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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1953

FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF SPILSBY

IN THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN - PARTS OF LINDSEY.

C.S.E. Wright, M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Toynton Hall,
Spilsby.

June, 1954.

SPILSBY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1953.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health.

C.S.E. Wright. M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Officer.

W. Bailey. Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.,
Cert. Meat and Other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Officer.

H. Brumfitt. Cert. S.I.B., A.R.San.I., F.F.S.

Clerk.

(Mrs) W. Harness.

SPILSBY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer of Health's Report for 1953.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Spilsby Rural District for the year ending December 31st, 1953.

I am pleased to be able to report that the general health of the District has been good throughout the year and except for a certain amount of measles and whooping cough there has been little in the way of notifiable disease. The steady improvement in sanitary conditions has continued. Economic conditions in the country have improved allowing the Ministry to permit more to be spent on urgently required water extensions etc.

By the end of the year the end of the rationing of foodstuffs was in sight, though not quite an accomplished fact, and the housewife was able to get a better variety of food for the family.

The year started with a mild winter with little frost and snow and this was followed by a rough and wet spring and early summer. From then it was dry and mild but with little sun right up to the end of the year. It was exceptionally warm and dry in November and December.

The rainfall at Twentylands for the year was 22.86 inches and is comparable with the average rainfall over the previous five years of 24.68 inches.

1953 will always be remembered for the catastrophe and tragedy of the night of January 31st, when, a north-westerly gale coinciding with a very high tide, the east coast of England in many places was overwhelmed by the sea with very heavy loss of life and immense damage to property and loss of stock. Since almost the whole of the Spilsby Coastal Area was severely affected I am including at the end of this report an account of the damage done.

In the Autumn an important staff change that had been under consideration for over a year, took place. The Public Health and Housing Department of the Council, which had become over-cumbersome, was divided into two. Messrs. Saunders and Partners who for some years had been Architects to the Council were given notice, and a separate Housing Department was formed to be responsible for all housing matters. Mr. G.F. Taylor was appointed to take over the duties of the Architect and of the Surveyors and Mr. Richardson was transferred from the Public Health to this new Department. Mr. W. Bailey with Mr. H. Brumfitt as his Deputy continued in charge of the Health Department as before. Mr. G.J. Wood left about the same time to take up another appointment and his loss as our technical assistant will be much felt.

Vital Statistics.

Area.

The area of the District is 147,530 acres in 69 parishes.

Population.

The mid-year population is estimated at 23,370.

Density.

The density of the population is .158 persons per acre.

Rateable Value.

The Rateable Value is £98,609 and the value of a penny rate is £410.

Houses.

The number of inhabited houses is 7,570.

Births.

The live births in 1953 numbered 345, compared with 371 in 1952 and 376 in

1951. 177 of the births were male and 168 female. 9 males and 8 females were illegitimate. The total number of live births represents a crude birthrate of 14.8 per thousand of the population. After the application of the comparability figure, which affords a means of adjustment to make allowance for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas, a birthrate of 15.89 results, which compares with 15.5 for the whole of England and Wales. The number of live births in the District has been steadily dropping for some years and now is 105 less than the peak year of 1947.

There were 12 stillbirths, 6 of each sex and of these one, a female, was illegitimate.

Deaths.

The deaths numbered 323. Of these 155 were male and 168 female. This number compares with 249 in 1952 and 313 in 1951. It is the highest figure in the District for many years and is due to the casualties in the flood disaster and a high mortality rate in old people. The figure for 1952 was the lowest for a great many years. The figure of 323 represents a crude deathrate of 13.8 per thousand and when the comparability figure is applied 14.6. This last figure compares with 11.4 for the whole country.

Infant Mortality.

The infant mortality, that is the deaths in children under one year of age, was 9. 3 male and 6 female. Of these one female was illegitimate. This gives an infant mortality rate of 26.1 per thousand live births. The corresponding figure for the whole country was 26.8. Of the 9 deaths one male and two female were less than four weeks old.

Causes of Death.

The causes of death among the 323 in 1953 were as follows:-

Cause.	Male.	Female.
Tuberculosis.	3	3
Whooping Cough.	-	1
Measles.	1	-
Syphilitic diseases.	1	1
Other Infectious Diseases.	1	-
Cancer.	24	24
Leukaemia.	1	-
Diabetes.	1	6
Vascular diseases of the nervous system.	23	23
Coronary disease of the heart.	17	14
Hypertension with heart disease.	2	4
Other heart diseases.	34	45
Other circulatory diseases.	10	8
Influenza.	1	1
Pneumonia.	2	7
Bronchitis and other diseases of the lungs.	5	6
Ulcer of the stomach.	-	1
Gastritis and Enteritis.	1	2
Kidney diseases.	3	2
Prostate disease.	3	-
Pregnancy and childbirth.	-	1
Other defined or ill-defined causes.	9	8
Motor accidents.	2	-
All other accidents.	9	11
Suicide.	2	-
	155	168

The figure of 49 deaths due to cancer includes 13 due to cancer of the lungs.

The figure of 20 for all other accidents includes the 16 deaths due to the flood disaster.

General Provision of Health Services.

Hospitals, Clinics and Ambulances. These services remain unaltered and are working satisfactorily. There is still some shortage of beds for the aged and bedridden sick but this state of affairs appears to have improved somewhat during the year.

Midwifery and Nursing Services. These services are unchanged and have worked satisfactorily throughout the year. First confinements and others that might have difficulties are admitted to The Grace Swan Hospital at Hundleby from all over the District.

The Home Help Service. This service, which should be of such great help in many cases, is working in a small way, but is not yet as efficient as it should be, largely owing to a scarcity of the right type of help. I am very anxious that this form of help should be extended with a good type of woman, since in these days it is often so very difficult to get help for the aged and infirm and the overworked housewife when there is illness in the house.

National Assistance Act,1948. Section 47. No compulsory removals under this Act took place during 1953, I am glad to be able to report.

Laboratory Examinations. These are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Lincoln or Grimsby. Large numbers of samples are sent every year by the Health Department particularly water, milk and ice cream. Local medical practitioners also make a very extensive use of this important service. When complete chemical and bacteriological reports on water samples are required they are sent to Messrs. W.W. Taylor of Nottingham.

Infectious Diseases. Cases requiring hospital treatment are sent to Scarthoe or Boston Isolation Hospitals if beds are available but sometimes they may have to be sent further afield. All cases of Acute Poliomyelitis are sent to Long Leys Road Isolation Hospital at Lincoln.

Venereal Diseases. These cases are comparatively uncommon now and no cases were brought to my notice during the year. There is a special clinic for their treatment where necessary.

Diphtheria. I am pleased to be able to report once again that in 1953 there were no cases of diphtheria reported to me from the district. I should like once more to impress on the minds of all who are responsible for the welfare of children the great importance of having them immunised against this disease. When in 1939 a concerted effort was made to get as many children as possible protected against Diphtheria by immunisation, there were in the country 47,076 cases with 2,130 deaths and this was an average year. In 1953 as a result of immunisation there were altogether 240 cases with 24 deaths. Owing to the protection thus given Diphtheria from being a terrible scourge among children had become a rarity. This happy state of affairs will not continue unless a high proportion of all infants are given immunisation also.

Owing to the fact that Diphtheria is rarely seen now and that Whooping Cough is common (there were 108 cases in the Spilsby R.D. in 1953) parents are tending to take a greater interest in the immunisation of their children against that disease than against Diphtheria. Such attitude is a mistaken one. It is just as important now as when the disease was common. All babies should receive protection before their first birthday and a booster dose when they go to school.

In the Spilsby R.D. 285 children under 5 years were immunised and 26 between 5 and 14 years, while 234 received booster doses.

Vaccination. There were 91 primary vaccinations and 13 re-vaccinations against Small-pox during the year. This is a low figure and to be deplored. The risk of Small-pox breaking out in the country has considerably increased with the speed of modern travel.

Whooping Cough. Records are now being kept of immunisations against Whooping Cough. In 1953, 43 children were thus protected and I am hoping that this figure will improve each year in the future.

Tuberculosis. There were 11 new cases of Tuberculosis notified in 1953, they were all of the Pulmonary type. This figure compares with 10 cases in 1952 and 21 in 1951. There were 6 deaths from this disease. Steadily with the improvements in housing conditions, the education of all in matters relating to health and the improvement in the technique of modern treatment, this disease,

at one time known as the white man's plague, is being brought under control. I look forward to the day when all young people will be regularly x-rayed.

Prevalence of Disease. During the whole year there was a certain amount of Whooping Cough, all the District being affected but not in epidemic form. Altogether 108 cases were reported.

In the first six months of the year Measles was epidemic, particularly in the south of the area. It was mostly of a mild type. In all 271 cases were notified to me.

There were only 5 cases of Scarlet Fever, the lowest figure for many years. Scarlet Fever is now rarely more than a trivial illness but there is always the risk that a more serious type may flare up again.

The only case of Acute Poliomyelitis was in a visitor to the District and he arrived with the disease already developed.

We had two small outbreaks of food poisoning. In each case four persons were involved. One outbreak was due to ice-cream and the other to a reheated tin of steak-pie. None of those affected was seriously ill.

There was a considerable amount of mumps in the schools during the latter part of the year and particularly in the south. As mumps is not a notifiable disease the actual number of cases is unknown.

The following table shows the incidence of notifiable disease during the year:-

Scarlet Fever.	5	Erysipelas.	3
Whooping Cough.	108	Meningococcal Infection.	1
Acute Poliomyelitis.	1	Food Poisoning.	8
Measles.	271	Malaria.	1
Pneumonia.	37	Puerperal Fever .	1
Dysentery.	3	Tuberculosis. (pulmonary).	11

Sanitary Conditions of the Area.

Water Supplies.

Regular tests of the water as supplied by the Council's Water Undertakings showed that in all cases the quality continued to be very satisfactory.

The second bore at Mumby that had been sunk into the chalk in 1952 close to the original bore was found to contain a supply of water that was highly satisfactory both in quality and quantity. Both bores were in continual use throughout the year and have relieved all feelings of anxiety as to future supplies for the whole of the Coastal area. Negotiations are in progress for an interconnection between this supply and the Skegness mains at the Ingoldmells-Skegness boundary.

The quantity of water for the rest of the area is not yet entirely satisfactory and in times of drought in the summer there will continue to be anxiety until the new Driby scheme can be brought into action.

As a temporary expedient to overcome seasonal shortages in the Fen Area, the Council sank a shallow bore, constructed a pumping station and treatment works and laid the necessary pipe from the village of Partney to Spilsby and by this means they have increased the volume of water by some 20 to 30 thousand gallons a day and also given a much needed supply to parts of the village of Partney.

The Council is fully aware of its responsibilities in the matter of water supply and in this connection it is pleasing to note that a commencement has been made on the first phase of their proposed Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme based on the new Driby source. Works on the sinking of the second of three boreholes at the new site were commenced in November last and it is anticipated that the completion of the first phase, in about two years time, will result in an additional one million gallons per day becoming available.

During the year under review, the Council's Water Undertakings distributed some 132.5 million gallons of water in their statutory area, an average of 368,000 gallons per day.

Of the total volume supplied, 107 million gallons were produced from the Council's own sources of supply and the balance of 25.5 million was taken from the neighbouring authorities of Boston Municipal Corporation and Skegness U.D.C.

A further 11 miles of distribution pipes were laid by the undertaking during the year and the total length of mains now in operation is slightly in excess of 200 miles.

It is estimated that a population of 16,000 is now receiving a piped water supply for domestic purposes only and an additional 1,483 supplies have been afforded by meter for other than domestic use.

Housing.

During the year 1953 the Council completed 77 new Council houses consisting of:-

(a) 53 three-bedroomed houses.
(b) 22 two-bedroomed houses.
(c) 2 aged persons bungalows.

The following dwellings were approved and under construction on the 31st December,1953:-

Approved.	118	Eaves.	41
Commenced.	55	Roofed.	31
Damp-proof course.	55	Plastered.	21

A total of 810 families are now housed by the Council in the following categories:-

(a)	Council houses (brick)	638
(b)	" " (non-traditional Airy)	40
(c)	" " (" " Prefab.)	60
(d)	" " (" " Swedish)	8
(e)	Dwellings (Converted Land Army Hostel)	10
(f)	" (Camp sites, etc).	54

Ten hutments on the camp sites at the Great Steeping Aerodrome were demolished during the year. All the hutments on Site 5 have now been cleared away and the families rehoused. There are still a few on camp Site 4 to be cleared and it is very much to be hoped that during 1954 accommodation will be found for these families as the hutments are now in a very unsatisfactory condition.

The preliminary scheme for providing baths, water closets and drainage improvements at the pre-war Council houses, adopted in principle by the Council, will it is hoped get under way during 1954. These amenities with a constant supply of hot and cold water are urgently needed and should be in all the Authority's houses.

There are 22 small sewage disposal works at the various housing sites and some of these have been a source of trouble. A full time workman is now employed three days a week visiting all the works and ensuring that they are in good condition and working satisfactorily. At each site there is a local person responsible for small details with the duty of notifying the office of any breakdown.

During the year 25 new houses were built by private enterprise.

The Council have now established the new Housing Department under the control of Mr. G.F. Taylor, M.I.Mun.E., with responsibility for the erection of new houses, maintenance of existing Council property and planning.

One important feature of the work of the new Department will be the reconditioning of existing properties by bringing the houses up to a modern standard of amenity with new internal planning and arrangement, particularly, in many cases, with regard to staircases and in general making the dwellings fit, in accordance with the standards required by the Ministry. Under the Housing Act grants are available for this work up to 50% of the estimated cost of improvements. From the number of applications received for grants up to the present towards the improvement of cottages, there still appears to be little progress towards providing the essential amenities that so many houses require, particularly amongst the type of cottages scheduled as Category 4 under the Housing Rural Survey. Whether it is the lack of publicity generally or the fact that owners

will, of necessity, have to spend a certain amount of money on the property in order to qualify for the grant, is a matter of conjecture. What is obvious is that the intention of the Act is, at present, not being taken full advantage of. During the year 1953, 18 applications were received of which 3 had to be rejected. Applications varied from the conversion of a farm house into two cottages to a pair of small cottages altered to one.

Clearance Area schemes which were in hand before the war will shortly be re-examined and the new Housing Department will be responsible for replanning the areas concerned and the derelict sites following individual Demolition Orders.

During the year 77 families were rehoused by the Council in the following categories:-

1.	Families removed from overcrowded houses or from sublets	27
2.	Families removed from houses classified in Category 4, Housing Rural Survey	16
3.	Families removed from houses classified in Category 5, Housing Rural Survey	14
4.	Families rehoused from hutment camping sites.	4
5.	Families rehoused other than above ...	16

Camping Sites and Moveable Dwellings.

A few of the licensed camping sites near the coast were not available for caravans during the summer due to the flood causing a lack of amenities, removal of the topsoil during the temporary heightening of the seabank, or use of the site for reconstruction of the coastal sea defence.

Despite this set-back every effort was made by the owners to make their sites available and to give all facilities to the campers. This they, in most cases, managed to do with marked success though it was impossible to mask altogether the havoc caused by the flood or the contractors still working on the sea defences. During August all the available camping sites were fully booked, 49 of the sites being in use out of a total of 74.

Two camping sites were started without Council's sanction under the Building Byelaws and the Town and Country Planning Act. The owner of one site was eventually granted permission to continue use of the land until the end of the season. The owner of the other appealed to the Minister of Town and Country Planning against the Council's refusal to grant him permission but the Minister upheld the Council's decision.

The land at Ingoldmells, purchased by the Council for future use as a site for new Council Houses and moveable dwellings has not yet been provided with the necessary roads etc., and is not yet in use.

Sewerage.

New sewers were constructed at Spilsby for the provision of drainage for the new Council houses and others, a secondary modern school and private houses situated between Ashby Road and Partney Road. Modern developments and progress in Spilsby and Hundleby now require the extension of sewers that all cesspools may be abolished, this is particularly needed at the upper end of Hundleby and on the Raithby Road.

The Spilsby sewage disposal works, since the war and owing to a large amount of building and the elimination of the pail closet system in Spilsby and Hundleby, have had a much increased load to carry, with the result that No.3 filter bed was found to be working inefficiently. It was cleared of clinker which had been in use for about 40 years and a new filter media provided and is now working efficiently again. There are indications that both the other filter beds will require renewing very shortly.

It is much to be regretted that again this year I have to report no progress in the construction of sewers and disposal works for our coastal area. It is unnecessary for me to cover the ground again as to the urgency of this problem, I have stressed it in many Annual Reports and the state of affairs is well known to the Members of the Council. That nothing has been done is in no way the fault of the Council who has made repeated and urgent representations to the Ministry but without avail.

Burgh-le-Marsh and Wainfleet schemes for sewage disposal are antiquated and unsatisfactory. I can only repeat, as in former reports, the urgent necessity of constructing new treatment works.

Again I must direct the Council's attention to the unsatisfactory drainage arrangements at the Council houses in St. Michael's Lane (old Council houses) Wainfleet St. Mary and at Firsby. The sub-soil does not lend itself to septic tank treatment, and the only satisfactory method is by proper treatment, via a small modern sewage scheme as constructed on all new Council house sites.

Night Soil Collection.

I have already referred to the urgent necessity for modern sewage schemes in our Coastal district . Until these have been approved and completed the problem of the removal of pail bucket contents from houses, business premises and the numerous camping sites, will never be overcome. It is pleasing, however, to be able to report that the number of complaints received during 1953, taking into account a reduction in the number of premises and sites used during part of the year, was very small. This can be attributed to a twice weekly removal of night soil in the villages of Anderby, Chapel St. Leonards and Ingoldmells during the period Whitsuntide until the second week in September. These villages received a once weekly collection during the rest of the year. Spilsby, Burgh, Wainfleet All Saints, Wainfleet St. Mary and Hogsthorpe received a weekly collection throughout the year. In addition there is a clearance of pail closets at Thorpe, Toynton, Irby and Welton Schools.

Three villages, Candlesby, Mumby and Sibsey, desired and made application for a night soil collection but on consideration found that the cost was too great to be borne by the parishes themselves. The time must come when this Public Health service is extended as necessary and the expense incurred spread over the general rate.

The Council owns three 800 gallon cesspool emptying vehicles and they have done excellent service throughout the year. In particular they were worth their weight in gold during the flood relief period, when without any delay they were able to tackle the work of pumping contaminated sewage effluent from flooded premises thus reducing the risk caused by prolonged contamination and shortening the time for the cleaning of houses.

381 private cesspools were emptied bringing in an income of £420, the charge being £1 for private houses and £1. 10. 0d for business premises. In addition 230 cesspools were emptied free of charge in the flooded areas.

Scavenging Services.

In all the 69 parishes refuse removal is undertaken. There is a once weekly refuse collection in seven built-up places, namely Spilsby, Hundleby, Wainfleet All Saints, Burgh-le-Marsh, Ingoldmells and Chapel St. Leonards. In the remaining 62 villages removals have been carried out once every three weeks in the winter and once every two weeks during the remainder of the year.

In this scattered rural district it is essential to have as many of the refuse tips as possible situated near the built up areas, and also positioned centrally at points for the refuse to be taken from the surrounding parishes. Only by this means can travelling costs be reduced. At the present time the tips are too few in number involving long journeys and wasted time.

Tips are at present in use at Spilsby, New Bolingbroke, Bilsby, Ulceby, Hogsthorpe, Burgh-le-Marsh and Friskney.

Great difficulty has been encountered in obtaining suitable sites, since owners of land are not enthusiastic about granting the Council permission to "fill in", being somewhat prejudiced against these tips.

The time is not far off when the Council will have to buy land at convenient places and dig trenches with a dragline for burying domestic rubbish and then covering, when full, with the topsoil again. This method, already in operation with much success at Hogsthorpe, is, in my opinion, the most satisfactory means of disposing of refuse on a large scale and will allow such land to be so used for a considerable number of years.

Ice Cream.

No new premises for the manufacture of ice cream were registered during the year. Fifteen fresh premises were registered for the retail sale of this commodity. There are now three manufacturers and eightyfive retailers of ice cream in the Rural District. Only two of the retailers sell unwrapt ices.

Twenty samples were taken during the summer for analysis and of these one was not up to the standard expected.

Milk.

Forty-one samples were taken for biological examination of milk by the Sanitary Officers. Following reports of milk samples showing evidence of infection with Brucella Abortus, visits were made to the farm premises and the co-operation of the farmer to the isolation of the affected cows and the pasteurisation of all milk was obtained.

Reports received from the County Council indicate that 59 samples of milk from Tuberculin tested herds were taken and of these 58 proved satisfactory and one unsatisfactory. 65 samples were taken and tested of milk that had been Pasteurised and of these one was not up to standard.

Food condemned during the year. (Not caused by flood damage).

22 tins tomatoes.	22 tins cherries
18 tins milk.	6 tins grape fruit
1 tin carrots.	4 tins peaches
2 tins fruit salad.	4 tins soup
10 tins plums	2 tins spaghetti
16 tins meat	24 lbs margarine
2 tins apples	184 lbs beef
1 tin beans	68¾ lbs bacon
4 tins pears	26 lbs ham.

Prevention of damage by Pests Act,1949 - Rodent Control.

The following tables indicate the work of inspection and treatment carried out by the Council's Rodent Operator, Mr. H. Wright, during the year ended 31st December,1953:-

		Dwelling houses.	Agricultural.	All other including Business and Industrial.
(a) Inspections.		187	135	70
(b) Treatments.	Major	1	-	-
	Minor	89	105	41
No. of properties found to be seriously infested by mice.		1	-	-

Flood Disaster, 1953.

I feel that my report would be incomplete without reference to the disaster of 31st January,1953. On that night a fierce north-westerly gale coinciding with a very high tide caused unprecedented damage to the East Coast of England, much of the low-lying land being overwhelmed by the sea with heavy loss of human life and untold damage to property and stock.

The Spilsby Coastal District in its entirety suffered very severely from the Sutton-Huttoft boundary to the Skegness Urban District junction and also at Gibraltar Point.

Large areas of the sea wall in all the coastal parishes were flattened and the sea poured in, inundating some 4,700 acres of land to a depth varying in different places up to seven feet.

In Huttoft the sea spread some 4000 yards in-land covering the main road to Sutton and drove up the dykes considerably further than this in many places overflowing on to the fields. The farmers and their stock suffered very severely in this area.

In Anderby the coastal area was completely cut off from the rest of the village by several feet of water and suffered a most alarming experience. Fortunately the Anderby-Chapel road held and saved a large area from flooding.

At Chapel St. Leonards a very large number of houses were flooded, the Outmarsh and Trunch Lane and the camping area being particularly severely affected and much damage done.

Much of the sea wall at Ingoldmells was overwhelmed by the sea and very great damage done to the many camping sites and building estates. Loveday's Residential Estate being completely wrecked with heavy loss of life and the huge Butlins Camp which holds over 6000 campers in the summer time was under 6 feet of water.

The grevious loss of 16 lives from drowning was recorded - 12 adults and 4 children - these all came from the village of Ingoldmells. At least two others died later as a result of exposure while many others suffered severely from shock. That the casualties were not more was due to the heroic efforts of many who worked throughout the night and whose difficulties were enhanced by the fury of the elements and the breakdown of all electricity and telephone communications.

When daylight came on the morning of February 1st and the gale and sea had somewhat subsided it was possible to get some idea of the extent of the damage and at once relief measures were started. The Council immediately set up a Relief Committee and co-opted to it members of the public from the stricken villages. The work of this Committee was immense and was by no means finished by the end of the year. Among their duties they had to assess the value of the damage that the various persons had suffered and administer the aid sent from the Lord Mayor's Fund.

Altogether it was found that 465 houses and shops had been more or less inundated by the sea. This figure does not include the very large number of caravans that had been parked for the winter and many of which were damaged nor the damage to Butlins Camp.

Some hundreds of people were rendered temporarily homeless and had to be catered for. The town of Alford was crowded with refugees and nobly rose to an immense amount of relief work, many people from Ingoldmells were housed in a Miner's Home at Skegness while others were put up by friends.

As the water subsided it was evident that the risk of outbreaks of disease was considerable and the Council's Public Health and Housing and Water Departments were working at very high pressure a seven day week for some considerable time.

The water mains were fractured at Vickers Point, Ingoldmells, Trunch Lane, Chapel St. Leonards and the Outmarsh while some miles of the mains on the Anderby Road were damaged beyond repair by the drag-lines doing urgent temporary repair work. All the water from the Mumby supply to the coastal villages was found to be polluted as far back as Sloothby and the mains had to be repaired, emptied and disinfected before a normal supply could be put into use again. Many households who relied on their own wells had no drinking water as the wells were ruined by sea water and sewage. For some days the public were supplied from two R.A.F. water tenders and other emergency mobile services.

Almost the entire coastal area sewage disposal is by cesspools or bucket closets, the sea played havoc with both methods and their sewage contents were distributed all over the land and in the houses in a great many cases.

The houses in varying degrees suffered damage. Some had had only a few inches of seawater in them and were inhabited again as soon as the floors could be cleaned, disinfected and dried. Some houses were completely wrecked and could never be used again, Lovedays Estate and the Outmarsh at Chapel St. Leonards suffering particularly in this way, while many others had varying depths of sand, mud, filth and garbage covering their groundfloor when the water finally subsided. The labour required to get these houses emptied of sand and rubbish and then made wholesome and dry as well as the furniture in them was immense and could only be done with the help of voluntary labour which came forward in large quantities at the weekends. After the houses had been cleaned and dried it was found that 243 of them required major repairs of one sort or another.

The drying out of houses and of such things as carpets, cushions and blankets etc., was very much assisted by the loan to the Council of a number of air mobile drying units by the R.A.F. These units were sent from house to house as they were cleared of mud and debris and the hot air from them was driven through the houses under pressure with a very beneficial effect. Further centres were set up at Ingoldmells, Chapel and Anderby where these units were also used for the drying of any effects that householders might want.

The contents of all food shops were taken and housed in large hangers in the Steeping Aerodrome. There everything was carefully examined. Everything that could be safely used for human consumption was cleaned and returned to the shops but large quantities had to be condemned and buried under ground. The following is a list of food so condemned:-

Goods per lb.	Tinned Goods.	Various.
1234 lbs flour	88 peas	327 packets cerials
1007 lbs soap	3 apples	755 bottles of pickles
187 lbs sweets	1 billberries	394 lbs fat
348 lbs dried fruit	11 cherries	384 lbs margarine
267 lbs pearl barley	4 anchovies	74 lbs butter
71 lbs bacon	10 oranges	546 jars of jam
793 lbs biscuits	71 beans	1813 packets of biscuits
142 lbs beans	2 syrup	436 boxes crisps
28 lbs peas	39 plums	287 boxes sweets
142 lbs oatmeal	11 pineapple juice	107 bars chocolate
168 lbs cornflower	29 apricots	227 minerals
448 lbs potatoes	36 meat	420 packets jelly
49 lbs salt	3 ham	25 bottles coffee
56 lbs rice	69 mustard	38 packets sponge mixture
36 lbs tea	10 coffee	24 fruit salad
35 lbs tapioca	63 soup	19 packets sage
1½ lbs pepper	5 cocoa	17 bottles mint
20 lbs rusks	54 liver salts	80 jars fishpaste
48 lbs apples	30 pepper	28 bottles stuffing
116 lbs arrowroot	26 milk	122 bottles medicine
5 lbs dates	67 sweets	199 doz. matches
17 lbs figs	22 fish	93 boxes cheese
15 lbs coffee	30 sarlines	54 packets soup
28 lbs tomatoes	15 mincemeat	44 bottles essence
112 lbs almonds	13 peaches	680 packets cigarettes
46 lbs starch	25 pineapple	45 packets rennies
28 lbs lemonade powder	126 miscellaneous	244 packets pills
		67 jars ointment
		220 miscellaneous.

Live stock suffered very severely especially pigs and poultry while cattle that were not drowned in some cases died from drinking salt water.

Many of the camping sites along the coast were covered by the sea and large numbers of caravans that had been parked for the winter were carried by the waves far from their moorings and in many cases entirely wrecked. Butlins Camp at Ingoldmells that houses 6000 visitors a week in the summer was for some days under 5-7 feet of sea water and its northern end was found to be an absolute shambles when the water subsided. The wind and waves had carried a vast amount of debris into this area from further north and mixed with the wreckage of that part of the camp was the battered remains of houses, furniture, uprooted shrubs, vegetation and refuse of every sort and the whole covered with mud and sand. It was under this mass that the bodies of most of the victims of the catastrophe were found.

That we had subsequently no ill effect to the health of those living in the stricken area was due to the really magnificient work put in by the staff and members of the Public Health and Housing and Water Departments, all of whom worked long and arduous hours directing and controlling the rescue and rehabilitation work without grumbling or complaint. I should like also to thank all the many voluntary workers who came in large numbers to help. The W.V.S. did a great work, within 15 hours of the disaster they were providing hot meals and rest accomodation to the exhausted refugees and throughout the emergency their assistance was never asked for in vain. Through their organisation clothing, furniture and household requisites were supplied to all

those in need and distress. The Red Cross and St. John's Ambulance Service also did splendid work in the formation and staffing of various 1st Aid Posts along the villages while many voluntary parties of helpers came in bus loads and cars to work under the Sanitary Officers in clearing houses and gardens of untold tons of sand, filth and rubbish and in the search for lost valuables. It is impossible to name all who helped, but as the officer responsible for the health of the District I should like to thank everyone who came forward to assist us in this time of crisis.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department.

Report of work done by Sanitary Inspector for the year 1953.

Total number of houses erected during the year:-

(i)	By the Local Authority.	77
(ii)	By other Local Authorities.	-
(iii)	By other bodies or persons.	25

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) including building licences, grant schemes, housing rural survey inspections. (Note : Premises inspected under Flood Section not included in this column)	314
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose. ...	360
(2) (a)	No. of dwelling houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.	Already recorded & altered in Rural Survey.
(b)	No. of inspections made for the purpose.	
(3)	No. of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. ...	9
(4)	No. of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	238

Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers, including building licences, Council houses, grant aided schemes and premises following Housing Rural Survey inspections.	292

Flood Section.

(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected. ...	319
(b)	Estimated number of first aid repairs supervised, i.e., drying out process, repairs to doors, windows, raising floor boards, etc.	233
(c)	Detailed specifications prepared and number of houses completely repaired.	55
(d)	Detailed specifications prepared and number of houses where works have commenced	121
(e)	Detailed specifications prepared and number of houses where orders have been placed but not commenced.	67
(f)	Estimated re-inspections of properties covering (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) above, excluding caravans.	1050

Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 36 of the Housing Act,1936:-

(1)	No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	2
(2)	No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices by owners.	2

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	1

(2) No. of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) by owners	1
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners.	-

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act,1936:-

(1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. ...	6
(2) No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. ...	-
(3) No. of dwelling houses subject to undertakings.	-

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act,1936:-

(1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.	-
(2) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit.	-

(e) Proceedings under Sections 25 and 26:-

(1) No. of Clearance Orders made ...	-
(2) No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance thereof.	-

Housing Act,1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.

(a)	(I) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.	No true record.
	(II) Number of families dwelling therein.	
	(III) Number of persons dwelling therein.	
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.	-
(c)	(I) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	27
	(II) Number of persons concerned in such cases.	110
(d)	Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved.	-

Housing Act,1949.

(a)	No. of applications for grants received. ...	18
(b)	No. of grants made.	15
(c)	No. of applications for grants made by Local Authority.	1

Moveable Dwellings, Tents, Vans, etc.	No. of site licences.	74
	No. of individual licences.	-
	No. inspected during year (estimated) -	
	Sites	200
	Dwellings.	320
	No. of contraventions remedied.	2

FOOD PREMISES.

Bakehouses.	No. in district. ...	35
	No. of inspections. ...	42
	No. of contraventions. ...	2
	Defects remedied. ...	2
Control of Milk Supplies.	No. of distributors on register.	21
	No. of dairies on register.	67
	No. of inspections of dairies.	90
	Contraventions remedied.	-
	No. of milk samples taken : Satisfactory.	162
	: Unsatisfactory.	3

Ice Cream and Meat Products.	(No. of manufacturers : (a) Ice Cream	3
	(b) Meat Products	14
	(No. of premises registered for sale of Ice Cream.	85
	(No. of contraventions found.	2
	(No. of contraventions remedied.	2
	(No. of samples of ice cream taken - Grade I.	5
	Grade II.	8
	Grade III.	6
	Grade IV.	1
Slaughter-houses.	(No. on register ...	-
	(No. of inspections. ...	-
	(Contraventions of by-laws. ...	-
	(Defects remedied. ...	-
Other Food Premises.	(No. of inspections. ...	72
	(No. of Contraventions found.	2
	(No. of Contraventions remedied.	2

Unsound Food.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known).					
Number inspected.					
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcases condemned.					22
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.					
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.					
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned.					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.					
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.					

NO SLAUGHTERING.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Closets.	(No. of houses with privy valuts in district.	2341.
	(No. of houses with pail closets in district.	3145
	(No. of pail closets repaired.	-
	(No. of water closets substituted for dry receptacles.	21
	(No. of houses with water closets in district.	2247
	(No. of water closets repaired.	-
Drains.	(Drains examined, tested, exposed, etc.	109
	(Drains unstopped, repaired, etc.	12
	(Waste pipes, disconnected, repaired, etc.	16
	(Existing soil pipes, etc., renewed or repaired.	3
Sewers.	(New lengths of sewer laid.	-
Tanks, Filter Beds, etc.	(Alterations to sewage disposal works.	1
	(Any inadequacy of sewage disposal works or complaints as to smells.	-

Cesspools.	(Cesspools emptied, cleansed, etc.	381
	(Free emptying - flooded area.	233
	(Cesspools abolished.	-
General.		
Offensive Trades.	(No. of premises in district.	-
	(Contraventions of by-laws.	-
Knackers Yards.	(No. licensed.	-
	(No. of inspections.	-
	(Defects remedied.	-
Shops Act, 1950.	(No. of shops inspected.	-
	(Contraventions remedied.	-
Water Supply.	(Wells : New sunk.	-
	(Closed as polluted.	1
	(Public Supply : Area supplied.	See below.
	(Percentage of houses supplied.	
	(No. of samples obtained for analysis:	
	(a) from wells.	149
	(b) from public supply.	115
	(Any insufficiency and where.	-
	(Area supplied - Parishes supplied by water mains other than mains belonging to Spilsby Rural District Council - Burgh, Orby, Welton, Gunby, Candlesby, Bilsby, Well, Markby, Sibsey, Langton, Frithville, Carrington, Old Bolingbroke, Mavis Enderby and parts of Raithby, Sausthorpe and West Fen.	
	(Parishes supplied by Spilsby Rural District Council water mains - Spilsby, Addlethorpe, Anderby, Bratoft, Brinkhill, Chapel St. Leonards, Croft, Cumberworth, East Keal, East Kirkby, Eastville, Firsby, Friskney, Great Steeping, Hagnaby, Halton, Hogsthorpe, Hundleby, Huttoft, Ingoldmells, Irby, Little Steeping, Midville, Mumby, New Leake, Partney, Stickford, Stickney, Thorpe St. Peter, Toynton All Saints, Toynton St. Peter, Ulceby, Wainfleet All Saints, Wainfleet St. Mary, West Keal, Willoughby-with-Sloothby, and parts of Raithby, Sausthorpe and West Fen.	
	(Percentage of houses supplied - Burgh 80%, Orby 35%, Gunby 23%, Welton 55% and Candlesby 40%	
Disinfection, etc.	(Premises disinfected :	
	(a) ordinary infectious disease.	8
	(b) tuberculosis.	6
	(Rooms stripped and cleansed.	-
	(No. of premises disinfested.	-
House Refuse.	(Parishes served by scavenging scheme - Spilsby, Wainfleet All Saints, Burgh, Chapel St. Leonards, Hogsthorpe, Ingoldmells, Anderby, Bilsby, Partney, Stickford, Stickney, East Kirkby, New Bolingbroke, Friskney, Wainfleet St. Mary, Addlethorpe, Welton, Orby, Eastville, New Leake, Toynton All Saints, East Keal, Mumby, Hundleby, Huttoft, Sibsey, Great Steeping, Willoughby , Little Steeping, Firsby, Candlesby, Croft, Brinkhill, Irby, Gunby, Scremby, Skendleby, Ashby, Halton Holgate, Toynton St. Peter, Old Bolingbroke, Raithby, West Keal, West Fen, Frithville, Midville, Bratoft, Hagnaby, Aswardby, Ulceby, Thorpe St. Peter, Thornton-le-Fen, South Ormsby, Rigsby, Markby, Langton, Calceby, Carrington, Claxby, Cumberworth, Dalby, Driby, Farlesthorpe, Hareby, Harrington, Langriville, Mavis Enderby, Sausthorpe, Westville and Well.	
	(How frequently is refuse removed from each house?	Once weekly in seven built up parishes - remaining 62 parishes once every three weeks during the winter and once every two weeks during the summer.

House Refuse Cont'd.	Method of final disposal.	Controlled tipping.
	Are existing arrangements for refuse removal satisfactory?	Yes.
Nuisances.	Total number of nuisances during year:-	
	(1) Abated as result of informal action by Sanitary Inspector.	419.
	(2) Reported to Council -	
	Statutory notice issued.	1
	Statutory notice not issued.	-

Details of Nuisances abated.

	After Informal Intimation.	After Statutory Notice.
Smoke	-	-
Accumulation of refuse.	6	-
Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water.	10	-
Fowls, pigs and other animals.	10	-
Dampness.	-	-
Dirty premises.	1	-
Yards repaved or repaired.	-	-
Privies abolished.	4	-
Other nuisances.	-	-
Cesspools.	381	-
Overcrowding.	27	-

Rats and Mice Destruction.	No. of rodent operatives employed.	1
	No. of premises treated -	
	(a) dwelling houses.	-
	(b) other premises.	-
	Are there any serious reservoirs of rats in district?	No.

Other appointments held by Inspector. None.

Any Assistants? One.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

Part I of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises. (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register. (3)	Number of Inspections. (4)	Number of Written Notices. (5)	Number of Occupiers prosecuted. (6)	M/c line No. (7)
(i) Factories in which Sects. 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	1	22	56	-	-	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	2	99	72	-	-	2
(iii) Other premises in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises). ≠	3	6	30	verbal 20 Coastal Flood.	-	3
Total.		127	158	20	-	

≠ Includes provision of sanitary conveniences for building operations and works of engineering construction.

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars.	M/c line No.	No. of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.	M/c line No.
		Found	Remedied.	Referred To H.M. Inspector.	Referred By H.M. Inspector.		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of cleanliness. (S.1)	4	4	4	-	-	-	4
Overcrowding (S.2).	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	-	-	-	-	-	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6).	8	4	4	-	-	-	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) -							
≠ (a) Insufficient.	9	22	22	-	-	-	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	10	1	1	-	-	-	10
(c) Not separate for sexes.	11	-	-	-	-	-	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	12	-	-	-	-	-	12
Total.	60	31	31	-	-	-	60

≠ Works for coastal flood inclusive.

Part VIII of the Act.

OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111).

NIL.