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Luton Rural District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

of

Medical Officer of Health

and

Public Health Inspector

for the

YEAR 1963



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Luton Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT of Medical Officer of Health and Public Health Inspector for the YEAR 1963

Medical Officer's Annual Report, 1963

The Chairman and Councillors of the
Rural District of Luton.

1st September, 1964.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Health Report for 1963.

The increase in population continues to decline after the large figure in 1961.

The district was particularly free from infectious diseases during the year, except for measles; 397 cases being notified.

Cancer of the lung caused 20 deaths, 19 males to 1 female. During the preceding year there were only 9 deaths.

I wish to acknowledge with thanks the help that has always been given to me by the Clerk of the Council and the Public Health Inspectors.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. A. A. PARGETER,

Medical Officer of Health,
Rural District of Luton.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

H. A. A. PARGETER, M.A. (Cantab), M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S. (Eng.),
L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector

L. G. HILL, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector

T. C. OLIVER, M.R.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Statistics and Social Conditions

Vital Statistics

Area of District	47,994 acres
Population: Registrar-General's Estimated Home Population for 1963	42,570
Number of inhabited houses	12,400
Rateable Value as at 31st December, 1963	£1,666,344
Net produce of a penny rate for the year ended 31st March, 1963	£1,740 6 1d.
Number of new houses erected:	
(a) Council	4
(b) Private	204

Extracts from vital statistics for the year

The following table gives extracts from the Vital Statistics of the year 1963 as furnished by the Registrar General:—

Live Births :

Legitimate ...

Illegitimate

Birth Rate per 1,000 of population ...

<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
1050	532	518
1008	507	501
42	25	17
Crude Rate	24.7	
Adjusted Rate	19.5	

Still Births :

Legitimate ...

Illegitimate

Rate per 1,000 (live and still births) ...

Rate per 1,000 of population ...

<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
21	9	12
20	8	12
1	1	—
	15.0	
	0.38	

Total Live and Still Births :

Legitimate

Illegitimate

<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
1028	515	513
43	26	17
1071	541	530

Deaths of Infants

INFANT DEATHS (under one year of age)

Legitimate	12	6	18
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total ...	12	6	18

Rate per 1,000 live births
Total Legitimate Illegitimate

16.8	16.8	—
------	------	---

INFANT DEATHS (under four weeks of age)

Legitimate	9	3	12			
Illegitimate	—	—	—			
Total	9	3	12	11.4	11.4	—

INFANT DEATHS (under one week of age)

	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1,000 live births		
Legitimate	6	3	9	Total	Legitimate	Illegitimate
Illegitimate	—	—	—			
Total	6	3	9	8.4	8.4	—

Stillbirths and deaths under one week of age

Still Births	...	...	21
Deaths	...	...	9
Total	...	...	30

Combined rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births ... 28

Illegitimate Live Births = 4% of total live births.

Maternal Deaths ... Nil

Deaths

Male	...	177
Female	...	136
Total	...	313

Death Rates (per 1,00 population)

All causes: Crude	7.3
Adjusted	11.0
Typhoid and paratyphoid	—
Whooping Cough	—
Diphtheria	—
Tuberculosis	0.02
Influenza	0.07
Smallpox	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—
Pneumonia	0.4
All causes under 1 year of age	0.14

POPULATION

The population as estimated by the Registrar-General for 1963 was 42,570 and as will be seen from the undermentioned table there has been a total increase of 22,480 in the last ten years.

Population 1954 — 1963

Year	Population	Increase over previous year	Natural Increase
1954	20,090	—	6.3
1955	20,690	600	8.1
1956	22,530	1,840	9.8
1957	23,500	970	12.2
1958	24,570	1,070	10.2
1959	26,800	2,230	13.6
1960	30,010	3,210	14.8
1961	37,540	7,530	13.9
1962	41,090	3,550	13.9
1963	42,570	1,480	8.5

“Natural Increase” shows the difference between the birth and death rates. The average yearly increase in the last five years is 3,600.

Birth Rate

Birth Rates between different areas cannot be compared unless allowance is made for the number of women residents of child bearing age.

The Registrar-General supplies a “comparability factor” to all areas so that an adjusted Birth Rate can be made. The “factor” for this District is 0.79.

The birth rate for 1963 was 19.5 after multiplying the “crude” birth rate of 24.7 by the “comparability factor”.

The total number of live births was 1,050.

Still Births

The number of still births was 21 and the still birth rate 0.38 per 1,000 population. The corresponding rate for 1,000 total live and still births was 15.0.

Death Rate

The uncorrected death rate was 7.3 as compared with 6.5 for the previous year. To make allowances for age and sex constitution the Registrar-General has allowed correction of this figure by the comparability figure of 1.42 by which a corrected death rate for 1963 of 11.0 is obtained.

Cancer of the stomach caused eight deaths, compared with seven last year and cancer of the lung (bronchus) caused twenty deaths, compared with nine last year.

					Male	Female	Total
Deaths below 55 years of age	...	...	...	...	42	25	67
Deaths over 75 years of age	...	...	...	...	56	53	109

Maternal Mortality

No deaths occurred in 1963.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
All Causes	177	136	313
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	1	—	1
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	3	8
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	19	1	20
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	7	7
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	4	4
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	11	19
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1	2
16. Diabetes	2	1	3
17. Vascular lesion of nervous system	19	24	43
18. Coronary disease, angina	40	26	66
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	—	2
20. Other heart disease	11	21	32
21. Other circulatory disease	3	6	9
22. Influenza	1	2	3
23. Pneumonia	11	7	18
24. Bronchitis	12	2	14
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	4	2	6
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	—	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—	3
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	3	3	6
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	19	10	29
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	1	3
34. All other accidents	4	2	6
35. Suicide	1	1	2
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—

Infant Mortality

The total number of infant deaths was 18 of which 12 were male and 6 female, giving an infant mortality rate of 15·0 per 1,000 births over the year. Five infant deaths were due to prematurity, 2 to congenital malformations, 4 to broncho-pneumonia, 2 to congenital heart disease, 1 to Cellulitis, 1 to Anencephalus, 1 to kidney infection and 1 to sarcoma of the pelvis, and 1 to Hyaline Membrane Disease.

The number of neo-natal deaths, or those occurring under one month of age was 12, corresponding to a rate of 11·4 per 1,000 live births.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR 1954—1963

See attached schedule "Comparative Statistics"—See page 6.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 — SECTION 47

Persons in need of care and attention

This Section provides for the necessary care and attention of persons who

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease, or, being aged and infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

It was necessary to take steps for compulsory removal to a residential home of one person during the year.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR 1954-1963

Year	LIVE BIRTHS			STILL BIRTHS		DEATHS		INFANT DEATHS				MATERNAL DEATHS			
	Estimated Population	No.	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	No.	Rate per 1,000 total births	No.	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks to 12 months	Total	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number			Rate per 1,000 total births
												Sepsis	Other	Total	
1954	20,090	325	16.2	1	3.1	198	9.9	3	5	8	24.6	—	—	—	—
1955	20,690	385	18.6	7	17.9	217	10.5	3	—	3	7.8	—	—	—	—
1956	22,530	409	18.2	18	42.2	189	8.4	8	2	10	24.1	—	—	—	—
1957	23,500	495	21.1	9	17.9	209	8.9	8	3	11	22.2	—	—	—	—
1958	24,570	537	20.8	7	12.9	220	10.6	9	2	11	20.2	—	—	—	—
1959	26,800	677	23.5	18	25.9	218	10.0	10	2	12	17.7	—	—	—	—
1960	30,010	833	25.3	14	16.5	246	10.5	16	6	22	26.4	—	2	2	2.4
1961	37,540	973	22.3	10	10.1	216	8.4	17	4	21	21.6	—	—	—	—
1962	41,090	1,149	20.7	18	15.4	270	9.8	20	9	29	25.2	—	—	—	—
1963	42,570	1,050	19.5	21	15.0	313	11.0	12	6	18	16.8	—	—	—	—

Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

The following table shows in summary form the number of infectious diseases notified during the year.

<i>Disease</i>								<i>Total Cases Notified</i>
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	397
Acute Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Acute Poliomyelitis: Paralytic ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Non-Paralytic ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Acute Encephalitis: Infective ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Post Infective ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Food Poisoning ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Smallpox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Typhoid Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Jaundice ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Malaria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

Scarlet Fever. 4 notifications were received, making a case rate of 0.09 per 1,000 population.

Whooping Cough. 17 notifications were received, making a case rate of 0.39 per 1,000 population.

Measles. There were 397 cases in 1963, the majority of which were notified during the early months of the year. The case rate was 9.3.

Meningococcal Infection. One case was notified, giving a case rate of 0.02.

Dysentery. There were 28 cases during 1963, giving a case rate of 0.65.

Tuberculosis

The following table shows the number of new cases:—

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 5 years	—	—	—	—
5—14 years	—	—	—	—
15—24 years	1	—	—	—
25—44 years	3	—	—	2
45—64 years	—	1	—	—
65 years and over	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	4	1	—	2

Cases of Tuberculosis notified during the last five years

Year	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
1959	6	8	—	—	14
1960	8	4	2	3	17
1961	9	4	—	1	14
1962	8	2	1	—	11
1963	4	1	—	2	7

Senior Public Health Inspector's Annual Report

1963

1. WATER SUPPLY

Public Mains Water

Samples from dwelling houses, schools, etc., served by a mains water supply have been obtained at regular intervals for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Lewsey Road, Luton. 143 tests were carried out which were found to be highly satisfactory with one exception, where the source of slight pollution appeared to be the kitchen tap.

The provision of indoor water supplies is directly related to the availability of sewers. During the year very little progress was made in this direction, but there is every hope that the Kensworth and Sundon sewers will become available for use during 1964.

The Council continued with schemes of improvement on their own dwelling houses which include the provision of internal water supply and the time should not be far distant when every Council house will have its own water supply, both cold and hot.

Private Water Supplies

There remain in the district a number of dwellings remote from the public mains which draw their water from wells or boreholes. Thirteen samples were obtained for bacteriological examination, three of which were found to be polluted. The owners have been advised with respect to improving the supplies and at Oakwell Park, Thorn, in the parish of Houghton Regis, a small chlorinator was installed. The private supply at the Blacksmith's Cottage, Chiltern Green, was replaced by an extension of the public mains, the cost of which was met by the landlord who owns several dwellings in the Chiltern Green area.

Discolouration of Water

A marked improvement was evident during the year and complaints had almost entirely ceased by the end of 1963. Doubtless the measures being taken with a view to precipitating the sediment or otherwise removing it from the water had proved successful.

Fluoridation

Early in the year the Council had agreed in principle to the fluoridation of water supplies, but on having second thoughts the earlier decision was reversed.

2. SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

During the year work on the installation of public sewers in the parishes of Kensworth and Sundon was commenced. It had been hoped that the sewer would be available for connection at Kensworth before the end of the year, but apart from a few connections in the lower region of the sewer, this has not been so.

The sewer installed in the East Hyde area became available for connection thereto and progress in connecting the dwellings proceeded satisfactorily.

There has been a marked improvement in sanitary circumstances in those parishes recently sewered and where the houses have since been provided with water closets. Complaints with respect to filthy ditches, overflowing cesspools, insanitary deposits of faecal matter, etc., disappear almost entirely and the general prospect in this regard is greatly improved. In those parishes still awaiting the installation of sewers, the problems generally associated with bad sanitation appear to increase and residents, many of whom have moved out of the towns into the country in recent years, are understandably intolerant.

The movement from the town to the country emphasises the urgent need for improved sanitation in the unsewered parishes and it is hoped that in the not too distant future the rural district will be served throughout with public sewers, as it has been for some years with mains water supplies, only remote areas remaining without these essential and indispensable amenities.

Cesspool Emptying

This service is administered by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor.

During the past 12 months some 5,076 cesspools were emptied, comprising a total of 11,688½ loads and the major difficulty of finding suitable sites for the disposal of such large quantities of effluent still remains.

Some of the effluent is being discharged to sewers but the majority has to be dealt with by land treatment. A chemical deodorant is used to attempt to reduce to the minimum complaints of smell nuisance caused by open discharge.

No appreciable relief has been obtained from new main drainage schemes this year but it is anticipated that some will be shown in 1964. However, development is taking place in those areas where main drainage is not at present available and these additional properties counteract to some extent the relief that could be anticipated from those areas with new main drainage.

3. PONDS, DITCHES AND WATERCOURSES

There has been a decided improvement in conditions where sewers have been installed in recent years. Where installation is still awaited, the sanitary circumstances are less satisfactory. Pollution arises from the discharge of septic tanks, overflowing cesspools and sometimes crude drainage. Despite efforts to prevent these polluting factors arising, conditions in ditches and watercourses leave much to be desired.

With respect to ponds, there is very little evidence of house drainage discharging therein and highway surface water appears to be the chief source of pollution. Ponds are somewhat of an attraction to children and youths who tend to carry a certain amount of waste material to such places. To some irresponsible adults they mean nothing more than sites where old prams, bikes and other rubbish may be disposed of. During the summer months these ponds tend to dry out and apart from the Nuisance they become glaring eyesores.

4. RIVERS AND STREAMS

The circumstances in this respect have shown little improvement over the past few years, this being almost entirely due to the fact that there have been no sewers installed in those parishes where ditches and watercourses are being polluted by drainage.

Where improvement is evident it is undoubtedly due to improved village sewerage and drainage.

5. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

During recent years progress in converting pail and earth closets into water closets in privately owned houses has been satisfactory but during 1963 such progress was almost called to a halt, apart from conversions in the parish of Hyde where the sewer was installed. I have little doubt that immediately sewers become available for connection thereto, progress in conversion schemes will resume its former satisfactory pace.

The Council's own dwelling houses are being modernised progressively but again the availability of sewers determines the rate of progress.

The night soil collection service has been extended in a few parishes but this has had to be limited to dwelling houses occupied by elderly and infirmed persons.

The disposal of the contents of pail and earth closets often poses a serious problem where gardens are small and such circumstances only emphasise the urgent need for the installation of sewers with a view to facilitating conversions into water closets.

6. REFUSE COLLECTION

This service is administered by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor.

A further new compression type vehicle was delivered during the year and the fleet available has been:—

- 6—16/24 cu. yd. Compression type vehicles;
- 2—11 cu. yd. side loading vehicles (in reserve).

In view of the difficulties in maintaining a constant complement of labour and a regular collection service, in July the Council commenced a Task Incentive Bonus Scheme for the Refuse Collection Service. This scheme has produced good results and since July a regular weekly collection service in all areas of the rural district has been achieved and maintained.

The disposal of refuse still remains a difficulty and has to be made to the private tip at Sundon and the Luton Borough Tip at the Airport.

Negotiations are still proceeding towards the acquisition of a new tip at Blue Waters, Houghton Regis, and once this tip becomes available the present long transport hauls will be reduced and disposal will be once again under the Council's direct control.

7. PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following is a numerical summary of inspections, re-inspections, investigations, visits, interviews, etc., carried out during the year:—

GENERAL SANITATION

Sewerage and Drainage ...	...	...	...	...	222
Ditches and Watercourses ...	...	...	...	...	40
Refuse Accumulations, Deposits, etc. ...	...	...	...	...	118
Water Supply and Sampling ...	...	...	...	...	183

NUISANCES

Premises (defects) ...	...	...	...	...	228
Filthy or Verminous Premises ...	...	...	...	...	27
Disinfestation ...	...	...	...	...	11
Animals ...	...	...	...	...	52
Rodents ...	...	...	...	...	61
Other Pests ...	...	...	...	...	35
Atmospheric Pollution ...	...	...	...	...	95
Noise Abatement ...	...	...	...	...	21
Miscellaneous Visits and Inspections ...	...	...	...	...	241

SPECIAL PREMISES

Slaughterhouses and Knacker's Yards	...	...	1
Factories	...	...	35
Outworkers	...	...	7
Offices	...	...	1
Shops Act	...	...	1
Schools	...	...	3
Petroleum	...	...	220
Moveable Dwellings, Caravans, etc.	...	...	172
Swimming Pools	...	...	4

FOOD

Retail Food Shops	...	...	54
Mobile Shops	...	...	46
Cafes, Restaurants and Canteens	...	...	23
Clubs, Village Halls, etc.	...	...	1
Hotels and Public Houses	...	...	47
Bakehouses	...	...	10
Meat and Food Inspection	...	...	225
Extraneous Matter in Food	...	...	22
Food (Miscellaneous)	...	...	7

MILK AND ICE-CREAM

Milk Sampling and Testing	...	...	7
Extraneous Matter in Milk	...	...	2
Dairies	...	...	3
Churn and Bottle Rinsings	...	...	2
Ice-Cream Premises	...	...	15
Ice-Cream Retail Vehicles	...	...	14
Ice-Cream Sampling	...	...	19
Liquid Egg Sampling	...	...	4

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND WELFARE

Investigations	...	...	133
Disinfections	...	...	7
Swabs and Specimens	...	...	177
Food Poisoning	...	...	5
Welfare	...	...	20
National Assistance Act	...	...	4

HOUSING

Houses Inspected	...	...	156
Overcrowding	...	...	4
Reinspections	...	...	28
Rent Acts	...	...	4
Housing (Miscellaneous)	...	...	306

Total 3,124

3. ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES

One hundred and twenty-nine Nuisances were abated during the year as a result of informal action.

Informal action has generally proved sufficient to cause Nuisances to be abated within a reasonable time. Most of these have related to defective drainage and overflowing cesspools, but the types of Nuisances which arise in a rural district vary considerably. Minor defects in dwelling houses are generally dealt with in this manner, whereas disrepair of major proportion are dealt with under the Housing Acts.

Litter Act, 1958

This matter has become a regular feature of the Public Health Inspector's report and it is to be regretted that this deplorable and often insanitary practice appears to be on the increase. Former reports have described the nature of the rubbish but within recent years there have been added disused motor vehicles and motor bikes, worn out refrigerators, washing machines, etc., and large quantities of waste material arising from redecoration of dwelling houses.

The Council's Engineer co-operates wherever possible and practicable in removing this rubbish from the roadsides and the County Highways Department undertakes the collection of such rubbish in various parts of the district. However, the removal of heavy material such as car bodies needs to be effected by a heavy lifting plant and so far the solution of this special problem has not been found.

The South Bedfordshire Preservation Society and the National Farmers' Union have exercised much vigilance in this matter and by the close co-operation of such bodies with the local authorities it should be possible to maintain a reasonable control of the position.

The County Constabulary have successfully prosecuted a number of persons who have offended against the law in this respect.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

The major noise Nuisance and complaints arising during the year related to a Motor Cycle Scramble which is held on land at Clay Hall Farm, Kensworth, on three occasions during the year.

On approaching the Auto-Cycle Union South Midland Centre a number of improvements and noise abatement measures have been resorted to. Whereas formerly the Scrambles were arranged to be held on Sundays, two of these have been transferred to Bank Holidays. All vehicles used in the competition are now provided with silencers and a sound meter is used by the Course Stewards in order to ensure that excessive noise is not made.

The Council have been anxious not to discourage this healthy sport but on the other hand they have had due regard to the reasonable needs of the neighbourhood with the result that the Scramble is now promoted in a manner which does not unduly disturb residents.

9. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Emission of Dust from Cement Works

Houghton Regis. The dust deposit recorded in this area showed a further improvement. The average monthly deposit recorded at Manor Park was 25.31 tons per square mile as against 32.1 tons per square mile in the previous year.

In the Douglas Crescent area the monthly average figure was 10.46 for the year as compared with 19.00 over the previous year. The overhauling of the precipitators which had taken place in 1961 and 1962, and the improvements carried out at the loading bays contributed to the general reduction in dust deposited.

Sundon and Chalton. The average monthly deposit of dust recorded at Sundon was 19.05 as compared with 21.85 in the previous year and at Chalton 14.03 as compared with 16.11 in 1962.

The installation of the dust precipitators at the Sundon Works was completed in the middle of 1962 and it is reasonable to conclude that during 1963 the benefit derived therefrom was noticeable.

Other Sources of Dust and Fume, etc.

Pollution of the atmosphere also arose at the following sources:—

Empire Rubber Company's Factory (Parish of Caddington)	Carbon Black Smuts
Barton Lime Company	Emission of Chalk dust
Mixconcrete Limited (Houghton Regis) ...	Emission of Cement dust
Henry Winfield's Quarry (Heath and Reach)	Emission of fumes from deposits of industrial waste

In each case the Management readily co-operated in taking such steps as were necessary to abate the Nuisance and as far as practicable to prevent its recurrence.

At the premises of the Empire Rubber Company the preventive action was not entirely successful and further complaints were received. Subsequently a new plant was installed for the purpose of eliminating the emission of the black smuts.

10. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

During the year 172 inspections and re-inspections were carried out, a number of the visits being for the purpose of abating Nuisances.

Appropriate statutory enforcement action under the Town and Country Planning Act and the Caravan Site and Control of Development Act 1960 resulted in a further substantial reduction in the number of caravans stationed on unauthorised sites and the removal of caravans where the number approved of under licence was exceeded. There are approximately thirty such caravans remaining in the district and the Council are proceeding to provide a site on which it is intended to station these during 1964.

Proceedings were instituted with success against a site owner for failing to comply with site licence conditions.

The total number of Licenced Sites = 64

The total number of caravans on Licenced Sites = 662

These are constituted as follows:—

Sites with more than 100 caravans	2
Sites with 50/100 caravans	2
Sites with 20/50 caravans	6
Sites with 5/20 caravans	4
Sites with 2/4 caravans	9
Sites with only one caravan	41

HOUSING

HOUSING ACTS 1936-1957

The following is a summary of the result of procedure within the past ten years with respect to Unfit Houses found to be incapable of being rendered fit at a reasonable cost.

PARISH	Demolished (Informal)	Demolished (Formal)	Demolition Orders Outstanding	Closed (Informal)	Closing Orders	Under takings to render fit (Informal)	Under takings to render fit (Formal)	Undertakings not to use for human habitation (Informal)	Undertakings not to use for human habitation (Formal)	Restored under Sect. 24	Demolition Orders Substituted Sect. 26	Unfit houses to be dealt with during period ending 31.12.1970
BARTON	5	7	2	-	-	2	3	-	-	4	-	-
BILLINGTON	6	-	5	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	6
CADDINGTON	17	22	20	-	-	-	1	3	-	3	-	8
CHALGRAVE	5	7	8	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	9
EATON BRAY	2	9	3	-	1	8	-	5	-	-	-	12
EGGINGTON	7	-	-	-	1	-	4	1	-	-	-	7
HEATH & REACH	2	4	1	-	-	2	-	-	1	2	-	3
HOCKLIFFE	-	4	4	1	1	1	2	-	2	-	-	4
HOUGHTON REGIS	11	21	7	3	8	-	-	3	1	1	-	40
HYDE	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
KENSWORTH	5	7	10	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
STANBRIDGE	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	8
STREATLEY	4	6	3	-	-	5	-	1	-	-	-	7
STUDHAM	1	2	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	2	-	8
SUNDON	-	2	10	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
TILSWORTH	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	4
TODDINGTON	12	15	2	-	1	-	3	1	-	3	2	12
TOTTERNHOE	3	15	4	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	12
WHIPSNAD	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
TOTAL	95	123	79	5	20	21	16	18	4	17	5	166

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

Year Ending 31.12.63

A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED

	HOUSES DEMOLISHED
As a result of formal or informal Procedure under Section 16 or Section 17(1) Housing Act 1957	13
Number of dwellings included above which were previously reported as closed	—

B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED

Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act 1957 and Section 26 Housing Act, 1961	9
Under Sections 17(3) and 26 Housing Act 1957	—
Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act 1957	—

C. UNFIT HOUSES AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED

After informal action by local authority	By Owner
After formal notice under	55
(a) Public Health Acts	—
(b) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act 1957	—
Under Section 24, Housing Act 1957	1

Progress in dealing with unfit houses is just ahead of schedule. During the past ten years, which covers the period during which local authorities have had restored to them the power to make clearance and demolition orders, 400 unfit houses have been dealt with and by the end of 1970 it is hoped to deal with a further 200 such dwellings.

The rehousing programme has fallen behind schedule due to the difficulty in obtaining suitable sites, the high cost of land and the high rate of interest on loans. It is hoped that the several schemes in progress covering the erection of 83 old persons dwellings will facilitate the rehousing of many families from houses subject to demolition orders. Schemes for the erection of houses for sale are also expected to have a similar beneficial effect.

FOOD INSPECTION — FOOD HYGIENE

Mobile Shops

The following is a list of Mobile Shops found to be operating in the district:—

Bakers	35
Butchers	9
Fishmongers	1
Greengrocers	10
Grocers	5
Ice-Cream	24
Snack Bars	2
	—
	86
	—

The above figures show an increase of 12 over the total number of mobile shops operating in the district in 1962.

The biggest increase was in the number of bakers vans, this being mainly due to the efforts of yet another of the large bakery firms to establish several new rounds.

During the year, despite a great deal of effort, no progress was made in persuading the bakery firms to provide improved handcleansing facilities on their vehicles.

Ice-Cream

Seven premises were registered to sell ice-cream during the year, bringing the total on the Register to ninety-four.

Fifteen samples were taken with the following results:—

Grade I	11
Grade II	4

There is an improvement in the standard of the laboratory results compared with those of last year. The four Grade II samples were obtained from ice-cream sales vehicles.

Milk — Milk Sampling

	Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised	6	6	—

Retail Premises

The following is a list of the food retail premises in the district:—

Bakers/Bakehouses	8
Butchers	22
Catering Premises	25
Confectioners	23
Fishmongers	7
Greengrocers	14
Grocers/General	78
	177

Nine new food shops opened during the year and several of the existing shops changed hands. This gives rise to some difficulty as several months may elapse before routine inspection reveals the change. Quite often the new owner is a stranger to the food trade and is not aware of the various regulations and legal requirements in connection with food businesses. The registration of food premises may be the answer to this situation.

Bakehouses

Seven small bakehouses are still operating in the district.

Catering Premises

All the catering premises are maintained in a reasonable condition. Routine inspection, however, frequently reveals minor defects and faults which require the owners attention.

Licenced Premises

One new public house was opened in October bringing the total in the district to sixty-nine. Two of the older premises were completely rebuilt and improvements of a more minor nature were carried out in many other cases.

Unfit Food

Seven complaints were received from the public concerning unfit food. They were as follows:—

1. Piece of sacking in cream cracker.
2. Extraneous matter in packet of currants.
3. Mould growths in Cornish Pasty.
4. Mouldy pork pie.
5. Piece of sacking in small loaf.
6. Mould growths in small steak and kidney pie.
7. Mould growths in bottle of milk.

In six of the cases listed above, letters were sent by the Council to the persons responsible for the contravention intimating that legal action would be considered should the circumstances recur.

MEAT INSPECTION IN SLAUGHTERHOUSES

	Bovine (other than Calves)	Calves	Pigs	Sheep and Lambs	Total
Number killed	550	44	558	760	1912
Number Inspected	550	44	558	760	1912
Percentage of number killed which were inspected	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS:					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	2	1	2	3	8
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	67	1	18	28	114
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	12.55%	4.55%	3.58%	4.08%	6.38%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	1	—	1
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tubercu- losis	—	—	.18%	—	.05%

Cysticercus Bovis

Four cases were detected during the year.

In one instance a degenerated cyst was found in the heart and the carcass was released as being fit for human consumption. In the remaining cases sufficient evidence was found to warrant the detention of the carcasses under the approved cold storage conditions.

Particulars of meat found to be unfit for human consumption:—

	MEAT (lbs.)	OFFAL (lbs.)
Bovine (other than Calves)	680	752
Calves	200	8
Sheep	124	70
Pigs	19	41
	1,023	871
Tuberculosis	10 lbs.	
Other diseases	1,894 lbs.	
	1,904 lbs.	

The Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963

These came into operation on the 1st October, 1963. The Regulations provide for 100% meat inspection and standard procedure of inspection, etc., and approved charges for same. The Council decided that the charges should operate as from the 1st January, 1964.

RODENT CONTROL

The following is a summary of inspections, treatments, etc. carried out during the year:—

	RATS	MICE
Number of houses surveyed	1064	10
" " " treated	140	9
Number of business premises surveyed	101	7
" " " treated	19	6
Number of agricultural premises surveyed	17	—
" " " treated	8	—
Number of sewers surveyed	10	—
" " " treated	10	—
Number of sewage disposal works surveyed	95	—
" " " treated	17	—
Number of refuse tips surveyed	41	—
" " " treated	—	—
Other places surveyed	11	—
" " treated	2	—

During the year the Rodent Operative, Mr. E. Todd, was promoted to the post of Assistant Pests Officer.

Since rodent control was transferred from the Ministry of Agriculture County Committees to private pest companies, there appears to have been evidence of an increase in the rodent population. The liaison between the agricultural committees and the local authorities was excellent, whereas now such co-operation is almost non-existent.

The Council's sewers have been examined and treated at six monthly intervals and generally the situation is satisfactory.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to health:—

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, are to be enforced by the Local Authority	5	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	59	35	4	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	64	38	4	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		Prosecutions
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	5	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	4	5	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork

(Sections 133 & 134)

Nature of Work	No. of outworkers in August List required by Section 133
Wearing Apparel—	
Making, etc.	132
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	6
Xmas Stockings, etc.	16
Lampshades	2
	156

There were no instances of work in unwholesome premises and no cases of default in sending Lists to the Council.

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 AND 1936

Three new licences were granted during the year bringing the total of licences issued to eighty-four.

Work has commenced on a large storage installation at the new Motorway Service Area, Toddington, when completed this site will have storage space for 210,000 gallons of petroleum spirit.

Two hundred and twenty-two visits were made in connection with the enforcement of licencing conditions.

OTHER MATTERS DEALT WITH BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR

Infectious Diseases

All cases reported by the Medical Officer of Health are investigated with a view to tracing the source of infection.

An outbreak of Sonnei Dysentery at Houghton Regis resulted in twenty-seven cases being confirmed. A considerable amount of investigation became necessary and 175 faeces specimens were sent to the Public Health Laboratory. The desirability of a thorough investigation was emphasised when it was found that the contacts of the cases, most of whom were children, included a Water Board Employee, a School teacher, a child minder and a dental nurse.

A further investigation in connection with infectious diseases included the tracing of contacts of persons related to cases of typhoid at Bedford.

Two cases of food poisoning were dealt with and the source of the organisms traced to a meat pie.

National Assistance Act, 1948

Care of Elderly Persons

During the year reports with respect to nine elderly persons were submitted to the Council's Public Health Committee. The removal of most of these to a residential home proved to be possible without resorting to the powers given to local authorities under the Act. The remainder are being cared for by neighbours or otherwise being kept under observation.

The Council have provided suitable alternative accommodation for two of these persons.

Burial of the Dead

In one instance it was necessary to make arrangements for the burial of a person who had died within the district but whose relatives were unable to afford burial. The death grant was not available by reason of the fact that this elderly woman was born prior to the 5th July, 1888.

Other Duties

These include the control of swimming pools, reports on ruinous and dilapidated structures (Public Health Act 1961), the Pet Animals Act 1951, the Rent Act 1957 and the Licencing Act 1961.

Public Health Department—Staff

I wish to place on record my appreciation of the loyalty of my staff and the efficient manner in which they have carried out their duties during the year.

Mr. T. C. Oliver—Additional Public Health Inspector;

Miss E. Joyce—Clerk/Shorthand Typist;

Mrs. C. Coppard—Clerk/Shorthand Typist (Part-time);

Mr. E. Todd—Assistant Pests Officer.

Mrs. W. Birchmore, Clerk/Shorthand Typist (Part-time) resigned her appointment with the Council when the Public Health Department was transferred to Houghton Regis and Mrs. C. Coppard, who was formerly attached to the Clerk's Department at Luton, filled the vacancy.

I am Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

L. G. HILL

Senior Public Health Inspector.