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STREET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

PUBLIC HEALTH

for

the year

1955



J.H.C. Eglinton  
Medical Officer of Health

L.C. Corlett  
Sanitary Inspector.

September, 1956.



To:

The Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District Council  
of Street.

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the state of the Public Health of the Urban District for the year 1955 and would emphasize the following points of interest.

Population

The population of Street continues to increase, the estimated mid-year figure being 6,100 as compared with 6,030 in 1954 and 5,964 in 1953.

Births: 92.

A slight decrease in the number of live births as compared with 101 (1954) but still above the average for preceding years, 84 (1953), 66 (1952).

Deaths: 64.

A slight increase in the number of deaths 59 (1954), Deaths from Heart Disease and Vascular Lesions (40) continue to predominate and indeed increase. Those from cancer (8) remain about the same this year.

Notifiable Infectious Disease.

There was an epidemic of Measles with a smaller one of Whooping Cough.

Diphtheria Immunizations

May I again stress the importance of immunization against diphtheria (which can be combined with Whooping Cough) and one would wish to see larger numbers immunized.

Mass Radiography

Regular visits can now be expected from the Mass Radiography service, the importance of which cannot be over-emphasized.

Housing

Housing continues to be of great importance and concern to the Council.

Food

Great stress has been laid and continues to be laid on personal hygiene in the handling of food and on the adequate wrapping of food stuffs.

Milk and Water.

Effort has continually been made to maintain a clean milk and adequate water supply. The hope is again expressed that with respect to milk, the district may in the near future be included in a specified area.



Slaughter Houses

The extent to which the slaughter houses are now being used necessitates a constant vigil and this is shown by the large number of visits required for the adequate inspection of meat.

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 and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

J.H.C. EGLINTON

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, 1955  
VITAL AND OTHER STATISTICS

Area of the Urban District of Street - 3,069 acres.

Population.

The estimated mid-year Home population for 1955 was 6,100.

A penny Rate produced £132 (approx.)

Geology

The strata consists of lower lias, alternate beds of limestone, clays and marls.

Occupations

The principal occupations carried on at Street are shoe making, the manufacture of leather-board, agriculture, tanning, vehicle building and animal feeding stuffs manufacture.

	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>
The number of live births, (one illegitimate) was..... (Male 47, Female 45).	92	101
Giving a live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated home population of.....	15.08	16.74
The number of still births was .....	0	2
The total number of deaths was .....	64	59
(Male 31, Female 33)		
Giving a death rate per 1,000 of the estimated home population of.....	10.49	9.78

Infants

The number of deaths of infants under one year.....	4	1
Giving an Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births of .....	43.47	9.90

Causes of Death

Tuberculosis (respiratory).....	1	0
Malignant Neoplasm (stomach: 2).....	8	9
(lung : 0)		
(breast : 0)		
(uterus : 1)		
(other : 5)		
Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	12	8
Coronary disease, angina .....	13	6
Other heart disease.....	9	14
Other circulatory disease .....	6	8
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum.....	1	0
Nephritis.....	4	1
Congenital Malformations.....	0	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	7	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents.....	0	1
All other accidents.....	1	2
Suicide .....	1	1



	1955	1954
<u>Notification of Infectious Diseases</u>		
Measles.....	127	19
Pneumonia.....	2	4
Whooping Cough.....	39	0

Notification of Tuberculosis

Respiratory.....	4	2
Deaths during year.....	1	0

Diphtheria Immunisation

Primary.....	96	96
Reinforcing.....	44	99
Of these:		
Primary (under one year : 60)		
Primary (1 - 2 years : 23)		

The number of children at 31st December, 1955 who had completed a course of Immunization (whether primary or booster) since 1st January, 1951: 758.

Vaccination

Number of reported Vaccinations:

Primary.....	25	31
Re-vaccination.....	6	5

Child Welfare and Nursing Association

The Child Welfare and Nursing Association have again had a very busy year giving an invaluable service to the community. The demands on the Nurses' services are many and various. There are, at present, three nurses and with the growing population this number must obviously be maintained. The Infant Welfare Clinic is held every Wednesday afternoon in a section of the Hindhayes Infant School when the District Nurses ordinarily attend. I attend as Medical Officer, on alternate Wednesdays.

The Welfare Committee and Voluntary Helpers greatly contribute to its smooth running.

Diphtheria Immunization Sessions also take place on the last Wednesday in the month, when I again attend.

The Nurses' activities include the following:-

Maternity

Home confinements.....	39
Ante Natal Visits at Home (including Home and Hospital Bookings .....	769
Doctors own Surgeries attended .....	88
Maternity Nursing Visits.....	674

Infant Welfare

Infant Welfare Sessions.....	50
Clinic Attendance.....	1,100
Doctors Consultations.....	120
Immunizations at Clinic.....	71

Infant Visiting at Home

0 - 1 year.....	795
1 - 2 years.....	389
2 - 5 years.....	598
	1,782



## General Nursing

5,697 visits

## School Medical Inspections

36

## School 'Follow-Up' Visits

70

It will be seen that the work of the District Nurses includes maternity, midwifery, ante-natal, infant health, welfare centre, school medical inspections &c., as well as the ordinary district nursing duties. The number of visits to old people continuing to be an important part of the work.

## Analgesia

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

## Old People's Welfare

The Street Old People's Welfare Committee formed in 1951 successfully continues its activities.

The Social Club has become firmly established and has met weekly on Thursdays at the Crispin Hall. The members played cards, dominoes and chess, read the wide variety of periodicals provided or just chatted together.

Outings were again arranged during the summer and included trips to Exmouth, Sidmouth, West Bay and Blaize Castle. Members of the Club were again kindly invited to various entertainments given by local Dramatic and Musical Societies.

The Visiting Service was continued during the year and old people unable to get out and about were regularly visited in their homes by a team of visitors and 57 parcels were distributed to the old people, who were unable to leave their homes at Christmas. There appears to be a very great need for such a service which undoubtedly gives pleasure to the old people concerned.

The Meals on Wheels Service has been successfully maintained and continues to deliver hot midday meals to old people in their homes at a small cost.

## 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 continues to be an invaluable service. Its success is in no small measure due to the interest of Mrs. Marsden, the local organiser, whose efforts I cannot too highly praise.

It has again had an exceptionally busy year and it proved difficult to cover all the work at all times with local help owing to the number of cases of illness amongst the workers. It has, therefore, on occasion, been necessary to obtain help from outside the district, this help being reciprocated whenever possible.

A minimum number of 8 workers is still required for the work.

The service rendered is primarily during illness in the home, being particularly valuable to the elderly people and to those living alone. In addition, assistance is rendered in domiciliary, maternity, midwifery and post operational cases &c.



## Mass Radiography

The Mass Radiography Unit again visited Street in May a large number being surveyed at Messrs. C. and J. Clark's factory, in addition to the survey at the Congregational Hall for the general public in the Urban District.

In connection with the latter, 673 were surveyed, 227 male and 446 female, of which no active case of Tuberculosis was discovered.

## Greenbank Swimming Pool.

This bath, privately owned, situated in Wilfrid Road, Street, was made possible through a legacy from the late Miss Alice Clark, a pioneer in the welfare of women and children. It has once again proved to be a great asset to Street and district, people and school parties coming from considerable distances. The capacity of the bath is 200,000 gallons, the water is heated and the children's section is separate from the adults.

The attendances for the 1955 season amounted to 75,000, of these 65,000 were bathers; it is estimated of these 45,000 were juvenile bathers. Visitors from outside the district are estimated at 8,000 and the school children under instruction 7,400.

The method of purification continued to be breakpoint chlorination. Chlorine residual tests were taken at least twice daily during the season with satisfactory results, a return of which was made to the County Welfare Department. In addition the sampling for bacteriological examinations also proved satisfactory. As may be deduced, the pool and surrounds were kept up to a high standard of cleanliness and the satisfactory state of affairs is all the more praiseworthy in view of the very large, indeed record, attendances at the Pool.

A qualified Bath Superintendent assisted by his wife, a trained nurse, and other helpers are in regular attendance; the Urban District Council being represented on the Management Committee.

The normal season is from May 1st to September 30th.

## Parks

There are two small parks in Street situated at Wraxhill and Merriman Gardens, the latter including amusements for the children such as swings &c. with a sun lounge for the older people. There is also the Victoria Playing Field, where cricket, football and tennis are played and belonging to Messrs. C. and J. Clark is a Sports Ground in Grange Road and opposite the factory in the High Street a six rink bowling green, where County matches have been played.

The work of restoration of Woods Batch Recreation Ground continued during the year and was completed with seeding down at the end of May, the following months proved unusually hot and dry and the ground was kept closed over the remainder of the year, to establish the grass. It is hoped that by the summer of 1957, the ground will be brought into use.

It is the Council's intention to provide, as and when possible, on the ground, playing pitches, swings and playing facilities for small children.

The addition of the Woods Batch Ground Playing Field and its proposed further development will enhance the recreational amenities available to the inhabitants of the Urban District.



## Housing

The Council continued its building programme although on a somewhat reduced scale; nevertheless the policy of continuity in Council house building was pursued by the execution of site works at the rear of Brooks Road Council Houses to provide for a further 42 houses. In addition, steps were taken with a view to possible further housing sites being made at the Mead Allotments.

The policy of building a proportion of its Council Houses by direct labour has been successfully continued during the year.

## Food

The question of the maintenance of cleanliness in relation to the handling of food is more and more engaging ones attentions. The importance of washing of hands, particularly after the use of the toilet, the wearing of clean apparel and the satisfactory wrapping of food cannot be over-estimated in relation to the prevention of the spread of disease.

The gradual education of persons employed in food handling must be a constant attention.

## Bakehouses, Restaurant Kitchens &c.

Routine inspections and re-inspections of these premises were again carried out during the year and notice of the occupiers was drawn to any item requiring attention, emphasis being particularly laid on the great importance of cleanliness and personal hygiene.

## Milk and Dairies.

This is a milk producing district and the usual routine visits were paid to the retail dairies in the district. The results of the regular samples taken by the County Council from the local dairymen in relation to school milk supply seem to indicate that a satisfactory standard of cleanliness is being maintained.

The Council has been somewhat concerned that the district has not yet been included in a 'Specified Area' and it is hoped that this will soon be accomplished.

## Water

The water supply position continued satisfactorily during the year. The new trunk main was in use during the whole of the year. For a short period the main Well Head supply was low but with the use of the Honeyhurst Well during this period, the supply position was maintained and no application of restriction was necessary.

## Slaughter Houses

This is the first full year in which slaughtering at the two slaughter houses in the district has been carried out. Inspections of all animals killed has been made. This work has involved 350 visits (approx.) to the Slaughter Houses during the year. A detailed statement of the animals killed and the quantity of meat condemned is to be found later in this report.

## Factories

Routine inspections of factories &c. have been made including inspections in connection with lavatory accommodation. Attention was drawn to necessary alterations to several of the conveniences, the same being carried out in accordance with the requests made.

## Mortuary

The number of cases admitted during the year were:

1. From within the Urban District : 4 (6 in 1954)
2. From without the Urban District : 11 (6 in 1954)

## Cemetery

The number of burials during the year was: 55 (53 in 1954).



## WATER SUPPLY

- (1) Has the water supply of the district been satisfactory -  
(a) In quality: Yes  
(b) In quantity: Yes. Main source at low delivery during dry summer months but supply from Honeyhurst Well provided sufficient water. Not necessary to apply any restrictions.
- (2) State particulars of any shortage which may have occurred during year and steps taken to remedy same:- See above.
- (3) Piped supplies - results of samples taken for analysis:-

RAW WATER				TREATED AFTER GOING INTO SUPPLY			
BACTERIOLOGICAL		CHEMICAL		BACTERIOLOGICAL		CHEMICAL	
Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis factory	Unsatis- factory
1	-	-	-	29	4	1	-

- (4) waters liable to have Plumbo-solvent action - state what action taken:- Nil.
- (5) Action respecting any form of contamination:-  
Where unsatisfactory sample occurred follow up samples were satisfactory.
- (6) water Supplies from Public Mains:-

(a)

DIRECT TO THE HOUSES		BY MEANS OF STANDPIPES	
No. of Dwelling Houses	Population	No. of Dwelling Houses	Population
1811	6100 Estimated	6 Estimated Figure	20 Estimated

- (b) No. of parishes with piped water supply: Whole district main supply.
- (c) No. of parishes without a piped water supply; Not applicable.
- (d) No. of cases in which piped supply was substituted for:  
(i) Well water: Nil (ii) private source: Nil  
(iii) other: Nil.
- (7) Water Supplies from wells:- Nil

### Extensions or Improvements of Supplies during year:

New High Level Pump purchased not yet fitted.

Future Proposals: give in Priority Groups, parishes or villages concerned: Consideration given to possibility of provision of new high level reservoir and new extension of supply main from existing reservoir.

Any observations: Nil

## SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Give list of parishes with main drainage and efficient disposal systems:

Whole district.



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

Extension to serve New Housing Site Brooks Road

Future Proposals:- give Priority Group I, villages concerned and any observations: Not applicable.

CAMPING SITES

(a) No. of camping sites for which licences have been issued:  
One single caravan only.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Figures not known. Very few pail closets in the district.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

How is House Refuse removed:-

- (a) By Contract or Direct Labour: Direct Labour.
- (b) No. and type of vehicles employed: One Karrier Bantam 7 yd. Refuse Vehicle.
- (c) Frequency of collection: Weekly.
- (d) No. of parishes covered by routine collections: Whole district.

How is House and Trade Refuse disposed of:-

- (a) No. of controlled tips: One
- (b) No. of uncontrolled tips: Nil
- (c) By incineration: Nil

Cesspool Emptying

- (a) Is cesspool emptying carried out by:- (i) Local Authority: No  
(ii) Contract : No
- (b) Is a charge made, if so how is it based: Not applicable.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

	No.	Location	<u>Estimated Average Number of Bathers daily during Season</u>
(a) <u>Privately owned.</u>	1	Greenbank Swimming Pool	75,524 for season
(b) <u>Owned by Local Authority.</u>			

Water used and method of purification:

Name of Bath	Water			Treatment				
	Main	Sea	Other	Type of Purification Plant	Recirculation	Filtration	Chlorination	
							Auto-matic	Hand
Greenbank Swimming Pool, Wilfrid Road	Yes			Chlorination and pressure filter	Yes	Yes	Yes	

Samples Taken	Satisfactory	Suspicious	Unsatisfactory
Bacteriological Examination	1	-	
In addition, twice daily tests made by Pool Supervisor			



## HOUSING

Total number of permanent dwellings in District: 1814

Total number of permanent dwellings owned by Local Authority: 538

Part 1. The total problem (As per Ministry Circular 55/54):-

- (1) Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and suitable for action under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 31
- (11) Period in years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all the houses in (1) 5

Part 2. Orders already made, etc:-

- (111) Number of houses in (1) in clearance areas and already covered by operative clearance or compulsory purchase orders or owned by the Local Authority -
- (1V) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders have been submitted to the Minister but have not yet become operative -

Part 3. Action in the first five years:-

- (V) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders are to be made or which are to be purchased by agreement within the five years. -
- (VI) Number of houses which are to be included in clearance areas still to be declared and which within the five years will be owned by the Local Authority or will have been included in a clearance order or a compulsory purchase order submitted to the Minister -
- (VII) Number of houses under (111), (1V), (V) and (VI) to be patched (if necessary) and retained within the five years under Section 2 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, for temporary accommodation -
- (VIII) Number of houses under (111), (1V), (V) and (VI) to be demolished in the five years. -
- (IX) Number of houses (including those already comprised in operative demolition orders) to be demolished in the five years as a result of action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. 31

	Houses erected during year	Houses in course of erection	Gained from conversion of large houses or buildings into flats or dwellings	Lost from conversion of two or more houses to one
Local Authority	42	9	Nil	Nil
Private Enterprise	8	10		
TOTALS	50	19	Nil	Nil



Number of Post-war Houses erected from 1st April, 1945 to 31st December, 1955		Housing Programme for 1956
By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	
37	66	20

(a) No. of temporary housing units occupied - (i) Prefabs. Nil  
(ii) Huts, etc. Nil

(b) No. of houses found overcrowded: Approx. Est. 15.

(c) No. of houses closed as a result of an undertaking given  
by the owners or following the issue of Closing Orders: 3

(d) No. of houses demolished during year: Nil

(e) No. of houses made fit during year: Nil

Houses required:-

- (i) To abate overcrowding: Approx. Est. 15
- (ii) To overcome unsatisfactory conditions, e.g. two  
families living in same house but not included  
in (i) : 85.

Total number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of the year: 197

Any observations respecting the above: Nil

Improvement Grants made under the Housing Act, 1949-54.

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

	(1) Received		(2) Approved		(3) Rejected		(4) Under Consideration		(5) With- drawn	
	Aps	No. of houses	Aps.	No. of houses.	Aps.	No. of houses	Aps.	No. of houses	Aps.	No. of houses
31.7.49.- 31.12.54.	4	8	1	2	1	1	2	6	-	-
During year.										
TOTALS	4	8	1	2	1	1	2	6		

Average cost per dwelling approved:- £500

Average rent fixed:- Not yet fixed

Any observations respecting the above: Nil

FOOD

Milk

- (a) No. of Registered Distributors: 4
- (b) No. of Registered Dairy Premises (other than Dairy Farms) : 6
- (c) No. of Licensed Dealers of Designated Milk : 3
- (d) No. of supplementary licences issued to  
distributors whose dairy is outside your area: 1



Designated Milk Sampling:-

Designation	Samples taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested			
Pasteurised	Samples taken by	County Council	
Sterilised			

ICE CREAM

No. of premises registered for:-

- (a) Manufacture and Retail 1
- (b) Manufacture only -
- (c) Retail only 17

No. of samples taken:-

	Hot Mix	Cold Mix
Grade 1		
Grade 2	Samples taken by County Council	
Grade 3		
Grade 4		

SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND BACON FACTORIES

- (a) If slaughter-house or abattoir owned or leased by Local Authority: No.

	NUMBER	
	Licensed	Operating
(b) Private slaughter-houses	2	2
(c) Bacon Factories	Nil	Nil
(d) No. of slaughter-houses in use where horses are slaughtered for human consumption	Nil	Nil

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during year:-

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	245	-	15	1242	627	Nil
Number inspected	245	-	15	1242	627	
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil		Nil	1	1	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	31		Nil	89	12	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	13%		Nil	7 1/2%	2%	
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil		Nil	Nil	Nil	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	15		Nil	Nil	11	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	6%		Nil	Nil	2%	
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil		Nil	Nil	Nil	
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil		Nil	Nil	Nil	
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil		Nil	Nil	Nil	
Weight of meat condemned (in lbs) for:-						
(a) Tuberculosis	689	-	-	-	285	
(b) Cysticercosis	-	-	-	-	-	
(c) Other	525	-	-	553	138	
Total (in lbs) condemned	1214	-	-	553	423	
Not killed in district (Injury)	12					
	1226			553	423	
<u>Tinned Foods</u>						
Tinned Meat	87					
Other Foods	51					
	1364			553	423	



