

[Report 1960] / Medical Officer of Health, St Ives (Hunts.) R.D.C.

Contributors

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LIST OF PARISHES IN THE COUNCIL'S AREA

Bluntisham

Hilton

Broughton

Holywell-cum-Needingworth

Bury

Houghton and Wyton

Colne

Oldhurst

Earith

Pidley-cum-Fenton

Fenstanton

Somersham

Hemingford Abbots

Warboys

Hemingford Grey

Wistow

Woodhurst

Saint Ives Rural District Council

Chairman of the Council:

G. Kiddle, Esq.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

M. P. Denny, Esq.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

D. B. Wright, Esq.

Vice-Chairman:

Revd. N. Trafford

Members:

E. H. Alderson, Esq.	Mrs. C. A. Gowlett
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R. W. Giddins, Esq.	R. G. Saint, Esq.
Miss V. M. G. Thackray	

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health:

J. Caldwell, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector:

G. H. Phipps, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector

G. M. Clifford, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., Cert.I.Hsg.

Administrative Assistant:

F. W. Palmer.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR
THE RURAL DISTRICT OF
SAINT IVES IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTINGDON
FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st DECEMBER, 1960.

To:— The Chairman and Members of the
 St. Ives Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the District for the year 1960.

The Birth Rate continues to indicate an upward trend and still remains well above the National average.

The continued decrease in the Death Rate is another favourable feature of this year's statistics, the rate being well below the figure for England and Wales as a whole.

Infant Mortality on the other hand was higher this year than in 1959 but nevertheless the figure for the district is practically similar to that for the whole Country.

Although there was a 50% increase in Notifiable Infectious Diseases this year, as compared with 1959, the incidence was still low and of the total number of cases reported approximately $\frac{2}{3}$ of them were in respect of measles, an outbreak of which began about October in the Warboys area.

The 1,000th Council House to be completed in the district was officially opened by the Rt. Hon. Henry Brooke, Minister of Housing and Local Government. The Minister stressed that the provision of suitable accommodation for old people was of primary importance and rather appropriately the tenant of this particular house was an elderly person.

Difficulty is still being experienced in maintaining an adequate pressure of water in the mains. This low pressure

occasionally necessitates restriction on the use of water for non-domestic purposes.

As a result of the progress in the final preparation for the commencement of the Main Drainage Scheme for the riverside villages of Houghton, Wyton and the Hemingfords, I am pleased to report that the Scheme has now been submitted to the Ministry for approval.

In conclusion, I should like to thank members of the Council for their kindness to me during the year, and all the Officers of the Council for their continued help and co-operation.

I am, Your obedient Servant,

J. CALDWELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

General Statistics

Population (middle 1959)	...	...	15,180
Population (middle 1960)	...	...	15,340
Area	...	...	45,911
Rateable Value	...	...	£168,628
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	£696
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	4,332

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total	Crude BirthRate per 1,000 estimated population	
Legitimate	135	128	263		17.9
Illegitimate	6	6	12	ComparabilityFactor	1.11
Total	141	134	275	Corrected Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	19.9
				(Ditto for England and Wales)	17.1
STILL BIRTHS				Birth Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	10.8
Legitimate	1	1	2	(Ditto for England and Wales)	19.7
Illegitimate	—	1	1		
Total	1	2	3		
DEATHS (all ages)				Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	7.8
	49	71	120	ComparabilityFactor	1.12
				Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	8.8
				(Ditto for England and Wales)	11.5

The following table indicates the trends in the Birth Rate and Death Rate for the district over the past 5 years and compares them with those for the County of Huntingdon and for England and Wales.

BIRTH RATE	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
St. Ives R.D.C.	17.3	17.5	17.4	18.5	19.9
County of Huntingdon ...	18.5	20.3	19.8	19.6	19.7
England and Wales	15.7	16.1	16.4	16.5	17.1
DEATH RATE					
St. Ives R.D.C. ...	9.3	8.9	10.5	9.8	8.8
County of Huntingdon ...	10.2	10.2	10.1	10.1	10.6
England and Wales	11.7	11.5	11.7	11.6	11.5
Deaths of Infants under 1 year			M.	F.	Total
Legitimate ...	...	...	3	3	6
Illegitimate ...	...	...	—	—	—
Total			3	3	6

Death Rates of infants under 1 year.		
All infants per 1,000 live births ...		21.8
(Ditto for England and Wales) ...	...	21.7

CAUSES OF DEATH

(Registrar General's List)

List No.	Cause	M.	F.
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0
2	Tuberculosis, other	0	1
3	Syphilitic disease	0	0
4	Diphtheria	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	0	0
6	Meningococcal infections	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0
8	Measles	0	0
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	0
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	0
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	3
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	2
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	6
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	0
16	Diabetes	0	2
17	Vascular lesions of the nervous system	6	14
18	Coronary disease, angina	7	7
19	Hypertension with heart disease	1	2
20	Other heart disease	7	12
21	Other circulatory disease	1	3
22	Influenza	0	0
23	Pneumonia	5	5
24	Bronchitis	3	0
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	0	0
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	0
27	Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	1	0
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	1	0
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0
31	Congenital malformations	0	1
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	9
33	Motor vehicle accidents	2	0
34	All other accidents	0	4
35	Suicide	2	0
36	Homicide and operations of war	0	0
		—	—
	Total all causes	49	71
		—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

Total number on Register at 31st December, 1960 ... 39

Pulmonary: 32

Non-Pulmonary: 7

AGE PERIODS				New Cases—Diagnosed				New Cases—Transfers			
				Respiratory		Non-Res.		Respiratory		Non-Res.	
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	..	..	..	..	..	I	..	..	..	..	..
10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15	..	..	..	I	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
35	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
65 and upwards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..				4	0	I	0	0	0	0	0

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Total Cases Notified
Scarlet Fever	2
Whooping Cough	13
Diphtheria	—
Measles	103
Acute Pneumonia	7
Puerperal Pyrexia	—
Typhoid Fever	—
Erysipelas	5
Acute Poliomyelitis	—
Infective Hepatitis	1
Dysentery	3
Food Poisoning	3
	137

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) **Laboratory Facilities**

The following laboratory facilities have been available to this authority and to General Practitioners in the area.—

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge. Tel.: Cambridge 55526.

Public Analyst, S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.I.C., Tenison Road, Cambridge. Tel.: Cambridge 2097.

(b) **Ambulance Service**

Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service have been available on doctor's orders. Tel.: Huntingdon 348.

(c) **Home Nursing**

Nurse-midwives employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council carried out Home Nursing and attended maternity cases,

- (i) A nurse residing in Warboys (Tel.: Warboys 224) attended cases in Warboys, Wistow and Broughton.
- (ii) A nurse residing in Bluntisham (Tel.: Earith 225) attended cases in Bluntisham, Earith, Somersham and Pidley.
- (iii) A Nurse residing in Hemingford Grey (Tel.: St. Ives 2128) attended cases in the Hemingfords, Fenstanton and Hilton.
- (iv) A Nurse residing in Woodhurst (Tel.: Warboys 327) attended cases in Wyton Aerodrome, Woodhurst, Oldhurst and Upwood.
- (v) A Nurse residing in St. Ives (Tel.: St. Ives 2321) attended cases in Houghton and Wyton villages.

(d) **Clinics and Treatment Centres**

(i) The following Health Services are provided by the Huntingdon County Council:—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Minor Ailments	Schoolchildren	3rd Friday in month. 10.30-11.30 a.m.	Health Clinic. Station Approach, St. Ives.
Infant Welfare	Children (0-5 yrs.)	Every Friday. 2-4 p.m. 1st Monday in month. 2-4 p.m. 2nd Tuesday in month. 2-4 p.m. 1st Wednesday in month. 2-4 p.m.	Ditto. Constitutional Hall, Fenstanton. Methodist Schoolroom, Somersham. Women's Institute Hall, Warboys.
Dental	Pre-school and schoolchildren, Pre-natal and nursing mothers.	Every Monday 9 a.m.-12 noon. 1.30-4.30 p.m. Every Saturday 9 a.m.-12 noon Every Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m.-12 noon 1.30 - 4.30 p.m. Every Saturday 9 a.m.-12 noon	Health Clinic, Station Approach, St. Ives. 10A Princes Street, Huntingdon.

(ii) The following Health Services are provided by the Regional Hospital Board:—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Chest	All ages	Every Thursday. 10 a.m.-12 noon.	County Hospital, Huntingdon.
Venereal Diseases	All cases	Tuesdays, 3-6.30 p.m. Thursdays, 4-6.30 p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge
	Males	Mondays, 4.30-6.30 p.m. Tuesdays, 5.30-7 p.m.	Out-Patients Department, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.
Orthopaedic	Females and Children	Tuesdays, 10.30-12 noon Thursdays, 4.30-6.30 p.m.	
	Pre-school and schoolchildren	Every Tuesday 10 a.m.- 12 noon (Surgeons by appointment) 1st, 2nd and 4th Fridays in month (Sister) 10 a.m.-12 noon.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon Health Clinic, Station Approach, St. Ives

(iii) The following service is provided under the Supplementary Ophthalmic Scheme of the National Health Service:—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Ophthalmic	Pre-school and schoolchildren	1st and 3rd Fridays in month (by appointment except in emergency). 10 a.m.-12 noon.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.

Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedic, Paediatric, Skin Obstetrical, Gynaecological and Dental Out-Patients' Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

(e) Hospital Services.

Fever. Cases of Infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are admitted to Isolation Hospitals at Cambridge, Peterborough or Ely.

General Hospital Services were provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon, and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity Cases were admitted to Primrose Lane Maternity Hospital, Huntingdon and Mill Road Hospital, Cambridge.

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

1. (1) **Water.** — Water is supplied to the district by the Ramsey and Saint Ives Joint Water Board, the Chesterton and Saint Ives Joint Water Board and by Huntingdon Rural District Council.

The proposed re-grouping of those Water Undertakings supplying water in bulk to the Council made steady progress during the year. The position is rather complicated as the Council decided to participate in an application to the Minister for an Order under the Water Acts to constitute The Nene and Ouse Joint Water Board on which Board it would be represented. The Nene and Ouse Joint Water Board would supply water to Houghton, Wyton and Hemingford Abbots and the larger part of Hemingford Grey which are at present supplied by Huntingdon Rural District Council who will itself become a constituent member.

The proposed Nene and Ouse Joint Water Board wish to take additional supplies for its constituent authorities from the River Ouse at Brampton which scheme was originally sponsored by Huntingdon Borough Council.

However, the Great Ouse Water Bill promoted by Bedfordshire and Huntingdonshire County Councils and other Authorities envisages a much larger intake of water from a point nearer the source of the river and the construction of a large reservoir at Diddington.

These schemes will duplicate each other to a certain extent and the Great Ouse Bill includes a provision for the Authorities constituting the proposed Nene and Ouse Water Board to join in the Diddington Scheme.

Negotiations on these points are still proceeding.

During the year negotiations also continued with the Cambridge Water Company for the acquisition of the Council's Water Undertaking, which supplies water to the remaining parishes in the district which proceeded satisfactorily and the Council appointed Financial Advisers to negotiate with the Company.

Opposition to proposal for the re-grouping of the Ramsey and Saint Ives Joint Board, The Chesterton and Saint Ives Joint Board and South Cambridgeshire Rural District Council and the Cambridge Water Company as a single unit was still apparent. Undoubtedly the position will not be resolved until the Minister has published his decision on this re-grouping after the necessary Public Inquiry has been held.

Saint Ives Borough Council again asked the Council for additional supplies which request had to be refused as neither Huntingdon Rural District Council nor the Chesterton and Saint Ives Joint Board were able to augment their supplies of water in bulk which could be passed on to the Borough.

Meanwhile the usual restrictions on the use of water for non-domestic purposes were imposed from 1st June to 30th September and water pressures in some villages were rather low.

Routine samples of water from various points in the district indicated that the purity of the water was satisfactory. 89 samples were taken by the Water Department during the year.

1. (2) **Drainage and Sewerage.** The remainder of the sites required for pumping stations in Houghton, Wyton and the Hemingfords Main Drainage Scheme were purchased during the year and the scheme was approved in principle by the Minister, who also authorised the Council to invite tenders for the work by public advertisement. The Council's Consulting Engineers were accordingly instructed to prepare the necessary bills of quantities and working drawings.

It is anticipated that this scheme will be commenced in 1961 and when completed will do much to improve the present unsatisfactory drainage arrangements in these charming riverside villages where the demand for land for residential development has been so insistent in the last decade, which demand does not yet appear to have reached its peak and will be further stimulated when the scheme gets under way.

As a result of difficulties experienced in the disposal of effluent from the village and the Council's Housing Estates, a main drainage scheme for Needingworth village was prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers.

This proposed scheme immediately ran into difficulties. It was only after prolonged negotiations that Planning Permission was obtained for the site for the disposal works,

then the owner of the site withdrew his offer to sell and the Council decided to apply for a Compulsory Purchase Order. Meanwhile owing to the urgent necessity for the scheme to permit the occupation of council houses in course of erection, alternative sites were surveyed and arrangements were being made with the Bluntisham Internal Drainage Board for permission to increase the effluent passing into the Boards watercourses as a temporary expedient.

Negotiations with the Planning Authority and the Owners were still proceeding at the end of the year.

There is little to report regarding the remainder of the district where conditions get steadily worse as each year passes. The only exception being Somersham where the main drainage scheme has operated satisfactorily, as indeed have all the disposal works built to deal with sewage from the Council's Housing Estates, which have continued to produce satisfactory effluents.

2. Rivers and Streams. — The River Ouse which flows through the district is controlled by the Great Ouse River Board.

Normal flooding of the washes and meadows adjacent to the river occurred during the winter, but no houses were affected.

The relief works now being undertaken by the River Board in the lower reaches and the new Cuts to the Wash have obviously improved conditions in the district. The heavy rains in the autumn and early winter did not produce the floods experienced in similar conditions over the past two decades and the water level dropped at a much faster rate.

The County Planning Committee asked the Council whether it would support the County Council in a further approach to the River Board with the object of implementing a flood protection scheme for the villages of Hemingford Grey and Hemingford Abbots, which scheme was estimated to cost approximately £30,000.

The Council was also asked whether it would be prepared to agree in principal to make a contribution towards the cost of the work.

No final decision on this matter was made as it was considered that this question was linked to the development plan for the Villages and it was deferred until a scheme was submitted by the River Board.

The Great Ouse Bill jointly promoted by Huntingdon County Council and other Authorities had not passed through all its stages during the year, but as reported in 1959 the rate of abstraction of water has been negotiated between the River Board and the Local Authorities promoting the Bill.

The future alone will prove whether the amenities of the river will be affected in any material way.

Minor Watercourses. — Following the judgement of the Queen's Bench Division that the Council was responsible for the maintenance of the Awarded Watercourses in the parish of Holywell-cum-Needlingworth, both Heath Drain and Parsons Drove watercourses were cleaned out during the year but no further work on awarded watercourses, as such, was undertaken pending the result of the Council's appeal against the Judgement.

The Judgement was, however, upheld in the Appeal Court and has clarified the position, but only to a limited extent, as the wording of the Parish Awards varies considerably in many parishes.

Maintenance works on other ditches which are heavily polluted with sewage continued during the year in an endeavour to reduce the nuisance arising from such effluents.

As a result of the delay in the commencement of the main drainage scheme for Holywell-cum-Needlingworth, negotiations were proceeding at the end of the year with Bluntisham Internal Drainage Board for the temporary discharge of effluent from houses in course of construction at Needlingworth.

3. (1) Closet Conversion. — Progress in the conversion of Pail to Water Lavatories was practically confined to those houses whose owners obtained either a Discretionary or a Standard Grant.

It is not anticipated that there will be any great increase in the speed of such conversions until further main drainage schemes come into operation.

It is to be hoped that the Council will continue to give a 50% grant towards the approved costs of such conversions as it did in Somersham.

3. (2) Public Cleansing.

(a) Night-soil Collection.

A weekly collection of night-soil is carried out over the whole of the district by means of two 750 gallon Yorkshire Karrier Tankers which are fitted with night-soil attachments.

Owing to the gradual decrease in the number of pail closets it has been possible to utilize these tankers to a much larger extent on the emptying of cesspools. However approximately 1,375 pail lavatories were emptied each week and the disposal problem has been extremely difficult.

Straw compounds erected at the Sewage Works at Oldhurst have been a great help in solving this problem as there was practically no agricultural land accessible for surface disposal after the harvest owing to the heavy rainfall experienced in the autumn.

The effluents from the compounds is passed through the works for treatment, but as it is so highly concentrated great care has to be taken to ensure a satisfactory effluent.

By arrangement with Huntingdon Borough Council and Saint Ives Borough Council night-soil is collected from these two districts.

These arrangements are subject to contracts with the Local Authority concerned and the Council.

(b) Cesspool Emptying.

The same vehicles are used for cesspool emptying and gully-cleansing as are used for the night-soil service, but as previously noted an increasing proportion of their time is spent on cesspool emptying.

In 1950 this was 250, in 1959, 950 and this year 1,102.

As in the case of night-soil disposal the difficulty lies not in the collection but in the disposal of such large quantities of sewage and sludge, amounting to approximately two million gallons.

At present the straw compounds at Oldhurst receive the bulk of the cesspool contents, but if the main drainage schemes for the riverside villages are further developed serious consideration will have to be given to this problem of disposal as each new house erected in any village with the sole exception of Somersham has, of necessity, septic tank drainage.

The charges for the service have remained unaltered from the time they were first fixed at the commencement of the service in 1950, namely, 25/- for each 750 gallon load and a sliding scale which reduces the charge for additional loads.

The service is made available to neighbouring Local Authorities and Government Departments for desludging sewage tank and gully emptying whilst householders in adjacent districts are also served at a higher charge.

(c) Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The weekly kerbside collection of house refuse throughout the district continued during the year and a satisfactory service was maintained.

Three vehicles are used on this service, namely, two diesel drawn 'dual tip' vehicles of 15 cubic yard capacity and one moving floor vehicle having a capacity of 12 cubic yards.

Each vehicle is manned by a driver and a loader.

The refuse is tipped at two worked out gravel pits situated at Somersham and Hemingford Grey, where the refuse is first burnt and then spread and levelled with a bulldozer.

Periodic disinfestation to control rats is undertaken by the Department and insecticides both in powder form and sprays are used to minimise nuisance from flies and crickets.

In addition to the house refuse collection in the area, contract work for more frequent collections of house and trade refuse was undertaken at one Royal Air Force Station situated in the area.

By arrangement with Saint Ives Borough Council a weekly kerbside collection of both house and trade refuse is carried out in the Borough.

Litter Baskets.

With the exception of one or two parishes where litter baskets have been provided from local Charity Trust Funds, there are no litter baskets in the district.

The Council reconsidered the policy of providing such baskets in each village and decided to ask Parish Councils whether they would like litter bins to be provided.

3. (3) Sanitary Inspections of the Area.

(a) Housing Inspections:—

Under Public Health and Housing Acts	275
Re-inspections	37
Number of Preliminary Notices served	31
Number of Preliminary Notices complied with	28
Number of Statutory Notices served	—
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	—

It was not found necessary to ask the Council to issue any Statutory Notices in respect of these inspections except in relation to those houses which are being dealt with under the Council's Slum Clearance Programme.

One Certificate of dis-repair issued in 1955 was cancelled during the year. No new Certificates were issued.

(b) Inspections under the Factories Act, 1937:—

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6	14	12	Nil	Nil
2. Section 7	43	23	Nil	Nil
Total	57	35	Nil	Nil

The following defects were found as a result of the inspections:—

Defect	Found	Remedied	Number of cases in which defects were:—	
			To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	1	1	0	0
Overcrowding ..	0	0	0	0
Temperature ..	0	0	0	0
Ventilation ..	0	0	0	0
Drainage of floors ..	0	0	0	0
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	0	0	0	0
Defective sanitary accommodation	2	2	0	0
Other offences ..	0	0	0	0
Total ..	3	3	0	0

No proceedings were taken against any of the occupiers of Factories in the district and the premises were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

(c) Inspections under Regulations, etc.

Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	206
Dumps, tips	...	...	...	...	...	83
Scavenging	...	...	...	...	...	82
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	13
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	6
Butcher's premises	...	...	...	...	...	75
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	28
Pumps, Wells	...	...	...	...	...	4
Drains	...	...	...	...	...	123
Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	230
Housing Sites	...	...	...	...	...	137
General Public Health	...	...	...	...	...	220
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	0
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	...	34
Meat from outside District	...	...	...	...	...	16
Petroleum Stores	...	...	...	...	...	20
After infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	0
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	3
Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	...	34
Food Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	175
Sewage Works	...	...	...	...	...	126
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	...	177
Drainage Schemes	...	...	...	...	...	19
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	112
					Total	1923

As a result of the inspections recorded above, several informal notices were served on owners and occupiers of the premises concerned requesting them to comply with the relevant Acts and Regulations.

The infringements found were of a minor character and were rectified after a request to do so had been made by the Department.

Many observations and inspections were carried out at Broiler Houses following complaints of nuisance from noise and smoke from burning litter.

Occupiers of Broiler Houses were requested to dispose of the litter by regular removal and not by burning on the sites close to residential property, and occupiers have co-operated in this matter.

3. (4) Caravan Sites.

With the introduction of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, a considerable amount of work was carried out to ensure that the licensed sites provided reasonable facilities for the occupiers of the caravans stationed thereon.

The responsibility for the enforcement of the relevant Sections of the Act were agreed with the Planning Authority and a standard was drawn up for the County as a whole.

Four Sites had been licensed by the end of the year for 24, 11, 6 and 6 Caravans respectively, and three sites for the stationing of single caravans.

Negotiations with the occupiers of other sites were still proceeding.

In addition to the caravans stationed on licensed sites there are several itinerant van dwellers in the district, the majority of whom are employed on a casual basis in agriculture and horticulture.

3. (5) Swimming Baths.

There are no public swimming baths in the area but during the summer many people bathe in the River Ouse, and with the establishment of a Car Park in one of the riverside villages its popularity has increased.

Unfortunately many visitors are unaware of the danger to children and one child was drowned during the year.

Pending the erection of permanent warning notices at various points the River Board erected a warning notice at Hemingford Abbots.

Following the protracted negotiations between the Council and the Saint Ives Borough Council for the provision of a Swimming Pool at Saint Ives, a joint committee consisting of 6 members of each Council was constituted to act on behalf of the two Authorities.

Subsequently the Council agreed to negotiate for the purchase of a site for the pool in Houghton Road, Saint Ives, and decided to contribute towards the capital and maintenance expenses in the ratio of a 1d. rate from the Rural District to a 2d. rate from the Borough.

Negotiations for the acquisition of the site were still proceeding at the end of the year.

The Education Authority continued to make arrangements for School Children from the district to visit baths in Cambridge.

3. (6) Rodent Control.

The existing arrangements, made by the Council, whereby the Foreman of the Public Cleansing Staff deals with minor infestations continued during the year.

Outside operators are employed to deal with major infestations when necessary,

HOUSING

(a) Slum Clearance.

The following table illustrates the progress made in the Council's Slum Clearance Scheme by the end of 1960.

Total number of houses represented as Unfit (including Clearance Orders)	...	227
Total number dealt with by informal action	...	7
Number of Demolition Orders made (Including Clearance Orders)	124	
Houses demolished as result of informal action	6	
Number of Undertakings accepted	102	
Number not yet demolished	2	
	234	234
Number of houses demolished	...	99
Number of Demolition Orders Quashed	...	8
Number of Undertakings cancelled	...	17

(b) General.

The following table shows the progress made in the erection of both Council and privately owned houses since 1946:-

		Council houses completed	Private houses completed
1946	... ..	18	10
1947	... ..	47	29
1948	... ..	50	19
1949	... ..	47	15
1950	... ..	47	21
1951	... ..	25	8
1952	... ..	56	2
1953	... ..	50	23
1954	... ..	74	23
1955	... ..	63	17
1956	... ..	15	36
1957	... ..	25	43
1958	... ..	21	41
1959	... ..	29	76
1960	... ..	19	62
		586	425

Residential development in the district continued at an increased rate, most of this is confined to the riverside villages. Of the 62 private houses completed 36 were erected at Hemingford Grey.

The Council has continued to make representations to the Planning Authority for the allocation of further land in the district for residential development and has drawn attention to the fact that the proposed main drainage scheme for the riverside villages will mean that all the services necessary for such development will then be available.

The 1,000th council house in the district was officially opened in September by the Right Honourable Henry Brooke, Minister of Housing and Local Government.

The ceremony marked the completion of 50 years effort on the part of the Council to provide reasonable housing accommodation for those families living under unsatisfactory conditions.

The Council gave careful consideration to the provision of flatlets for old people and decided to proceed with a scheme for a block of such flats to be erected at Somersham, which it was hoped would serve a number of villages in that part of the district.

The total number of council houses and bungalows at the end of the year was 1,004. All are subject to the Council's Differential Rent Scheme and are maintained by a Direct Labour Force consisting of a foreman and 8 men.

Improvement Grants.

The number of applications for Grants this year was 32 as against 35 in 1959.

Of these, two were refused by the applicants and one by the Council after consultation with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Standard Grants amounting to £1,535 were made in respect of 14 houses, an average of £109 per house.

Discretionary Grants amounting to £4,769 were made in respect of 20 houses, an average of £238 per house.

Since the implementation of the Improvement Grants Scheme by the Council, Grants to the total value of £40,184 have been made to Owners in respect of 202 houses, an average of £199 per house.

The improvement works to the pre-war council houses were not commenced in 1960, but detailed proposals for such schemes were in course of preparation.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply.

Practically all the milk retailed in the district is purveyed by two firms, both of whom operate high temperature short time Pasteurisation Plants.

Dealers and Supplementary Licenses authorising the sale of milk under Special Designations were granted as follows:-

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	7
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	7
Sterilized	...	...	...	...	6

The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1960, transferred the duties in respect of the granting of these licenses from the Council to the County Council on 1st January, 1961.

The necessary information was passed to the County Council to ensure the smooth transfer of these functions.

(b) Ice Cream.

There are no licensed manufacturers in the district; all the ice cream sold consists of prepacked brands manufactured and distributed by well-known firms.

There are 54 premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream.

(c) Meat and Other Foods.

Slaughterhouses

Following conferences with other Local Authorities in the County and various Trade Organisations the Council decided that there was no necessity for a public slaughterhouse in the district, but supported, in principle, the provision of such facilities in Saint Ives Borough.

In accordance with Section 3 of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, a report was submitted to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, on the existing and probable future requirements of the district for slaughterhouse facilities, and the facilities likely to become available to meet these requirements.

At the time the report was submitted, regular slaughtering in the district had practically ceased, only one slaughterhouse was in use, where, on average, 3 pigs a week were slaughtered.

No objections were lodged against the Council's proposals and the Minister subsequently accepted the Council's report and fixed 1st January, 1961, as the date when the new Slaughterhouse Regulations would become operative in the district.

As a consequence of this report, there are now no licensed slaughterhouses in the district.

All the meat is imported from adjoining areas, the butchers either buying direct from wholesalers, which method of purchase, off the hook, is becoming more usual, or from the local fat stock markets and arranging for animals to be slaughtered in premises situated outside the district.

Practically all the meat is therefore examined before it enters the district and except for routine checks, inspections are confined to the few occasions when emergency slaughter takes place.

As a result the total condemnations during the year was only one pigs head and tongue.

A variety of other foods were examined during the year and small quantities of tinned meat, fish, fruit, etc. were condemned.

Food Hygiene Regulations.

The food premises in the district have been classified as follows:-

Baker's	...	...	...	...	...	6
Butcher's Shops	...	...	...	...	...	9
Café's and Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	9
Confectioner's	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	5
General Stores	...	...	...	...	...	54
Greengrocer's	...	...	...	...	...	2
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	34

The shops are generally small and are of the 'Family Business' type, very few shop assistants being employed.

The occupiers have in the main continued to improve their standard of cleanliness and hygiene.

No proceedings were instituted during the year for offences against the Regulations, but the attention of some occupiers was drawn to minor infringements which were subsequently rectified.

Adulteration.

Huntingdon County Council is the primary Authority responsible for the administration of those provisions of the Food and Drugs Act relating to adulteration.

No special circumstances arose where it was considered any action could, with advantage, be taken by the Department.





