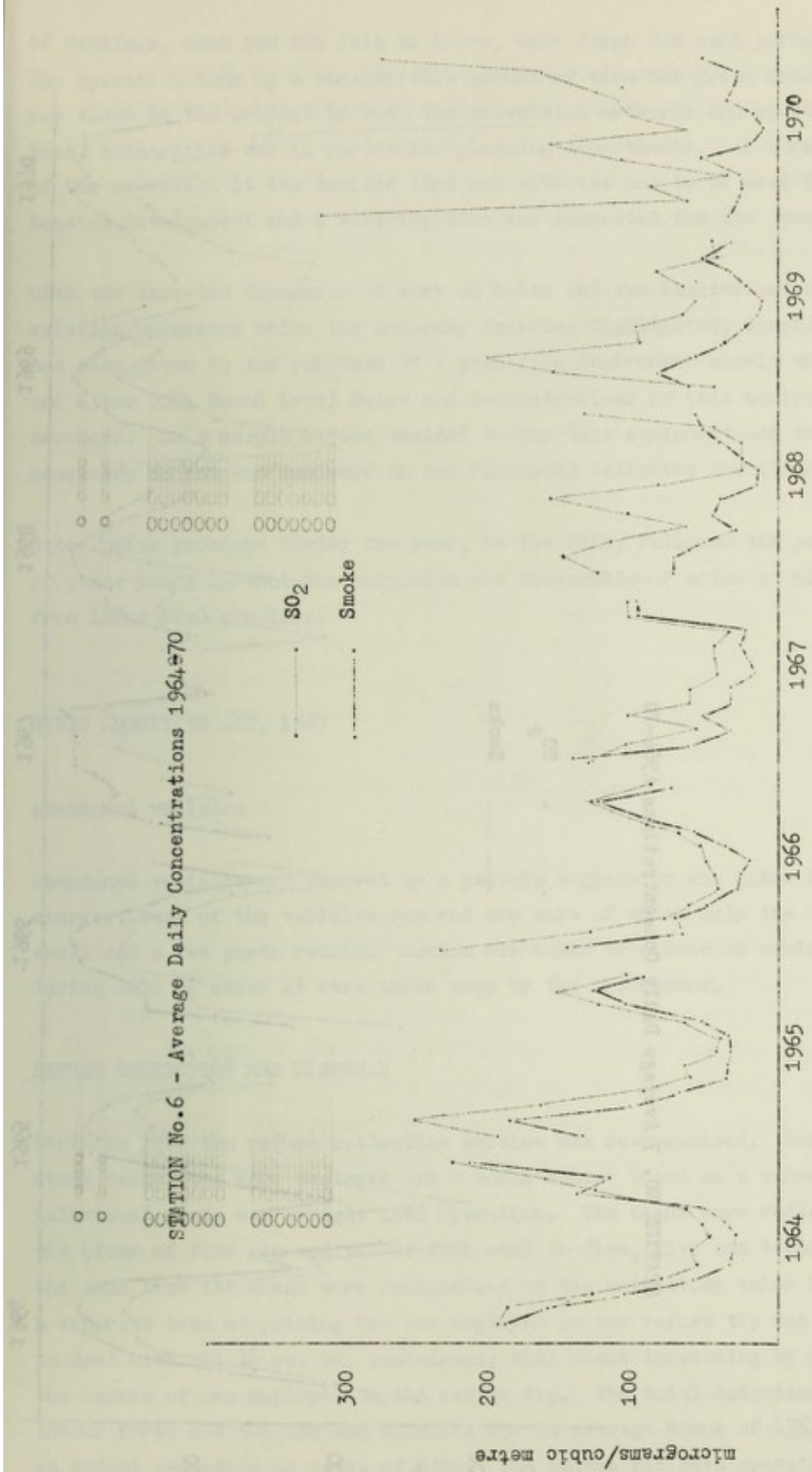
Relatively little information was available on either the actual measurement of the traffic noise or on the interpretation of sound level readings. At first sight it also appeared that the equipment that the department possessed would not be suitable to obtain the readings which would be necessary. However, after careful consideration of the problem, a method was decided upon whereby, using only the existing equipment, manned 24 hours per day, figures would be available to use the three main criteria for assessing traffic noise, i.e., the traffic noise index, the noise pollution level, and the criteria recommended in The Wilson Committee Report on Noise. Four separate 24 hour periods were considered, each beginning at 12.00 noon on the one day and finishing at 12.00 noon the following day. The four periods were mid-week; Friday-Saturday; Saturday-Sunday and Sunday-Monday. Two sets



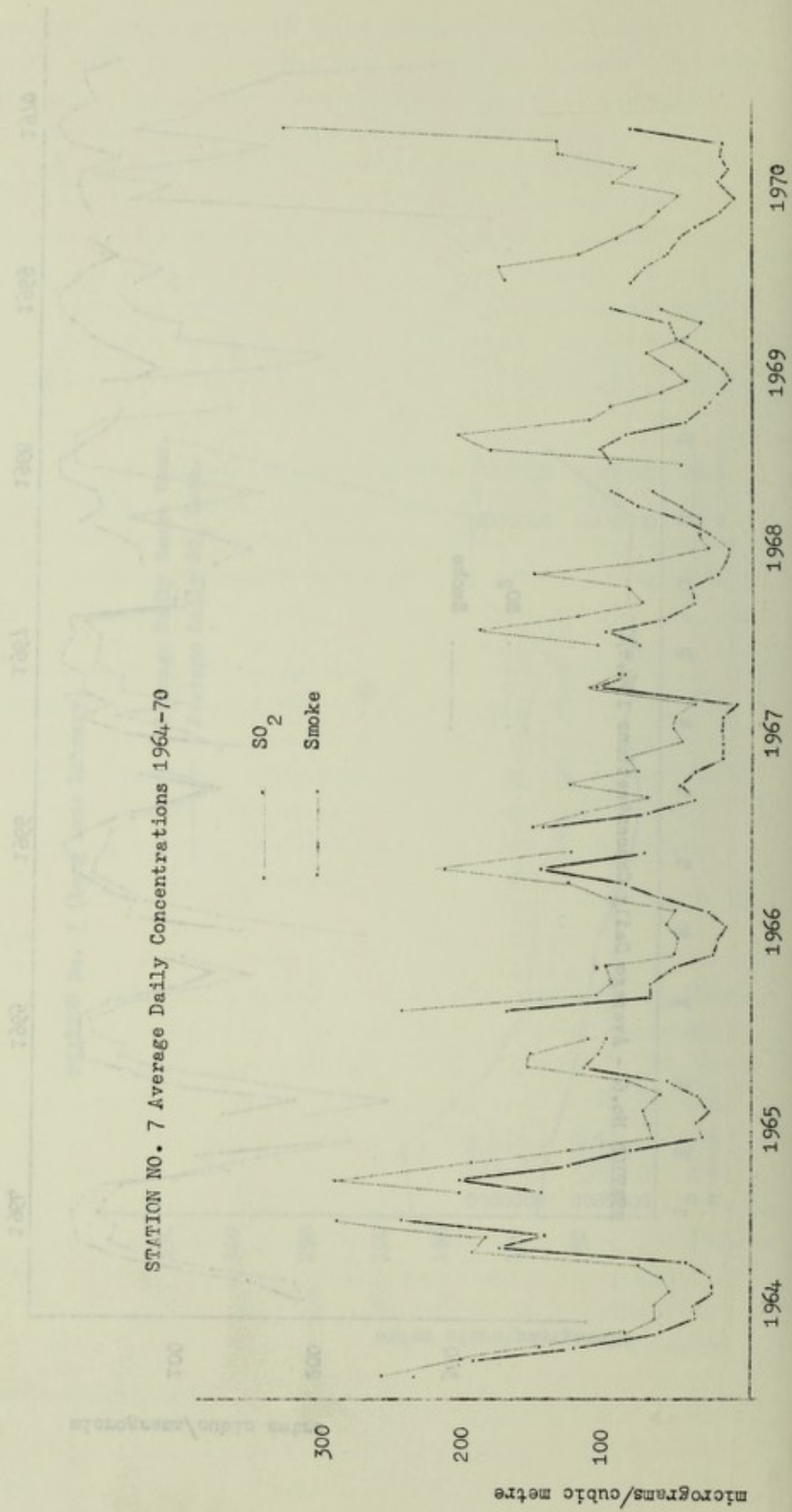


STATION No. 7 (Long Lane Library)





STATION NO. 7 Average Daily Concentrations 1964-70





of readings, each for the full 24 hours, were taken for each period. The operation took up a considerable amount of time but great interest was shown in the project by both the television networks and by other local authorities and in particular planning departments. As a result of the operation it was decided that one site was not to be used for housing development and a building line was suggested for the other site.

With the expected expansion of work on noise and the limitations of the existing apparatus which the motorway exercise highlighted, consideration has been given to the purchase of a precision instrument namely the Bruel and Kjaer 2204 Sound Level Meter and demonstrations of this equipment were arranged. As a result it was decided to buy this equipment and the necessary amount was included in the financial estimates for 1971/72.

Other noise problems during the year, in the main, followed the pattern of other years in that the complaint was frequently of noise at night from industrial premises.

#### CIVIC AMENITIES ACT, 1967

##### Abandoned vehicles

Abandoned vehicles are removed by a private contractor who makes no charge. Many of the vehicles removed are cars of which only the body shell and a few parts remain. Action was taken to remove 40 vehicles during 1970 of which 13 were taken away by the contractor.

#### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Early in 1970 the refuse collection service was re-organised. Work study techniques were employed and a bonus scheme based on a value for individual roads was brought into operation. The teams were reduced from six (four of five men and two of four men) to five, five man teams. At the same time the areas were reorganised on the work study value basis and a separate team comprising two men employed on the refuse tip was set up to deal with all  $1\frac{1}{4}$  cu. yd. containers; this meant increasing by one man the number of men employed on the refuse tip. The total deduction in the labour force was two men and allowing for an average bonus of 45%, provided an annual reduction in wages of £750. The scheme has been operating since January, 1970 and has proved successful from every point of view.

Facilities for householders to dispose of surplus refuse are provided by siting 10 cu. yd. containers at the refuse tip and two outlying sites in the Borough. Difficulties have been encountered mainly on the refuse tip



due to lack of co-operation by the public and misuse by traders. Large members of the public fail to appreciate the need to control these facilities and insist on the right to dump refuse at any hour of the day or night. Some traders rather than pay the small sum charged as a tipping fee prefer to visit the sites late at night or early morning and dump their trade waste in the vicinity of the containers. This means that men have to be continuously employed to keep the sites clean and reasonably tidy and this adds unnecessarily to the expense of providing this very useful service.

Planning of an incinerator to serve the Boroughs of Halesowen and Stourbridge was completed during the year and appropriate firms were asked to submit tenders by March 1971. In the meantime the two boroughs continued to use the refuse tip at Mucklow Hill, Halesowen and so far it has been possible to handle the additional quantity of refuse without increasing the labour force or the number of machines employed. This has meant, however that both men and machines are working at maximum capacity and no time is left for any additional site works. Should the incinerator project not go ahead the labour force engaged on the tip will need to be increased and an additional machine employed if proper control of the refuse tip is to be exercised.

#### SALVAGE

In this field activities continued to be concentrated on the collection and baling of waste paper. The collection service which is limited to industrial and commercial premises is carried out by one man and vehicle. Baling is carried out by one man employed full time and one man employed part time. A Crawford twin screw press is in use and this produces bales of around 4-cwt. Handling of these bales for storage and loading purposes is carried out by a fork lift truck.

During the year 235 tons of paper were sold giving a total income of £2,650.

In the latter part of the year a survey was carried out by a team from Thames Board Mills Ltd.. The objects of the survey were (a) to establish the amount of waste paper salvage available for separate collection from shop and factory premises, (b) to determine the full extent of the existing service, (c) to ascertain the necessary frequency of collection at each establishment.

The survey indicated the degree to which this service could be expanded. Unfortunately the report came at the commencement of what appeared to



be a slack period in the demand for waste paper, and after consideration of all the factors involved it was decided that any action should be delayed.

#### VEHICLE REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

The repair and maintenance of the Council's vehicles is carried out by the vehicle repair and maintenance section of the department. The staff consists of three engineering craftsmen.

By the end of the year the following vehicles were being repaired and serviced:-

##### Public Health Department

9 refuse freighters  
5 vans  
1 Austin Gypsy  
2 tractors  
1 official car

##### Highways Department

2 road rollers  
3 road sweepers  
2 gully emptiers  
4 trucks  
2 vans  
1 compressor  
1 vibrator

##### Housing Repairs Department

5 vans  
3 trucks

##### Parks Department

1 van  
2 tractors  
3 trucks

PUBLIC CLEANSING COSTING RETURN

Cost Statement 1970 - 1971

	collection	disposal	totals	percentage of total gross expenditure
REVENUE ACCOUNT				
Gross expenditure	£	£	£	%
(a) labour	36,418	2,681	39,099	46
(b) transport	24,688	7,650	32,338	38
(c) plant, land and buildings	5,467	7,518	12,985	15
(d) other items	269	305	574	1
Total gross expenditure	66,842	18,154	84,996	100
Gross income	2,424	10,287	12,711	-
Net cost	64,418	7,867	72,285	-
UNIT COSTS	£p	p	£p	
gross cost per ton, labour only	3.08	22	3.30	
gross cost per ton, transport only	2.08	64	2.72	
net cost (all expenditure) per ton	5.44	66	6.10	
net cost per 1,000 population	£	£	£	
net cost per 1,000 premises	1,231	150	1,371	
	2,910	355	3,266	
Net cost of collection and disposal of refuse (including salvage) for each resident:			per week	£0.03
Net cost of collection and disposal of refuse (including salvage) for each premises:			per week	£0.07



# OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

10. Area (Statute acres)	5,237
11. Population at 30th June, 1970 (Registrar General's Estimate)	52,320
12. Total refuse collected (tons)	11,822
13. Percentage of total refuse collected (tons) weighed	20
14. Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year)	12.4
15. Number of premises from which refuse is collected	22,134
16. Premises from which collections are made at least once weekly (%)	100
17. Average haul, single journey to final disposal point (miles)	2.5
18. Kerbside collection expressed as estimated percentage of total	-
19. Total refuse disposed of (tons)	36,314
20. Methods of disposal (salvage excluded) - controlled tipping (%)	100

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS  
(Factories Act, 1961)

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	found	remedied	reference	
			to H.M. Inspector	from H.M. Inspector
want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-
overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-
ineffective draining of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-
sanitary conveniences (S.7):-	-	-	-	-
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	8	8	-	3
(c) not suitable for sexes	-	-	-	-
other offences (not including offences to home work)	-	-	-	-
<b>totals</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Premises</b>	<b>number on register      inspection      written notices</b>			
factories in which Section 1,2,3, & 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authority:	-	-	-	-
factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority:	233	-	33	4
other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
<b>totals</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>4</b>



## RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1964

One licence was issued authorising the use of premises in accordance with the above mentioned Act.

## PETROLEUM (REGULATIONS) ACTS 1928 and 1936

During 1970, 99 premises were licensed to store petroleum or petroleum mixtures.

## RODENT CONTROL

Infestations are dealt with following complaints and each complaint may require several visits. Single complaints may also involve detailed surveys and treatments of areas of ground or water course.

No. of complaints from domestic premises	-	204
number of complaints from industrial premises	-	24
		<hr/>
Total		228

## DRAINAGE

Clearing of obstructed drains to private dwellings is carried out by the public health department workmen as a free service to the public -

total number of obstructions cleared in 1970 - 214

# RECORD OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Public Health Acts:	
drainage, public sewers and drains	399
Nuisances:	
premises	385
keeping of animals	18
dust or effluvia	101
Public cleansing:	
dustbins, salvage, trade waste	50
tips and accumulations	21
Civic Amenities Act	134
Verminous premises:	
council houses	21
other houses	8
Moveable dwellings:	36
Watercourses and streams:	56
Infectious diseases:	41
Housing Acts:	
number of houses inspected and recorded	142
houses in multiple occupation	11
individual unfit	38
slum clearance	890
improvement grants and improvement areas	1,155
housing survey	12
qualification certificates	111
Clean Air Act:	
smoke nuisances	50
observations	51
visits to plants	31
atmospheric pollution measurements	70
smoke control areas	1,144
Noise Abatement Act:	
noise control visits and measurements	262
Factories Acts:	
factories with power	37
outworkers	4
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963:	192
Shops Act:	8
Petroleum (Regulation) Acts:	96
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act:	331

Food and Drugs Act (Food Hygiene Regulations, etc.):

butchers	81
bakehouses	2
cafes, canteens, etc.	64
fishmongers, poulterers	10
fried fish shops	32
food preparation premises	6
greengrocers, fruiterers	35
grocers	173
ice-cream premises	2
markets	22
slaughterhouses	397
other food premises	27
licensed premises	92
school canteens	10
street vendors	Nil
Food complaints:	54
Food condemnation:	36
Food and Drug sampling:	209
Land Charges:	945
Miscellaneous:	131







