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Contributors

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ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

HUNTINGDON

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Public Health Inspector

for the Year 1966



CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES AND PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF
THE HUNTINGDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of the Council : G. L. GREY, Esq., J.P.

Chairman of Public Health Committee : H. S. GOOD, Esq., J.P.

Chairman of Housing Committee : W. GRINDLEY, Esq.

Chairman of Finance Committee : R. F. HOEFKENS, Esq

Clerk of the Council : W. MIDWOOD

Medical Officer of Health : P. V. CANT, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H

Public Health Inspector : B. R. DIXON, M.P.H.I.A.

Surveyor : J. S. SIMMS.

Public Analyst : S. GREENBURGH, PH.D., B.SC., F.I.C., Tenison
Road, Cambridge.

Laboratory Facilities :

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE :

Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

Consulting Engineers : MESSRS. PICK, EVERARD, KEAY &
GIMSON.

REPORT

ON THE

HUNTINGDON RURAL DISTRICT FOR 1966

To the Huntingdon Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Spiller and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my ninth Annual Report upon the sanitary conditions of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1966.

This is a large Rural District in the County of Huntingdon and Peterborough. It enjoys an almost central position in the County, lying mainly to the north and west of Huntingdon. It is made up of a large number of villages, and whilst agriculture is the chief local industry many people who work in Huntingdon and in Peterborough make their homes in the area. There are several large Airfields, and many British and American Air Force Personnel and their families are also residents.

The mid-year population was estimated by the Registrar General to be 14,780 which was a drop of 40 as compared with the previous year.

There were 292 live births during the year, being 43 more than in 1965. This gives a crude birth rate of 19·8 and an adjusted rate of 22·7 per thousand. The rate for England and Wales was 17·7 for the year.

I am pleased to record that there were only two infant deaths during the year. This is the lowest number for eight years and gives us an extremely low Infant Mortality Rate for the year.

There were 85 deaths during the year, 47 males and 38 females. The crude death rate of 5·75 per thousand population is very low, and even when adjusted it is only 8·8 per thousand, as compared with a rate for England and Wales of 11·7.

Measles was, as is usual, the most frequently occurring notifiable disease; there were 77 cases during the year. Next in order came Dysentery (11 cases) and Scarlet Fever and Pneumonia (5 cases of each).

Four cases of Food Poisoning occurred during the year. They were all carefully investigated, and were isolated cases having no common origin. One of the patients had become infected whilst on holiday abroad.

Work to increase the capacity of the sewers and of the works at Brampton is now complete, and work is now in progress on the sewerage scheme for Great and Little Stukeley. The disposal works at Alconbury are to be enlarged to receive this sewage, and also sewage from development which is expected in the Alconburys. It is hoped that work will start on the scheme to sewer Great Gidding during 1967.

As sewers become available in the villages the collection of night soil is steadily reducing. The number of pail closets in houses was reduced by 40 during the year.

Concern was recently expressed at one of the Health Committee meetings of this Council regarding the possibility that drugs which are to be collected from doctors surgeries for patients might get into the wrong hands, and be used by people other than those for whom they are intended. I have had considerable experience in General Practice myself, and know that in a Rural District such as this patients will sometimes have to depend to a considerable extent on a messenger who happens to be going near to the doctor's surgery. I would ask, however, that all doctors in the area who read this report would please do all in their power to prevent unauthorised or unsuitable messengers from picking up drugs.

Finally, I wish to thank the Members of the Council, their Officers and Staff, and my Professional Colleagues in the District for the help which they have given me during the year.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area, in acres	...	...	...	...	...	69,937
Estimated Population (mid-1966)	...	...	...	...	...	14,780
Density of Population per acre	...	...	...	...	...	0.21
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1966	...	...	...	...	...	3,805
Number of Inhabited Houses, excluding Air Ministry	...	...	...	...	...	3,013
Rateable Value, 31-12-66	...	...	...	...	...	£369,627
Product of Penny Rate, 31-3-66	...	...	...	...	...	£1,411

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births						
Number	...	...	...	...	...	292
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	19.8
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of total live births	...	...	...	...	...	3.8
Stillbirths						
Number	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still-births	...	...	...	...	...	6.8
Total Live and Still-births	...	...	...	...	...	294
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	...	...	...	...	...	2
Infant Mortality Rate						
Total Infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	...	...	...	...	...	6.8
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	...	...	...	3.4
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)						
Number of deaths	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	5.75

INFANT DEATHS

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Number of Deaths	9	6	4	7	5	2
Death Rates of Infants per 1,000 live births	30.9	18.3	15.3	22.4	20.1	6.8

Deaths from Cancer (total)	...	...	...	...	...	22
Cancer of Lung or Bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cancer of the Stomach	...	...	...	...	...	6
Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	...	...	...	17
Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	8
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	4
All Other Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	4

Comparison of Rates with those of England and Wales:—

	Per 1,000 Population				Per 1,000 Live births	Per 1,000 Total births
	Live Birth Rate	Adjusted Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Adjusted Death Rate	Infantile Mortality	Still Births
Huntingdon Rural	19.8	22.7	5.75	8.8	6.8	6.8
England & Wales	—	17.7	—	11.7	18.9	15.3

Comparability factor for births, 1.15 and for deaths, 1.53.

The Comparability factors shown under the table of birth and death rates are supplied by the Registrar General. When our rates are multiplied by these figures they are comparable with the national figures, or with the adjusted rates of anywhere else in the country. In issuing the factors, allowance is made for any unusual distribution of age groups in the population—for instance, a large number of Air Force personnel being resident.

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar General's figures):—

Causes of Death					M.	F. Totals	
All causes					47	38	85
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	—	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping cough	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	1	5	6
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus...	...	...	...	3	—	3
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	—	1	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	—	1	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	8	3	11
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	—	—	—
16.	Diabetes...	...	...	...	—	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	5	4	9
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	13	4	17
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	—	1	1
20.	Other heart diseases	...	...	...	2	5	7
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	1	4	5
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	—	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	2	2	4
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	2	1	3
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	2	—	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	—	—	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	—	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	1	—	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	—	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	—	4	4
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	3	1	4
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	4	—	4
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	—	—	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	—	—	—

Tuberculosis

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 yr.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

P. V. CANT.

The Health Clinic,
Whittlesey Road,
Stanground,
Peterborough.

Peterborough 68010.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

MONTAGU HOUSE,
HUNTINGDON.

SEWERS

The villages of Alconbury, Alconbury Weston, Brampton, Sawtry, Conington and Upwood have new sewers and sewage disposal works.

The provision of sewers in the villages of Great Stukeley and Little Stukeley is in progress.

HOUSING

Number of houses in the district at the end of 1965	3,668
Number of new dwellings constructed during 1966	168
Number of houses demolished or closed during 1966	31
Number of houses in the district at the end of 1966	3,805

SANITARY CONVENIENCES

No. of houses with W.C.'s	3,520
Number of houses with pail closets	285
Number of W.C.'s constructed for new houses	168
Number of W.C.'s newly constructed for old properties	40
Number of W.C. conversions grant aided (Sec. 47 P.H.A. 1936)	1

DUSTBINS

Number of dwellings (including caravans)	3,989
Number of new bins provided during the year	208
Number of dustbins emptied by private contractor	250
Number of other properties from which dustbins emptied by Council	89

REFUSE COLLECTION

Details of Collection

Frequency—Night soil	Weekly
Dry refuse	Weekly
Transport and No. of men	2 vehicles, 6 men
Whole area is covered.	
Particulars of service(s)—	
Unburnable refuse collection and night soil collection.	
Details of disposal arrangements—	
Controlled tipping. Night soil to land and Alconbury Sewage works.	
Development required—	
None.	
Complaints received re non-removal	33
No. of bins emptied (from dwellings and caravans)	4,690
No. of pail closets emptied	285

DRAINS

New drains tested	185
Existing drains inspected	78
Existing drains repaired or reconstructed	53

PROPOSED SEWERAGE SCHEME FOR GREAT GIDDING

The preliminary stages are almost complete and tenders will soon be invited. Work will probably commence in 1967.

PROPOSED SEWERAGE SCHEME FOR ELLINGTON, EASTON AND SPALDWICK

Once again it must be reported that little progress has been made towards the realization of this scheme. Most of the difficulties have been in connection with the acquisition of land in Easton.

BRAMPTON SEWERAGE SCHEME

The work on increasing the capacity of the sewers and sewage disposal works has now been completed.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL IN THE NORTH WEST VILLAGES

The Council's Consulting Engineers were asked to investigate and report upon the alternative possibilities of providing sewers and sewage disposal works in the villages of Keyston, Bythorn, Molesworth, Brington, Old Weston and Leighton Bromswold.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL IN KINGS RIPTON

The Consulting Engineers were also requested to investigate and report upon the provision of sewers and sewage disposal works in Kings Ripton.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS

No. of disposal works for villages	...	...	...	...	4
No. of disposal works for Council Houses	...	...	...	...	3
No. of cesspools abolished	...	...	...	...	Nil

SHOPS, OFFICES AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

No. of offices registered during 1966	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of retail shops registered during 1966	...	...	...	...	2
No. of wholesale shops, warehouses registered during 1966	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of catering establishments registered during 1966	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of fuel storage depots registered during 1966	...	...	...	...	Nil
Total No. of premises registered	...	...	...	...	49

		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	
Total No. of persons employed in registered premises	...	121	134	255

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

No. of licences in force December, 1966 (Multiple Sites)	...	...	...	...	7
No. of caravans on these sites	...	...	...	...	135
No. of licences for single caravans	...	...	...	...	49
Estimated No. of residents on all sites	...	...	...	...	552
No. of inspections made	...	...	...	...	306
No. of nuisances investigated	...	...	...	...	12
No. of nuisances remedied	...	...	...	...	13

Two prosecutions under Section 1 of the Caravan Sites and Development Act, 1960 were taken both against the same defendant. After the second prosecution the use of the caravan for human habitation was discontinued.

PETROLEUM ACTS

No. of licences issued as renewals	...	...	...	...	71
No. of new licences issued	...	...	...	...	1
Total number of licences in force	...	...	...	...	72
No. of tanks and pipe lines tested	...	...	...	...	4

RIVERS AND STREAMS

One case of pollution of the Alconbury Brook was notified but prompt action by the Great Ouse River Authority abated the nuisance.

PESTS ACT, 1949

INSPECTIONS

No. of houses inspected and reinspected	...	...	...	771
No. of agricultural inspections and reinspections	...	...	...	434
No. of business premises inspected and reinspected	...	...	...	76
No. of L.A. properties inspected (excluding council houses)	...	...	...	94
Total No. of inspections and reinspections	...	...	...	1,375

TREATMENTS

No. of houses treated and retreated	...	...	...	504
No. of agricultural treatments and retreatments	...	...	...	432
No. of business premises treated and retreated	...	...	...	59
No. of L.A. properties treated (excluding council houses)	...	...	...	67
Total No. of treatments and retreatments	1062

ENFORCEMENT

No. of statutory notices served under Sec. 4	Nil
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No infestations of a serious nature were observed nor has any evidence of warfarin resistance been apparent.

DISINFECTION

There were no premises in which disinfection was carried out during the year.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960

<i>Category</i>	<i>Total No.</i>	<i>Complying with REG. 16</i>	<i>Complying with REG. 19</i>
General Stores	31	25	18
Cafes (excluding licensed premises)	6	6	5
Butchers	5	4	3
Licensed Premises	30	28	21
Bakehouses	2	2	2

BAKEHOUSES

No. in the district	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
No. of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	12

General conditions in these bakehouses are satisfactory.

POULTRY INSPECTION

There is one poultry processing establishment within the district this being in the village of Keyston. Some 100,000 turkeys are processed each year. The majority of these are bred on the Owner's farm and therefore at the slightest show of indisposition the affected turkeys are removed from the flocks. This results in live birds in good condition arriving at the processing plant, therefore the number rejected before slaughter is very small. Visits are made frequently at irregular intervals for inspection of the premises and of the birds leaving the processing line. At the beginning of the year and for a period of some three months, three to four visits were being made each week and samples and swabs taken of birds, water, drainage and working surfaces. Nothing of any great significance was discovered.

The Ministry of Health's circulars (1961 and 1967) were brought to the attention of the Council when after due consideration it was decided that the present system of irregular visits should continue and that the factory manager should place all suspected birds or parts of birds on one side for inspection by the public health inspector.

A form of monthly return was instituted for completion by the factory manager, the form to be returned to the local authority regularly.

In all the tests which took place the interest and co-operation of the staff of the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge and the Owners cannot be too highly appreciated.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

Total number of outbreaks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number of cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number of deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

No. on Register	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Contraventions found	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Contraventions remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Formal notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 1964

Eleven certificates of registration are now in force, one having been issued during the year.

STREET NAMES AND HOUSE NUMBERING

In Leighton the street nameplates have been fixed and the houses allocated individual numbers. Not all the houses have, as yet, had the numerals fixed, but pressure is being exerted on the occupiers to comply.

Street names for Spaldwick have been adopted following consultation with the Parish Council.

Encouragement should now be given to those Parish Councils which have not yet considered this step to request the Rural District Council to provide street name plates in their respective villages.

HOUSING

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	506
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	637
(2) Total number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	10

(3) 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	116
2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices:—	
(a) Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers excluding those dealt with by Improvement Grants	98
(b) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit with the assistance of Improvement Grants	21
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—	
(A)—Proceedings under Sections 9 and 10 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	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(B)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(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 Authority in default of owners	Nil
(C)—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1957, & Sections 10(1) & 11(2) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	7
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	30
(3) Number of houses closed during the year ...	Nil
(4) Number of families displaced during the year	11
(5) Number of persons displaced during the year	17
(D)—Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957:—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil

(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(E)—Proceedings under Part III of the Housing Act, 1957, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954:—							
CLEARANCE AREAS:—							
(1)	Number of Clearance Areas declared during the year	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2)	Total number of houses included in (1) above						Nil
(3)	Number of houses included by reason of unfitness for human habitation	...	...				Nil
(4)	Number of houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc....	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(5)	Number of families displaced during the year						Nil
(6)	Number of houses demolished during the year						Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV. Overcrowding

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	5
	(ii)	Number of families therein	...	...	...	...	5
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	27
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year						Nil	
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	1
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...					5
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding						Nil	
(e)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report						Nil	

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

(a) Discretionary Grants

14 houses have been improved with the assistance of discretionary grants. The total amount of grant being £5,504.

(b) Standard Grants

7 houses have been improved with the assistance of standard grants. The total amount of grant being £1,171 8s. 1d.

RENT ACT, 1957

No applications for certificates of disrepair have been received and no action taken under the above Act.

NEW DWELLINGS COMPLETED 1966

PARISH	HOUSES	BUNGALOWS		TOTAL
	Private	Private	R.D.C.	
Alconbury	14	—	—	14
Alconbury Weston	8	—	—	8
Brampton	33	31	—	64
Keyston	3	—	—	3
Easton	1	—	—	1
Ellington... ..	—	2	—	2
Great Gidding	—	1	—	1
Kings Ripton	—	1	—	1
Sawtry	15	28	5	48
Spaldwick	—	3	8	11
Great Stukeley	5	—	—	5
Little Stukeley	—	2	—	2
Upwood	2	3	—	5
Great Raveley	1	—	—	1
Woodwalton	2	—	—	2
	84	71	13	168

WATER SUPPLIES

No. of bacteriological samples taken	28
No. satisfactory	28

There are no public standpipes in the district.

B. R. DIXON, M.P.H.I.A.





