[Report 1970] / Medical Officer of Health, Northwich U.D.C.

Contributors

Northwich (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1970

Persistent URL

https://wellcomecollection.org/works/dfq28rrw

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NORTHWICH



ACKA ST

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1970

by the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



Division Medical Officer, County Offices, Watling Street, NORTHWICH, Cheshire.



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NORTHWICH

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR 1970

Digitized by the Internet Archive in 2018 with funding from Wellcome Library

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NORTHWICH

HEALTH COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Councillor H.S. Mather, J.P., C.C.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

J.E. O'Malley, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments: The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health for Northwich Rural District Council, Winsford Urban District Council, Middlewich Urban District Council, Runcorn Urban District Council and Runcorn Rural District Council, and Divisional Medical Officer

Clerical Assistant

Mrs. S. Langston

(Services shared with other three Mid-Cheshire Districts)

Chief Public Health Inspector

T. Faines, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.Inst.M., Cert. R.S.I., Meat & Other Foods

Deputy Public Health Inspector

F. Johnson, Cert. R.S.I., Meat & Other Foods

Additional Public Health Inspector

K.H. Bailey, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., Cert.P.H.I.E.B., R.S.H.Dip., Meat & Other Foods, R.S.H.Dip., Smoke Inspection

Secretary - Mrs. M. McGowan

Clerical Assistant - Miss K.V. Oakes

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NORTHWICH

Telephone No. - County Offices,
Northwich 3961 Watling Street,
NORTHWICH,
Cheshire. pre-concernus conditions of the cervix at a time when alone

To: The Chairman and Members of the Northwich Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The past year has seen many important changes. The abolition of Divisional Health Committees resulted largely from the setting up of the new Social Services Department. Because of this the annual report to the Divisional Health Committee, previously included as an appendix to this report, will not now appear in the future.

The Divisional Health Committees had remained in being since the National Health Service was created in 1948 and it was with great reluctance that the County Health Committee agreed to their being disbanded. ____ dispared to the second to th

Another major change has been the setting up of the new Social Services Department. This meant the loss from the Health Department of the Mental Health Service, the Home Help Service and the Services for the Physically Handicapped and their transfer to the new Area Social Services Departments. Preparation for the setting up of the new department took place over very many months and involved the divisional health staff in much work preparing for the hand-over.

As a result of County Health Department policy, it has been necessary to fuse together existing divisions and to base divisional health administration on new combined divisions.

So far as the divisions of Runcorn and Mid-Cheshire are concerned, many administrative changes have taken place in order to create a single large division. Initially this meant the loss of one of my Divisional Administrative Assistants, Mr. W.R. Jones, and the assumption of the administration of both divisions by my Divisional Administrative Assistant, Mr. S.R. Large.

There has been an expansion at one administrative centre with a corresponding contraction to a sub-office at the other. These changes have, of course, led to uncertainties and inevitable changes of duties for the staff involved. So far as possible this major change was brought about with the minimum of trauma to the staff and my thanks are due to the divisional administrative and clerical staffs for their loyalty and support through what has undoubtedly been a time of considerable re-adjustment and re-orientation.

With regard to immunisation against infectious diseases, the outbreak of diphtheria in a nearby large city again emphasised the important lesson that mothers must make every effort to have their children immunised by accepting the invitations sent to them by the Health Department. Only in this way, by maintaining a high immunisation rate, can serious infectious diseases such as this be kept under control.

Measles immunisation has been recommenced now that the national supply has improved and this is to be welcomed as there is still mortality and considerable morbidity from the complications resulting from measles infection. The introduction of rubella vaccination for young adolescent girls is a great advance as this should prevent babies in subsequent generations being born with severe handicaps due to the mother contracting the disease during pregnancy.

The County scheme for computerised call up for cervical cystology commenced in September 1970 and the response to date has been encouraging. It is hoped that this screening programme will identify pre-cancerous conditions of the cervix at a time when treatment can effect a complete cure.

The work of the public health inspectorate is largely taken for granted by the public and I should emphasize the vital role which the inspectors play in the maintenance of high standards in the environmental side of public health.

Reference to later pages of the report indicate environmental health matters dealt with during the year and show the wide variety and importance of their work.

The investigation of food poisoning cases and excretors, the tracing and surveillance of typhoid and other infectious disease contacts has been a frequent part of their work. Continental holidays are now common and invariably this brings with it contact tracing and surveillance of such potentially serious infectious diseases as typhoid fever. Returning holiday makers not infrequently become either cases or contacts of this disease, especially if they have been to certain countries bordering the Mediterranean where purity of water supplies and clean food cannot always be guaranteed.

The latter highlights the important role of the public health inspectorate in the control of communicable diseases. Changes in the structure of local government at both first and second tier levels are imminent and in the re-organisation of local government and the health services it is vital that this important aspect of the control of communicable diseases will not be lost to sight.

My thanks are due to Mr. Baines your Chief Public Health Inspector and his staff for their loyalty and support, to the Clerk and the Chief Officers of the Council for their help and advice and to the Chairman and Members of the Committee for their constant co-operation.

I have the honour to be

Your Obedient Servant,

Administrative Assistants, Mr. W.S. Jones, reds

being the state of the first of the property of the state of

Medical Officer of Health

outbrook of diphthoria to a nearby large ofthe Agein carbonized the

October, 1971. Salisande of the ald al'year .toundangod diffed

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NORTHWICH

Telephone No. -Northwich 2334 -9 The Council House, Church Road, NORTHWICH, Cheshire.

To: The Chairman and Members of the Northwich Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In presenting this Annual Report for 1970 on the Environmental Health of the District, it is the first time I have written an introduction and since it is my 21st Annual Report to this Council, it would seem to be appropriate that I should make some comment covering more than this year.

It is necessary to emphasize that one Annual Report read in isolation does not give a true picture of any progress being made in a District. Public Health is not spectacular in its achievements over a short period, but if people are in a position to cast their minds back some 20/25 years and then compare the situation with present-day circumstances, the results can then be most illuminating.

I feel that Northwich Urban District Council can be proud of its improvements and credit cannot go to any one person or department, it is the result of combined and sustained team-work.

As Chief Public Health Inspector, I would like to thank my own staff, including the refuse workmen, for their support, other officers and their staffs and particularly the Council for the support they have given me and the confidence they have shown by that support.

Perhaps it is worthy of comment that Councillor H.S. Mather has been the Chairman of the Health Committee for over 21 years.

Finally, it has always been possible to work with complete compatability with the three Medical Officers of Health who have served this Authority over the past 21 years, and I hope when this report is read, it will be appreciated that it is very difficult to write something new each year on the same subject.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

Chief Public Health Inspector

y Barnes

ARRANGEMENT OF REPORT

			Pag	e N	08.
SECTION	I	-	GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS 1	_	3
			General Statistics Vital Statistics		
SECTION	II	-	HEALTH SERVICES		4
			Hospital Facilities General Practitioner Services Ambulance Service		
SECTION	III	-	NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 - 1951		5
SECTION	IV	-	PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES		6
			Notifications		
SECTION	V	-	SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA 7	-	18
SECTION	VI		Visits made by Public Health Department Water Supply Public Swimming Baths Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Closet Accommodation Refuse Collection Disposal of Refuse Canal Boats Licensed Caravan Sites Civic Amenities Act, 1967 Pest Control Rag, Flock & Other Fillings Materials Act, 1951 Pet Animals Act, 1951 Clean Air Act, 1956 Mortuary Factories Act, 1961 Shops Act, 1950 Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963 Common Lodging Houses Slum Clearance Individual Unfit Houses Improvement Grants Rent Act Council Houses INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD		23
SBOTTON			Milk Ice-Cream Cooked Meat Products Deep Freeze Facilities Food Premises, Food & Drugs Act, 1955 Slaughterhouses Act, 1958 Meat Inspection Condemnation of Meat Slaughtermen's Licences Food Hygiene Inspection of Establishments selling open food Condemnation of Food Bakehouses Other Foods		~

the letter of the second

SECTION I

GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS

(1) COMPARATIVE GENERAL STATISTICS

	Year	
	1969	1970
Population (estimated mid-year)	18,940	18,730
Area (acres of district)	2,636	2,636
Rateable Value of area as at 1.4.70.	£1,593,404	£1,582,018
Product of a Penny Rate (estimated)	£6,550	\$6,343
Number of inhabited dwellings	6,529	6,570

Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	142	119	261
Illegitimate	10	7	17
	152	126	278
			England & Wales
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population		14.8	
Corrected Live Birth Rate per 1,000 p	opulation	15.7	16.0
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of	total birt	hs 6.0	
	Males	Females	Total
Still Births	2	3	5
Live and Still Births	154	129	283
Still Birth Rate -			
per 1,000 total live and still births		18.0	13.0
Deaths of Infants Under 1 year of age	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	5	2	7
Illegitimate	mul-troub	70 0-100E	-
	5	2	7

Infant Mortality Rates		England & Wales
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births	25.0	18.0
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks) per 1,000 total live births	11.0	12.0
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week) per 1,000 total live births	7.0	11.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	25.0	23.0
Deaths due to Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	Nil	MIN-91
Deaths Males Females	Total	
All Causes 128 138	266	
Death Rate per 1,000 population	14.2	
* Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 population (Comparability Factor 1.01)	14.3	11.7

^{*}NOTE: The corrected birth and death rates are those which are obtained when the crude local rates are adjusted to make allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales. The corrected rates are comparable with the crude rates for England and Wales, and the corresponding adjusted rates for any other area.

Causes of Death

			Males	Females	Total
1.	Enteritis and Other	Diarrhoel Diseases	1	1	2
2.	Other Infective and	Parasitic Diseases	-	1	1
3.	Malignant Neoplasm,	Buccal Cavity, etc.	or hillers of	1	1
4.	Malignant Neoplasm,	Desophagus	1	1	2
5.	Malignant Neoplasm,	Stomach	3	3	6
6.	Malignant Neoplasm,	Intestine	1	4	5 8
	Malignant Neoplasm,		8	-	8
	Malignant Neoplasm,		-	1111116	1121
	Malignant Neoplasm,		7.44	3	3
	Malignant Neoplasm,	Prostate	1	-	1
	Leukaemia		1 -	2	3
	Other Malignant Neo	plasms	8	5	13
	Diabetes Mellitus		-	1	1
	Other Endocrine etc			1	1
0.00	Chronic Rheumatic H		3	4	7
	Hypertensive Diseas		70 10 0	2	3
	Ischaemic Heart Dis		31	34	65
	Other forms of Hear		3	14	17
	Cerebrovascular Dis		22	23	45
	Other Diseases of C	irculatory System	2	7	9
	Influenza		2	4	6
7777	Pneumonia		6	3	9
	Bronchitis and Emphy		15	4	19
	Other Diseases of R	espiratory System	3	2	5 2
	Peptic Ulcer		1	1	2
	Intestinal Obstruct		-	2	2
	Other Diseases of D		1	4	5 2
	Nephritis and Nephr		2	-	2
	Other Diseases, Gen		1	4	5
30.	Congenital Anomalie	3	2	1	3

Causes of Death (continued)

SKOLVERS HIVE	Males	Females	Total
31. Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality 32. Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	1 2	1	2
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	Services is	3
34. All Other Accidents 35. All Other External Causes	3	2.110	3
The Marine of Marine and Are State of the	1000000	mable to d	evet.
	128	138	266

Hospital Board's eres whose offices are at Chestwood Road, Maskinter, 8.

of Realth is subbriced by the Congestiving American dataset

The District lies within the area of the Cheshire Executive Council, where offices are at 28, Nicholas Street, Chester. Telephone

- Under this Section the District Council has the Date to

The ambilance service is provided by the County Council and in under radio control from central control at County Hell, Chester. All 989 cells and by members of the public are immediately connected to

the central control. The arrangement for non-wagent on large the that - the protection or general practitioner should wing the Northwich Depot - Televinose No. Worthwich 1985.

Dections furing the year.

SECTION II

HEALTH SERVICES

(1) Information concerning the statutory and voluntary Health and Welfare Services in the area may be obtained from the Divisional Medical Officer, at the Divisional Medical Office, County Offices, Watling Street, Northwich, Telephone No. Northwich 3961.

(2) HOSPITAL FACILITIES

The Northwich Urban District lies within the Manchester Regional Hospital Board's area whose offices are at Cheetwood Road, Manchester, 8.

(3) GENERAL PRACTITIONER SERVICES

The District lies within the area of the Cheshire Executive Council, whose offices are at 28, Nicholas Street, Chester. Telephone No. Chester 23158.

(4) AMBULANCE SERVICE

The ambulance service is provided by the County Council and is under radio control from central control at County Hall, Chester. All 999 calls made by members of the public are immediately connected to this central control. The arrangement for non-urgent calls is that the patient or general practitioner should ring the Northwich Depot - Telephone No. Northwich 3355.

SECTION III

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 - 1951

Section 47

Under this Section when persons (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm, or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention, the local authority may apply to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for an Order to remove the person to a suitable place.

With regard to the expeditious procedure as laid down in the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, the Medical Officer of Health or any duly qualified person acting for the Medical Officer of Health is authorised by the Council to make the requisite application to a Justice of the Peace.

Section 50

Under this Section the District Council has the duty to arrange for the burial of any person who has died in their area, if no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body are being made.

It was not necessary to take any action under either Sections during the year.

SECTION IV

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(1) NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following are the infectious diseases notified for the years 1969 and 1970:-

attailines of estay of Etamuco as	Cases No	Cases Notified		
DISEASE	1969	1970		
Dysentery	1	- OR 1		
Measles	98	225		
Scarlet Fever	13	4		
Whooping Cough	1	2		
Pulmonary T.B.	1	ALL TOTAL		
Infectious Hepatitis	5	4		
Food Poisoning	A 1515-634	1		
Encephalitis (Post Mumps)	or wishest	1 200 1		
	to your .	d during t		

SECTION V

SANITARY INSPECTION AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

VISITS BY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Inspecti	

Number of visits and revisits to houses under Public Health Acts	331
Number of visits and revisits to houses under Housing Acts	539
Visits to houses under Rent Acts	5
Visits to houses in connection with Improvement Grants	178
Drain Tests	17
Visits to houses in connection with Housing Loans	142
Inspection of Food and Food Premises	
Walta to Balance and an analysis of the second seco	1.0
Visits to Butchers' Shops	47
Visits to Fish Shops	37
Visits to Fried Fish Shops Visits to Grocers' Shops	49
Visits to Ice-Cream Premises	12
Visits to Restaurants and Canteens	50
Visits to Bakehouses and Confectioners	55 23
Visits to Milk Distributors	
Visits to Slaughterhouses	927
Visits to Market Stalls and Supermarkets	1,362
Visits to Greengrocers	26
Visits to Licensed Premises	11
Inspection of Food Vans	3
The state of the s	
Infectious Disease, Rodent and Vermin	
and of the state o	
Number of houses inspected for vermin	7
Number of houses disinfested	7
Visits and revisits in connection with disinfestation	14
Visits where infectious disease has occurred	52
Properties treated for Rodent Control	132
Other Visits	
Other Tropic	
Visits and Inspections of Factories	38
Visits in connection with the Offices, Shops &	
Railway Premises Act, 1963	144
Interviews	289
Miscellaneous Visits	47
Visits and Observations re Atmospheric Pollution	14
Hairdressers and Barbers	L
Visits & Inspections re Refuse Collection and Disposal	63
Visits to Moveable Dwellings (Caravans)	1
Civic Amenities Act	36

(1) WATER SUPPLY

Supplied by:

Mid & South East Cheshire Water Board,

The Grange, Hartford.

Tel. No. Northwich 74263

No. of Samples of Water taken during the Year 50 - Satisfactory

Quantity

Satisfactory

Quality

Satisfactory

Plumbo-Solvent Action

None

Dwellings served by stand-pipes

Nil

(2) SWIMMING BATHS

The attendances at the swimming baths in 1970 numbered 129,072.

During peak periods in the Summer months overcrowding does occur but this is limited to some extent by the introduction of sessions at busy times. Bathers have a minimum of one hour in the water and as soon as they are dressed and out of the building the dressing rooms are cleaned and the next session allowed in.

The Baths are open to the public $80\frac{1}{2}$ hours per week in Summer and $66\frac{1}{2}$ hours in the Winter.

A new filtration plant will be installed in January 1972. Water samples were taken from the pool during the year by the Health Department, three were found to be unsatisfactory but follow up samples were taken which proved to be satisfactory.

In the hot baths section there are four baths; 1,243 people used them during the year.

Paddling Pool - Church Walk

The Childrens' Playground at Church Walk, which was opened on Coronation Day 1937, has been one of the most popular places for children within the Urban District. Comprised of various items of moveable equipment; a slide, swings, roundabout, an adventure playground and an 18,000 gallon paddling pool, this playground has, on occasions, attracted upwards of 400 children on a sunny afternoon in the Summer holidays.

This site is soon to be required for a new road, but fortunately the playground will not be lost, it is to be moved to an area directly opposite its present position and it is hoped that once the new site is completed, an even better playground and paddling pool will be available for the children in 1972.

(3) SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The resewerage of the area of Winnington Street and Castle Street has continued and a new syphon was laid under the River Weaver.

A new separate surface water sewer has been laid from the Castle Housing Redevelopment Area down Weaver Road discharging into the River Weaver.

A contract has been let for the provision of a new foul sewer inverted syphon under the River Dane at Water Street to replace the syphon which suffered damage, and for the provision of a surface water overflow sewer in Middlewich Road behind Parkfield Road, discharging into the River Dane. Contracts have also been let for separate surface water sewers in London Road from Old Hall Road discharging into the River Dane south of the Railway Viaduct and from the Church Walk area via Priory Street discharging into the River Dane on the south side of Whalley Road. All these contracts will continue into 1971.

Designs for relief foul and surface water sewers for Hartford Manor, Appleton Street and Carlton Road, where some flooding is arising, are proceeding.

During the year, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government have suggested that a joint scheme for the rationalisation of sewage disposal in Mid Cheshire, be submitted by the Northwich Urban and Rural Authorities.

Work on this proposal is proceeding.

(4) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

There is still one chemical closet in the district but this is in an area where there is no access to the public sewers.

(5) REFUSE COLLECTION

Refuse collection services have been maintained throughout the district on a weekly service. This has not been achieved without some difficulty and it is necessary to repeat that refuse is constantly increasing in volume which necessitates visiting some premises on more than one occasion. A further complication has been created to the refuse collection service due to the fact that drivers of refuse vehicles have now to possess a Heavy Goods Vehicle Drivers Licence and on occasions vehicles have been idle due to lack of suitable staff, consequently work has been delayed and difficulties created in trying to maintain a weekly service.

In the early part of the year, an experiment was commenced in an area covering 1,200 properties with a polythene sack bin liners system. While the scheme was welcomed with enthusiasm, it was found that there was a complete lack of co-operation in some places and instead of having a four week trial period, this was curtailed to three weeks. There is little doubt that the present type of dustbin will have to be replaced ultimately and in some cases, particularly new properties, plastic holders and polythene liners are being provided. This does not appear to cause any difficulty when introduced in new properties but there seems to be opposition if changes are attempted in existing services.

A new vehicle was purchased and came into service in December, this was a Shelvoke & Drewry Fore and Aft Tipper and was purchased for the purpose of being suitable for the removal of surplus refuse under the Civic Amenities Act, 1967, also it can be used as a spare vehicle. This service is given free and whilst it is a very great asset, it is still difficult to understand why people will go to the trouble to dump their surplus mattresses, bedsteads, etc., when they can have the convenience of this particular service.

In connection with the dumping of surplus materials, there are certain advantages to be gained by providing large transportable containers in various selected spots. Unfortunately, whilst in theory this would seem to be an ideal solution, in practice it is found that the amount of rubbish dumped around these containers and the fires which are lighted in them by vandals, can be a bigger nuisance than if the containers were not provided, consequently it is almost impossible to give a satisfactory answer to this ever growing problem.

It is pleasing to report that the collection and sale of waste paper has been more than satisfactory, and as stated in last year's report, the development of the new shopping facilities has undoubtedly been the main reason for the large amount of paper sold. It will be seen from the table giving details of paper sold over 21 years, that there has been a steady increase and there is no reason why this should not continue, unless paper and cardboard are replaced with plastic materials.

The amount of salvage sold during 1970 was:-

Total Paper Salvage : 789 tons £9,015.00

At the end of the Report there is a Table and graphs giving details of the amount of waste paper sold during the period 1950-1970.

The number of dustbins renewed during the year was 426 which was rather less than in 1969, but this could be offset with an increase in the number of renewed dustbins in 1971. As was pointed out in 1969, with regard to the number of inhabited houses in the district, something like 650 dustbins per year would be required if a dustbin had an average life of ten years.

(6) DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

Tipping was discontinued on the Warrington Road Site in October, although the area in question could have been further utilised the tipping would have been on land upon which a new roadway is proposed, and after consultation with the Surveyor, it was agreed that tipped material would be an unsatisfactory foundation for the proposed road.

Tipping was commenced on an area of land in Saxons Lane adjacent to a site reclaimed by tipping several years ago. This is a very difficult site due to water-logged land, watercourses and hidden springs and is further aggravated by vandalism. Not only are the watercourses blocked up, but the tip is constantly set on fire, consequently people who object to the tip being near to their homes feel they have a just complaint from the nuisance which emanates from this vandalism, even though it is an embarrassment to the Department, costs ratepayers money, and disrupts the daily working of the tip.

Refuse is rapidly altering and more plastic and polythene materials make up its content. It is a paradox that if cinders and other hardcore are required for roadmaking, it is necessary to have to purchase them, since solid material is conspicuous by its absence from refuse.

The amount of paper sold indicates a trend in the content of refuse and as stated previously, should this be replaced by plastics, etc., the situation would be most difficult.

There is no doubt that Authorities will have to consider means of combining to provide some method of refuse treatment before disposal. Not only will this give more hygienic means of disposal, but will conserve the tipping sites and destroy materials which at present do not lend themselves to destruction by decomposition. It does seem that possibilities will arise if the suggestions for the re-organization of Local Government by creating larger Authorities comes to fruition.

(7) CANAL BOATS

There are 40 canal boats registered with the Authority.

(8) LICENSED CARAVAN SITES

The only area in Northwich used as a caravan site is the one used by Show people. This will ultimately be purchased by the Council for re-development and although efforts have been made, no alternative site has been obtained to resite these people.

There have been no unauthorised parking of caravans in the district.

(9) CIVIC AMENITIES ACT 1967

Since this Act came into force, no real difficulties have been experienced. Perhaps the reason is that prior to its enactment, the Department always tried to encourage householders to notify the office of any surplus refuse and this has been removed free of cost. The dumping of materials still continues, as previously referred to, and provision at the entrances to the tips has been made for this purpose.

Arrangements have been made with local car breakers to remove old vehicles free of cost and this appears to work satisfactorily. Possibly one extra expense is the clearing of sites when dumping takes place, which seem to get more untidy than was formerly the case.

(10) PEST CONTROL

If one reflects to some 30 years ago, probably most of the complaints in connection with vermin were those concerning bugs and fleas, with the odd complaint of rats. Today there is a complete reversal of the situation, this is probably due to a more enlightened public and advance treatment of the various types of vermin.

Unfortunately, although science has produced remedies for dealing with vermin, nature has retaliated by producing strains of vermin which have become resistant to the poisons. This is particularly the case with rats and mice and since mice are different in their eating habits to rats, mice are becoming quite a problem to deal with. This position is also aggravated in certain types of new buildings, which have warm air ducts and can provide excellent living quarters for mice and sometimes rats.

It has been possible, due to the amount of work carried out by the Pest Control Assistant, to maintain control of rats and mice, and several firms have contracts which provide regular routine inspections, so that preventive treatment can be given.

Refuse tips now in use or previously used, are kept under strict surveillance and treated when necessary for all infestations.

Treatment for insects is given when required except in the case of ants, although in two exceptional cases treatment was given. Advice is given for ant infestations as it would not be practical to treat all cases.

Treatment was given at premises in respect of the following infestations:-

Ants				2
Fleas				1
Beetles				1
Bed Bugs				5
Wasps Nests				7
Cockroaches				2
Bluebottles				2
Precautionary	Measur	e		2

Details of inspections in respect of rodent control during 1970 are given below:-

RODENT CONTROL DURING 1970

	Туре	of Property
and the contract of the contra	Non- Agricultural	Agricultural
Properties other than sewers		The same and
1. Number of properties in District.	8,019	10
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises inspected following notification		
(b) Number infested by (i) Rat (ii) Mic		1222
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other tha notification		
(b) Number infested by (i) Rat (ii) Mic		

(11) RAG, FLOCK AND OTHER FILLINGS MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Two factories are registered under the above Act and the standard of them continues to be satisfactory.

(12) PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

There are three premises licensed under this Act; all are regularly inspected and conditions are satisfactory.

(13) CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

There is no appreciable change in the position in respect of clean air, threats of fuel shortages and the financial climate have discouraged Local Authorities from proceeding with any proposals. At the same time it should be appreciated that new properties are being built and in most cases heating by smokeless methods are being incorporated. Many older type houses are also being converted to central heating using authorised fuel.

Alterations are being made to furnesses at one of the local industries and the solid fuel method will gradually be replaced by oil firing.

A very close liaison is maintained with the management of the local chemical industry.

(14) MORTUARY

The mortuary is available for the Northwich Urban District and for certain adjoining parishes in the Rural District. Admission for deaths occurring in other than normal circumstances is under the authority of the Police and during the year 42 such admissions were made.

The chapel in the mortuary is used as a Chapel of Rest, flowers being provided from the Council's Parks Department. This is a facility which is greatly appreciated by those who have insufficient facilities at home to keep a body pending internment. There were 114 such admissions during the year.

(15) FACTORIES ACT, 1961

The main source of employment in Northwich is at the various chemical works which are owned by I.C.I. Ltd. The other industries include a Steel Works, Leather Works and Clothing Factories, and strenuous attempts are being made to attract other industries to the area.

Outworkers

During 1970 one person worked as an outworker in the Northwich Urban District.

FACTORIES INSPECTION

1. Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health

	No. on	Inspec-	No. of		
Premises	Register	tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted	
1. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities (Factories with no mechanical power)		-		-	
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities (Factories with mechanical power	0.0	38		_	
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (Excluding Outworkers' premises)		_		_	
TOTALS:	86	38		-	

2. Cases in which Defects were found

	Nu	No. of cases in which			
			Ret	ferred	promocutions
Particulars	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	instituted
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	211	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	of the late of	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-		-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-		7-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	3	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	3		303	-
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	3	-	-	-
TOTALS:	-	9	-	-	-

(16) SHOPS ACT, 1950

This Act is administered by the Northwich Urban District Council as agents for the Cheshire County Council regarding closing hours, etc.

(17) OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

During 1970, no great change has taken place in connection with this Act. There have been new registrations during the year and these are mainly shop premises which have been opened.

Whilst every effort is made to carry out inspections specifically under this Act, in a small town with a Department carrying out varied duties under different Acts, it is often difficult to differentiate when a visit is made by the Inspector under which Act or Acts the visit should be recorded. As a consequence, whilst the figures given are reasonably accurate, it does not necessarily follow that no other inspections have been made to the particular premises.

As has been reported in previous years, no serious difficulties have arisen in administering this Act, since there are no premises of any real size likely to cause difficulties, except possibly in one case, and from the Authority's point of view, the firm in question is only too anxious to comply with all regulations.

Although it is not possible to record it on the various forms upon which returns are made, the town is so compact and the Inspectors reasonably familiar with the premises that it is possible to keep the situation under control as required by the Act with the local knowledge that one acquires.

The number of accidents during the year was eight and all were of a minor nature. Each accident was investigated.

Table A REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class	No.of premises newly registered during the year	Total No.of registered premises at the end of the year	No. of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year	
Offices	2	72	9	
Retail Shops	12	214	118	
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	1	9	3	
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	1	23	14	
Fuel Storage Depots	-	1	-	
TOTALS:	16	319	144	

Table B

Number of visits of all kinds (including General Inspections) to Registered Premises ... 144

Table C Analysis by Workplace of persons employed in Registered Premises at End of Year

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons Employed
Offices	1,540
Retail Shops	937
Wholesale depots, Warehouses	57
Catering establishments open to the public	80
Canteens	5
Fuel Storage Depots	compatible of the
TOTAL:	2,619
Total Males	1,143
Total Females	1,476

EXEMPTIONS

Part I SPACE: There were no applications for exemption in this category made or refused during the year in

any class of premises

Part II TEMPERATURE: - do -

Part III SANITARY

CONVENIENCES: - do -

Part IV WASHING FACILITIES: - do -

Table E

PROSECUTIONS

No prosecutions were instituted during the year

Table F

INSPECTORS

No. of Inspectors appointed under Section 52 (1) or (5) of the Act ... 3

No. of other staff employed for most of their time on work in connection with

the Act ... Nil

(18) COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses within the Urban District.

(19) SLUM CLEARANCE

The demolition of properties under the Castle No. 1 Compulsory Purchase Order 1965 continued and the redevelopment of the area highlighted the difficulties where properties have to be demolished before rebuilding can commence. Progress is therefore slow, and it is unfortunate that land is not available so that properties could be built ready for moving families from sites at the time when Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders become operative. People displaced by the Castle Clearance are being rehoused on the site if they wish and it is possible to do so.

Reference was made in last year's report to the area known as The Triangle. Property began to be acquired in 1970 and some demolitions have taken place. Part of this area will form land for the extension of Chesterway, which should relieve traffic congestion in this part of the town. The remainder of the area will be redeveloped for housing purposes. During the year a Compulsory Purchase Order was made in connection with Jubilee Street, there were 17 houses involved but rehousing had already taken place and only 50% of the houses were occupied. This is an area which is long overdue for clearing, since it is subject to flooding in storm conditions and the empty properties are an eye-sore. It is likely that the cleared site will be redeveloped for industrial purposes.

The lack of suitable land for redevelopment for housing purposes does prevent the clearing of unsatisfactory houses at the pace that one would desire.

(20) INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES

Three houses were dealt with during the year, two formally under Section 16 of the Housing Act 1957, and one informally where the owner gave an undertaking not to re-let. Two properties, which were unfit and subject to Closing Orders, were repaired, modernized and made into one dwelling and the Closing Orders in respect of these properties were revoked.

(21) GRANTS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF OLD HOUSES

Although there is some increase in the number of applications for Improvement Grants, one cannot consider the position satisfactory and it would appear that owners of properties do not consider that there is sufficient incentive to improve properties by means of Improvement Grants. As and when circumstances permit, the answer will be Improvement Areas. Unfortunately the Authority is involved in so many various schemes, that some caution is necessary before new ventures are attempted. At the same time, areas which at present lend themselves for improvement, could deteriorate if something is not done in the forseeable future. It should be emphasized that certain areas which could only be considered as Clearance Areas, should not be rescued by attempting improvement. It may appear expedient to save poor houses by improving them but ultimately the cost of improvement and repair could prove prohibitive.

The number of standard and improvement grants given in 1970 is set out below:-

Standard Grants

Number of applications	approved during 1970	 28
Total amount of Grants	approved	 £2,979.71
Number of Improvements	completed during 1970	 20

Improvement Grants

Number of applications approved during 1970	 9
Total amount of Grants approved	 £1,495.60
Number of Improvements completed during 1970	 3

(22) RENT ACT

No applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair during 1970,

(23) COUNCIL HOUSES IN NORTHWICH

The position with regard to dwelling accommodation provided by the Northwich Urban District Council is based on information provided by the Housing Department. The position on the 3rd April 1970, is as follows:-

Acco	ommodation	Pre-War	Post-War	Purchased Properties	Total
	. 200200111	14	-	- ()	14
10000					373 1,064
				1	50
			5		5
- 6	Bedrooms	14	-	ett - if not	14
_	1 Bedroom	-	10	2	12
		-	34 (c)	2	36
		-		-	11
- 4	+ Bedrooms	-	4 (e)	-	4
s-	1 Bedroom	-	87	-	87
- 6	2 Bedrooms	-	175	-	175
- 3	Bedrooms	-	3	- 11	3
	2 Bedrooms	-	49	-	49
		283	1,567	47	1,897
		- 2 Bedrooms - 3 Bedrooms - 4 Bedrooms - 5 Bedrooms - 6 Bedrooms - 1 Bedrooms - 2 Bedrooms - 3 Bedrooms - 4 Bedrooms - 4 Bedrooms - 5 Bedrooms - 6 Bedrooms - 7 Bedrooms - 7 Bedrooms - 8 Bedrooms - 8 Bedrooms - 9 Bedrooms	- 1 Bedroom 14 - 2 Bedrooms 24 - 3 Bedrooms 206 - 4 Bedrooms 25 - 5 Bedrooms 6 Bedrooms 14 - 1 Bedroom 2 Bedrooms 3 Bedrooms 4 Bedrooms 3 Bedrooms 4 Bedrooms 3 Bedrooms 2 Bedrooms 2 Bedrooms 3 Bedrooms	- 1 Bedroom 14 2 Bedrooms 24 320 - 3 Bedrooms 206 845 - 4 Bedrooms 25 24 - 5 Bedrooms 6 Bedrooms 14 1 Bedroom - 10 - 2 Bedrooms - 34 (c) - 3 Bedrooms - 11 (d) - 4 Bedrooms - 4 (e) - 1 Bedroom - 87 - 2 Bedrooms - 3 - 3 Bedrooms - 3 - 3 Bedrooms - 3 - 4 Bedrooms - 49	- 1 Bedroom

Notes:

- (a) Includes 12 houses for demolition
- (b) Includes 4 houses for demolition (c) Includes 4 2-bed flats over shops
- (d) Includes 11 3-bed flats over shops
- (e) Includes 3 4-bed flats over shops

The waiting list of applicants for Council accommodation numbered 514 in December 1970, and the accommodation required by these applicants is as follows:-

66 persons requiring flats or bungalows

133 persons requiring two bedroomed houses

207 persons requiring three bedroomed houses

100 single persons requiring flats or bungalows

During the year the following types of houses were erected in the Urban District:-

30 dwellings built by private enterprise

36 dwellings built by Local Authority

SECTION VI

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(1) MILK

The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959

The number of distributors of milk in the Urban District is 48 and no milk is produced within the boundaries.

The duties of milk sampling are carried out by the Cheshire County Council since they are responsible for the licensing of distributors in respect of Special Designated Milk.

The following table shows the results of tests on samples of milk taken by the County Council Sampling Officers.

	Type of Test	Test Satisfactory	
1.	Methylene Blue	268	12
2.	Phosphatase	80	-
3.	Turbidity	16	No state think

- 1. Measures the keeping quality of milk.
- 2. Measures the efficiency of the Pasteurisation process.
- 3. Measures the efficiency of the Sterilising process.

		Bulk	Ind.
Penicillin	<0.05 iu. Satisfactory	1	-
Penicillin	> 0.05 iu. Unsatisfactory	-	-

(2) ICE-CREAM

No samples were taken during the year due to pressure of other aspects of work.

(3) COOKED MEAT PRODUCTS

16 samples of various meat products were taken during the year; 3 were considered as not being entirely satisfactory, but resampling and a check on the methods of handling showed that subsequent samples were satisfactory.

(4) DEEP FREEZE FACILITIES

This aspect of food preservation is very much on the increase and retailers of food are particularly realizing that refrigeration is a good advertisement and allows goods to be displayed attractively without deterioration. The same complaints that have been remarked on in previous years still exist, that is, the tendency to overload the cabinets and for customers to disturb the contents to reach the bottom layers rather than take the goods from the top surface.

This trend of deep freezing is beginning to be practised in private dwellings where people are deep freezing their own foods. This is a practice which whilst it is very attractive can also be very dangerous if proper codes of practice are not carried out.

Deep freezing is a help in preserving food but should any faults develop in the refrigeration unit, large quantities of food are often rendered unsaleable and retailers are encouraged to surrender this food, although at the time of surrender some of the food may not be actually unfit, the risks of rapid decomposition do not justify trying to save the small amount of money involved.

(5) REGISTRATION OF PREMISES USED FOR THE MANUFACTURE, STORAGE OR SALE OF FOOD UNDER SECTION 18 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

	Premises on Register 1969	Added to Register 1970	Removed from Register 1970	Total on Register 1970
Sale and storage of Ice-Cream	64	7	-	71
Manufacture of Ice-Cream	1	Taken	x	1.
Manufacture of Preserved Foods, etc., (Mainly sausages, brawn and potted meat)	13	-	-	13
Fish Frying	10	-		10
TOTALS:	88	7	-	95

(6) SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT 1958 THE SLAUGHTERHOUSES (HYGIENE) REGULATIONS 1958

The position in respect of slaughterhouses is still the same although small improvements were carried out to improve the already existing high standards. Regular inspections were made during the year by a Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

(7) MEAT INSPECTION REGULATIONS

A 100% meat inspection of all carcases and offal was maintained during and immediately after slaughter. The normal hours of slaughtering are:-

Monday to Friday - 8.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.
Saturday - 7.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Sunday - No slaughtering

although these times can be varied in the event of an emergency arising. There is complete co-operation between the department and the meat trade and no real difficulties arose in the administration of these Regulations. It will be noted that there has been an increase in slaughtering and except for pigs the incidence of T.B. is none existant. I repeat as in previous years that the quality of meat slaughtered and sold in Northwich is of a very high standard, also the hygienic conditions are most satisfactory. There is no doubt that for a small community, private slaughterhouses can compare with large abattoirs. Various types of surface finishes for slaughterhouses are being tried but the problem of finding something which will stand up to steam, grease and water is very difficult.

927 visits were made for meat inspection purposes and the following table gives the number of animals slaughtered, together with details of the post-mortem inspection.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	1,188	131	17	4,256	3,411
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS & CYSTICERCI					
Whole carcases condemned	1	-	1	. 1	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	130	42	-	55	50
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than T.B. or cysticerci	-	-	-	-	
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY				178111180811111111111	
Whole carcases condemned	9 -	-	-	-	Season File
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	10
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	03%
CYSTICERCOSIS	1	-	-	-	-

Post Mortem Inspections

It will be noted that one carcase affected with Cysticercus Bovis was sent for storage.

(8) CONDEMNATION OF MEAT

The total weight of meat condemned was 5,846 lbs., this was disposed of to reputable firms for processing.

(9) SLAUGHTERMEN'S LICENCES

The number of licensed slaughtermen in the district at the end of the year was 9.

(10) FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1960

The general standard of food hygiene can be considered to be satisfactory particularly from retailers wishing to present their goods to the best advantage. The general public are becoming more hygiene conscious with regard to the food they buy and consequently food traders have to show that the food for sale is both displayed and handled hygienically.

Unfortunately many members of the staffs of food premises are constandly changing and consequently are not necessarily aware of requirements, and whilst the proprietors of businesses intend to comply with Regulations, they often fail to achieve their object due to the ignorance of staff on food requirements. It is difficult to know how this obstacle can be overcome since staff in the food trade do not have to possess any particular qualifications before obtaining a post, also industry often provides more attraction financially to staff and the best people are not always attracted to the food trade. Fortunately, more wrapped food is being sold and whilst this helps on the hygiene side, it also presents another problem, this problem is one where food is wrapped and then whilst stored in certain conditions, mould can grow in the goods so that whilst improvements are made with one aspect of food hygiene, the manufacturers leave themselves open to difficulties which may arise as a result of mouldy food.

It has been possible to maintain a good standard of food hygiene at the Market Hall. There are good facilities existing for kiosk holders and stall holders so as to enable them to maintain a high standard of hygiene, and there is complete co-operation between the Markets Department and the stall holders.

Category	No. of Premises		to which	No.of Prem. complying with Reg.19
Cafes	10	10	10	10
Clubs	10	10	10	10
Butchers Shops	21	21	21	21
Sweets & Tobacco, Newsagents	20	20	20	20
Grocers	46	45	40	40
Grocers with Outdoor Licences	6	6	-	-
Greengrocers	16	15	16	15
Fish & Chip Shops	10	10	10	10
Wet Fish Shops	4	4	4	4
Bakehouses and Confectioners Shops	24	24	24	24
Licensed Premises	21	21	21	21
Canteens	22	22	22	22

(11) INSPECTION OF ESTABLISHMENTS SELLING OPEN FOOD

		No. of establishments inspected, once, twice, etc., during the year					
		1	2	3	4	5+	
Number of shops in the Urban District selling open food	147	66	20	12	8	26	
Number of Canteens, Restaurants, Hotels etc., in the Urban District	65	23	20	1	-	-	

(12) CONDEMNATION OF FOOD

A list of food condemned in 1970 is given below. This food was voluntarily surrendered by the food trades involved, and, after inspection and certification by the Inspectors, was collected, treated with disinfectant and buried on the refuse tip.

The amount of food involved in 1970 was made up as follows:-

Tins of Ham and Tongue	 	104 lbs.
Other Tinned Meats	 	67 lbs.
Assorted Tinned Foods	 	963 lbs.
Cheese	 	207 lbs.
Wet Fish	 	54 lbs.
Bacon	 	229½ 1bs.
Frozen Foods	 	3,597 lbs.
Fruit	 	651 lbs.
Sausages	 	54 lbs.
Dehydrated Foods	 	16 lbs.
Turkeys	 	1,723 lbs.
Miscellaneous Foods	 	1,403 lbs.
		9,068 lbs.

(13) BAKEHOUSES

There are 11 bakehouses in the district and they are satisfactory.

(14) OTHER FOODS

The Cheshire County Council Weights and Measures Inspectors obtained 60 samples of food in the Northwich Urban District during 1970; all the samples were of the standard required under the Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

Thirteen food complaints were received by the Cheshire County Weights and Measures Inspectors from private purchasers, the details of which are as follows:-

	Nature of Complaint	Remarks		
1.	Foreign object in butter	Seller cautioned		
2.	Blackcurrant tarts - mouldy	Baker cautioned		
3.	Tinned carrots containing spider	Packers fined £10		
4.	Bread containing part of an insect.	Baker fined £10		
5.	Glass in milk	Bottler cautioned		
6.	Glass in milk	Bottler cautioned		
7.	Potato crisps - crisp dust and fat	No action		
8.	Earwigs in coffee	No action - Complaint not substantiated		
9.	Malt loaf - mouldy	Baker cautioned		
0.	Bonfire toffee containing piece of metal	No action		
1.	Scones - mouldy	No action		
2.	Biscuits - mouldy	No action		
3.	Meat pie containing dirt	No action - Complaint not substantiated		

DURING THE YEARS

JANUARY 1950 - DECEMBER 1970

Year	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
1950	146.	1.	3.	784.	9.	9.
1951	173.	19.	0.	2,401.	14.	2.
1952	165.	0.	2.	1,722.	0.	1.
1953	196.	9.	0.	1,227.	17.	2.
1954	216.	7.	2.	1,478.	3.	10.
1955	297.	17.	1.	2,385.	7.	2.
1956	335.	11.	3.	2,566.	10.	9.
1957	341.	5.	3.	2,715.	1.	10.
1958	400.	0.	0.	3,208.	9.	4.
1959	376.	11.	2.	3,099.	9.	4.
1960	420.	18.	2.	3,473.	1.	0.
1961	418.	4.	0.	3,683.	19.	6.
1962	395.	1.	2.	3,405.	13.	10.
1963	456.	11.	1.	3,775.	1.	4.
1964	543.	14.	1.	4,654.	15.	0.
1965	599.	16.	2.	5,637.	16.	1.
1966	561.	12.	2.	5,367.	0.	0.
1967	561.	18.	1.	5,266.	12.	6.
1968	568.	11.	3.	5,472.	0.	9.
1969	556.	1.	2.	5,791.	13.	5.
1970	789.	1.	1.	9,014.	17.	10.
	8,520.	15.	1.	£77,131.	14.	8.









