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STREET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

PUBLIC HEALTH

for

the year

1951



August, 1952

J.H.C. Eglinton  
Medical Officer of Health

L.C. Corlett  
Sanitary Inspector.

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT CLERK

ACTUAL REPORT

IN THE MATTER OF

FOR

THE YEAR

1901



Wm. C. Harrison  
District Clerk

L. O. Corbett  
Attorney General

Approved: 1901

To: THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT  
COUNCIL OF STREET

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Hawker and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the state of the public health of the Urban District for the year 1951.

The estimated population being 5736, there is a marked increase in the population compared with the previous year 1950 (5490) and the year 1949 (5389).

There has been a decrease in the number of live births 76 (89 in 1950) and the live birth rate, 11.50, is, for the first time for a number of years, below that for England and Wales 15.5 (1950, 15.8).

An increase is noted in the number of deaths, 67, as compared with 39 in 1950 with one less in 1949, viz: 68. One notes with satisfaction that there was only a single infant death under one year giving a rate per thousand of 0.17 as compared with 29.6 in England and Wales.

It is instructive to note the steep rise in the number of deaths from Heart Disease and allied conditions. This is in keeping with the general experience in England and Wales.

We were fortunate in that no case of poliomyelitis was reported in the district during the year.

In April and May there was an epidemic of Measles, fortunately without any deaths; apart from this the district during the year was particularly free from notifiable infectious disease.

May I again comment on the importance of maintaining, indeed increasing immunization against diphtheria. The comparatively few cases of diphtheria in the country and the absence of death is due to immunization.

The swimming bath with its excellent record of cleanliness has again proved a popular attraction and a great asset in building up the health of the community, particularly the younger generation.

The problem of the elderly people increases every year and they in particular with the public in general will note with great satisfaction the lead the Council has given to the various organisations in the district in the consideration and the amelioration of their difficulties and the promotion of their welfare.

We are fortunate in having a good chlorinated water supply and the Council is ever vigilant in maintaining this, together with a clean food supply.

The Council has again fully maintained their drive to build the maximum number of houses within the limit imposed by the Ministry of Health's allocation and thereby eased the urgent and pressing needs of the community. The result of this policy is now evident in the number of houses under construction and completed during the year.

In conclusion, may I, once again, thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued courtesy and the Staff for their loyalty and help.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Hawker and Gentlemen,  
Your Obedient Servant,

J.H.C. EGLINTON  
Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH 1951

VITAL AND OTHER STATISTICS

Area of the Urban District of Street - 3,069 sq. yards.

	<u>1951</u>	<u>1950</u>
Population - The estimated population for 1951 was	5,736	5,490
The number of live births, none illegitimate was (40 male, 36 female) giving a live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimate civilian population	76	89
	11.50	16.21
The live birth rate for England and Wales being	15.5	15.8
The number of still births was (1 female)	1	1
Giving a still birth rate of	0.17	0.18
The still birth rate for England and Wales being	0.36	
The total number of deaths was (36 male and 31 female) giving a death rate per 1,000 of the estimate civilian population of	67	39
	11.68	7.10
The death rate for England and Wales being	12.5	11.60

Infants

The number of deaths of infants under one year	1	Nil
The Infant Mortality for England and Wales being	29.6	21.8

Causes of Death (69)

Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	0
Syphilitic Diseases	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm	6	4
Diabetes	-	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	10	2
Heart Disease	28	12
Other circulatory diseases	3	1
Influenza	1	0
Pneumonia	1	2
Bronchitis	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	0
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	4
Congenital Malformations	1	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	6
Motor vehicle accidents	2	0
Suicide	1	1

Notifications of Infectious Diseases

Scarlet Fever	6	12
Measles	178	8
Pneumonia	0	5
Whooping Cough	-	14
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	6
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0

Notification of Tuberculosis

Respiratory	5	5
Non-respiratory	0	0
Deaths during year	3	0

## Tuberculosis

Number of cases on the Register on December 31st	<u>1951</u> 18	<u>1950</u> 21
Respiratory	16	19
Non-respiratory	2	2

## Diphtheria Immunisation

Number of children in an immunised state 31st December, 1951:

Age at 31.12.51	<u>Under 1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5- 9</u>	<u>10 - 14</u>	<u>Total</u>
i.e. born in:	<u>1951</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1942/46</u>	<u>1937/41</u>	<u>under 15</u>
	2	54	59	99	109	433	205	961

Number immunised from 1 - 5 years of age: 69. Primary 61  
Reinforced 8

## Vaccination

Number of children in a vaccinated state 31st December, 1951:-

Age Groups	<u>Under 1</u>	<u>1 to 4</u>	<u>5 to 14</u>	<u>15 or over</u>	<u>Totals</u>				
	P	R	P	R	P	R			
	8	0	1	0	1	3	6	13	7

## Child Welfare and Nursing Associations (Somerset C.C.)

The child welfare and nursing associations have continued to maintain a high standard of efficiency and again proved to be a great asset to the community.

The Infant Welfare Clinic is held every Wednesday in a portion of the Hindhayes Infant School, where the District Nurses, three in number, ordinarily attend. I attend as Medical Officer on alternate Wednesdays. The Infant Welfare Committee and voluntary helpers continue to carry out their various duties with enthusiasm, greatly contributing to the smooth running of the clinic.

## Activities

Short talks and demonstrations have taken place as in previous years.

There have been the usual number of Ordinary Clinic Sessions and Immunization Sessions against diphtheria.

## Infant Welfare Attendances:

	<u>1951</u>	<u>1950</u>
Number of Sessions	50	43
Number of Children under one year	980	940
Number of Children over one year	729	617
Number of Mothers, total attendances	1517	1366
Number of Individual Mothers	184	185
Number of Children examined by the Doctor	105	204
Number of Medical Consultations	182	

Distribution of supplies; orange juice etc. under the Ministry's Scheme has taken place as in former years.

The District Nurses, three in number, have again had a busy year. Their scope of work includes, maternity, midwifery, ante-natal, infant health, welfare centre, school medical inspections etc. etc. as well as the ordinary district nursing duties.

The number of visits to old people continues to rise, together with the many and varied problems associated with the aged.

### Analgesia

The nurses are provided with the necessary equipment and expectant mothers are given analgesia if so desired.

### Home Help Service

The Home Help Service, with a local Honorary Organiser, is under the direction and control of the County Council and is part of the County Health Scheme. It has proved to be a very valuable service, and in contrast to last year a much improved one. This is in no small measure due to the efforts of Mrs. Marsden, the local organiser. It is well patronized, and it is now possible to recruit its members from local women.

They are supplied with an overall and distinctive badge.

Experience has shown that on an average seven home helps are able to cope with the demands of the district, in fact, on occasion, neighbouring districts have also been assisted.

The service rendered is primarily during illness in the home and mainly amongst elderly people, being particularly valuable to those living alone. In addition, assistance is rendered in domiciliary, maternity and midwifery cases, operation cases etc. etc.

Payment has been assessed during this year according to means viz: from no payment to the full rate of two shillings and nine pence per hour according to circumstances.

### Old Peoples' Welfare

Towards the close of the year, Meetings of Representatives of the various Organisations in the Town were arranged at the instance of the Council to consider the Welfare of Old People. As a result, the Street Old Peoples' Welfare Committee was formed and arrangements made for a Club to be opened in the Crispin Hall on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons each week. Discussions were also commenced on other ways in which the Old People might be helped, by suitable recreation in chess etc., periodicals for reading, the provision of tea etc. and the visiting of the old people in their homes.

### Mass Radiography

The Mass Radiography Unit visited Street in July, once again demonstrating its value to the community.

Employees from Messrs. C. & J. Clark, from other local firms, and members of the general public were surveyed.

The Council will note with satisfaction that the report stated that the amount of Tubercule found was extremely small, being much less than is found in the general public of England as a whole.

### Miniature Films.

The total number of cases surveyed of Messrs. C. & J. Clark, Ltd. was 1012; male: 592, female: 414.

The total number of cases of employees from other local firms and the general public surveyed was 665; male: 346 and female: 319.

### Street Day Nursery

The Day Nursery has been taken over by the Education Authority and has become a Nursery School with qualified teachers and Nursery Assistants.

The priorities are:-

1. Children of women who go out to work either full or part-time.
2. Children of mothers with several children below school age in the family.
3. Children of mothers with chronic illness in the house.

No child taken under 3 years of age. All spend a full day at School and the food is supplied under the School Meals Service.

#### Dogs and Shops.

The Council supported the Ministry of Health's Circular with regard to enlisting the support of the local shopkeepers to put up notices with respect to excluding dogs from their shops, particularly food shops. An appropriate notice was printed, and sent out by me to the people concerned with an excellent response.

#### Clean Food Byelaws.

The Clean Food Byelaws were adopted by the Council and came into force on 24th May, 1951.

#### Infestation.

No case of Infestation was reported during the year.

#### Greenbank Public Swimming Baths.

This Bath in Street, privately owned, made possible by a legacy from the late Miss Alice Clark, who throughout her life, took a great interest in the welfare of women and children, has once again proved to be a great asset to Street and neighbourhood.

The capacity of the Pool is 200,000 gallons. The Children's section is separate from the Adults.

The water obtained from public supply is adequately chlorinated - purification plant installed, horizontal pressure filter by Pulsometer, break point chlorination - frequent daily tests being made.

Samples are taken by the Local Authority and sent to the County Analyst, the Reports being excellent. Daily and hourly tests were also taken at the Pool during peak periods - ensuring the maintenance of adequate chlorination.

The water is completely changed every six hours by filtration and the Dressing Rooms and Pool surrounds are kept clean by daily washing down with a sterilizing agent.

A qualified Bath Superintendent, with other helpers, is in regular attendance and the Urban District Council is represented on the Management Committee.

Children are not only taught to swim but Swimming Galas, and Water Polo Matches take place during the year.

The normal season is from May 1st to September 30th - the number of attendances this year was 38,000 and of this number 24,000 were juveniles. A very high percentage of the children are swimmers.



## Parks

There are two small parks in Street for the elderly peoples' relaxation and childrens' amusement at Merrimen Gardens and Wraxhill. In addition there is the Victoria Playing Field where cricket, tennis and football are played; there is also a Playing Field and Sports Ground in Grange Road belonging to Messrs. C. & J. Clark, Ltd.

## The Huts

During the year 11 families vacated Military Huts situated at Woods Batch and Somerton Road, eight of whom were re-housed by the Urban District Council.

It is the Council's intention that East Camp, Somerton Road shall be cleared within the next six months, plans for the re-housing of the majority of the occupants having already been made and as soon as the housing position improves sufficiently other Military Huts will be cleared.

A joint inspection by the Council and Officials of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government took place during the year and substantial water proofing operations of the remaining huts was subsequently carried out.

## Cemetery

The number of burials during the year was 52. The increase in the number of deaths is reflected in the increased number of burials in the Council's Cemetery.

## Mortuary

The number of cases admitted during the year: 10

1. From within the Urban District: 1
2. From without the Urban District: 9

## Bakehouses, Restaurant Kitchens etc.

Inspections and Reinspections of these premises were carried out during the year. The attention of the occupiers were drawn to any item requiring attention and as a result improvement in the general standard was achieved.

## Dairies.

Visits were paid to the retail dairies in the district. A satisfactory state of cleanliness was found.

## Factories Act, 1937 and 1948

50 routine visits have been made to the Factories in the district.

## Sanitary Conveniences - Factories.

Inspections of the sanitary accommodation attached to the local factories were carried out - generally satisfactory conditions were found and in the newer sections of the factories a very high standard was found, particularly in connection with the washing facilities provided.

## Water Supply

The Water Supply of the District has been generally satisfactory in both quality and quantity.

(3) Piped supplies - results of samples taken for analysis:-

RAW WATER				Chlorinated at source TREATED AFTER GOINT INTO SUPPL.			
BACTERIOLOGICAL		CHEMICAL		BACTERIOLOGICAL		CHEMICAL	
Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
1	1	1		16			

(4) Waters not liable to have Plumbo-solvent action.

(5) The Chlorinator was out of order when one unsatisfactory sample was obtained - the chlorinator was repaired and brought back into use.

(6) Water Supplies from Public Mains:-

DIRECT TO THE HOUSES		BY MEANS OF STANDPIPES	
(a) No. of Dwelling Houses	Population	No. of D. Houses	Population
1574	5,711	6	25

Extensions or improvements of Supplies during year

Work proceeding on laying the section of 4½ miles of new trunk main in 15" pipe during the period.

Future Proposals:-

Completion of section of trunk main.

Any Observations

The above work will benefit the Parish of Meare as a new supply, and other parishes in Wells R.D.C. which have already got a supply.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Give any extensions of sewers, new works or improvements during year:

Only extensions carried out were those serving new Council house sites.

CAMPING SITES

- (a) No. of camping sites for which licences have been issued: 1
- (b) Maximum number allowed per acre: 1 individual caravan limited period.
- (d) Estimated maximum number of campers resident during year: 2, Permanent.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The District is largely served by water carriage system; figures for pail closets not known.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Weekly collections of House Refuse made for the whole district; collection by hired lorry with direct labour and disposal by control tipping.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There is one Public Swimming Pool in the district; the approximate number of bathers during this season was 38,000.

The Water Supply is chlorinated and filtered and the results of samples taken and inspections made indicate that a very satisfactory standard of cleanliness is maintained at this Pool at all times.

HOUSING

	Houses erected during year		Houses in course of erection @ 31.12.51.		Conversion to flats or dwellings	Temporary such as Army Huts use at 31.12.
	Perm	Temp.	Perm.	Temp.		
Local Authority	28	-	78	-	-	24
Private Enterprise	4	-	8	-	2	-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>24</b>

Inclusive of those above built during the year -

Give - Total number of houses in District 1426  
 Total number of houses owned by Local Authority 278

No. of Post War Houses erected 31st December, 1951		Provisional Programme for 1952	
By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise
126	24	47	10

(a) No. of unfit houses in the District but on which no formal action has been taken. Estimated 65 exclusive of Camps.

(b) No. of houses that have been condemned under the Housing Acts as totally unfit 2

(c) No. of houses occupied under (a) 60 (b) 2 houses demolish

Houses required:-

- (i) To replace those unfit under (a) Estimated 65
- (ii) To abate overcrowding under (b) Estimated 100
- (iii) To overcome unsatisfactory conditions, e.g. two families living in same house but not included in (i) or (ii): (109 sharing and Camps)

Total number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of the year : 260.

Grants Made Under the Housing Act, 1949

No. of applications and houses dealt with by Local Authority and Ministry:-

LOCAL AUTHORITY

	Received		Approved		Rejected	
	Applica-tions	No. of houses	Applica-tions	No of houses	Applica-tions	No. of houses
(a) To 31.12.50			1	1	2	2
(b) During year	3	3	(Conversion to 2 flats)			

MINISTRY

	No. Sent		Approved		Rejected	
	Applica- tions	No. of houses	Applica- tions	No. of houses	Applica- tions	No. of houses
(a) To 31.12.50 (b) During year	1	1 conversion to 2 flats			1	1

MILK

(a) No. of Registered Distributors	4
(b) No. of Registered Dairy Premises	5
(c) No. of supplementary licences issued to distributors whose dairy is outside our area	1

ICE CREAM

No. of premises registered for:-

(a) Manufacture and retail	1
(b) Manufacture only	-
(c) Retail only	11

BYELAWS UNDER SECTION 15 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Date Byelaws came into operation	21st May, 1951
Any action taken respecting enforcement and result	No enforcement actions taken.

No. of Applicants		No. of Applicants		No. of Applicants	
1	1	1	1	1	1
Approved		Approved		Approved	
Rejected		Rejected		Rejected	

(a) To 31.12.50  
(b) During Year

No. of Applicants		No. of Applicants		No. of Applicants	
1	1	1	1	1	1
Approved		Approved		Approved	
Rejected		Rejected		Rejected	

ICE CREAM

No. of premises registered for:-

- (a) Manufacture and retail
- (b) Manufacture only
- (c) Retail only

SYSTEMS UNDER SECTION 15 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1954

Date systems came into operation: 21st May, 1951  
 Any action taken respecting enforcement: No enforcement action taken  
 sent and remit:

No. of applications and houses dealt with by local authority and

LOCAL AUTHORITY

No. of Applicants		No. of Applicants		No. of Applicants	
1	1	1	1	1	1
Approved		Approved		Approved	
Rejected		Rejected		Rejected	

(a) To 31.12.50  
(b) During Year

No. of applications and houses dealt with by local authority and

LOCAL AUTHORITY

No. of Applicants		No. of Applicants		No. of Applicants	
1	1	1	1	1	1
Approved		Approved		Approved	
Rejected		Rejected		Rejected	

(a) To 31.12.50  
(b) During Year