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Contributors

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Kingsbridge Rural District Council



REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the year 1972

KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF THE AREA DURING 1972.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith the Annual Report on the health of the area during 1972, drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Health and Social Security Circular 1/73, dated 1/73.

COUNCIL OFFICES, MANOR HOUSE, KINGSBRIDGE, S.DEVON.
Telephone: Kingsbridge 2246/7

Statistics

Apart from an estimated increase in population of two hundred and fifty persons, there is very little variation in the vital statistics as set out in the Appendix to this Report.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	JOHN WILDMAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.F.C.M.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health	MARY E. BUDDING, M.B., B.Ch., B.Sc., D.P.H., M.F.C.M.
Chief Officer and Chief Public Health Inspector	D.J. COLE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector	T.A.J. FOWLER, M.A.P.H.I.
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Clerical Assistant	MRS. E.E. OSMAN
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Medical Officer of Health's Clerk	MISS G. PROWSE Telephone: Plymouth 36644

A farmer at Hodbury contracted brucellosis (Undulant Fever). Tests upon milk from the herd at this farm proved negative to

KINGSTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

COUNCIL OFFICES, MANOR HOUSE, KINGSTON, DEVON.
 Telephone: Kingston 2151

STAFF

JOHN WILKINSON, M.B. B.S., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.P.C.M.	Medical Officer of Health
MARY E. BROWN, M.B., B.Ch., D.S., F.R.C.P., M.P.C.M.	Deputy Medical Officer of Health
D. L. GORE, M.B. B.S., M.A.F.R.I.	Chief Officer and Chief Public Health Inspector
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MRS. G. FROST Telephone: Plymouth 1555	Medical Officer of Health's Clerk

KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF THE AREA DURING 1972.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I present herewith the Annual Report on the health of the area during 1972, drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Health and Social Security Circular 1/73, dated January, 1973. Included in this Report is the Report of your Chief Public Health Inspector.

Statistics

Apart from an estimated increase in population of two hundred and fifty persons, there is very little variation in the vital statistics as set out in the Appendix to this Report.

Notifiable Diseases

Very few were notified, but these included two cases of pulmonary tuberculosis. During the summer, a young hotel worker on the kitchen staff of a local hotel was found to be suffering from active pulmonary tuberculosis. The disease had been undetected for some months, so that some forty members of the hotel staff had been exposed to risk. Fifteen of these came from the Kingsbridge area, 3 from Plymouth, 6 from the rest of Devon, and 16 from other areas including Northern Europe. All were written to and advised to have a chest X-Ray. So far I have received no reports of any positive cases being detected.

An employee at a Plymouth food factory resident in your District was found to be suffering from infection with *Salmonella typhimurium*, which can cause food poisoning. He was excluded from work for nearly three months, until found to be clear of infection.

A family at Kingston was visited following the death of a parakeet from psittacosis, but no human cases of the infection were detected.

A farmer at Modbury contracted brucellosis (Undulant Fever). Tests upon milk from the herd at this farm proved negative to

brucellosis.

The daughter of a farmer at Aveton Gifford contracted enteritis at about the same time as a salmonella infection had been detected amongst cattle at the farm. Tests upon the girl were negative.

Infections common to Farm Animals and Man

Amongst the four Rural Districts of South West Devon, (Kingsbridge, Plympton, Tavistock, Totnes), a total of thirty-one outbreaks of Salmonella infection and five outbreaks of Brucellosis were reported during 1972. This is an improvement over the 1971 figures (Salmonella 49, Brucellosis 6).

<u>District</u>	<u>Salmonellosis</u>	<u>Brucellosis</u>
Kingsbridge Rural District	6	11
Plympton Rural District	5	2
Tavistock Rural District	14	0
Totnes Rural District	6	2
	<u>31</u>	<u>15</u>

Thirty of the Salmonella outbreaks were due to Salmonella dublin, and one was due to Salmonella typhimurium. In these outbreaks 16 animals died. One of the cows in a Brucellosis outbreak was slaughtered.

Milk at all the farms was already sent for pasteurisation and no human cases of illness were discovered.

Water Supply

Mains water is supplied by the South West Devon Water Board, and the supply has been excellent. The water is regularly sampled by the Board.

I am indebted to the Director of Water Supplies of the South West Devon Water Board for the following summary of analyses during 1972:

Bacteriological Analyses, 1972 - South West Devon Water

Board Area:

	<u>Public Health Labs.</u>	<u>S.W.Devon Water Board Laboratory</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Unsatis- factory</u>
Dec.71-Jan.72	157	-	157	4
Jan. - Feb.	112	-	112	2
Feb. - March	152	-	152	Nil
March - April	88	-	88	Nil
April - May	148	-	148	Nil
May - June	181	44	225	1
June - July	168	17	185	2
July - Sept.	293	51	344	3
Sept. - Oct.	209	20	229	2
Oct. - Nov.	134	12	146	1
Nov. - Dec.	117	8	125	2
	<u>1,759</u>	<u>152</u>	<u>1,911</u>	<u>17</u>

In conclusion, I wish to thank the staff and Councillors for their help and encouragement during the year.

JOHN WILDMAN,

Medical Officer of Health

August, 1973.

ANNUAL REPORT
of
THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1972

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Herewith I submit my report on the work of the Public Health Department during the year ended 31st December, 1972.

SEWERAGE

Bigbury-on-Sea

The contact stabilisation plant continues to function very well, giving effluent standards of high quality.

Pumping equipment and controls are still presenting problems, and there is still some work outstanding on the sea outfall.

Brownston

The outfall from this small sewerage system remains completely unsatisfactory, discharging crude sewage to a stream feeding into the River Erme.

Loddiswell

Work on the scheme for resewering parts of the village and constructing a new sewage disposal works is progressing well, and should be completed early in the New Year.

Stoke Fleming

The consulting engineers have been asked to prepare a scheme for extending sewers and constructing a disposal works for this village.

Modbury

Approval in principle to a scheme of flood prevention and for sewerage and sewage disposal has been obtained. The necessary documents are now being prepared prior to obtaining tenders for this work.

Slapton

Improvements to the disposal works have been completed, and conditions are greatly improved.

Maintenance

Adequate maintenance of sewage disposal works has been difficult on occasions when staff have had to be diverted to sewer maintenance and blockages.

During the year the sewers at Torcross and Aveton Gifford were cleansed with specialist equipment hired for the purpose. This work proved completely satisfactory, and I hope in future it can be extended to other areas.

HOUSING

The number of houses dealt with formally was the same as last year, and there remains to be dealt with only a hard core of relatively few houses.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

There was a slight increase in the number of Improvement (discretionary) grant applications, and a small reduction in the number of standard grant applications.

To a certain extent applications are still being made by applicants seeking to improve holiday accommodation, or to provide second homes, and I hope the Council will continue to resist making grants for such purposes.

It would appear from recent adverse publicity regarding this point that reconsideration should be given by Central Government to amendments in the law to make such applicants ineligible for grant purposes.

MEAT INSPECTION

The total number of animals inspected reduced slightly, but the percentage of animals affected by disease increased, with a resultant increase in the weight of meat condemned.

Income from meat inspection charges amounted to £98.82p.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Standards on the major caravan sites continue to improve, and apart from Beesands Green are satisfactory. In the latter

case, an appeal was heard in the High Court to determine the classification of a track leading to Beesands Cellars, and following the judgement it is hoped that a new layout can be agreed with the site operator and site licence conditions implemented in full.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The increase in the volume of refuse collected each year continues. The rise in the past year was 7%, and this trend is bound to continue. The demands on the collection service can be met more easily than those on the disposal service, where resources are not so readily available. Urgent action is necessary to extend tipping facilities at Molescombe Quarry.

OIL POLLUTION

Fortunately it was necessary to take only limited action during the year to deal with pollution of beaches. It is hoped that this trend will continue.

GENERAL

The number of sanitary inspections showed a decrease on the previous year. This was attributable to increased work in connection with Local Government amalgamation, and also to the increase in the volume of work in connection with refuse, sewerage, and improvement grants.

From statistics available it would appear that rodent control is making its mark in the District. There was a reduction in the number of premises inspected, and a significant reduction in those found to be infested, particularly by rats. The previous winter was mild, so I hope that this reflects a genuine decrease in the rat population, and if this is so it calls for extra effort in making a determined onslaught on these pests.

In conclusion, I would again thank all members and staff for their encouragement and support during the year, and in particular the staff of the Public Health Department, who have borne up manfully under considerable pressure at times.

D. J. COLE,

Chief Officer and Chief
Public Health Inspector

August, 1973.

A P P E N D I X

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS, 1972.

Table 1

Figures for 1971 are shown in brackets.

POPULATION

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Kingsbridge Rural District:

12,610 (12,360)

Natural increase or decrease	-82	(-62)
Migration in or out	+332	(+292)
Total increase or decrease	+250	(+230)

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Kingsbridge Rural District in acres 70,818

Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Book (1.4.72)

Number of Inhabited Houses	5,454	(5,172)
Number of Houses per acre	0.077	(0.073)
Number of Persons per acre	0.178	(0.174)
Number of Persons per House	2.312	(2.390)

Dwellings owned by the Council 754 (756)

Rateable Value of District £408,904 (£397,005)

Sum Represented by a New

Penny Rate: £3,965 (£3,787)

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS, 1972.

Table 2

Figures for 1971 are shown in brackets

BIRTHS

Standardised Live Birth Rate
per 1,000 population 12.7 (12.6)

Area Comparability Factor for births 1.34 (1.22)

<u>Number of Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total	65	55	120
Legitimate	58	52	110
Illegitimate	7	3	10
<u>Number of Still Births</u>	1	1	2

DEATHS

Standardised Death Rate
per 1,000 population 11.2 (12.4)

Area Comparability Factor for Deaths 0.70 (0.81)

<u>Number of Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
All ages - Total	112	90	202
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	0	1	1
Number under 4 weeks of age	0	1	1
Number under 1 week of age	0	1	1

Infantile Mortality Rate
per 1,000 Live Births 8.0 (0.0)

COMPARISON WITH RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Birth Rate	14.8	(16.0)
Death Rate	12.1	(11.6)
Infantile Mortality Rate (Infants under 1 year of age)	17.0	(18.0)

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1972.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases	0	1	1
2. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	0	1
3. Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity, etc.	1	1	2
4. Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	2	0	2
5. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	0	1	1
6. Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	3	2	5
7. Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	1	0	1
8. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	11	3	14
9. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	0	2	2
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	1	-	1
11. Leukaemia	1	2	3
12. Other Malignant Neoplasms	5	4	9
13. Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	1	0	1
14. Diabetes Mellitus	2	0	2
15. Other Diseases of Nervous System	1	0	1
16. Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	2	0	2
17. Hypertensive Disease	1	2	3
18. Ischaemic Heart Disease	37	21	58
19. Other forms of Heart Disease	6	11	17
20. Cerebrovascular Disease	12	17	29
21. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	4	4	8
22. Influenza	1	1	2
23. Pneumonia	3	8	11
24. Bronchitis and Emphysema	5	0	5
25. Asthma	0	1	1
26. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	1	2
27. Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	0	1
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
30. Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	2	1	3
31. Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	0	2	2
32. Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	0	1	1
33. Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions	3	0	3
34. All other Accidents	2	3	5
35. Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	1	1	2
Total all Causes -	112	90	202

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES - CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1972

Table 1

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Under</u>				<u>Over</u>	
		<u>1</u>	<u>1-</u>	<u>5-</u>	<u>15-</u>	<u>25-</u>	<u>65</u>
Measles	10	0	4	6	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Acute Meningitis	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Tuberculosis (lungs)	2	0	0	0	0	2	0

Table 2

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Incidence by Quarters</u>			
		<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u>
Measles	10	0	2	7	1
Scarlet Fever	1	1	0	0	0
Acute Meningitis	1	0	0	1	0
Tuberculosis (lungs)	2	0	1	1	0

INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATES OF VACCINATION

In accordance with the requirements of the World Health Regulations certificates of Smallpox and Cholera vaccinations in respect of persons travelling abroad were authenticated by the Public Health Department. An average of twenty-five such certificates are dealt with each week.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948 and 1951

No action was necessary under Section 47 of the 1948 Act, or under the (Amendment) Act, 1951, for the removal and detention of persons in need of care and attention.

No burials took place under Section 50 of the 1948 Act.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. Hospitals

A General Practitioner Hospital with 13 beds is situated in Kingsbridge. The area is also served by hospitals at Plymouth, Totnes, Dartmouth and Torbay.

2. Laboratory Service

Bacteriological examinations of pathological specimens and samples of milk, water, and ice cream are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Plymouth. The chemical analysis of water is undertaken by Public Analysts at Exeter, and also by the South West Devon Water Board.

3. County Health Services

Under the National Health Services Act, 1946, the County Council provides the following services:-

Domiciliary midwives, home nurses, health visitors, supervisory care of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five, ambulance services, vaccination and immunisation procedures.

A chiropody service is in operation for the handicapped, the aged and expectant mothers. Clinics are held at Dartmouth, Kingsbridge, Salcombe, Stokenham, Thurlestone, and Yealmpton.

4. Social Services

The Area Director of Social Services at The Family Welfare Centre, Pomeroy House, Bridgetown, Totnes (Telephone: Totnes 3665), is responsible for providing a social work service under the Children's Acts, The Mental Health Act, 1959, and the National Assistance Act, to the elderly, the mentally ill, the physically handicapped, and homeless persons and families. The Social Services Department also

administers the Home Help Service, the Social Work Service to schools, the Occupational Therapy Services, and residential homes and centres.

5. General Medical and Dental Services

Three General Medical Practitioners live in villages in the District, and also seventeen doctors and ten dentists from adjoining towns serve the area.

6. Mass Miniature Radiography

The Unit visited Kingsbridge and Dartmouth regularly once a fortnight, and all persons living adjacent to those towns were easily able to obtain a chest X-ray.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1972.

Collection and Disposal of Refuse	..	..	..	132
Litter .. .. .	..	..	..	48
Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	..	..	..	431
Infectious Diseases .. .. .	..	..	..	9
Inspections of Caravan Sites	..	..	..	131
Houses inspected under Public Health and Housing Acts				91
Pests .. .. .	..	..	..	8
Nuisances .. .. .	..	..	..	24
Food Premises (Shops, Dairies, Hotels, etc.)	..	..	..	263
Public Conveniences .. .. .	..	..	..	13
Rodent Control .. .. .	..	..	..	12
Ice Cream Samples .. .. .	..	..	..	8
Water Samples .. .. .	..	..	..	42
Water Supplies .. .. .	..	..	..	8
Improvement Grants .. .. .	..	..	..	256
Wrecks of the Sea .. .. .	..	..	..	2
Slaughter of Animals Act .. .. .	..	..	..	9
Petroleum Regulations .. .. .	..	..	..	65
Dangerous Buildings .. .. .	..	..	..	10
Drainage .. .. .	..	..	..	49
Miscellaneous .. .. .	..	..	..	44
Food Inspection ... .. .	..	..	..	12
Factories .. .. .	..	..	..	5
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act .. .. .	..	..	..	11
Animal Boarding Establishments Act .. .. .	..	..	..	2
Streams and Watercourses .. .. .	..	..	..	18
Oil Pollution .. .. .	..	..	..	54
Coastal Erosion .. .. .	..	..	..	16
Flooding .. .. .	..	..	..	8
Rent Act .. .. .	..	..	..	6
Fire Regulations .. .. .	..	..	..	8

1,795

MEAT INSPECTION

During the year 268 visits were made to slaughterhouses in the District. The following carcasses were inspected:

Cows	..	..	..	10
Heifers	..	..	..	26
Steers	..	..	..	220
Calves	..	..	..	7
Sheep	..	..	..	1,266
Pigs	..	..	..	77
				<u>1,606</u>

Total weight of meat condemned: 1 ton 13 cwts.

Diseased meat, etc. is collected by arrangement, and converted into glues and fertilisers.

Income from meat inspection charges amounted to £98.82p.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle exclg. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	246	10	7	1,266	77
Number inspected	246	10	7	1,266	77
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	4	-	6	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	46	4	1	79	2
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	18.69	40.00	14.29	6.79	2.60
Tuberculosis only	-	-	-	-	-
Cysticercosis:					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

OTHER FOODS

The following table indicates the number of food premises in the area, by type of business:

Bakehouses	6
Butchers' shops	8
Fishmongers and fryers	2
Ice cream retailers	104
General stores	63
Dairies	3
Restaurants and cafes	30
Hotels and guest houses	86
Inns	41
Sweet confectioners	8
	<hr/>
	351

Registration of Premises under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955:

Sale of Ice Cream	104
Manufacture of Preserved Food	10
Number of new registrations under Section 16	5

Amount of food condemned during the year .. 241.lbs.

Ice Cream Sampling:

Four samples of ice cream were taken for examination during the year.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Licensed Sites and Caravans:

Number of Sites	22
Number of Caravans licensed	1,527
Licensed individual caravans	28

Twenty-one sites, each with a limit of five caravans, were exempt by virtue of membership of the Caravan Club. In addition, there were two mobile sites run by the Caravan & Camping Club of Great Britain Ltd.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION
OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PART 1 of the Act

Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Health Inspectors):

	<u>No. in</u> <u>Register</u>	<u>Inspect-</u> <u>ions</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Written</u> <u>Notices</u>	<u>Occupier</u> <u>Prose-</u> <u>cuted</u>
<u>Premises</u>				
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities (Factories without mechanical power)	0	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Factories with mechanical power)	35	18	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
	35	18	-	-

There is one out-worker.

RODENT CONTROL

PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS

		<u>Type of Property</u>	
		Non-	
		<u>Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
1.	Number of Properties in District	5,520	799
2. (a)	Number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	208	132
(b)	Number of properties inspected in Section 2(a) which were found to be infested by:		
(i)	Rats	187	129
(ii)	Mice	21	15
3. (a)	Number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	946	33
(b)	Number of properties inspected in Section 3(a) which were found to be infested by:		
(i)	Rats	389	15
(ii)	Mice	43	7

SEWERS

Six areas were found to be infested during the year, and were treated accordingly.

WATER SUPPLIES

Parish	Number of Habitable Houses	Number connected to Water Mains	Estimated Population served
Aveton Gifford	259	155	388
Bigbury	225	196	490
Blackawton	177	133	332
Buckland-tout-Saints	59	41	102
Charleton	177	150	376
Chivelstone	141	116	290
Churchstow	143	102	255
East Allington	144	122	305
East Portlemouth	114	99	247
Kingston	138	121	302
Loddiswell	274	235	588
Malborough	466	420	1,050
Modbury	469	424	1,060
Ringmore	99	95	238
Sherford	99	63	158
Slapton	192	163	408
South Huish	250	225	563
South Milton	153	136	340
South Pool	131	116	290
Stoke Fleming	416	370	925
Stokenham	724	651	1,628
Strete	177	159	398
Thurlestone	388	360	900
W. Alvington	200	173	433
Woodleigh	58	39	98
	5,673	4,864	12,164

These figures relate to houses in existence on 31st December, 1972.

WATER SAMPLES

Source of Sample	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
* South West Devon Water Board Mains	342	1	343
Private Supplies	16	14	30
	358	15	373

* These figures include samples of water not in supply to consumers.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS, 1972.

Grants for Improvement of Dwellings under Section 2,
Housing Act, 1969: Discretionary Grants

(a)	Formal Applications received	..	..	..	61
	Applications approved:				
	Owner-occupied			..	26
	Other dwellings			..	20
(b)	Grants paid	..	..	..	<u>£26,640</u>

Grants for Improvement of Dwellings under Section 8,
Housing Act, 1969: Standard Grants

(a)	Formal Applications received	..	..	..	10
	Applications approved:				
	Owner occupied			..	9
	Other dwellings			..	1
(b)	Grants paid	..	..	..	<u>£2,708</u>
	Number of Dwellings	..	..		12
	Amenities provided:				
	Bathrooms				4
	Baths or showers				11
	Washhand basins				11
	Hot water supply				11
	Water closets				7
	Sinks				6
	Septic tanks				3
	Piped water supply				3

HOUSES DEALT WITH AS INDIVIDUAL
UNFIT OR SLUM CLEARANCE AREAS

Represented	3
Confirmed	3
Demolished	1
Families rehoused	3
Unfit houses made fit	5

