

[Report 1971] / Chief Public Health Inspector and Housing Manager, Herne Bay U.D.C.

Contributors

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URBAN DISTRICT OF HERNE BAY



1971

**Annual Report of the
Chief Public Health
Inspector and
Housing Manager**

C. J. CLARK, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Includes a Review of the Period 1937 - 1971



1971

March 1972

To the Chairman and Members of the
Harve Bay Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

This annual Report of the Public Health Services
and Housing Management for the year 1971 is the
last one for which I shall be responsible. I propose,
therefore, to briefly comment upon my report and then to
"look back" over my 15 years service at Harve Bay.

R E P O R T

of the

The year 1971 has been a year of transition in relation
affecting new development. The Council's building programme
has grown to a halt because of the difficulty of securing
estimated within government permitted costs. This explains
why redevelopments have been delayed. It is expected
in the year 1972 that some of the redevelopments which were
completed during the year under review. There is quite an
impressive building programme for the next few years if it
is not overruled by increasing costs. It is doubtful whether
any houses of flats can be started during the year 1972.
There will have to be some compromise upon accommodation given
up by existing tenants to meet the demands of the waiting list
which grows daily by birth - a slow and uncertain source of
housing supply.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

and

HOUSING MANAGER

I am pleased to say that the Council has been successful in securing
Government encouragement. In yet another circular local
authorities are asked to consider seriously all possible
steps to promote their improvements in their areas.


Locally, the Council have simplified some
provisions concerning improvement grants which have been found
of remaining restrictions relating to sale after improvement.
The possibility of a grant for the purchase of property
is also being considered.

C. J. Clark, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

The attitude of the Department of the Environment about
the sale of a property immediately after improvement is not
of necessity the object of the exercise is controlled in
Government eyes and a house is brought up to the required
standard of improvement and repair.

(Includes a review of the period 1937-1971)

During the period 1937-1971 the Council have been successful in
or over-occupied by a young couple and they have to be
afford to buy anything other than improved houses. When such
houses are followed up by specialists for improvement and
results may be that a young couple may be deprived of a home
entirely.



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Public Health and Housing Dept.,
Beach House,
Beach Street,
Herne Bay.

March 1972

To the Chairman and Members of the
Herne Bay Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This annual report upon Environmental Health Services and Housing Management at Herne Bay for the year 1971 is the last one for which I shall be responsible. I propose, therefore, to briefly comment upon my report and then to "look back" over my 35 years service at Herne Bay.

The year 1971 has been one of frustration in matters affecting new development. The Council's building programme has ground to a halt because of the difficulty of securing estimates within Government yardstick costs. This explains why redevelopment of the Kings Road site has not commenced in the year 1971 as was intended. Five new houses only were completed during the year under review. There is quite an impressive building programme for the next few years if it is not bedevilled by yardstick costs. It is doubtful whether any houses or flats can be completed during the year 1972. There will have to be total reliance upon accommodation given up by existing tenants to meet the demands of a waiting list which grows month by month - a slow and uncertain source of housing supply.

Improvement grants are on the increase in response to Government encouragement. In yet another circular local authorities were asked to "consider urgently all possible steps to promote home improvements in their areas".

Locally, members of the Council have displayed some uneasiness concerning improvement grants which have been freed of remaining restrictions relating to sale after improvement. The possibility of "misuse" of grants for purpose of property speculation is in the minds of some members.

The attitude of the Department of the Environment about the sale of a property immediately after improvements is one of unconcern; the object of the exercise is satisfied in Government eyes when a house is brought up to the desired standard of improvement and repair.

It must be admitted, however, that there is more satisfaction when a house, improved with a grant, is to be rented or owner-occupied by a young couple who may never be able to afford to buy anything except an unimproved house. When such houses are swallowed up by speculators for improvement and resale some deserving young couples may be deprived of house ownership.

There is, however, a place for the speculator in the rehabilitation of a run-down house unlikely to be repaired and improved in any other way. In such a case a grant from public funds would be in the public interest.

I am pleased to be able to note the satisfactory solution of a troublesome drainage problem at Bullockstone Road.

At Busheyfields the need to extend the sewer to replace 15 cesspools has been acknowledged by the inclusion of a scheme in the programme of capital estimates.

Towards the end of the year under review I had the feeling that we may at last be making some headway in the problem of water supply at Thornden Wood Road.

In the realm of food and food hygiene, it is worth noting the increase in the number of food complaints made by the public. This has resulted in an increased number of warnings and prosecutions. One of these resulted in fines and costs amounting to £350. To keep this matter in perspective it must, however, be pointed out that the number of justified complaints are small in relation to the enormous quantity of foods which are handled by the manufacturing and retail trades.

Possible pollution of the beaches by sewage has again arisen as an issue which has caused some concern. An investigation will commence in the spring of 1972 when a number of samples will be taken for bacteriological examination from various parts of the long coastline within the Council's district.

I regret that I have had to register disapproval of the Council's decision to introduce the "skip" or "skep" method of refuse collection. From the standpoint of hygiene this is regarded as the least acceptable of all the methods of refuse collection and has been rejected by the report of the working party on refuse collection.

May I now pass to a general review of my service at Herne Bay.

My 35 years service at Herne Bay has almost spanned the period between the enlargement of the urban district as a result of the Kent Review Order of 1934, and the disappearance of the Herne Bay Council as a separate local government entity two years hence.

We are reaching the end of an era in the local government history of this town. Never again will the office which I am soon to vacate embrace duties of such wide diversity. Therein lies much of the interest which attracted me, and retained me, at Herne Bay. The comprehensive range of environmental health duties, together with housing management, and until recently, street lighting, has provided all the interest that I have required. There has always been plenty to do and much to plan. Over the years I have received considerable support from most members of the Council during most of the time.

Soon after my appointment in early 1937 the country became involved in preparations for war. Normal routine duties were put aside, and I found myself responsible for organising casualty services under the designation "Casualty Commandant". I registered for military service in my age group but was required to remain in my "reserved occupation".

After the fall of France invasion seemed imminent. I evacuated my wife and child and slept at the office most nights as did others, including Mr. A. H. Edwards, then Clerk of the Council, with over-all responsibility for civil defence as "sub controller". As Casualty Commandant I was responsible for the first aid post, mobile aid post, and numerous first aid points and gas cleansing points. The First Aid Party and Ambulance Service was also under my control. These services were administered from the ambulance headquarters at 39 William Street which backed on to the St. Johns Ambulance Station. Members of St. Johns Ambulance Brigade and British Red Cross Society formed the backbone of the Casualty Services.

As public health inspector (then known as sanitary inspector) I was responsible for recruiting, organising and training, personnel for the decontamination of food and clothing. There was great emphasis upon gas warfare, which was expected, but did not happen.

I was required to establish an emergency mortuary for war dead and this I did at premises which occupied the present site of Crown Products, Eddington Lane. This mortuary was much used during the Battle of Britain mostly for the reception of bodies of enemy airmen. The searching of charred human remains for evidence of identification was the gruesome task of Mr. E. Jempson who was then my general assistant.

Whilst I am on this subject, it is opportune to mention that the Council's public mortuary at Beach Street was completed in 1939. I am often told that it is the best public mortuary in East Kent.

The war and its preparation took up the first seven years of my service at Herne Bay.

The aftermath of the war was a difficult period of trying to get back to normal hampered by shortages of all kinds of essential materials.

During the early post-war years very little constructive work was possible. House building recommenced after a few years but was under licence with a heavy preference for building by local authorities. Timber was in short supply and was issued under a licence granted only if it was required for an essential house repair. This was administered by the Public Health Department.

Slum clearance was out of the question during the early post-war years. Gradually controls were relaxed and it again became possible to resume constructive work in the field of housing and environmental health. Prior to the war there had been small clearance areas involving eight houses at Kings

Road and five houses at Park Road. This was the commencement of the clearance of unfit houses and the redevelopment of the Kings Road, Queen Street, Park Road, area. It was dealt with in three phases because of considerations of cost, rehousing displaced tenants, and the removal of commercial interests from the centre of the area. The area is now completely cleared and the final phase is awaiting redevelopment. This would have commenced during 1971 but for the problems of Government yardstick costs. In the meantime, small clearance areas were declared at North Street, Chapel Street, Beach Street, and Herne Street.

In this way 86 unfit houses were demolished in clearance areas. A further 240 individual unfit houses, or parts of houses, were closed or demolished. Some of these have been brought back to use after revocation of closing orders upon the houses being made fit for habitation.

The Council was rather slow to recommence house building in the post-war years. There was some fear that a substantial house building programme would not be necessary. There were vacant Council houses which could not easily be relet at the outbreak of war when the total number owned by the Council was only 163.

Soon, however, there was a waiting list of nearly 1,000 applicants with no houses under construction. The requisition of vacant houses, and the acceptance by transfer of houses requisitioned by the army for military billets was the short term answer. I dealt with this and with the adaptation of the larger requisitioned houses to flats. In this way 70 families were housed by the Council at a time when there was nothing else to offer, except the 50 prefabs supplied under a Government scheme.

In the intervening years the 163 houses has increased to over 1,000 houses, prefabs and flats; some of the latter with resident warden assistance, and some with the service of a visiting warden. Most of the 163 pre-war Council houses have been improved and the remainder should be completed by the end of 1973. There is now a programme for improving 68 two bedroom flats built soon after the end of the war. This has received grant approval.

Changes were also taking place in the environmental health functions of the Council. The control of dairy farms and milk production passed to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. This I regretted for I had been much interested in the improvement and replacement of cowsheds and dairies at the 16 local dairy farms. The four slaughter houses in regular use before, and during, the war ceased to operate after the establishment by the Ministry of Food of a public abattoir at Canterbury. These interesting aspects of my work were lost but others were gained. The needs of the elderly made it necessary to establish a domestic help service. Having built up a useful service, and developed it to the stage when the employment of a full time organiser was necessary, it was transferred to the County Council.

Food Hygiene came into its own with the Food Hygiene General Regulations which became law in 1956. A third qualified public health inspector was then appointed to make food hygiene his special concern, to be followed later by the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act.

The Herne Common water supply is worthy of mention. For many years residents at Herne Common, Hicks Forstal, Braggs Lane, and Bullockstone had water supply from private wells and springs which were of unreliable quantity, and doubtful quality. The area was surveyed by my staff and a scheme prepared and approved for the extension of public water mains to these districts. This involved the Council in a subsidy of approximately the product of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. rate for 12 years.

In my early days I had an ambition to stage a public health exhibition. The year 1947 - the centenary of the appointment of the first medical officer of health - seemed to be an appropriate occasion. The exhibition, with the theme "A Hundred Years of Public Health", had the full backing of the Council including an allowance of £300 in the annual estimates, which at that time was a substantial amount.

It was held at the former Red Lantern Cinema at High Street, then vacant, but now a clothing factory. The exhibition occupied the entire floor of the building with exhibits and personnel to explain the work of the environmental health services of the local Council, and the personal health services of the County Council.

The County Analyst arranged a display; there was a section devoted to the County Dental Department, and Maternity and Child Welfare. Environmental health services were represented by purpose-built kitchens - the old and the new; by sections devoted to milk production and distribution, infectious disease control, housing repair and improvement, drainage, clean air, rodent and pest control, meat inspection and food hygiene.

There was willing co-operation by the Gas Board and several private commercial firms, including local builders who constructed walls, drains and inspection chambers, to demonstrate good principles of building construction and drainage.

On the first floor there was a continuous film show. Some parties were looking at health films while others were going around the exhibition. Exhibits were collected on loan from as far away as Reading.

Having organised the exhibition, we found to our consternation that we also had to organise the people to attend it otherwise our efforts would be of no avail. We circularised the schools, and soon there were coaches of children arriving from Canterbury, Faversham and Thanet, as well as from schools at Herne Bay.

The exhibition had succeeded; it was attended by 7,000 persons. My enthusiasm had been sustained throughout by my then assistant, Mr. T. Baines. He was just as eager as I was to show what the Public Health Department at Herne Bay could do. We returned to our less glamorous every day routine with a back log of many weeks work.

This resumé of the highlights of my career at Herne Bay must not omit to mention floods. There have been three occasions when flooding from the sea has submerged low lying areas at the centre of the town. The most serious of these was, of course, the East Coast Floods in 1953 which occurred during the Chairmanship of Mr. T. Pettman, and when Mr. Bradbury was Clerk of the Council. In each of the three floods I recruited squads of men to remove the filthy aftermath from the affected houses. I also dealt with claims for loss and damage to furniture and effects.

The East Coast flooding was a catastrophe shared by many other towns; it resulted in a national appeal by the Lord Mayor of London. The considerable fund he raised assisted at Herne Bay with the repair of flood damaged properties, and the replacement of ruined furniture and effects, to the extent of £106,000. With the help of three assessors I undertook responsibility for both forms of assistance reporting to meetings of the local Flood Relief Committee. Approximately 400 properties were affected by sea water flooding.

The growth of caravanning is worth a mention. At the beginning of my career there was a small amount of camping at Reculver and at Bishopstone. This grew rapidly after the war to reach a total of thirteen licensed holiday sites, and two municipal holiday sites which make a substantial financial contribution to the general rate fund. It is the Council's policy to limit caravan sites to the present number.

Street lighting is an unusual responsibility for a public health inspector unless he holds a joint appointment as surveyor. My agreement with the Council made me responsible for certain functions which were intended mainly to relieve the surveyor of having to go out at night to investigate complaints relating to non-lighting, or the need for improved street lighting.

When the war ended, and with it the black out, there was public demand for improved street lighting. Mr. Wormleighton, (the then surveyor) and I, had visited several towns to study new systems of street lighting and gradually street lighting ceased to be an alien subject - I had developed a new interest. Upon Mr. Wormleighton's retirement I found myself with the whole range of street lighting responsibilities including the design of new schemes. This went far beyond the terms of my contract but I decided to carry on.

I first produced schemes for the conversion of 700 gas lamps to electricity. This was done, not as a measure of street lighting improvement, but as an economy. The lower cost of lighting by electricity enabled the loan repayments

to be met from the annual saving upon the cost of gas. There was an improvement in side street lighting but it was incidental. I had now acquired sufficient knowledge of street lighting principles to give me the confidence to produce major lighting schemes for the main streets and Sea Front. In this, I must acknowledge the technical assistance I received from my friends at the South Eastern Electricity Board. I handed over my street lighting duties to the surveyor four years ago. When I look out over the lighted streets at night I think that perhaps this is the work which may be most remembered.

In 1937, the Public Health Committee accepted responsibility for the management and staffing of all the Council's public conveniences. This responsibility had previously been shared by other Committees. Wages of convenience attendants was then 35/- per week for men and 25/- per week for women; they worked a seven day week. The wage rates and conditions of service have since improved beyond all previous expectations. Over the years five additional public conveniences have been constructed at various parts of the town and one has received major improvement.

The least acceptable of the older conveniences is at the Tower, and is programmed for replacement a few years hence. Disabled persons toilets have been constructed at two public conveniences and at three others it is intended to make similar provision.

In 1937, Shops Act administration was accepted under delegated authority from the County Council. I was appointed Shops Acts Inspector, and was responsible for ascertaining the views of traders to result in several local orders relating to hours of closing, weekly half holiday, and Sunday trading. Having attained the required population, Herne Bay became a Shops Acts authority in its own right, and not by delegation from the Kent County Council.

The population of Herne Bay at the commencement of my service in 1937 was 16,500. It now has a population of approximately 25,000 and is still growing.

The functions of the Public Health Department have undergone change and some have been lost and others gained. The growth of the town and the additional duties created by new legislation has gradually altered the role of the public health inspector at Herne Bay and elsewhere. The change of title from the misleading "sanitary inspector" to the more appropriate public health inspector was recognition of the expanding and changing role of the officer.

At the commencement of my service I was the sole inspector with a general assistant and a girl clerk. My office consisted of two rooms at the top of the Council Offices, Richmond Street. For the past few years we have enjoyed much larger and improved offices at Beach House. Over the years my staff has increased by two qualified public health inspectors.

The clerical staff, too, has increased and there is a visiting warden based at the Public Health Department with another soon to be appointed.

I have been fortunate in serving a local authority which has shown a readiness to support new ideas after critical examination. In particular, I have been fortunate in the Chairmanship of the Public Health and Housing Committee. Nine Councillors have occupied the chair of that Committee since 1937, but the longest period of office has been held by the present chairman, Councillor Mrs. Gwen Fortune. She has been a strong supporter of the work of the Public Health and Housing Department and I am glad to be able to acknowledge this.

At the conclusion of my service at Herne Bay I am happy to acknowledge the help I have received from colleagues. For 15 years I have enjoyed the whole hearted loyalty and support of Mr. W. F. Weller, my deputy. He has been totally involved in all the work of the department, and has always been ready to accept responsibility. His promotion to a more senior post is long overdue.

Mr. Brian Davis is showing good results in his sphere of activity in food hygiene.

Mrs. Howard, my chief clerk, and Mrs. Wood can be relied upon to do their work conscientiously and efficiently. When special efforts are required to cope with additional work, they never fail to respond.

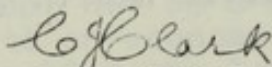
Mrs. Cooper, the visiting warden, and Mrs. Bridger, the resident warden, have both lived up to the high expectations we had of them when they were appointed.

Mr. McDonnell has to cope with numerous duties of widely differing nature. He, too, is a great success in his work and can be called upon without complaint at weekends as so often happens.

Herne Bay has had four part-time Medical Officers of Health since 1937. I am pleased to acknowledge the excellent relationship I have had with each of these. I have particularly enjoyed working with Dr. Harvey.

For the past 100 years the public health inspector, and his predecessors, the sanitary inspector, and the inspector of nuisances, have worked under the general direction of the Medical Officer of Health. In 1974 the Medical Officer of Health will depart from local government and "general direction" will end. The public health inspector of to-day is well equipped with educational background and professional training to take control of the Environmental Health Services of the new District Councils which are to emerge from local government reorganisation.

I extend to my successor and to all my colleagues my good wishes for the success of their work in the changing world of local government.


Chief Public Health Inspector
and Housing Manager.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

SERVICES UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

WATER SUPPLY

The public water supply is provided by the Mid Kent Water Company. Samples taken over the years have shown that it is consistently of satisfactory organic quality and bacteriological standard.

Formerly, the local supply was distributed by the Herne Bay Waterworks Company from a deep well at Ford. The Company ceased to exist when its functions were taken over by the Canterbury and District Water Company. That Company was itself taken over by the Mid Kent Water Company on 1st January, 1969.

Before the "take over" the County Analyst had for many years commented upon the increasing salinity of the Ford supply. This salinity had risen 50% since 1948, and the supply was in danger of becoming unpalatable. The local supply is now obtained entirely from the Canterbury area. The water is not saline and is slightly less hard.

The well at Ford remains in commission for emergency use only. It is occasionally used during periods of drought.

Examination of Water Samples (Revised)

Public Supply

Samples of public water supply are taken regularly by the Mid Kent Water Company and are examined at the Company's Laboratory. The Chief Chemist has supplied results of samples examined during 1971, as follows:-

	<u>Bact.</u>	<u>Chem.</u>
Samples from consumers taps within the Herne Bay area	28	4
Samples from pumping stations supplying the above		
Raw	112	12
Treated	110	10
---Samples from other areas supplied from above pumping stations	77	10
	<u>327</u>	<u>36</u>
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Results of the above examinations were reported upon as satisfactory. Typical reports upon chemical analysis were supplied.

Samples taken by your own Public Health Inspectors were submitted for similar examination and were also reported upon as satisfactory.

Private Sources

Three samples from shallow private wells were submitted for examination. These were satisfactory except for turbulence due to presence of iron.

Thornden Wood Road - Proposed Public Supply (Revised)

At Thornden Wood Road there are thirteen houses which are supplied either from wells or from an inadequate service provided many years ago mainly for agricultural purposes.

One cottage served in this way has been without a constant supply of water since late 1970 because the supply pipe was fractured. The agricultural owner, who no longer has an interest in that cottage, will not repair the service, and there is no legal means of enforcement. The Mid Kent Water Company has installed a tank on loan. This is replenished with mains water as necessary to maintain some kind of a service for drinking and domestic purposes, although there is no statutory obligation upon the Company to do this.

A similar service is maintained at another property at Thornden Wood Road where the private well is out of order.

In the meantime the Council has considered the possibility of laying a water main to enable each cottage to have a piped supply of public water. This would involve the laying of a four inch water main a distance of approximately 2,220 yards. Provisional estimates of cost amount to £10,000 if the proposed new main is laid in the road, and £7,000 if it could be laid in the verge and through adjacent private land.

The owners of some of the cottages are willing to contribute towards the cost but others are content with their existing private supplies.

The above outline of the problem was contained in my annual report for 1970. During 1971, there has been little progress but there was a useful joint meeting at the Council Offices on 25th January, 1972. This was attended by representatives of the Mid Kent Water Company and of the successors to Greenhill Homes. Representatives from the Council's Clerk's Department, Surveyor's Department and Health Department were also present.

It seems that the annual deficit upon the construction of the proposed new water main is likely to amount to approx. £840 for 12 years. When allowance is made for grant contribution from the Department of the Environment, and the Kent County Council, the annual deficit would be reduced to £250. This could be eliminated in a few years by the water rate yield from anticipated development at Greenhill. Firm proposals from the Mid Kent Water Company are now awaited.

Discolouration of water supply by rust (Revised)

This was a local problem until a few years ago. It was due to the condition of the water mains, some of which were known to be heavily corroded and encrusted with rust. This corrosion of the mains was probably aggravated by the salinity of the former supply from the well at Ford. The resulting increase in the iron content was not harmful to health but it proved inconvenient.

I am informed that the Water Company has now completed its programme for descaling the affected water mains.

Number of Dwelling Houses supplied from the Public Water Mains (Revised)

There are 11,659 houses, flats, agricultural, and commercial properties in the Urban District. I am informed that during 1971 797 yards of water mains were laid to new houses, and 150 new services laid on.

With the exception of 13 houses at Thornden Wood Road, reported upon in an earlier paragraph, houses at all parts of Herne Bay have an adequate supply of water from the public mains.

Kent Water Supply (Revised)

It has been pointed out that Kent is not a County possessing limitless supplies of water. Water has become a commodity to be conserved and used with the greatest care. We are informed that future development of Kent might be seriously affected by the water supply position.

Samples of Kent water supply are tested for radioactivity.

A summary of the first (1970) periodical survey of water resources was received from the Kent River Authority.

Fluoride Content

The local fluoride level varies from 0.05 to 0.1 parts per million. Water drawn from the well at Ford contains approximately 1 part per million. (This was confirmed upon enquiry of the Chief Chemist Mid Kent Water Company.)

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL (Revised)

The Council's disposal works at May Street receives sewage mainly from Beltinge, Herne and Broomfield. Work upon further modernisation and enlargement at a cost of £220,000 commenced in 1967 and was completed early in 1969. Sewage from the remainder of the Urban District passes by gravity or is pumped to a disintegrator station at the East Cliff and thence to the sea.

In 1965, a new rising main was constructed from Eddington to May Street. Modern equipment was installed at three new Ejector stations from which sewage is lifted to a higher level before gravitating to May Street. Two new pumping stations were in operation by the end of 1964, and the remaining station came into operation in 1965.

Public sewers fall into two categories, i.e. those which are maintained at the expense of the ratepayers, and those which are maintained by the Council at the expense of the owners of properties which drain into them.

DRAINAGE (Revised)

There are 126 houses and other properties drained to cesspools which are emptied from time to time by the Council. A few remaining houses in the rural area are served by pail closets.

At 180 occupied dwellings choked drains were cleansed by the Public Health Department and a charge made to cover the cost. This has been done for many years at Herne Bay. It is a practice recognised by the Public Health Act 1961, which authorises local Councils to cleanse or repair drains upon request by an owner, and to recover the cost of so doing. During the year under review the charge was increased from £0.50 to £0.75.

At ten dwelling houses drainage systems were found to be defective, and were repaired or relaid after service of informal notices. Flooded cellars were dealt with at three houses.

Northwood, etc., Bullockstone Road - Main Drainage provided (New)

At Bullockstone Road a long standing nuisance from an inadequate cesspool was abated and the cesspool filled in.

The cesspool received drainage from seven separate dwellings, four of which result from the conversion of a large house.

The Council provided a public sewer and enabled notices to be served upon the owners of the seven dwellings requiring abolition of the cesspool, and connection of drainage to the new sewer. This was completed towards the end of the year after service of statutory notices under the Public Health Act 1936 (Section 39).

Busheyfields Road - Main Drainage urgently needed (New)

There is a nuisance from the overflow of cesspools with consequent seepage into a roadside ditch at Busheyfields Road. This occurs at cesspools which receive drainage from fifteen houses. There is potential danger to water supply for the roadside ditch discharges into a stream which flows over the gathering ground or "catchment area" of the well at Ford which still has occasional use. A sewer extension to enable the cesspools to be abolished is programmed for 1973 and will receive the financial support of the Department of the Environment and the Kent County Council.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The River Wantsum forms the south-eastern boundary of the district before it passes to the sea, and is free from pollution.

The brook at Hampton can be troublesome during the summer months, especially when there is a hot dry period with little or no rainfall. In these conditions the brook becomes unsightly and smelly. It serves as a storm water overflow and collects surface water from a large area, much of which is built up. It should be piped to the sea.

Plenty Brook at Eddington has not been troublesome of recent years. In the past, nuisance could occur from a storm water overflow when it discharged into the water course from the sewerage system. Improvements to the sewerage system have alleviated this.

SWIMMING POOLS

There is one private swimming pool in the town. There is no public swimming pool, although this has been under discussion for several years. The private swimming pool has a chlorination plant and samples of the water are taken for examination from time to time.

Private swimming pools are becoming popular and more of these are likely to appear in future years. A swimming pool has been constructed at Herne School.

PUBLIC CLEANSING (Revised)

This service is administered by the Council's Surveyor. Domestic refuse is collected weekly from dwelling houses and is conveyed to the refuse tip at Broomfield.

Collection of refuse from Hotels, Restaurants, and some trade premises is carried out more frequently during the holiday season.

The Health Department is informed of defective or unsatisfactory dustbins. During the year dustbins were supplied at 64 dwellings by owners and occupiers upon informal request. In no case was it necessary to serve a statutory notice to secure provision of a dustbin.

The "skep" or "skip" method of refuse collection was introduced during the year under review as a work study proposal. I have objected to this unhygienic method of refuse collection.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Total number of visits of all kinds made during the year	6,561
Total number of interviews at the office with property owners, housing applicants, tenants, traders and others	3,019

Number of notices served - Statutory Notices		
Public Health Act	17)	
Housing Act	8)	25
Informal Notices		757

SMOKE CONTROL

Herne Bay is a residential and holiday resort with little industry so it is free from the problems of industrial smoke. Occasional emission from a laundry chimney is sometimes complained of by those living nearby.

Domestic smoke is a problem in every town and, even at industrial towns, it is a major cause of atmospheric pollution.

It is important, therefore, to prevent domestic smoke by the burning of smokeless fuels, and by the use of solid fuel appliances of a design which is approved by the Coal Utilisation Council.

The Council adopted the Model Smoke Prevention byelaw which came into force in this district early in 1960. (Similar provisions are now contained in the Building Regulations which came into operation in February 1966.)

The byelaw requires at all new buildings:-

- (a) only such appliances for heating and cooking as are suitably designed for burning gas, electricity, coke or anthracite,

or

- (b) appliances which are approved by the Coal Utilisation Council - these will efficiently burn solid fuel with a minimum of smoke emission.

Smoke emission is not only bad in itself, because it pollutes the atmosphere and deposits soot, but is a measure of the extent to which coal is wastefully consumed. It is formed of unconsumed particles of carbon, which should have been raised to ignition temperature to release heat instead of being belched into the atmosphere to waste and pollute.

Adoption of the Smoke Prevention byelaw gave practical support to the movement to secure clean air.

Prevention of atmospheric pollution has been greatly assisted by the Clean Air Act 1956. It empowers Local Authorities by Order, subject to approval by the Ministry concerned, to declare "smoke control areas" in which the emission of smoke from chimneys will constitute an offence. This procedure has not yet been adopted at Herne Bay, but it has helped greatly towards a purer atmosphere in London and other large cities.

Bonfire Smoke

Complaints are frequently received concerning alleged nuisance from bonfire smoke. This can be very distressing, particularly to those with respiratory complaints. Appeals have been made through the local Press and otherwise for greater consideration to be shown when disposing of garden refuse.

Persistent bonfire nuisance can be dealt with under the provisions of the Clean Air Act but only if it is a "nuisance to the inhabitants of the neighbourhood". Thus it is not possible to proceed under the Act upon a complaint by one resident. Contrary to popular belief there are no local byelaws in force to control the lighting of bonfires.

During the year under review seven complaints of nuisance from bonfire smoke were dealt with, and one complaint of burning of tyres.

SHOPS ACT 1950

AND THE SHOPS (EARLY CLOSING DAYS) ACT 1965

The Shops Act 1950 is concerned with the closing hours for shops and with the health and comfort of shop workers.

For many years the day of the weekly half holiday was fixed at Herne Bay by local orders - Wednesday at Herne and Broomfield, and Thursday elsewhere in the Urban District.

From 5th November, 1965, these orders ceased to apply and traders have been free to choose their own early closing day, previously known as the "weekly half holiday".

The Shops (Early Closing Days) Act 1965 which introduced this change, revoked local orders which have been in force at Herne Bay since 1913.

Most shops continue to close on Thursday afternoons as a voluntary choice.

THE HERNE BAY SHOPS EARLY CLOSING DAY EXEMPTION ORDER 1971

This Exemption Order is the means of securing six day trading for classes of trade or business for which it is desired by the requisite proportion of traders.

In 1970 the Herne Bay and District Chamber of Commerce requested the Council to consider the making of an Order exempting traders from the obligation to close their shops for the weekly half holiday as required by the Shops Act 1950.

Early in 1971 there was a referendum to ascertain the views of traders who would be affected by the proposed Exemption Order. Voting papers were delivered to 268 traders and 112 of these replied. In twenty six classes of trade the voting was against the proposed exemption. The above Order resulted.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

This new Act is described as "an Act to make fresh provision for securing the health, safety, and welfare of persons employed to work in office or shop premises, and provision for securing the health, safety and welfare of persons employed to work in certain railway premises". For the first time there is effective legislation for ensuring reasonable working conditions and sanitary accommodation at offices.

The Act came into operation on 1st August, 1964, and applies to all businesses employing staff. During the period 1st May - 31st July, 1964, occupiers were required to register their premises with the local authority.

In my annual report for 1965, I reported fully upon the inspection of the 315 registered premises. 114 of the premises were found to be satisfactory in all respects. Notices had been served to bring the remaining premises to the required legal standard. My report includes a summary of the various requirements necessary at these premises to comply with the Act.

The general impression gained from occupiers of shops is that the new Act has been welcomed. Many remember the less favourable working conditions of their younger days.

The following table shows the position at the end of the year under review:-

Class of Premises	Number of premises newly registered during the year	Total number registered at end of year	Premises fully inspected during the year
Offices	3	79	8
Retail shops	6	163	68
Wholesale shops and warehouses	-	6	1
Cafes, restaurants and canteens	2	32	1
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-
TOTALS	11	280	108

During 1971, the total number of visits of all kinds to premises registered under the Act was 158.

Contraventions

23 contraventions revealed by inspections and subsequently remedied, are shown in the table at the end of this report.

Accidents

Occupiers are required to notify to the local authority any accidents which occur to their staff whilst at work. One non-fatal accident was reported.

Analysis of persons employed in Registered Premises at the end of the year

Offices	persons employed	422
Retail shops	" "	594
Wholesale departments and warehouses	" "	16
Catering establishments	" "	116

	Total	1,148
		=====

Of the total number of employees, 444 were males and 704 females.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Tables giving the prescribed particulars required to be furnished by Section 153 (1) of the Factories Act, 1961, are included at the end of the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES

Background Information

The Public Health Act 1936, provided for the licensing of caravans and sites for movable dwellings. At Herne Bay eleven holiday camping sites were licensed under that Act. In addition there were two sites operated by the Council at Reculver which do not require to be licensed.

In August 1960, control of caravan sites passed from the Public Health Act to a new Act, the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960. Tents and movable dwellings other than caravans are still controlled by the Public Health Act 1936.

In previous annual reports I have explained the object and advantages of the new Act. I also referred to the Circular which accompanied the Act, and explains its purpose.

A most important provision of the new Act is the power of the Minister to prescribe "Model Standards" with respect of layout of caravan sites, provision of facilities, services and equipment. Local authorities in deciding the conditions to attach to a site licence shall have regard to any standards so specified. This applies with equal emphasis when local authorities are considering the conditions of any caravan sites they may own and operate.

Model Standards have, in fact, been prescribed under the new Act. These were set out in full in my report for 1962.

The Council's licence conditions contain the Ministry's Model Standards and also the local provisions which were found to be necessary during the many years we had experience in the control of caravan sites at Herne Bay prior to 1960.

Register of Caravan Sites

Every local authority is required by the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act of 1960 to keep a register of licensed sites. The register has to be open to inspection by the public at all reasonable time.

Thirteen privately owned caravan sites are now licensed by the Council.

The Council's own sites at Reculver have to conform to the same standards as licensed sites, and are included in the following list.

Total number of caravan sites	15
Total number of caravans permitted by licences and at the municipal sites	1,727
Total estimated population at caravan sites at peak periods	5,000

Site	Number of caravans permitted by licences
Municipal (East)	362
Municipal (West)	175
Hillborough Caravan Park	400
Glen Court, Beltinge	43
Cliff Pavilion, Beltinge	94
Coastguard Camping Site	50
Orchard Camping Site	57
Reculver House	68
Waterways, Reculver	95
Westlands Caravan Park	111
Hoathwood House Caravan Park	65
Seaside Caravan Park	46
Westbrook Farm	65
Keat Farm	75
Huntsman and Horn	21

All the above are "holiday" sites. Licences permit occupation of caravans from 1st March until 31st October each year. There are no "residential" sites at Herne Bay.

In August 1971 a census of caravans upon all sites showed a total of 1,691. This is 36 caravans less than the combined total number permitted at the fifteen sites.

Alteration of Caravan Site Licences (New)

The licences of Glen Court Caravan Site, and Keat Farm Caravan Site, expired in October 1971.

Both sites have now been granted planning approval as permanent holiday sites so the licences must be similarly unrestricted as required by Section 3(4) of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act. The licences have been endorsed to that effect.

At Keat Farm a rearrangement of the site was permitted. This does not increase the total number of caravans, but enables a new car park to be sited at a better position on the north side where it can be screened from the road.

The granting of licences, unrestricted as to their duration, does not deprive the Council of its control. There is power under the Act to alter conditions attaching to a site licence by cancellation or variation of existing conditions. This provides adequate safeguard and enables licences to be revised to meet changing conditions.

Compliance with Licence Conditions

There has been substantial improvement at all caravan sites since the introduction of licensing under the new Act. Concrete roads and car parks, as well as buildings for sufficient toilets, ablution and laundry, are now a feature of all caravan sites.

Fire Precautions at Caravan Sites

Circular 75/71 of the Department of the Environment requires local authorities to review present arrangements for fire precautions and fire fighting appliances at Caravan Sites. These are already incorporated in licence conditions and the Kent Fire Brigade will be asked to advise as to whether any additional arrangements are necessary.

Municipal Caravan Camps at Reculver - East and West Sites

These are the responsibility of the Foreshore Committee with a Camp Manager in day-to-day control. The Committee has followed a progressive policy of "ploughing back" some revenue each year to finance improvements necessary to comply with Model Standards. The works carried out include concrete roads, several substantial buildings for toilets and ablutions, laundry facilities, and provision for storage of water to meet the considerable demand at peak periods.

Satisfactory arrangements for the parking of cars is an outstanding requirement to meet Model Standards; this presents considerable physical difficulties.

New Trends at Caravan Sites

Modern caravans are very much larger. This accounts for the reduction in the number of vans upon sites to maintain 20 ft. spacing in each direction between all vans.

Caravans are now designed with internal water closets, wash basins, sinks, and even baths or showers. This type of caravan needs to be connected directly to a drainage system. In future,

caravan parks will need drainage points at each position and communal facilities will not be so necessary. Three sites at Herne Bay are now equipped in this way; during the year under review more facilities of this kind were installed.

Camping at sites which are not licensed

During school holidays numerous tented camps are set up by Youth Organisations which are exempt from the licensing requirements of the Public Health Act. These are generally well organised and conducted.

Abbotswood Estate at the West End of the town was sold as small building plots many years ago but has not been developed. There are a few caravans and a number of sheds which are used for holidays during the summer.

The Council has refused to permit any more caravans upon the site. Every summer there is a check at this rather remote estate to ascertain whether there has been unauthorised new development.

The Caravan Sites Act 1968

Part 1 of the Act which came into force in August 1968 is mainly concerned with protection of occupiers of residential caravans.

Part 2 of the Act came into force on 1st April, 1970. It requires local authorities to provide camping sites for the 15,000 gypsies in the country. This is a problem of finding a place for a non-conforming and widely rejected minority group. Circular 49/68 gives advice on the provision of sites and estimates that about 200 sites will probably be required.

In an earlier Circular the Minister described the problems which had come to light as a result of the 1965 census of gypsies and "other travellers". He asked that all local authorities should consider the provision of properly equipped sites as a matter of urgency. He suggested that each county council should take the initiative in assessing the need in its area in consultation with the district councils. It should then decide how best to meet that need.

By June 1970, county councils were required to inform the Ministry of the number and location of sites and the number each will accommodate. The Minister also required information about existing sites.

Moving gypsies from an unauthorised site and leaving them to find another is no answer to the human and social problems involved. Proper sites are required to enable caravan families to settle down under decent conditions and in reasonable security. These should be available throughout the country and not concentrated in a relatively few areas.

This part of the Act will prohibit unauthorised camping by gypsies, but not until sufficient sites have been provided for them in the area concerned.

Working Party Report on Caravan Sites (New)

A joint working party has been set up by local authority associations and the Gypsy Council. Its terms of reference are "to study the factors relating to the layout and management of gypsy sites, including the social aspects, and to give information and advice thereon". The working party is expected to issue a report early in 1972.

This could be a valuable guide to any local authority about to establish a gypsy site.

INSECT PESTS- ETC. (Revised)

During the year under review 78 applications were received and dealt with for the destruction of insect pests of all kinds.

At 57 premises wasp nests were destroyed. Infestation by cockroaches were dealt with at 5 hotels, restaurants, and dwelling houses. At seven houses treatment was applied for destruction of fleas.

At pre-war Council houses there is a problem of furniture beetle (woodworm) in roof timbers which receives treatment as houses are improved and while they are vacant.

The refuse tip at Broomfield is regularly treated for destruction of flies by men employed at the tip.

Other insect pests the Department was called upon to deal with include ants, spiders, silver fish and red mite.

During the summer season there was a plague of caterpillars of the Brown Tail Moth at Reculver. This is sometimes common at coastal districts, especially in Kent. I can remember previous infestations at Studd Hill Estate. The caterpillars are fully grown in July and August and their body hairs can cause irritation and rashes upon the skin of susceptible persons. They can appear in great numbers and will defoliate trees in a short time. An agricultural spray will destroy them as at Reculver.

RODENT CONTROL (Revised)

A free service is provided by the Council for the destruction of rats and mice at private dwellings. A charge is made at business premises, including farms.

A total of seven hundred and seventy nine visits were made during the year for the survey and treatment of premises and sewers for rat destruction.

Rat destruction is carried out by a standard technique which is carefully followed. Advantage is taken of new poisons and improved methods as these are developed by the Research Department

of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, whose assistance I am pleased to acknowledge. Efforts of neighbouring local authorities are co-ordinated and joint meetings are held from time to time (usually twice a year).

The following table shows the number of properties in the Urban District and the number inspected and treated for destruction of rats and mice during 1971:-

Number	Non Agricultural	Agricultural
Number of properties in the district	11,575	84
Number of properties inspected for rats and mice	717	5
Number of properties infested and treated for rat destruction	239	5
Number of properties infested and treated for mice destruction	12	Nil

In addition to the above treatments, beach hut sites and also the grass slopes at the East and West beaches were baited at the end of the season. Test baits were laid at 138 positions and there was slight infestation at seven of these. Poison treatment was applied.

The Council's refuse tip at Broomfield is treated regularly for rat destruction. A refuse tip is a special attraction to rats.

Agricultural land and premises are inspected in the autumn when rats are finding "cover" for the winter. 19 farm premises were surveyed and slight infestation found at five of these.

Accumulations were removed on eight occasions from undeveloped land etc. These afford harbourage for rats and mice. The Litter Act 1958 has had some effect on preventing the dumping of garden refuse etc. upon vacant land habitually used for that purpose. Litter Act notices have been displayed on these. The fine of £10 has been increased to £100.

RAT DESTRUCTION IN SEWERS (Revised)

Sewers are treated regularly each year for rat detection and destruction. This has resulted in such a reduction in the rat population in sewers that very few remain; indeed, in some parts of the town, sewers have been rat free for many years. It is important to control the rat population in sewers because they so often spread from sewers to buildings, etc. above ground.

During the year under review 448 sewer manholes were test-baited. This is slightly more than half the total number of sewer manholes. Bait was taken at only two manholes.

DIRTY CONDITIONS AND ERADICATION OF VERMIN

During the year dirty conditions were dealt with at five houses. It was necessary to serve a statutory notice to abate a nuisance at one of these.

Over the years there has been much improvement in the general standard of cleanliness but the occasional dirty house is encountered. This is often an aged person living alone who will not accept the help which is available.

The County Domestic Help Service is available to all who need it. A little regular help from this Service has assisted greatly in maintaining standards of cleanliness.

There were seven applications to spray for destruction of fleas, but none for bed bugs, nor were these encountered during inspection of houses.

Care is taken to avoid possibility of introducing vermin into Council houses by inspection of furniture and effects of incoming tenants when that is considered necessary.

One complaint was investigated concerning unsatisfactory holiday accommodation.

Abatement of Other Nuisances

During the year under review it was again necessary to serve a statutory notice to abate a nuisance at premises at which cats were kept in large numbers. Two other complaints were dealt with concerning nuisance from the keeping of animals.

Four complaints of nuisance from noise were received, and were abated without the need to serve Statutory Notices. Two of the complaints related to noise from industrial operations, and the other two from noise at private dwelling houses. Cellulose spraying gave rise to another complaint affecting occupiers at a residential neighbourhood near a garage. There was a complaint concerning exclusion of natural light by a tree in a neighbour's garden.

Complaint of nuisance from oil arose from accidental spillage when a storage tank collapsed near a pond in the owner's garden. A nuisance of an unusual and dangerous kind came to light when complaints were received of strong smell of "sewage". Excavation uncovered a disused gas main which was perforated and leaking.

Finally, it was necessary to serve abatement notices concerning nuisances arising from disrepair at five occupied dwelling houses.

Infection and Disinfection

There were 69 visits to make enquiries concerning notified infectious disease and suspected food poisoning. Disinfection was carried out at one dwelling house.

SERVICES UNDER THE HOUSING ACTS

Inspection, Repair, Closure and Demolition

(a)	Number of dwelling houses inspected for improvements and housing defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts (includes revisits)	761
(b)	Number of houses at which defects were remedied by informal action and as result of improvement grant work and Qualification Certificates	111
(c)	Number of houses repaired and rendered fit after service of formal notices under the Public Health Act (5) and Housing Act (1)	6
(d)	Number of houses demolished	26
(e)	Number of houses (and parts of houses) closed for human habitation under Section 16 of the Housing Act 1957	4
(f)	Number of houses reconditioned and made fit for habitation (undertakings or Closing Orders subsequently revoked)	3

Notes

(d) Houses demolished

24 houses at Kings Road and Park Road, 13 of which were included as unfit in a confirmed Clearance Order.

Nos. 34 and 36 Ridgeway, Herne

(e) Unfit houses or parts of houses represented for closure under Section 16 of the Housing Act 1957

10 Stanley Road (flat over garage)
47 Charles Street (2 basement and 2 ground floor rooms)
24 Beacon Road (Attic room)
3a Bank Street (1st and 2nd floor flat)

(f) Houses or parts of houses closed as unfit for human habitation and subsequently made fit (Closing Orders revoked or Undertakings determined)

7 Bank Street
33 Charles Street
44 Bank Street

"SLUM CLEARANCE"

In previous annual reports I have set out stage by stage the action taken since 1955 to deal with unfit houses at Herne Bay.

There was a survey in that year followed by two five year programmes during which 108 houses were classified as unfit for habitation. These received clearance area or individual treatment. This resulted in the declaration of two clearance areas at Kings Road and the redevelopment of the sites by two schemes of multi-storey flats known as Elizabeth Court with 27 flats in the first phase and 32 flats in the second phase.

THE KING'S ROAD CLEARANCE AREA (PHASE III) (Revised)

This is an area upon the south side of Kings Road containing thirteen unfit houses which were the subject of an Official Representation under Section 42 of the Housing Act in October 1965. This is the final phase of the Kings Road Clearance Area.

There were two appeals against a Compulsory Purchase Order. These were heard at a Public Inquiry held in September 1967, and were allowed. The Order was confirmed in respect of eleven unfit houses.

The remaining houses and other buildings at Kings Road and Park Road were purchased by the Council to enable the whole area to be redeveloped. During the year under review, one remaining tenant was rehoused and 24 houses demolished.

Redevelopment of the site has been delayed by the difficulty of keeping costs within the Government "yardstick". It is proposed to construct 36 two bedroom flats in a nine storey block when this difficulty can be overcome.

BANK STREET AREA

In December 1967, I submitted a comprehensive report setting out the various alternative methods of dealing with houses in the area. Six houses were then sub-standard and it was decided to deal with them as individual unfit houses rather than by clearance area procedure.

Closing Orders have since been made in respect of four of the houses, and there is an informal undertaking in respect of another house. The remaining unfit house is owner-occupied.

Two of the closing orders have been revoked upon the houses being made fit.

Of the remaining two houses subject to closing orders, one is vacant and the other is occupied with the tenant awaiting rehousing.

MULTI-OCCUPATION

(New)

This is often revealed when visits are made to housing applicants. There are many large houses in the urban district which are occupied in several separate lettings. This often involves shared use of water closets, bathrooms and even kitchens. It occurs without the approval of the Council because planning consent, although required, is not obtained.

The Council can take retrospective action concerning unauthorised multi-occupation which occurred since the end of the year 1963. Where these unsatisfactory conditions originated at an earlier date we try, as public health inspectors, to bring about such limited improvements as are possible.

In this connection special improvement grants are particularly helpful in securing improved standard amenities. During the year under review there were improvements of this kind at five houses in multi-occupation.

In a few instances owners have been persuaded to submit schemes for conversion to self-contained flats. This is always encouraged when tenants are rehoused by the Council from houses in multi-occupation.

HOUSING ACT 1957 - OVERCROWDING

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Number of new cases of overcrowding recorded during the year | 11 |
| 2. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | 4 |

These do not all constitute overcrowding as legally defined.

IMPROVEMENTS AND CONVERSIONS

The following brief resume of the growth and development of improvement grant legislation first appeared in my Annual Report for 1968. It is included because it provides useful background information.

Discretionary grants were introduced as long ago as 1949; in 1959 a new type of grant was introduced known as the "Standard Grant". This introduced a measure of compulsion upon local authorities because a standard grant can be claimed as a right. It provides for assistance towards the cost of installing a bath, water closet, wash basin, hot water, and a foodstore at houses where all or any of these are lacking.

The earlier discretionary grant remained for the larger improvements and conversions at the older type of houses which are structurally sound, but lack amenities. Some of these are too large for present day living and can best be treated by

conversion to suitable flats. Since the introduction of improvement grants in 1949 there has been legislation affecting grants in five subsequent Acts; the latest of these being the Housing Act 1969.

This legislation has been directed towards stimulating interest in the improvement of houses with financial assistance from the public purse. Over the years the amount of grant has been increased, and restrictions have been removed. The statutory rent increase for an improved house no longer applies, and rent increase is dealt with in a different way. This is explained in the paragraph headed "Qualification Certificates".

I have explained that the standard grant introduced a measure of compulsion upon local authorities, some of whom refuse to operate the discretionary grant scheme.

The Housing Act 1964 introduced a measure of compulsion upon owners by enabling compulsory improvement notices to be served upon owners of tenanted houses in a declared "Improvement Area". This procedure has been repealed.

It failed to achieve its purpose largely because of the extremely cumbersome machinery requiring the service of a series of notices over a considerable period of time. Very few local authorities declared improvement areas. The Herne Bay U.D.C. is included in the "few" and the results of these efforts are later described.

The occupier of a house which is without one or more standard amenities may make representations in writing to initiate compulsory action to secure the improvements which are necessary. This provision of the Housing Act 1964 has not been repealed.

Although the Act of 1969 withdraws some of the "teeth", it provides a larger "carrot" for both standard and discretionary grants. It also introduces a new kind of grant known as a "special grant" later described.

The maximum discretionary grant is increased by that Act from £400 to £1,000 - (£1,200 for a house having three storeys). The maximum standard grant is increased to £155 to £200 (£450 if it is necessary to build an addition to the house to provide a bathroom).

The Act of 1969 also contains an important new principle by permitting some part of the cost of repairs incidental to improvement works to be taken into account when deciding the amount of grant. Grant is not available for repairs alone. Subject to the above maxima, grants must not exceed 50% of the cost of eligible works of improvement together with the repairs allowance where this applies. For discretionary grants the total cost of approved works must not be less than £100 as hitherto.

Discretionary grant applications must relate to houses with a future life expectation of not less than 30 years which can be reduced for satisfactory reasons.

Standard grant applications relate to houses with a future life expectation of not less than 15 years. The original list of standard grant amenities has been amended by the new Act. Foodstore has been deleted (presumably because the domestic refrigerator is now available for perishable goods) and provision of a sink has been added.

The "Special Grant" is a new type of discretionary grant towards the cost of providing standard amenities which will be shared at a house in multiple occupation. It applies where there is no immediate prospect of conversion to permanent separate dwellings. The amount of grant is half the cost of the improvement works subject to a maximum determined by the number of standard amenities provided.

It is now possible to include a condition requiring improvement grant works to be completed in a given time being not less than one year. It is our experience that some improvement grants are not taken up, and in other cases work commences and remains uncompleted year after year. Some restriction as to time for completion of works is necessary, and has been adopted by the Council as a policy - 12 months is the usual period but extension is granted when justified.

Houses needing Improvement at Herne Bay

I have mentioned that the Herne Bay Council is one of the few local authorities in Britain to declare a compulsory improvement area under the Housing Act 1964.

This was preceded by a survey of 931 houses in the older parts of the town which produced the following information:-

Houses already improved	474
Houses requiring improvement	457

282 of these were without baths or showers, and 200 without internal water closets. 350 lacked hot water systems and 316 were without wash basins.

Herne Bay Compulsory Improvement Area No. 1 1966 (Major Revision)

This compulsory improvement area was chosen because it adjoins the clearance areas now in course of redevelopment at Kings Road etc.

The following streets are included in the area:-

Gordon Road, Stanley Road, Arkley Road (part) and Park Road (part).

There is a total of 140 houses in the area and 47 required improvement.

When the Compulsory Improvement Area was declared 21 of the improvable houses were owner-occupied, and 26 were occupied by tenants. Enforcement action was not permitted by the Act in respect of owner-occupied houses, but the various prescribed notices were served upon the owners of tenanted houses with the following results.

Improvement works were carried out at eight houses after service of "Preliminary Improvement Notices", and at a further five houses after service of "Intermediate Improvement Notices". There remained a balance of thirteen houses occupied by elderly tenants who did not wish to be disturbed. Upon the owners of these houses "Suspended Improvement Notices" were served allowing a period of 5 years for completion of improvement works. The five year period expired in June 1971 and eight of the thirteen houses had not been improved.

The Council then had to decide whether to let the notices lapse, or serve "Final Improvement Notices" within six months from the date of expiry of the "Suspended Improvement Notices". The service of final notices by the Council would have to be accompanied by offers to rehouse the tenants.

It was decided to let the notices lapse upon the promise of owners that their houses would be improved when they became vacant, and probably to a higher standard than could be enforced by final notices.

I am thankful that this complicated, cumbersome, time consuming legislation has been repealed.

Area Improvement (Revised)

Improvement of houses in an area is not the beginning and end of the treatment it should receive; the quality of the environment is also of great importance. The Housing Act 1969 introduces a new kind of grant to local authorities towards the cost of making the area a better place to live in.

Some members have seen the Ministry's colour film showing the dramatic improvement of a "blighted" area at Exeter.

The Gordon Road, Stanley Road, Arkley Road, Park Road, area does not lend itself to such comprehensive treatment, but I have no doubt that a suitable scheme will be prepared to enhance the quality of the area.

The Council's Engineer and Surveyor has been asked to prepare a suitable scheme which could include Stanley Gardens.

Improvement Grant Work (Revised)

During the year under review 64 applications were received for the three types of grants. This is eight more than were received in 1970. Some were completed and others were in progress at the end of the year. These are shown in the table which follows:-

Schemes submitted and approved (works upon these approved schemes were not all completed in 1971)

(a)	Applications for Discretionary Grant conversions	8
(b)	Applications for Discretionary Grant improvements	44
(c)	Applications for Standard Grant improvements	11
(d)	Applications for Special Discretionary Grant improvements	1

64

Note

The eight applications referred to under (a) above will result, after conversion, in the production of eighteen self-contained flats and two houses.

The application under (d) above relates to improvements at three separate lettings in one large house where there is multi-occupation.

Schemes submitted and refused

Two discretionary improvement grant applications were refused.

Amendments to approved schemes

Three applications for increased grants towards the cost of unforeseen additional works were approved.

Improvement Grants paid in 1971

	<u>No. of Grants</u>	<u>Total Paid</u> £
Discretionary	37	15,366
Standard	12	1,721
Special	6	502
	—	—
	55	£ 17,589
	==	====

Note - Comparison with 1970

The total grants paid in 1970 amounted to £11,790 in respect of 26 discretionary, and 8 standard grants.

Delegated authority to approve Standard Grant applications

To avoid delay, and to enable applicants to proceed as promptly as possible with improvements, the Chairman of the Public Health and Housing Committee has delegated authority to deal with standard grant applications received between monthly meetings.

Qualification Certificates (Revised)

During the year, fifteen Qualification Certificates were issued upon completion of necessary repairs. One Certificate of Provisional Approval was also granted. This is, in effect, a promise that a Qualification Certificate will be issued when the house has been repaired and improved to a satisfactory standard.

This is a new procedure introduced by the Housing Act 1969 to enable rents to be increased. It must be acknowledged that some controlled rents are so low that they do not allow of houses being kept in a reasonable state of maintenance and repair. Houses with low controlled rents often lack the necessary amenities for which grants are available, as well as being in poor repair.

Owners of these houses have little incentive to improve them, even with the assistance of grants, unless the rent income can be increased. The new Housing Act attempts to remedy this situation by permitting houses to be transferred from "controlled" to "regulated" tenancies with phased increase of rents until, at the end of a period of years, the agreed "fair rent" is reached. The "fair rent" is arrived at by reference to the Rent Officer, but only after the local authority has issued a "Qualification Certificate". This has to certify that a house is in good repair, and has all the standard amenities required by the Act. It must be in all other respects fit for human habitation. Thus the owner of a sound, but out of date house, can now obtain substantial financial help in carrying out the improvements and repairs that are necessary. He can then apply for a Qualification Certificate to enable the rent to be increased to a realistic amount related to present day costs and money values. This seems to be a fair and reasonable way of dealing with a vexed problem.

IMPROVEMENTS AT PRE-WAR COUNCIL HOUSES (Revised)

The Council has 163 pre-war houses, and 132 of these needed improvement to bring them to a standard of comfort and convenience comparable with post-war Council houses.

Many pre-war houses lacked indoor toilets, were without wash basins, and had no constant hot water supply. At most of these houses, water for the bath had to be heated with a gas copper.

The improvement of these houses commenced in 1963 with a modest scheme to improve ten houses at Broomfield. This was followed by improvement schemes of a more ambitious nature at Sea Street, Stanley Gardens and Park Road, where there are five types of houses. Except at Broomfield, improvement works have been carried out by the direct labour of the Engineer and Surveyor's Department.

The improvement of all pre-war houses at the Sea Street Estate was completed in 1970.

During the year under review ten more houses were improved at Stanley Gardens estate, and two were undergoing improvement at the end of the year. There remained a total of 13 houses to improve at Stanley Gardens and one at Park Road.

Position at 31st December, 1971:-

Pre-war Council houses - 132 to be improved (14 unimproved houses at end of year)			
Total Number Improved	Work in Progress		Work not commenced
Broomfield	10	-	-
Windsor Villas	14	-	-
Sea Street Estate	41	-	-
Stanley Gardens	47	2	13
Park Road	4	-	1
TOTALS	116	2	14

RENT ACT 1957

This Act decontrolled certain houses and allowed the rents of others to be increased subject to reasonable repair. In that connection the system of issuing "Certificates of Disrepair" seems to have fallen into disuse.

At Herne Bay it is several years since an application was received - the system seems to have been superseded by "Qualification Certificates" as a means of rent increase.

RENT ACT 1965

This Act came into operation on 5th December, 1965. Basically, the existing system of control of tenancies remains unchanged. Its provisions include the following:-

- (a) The addition of a second right to transmission of a statutory tenancy on death of a person who has already succeeded to a statutory tenancy.
- (b) The institution of a new system of "regulation" under the Rent Acts.
- (c) The institution of machinery for determining "fair rents" for regulated tenancies, and their registration.
- (d) The introduction of criminal offences of illegal eviction and "harassment" directed to evicting tenants or interfering with their enjoyment of the premises.
(The Herne Bay Council prosecuted a harassment offence and a fine of £25 was imposed.)
- (e) The prohibition of eviction without a court order.
- (f) The extension of the jurisdiction of rent tribunals over furnished lettings to dwelling houses of certain rateable values.

For the purpose of this Act, the country is divided into "rent assessment areas" corresponding to Counties, etc. In each area one or more Rent Officers are appointed. The Rent Officer for the area which includes Herne Bay has his office at Margate, with a sub-office at Canterbury. Rent Assessment Committees are also established under the Act to consider appeals concerning rents.

SERVICES UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT ETC.

FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Food Sampling and Adulteration

Some functions under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, are performed by Kent County Council. These include sampling of articles of food and drink for adulteration.

MILK

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959

Every local authority is required under these Regulations to keep a register of the following:-

- (a) Dairies, except those at dairy farms.
- (b) Distributors of milk.

The number registered at Herne Bay at the end of 1971 was:-

- | | |
|------------------|------|
| (a) Dairies | None |
| (b) Distributors | 43 |

Three distributors only, sell milk as their main trade. Six additional traders were registered during 1971. All the milk sold at Herne Bay is bottled at premises elsewhere.

Most retail milk distributors trade mainly in groceries and general provisions selling bottled milk as a "side line". They are advised to keep the milk in refrigerators pending sale. Any milk unsold on the day of delivery should be collected by the supplier. These retail traders merely provide "selling points" for the big milk suppliers. There is a risk that milk sold in this way may not be stored in cool conditions pending sale, but it must be admitted that complaints of early souring are rare.

Herne Bay is in an area where all milk must be pasteurised or sterilised, unless it is raw milk from Tuberculin Tested cows.

Milk is still sold mainly in bottles, despite the efforts of the dairy trade to popularise waxed cartons. The public prefer milk they can see: they have been educated to appreciate "cream line".

A licence valid for 5 years, to sell milk under Special Designations must be obtained from the Kent County Council which is the licensing authority under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1960. A licence will not be granted until the applicant has been registered with the District Council as a Distributor.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Meat Inspection and Slaughter Arrangements - Historical Background

At the outbreak of war there were four licensed slaughterhouses in use at Herne Bay. By the end of 1956 there remained only one licensed slaughterhouse, and it had not been used since 1939. That remaining licence was allowed to lapse at the end of 1959, when the ownership and use of the premises changed.

Licences of these four unsatisfactory slaughterhouses were thus allowed to lapse over a period of years, with no hardship or inconvenience to their owners, and no payment of compensation by the Council.

I have explained in previous annual reports the many phases which led up to the present position. It is sufficient now to record that the Council was much concerned in the early post-war period about the four rather poor licensed slaughterhouses at Herne Bay, and about the whole question of the slaughtering needs of the district.

Slaughterhouse Reports (Appointed Day) Order 1959

Under the above Order, it was resolved by the Council that in the Herne Bay area the existing and probable future requirements for slaughterhouse facilities, are adequately met by the Canterbury Abattoir. This decision was reached after consultation with local butchers.

Unsound Food

During the year, $9\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. of food of all kinds was found to be unfit for human consumption and was surrendered by various traders. Although carcasses and organs of animals are inspected at the Abattoir when slaughtered, conditions are occasionally met with at butchers' shops which could not be detected at time of slaughter. The above figure of unsound food includes carcass meat, fish, vegetables and canned food. Some of this results from refrigeration failure. In addition, there were 160 pints of milk and 79 items of flour confectionery surrendered as unfit.

Condemned food is disposed of by burial.

The Meat Sterilization Regulations 1969 (Repeated)

These regulations, which came into force upon 1st November, 1969, revoke and replace the Meat (Staining and Sterilization) Regulations, 1960, which are referred to in previous annual reports.

The new regulations require the sterilization of all meat from a knackers yard and staining is no longer an acceptable alternative. Imported meat must be sterilized unless it has been passed as fit for human consumption and bears the appropriate meat inspection stamp or official Certificate. Meat includes any product of which the principal ingredient is meat.

Dogs in Food Shops (Circular 25/68) and Smoking

Food traders are as anxious as health authorities to keep dogs out of food premises, but some are reluctant to risk offending their customers by a direct approach. Action by the Public Health Department is, therefore, welcome. This has taken the form of a stencilled transfer which adheres to the glass front or glass door of a shop. The notice is worded as a request by the Herne Bay Urban District Council that dogs are not taken into the food shop. Most customers appreciate these efforts.

In 1968 a Circular was issued by the Ministry on this subject. It is considered that a statutory ban on dogs in food premises is not necessary in view of the requirements of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations. Instead, the Ministry urges the kind of encouragement and persuasive action which is described above and has been employed in this town for many years.

Most Supermarkets now prohibit dogs and smoking, and seem to have overcome their reluctance to risk offence to their customers.

The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations

The first regulations came into operation on 1st January, 1956.

All food premises were then inspected and deficiencies under the regulations were noted. The original regulations were amended and consolidated in the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960.

These have been further amended and consolidated by the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970, which operated from 1st March 1971.

A useful provision of the new regulations is the requirement that traders must separate unsound food from sound food to avoid the risk that rejected food may again be mixed with good food. These provisions also apply to markets.

The tables at the end of this report show the number of visits to food premises, and the results of such visits (improvements, cleansing, etc.)

Transport of Meat and Other Foods

The Food Hygiene (Market, Stalls, and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations of 1966 are intended to secure the hygienic handling of food and equipment at markets, stalls and delivery vehicles.

When vehicles are used for the sale of food they come within the definition of food stalls and are subject to regulations which relate to stalls.

Cleanliness of vehicles used only for delivery of food, and the cleanliness of persons and their clothing when engaged in food handling, is also subject to appropriate regulations.

Food delivery vehicles operating at Herne Bay are inspected from time to time to enforce these regulations. One complaint of careless handling of food during delivery was received and dealt with.

General Market

A general market opened in June 1971 upon a site at Kings Road adjacent to Beach House. The market site has been well prepared by the Surveyor's Department. There was prior consultation concerning disposal of refuse and the special facilities necessary for food stalls of which there are 14.

The Council has constructed brick built conveniences with water closets and wash basins with hot and cold water. These are cleansed by a Council employee whose wages are shared equally by the Council and the Market Operator.

Premises at Herne Bay which are subject to control by the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations

Butchers	19
Fishmongers	9
Grocers	66
Greengrocers	25
Bread and Confectionery	34
Cafes and Restaurants	61
Take Away Meals (2 Chinese)	3
Hotels and Guest Houses	40
Public Houses and Clubs	30
Bakehouses	6
Residential Homes, Nursing Homes and Hospitals	14
Food stalls at General Market (1 catering)	14

Food Offences - Warnings and Prosecutions

Nineteen food complaints were received during the year and these were reported at meetings of the Public Health and Housing Committee with the following results:-

Warnings were given in respect of nine offences.

Prosecutions were decided in respect of seven offences.

By the end of the year three offences had been successfully prosecuted with fines and costs amounting to £550. The remaining four offences will be prosecuted in 1972.

No action was taken in respect of three complaints. One of these concerned a tin of Chopped Pork Kidneys in Gravy produced in Holland. The unopened tin revealed no indication of its foul smelling contents which were unfit for human consumption. The remaining stock was examined at the store where the tin was purchased. This revealed several tins in similar condition and 62 tins of this brand were surrendered.

This resulted in the prompt withdrawal of the product from the Company's stores throughout the country. The Department of the Environment was informed and it was subsequently found that the unsound food was in tins of a particular batch. There was no code or indication of the date of manufacture and the usual signs of decomposition were absent. (See table of food offences page 65.)

Food affected by mould

5 of the complaints referred to above relate to mould in bread and pies. It is probable that there were others which were not reported to the Public Health Department. Mouldy food complaints occur mainly because of failure to rotate stock; mould growth can also be accelerated by incorrect storage and handling pending sale.

Retail traders can ensure that their stock is rotated by using a simple coding system. Food manufacturers supply retailers with information upon the recommended shelf life of all perishable foods. They have their own system of coding to identify the time and place of manufacture. Having regard to the vast quantities of food which passes through the retail trade, the complaints which are received are comparatively few but most of these could be avoided by careful rotation of stock.

Food Hygiene - Codes of Practice

In 1969 the Ministry of Health and Social Security with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, issued a revised Food Hygiene Code of Practice for the meat trades. It replaces two earlier codes of practice dealing with the retail meat trade and the transport and handling of meat.

Other codes of practice have been issued upon the Transport and Handling of Fish, Hygiene in the Retail Fish Trade, Poultry Dressing and Packing, Hygiene in the Bakery Trade, and Food Vending Machines. These various codes of practice have become widely accepted as a source of guidance and information upon sound food hygiene practices in the various trades to which they relate.

Hygiene by common consent is more likely to succeed than hygiene imposed by legislation, although it has to be available in the last resort for those who will not respond to persuasion.

ICE CREAM

Premises at which ice cream is manufactured or sold are subject to control by the Food and Drugs Act. The manufacture and sale of ice cream is also controlled by the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, and the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960.

By the end of 1971 a total of 108 premises were registered for the sale of ice cream, and two for the manufacture and sale of ice cream. During the year new registrations were approved.

In addition to the above, ice cream is sold at Cafes, Inns, and Restaurants, which do not require to be registered under the Food and Drugs Act.

"Lollipops" are manufactured at three premises, but these do not require to be registered for that purpose. It is the policy to encourage traders selling wrapped ice cream to provide litter receptacles upon their premises.

Examination of Samples

Sixteen samples of ice cream were taken from local manufacturers and submitted for examination. Eight samples were classified Grade IV, two Grade III and six Grade I, which is the highest classification of the test applied.

The Food Standards (Ice Cream) Regulations, 1959, prescribe standards of composition for ice cream Dairy Ice Cream, Dairy Cream Ice, or Cream Ice, and Parev (Kosher) Ice. The addition of artificial sweetener to ice cream of any description is prohibited.

These Regulations replace the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order 1953. They prescribe amended standards of composition for ice cream and Parev (Kosher) ice and introduce separate standards of composition for dairy ice cream and milk ice. Alternative standards are prescribed for certain descriptions of ice cream containing fruit, fruit pulp, or fruit puree.

REGISTERED FOOD PREMISES

In addition to the registered dairies and ice cream premises already referred to, the following food premises are registered as required by the Food and Drugs Act:-

Premises for preparation and manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale	39
Fried fish shops	4

Mobile fried fish shops visit the caravan sites in the summer.

Note Three new registrations include two for Chinese "take away" meals and one for manufacture of pies at a bakery.

Meat Pie Factory

There is a fairly large meat pie factory at Sea Street whose products are distributed throughout the country. This has been registered for several years.

Local Government Act 1894 - Section 27

Game Licence

A licence to sell game was granted under the above Act to a fishmonger. Two licences are required by every dealer in game, namely, a Revenue Licence granted by the County Council under the Finance Act, 1908, and a licence granted by the District Council under the Local Government Act, 1894. The applicant has to obtain a licence from the District Council before the County Council will grant a Revenue Licence.

CONFERENCES AND HEALTH EDUCATION

The Chief Public Health Inspector attended the annual conference of the Association of Public Health Inspectors at Eastbourne in company with Councillor Mrs. Fortune, Chairman of the Public Health and Housing Committee. Resolutions were adopted concerning noise and local government reorganisation.

Mr. Weller attended a weekend Seminar on Food Technology at Guildford, and Mr. Davis attended a weekend Seminar upon a variety of important public health subjects at the University of Kent.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER 1957
(Repeated)

The administration of the above Order has been delegated by the Kent County Council to the Herne Bay Urban District Council.

The Order requires the licensing of plant to ensure the efficient boiling of waste foods intended to be used for feeding pigs and poultry - a measure to control foot and mouth disease.

At Herne Bay, no licences are now in force under the Order.

HOUSING MANAGEMENT

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION OWNED BY THE COUNCIL
(Revised)

By the end of 1971 the Council owned 1,016 houses, prefabs and flats.

<u>Pre-war Houses</u>	-	163
3 bedrooms	-	159
4 bedrooms	-	4
<u>Post-war Houses</u>	-	463
2 bedrooms	-	98
3 bedrooms	-	340
4 bedrooms	-	25
<u>Temporary Prefabricated Bungalows</u>	-	49
2 bedrooms	-	49
<u>Post-war Flats</u>	-	273
1 bedroom	-	99
2 bedrooms	-	142
3 bedrooms	-	10
Bed-sitting rooms	-	22
<u>warden Assisted Accommodation</u>	-	57
Flats at Redgates (one occupied by warden)	-	40
Flats at 139/141 Canterbury Road	-	12
Bungalows at Redgates	-	5
<u>"Other" Houses, Bungalows and Flats</u>	-	11
(Miscellaneous properties acquired by the Council other than by new construction but does not include cottages at May Street Sewage Works)		
Houses (at Reculver, Market Street and Charles Street)	-	7
Bungalows (at Churchill Avenue)	-	2
Flats, resulting from conversion of a house	-	2
<u>Houses managed by H.B.U.D.C. on behalf of G.L.C.</u>		
At Streetfield	-	14 bungalows
<u>Houses managed by H.B.U.D.C. on behalf of K.C.C.</u>		
At Victoria Park	-	1 house
At Bowes Lane	-	1 bungalow

NEW HOUSES ERECTED AND UNDER CONSTRUCTION
(Revised)

Five houses only were completed during 1971, one at Crown Hill Road having four bedrooms, and four at Clifftown Gardens having three bedrooms. It was hoped to commence work upon the Kings Road Phase III development during 1971, but this was prevented by the difficulty of obtaining estimates within "yardstick costs".

The following table gives the new construction of houses and flats by local authorities, and by private enterprise for the year 1971:

Houses and flats erected by :	Number erected	Number under construction Dec. 1971
The Local Authority	5	41 flats (GLC)
Other bodies and persons	105	126
TOTALS	110	167

FUTURE BUILDING PROGRAMME
(Revised)

At a meeting held in November it was resolved to inform the Department of the Environment that the Council wished to include the following sites in the 1972 programme:-

- Victoria Park/West Cliff Gardens - 9 flats
 - Land at King Edward Avenue - Warden assisted scheme
- 46 dwellings.
 - Land in Claremont Street - 3 houses (or flats)
 - *Land in Clarendon Street - 2 houses
 - *Land between Matthews Road and Gilchrist Avenue - Approx. 40 units
 - *Land at rear of Osborne Gardens - Approx. 16 bungalows
 - Kings Road Phase III - 36 dwellings.
- *By curtailment of tenants' gardens.

Purposes of house building by local Authorities (Revised)

Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular 55/61 sets out the main purposes for which local authorities should continue to build houses, viz.

- Slum Clearance
- The Elderly
- Overspill
- Relief of overcrowding and bad housing conditions
- "General-need" (added by Circular 21/65 - see succeeding paragraph)

At the before-mentioned meeting in November the Clerk reported receipt of a letter from the Department of the Environment stating that "so far as concerns new housing, programmes will be acceptable which provide not only for special categories, but also for applicants of all kinds on the waiting list who by reason of circumstances look to the Council for a home". This seems to throw the door wide open once again for the building of houses by local authorities.

HOMELESS FAMILIES IN KENT (Revised)

This is a welfare matter, and is therefore the responsibility of the County Council which is the welfare authority. However, that is a narrow view, for the County Council cannot do more than provide temporary accommodation for the homeless, and subsequently take the children into care.

The Kent County Council is concerned at the large number of children who have to be taken into care, mainly because of their parents homelessness upon discharge from King Hill Hostel. District Councils are urged to help by housing families from the Hostel.

Rent guarantees are offered by the County Council to encourage District Councils to assist with rehousing in approved cases. We were informed in 1966 that in the County of Kent only 6% of evicted families were from Council houses. It is, therefore, obvious that District Councils are very reluctant to evict erring tenants.

Two houses at Herne Bay which belong to the County Council were offered on lease, provided that the Herne Bay Council would house homeless families under certain conditions and guarantees. This was agreed. The K.C.C. houses are now under this Council's control and a few homeless families from West Malling have been rehoused. The arrangement has worked satisfactorily.

INTERMEDIATE ACCOMMODATION (Revised)

To deal with the housing of the homeless, some reliance is placed upon so called "intermediate accommodation".

Local Councils have been urged to purchase houses for temporary housing of homeless families. This has had only limited success because government subsidies have not been available for purchase of existing houses. With the abolition of the existing system of housing subsidies the purchase of suitable existing houses may merit consideration in the future.

The subject of intermediate housing is dealt with in a joint Circular 20/66 issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the Ministry of Health.

For several years there has been emphasis upon the construction of flats. These are cheaper to build, and they can be used to release under-occupied houses. Flats are also required for the many elderly applicants.

High building costs, high rates of interest, high cost of land, combine to make building very expensive. This continues to be a considerable deterrent to the building of houses for "general need".

Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular 21/65

This Circular issued in 1965 had two purposes. It required the submission of programmes for house building for the next four years including 1965, and it focussed attention upon industrialised building.

When the Circular was issued, I dealt comprehensively with its contents and effect upon the Council's future building programme in a report to the Public Health and Housing Committee.

In this Circular the Minister states that "local authorities have not been encouraged to create a pool of rented houses available for families needing them outside the priority classes. Each specific need in the priority classes must retain a high priority but, in addition, it is considered to be essential to tackle the overall shortage of houses at moderate rents." This is described as a "general need" which the Minister is prepared to consider as well as the specific need of the various priority classes.

"Fair Deal for Housing"

The present Government has very different ideas on the subject of local authority housing. These are described in a White Paper "Fair Deal for Housing" published in July 1971 in which the Government's housing objectives are stated to be:-

- (i) a decent home for every family at a price within their means;
- (ii) a fairer choice between owning a house and renting one;
- (iii) fairness between one citizen and another in giving and receiving help towards housing costs.

In the conclusion to the White Paper the view is expressed that "present housing policies will not cure slums, the overcrowding, the dilapidations, or the individual hardships and injustice suffered by many tenants, landlords and owner occupiers. This is because they fail to concentrate resources to help people and areas in need. The cure can only come through a radical reform of housing finance".

HOUSING REGISTER
(Revised)

The register at the end of the year 1971 contained the names of 628 applicants. 276 applicants had registered for less than two years.

The total number of applicants was made up as follows:-

Single persons (mostly elderly widows)	305
Couples (mostly elderly)	129
Applicants with one or more children	194

The number of applicants on the waiting list has steadily increased despite the number it has been possible to rehouse. There is now a higher proportion of "problem families". The increase in this type of applicant seems to be occurring generally throughout the country. Nearly a quarter of the applicants on the waiting list have lived at Herne Bay for five years or less. Almost half the number on the waiting list have registered for a period of less than two years.

A most urgent need for housing accommodation is still with young people. Many are struggling to raise families in a couple of rooms. Often these are in their parents' homes with all the friction which inevitably arises from sharing kitchens, etc.

Increased cost of house purchase is putting house ownership beyond the reach of all but a few of the applicants on the Council's waiting list.

Other reasons for seeking Council accommodation have been referred to in my previous annual reports as under:-

- (a) Rents increase, and the insecurity which resulted from the Rent Act, 1957.
- (b) The construction by the Council of attractive flats has stimulated a flow of new applications from many elderly people who had not previously considered applying for Council accommodation. Many of these are having to pay higher rent increases than they can afford, and others are finding it difficult to live in large houses they cannot maintain. Warden assisted accommodation is now in great demand.

The following table shows the position of the housing register since 1960:-

December 1960	--	413	applicants
" 1961	--	384	"
" 1962	--	388	"
" 1963	--	380	"
" 1964	--	396	"
" 1965	--	453	"
" 1966	--	442	"
" 1967	--	484	"
" 1968	--	587	"
" 1969	--	591	"
" 1970	--	583	"
" 1971	--	628	"

We know from our records that approximately half the number of persons who make application for housing accommodation are never considered. By the time their applications are due for consideration they have left the town or have solved their housing problems without the Council's assistance. This knowledge enables one to assess the true significance of the number of persons upon the waiting list at any given time.

Policy in the selection of tenants

Over the years a policy has been formulated in the selection of tenants. In May 1963, I produced a report setting out the various principles and considerations which, together, constitute this selection policy. The document is too lengthy to reproduce in this annual report, but the main points are covered by the following headings:-

- (a) Basic consideration - housing need.
- (b) Balancing factors - length of residence and period of waiting.
- (c) Residence qualification before acceptance as applicant - one year.
- (d) Waiting period before consideration - two years unless there is some exceptional medical or other reason for earlier consideration.
- (e) Rehousing from unfit houses.
- (f) Housing of staff.
- (g) Rehousing of evicted families.
- (h) Housing of key workers in new industries.
- (i) Regular long service in H.M. Forces.
- (j) Periodical review of applications.

Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular 60/65 is concerned with the housing of regular ex-service men. The Council's policy already meets the requirements of the Circular.

RESIDENCE QUALIFICATION (Revised)

In November a letter from the Secretary of the Kent Housing Managers Association was received and considered. The Association had discussed the variations which are known to exist in the qualifications necessary for acceptance upon the housing lists of local authorities in Kent.

Recommendations for a uniform policy were submitted and were considered by the Public Health and Housing Committee at Herne Bay. These are already in line with the Council's policy except the suggested abolition of the period of residence before admission to the waiting list. At Herne Bay it is considered to be necessary to retain the one year period of residence before admission.

This requirement, together with the waiting period of two years before consideration of a new application, ensures that at least three years will elapse before the application of a new resident will be considered. The rule helps to prevent "queue jumping" and avoids inflation of the waiting list with names of applicants who are often temporary residents who take furnished accommodation during the winter months when holiday flats are vacant.

Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular 2/67 deals with "excessive" residence qualification, and with the exchange of accommodation between tenants of Council houses in different towns. The Council's well established policy is in line with the provisions of the Circular.

REVIEW OF HOUSING APPLICATIONS
(Revised)

In December 1971 there was a major review of young applicants with children. For this purpose 150 applicants were visited at their homes and 34 names were removed from the housing register.

In January 1971 there was a major review of 130 elderly applicants following visits made towards the end of 1970, and included in my report for that year.

These two reviews involved members of the Public Health and Housing Committee in a considerable amount of "homework", and the subsequent selection of the following applicants for rehousing:-

Young applicants with families requiring houses	26
Elderly applicants requiring flats without warden assistance	18

Throughout the year, 327 applicants were visited at their homes to assess their housing need.

HOUSING OF APPLICANTS AND TRANSFER OF TENANTS
(Revised)

During the year the following accommodation became available for letting:-

New Accommodation (let for the first time)

New houses constructed at Crown Hill Road (one 4 bedroom) and Clifftown Gardens (four 3 bedroom)	5
--	---

Existing Accommodation (tenancies given up)

Improved pre-war houses (reduction in number undergoing improvement)	2
Houses became vacant (3 carried over from 1970)	19
Prefabs became vacant	3
Flats became vacant (without warden assistance)	12
Flats became vacant (with warden assistance)	4
Bungalow became vacant (with warden assistance)	1

This produced a total of 46 houses, flats, etc. which were used directly or indirectly to rehouse the following:-

Applicants from the general waiting list	37
Applicants from unfit houses	3
Applicants with court eviction orders	3
Staff (including a district nurse)	3

In addition, there was one nominated tenancy to an "Abbeyfield" flat.

Note Two vacant houses at Stanley Gardens were undergoing improvement at the end of the year (four at the end of 1970).

Those houses from the general waiting list include applicants selected at a general review or subsequently selected for some special or medical reasons. There were three court orders for possession which resulted in the rehousing by the Council of the families to be dispossessed.

The Council served notices to quit upon two tenants on account of their unacceptable behaviour. One of these was rehoused at another part of the town.

Two under-occupied houses were released by transferring tenants to smaller accommodation.

Four exchanges of tenancy were permitted, involving tenants from other towns. A local exchange was also permitted.

Tenancy Transfers

There were 29 transfers, some to release under-occupied accommodation, others to release pre-war houses for improvement. A few transfers were arranged for "social reasons".

HOUSING OF KEYWORKERS (Revised)

The provision of housing for keyworkers is a policy decision of the Council to help attract and establish new industries. This assistance is for the initial stage when staff has to be recruited and trained. Nineteen keyworkers have been housed at different times since the end of the war, but none during 1971.

At a meeting of the Council held in June it was decided to clarify the policy relating to keyworkers and their tenancies. The following recommendations were adopted:-

- (a) That "keyworker" be defined as an employee whose skill and knowledge of a trade or process is indispensable to the starting of a new industry or to the material expansion of an existing industry, and who cannot be recruited locally.
- (b) That such a keyworker be housed by the Council only when it is justifiable on the grounds that he can train and instruct unskilled labour to be recruited locally.
- (c) That a keyworker tenancy be granted to the keyworker not the employer.

- (d) That a keyworker tenancy continue to be subject to a condition that it must terminate within three months of ceasing to be employed by the firm which made the application, subject, however, to the proviso that a keyworker shall be absolved from this requirement on the completion of five years satisfactory tenancy.
- (e) That the granting of keyworker tenancy be subject to a condition requiring both the keyworker and his employer to inform the Council of the termination of a keyworker's employment within seven days of such termination.
- (f) That whenever possible, keyworkers be encouraged to purchase houses after temporary occupation of a Council house.

HOUSES GIVEN UP BY TENANTS
(Revised)

During the year under review, 36 tenancies were given up. This is five more than the number given up the previous year.

The total number includes 16 flats which became vacant upon the death of tenants, or because they were removed to residential homes, or elsewhere.

As the total "stock" of Council houses and flats increases we might expect the number of casual vacancies to increase, especially from old people's flats.

Houses and flats released since 1960

1960	-	17	
1961	-	29	
1962	-	20	
1963	-	32	(16 flats, 16 houses)
1964	-	35	(15 flats, 20 houses)
1965	-	44	(13 flats, 31 houses)
1966	-	38	(23 flats, 15 houses)
1967	-	25	(15 flats, 10 houses)
1968	-	27	(13 flats, 13 houses, 1 prefab)
1969	-	44	(28 flats, 15 houses, 1 prefab)
1970	-	31	(11 flats, 19 houses, 1 prefab)
1971	-	36	(16 flats, 16 houses, 3 prefabs, 1 bungalow)

Removal of applicants' names from the Housing Register

Applicants' names may be removed from the register when visits are made, and when there is a "postal check". When visited, some applicants are found to have moved without notifying change of address. Others are found to be adequately housed, and not in need of housing assistance by the Council.

In this way, the housing register is kept up-to-date and reliable. Very few applicants trouble to report change of addresses, or change of circumstances, unless it furthers their prospect of rehousing. To cut out the "dead wood", visiting and other means of checking the "waiting list" is essential.

HOUSING OF THE ELDERLY
(Revised)

Approximately two-thirds of the "waiting list" comprises elderly persons of whom there are several different types. They range from the physically capable, newly retired persons of about 65 years, to those in advanced old age often in the 80 to 90 age group.

The Council has a good record of providing accommodation for the aged. 313 flats have been constructed in post-war building programmes and there is now approximately one flat for every two houses.

Every effort is now made to enable old people to live independent lives in their own homes as long as that is possible. With a little outside help, such as is provided by the Kent County Council Domestic Help Service, they are often able to retain their independence until they reach a considerable age. W.R.V.S. Meals on Wheels Service is also of great assistance in this respect, and is supported by the Council.

To satisfy the housing needs of old people of varying physical capacity several different types of accommodation are needed. The Council constructs two bedroom flats for elderly couples; one bedroom and bed-sitting room flats are for elderly single persons. Many of these flats are constructed at, or near, existing housing estates which makes it more acceptable to the transfer of tenants from under-occupied houses when children have grown up and left home. Tenants have less objection to moving from houses to flats if they can stay in their own neighbourhood, or can be near the shops. The development at Queen Street includes 22 bed-sitting room flats, the first of their kind at Herne Bay.

Many two bedroom flats are occupied by widows whose husbands have died during the tenancy. This is criticised by some but the possession of a spare bedroom enables the widows to have friends and relatives stay for short periods. This helps to combat the loneliness and segregation which is so often a sad feature of old age. A spare room is also invaluable when there is sickness. The need is met at warden assisted accommodation by provision of "guest rooms".

68 flats built at Victoria Park and elsewhere in the early post-war years, now need some improvement. A scheme has been prepared and submitted to the Department of the Environment for loan sanction and possible grant assistance for the following improvements:-

1. Provision of central heating by use of off-peak electricity to replace coal fires which some tenants are not able to cope with.
2. Provision of additional electric outlet sockets for use of electrical appliances.
3. Provision of doors at the top of staircases to exclude draught and prevent heat loss with the added advantage of increased safety, and convenience in reducing use of the staircase.

4. Sound proofing of floors.

5. Provision of immersion heaters for hot water.

Flats with Warden Assistance

Those in advanced old age require accommodation where they can retain their independence but not live in isolation. Warden assisted flats are the splendid answer to this problem.

The Council's first attempt to satisfy this kind of housing need was at 139 Canterbury Road, which is a large house purchased by the Council and converted into six 2 room flats. An adjoining house, No. 141 Canterbury Road, was later purchased by the Council for a similar type of conversion.

Thermal storage heaters have been installed in halls, and upon landings, and are to be installed in each flat in 1972. Warmth is so necessary for old people and some tenants are no longer able to cope with coal fires.

There is a direct telephone line with the warden at Redgates who has an interest in the twelve tenants of these flats as well as those at Redgates. There is another direct telephone line with tenants of Council flats near Eddington Arch.

Redgates, Canterbury Road (Revised)

In 1967 I was pleased to be able to report the completion of the first purpose-built warden assisted scheme known as "Redgates", Canterbury Road. Upon the site of a former nursery, the Council then constructed 30 flats and a most attractive communal room. The scheme was officially opened on 16th September, 1967, by the Chairman of the Kent County Council. Mrs. Bridger was appointed as resident warden.

In 1970, an additional block of ten flats and five bungalows was completed upon land subsequently acquired adjacent to the main scheme.

This provides a total of 40 warden assisted flats and five bungalows. One flat is occupied by the resident warden. Some of the flats are bed-sitting rooms, and others have an additional room, separate bathroom and separate W.C. The former are for single persons, and the latter for couples. The new development includes a separate water closet specially designed for the use of disabled persons.

The flats are contained in four separate buildings each named after trees at the suggestion of their residents, viz. Ash Lodge, Birch Lodge, Cedar Lodge and Elm Lodge. Each "Lodge" has its own separate laundry and guest room furnished by the Council. There are showers as well as conventional type baths. The comfortable, well appointed, communal room was equipped with night storage heaters in 1970, and a new television set was provided as a generous gift of the Herne Parochial Charities. It has a library equipped with books supplied by the Public Library and changed frequently.

Other improvements during 1971 include the installation of wall heaters in six bathrooms previously without sufficient means of heating. Two additional seats were provided in the garden by the generosity of one of the residents, Mr. E. Jempson, as a memorial to his late wife. The provision of two lock-up garages is under consideration for disabled persons cars.

Future Development

Land has been acquired at King Edward Avenue for construction of the second warden assisted scheme. By the end of the year under review, the Architect had been instructed to produce suggested layout plans for the development of the site. It is hoped that construction work can commence before the end of 1972.

I have long advocated the inclusion of a warden assisted scheme upon the north side of Churchill Avenue when this prefab estate is redeveloped in 1975. I can envisage this as a mixed development with the warden assisted scheme overlooking the open country at the rear, but having a front aspect upon a lively "street scene". Nearness to shops etc. is another advantage of this site.

Help the Aged Housing Association

A warden assisted scheme by the "Help the Aged" Society is likely to materialise at Canterbury Road near Eddington Arch. For 20 years after completion of the scheme the Council will have the right to nominate tenants.

Councillor Waddington's Proposals

Councillor Waddington has proposed a warden assisted scheme intended to be financed by private persons, especially those who occupy houses and bungalows which they own, but are no longer able to maintain for various reasons associated with old age.

The scheme would need to be sponsored by the Council and the Department of the Environment is interested.

Housing Societies

The Housing Act 1964 gives strong support to Housing Societies in their non-profit making work of providing houses for those who do not seek house ownership. Housing Societies do not compete with local authorities which are asked to give them all possible assistance. At Herne Bay there is at present one Housing Society, viz. the Abbeyfield (Herne Bay) Society which has a house at Station Road adapted for occupation as six flats, and another with similar accommodation at Victoria Park.

The Abbeyfield Society tenant is supplied with two meals and half a pint of milk each day. This is a great help to those who have difficulty in shopping and preparing meals. It is an aspect of welfare which goes beyond any provision made by the Council at its warden assisted accommodation.

Adequacy of Proposed Warden Assisted Schemes

The prospect of future warden assisted schemes at Herne Bay should not give the impression that the Council may risk "overdoing" the provision of this kind of accommodation.

There are a large number of residents in the elderly population of Herne Bay who need warden assisted accommodation and as far ahead as one can see this need will not be satisfied.

Herne Bay is lagging behind Canterbury, Bridge Blean and Whitstable in the amount of warden assisted accommodation so far provided.

Visiting Warden

The Council cannot hope to provide all elderly tenants with warden assisted accommodation. For this reason it was decided to appoint a warden to visit elderly tenants, and help in the many ways that are necessary to enable them to continue to live in their own homes.

Mrs. Cooper was appointed Visiting Warden in 1969 and this appointment has proved to be highly successful. Mrs. Cooper has a moped so she is able to visit all tenants over 65 years of age wherever they may reside at Council houses or flats in Herne Bay.

Frequency of her visits depends upon the needs of particular tenants and the kind of support they require. Some require considerable support and others very little, as yet.

At the end of 1971 there were 177 single tenants, and 63 married couples over the age of 65 years. These are all on the "visiting list". The kind of support which is available from the visiting warden is set out in a guide prepared for her assistance. A copy is available to any persons who are interested in this latest "welfare" development.

At the November meeting of the Public Health and Housing Committee it was decided to recommend the appointment of a second visiting warden to cope with the increasing number of elderly tenants, and the increasing needs resulting from advancing age.

This second appointment seems likely to be approved by the Kent County Council, and it could be made in 1972.

RENTS AND HOUSING SUBSIDIES

With the exception of a small rate subsidy for flats at Redgates, the rents of Council houses and flats at Herne Bay are not subsidised from the local rates. A local rates subsidy of general application was withdrawn early in 1956.

In past years Government subsidies received for slum clearance, and single bedroom flats erected for general purposes, have been pooled to arrive at a uniform basis of rent calculation for each dwelling. This pooling device has enabled new houses

and flats to be let at rents considerably lower than the economic rent which would result from the high cost of building, high cost of land, and the prevailing high interest rates.

In future there will be an entirely different rent structure for Council dwellings based upon what is considered to be the "fair rent" of each dwelling.

With the introduction of a system of "fair rents" a rent rebate scheme will be required to operate. At Herne Bay a rent rebate scheme will commence in April 1972 - before the introduction of "fair rents".

This will necessitate the formation of a new sub-section of the Department of the Treasurer and Accountant for which additional staff will be required. This sub-section will also be required in future years to deal with calculation and payment of "rent allowances" to qualifying tenants of privately rented houses of which there are approximately 1,500 at Herne Bay. Rents are reviewed periodically; in the inflationary conditions of the past few years they have had to be reviewed annually.

In the autumn of 1970 the subject of "fair rents" and rent increases was discussed at several meetings of the Public Health and Housing Committee. Reports were submitted by the Council's Treasurer and Accountant upon the Government White Paper and the Housing Finance Bill. It was ultimately decided to increase rents fairly substantially in April 1972, and at the same time to introduce a rent rebate scheme to assist tenants in the lower income group.

It may not be possible to calculate a new "fair rent" for each Council dwelling until mid 1972. "Fair rents", when introduced, will be accompanied by phased increases over a period of years. In the meantime, the following rent increases will operate from April 1972:-

Rents to apply on 1st April, 1972
(Rates are not included in these figures)

Pre-War Dwellings

4 Bedroom Houses

Rent £4.76 increase £1.10

3 Bedroom Houses

Rents range from £3.04 to £3.76 per week
increases from £0.70 to £0.87 per week.

Temporary Bungalows

2 bedroom prefabs rent £2.43 per week increase
£0.56 per week.

Post-War Dwellings

4 Bedroom Houses

Rents range from £4.29 to £4.82 per week
increases from £0.99 to £1.11 per week.

3 Bedroom Houses

Rents range from £3.39 to £4.11 per week
increases from £0.78 to £0.95 per week.

2 Bedroom Houses

Rents range from £3.04 to £3.51 per week
increases from £0.70 to £0.81 per week.

Flats Elizabeth Court

3 Bedroom Flats

Rents £4.29 per week increase £0.99 per week.

2 Bedroom Flats

Rents £3.72 per week increase £0.86 per week.

Bed-sitting room Flats

Rents £2.15 per week increase £0.50 per week.

Flats elsewhere (without warden assistance)

2 Bedroom Flats

Rents range from £3.04 to £3.22 per week
increases from £0.20 to £0.74 per week.

1 Bedroom Flats

Rents £2.51 per week increase £0.58 per week.

Warden Assisted Accommodation

Flats and Bungalows at Redgates

Rents range from £2.11 to £2.86 per week
increases from £0.49 to £0.66 per week.

Flats at 139/141 Canterbury Road

Rents range from £1.29 to £2.08 per week
increases from £0.30 to £0.48 per week.

Other Properties (12)

Rents range from £3.39 to £3.94 per week
increases from £0.50 to £0.91 per week.

UNDER-OCCUPATION AT COUNCIL HOUSES
(Revised)

Dealing with under-occupation is a continuous process of transferring tenants from houses to flats when their children have grown up and left home. It is limited only by the accommodation available to effect transfers. Some tenants are eager to move to new flats, others can be persuaded with a little patience.

The Council meets the reasonable removal expenses of tenants who give up larger Council houses, and move to smaller accommodation at the Housing Manager's request. This is a considerable help in securing the movement which is desired.

The Council adopted the following policy upon the recommendation of the Public Health and Housing Committee:-

- (a) That it is considered to be the duty of the Council to ensure that none of the houses or flats under its control are seriously under-occupied;
- (b) that tenants of under-occupied premises be encouraged to transfer to smaller accommodation when such accommodation is available;
- (c) that when such transfers take place the Council pay the reasonable cost of removal (present maximum £12);
- (d) that the compulsory transfer of tenants to smaller accommodation will be required if necessary. It is hoped that this distasteful course will be avoided by voluntary agreement. (Compulsory transfer has been necessary in one case only.)

During 1971, two tenants voluntarily transferred from under-occupied houses to small flats.

There are known to be several Council houses which are under-occupied. Offers will be made to their elderly tenants when more flats are available. There are also many elderly applicants upon the general waiting list. It must be remembered that when a flat is used for transfer of a tenant from an under-occupied Council house, it is at the expense of the selected elderly applicant on the general waiting list who may have urgent need of rehousing. It is, therefore, important to maintain a fair balance in the use of available flats.

PREVENTION OF OVERCROWDING AT COUNCIL HOUSES
(Revised)

To maintain reasonable living standards a three bedroom Council house is not suitable for a family of more than five persons. A two bedroom house is not suitable for more than four persons - only three persons if children are of different sexes and are above 10 years of age. This is above the legal minimum standard for overcrowding which is very low.

To avoid overcrowding the best use has to be made of four bedroom houses. There are now 29 of these, as one more four bedroom house was constructed during 1971.

At No. 18 Stanley Gardens a ground floor back addition room has been constructed at a cost of £450. This is a cheap method of providing an additional room for a larger family not able to afford the rent of a new four bedroom house. There are 13 other houses at Stanley Gardens at which similar additional rooms can be constructed. These will be provided with the assistance of improvement grants which have been sanctioned by the Ministry.

The additional rent for the extra room is quite modest.

Recreation Facilities at Council Housing Estates

In previous Annual Reports I have referred to the serious lack of recreation facilities at Greenhill. A play area equipped with swings, etc. for small children was provided in 1967 by the curtailment of tenants' gardens at Rowland Drive.

A similar play area is necessary at the Sea Street Estate. I have recommended the use of land at the rear of houses at Claremont Street where extended gardens can be curtailed without hardship.

Improvements and Installations by Tenants

Applications of this nature are dealt with by the Housing Manager. During the year six tenants were given permission to carry out improvements at their own expense.

There is a condition that damage must be made good, or that the fixed appliance, or other improvement, must remain at the termination of the tenancy. In this way, water heaters, sink units, modern fireplaces, central heating, etc. have been installed by tenants at no expense to the Council.

Tenants at Grand Drive houses have been given permission to erect white painted ranch type front fences and gates at their own expense. The result is quite attractive, and relieves the Council of the responsibility to maintain grass forecourts at these houses.

Sub-letting at Council Houses (Revised)

The Council makes a charge of £0.30 per week for permitted sub-letting at Council houses, and £0.20 per week in respect of lodgers, where permitted. Permission is not given if overcrowding would result.

No charge is made in respect of aged parents living with sons and daughters with no income other than a pension from the Ministry of Social Security.

The levy of separate charges of this kind may be discontinued when the "fair rent" system is introduced. At the time of producing this report the position was uncertain.

GARAGES AND CAR PARKING AT COUNCIL HOUSES
(Revised)

The parking of cars is a growing problem which can be met at Council housing estates only by constructing hardstandings and garages.

Roads upon housing estates are often packed with cars at night, increasing the difficulties of doctors, ambulances, and fire service vehicles should these be needed. Where there is "open front" development cars are sometimes parked upon front lawns and forecourts with consequent damage to lawns and to the general amenities of the neighbourhood. Night inspection is required to control this misuse of open areas.

It is now a planning requirement that sufficient space is allowed for car parking at new dwellings. 51 communal parking places are marked out, numbered, and let to tenants at a rent of £0.13 per week, including rates. Other communal parking sites have not been let because it is not possible to control their use.

There are conditions which apply when permission is given to a tenant to erect a garage at his own expense. This includes the option to purchase by the Council upon termination of a tenancy.

The most satisfactory solution, however, is the provision by the Council of garages which are let to tenants at rents which will cover loan repayments and rates. This, at present, amounts to £0.75 per week, including rates.

The building of garages by the Council is likely to result in a better overall appearance of a housing estate than could result from an assortment of tenants' garages of different materials, types and designs.

64 lock-up garages have been constructed at various Council estates including Greenhill, Sea Street and Elizabeth Court. Individual garages have now been constructed at 89 houses.

There remains a "waiting list" of 20 applications from tenants for construction of individual garages. These will be provided when further loan sanction can be obtained.

Progress was made with the acquisition of land to provide parking and garage facilities for tenants of the sixteen houses at Sweechbridge Road, Hillborough, where the serious lack of such facilities results in misuse of grass forecourts.

Consideration was also given to the possibility of providing facilities for tenants at Margate Road, Broomfield.

Lock-up garages should be constructed only when it is impossible to construct an individual garage at each dwelling house. Individual garages can be let together with the houses and there need be no rent "voids", except on change of tenancy.

Lock-up garages are too easy to give up. When money is wanted for something else the car stands on the street and the lock-up garage stands vacant. Loan repayments have to continue upon garages which are not earning revenue. Fortunately, there have been very few lock-up garages which have not been quickly relet when vacant. A "waiting list" is kept, and when vacancies are not taken up by the Council's tenants they are advertised and let to other residents. Nine garages and nine parking spaces were relet during the year.

Cycle Stores (Revised)

Cycle stores are provided at a weekly rental at flats where no storage accommodation has been provided. These neat cedar wood stores fulfil a need to prevent the cluttering of common entrances, and damage to decorations which otherwise results. The cost is covered by the rent, now £0.10 per week.

Cycle stores are also provided as an "optional extra" at pre-war Council housing estates. Houses upon these estates are without brickbuilt stores.

144 cycle sheds have so far been provided at flats and pre-war houses, 6 of these during 1971.

POULTRY KEEPING AT COUNCIL HOUSES

Regulations continue in force for the control of poultry keeping by Council tenants. Cockerels are prohibited and not more than six hens can be kept at a Council house. Hen houses are required to be constructed according to a standard design.

The regulations, and standard hen houses, are intended to ensure that poultry is not kept so as to become an unsightly nuisance. This can so easily happen when poultry keeping is unrestricted. Very few tenants now keep poultry, but the number could increase with a rise in the cost of eggs.

COUNCIL HOUSE GARDENS COMPETITION

This is intended to encourage tenants to cultivate attractive gardens. The first prize is a Silver Challenge Cup held for one year by the tenant having the best front and back garden. The holder also receives a cheque for three guineas, and a gift voucher value one guinea. There are second and third prizes in that class and a further two prizes for houses with back gardens only.

There is a separate competition for the gardens of 14 G.L.C. bungalows at Herne Bay for which a prize is presented by the G.L.C.

Interest in these competitions has diminished since the judging procedure changed. It became too big a task to inspect all gardens so the competition is confined to the gardens of tenants who make an application to enter.

Neglected Gardens

Neglected gardens are dealt with after a routine inspection in early summer. Occasionally it is necessary to cut down weeds etc. in default of a tenant who may have to meet the cost. This has resulted in a reduction of the number of neglected gardens at Council houses.

In the summer of 1971 it was necessary to write to a small number of tenants whose gardens were neglected and overgrown. Four of these were subsequently dealt with by the Council.

Where there are no front boundary walls, the grass forecourts are maintained by the Council and the cost met by the Council's tenants as a whole.

REPAIRS AND DECORATION AT COUNCIL HOUSES AND FLATS (Revised)

This is the responsibility of the Council's Surveyor. Direct labour is employed, except for some outside painting put out to contract.

All requests for repairs, etc. are channelled to the Public Health and Housing Department. Some of these are received via the rent collectors. In this way, tenants' requests are checked before the Surveyor is asked to issue works orders.

The system has the advantage of "weeding out" requests, many of which are of a trivial nature. Tenants are encouraged to deal with these themselves if possible. Some are remedied by the Health Department general assistant making the check.

Interior redecoration is the responsibility of tenants, except those who are unable to cope with it on account of old age or infirmity.

When a house or flat becomes vacant any necessary repairs and redecoration are carried out by the Council before reletting.

Towards the end of the year the Housing Revenue Account was found to have an unexpected surplus which it was decided to utilise in carrying out some much needed minor improvements which had been deferred for lack of finance. The work to be undertaken and completed before 31st March, 1972, includes replacement of obsolete baths at houses in Dering Road, Spenser Road and at Margate Road, Broomfield. Other works include provision of sink units, and the tiling of concrete floors of kitchens and entrance halls at some of these houses.

The Surveyor reported upon replacement boilers, and the need to retile the roofs of certain houses at Dering Road.

A chimney stack at Greenhill was demolished when struck by lightning.

Fuel Storage

At Victoria Park and elsewhere, there are flats with small inside fuel stores having access from kitchens. This is a dusty inconvenient arrangement, especially during coal delivery. It is now the policy to provide external concrete coal bunkers at such flats when vacancies occur. The former internal fuel stores are converted to broom cupboards. Many elderly tenants no longer use solid fuel.

Special Adaptations at Council houses and flats

Some houses and flats have been specially adapted in minor respects to make it possible for disabled persons to continue to live in their own homes with some degree of independence. Ramps for wheel chairs, widening of door openings, provision of shelves etc. at a manageable level, are all examples of the kind of adaptation that has been effected.

Two tenants have had both legs amputated and are managing to continue to live at their own homes.

At two Council houses rooms have been adapted for installation of kidney machines provided by the Royal Free Hospital to enable two young people to receive treatment at home. Cost of works of adaptation was met by the Kent County Council. The Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act is concerned with many welfare aspects of this kind and is administered by the Kent County Council as welfare authority.

DEPOSIT SYSTEM

A deposit of £3 is now payable upon commencement of a tenancy. At the termination of a tenancy, the deposit is returned to the tenant subject to the dwelling being in good order. This encourages tenants to replace broken glass, missing keys, and other matters for which they are responsible under their tenancy agreements. Some tenants leave considerable quantities of unwanted furniture for the Council to remove.

PREFABRICATED TEMPORARY BUNGALOWS

There are 49 prefabricated bungalows at Churchill Avenue and at Eddington. The bungalows were supplied and erected by the Ministry of Works in 1946. They were considered to have a "life" of 10 years, but have continued to be usefully occupied for 25 years. Deterioration is increasing and maintenance has become expensive.

A policy decision concerning the future of these bungalows had become necessary and a recommendation was adopted to cease their use by 1975.

As that date approaches, bungalows which become vacant will not be relet. In the meantime, any repair works which are necessary will be considered in relation to the limited remaining "life" of the bungalow. In due course, proposals will be submitted for the redevelopment of the two sites.

I continue to hope that it will be possible to include in the redevelopment plan the provision of another scheme for warden assisted accommodation. This site for a third scheme would have the advantage of level ground and nearby shops.

Coastguard Cottages, Reculver

These cottages are owned by the Ministry of Public Works and Buildings. Ultimately they will be demolished for they are within the Roman Wall and the sites are needed for archaeological excavation. They have been transferred to the control of the Herne Bay Council on a 15 year lease at a nominal rent. Cost of works of repair and improvement will be recovered in rents during the 15 year period.

Since transfer to the Council, improvement works have been carried out to provide standard amenities. For this purpose three cottages were converted into two improved cottages with separate bathrooms and internal water closets.

Greater London Council - Housing at Herne Bay (Revised)

The Greater London Council has purchased 14 bungalows at Herne for renting to tenants of G.L.C. under-occupied houses urgently required for families in the London area. The bungalows are managed by the Herne Bay Urban District Council.

Work has commenced upon another G.L.C. scheme at the site of the former St. Annes Home. Here a block of 41 flats is to be constructed for the same purpose as the bungalows at Streetfield - the transfer of tenants from London to release under-occupied houses. These, too, will probably be managed by the Herne Bay Council or its successor.

SALE OF COUNCIL HOUSES

The sale of Council houses to their tenants was again under consideration at the end of the year, but no decision was reached.

This subject is to be further considered in 1972.

OTHER SERVICES ETC. ADMINISTERED

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Staffing, cleansing, and amangement of the Council's Public Conveniences are under the control of the Public Health Department.

Public Conveniences provided by the Council (with facilities for men and women)

Open all the Year

Clock Tower
Parade (at Pier Entrance)
William Street
Beltinge
Herne
Memorial Park
Hampton (opposite Hampton Inn)
Sea Street (completed 1971)
Kings Hall

Open each Summer and closed in Winter

St. Georges (west of Pier)
Hampton Pleasure Grounds (completed 1969)
West Cliff Shelters
East Cliff Cafe
One Hundred Steps

Conveniences at Licensed Premises (open all year with facilities for men only)

Railway Hotel, Station Road
Prince of Wales, Mortimer Street
Queens Hotel, Canterbury Road

These are available for public use and are cleansed by the Council.

Programme for new Building and Improvement (Revised)

The Tower Conveniences for men and women are to be replaced. The men's conveniences are out of date, underground, and are expensive to maintain. They are exposed to the risk of sea water flooding during heavy seas and this can be most destructive. The women's conveniences are slightly less objectionable and above ground but these, too, are out of date.

It is proposed to incorporate new conveniences in a comprehensive redevelopment upon the same site. Provision is made for this in Capital Estimates proposals for the financial year 1973/74.

Fluorescent lighting is to be installed at all public conveniences now lit by tungsten lamps. "Dingy" lighting encourages vandalism and it is hoped that better lighting will help with that problem.

Upon the recommendation of the Public Health and Housing Committee the need for new conveniences with washing facilities at the Cemetery was approved. The Surveyor is to prepare a suitable scheme.

New conveniences, including washing facilities, have been constructed at the General Market opened in June. These are intended primarily for the use of traders but it is impossible to exclude the public.

Improvements Completed

Since the end of the war conveniences have been constructed at Herne and at William Street. Other conveniences have been improved. In July 1966, new conveniences at Beltinge were completed and opened for use by the public. These were constructed by the Council's Surveyor using direct labour. In 1971 a close boarded fence was erected at a boundary to safeguard the privacy of those who occupy adjoining premises.

In 1968 conveniences at Kings Hall were much improved and redesigned with independent outside access to separate facilities. These can be used independently and when the Kings Hall is closed which overcomes a previous difficulty.

At Hampton Pleasure Grounds a cafe with adjacent public conveniences was completed early in 1969. A specially constructed toilet for disabled persons is included in this development.

The original Hampton conveniences have been enlarged and improved by incorporating adjacent shelters. This work was carried out by direct labour and was completed in 1970.

At Sea Street (junction with Fleetwood Avenue) conveniences for men and women were also completed in 1970.

Washing Facilities

At all of the larger public conveniences free washing facilities, with paper towel and soap, are available. Additional wash basins have been installed for hand rinsing so as to avoid interfering with the normal wash and brush-up facilities.

At the smaller conveniences wash basins are installed wherever possible. These free facilities have brought about an enormous increase in the use of washing facilities. There are slipper baths at two conveniences, one for men and the other for women. A small charge is made for their use.

Provision of free hand washing facilities at public conveniences as "standard practice" is now encouraged by the Government in Ministry of Housing and Local Government in Circular 15/65. The Minister also urges local authorities to ensure that public conveniences are "bright and clean with a high standard of maintenance".

Design of Public Conveniences with facilities for the disabled -
Circular 33/68 (Revised)

This Circular includes a diagram showing a suggested arrangement to accommodate a disabled person with a wheel chair. In addition to the disabled person's toilet at Hampton Pleasure Grounds, work upon another at William Street was about to commence at the end of the year under review.

The sum of £500 has been allowed in the estimates for 1972/73 for construction of a disabled person's toilet at St. Georges Shelters.

The future programme includes three more, one at the Central Bandstand, one at Beltinge, and another at Herne.

Staffing and Cleaning

There are now more cleaners and less attendants. Full staffing with attendants is arranged only in the summer season at the larger conveniences; smaller conveniences are maintained by visiting cleaners to avoid the expense of employing whole-time attendants. During the winter all conveniences which remain open are maintained by visiting cleaners. In this way the wages bill for cleaners and attendants has been kept to a minimum.

Securing seasonal staff for the conveniences has become a problem which increases the difficulties of providing a satisfactory service at reasonable cost.

In July 1969, the Department took delivery of a small van to facilitate cleaning by visiting cleaners, a man and a woman. This has proved most successful and has made it possible to cleanse conveniences more frequently; some are now visited twice or three times each day for cleansing etc.

Personal Weighing Machines

Thirteen weighing machines installed in 1958 at a cost of £552 were withdrawn, and replaced by ten new machines in the spring of 1970 at a cost of £830. The thirteen obsolete machines had taken a total of £3,015 by the end of 1969 when they were withdrawn.

Receipts from Public Conveniences (Revised)

When turnstiles were removed in 1963 they were replaced by coin locks at most of the larger conveniences. Where coin locks are fitted it is the practice to leave one free water closet for each sex.

Conveniences cannot be self-supporting and any receipts should be regarded as a contribution towards their cost and maintenance. The revenue from weighing machines, etc. helps to increase that contribution. There has been a substantial reduction in revenue since turnstiles were removed. During the year all coin locks were converted to decimal coinage.

Conveniences at Licensed Premises

At three licensed premises there is an arrangement between the Council and the Brewers for outside urinals and water closets to be available for use by the general public. The Council is responsible for water supply, lighting and daily cleansing of these conveniences. Water supply is now more expensive. Since 1st January, 1965, it has been separately metered at each convenience.

Vandalism at Public Conveniences

I cannot yet report anything new on this subject. Wanton destruction by the maniac minority continues with monotonous regularity. It is difficult to detect the culprits. On a rare occasion when culprits were traced there was a plea that the damage was accidental.

PET ANIMALS ACT (Revised)

This Act came into operation upon the 1st April, 1952. It prohibits the keeping of a pet shop, except under the authority of a licence granted by the Council.

In deciding whether to grant a licence, the Council has to be satisfied with the accommodation in a number of specified respects intended to secure the well-being of the animals.

Licences were granted by the Council permitting the keeping of pet animal shops at three premises, and by one stallholder in the General Market.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

This Act had effect on 1st January, 1964. It provides for the licensing of boarding establishments for animals. Licences are valid for one year and a fee of £2 is payable for each licence granted.

Section 3 of the Act provides:-

In determining whether to grant a licence for the keeping of a boarding establishment for animals a Local Authority shall have regard to the need for securing:-

- (a) That the accommodation is suitable;
- (b) that animals will be adequately fed, supplied with drink, exercised, and visited;
- (c) that precautions will be taken to prevent spread of diseases and against fire or other emergencies;
- (d) that a register of animals shall be kept.

The Local Authority is empowered to specify such conditions in the licence as may appear to be necessary for securing the above objects which are clearly intended for the protection and well-being of animals at boarding establishments.

Three applications for licences were granted in the year under review.

RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1964 and 1970 (Revised)

The principal Act came into operation on 1st April, 1965. It provides that no person shall keep a riding establishment except under a licence granted by the local Council. The licence is renewable annually and a fee of £10 is now payable. Before granting a licence, the Council has to obtain a report from a veterinary surgeon. One application was received and a licence was granted.

The object of the Act is to ensure the well-being and welfare of the horses. Before granting a licence seven specific aspects of animal welfare have to be considered by the Council, together with any recommendations of the veterinary surgeon.

The Act of 1970 gives local authorities additional powers with respect to Riding Establishments and amends the principal Act.

PETROLEUM (Revised)

There are now 37 petroleum spirit stores at Herne Bay licensed annually under the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928. Licensing fees, upon a graduated scale, are payable to the Council for a total storage capacity of 120,000 gallons. One licence was transferred to new owners.

Licences now operate from 1st April instead of 1st January of each year. This alteration met the request of the Fire Brigade. Before renewal of licences the Fire Prevention Officer inspects all petroleum spirit stores and submits recommendations which are incorporated as a condition of relicensing. This most helpful service is much appreciated.

The Chief Public Health Inspector is responsible, as Petroleum Officer, for supervising new petroleum storage installations including the testing of tanks.

National Association to improve Petroleum Acts Administration

In 1958 five local authorities in the Midlands formed an Association to standardise the administration of Petroleum Acts and Regulations. This Association has proved its usefulness and has been of considerable assistance in the advancement of technical knowledge and the interchange of information.

The Herne Bay Urban District Council joined the Midland group soon after its formation. The objects of the group have been so universally accepted that the group has been developed to become a National Association for Petroleum Acts Administration.

A quarterly bulletin is published. It contains a wealth of useful information concerning events at various parts of the country.

Codes of Practice have been prepared, also a model code of licence conditions. A form of licence based upon the model code is now in use at Herne Bay.

Basically, the object of the Association is to ensure, as far as possible, the safety in the use and storage of highly dangerous materials.

Petroleum Spirit - Testing of Underground Tanks

Petrol tanks known to have been 20 years or more in use are now tested by nitrogen to ensure freedom from leakage. Fifteen old tanks have been tested during recent years; seven of these were found to leak. Those were either replaced or rendered harmless by filling in.

OIL HEATERS REGULATIONS 1962-1966

In September 1962, upon the request of the Law and Finance Committee, the Public Health and Housing Committee accepted responsibility for the administration of these Regulations.

The principal regulations of 1962 require every oil heater to bear a warning. Shops where oil heaters are exposed for sale have to be visited from time to time to examine heaters to ensure that they bear the following prescribed warnings:-

- (a) Against using petrol as fuel therein.
- (b) Against carrying the heater when alight.
- (c) Against using the heater in unventilated places.
- (d) Against using the heater where it may be exposed to draughts.
- (e) Against placing the heater where it may be knocked over.

The warnings have to be set out in legible and durable characters and displayed either upon the heater itself or upon a durable label stoutly affixed to it.

Other requirements of the principal regulations have to do with standard of performance, fuel temperature, stability, prevention of spillage, flame flashback, fire risk, draught resistance, etc.

Regulations issued in 1966 have the effect of making the principal regulations apply to all oil heaters offered for sale whether new or second hand, and irrespective of their date of manufacture.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS REGULATIONS 1971
(Revised)

These Regulations supersede those of 1961 and 1965. They extend the provisions of previous Regulations to include additional filling materials which are required to comply with legal standards of cleanliness. These filling materials are used in the upholstery trade and now include:-

- (i) Rubberised hair and fibre.
- (ii) Rubberised or resin-bonded felt.
- (iii) Cellular rubber and cellular plastics crumb.
- (iv) All kinds of wood fillings, including wood shavings, sawdust and wood wool (new or used).

Occupiers of premises using prescribed filling materials and manufacturers of such premises are required to be registered, or licensed, and must keep records in prescribed form.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 1964

This Act came into force on 1st April, 1965. It requires every local authority to maintain a register of persons carrying on business in their area as scrap metal dealers.

Registration is automatically cancelled at the end of a period of 3 years, unless application is received for renewal. Dealers have to keep records of all scrap metal received or disposed of. It is quite clearly an Act which is designed to assist the police in tracing stolen metal. It is not a public health measure.

Two dealers are now registered under the Act.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

TO DWELLING HOUSES FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PURPOSES

For repair, closure, or demolition of unfit houses	312
" improvement grants and for area improvement	392
" issue of Qualification Certificates	37
" abatement of overcrowding and multi-occupation	16
" complaints of sub-standard holiday accommodation . .	4
" remedy of dirty conditions	19
" provision of dustbins at private dwellings	59
" water samples to submit for examination	2
" complaints of flooded basements	6
" enquiry concerning infectious disease and food poisoning	69
" disinfection of rooms and bedding	3
" choked and defective drainage and drain testing . . .	302
" destruction of vermin and insect pests	152
" abatement of nuisances from keeping of animals	5
" " " " " noise	36
" " " " " smoke	2
" " " other nuisances and public health purposes	151
" cleansing of a pond	10
" removal of accumulations from land and premises . . .	21

TO DWELLING HOUSES FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT

To inspect housing applicants' living conditions	327
" inspect Council houses when vacant and also to deal with requests for repairs, improvements, etc.	2,182
" provide garages, hardstandings and cycle sheds	12
" deal with tenants' neglected gardens	10
" make land available for new housing development . . .	25

TO FOOD PREMISES

For enforcement of food hygiene regulations	584
" sampling of food, ice cream, etc.	22

TO VARIOUS OTHER PREMISES

Shops Act Referendum for six day trading	264
For compliance with provisions of Shops Act 1950	34
" compliance with Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	158
" control of caravan sites and gypsy caravans	45
" control of public conveniences	309
" destruction of rats and mice (including survey and sewers)	779
" inspection of factories and outworkers premises	15
" inspection of petroleum spirit stores for relicensing	16
" post-mortem examinations at public mortuary	108
" relicensing of Riding Establishments, Pet Shops and Animal Boarding Establishments	12
" suitability of nursing homes	4
" sanitation etc. at schools	3
" pest control etc. at Broomfield refuse tip	43
" arrangement of National Assistance Act burials	2
" miscellaneous purposes	13

SUMMARY OF DEFECTS REMEDIED AND IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED
(Does not relate to repairs at Council houses)

Unfit houses demolished	26
Unfit houses closed for human habitation	4
Houses previously classified as unfit, now made fit and Closing Orders revoked	3
Houses repaired and made fit for habitation (six resulted from statutory notices)	111
Houses where dirty conditions improved	6
Unsatisfactory holiday accommodation improved	1
Flooded cellars dealt with	3
Houses where overcrowding has been abated	4
Houses at which multi-occupation has been reduced or facilities improved	5
Houses improved with the aid of grants	55
Pre-war Council houses improved	10
Houses provided with dustbins	64
Choked drains cleared	180
Cesspool abolished and houses connected to the public sewer	7
Drains repaired, improved, or relaid	10
Smoke nuisances abated	8
Animal nuisances abated (includes 3 dead foxes and two dead dogs)	8
Noise nuisances abated	4
Nuisance from cellulose spraying abated	1
Nuisance from oil in a pond abated	1
Nuisance from trees obstructing natural light	1
Accumulations removed to prevent rat harbourage	8

DISINFESTATION

Premises treated for destruction of rats and mice ..	256
Wasp nests destroyed	57
Premises treated for destruction of cockroaches	5
Premises treated for destruction of ants (4), flies (2), fleas (7)	13
Premises treated for destruction of silver fish, spiders, red mite	3
Brown Tail Moth caterpillar infestation treated	1

Caravans and Licensed Sites

Sites at which there has been further conversion to separate drainage, etc. at each caravan	1
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Petroleum Spirit Stores

Licences granted	37
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FOOD PREMISES }
 AND OFFICES } - IMPROVEMENTS AND CONTRAVENTIONS
 AND SHOPS }

STRUCTURAL WORKS ETC.

Unsatisfactory food premises discontinued	1
Food premises cleansed and redecorated	21
Unsatisfactory food storage arrangements improved ..	2
Unsatisfactory ventilation improved ..	2
Unsatisfactory artificial lighting improved	9
Unsatisfactory refuse accommodation improved	1
Floors, ceilings, and wall surfaces repaired	11
Protective screening of fish display	1
Refrigerated stores improved or repaired	4
Handrail provided to staircase	1
Defective lifts made serviceable	4
W.C. required to be disconnected from food room	1

APPLIANCES AND UTENSILS ETC.

Unsatisfactory food utensils replaced or cleansed ..	2
Working surfaces renewed	3
Worn sinks replaced	1
Draining boards renewed	1
Hot water supplied to sinks	2
Water heaters repaired or renewed	3
Grease traps installed	1
Guard required for meat slicing machine	1
Treatment applied for destruction of cockroaches ...	2
Dog excluded from kitchen	1

FACILITIES FOR STAFF

Wash basins installed where required	5
Hot water supplied to wash basins	1
Soap, towels, and nail brushes supplied where deficient	4
First Aid boxes required or replenished	3

FOOD OFFENCES

Action taken as a result of the sale of unsound food:-

WARNING LETTERS IN RESPECT OF

Bread containing leg of cockroach.
Bread containing mould.
Bread containing piece of flour sacking.
Ham and Egg pie containing mould.
Steak and Kidney pie containing mould.
Packet of biscuits containing small stone.
Tin of stuffed Pork containing fly.
Bottle of school milk containing straw.
Milk in dirty bottle.

PROSECUTIONS TAKEN AND RESULT

Dirty conditions at bakery.
Grease in bread.

Fine and Costs \$350.

Metal in jar of mincemeat

Fine \$100.

Mouldy apple pies (2)

Fine \$100.

Prosecutions outstanding at end of 1971 to be taken in 1972

Mouldy Pasty.
Grease in Bread.
Nut Milk Chocolate containing grubs.
Metal in Cake.

NO ACTION TAKEN

Mouldy Marmalade.
Bourbod Biscuits.
Chopped Pork Kidneys

INTERVIEWS AT OFFICE
(With technical and office staff)

HOUSING MANAGEMENT

With tenants	1,040
With applicants	821
With Works Dept, etc. concerning repairs etc.	113
With Architect about new housing development	42

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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Improvement grants	467
Qualification Certificates	12
Rent Act	12
Infectious Disease enquiries	12
Food and food premises	52
Shops, Offices and Railway Premises Act	12

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Area Improvement	21
Bank Street Area	17
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Drainage	4
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Water Supply, Thornden Wood Road	2
Water Samples, Examination of	1

