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WALTON-LE-DALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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# REPORTS

OF THE


MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
CHIEF HEALTH INSPECTOR

AND

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR

for the

Year ending 31st December, 1966



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CHIEF HEALTH INSPECTOR

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# WALTON-LE-DALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1966

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*Chairman of the Council*

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*Chairman of Public Health Committee*

Councillor W. Morgan

*Vice-Chairman of Public Health Committee*

Councillor Miss A. Birkenhead

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## **PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF**

*Medical Officer of Health:* J. Walker, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., L.D.S., D.P.D.

*Other Appointments:* Divisional Medical Officer of Health, Lancs. C.C. No. 4 Division ; and Medical Officer of Health to the Borough of Chorley, the Urban Districts of Adlington, Longridge, Withnell, Fulwood, and Leyland and the Rural Districts of Preston and Chorley.

*Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Senior Assistant Divisional Medical Officer :*  
N. T. W. Pover, L.R.F.P.S., L.R.C.S., L.M.S.S.A., D.P.H.

*Chief Health Inspector & Cleansing Superintendent:* G. N. Corbishley, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

*Deputy Chief Health Inspector:* J. R. Williams, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., D.P.A.

*Meat Inspector:* F. Schofield, M.A.M.I.

*Warden Brindle Road Old People's Community Centre:* Mrs. M. Salmon.

*Clerk/Typist:* Mrs. N. Hodgson.

*Student Public Health Inspector:* J. L. Rose.



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
COUNCIL OFFICES,  
BAMBER BRIDGE

## REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year ended 31st December, 1966

### To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the District for the year ended 31st December, 1966.

According to the Registrar General's estimate the population of the District at mid-June 1966 was 23,360 which is 520 higher than that for the previous year.

The number of live births assignable to the District was 555 which is 2 more than in 1965. The crude birth rate for the year was 23.8 (adjusted 20.0) per 1,000 population. This again compares favourably with the birth rate for the Country as a whole — 17.7 — and that for the County of Lancaster — 17.86 (adjusted 18.21).

The number of deaths assigned to the District for the year 1966 was 215 which is 8 more than in the previous year. The crude death rate was 9.2 (adjusted 12.9) per 1,000 population. The crude death rate is in fact the same as that in 1965 and these are the lowest recorded for the District since records commenced in 1894. This again compares favourably with the death rates for England and Wales and Lancashire which were 11.7 and 12.73 (adjusted 13.49) respectively.

The Registrar General provides a table giving the causes of death in age groups and this table is reproduced in the Report. From this it will be seen that 78 of the 215 deaths occurred in persons 75 years of age or over and a further 66 were between 65 and 75 years of age. These two age groups together account for 144 of the 215 deaths.

Comparing the causes of deaths with those in the previous year it is found that malignant disease caused 9 fewer deaths, the decrease being mainly due to deaths from lung cancer having fallen from 15 to 7. Could this fall in deaths indicate that the association between lung cancer and cigarette smoking is being appreciated at last? Much as one might like to think so it would be unwise to jump to this conclusion. Vascular lesions of the nervous system claimed 9 more victims than in the previous year most of these being in the older age groups. Deaths from all types of heart disease numbered 72 which is 2 more than in 1965. Of these 49 were due to coronary heart disease — an increase of 11. Most of these deaths occurred in elderly persons. Pneumonia accounted for 10 deaths — an increase of 8 — and there were 4 deaths from influenza against none from this cause in the previous year. Deaths from motor vehicle accidents were reduced from 6 to 5 but it is still too many. There were 4 suicides, an increase of 1, and such deaths must be regarded as a sad reflection on modern society.

On a happier note it is pleasing to report that the number of infants who died before reaching one year of age was reduced from 10 to 4. This gives an infantile mortality of 7.2 per 1,000 live births which is the lowest rate ever recorded for the District. The corresponding figure for England and Wales was 19.0. It is also a matter of satisfaction to report that during the past year there were no deaths attributable to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion. There was one death in this category in 1965.

On the whole the vital statistics for the year 1966 must be regarded as remarkably good. Whilst this to some extent may be fortuitous some credit must, I feel, be attributed to the high standard of medical and nursing care in the area and to the Council's efforts through its officers and staff to maintain a high level of efficiency in regard to matters likely to affect the health of the community.



Regarding the incidence of infectious diseases during the year 1966 it is found that the total number of notifications was 635 as compared with 187 in 1965. This increase is mainly accounted for by 524 notifications of measles as against 124. In regard to tuberculosis there were 2 notifications of new cases as compared with 5. There were 23 notifications of scarlet fever as against 29 but this is a comparatively mild disease now. There were again no notifications of food poisoning but dysentery cases numbered 76 as compared with 27. The incidence of dysentery could be reduced by stricter attention to personal hygiene particularly hand washing. No cases of poliomyelitis were notified during 1966 — there was one case in the previous year. Nevertheless it is of paramount importance that protection by means of the vaccine should be fully maintained as is the case in other diseases such as diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and tuberculosis.

As usual a considerable proportion of the Public Health Inspectors' time was spent in connection with food hygiene, including meat inspection and milk sampling. Meat inspection at the private slaughterhouse in the District kept the Meat Inspector fully occupied. Sampling of milk for the presence of tuberculosis and brucellosis organisms was maintained as in past years. None of the milk sampled was found to contain tubercle bacilli and the number of samples found to contain brucella organisms, the cause of undulant fever in humans, was fewer than in previous years. The recent commencement of a Ministry scheme which it is intended will in time eradicate brucella infection in cattle is very welcome.

In regard to housing the general condition in the District is satisfactory as measured by current standards which — in the opinion of many — are not sufficiently high. Almost all the houses completely unfit have been cleared or closed and many of the older type houses have been or are being improved, 45 applications for standard improvement grants having been approved during the year. Housing development continues and 386 were completed during the year as a result of private enterprise. In addition four bungalows for the elderly were completed by the District Council, and connected by call-bell to the neighbouring County Council Home for the elderly.

Although no positive action has been taken by the Council as regards the introduction of smoke control areas the matter has not been forgotten.

I am indebted to Mr. Corbishley and Mr. Williams for their willing assistance and co-operation at all times and am grateful to other officers of the Council for assistance and advice whenever this is required. I am most grateful to the Chairman and Members of the Council and in particular to the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, for their interest in all matters connected with Public Health and for the encouragement and support which they give me.

Your obedient servant,

J. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

### **Physical Characteristics of the Area**

The shape of the district is roughly that of a quadrangle with the longer sides from East to West of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles and the shorter North to South of 3 miles. There is a pronounced slope in the area from South East to North West, falling from 300 feet above sea level to 20 feet above mean sea level.

Part of the northern boundary of the district is formed by the River Ribble for a distance of some two miles, and it is tidal in almost all that stretch. The River Darwen flows through a valley in the northern part of the area and joins the Ribble towards the north western boundary of the district.



Geologically the area is based on Triassic Sandstone upon which are placed a layer of lower boulder clay, a layer of drift sand and finally a layer of upper boulder clay. The rock base forms an inclined plane which dips downwards from the East towards the sea. Outcrops of this rock are found in the beds of the rivers Ribble and Darwen. In the boulder clay layers stones of varying sizes are found. Most of these are of Lakeland origin brought down by the movement of ice or by its melting. In the Drift Sand layer there are deposits of gravel. Usually the layers of Glacial Drift fill the valleys, the hill tops being free of drift.

The thickness of the layers varies considerably in different parts of the district, and the three layers may reach 100 feet, but in most parts of the district the Upper Boulder layer approximates 10 feet, the Drift Sand 9 feet and the Lower Boulder layer from 2 feet upwards.

The two rivers form a flat tongue of land near their junction and the alluvial deposits provide a rich soil which is utilised for market gardening.

### Social Conditions and Amenities of the Area

The main portions of the district are closely associated with industry, but part is entirely residential. The chief industries are textiles, engineering, corn milling, market gardening and dairy farming.

There are thirteen churches in the area, a number have attached Sunday Schools covering the various aspects of religion. Many church halls are associated with these churches where in the winter months, social functions are held.

The clubs in the district are political, religious and non-sectarian; some are connected with sport. Games such as billiards, snooker, darts, dominoes, etc., are played in the clubs. Additionally, a tennis club, a table tennis club, and a cricket club are sited in the district.

The district is fortunate in having a number of playing fields, some of which are owned and controlled by the Local Authority and others by the sports organisations from churches and clubs. Good use is made of these for the usual seasonal sports. Some of the playing fields are now equipped with a children's play section.

The local Archeological Society has made excavations, particularly in the area close to the junction of the Rivers Darwen and Ribble, where it is considered that there was, in the period of Roman occupation, a landing place for Roman shipping. The existence of a fort is suspected, its boundaries have not been fully traced. Many interesting relics, pottery, metals, portions of urns, etc., have been found there and are now displayed in the Council Offices.

### Statistics of the Area

Area in Acres (census 1961) ... ..	4,733
Population (census 1961) (as published by Registrar General) ... ..	19,061
Registrar General's estimate of population (mid 1966) ... ..	23,360
Number of houses (census 1961) ... ..	6,265
Number of inhabited houses (31st March, 1966) ... ..	7,581
Rateable Value (31st December, 1966) ... ..	£734,630
Sum represented by a penny rate (31st March, 1966) ... ..	£2,900



### Vital Statistics

The Statistics in regard to births and deaths, have again been supplied by the Registrar General, through the County Health Department. The number of births and deaths referred to in this report are those registered during the calendar year, corrected for "inward" and "outward" transfer.

#### Births

							M.	F.	Total
Live Births—									
Legitimate							254	283	537
Illegitimate							13	5	18
							267	288	555
Birth rate per 1,000 population—Crude							...	...	23.8
Adjusted							...	...	20.0
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births							...	...	3.2
Still Births—							M.	F.	Total
Legitimate							5	4	9
Illegitimate							—	—	—
							5	4	9
Still birth rate per 1,000 (live and still births)							...	...	16.0
Comparability factor—For births							...	...	0.84
							M.	F.	Total
Total Live and Still Births							272	292	564

#### Deaths

							M.	F.	Total
							121	94	215
Death rates per 1,000 estimated population (Crude)							...	...	9.2
(Adjusted)							...	...	12.9
Comparability factor—For deaths							...	...	1.40
<b>Infant Deaths</b>									
Death of infants under one year							...	...	4
<b>Infant Mortality Rate</b>									
Total infant deaths per 1,000 live births							...	...	7.2
Legitimate deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births							...	...	7.2
Illegitimate deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births							...	...	Nil
<b>Neo-Natal Mortality Rate</b>									
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age							...	...	1
Mortality rate per 1,000 live births							...	...	1.8
<b>Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate</b>									
Deaths of infants under 1 week							...	...	1
Mortality rate per 1,000 live births							...	...	1.8
<b>Perinatal Mortality Rate</b>									
Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births							...	...	17.7
<b>Maternal Mortality (including Abortion)</b>									
Number of deaths							...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births...							...	...	Nil
<b>Malignant Neoplasms</b>									
Number of deaths (groups 10-15 of Analysis)							...	...	34
Mortality Rate							...	...	1.46
<b>Pulmonary Tuberculosis</b>									
Number of deaths							...	...	Nil
Mortality Rate							...	...	Nil



**CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1966 IN THE URBAN DISTRICT OF  
WALTON-LE-DALE**

General Register Office, Somerset House, Strand, W.C.2

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	weeks and under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS								
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 and over
2. Tuberculosis, other .. .. .	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ..	M	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	1	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ..	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms .. .. .	M	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	6	—
	F	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	2	1
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia .. .. .	M	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16. Diabetes .. .. .	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ..	M	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	9	3
	F	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	6	17
18. Coronary Disease, Angina .. .. .	M	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	9	13	9
	F	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	5	8
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease ..	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
20. Other Heart Disease .. .. .	M	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	9
	F	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	2
21. Other Circulatory Disease .. .. .	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
	F	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4
22. Influenza .. .. .	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
23. Pneumonia .. .. .	M	4	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
	F	6	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	3
24. Bronchitis .. .. .	M	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	4
	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ..	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ..	M	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis .. .. .	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations .. .. .	M	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
32. Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	M	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
	F	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	3
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents .. .. .	M	4	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
34. All other Accidents .. .. .	M	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
35. Suicide .. .. .	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Total All Cases .. .. .	M	121	1	3	3	1	3	1	3	6	25	44	31
	F	94	—	—	2	—	—	—	3	9	11	22	47



TABLE OF COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

	PER 1,000 ESTIMATED POPULATION						Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 Total births	Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 Live births
	BIRTH RATE		DEATH RATE		Pul. T.B. Death rate	Cancer Death rate		
	Crude	Adjusted	Crude	Adjusted				
Walton-le-Dale Mean of 5 years 1960-1964.. ..	23.88	22.22	10.32	13.40	0.02	1.83	nil	24.14
1964 .. ..	23.70	21.10	9.60	12.60	nil	1.67	nil	27.40
1965 .. ..	24.60	20.70	9.20	13.20	nil	2.00	1.78	18.10
1966 .. ..	23.80	20.00	9.20	12.90	nil	1.46	nil	7.20
Increase or decrease in 1966 compared to: 5 year mean ..	-0.08	-2.22	-1.12	-0.50	-0.02	-0.37	nil	-16.94
previous year ..	-0.80	-0.70	nil	-0.30	nil	-0.54	-1.78	-10.90
County of Lancaster 1966 .. ..	17.86	18.21	12.73	13.49	0.05	2.19	0.23	19.90
England and Wales 1966 .. ..	17.70	—	11.70	—	0.043	2.25	0.26	19.00

Table of Decades

Period	Per 1,000 Population				Enteric Fever		Diphtheria		Scarlet Fever		Deaths from Diarrhoea
	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Pul. T.B. Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	
Ten Years											
1891-1900 ..	30.8	18.9	1.25	188	133	27	46	16	211	15	122
1901-1910 ..	26.3	14.7	0.95	128	116	21	98	15	291	16	58
1911-1920 ..	18.7	13.7	0.91	107	54	5	166	16	565	11	46
1921-1930 ..	16.0	12.0	0.72	64	7	0	66	5	310	0	11
1931-1940 ..	14.0	12.7	0.44	56	5	2	47	3	414	0	5
1941-1950 ..	16.5	12.3	0.33	42	0	0	27	1	280	0	6
1951-1960 ..	16.4	11.7	0.09	23	0	0	0	0	514	0	0

**Death and Death Rates**

The total number of deaths recorded during the year was 215 (121 males, 92 females) which is 8 more than in 1965. The Crude Death rate was 9.20 per 1,000 population and the lowest recorded, with 1965, for the District since records commenced in 1894.

**Infantile Mortality**

There were 4 deaths of infants under 1 year compared with 10 in 1964. The infantile mortality rate of 7.20 is the lowest recorded for the District. The comparable rate for England & Wales is 19.00.

The cause of death of the infants is given below.

Age				Sex	Cause of Death
12 hours	..	..	..	M	Prematurity
1 month	..	..	..	M	Gastro Enteritis
1 month	..	..	..	M	Broncho Pneumonia
11 months	..	..	..	M	Misadventure*

\* Suffocated in bed.



### Neo-Natal, Early Neo-Natal and Perinatal Mortality

In order to show further detailed information of deaths in early infancy, separate mortality figures are given for the Neo-Natal period covering the deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age, the Early Neo-Natal period covering the deaths of infants under 1 week of age and for the Perinatal mortality which in addition to Early Neo-Natal deaths include the figures for still-births.

The rates for Neo-Natal and Early Neo-Natal deaths were 1.8 and 1.8 per 1,000 live births respectively and that for Perinatal Mortality was 17.7 per 1,000 total births.

### Maternal Mortality

During the year no deaths occurred associated with childbirth. During the past decade two deaths have been recorded as being associated with childbirth. One occurred in 1958 and one in 1965. In the same period 4,486 infants were born.

### The Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases

The hospital to which patients were admitted was:—

Deepdale Infectious Diseases Hospital, Preston.

The table below gives details of notifications for the year under review.

#### Notifiable Diseases

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases at all ages	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	10 years	15 years	25 years and over
Scarlet Fever .. ..	23	—	—	1	5	1	12	4	—	—
Whooping Cough .. ..	7	1	1	—	1	3	1	—	—	—
Measles .. ..	524	23	74	83	94	95	153	3	—	—
Dysentery .. ..	76	—	7	2	11	3	24	2	3	24

Notifiable Diseases	Total	0 years	5 years	15 years	45 years	65 and over
Acute Pneumonia (primary and influenzal) .. ..	3	—	—	—	1	2
Erysipelas .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Respiratory .. ..	2	—	—	—	1	1
Tuberculosis Other .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—

### Tuberculosis

During the year 3 cases of Tuberculosis have been notified to the Department. These consisted of 2 new cases and 1 "Transfer In".

#### Pulmonary:—

New cases .. ..	2
Transfers In .. ..	1

#### Non-Pulmonary:—

New cases .. ..	—
Transfers In .. ..	—

#### Removed from the Register during the year were:—

#### Pulmonary:—

Recovered .. ..	1
Diagnosis not confirmed .. ..	—
Removed from District .. ..	—
Died .. ..	1

#### Non-Pulmonary:—

Recovered .. ..	—
Diagnosis not confirmed .. ..	—
Removed from District .. ..	—
Died .. ..	—



On the Register at 31st December, 1966, were 49 Pulmonary, 11 Non-Pulmonary and 1 Combined case.

The Tuberculosis Register is periodically checked with the County Medical Officer of Health in order that the records of these cases are correctly recorded.

### **Dysentery and Food Poisoning**

For the fourth successive year there have been no cases of food poisoning notified within the District.

Sonne Dysentery was once again prevalent in the early part of the year. The outbreak was a carry-over of the outbreak reported in my last annual report. 76 cases were detected and/or reported in the year, all responded to treatment and no serious after effects resulted. Three cases associated with a food trade were excluded from food handling during the course of their illness.

### **Poliomyelitis**

No cases of poliomyelitis have been reported during the year.

### **Measles**

Measles was again prevalent, 524 cases being notified during the year compared to 124 in 1965. The outbreak commenced in June and continued to the year end and into 1967. All cases recovered. No after effects have been reported. Vaccinations against measles are now available to doctors wishing to use them for the protection of individual children, but the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation have not as yet devised a general programme of vaccination for the whole community.

### **Whooping Cough**

Seven cases of whooping cough have been reported. No cases occurred in the previous year.

### **Scarlet Fever**

Notifications of scarlet fever were similar to the previous year, 23 compared with 29.

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA** **County Council Services in the Area**

### **Ambulance Service**

The ambulance service covering the area of the Urban District is radio-controlled from the Ambulance Headquarters at Broughton, where requests for ambulance transport are directed.

### **Child Welfare Centres**

There are three in the district, one at the School Clinic, Brindle Road, one at the Methodist Sunday School at Lostock Hall, and one at Gregson Lane. The Brindle Road Child Welfare Centre met weekly on Thursday afternoons with a Health Visitor session each Thursday morning, the Lostock Hall Child Welfare Centre weekly on Monday afternoons, and the Gregson Lane Child Welfare Centre on alternate Wednesdays during the afternoon.

### **Home Help Service**

Home Helps are employed in Walton-le-Dale and district, and help a variety of cases including confinements, sickness, old age and infirmity, and Tuberculosis cases. Night helps are also employed where needed.

### **School Medical Service**

Medical and hygiene inspections are carried out at the School Clinic, Brindle Road, Bamber Bridge. Clinic sessions are held for a variety of treatments including minor ailments, dental care and ophthalmic conditions. The County Council make special provisions for residential schooling for various categories of handicapped children such as the blind, partially sighted, deaf and dumb, epileptics, delicate and backward.



### Convalescent Care

In suitable cases arrangements are made for the admission of patients to convalescent homes.

### Chiropody Service

A free chiropody service for elderly people, expectant mothers and registered handicapped persons is available at the School Clinic, Brindle Road, on the second Wednesday afternoon each month.

In addition a free chiropody service for elderly people is available through the Walton-le-Dale Voluntary Old People's Welfare Committee at two local chiropodist's surgeries.

Where persons are unable to attend the Clinic or surgeries a domiciliary service is available.

### Domiciliary Midwifery Service

Three domiciliary midwifery sisters were employed in the Urban District during the year.

Miss H. W. Bamber, 14 Browndage Road, Lostock Hall. Tel. 35789.

Miss M. Gould, 8 Cedar Avenue, Lostock Hall. Tel. 35518.

Miss M. A. Wittner, 187 Chorley Road, Bamber Bridge. Tel. 35280.

### Domiciliary Nursing Service

The Domiciliary Nursing Service is provided in the area by five district nursing sisters, one district nurse and one nursing auxiliary.

Mrs. M. T. Antcliffe, 14 Grasmere Avenue, Preston. Tel. 53164.

Mrs. M. A. Arnold, 4 Lyndale Avenue, Lostock Hall. Tel. 35929.

Mrs. E. Oak, 6 Cromwell Road, Ribbleson, Preston. Tel. 51494.

Mrs. I. Smith, 12 Bannister Close, Higher Walton. Tel. 36435.

Mrs. K. M. Peet, 2 Houghton Road, Penwortham. Tel. 44676.

Mrs. J. M. Garnett, "Lever Edge," Chain House Lane, Whitestake. Tel. 35448.

(District Nurse)

Mrs. T. Longton, 6 Queensway, Bamber Bridge. (Nursing Auxiliary)

### Ante-Natal Clinic

Sessions were held monthly at the School Clinic, Brindle Road. A specialist (Mr. Robson) from Preston Royal Infirmary attended at each meeting in addition to the County Health Visitors and Midwives.

### Midwifery Sisters

Routine inspections and examinations were made and patients were advised or given minor treatment where necessary. Any further treatment necessitated transference to Preston Royal Infirmary or Sharoe Green Maternity Hospital. The majority of the babies were born in hospital.

Post-natally, mothers also attended for advice or treatment.

### Welfare Services

Residential homes are provided to accommodate elderly and infirm persons who no longer have anyone to adequately care for them or who are unable to care for themselves. Arrangements can also be made for elderly persons to be admitted to a home for a short period (usually two weeks) to enable relatives to have a respite or take a holiday.

Handicapped persons can be helped in many ways by minor adaptations in their homes, or by instruction in handicrafts etc., by an Occupational Therapist. A Social and Handicraft Centre is held each Monday evening in Leyland, and Out-Work Centre is held during the week in Leyland, and woodwork and sewing classes are held in Bamber Bridge on Tuesday evenings. Transport to these centres is provided for those who are unable to travel themselves.

Holidays are also arranged for handicapped persons.



### Hospitals

The hospitals administered by the Preston and Chorley Hospitals Management Committee were available for patients from this district. They were :—

- (1) Preston Royal Infirmary.
- (2) Sharoe Green Hospital.
- (3) Chorley and District Hospital.
- (4) Eaves Lane Hospital, Chorley.

There were annexes, belonging to this group of hospitals for Continuation, Convalescent, or Specialised treatment. One of these, Lostock Hall Continuation Hospital, is situated in this district.

All the hospitals were extensively used, for out-patient as well as in-patient treatment, by persons from this area, though the extent of this use was not known, as figures of attendances or lists of diseases were not available nor supplied by the hospitals. It would, therefore, be impossible to give even an approximate estimate of the amount of illness or disability for which these hospitals cater.

Sufferers from Malignant Diseases received specialised treatment at the special unit at Preston Royal Infirmary staffed by personnel from the Christie Hospital, Manchester.

Venereal Diseases were treated at a specialised clinic at Preston Royal Infirmary.

### Immunisations

PRIMARY				RE-VACCINATIONS			
<i>Immunised against Diphtheria</i>	<i>Immunised against Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Immunised against Tetanus</i>	<i>Totals</i>	<i>Immunised against Diphtheria</i>	<i>Immunised against Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Immunised against Tetanus</i>	<i>Totals</i>
<i>0-15 years inclusive</i>	<i>0-15 years inclusive</i>	<i>0-15 years inclusive</i>		<i>0-15 years inclusive</i>	<i>0-15 years inclusive</i>	<i>0-15 years inclusive</i>	
495	479	495	1469	463	61	456	980

### Smallpox Vaccination

<i>Primary Vaccinations performed</i>					<i>Re-vaccinations</i>
<i>Age in years</i>					
<i>Under 2</i>	<i>2—</i>	<i>5—</i>	<i>15—</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
171	32	20	6	229	20

### Poliomyelitis Vaccination

<i>Year of Birth</i>	<i>Primary Vaccinations</i>	<i>Reinforcements</i>
1966 .. .. .	69	—
1965 .. .. .	253	—
1964 .. .. .	21	2
1963 .. .. .	10	—
1959-1962 .. .. .	15	53
Others under 16 years ..	6	18
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>73</b>

### Tuberculosis

The County Council supply the Health Visitor Staff, whilst the Regional Hospital Board supply the Medical Staff. The Chest Clinic for this area is at Sharoe Green Hospital, Fulwood.

Inspections, examinations, X-ray, light treatment, and general medical treatment were given at the Clinic.



Number of New Houses Erected during the year:		<i>Houses</i>	<i>Flats</i>
(i) By the Local Authority .. .. .	4	—	
(ii) By other Local Authorities .. .. .	—	—	
(iii) By other bodies or persons .. .. .	386	—	
1. Inspections of dwelling-houses during this year:—		<i>Houses</i>	<i>Flats</i>
(1) (a) Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. .. .	420	—	
(b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose .. .. .	722	—	
(c) No. of dwelling-houses in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, but capable of being rendered fit .. .. .	183	—	
(2) Total No. of dwelling-houses existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit .. .. .	24	—	
2. Houses Demolished:—		<i>Houses Demolished</i>	<i>Displaced during year</i>
In Clearance Areas:		<i>Persons</i>	<i>Families</i>
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation .. .. .	—	—	—
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc. .. .. .	—	—	—
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43 (2), Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—
Not in Clearance Areas:			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 (1), Housing Act, 1957 .. .. .	5	3	2
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health .. .. .	—	—	—
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under Local Acts .. .. .	—	—	—
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders .. .. .	—	—	—
3. Unfit Houses Closed:—		<i>Houses</i>	<i>Displaced during year</i>
(1) Under Sections 16 (4) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957 .. .. .	2	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Families</i>
(2) Under Sections 17 (3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957 .. .. .	—	—	—
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957 ..	—	—	—
4. Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied:—		<i>By Owner</i>	<i>By Local Authority</i>
(1) After informal action by Local Authority .. .. .	226	—	—
(2) After formal notice under:			
(a) Public Health Acts .. .. .	8	—	—
(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957 .. .. .	—	—	—
(3) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957 .. .. .	—	—	—
5. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957):—		<i>No. of Houses</i>	<i>No. of separate dwellings</i>
Position at end of year:		<i>(1)</i>	<i>contained in column (1) (2)</i>
(1) Retained for temporary accommodation:—			
(a) Under Section 48 .. .. .	—	—	—
(b) Under Section 17 (2) .. .. .	—	—	—
(c) Under Section 46 .. .. .	—	—	—
(2) Licensed for temporary occupation under Section 34 or 53 .. .. .	—	—	—
6. Purchase of Houses by Agreement:—		<i>No. of Houses</i>	<i>No. of occupants of houses in</i>
Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year .. .. .		<i>(1)</i>	<i>column (1) (2)</i>
		—	—



## Housing Statistics—continued

	Private bodies or individuals		Local Authority	
	Number of schemes	Number of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected	Number of schemes	Number of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected
7. Housing Act, 1949, and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958—Improvement Grants, etc.:—				
Action during year:—				
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	—	—	—	—
(b) Approved by local authority .. .. .	—	—	—	—
(c) Submitted by local authority to Ministry .. .. .	—	—	—	—
(d) Finally approved by Ministry .. .. .	—	—	—	—
(e) Work completed .. .. .	—	—	—	—
(f) Additional separate dwellings included in (e) above	—	—	—	—
<hr/>				
8. House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959—Standard Grant:—				No. of dwellings or other buildings affected
Action during year:				
(a) Applications submitted to local authority .. .. .				45
(b) Applications approved by local authority .. .. .				45
(c) Work completed .. .. .				44
(d) Remarks:				

## Food &amp; Drugs Act, 1955

The County Council is the Food & Drugs Authority in this area. Samples were taken by an Assistant County Public Health Officer.

A total of 139 samples were obtained comprising 86 milks (of which one was a Channel Island's milk) and 53 others as follows:—

2 Tapioca	1 Ice Lollies
1 Vegetables, Dried	1 Fresh Meats (Beef)
1 Cinnamon, Ground	1 Eggs
1 Mixed Spice, Ground	1 Fresh Meat (Lambs Liver)
4 Sweets	2 Condensed Milk
1 Bread	1 Olive Oil and Raspberry Vinegar
1 Coconut Mallows	2 Fresh Fruit
6 Flour Confectionery	1 Peanuts
1 Single Cream, Fresh	1 Beetroot
2 Pork Sausage	1 Rice
1 Boracic Acid Powder B.P.	1 Fruit and Nuts
1 Biscuits	1 Coffee
1 Pork Pies	1 Plain Flour
1 Meat & Potato Pies	1 Tea
1 Soft Drink Powder	1 Fresh Vegetables (Cabbage)
1 Prodexin Tablets	1 Dried Vegetables (Peas)
2 Ice-Cream	1 Fresh Tomatoes
3 Whisky	1 Rum
1 Gin	1 Brandy



I give below details of samples on which the County Analyst gave adverse reports:—

<i>Type of Sample</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
Formal milk ... ..	Contained 0.05 International Unit Penicillin per ml.	Producer cautioned and Milk Marketing Board informed.
Pork Sausage ... ..	Contained 230 parts per million sulphite preservative (expressed as sulphur dioxide) without declaration.	Vendor interviewed and cautioned.
Meat & Potato Pies ...	Meat content of pie only 5.3 %. Recommended minimum content 12.5 %.	Vendor requested to retail these pies as described by manufacturers, i.e., potato pies.
Pork Sausage ... ..	Meat content 56.5 %. Poor in meat content. Contained 160 parts per million sulphite preservative.	Vendors interviewed and cautioned re: preservative.
Informal milk ... ..	Contained 0.7 parts per hundred thousand moist deposit of nature of denatured milk, protein and cotton fibres probably derived from a filter cloth.	Complainant and dairy informed.
Flour Confectionery ...	Contained confused flour beetle ( <i>Trebolium confusum</i> ) weighing 2 milligrams baked in the cake. No other insects present.	Complainant informed and bakers cautioned.

### **Milk and Milk Production**

All samples have remained free from tuberculosis. 20 samples have been examined.

A total of 293 samples of milk have been examined for Brucellosis. 19 have been reported positive on M.R.T. examination. One has been culture positive and two biologically positive. The full co-operation of farmers in the removal of infected and suspect animals from their retail herds has made the service of statutory notices unnecessary.

Antibiotics have not been detected in milk samples during the year.

### **Milk in School Scheme**

All schools in the area receive heat treated milk. Bottles of milk are distributed daily throughout term periods to all schools in the district.

### **Tuberculosis Order 1938**

No action has been necessary under the Order.

### **Ice Cream**

The two producers in the district continued to make a satisfactory product and samples were submitted for bacteriological examination. On each occasion they were found to be satisfactory. The majority of retailers in the district continued to sell the well-known products of ice-cream and ice lollies, and spot checks during the year proved satisfactory. Samples were taken of five ice-creams and five ice lollies.

### **Food Hygiene**

Some improvement has been noticed particularly with the retail shops in the protection of food and by the handling and wrapping of food by sales assistants. Health education by means of posters, visits to shops and by other media are beginning to show the good effect of long term project. The public have an increased awareness of the need to purchase food which is free from contamination.

More and more open foods are being sold wrapped in protective materials such as polythene and it is interesting to note that there is a trend for hawkers to sell their vegetables and produce in pre-packed bags which is a move in the right direction.

The detailed nature of the visits and the work done on food hygiene in both retail and wholesale premises will be found in the food hygiene section of Mr. Corbishley's report which follows.



### **Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations 1963**

No action has been necessary under the Regulations. There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district.

### **Housing the Aged**

The Lancashire County Council Health Committee are responsible for the welfare of the aged and this Authority with the aid of the County's grant aid scheme provide special housing accommodation to which is attached a Warden who attends to the needs of residents of the bungalows and helps with such problems as washing and minor ailments and is responsible for organising part of the social life of the residents in the form of television and communal room facilities.

The Council's bungalow scheme introduced in 1960 continues to be run satisfactorily with the Council's Warden, Mrs. Salmon, in charge. All of the 24 bungalows under her care are occupied. 4 new bungalows have been erected during the year adjacent to Charnley Fold Hostel, Cottage Lane.

### **Schools**

At the end of the year there were 15 schools in the district, these were:—

All Saints Primary  
Bamber Bridge Methodist Primary  
Lostock Hall County Primary  
Manybrooks Primary  
Severn Drive Primary  
St. Aiden's Primary  
St. Gerard's Primary  
St. Leonard's Primary  
St. Mary's Primary (Duddle Lane)  
St. Mary's Primary (Brownedge Lane)  
Brownedge St. Mary's Secondary Modern  
St. Patrick's Primary  
St. Saviour's Primary  
Walton-le-Dale County Secondary Modern  
Todd Lane North County Secondary Modern.

St. Leonard's Primary, Walton Green, in course of construction.

I considered it necessary during the year to carry out a detailed inspection of the buildings and facilities at St. Aiden's Primary School. The Chief Public Health Inspector's subsequent report to the Council contained the following observations:—

1. Four classrooms are congested.
2. Classes are held in the cloakrooms due to lack of other available rooms.
3. Natural ventilation could be improved.
4. Lack of dining facilities for school meals results in children eating at their desks.
5. No Staff-room provided.
6. Scullery used also as an office.
7. Sanitary accommodation and washing facilities are unsuitable.

Alterations to the school as a result of the report were under active consideration at the year end. It is hoped some alleviation of the problem will be commenced in early 1967.



### Air Pollution

No progress has been made in the control of pollution from domestic premises. 390 new dwellings have been built during the year, making a total of 2,985 dwellings constructed since the Clean Air Act came into force.

A boiler-house at an industrial premise which was the subject of concern has been replaced. The new station has been built to the highest possible standards of construction and instrumentation. No other problems have developed.

Chimneys at educational buildings are still being built at an unsatisfactory low level. Representations to the County Council have achieved little, except promises of action. Other chimneys under the control of the Clean Air Act have been constructed to the standards of the Memorandum on Chimney Heights.

### Water Supply

The water supply to the district, provided by the Preston & District Water Board, has remained satisfactory as regards quantity and quality throughout the year.

Copies of typical chemical results are given below, expressed as parts per million.

Mark or denomination of sample	Longridge	Thirlmere
Total solids in solution	48	32
Oxygen absorber from Permanganate in 15 mins.	0.39	0.28
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 3 hours	1.16	0.76
Ammonia	0.034	0.004
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.078	0.048
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.30	0.30
Nitrogen as Nitrites	Nil	Nil
Combined Chlorine	10	8
Temporary Hardness	4.0	Nil
Permanent Hardness	32.0	24.0
Total Hardness	36.0	24.0
pH Value	7.1	7.4
Apparent Colour	10 Hazen Units	9 Hazen Units

Ten samples of water have been bacteriologically examined. All were found to be satisfactory. There is no tendency to plumbo solvency. All dwellings in the area receive a piped water supply. Preston & District Water Board have examined 17 samples from the district during the year. All have been reported as satisfactory.

### Home Safety Committee

The Home Safety Committee has not functioned as a Committee during the year but much work has been done by individual members in promoting lectures and film shows at some of the meetings of voluntary organisations within the district.

Most of the propaganda work has been done by the Lancashire County Council Home Safety Committee and much propaganda material in the form of book marks, serviettes, etc., are passed to this office for distribution at various times during the year.

### Public Baths

There are no Public Baths in the District, but as Preston and Chorley are easily accessible, residents who wish to use Public Baths are able to do so. Part of the River Ribble at a place known as Church Deeps in Walton-le-Dale has been found in the past to be suitable for bathing at certain times of the year, but due to pollution of the River water this is not considered advisable.



### Factories

Following is a facsimile of the Report sent to the Ministry of Labour for 1966.

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1966 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF WALTON-LE-DALE IN THE COUNTY OF LANCASHIRE

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act 1937

#### PART 1 OF THE ACT

#### 1—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (made by Public Health Inspectors)

<i>PREMISES</i> (1)	<i>Number on Register</i> (2)	<i>Inspections</i> (3)	<i>Number of Written Notices</i> (4)	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i> (5)
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority .. .. .	20	25	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. .. .	83	60	8	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	7	—	—	—
	110	85	8	—

#### 2—Cases in which DEFECTS were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned, as two, three or more "cases").

<i>Particulars</i> (1)	<i>Found</i> (2)	<i>Remedied</i> (3)	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>		<i>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</i> (6)
			<i>REFERRED To H.M. Inspector</i> (4)	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i> (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective Sanitary Accessories ..	15	15	—	5	—
	15	15	—	5	—

#### NEW LEGISLATION

Ministry of Social Security Act 1966

Building Control Act 1966

National Insurance Act 1966

National Health Service Act 1966

Smoke Control Areas (Exempted Fireplaces) Order 1966

Public Health (Aircraft) Regulations 1966

Construction (Health & Welfare) Regulations 1966

Construction (Working Places) Regulations 1966

Oil Heaters Regulations 1966

Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations 1966

Salad Cream Regulations 1966

Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls & Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966

Colouring Matter in Food Regulations 1966

Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) (Amendment) Regulations 1966

The Alkali & Works Order 1966



## REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1966

### To the Chairman and Members of the Council:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to present to you my Annual Report for 1966.

The work of a Public Health Department brings many problems connected with the environmental services and health of the district. With each succeeding piece of legislation is added another duty to the Public Health Department staff when it concerns the health and well-being of the population. Regulations, Acts and controls continue to be sent out in ever increasing numbers and during 1966 no fewer than 15 government papers have been issued which affect work in the public health field. Details of the work will be found in the following pages, but in my preamble I would like to make reference to some of the outstanding problems and projects which have occurred.

The changing pattern of life has tended to speed up both industry and social life and this has brought its problems of noise. Noise of nearly any description if classed as a nuisance can be dealt with statutorily under the Noise Abatement Act, 1958. However, of the nine complaints investigated the powers of persuasion were evoked rather than "wielding the big stick" and in most of the cases it was possible to control the noise by co-operation.

Many requests have been received for help connected with housing accommodation and an increasing number of elderly people have applied to be placed on the Council's housing list of bungalows for the elderly in Brindle Road. Other residents with housing problems have come to the Public Health Department for assistance and representations made to the Housing Manager have invariably produced satisfactory results. There is an increase in the co-operation which exists between the Housing Department and ourselves, and although it is not always possible to see eye-to-eye with the Housing Manager on some housing applicants, nevertheless, we do maintain a reasonable measure of co-operation.

In the field of food hygiene, food inspection has played a large part in the activities of Public Health Officers and meat inspection figures very largely in the control of the district's food supply. In October one of the two slaughterhouses in the district which was re-licensed in 1954 finally closed its doors to make way for a new and larger abattoir which has been built at the South end of the district. This modern building with all its up-to-date fittings is now catering for a large population and a substantial increase in meat inspection has taken place as a result. One good feature of this change is the abolition of Sunday slaughtering which has been a "thorn" in the side of the Department ever since the old slaughterhouse re-opened. The charges made by the Council for meat inspection services at the slaughterhouses in the district go a long way towards covering the cost of the services, which necessitate one inspector doing nothing but meat inspection.

It was possible towards the end of the year to consider regular visits and inspection of the two poultry packing stations in the district where some 8,000 birds are prepared each week for human consumption. A representative of the Ministry of Health, Food Division, visited this district last year and advised that we should ensure that most of the poultry killed in the district is checked and inspected, this we are now endeavouring to do.

New legislation enacted in 1963 called the Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act has caused a substantial increase in the work of the department and Mr. Williams, my Deputy, has taken charge of this work which is rather time consuming in its operation. A separate Annual Report is published giving details of the work done under this new Act,

Since the advent of the Clean Air Act, 1956, I have been pressing the Council to consider the introduction of smoke control areas within the Urban District. Although we are not one of the 'Black Areas' there is a substantial amount of pollution particularly from domestic fires. Measurement control indicates that pollution is on quite a high scale in comparison with other districts. The industries within the district are now complying fully with the Clean Air Act and I think it is time that consideration be given to the development of smoke control areas. In December I was asked by the Council to put forward for their consideration some proposals with a view to smoke control areas.



Household pests again gave us trouble during the year, namely, the ermine moth known as the Y. Padella, in caterpillar form, and the stable fly from poultry houses. A large part of the district was affected by the caterpillar which defoliated hawthorn hedges and other allied bushes, but was controlled by one of the new insecticides, Dipterex 80. This is a highly toxic poison which is extremely effective against these pests, but care has to be taken when using in spray form particularly in conjunction with fruit trees. Highway hedges and old age persons hedges received free treatment from the Council's cleansing service, whilst other private houses either obtained their own supplies of insecticide or asked the Health Department to deal with the matter on a time and material charge basis.

Part of the cleansing service which comes under my control relates to the removal and disposal of house and trade refuse. This has increased substantially during the year due to the development of the district, the increase in trade refuse, and the increase in refuse bulk due to the large number of empty packages which are having to be removed from domestic premises. There are over 9,900 domestic dustbins to empty and this is done in the main on a weekly basis except for holidays and when sickness interferes. It will be necessary to make representations to the Council early in 1967 with a view to increasing staff and the addition of a new vehicle in order to cope with the increase of refuse. Concerning the disposal of this refuse on our Hennel Lane Tip, the area of land purchased and rented in 1930 is fast becoming full and negotiations have been commenced with the owners of adjoining land with a view to purchase in order to provide a further five or six years' tipping space.

It was necessary to replace the existing tractor, a crawler type, with a tyred type of vehicle, this took place in August when the Bristol caterpillar was exchanged for an Italian machine, a low slung tyred vehicle. It was found that the cost of operating a track vehicle was rather expensive due to the abrasive nature of material which it had to spread and move. The disposal of refuse presents a major problem to a small authority and time is drawing near when thought will have to be given to some form of amalgamation between districts in order to cope with this difficulty. I am sure that more will be heard of these suggestions in the near future.

Although I report to the Council as the head of a department which is dealing with an increased amount of work, it would not be possible to give you all these facts and figures nor would it be possible to achieve all the work which has been done without the excellent co-operation of the Health Department staff. In particular I would refer to Mr. Williams, my deputy, who continues to play a major part in the environmental services, and to Mrs. Hodgson my Secretary, who maintains an excellent contact with the public who call at the Health Department, by her cheerful disposition and attention to detail.

Finally, I would like to thank the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, Mr. Councillor W. Morgan and Dr. J. Walker, the Medical Officer of Health for their help and guidance during the past year.

I remain, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

G. N. CORBISHLEY.



**1. Visits and Inspections Made**

Water Supply ... ..	17
Drainage ... ..	316
Movable Dwellings ... ..	36
Factories ... ..	85
Refuse Collection ... ..	50
Refuse Disposal ... ..	75
Rodent Control — Private ... ..	48
Rodent Control — Business ... ..	23
Air Pollution ... ..	50
Schools ... ..	14
Shops Act ... ..	7
Re-inspection ... ..	18
Noise Abatement ... ..	34
Miscellaneous ... ..	136
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act ... ..	164

**2. Housing**

P.H.A. Houses Inspected ... ..	283
H.A. Houses Inspected ... ..	137
Verminous, etc., houses ... ..	30
Old Age People and Welfare ... ..	51
Miscellaneous ... ..	18

**3. Infectious Diseases**

General Inquiries ... ..	296
Miscellaneous Inquiries ... ..	18

**4. Meat and Food Inspections**

Food Preparation ... ..	29
Hygiene Regulations ... ..	73
Licensed Premises ... ..	4
Slaughterhouses ... ..	624
Miscellaneous ... ..	21

**5. Sampling**

Milk ... ..	89
Ice Cream ... ..	9
Food and Drugs ... ..	9
Brucella Abortus (milks) ... ..	79

**6. A total of 2,863 visits were made.****Notices Served****Notices:**

Informal ... ..	227
Formal ... ..	9
Informal complied with ... ..	216
Formal complied with ... ..	9



### **Housing**

390 new dwellings have been built during the year. 386 have been built by private enterprise and 4 by the Council.

The houses in the district are suitable and sufficient for their purpose, most of the property requiring demolition or conversion having been dealt with.

5 houses have been demolished during the year.

The standard of housing continues to improve and an increasing number of houses are being brought up to a satisfactory housing standard, not that this is particularly poor but with the estimate given in last year's report that there are only 20% houses without baths, another slice of the district has now been converted to the five amenities which include, bath, wash-hand basin, internal W.C., food store and hot water.

The number of rented houses continues to diminish and although this would tend to lessen housing complaints, we do receive requests for assistance from owner/occupiers on various items such as defective roofs etc., which they are unable to have repaired.

### **Rent Act**

No action was necessary under the Rent Act.

All the rent problems are now referred to the Rent Officer under the control of the County Council. Two such queries were sent to him during the year.

### **Improvement Grants**

The improvement of dwellings under the Housing Act 1949, Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958, the House Purchase & Housing Act 1959 and the Housing Acts 1961-64 is the responsibility of the Engineer & Surveyor. No applications have been received for discretionary grants. 45 applications have been submitted for improvement to the full standard. The work has been carried out in all cases.

### **Movable Dwellings**

One licence is in operation to control two caravans. No problems have been met with on the site which is adjacent to the proprietor's dwelling. Two other caravans are occupied within the curtilage of dwellings as part of the dwelling.

Vagrants and wandering families have not been a problem this year, although constant vigilance is required to ensure that they do not overstay the permitted period or leave the site in an unsatisfactory condition.

### **Drainage**

As housing development continues and the area becomes more built up the problem of unpiPED water-courses becomes more serious. They are a hazard to children and subject to pollution. Blocking and obstruction to the free flow of water creates stagnant pools, long undergrowth and hedges provide cover for rodents. In my opinion all these hazards are unnecessary and would be averted if the water-courses were culverted at the time of building development.

One ditch on St. Saviour's site was satisfactorily piped. Others remain a problem. One at the west boundary of Stockdale Crescent has remained a nuisance and rodent infested. Treatment has been effective but residents remain worried and angry that it was not piped during the building of the houses.



### Rodent Control

#### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

1. No. of rodent operatives employed—(a) Full time ... Nil  
(b) Part time ... 1
2. Action relating to rodent control during year—

	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	Non-agricultural Dwelling-houses	Agricultural
(a) No. of properties in district .. .. .	8,355	90
(b) No. of properties inspected .. .. .	568	2
(c) Total inspections carried out (incl. re-inspections) ..	610	28
(d) No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:		
Rats—major .. .. .	—	—
minor .. .. .	168	2
Mice—major .. .. .	—	—
minor .. .. .	26	—
(e) No. of infested properties treated .. .. .	152	2
(f) Total treatments carried out (incl. re-treatments) ..	—	—
(g) No. of "Block" control schemes carried out .. ..	—	—
(h) Any other action .. .. .	—	—

The table printed above gives the statistical information which has been compiled from our records as to the number of properties which have been inspected and treated for rats and mice. Figures are only an indication and do not give the extent of the work involved by the pests control officer in visiting, surveying and treating an increase in the number of properties over the previous year.

In spite of modern methods of control, the rat problem is still with us and there is now a national tendency for the poisons which have been used during the last 20 years to be not as effective and they are becoming less so due to the growing number of rats which are immune to these poisons. Although we have not noticed any trouble in this district from immunity it is possible that we could meet up with it in the future.

Warfarin is the main poison used to control these pests, although on occasions it has been necessary to use traps or other means. These alternatives are used to destroy rodents in premises where poisons are not practicable.

In addition to the control of rats and mice, other pests are dealt with including ants and wasps during summer months. Although not a serious public health problem they are pests in the ordinary sense of the word and often require the assistance of the pests officer to deal with them.

### Air Pollution

Once more I have to report that no action has been taken to control the emissions of domestic smoke.

Industrial premises have given little cause for concern. When emissions have taken place they have all been due to mechanical defects or have been of a temporary nature. On two occasions it was necessary to make verbal representations to an employer when an employee had unjustifiably tampered with boiler settings and caused smoke. No other action was required.

British Railways continue to use a high proportion of coal fired trains in the area, these have given cause for complaint by the emission of black smoke, particularly on the East Lancs. track. No legal action has been taken but all cases of excessive smoke emission have been referred to the Management for disciplinary action. Pollution from the Lostock Hall Service Depot has remained as in previous years due to the large number of engines being serviced here. Continuous care is exercised to maintain smoke emissions to a minimum.

Several cases of dark smoke from road vehicles have been referred to the vehicle owner.



## MEAT AND FOOD

### Slaughterhouses

The two licensed slaughterhouses continued to operate on similar lines to previous years, details of the amount of meat inspected are found below.

#### Carcases and Offal inspected and rejected in whole or in part

	<i>Cattle Excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed (if known) .. .. .	1,571	5,705	32	4,269	184
Number inspected .. .. .	1,571	5,705	32	4,269	184
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>					
Whole Carcases condemned .. .. .	1	14	1	9	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. .. .	738	4,287	—	719	43
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci .. .. .	47	75	3	17	23
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. .. .	1	—	—	—	1
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis .. .. .	0.06	—	—	—	0.50
<i>Cysticercosis:</i>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. .. .	—	2	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration Generalised and totally condemned .. .. .	—	2	—	—	—

### Meat Inspection

The building of the new private slaughterhouse in the district was completed at the end of September 1966 and slaughtering commenced there on the 1st of October 1966. The throughput of animals increased gradually towards the end of the year when pigs were also being slaughtered.

Earlier in the year the Chief Public Health Inspector, his Deputy and the Meat Inspector visited the British Beef Co. Slaughterhouse at Wakefield, where a similar system to the one installed at Walton-le-Dale was in operation. This enabled a more practical form of advice to be given at the many meetings between the Public Health Department Staff and the management of the British Beef Co.

Sunday slaughtering has now ceased which has had the obvious effect of lengthening the working day.

### Poultry Inspection

During the year the Ministry of Health issued a circular to all local authorities drawing attention to the need for inspection and regular visiting to all processing establishments to ensure that the requirements of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, and the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 and the recommendation of the Code of Practice of poultry processing and packing are being observed, and that all carcasses and viscera intended for human consumption are in a fit condition.

The Ministry asks that records should be kept of all such premises together with the number of inspections made, the type of birds inspected and the weight of poultry rejected for human consumption.



Following upon this circular one of the Ministry Officials visited the Health Department at the end of the year and visited the two poultry packing stations in the district. Stress was made again for the need for regular inspection and recording. It is intended to commence regular inspection of these premises and of poultry carcasses early in 1967. Therefore, it is not possible to give any records for 1966 apart from the fact that we know that there are some 8,000 birds being processed each week at the two establishments.

It will be possible to give more precise information in the annual report for 1967.

### Raw Milks

<i>Samples taken from Producers in the District</i>					<i>Samples taken from Producers outside the District</i>				
<i>Year</i>	<i>No. taken</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>		<i>T.B. present</i>	<i>No. taken</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>		<i>T.B. present</i>	
		<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>			<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>		
1956 .. ..	40	31	77.0	0	42	30	71.5	0	
1957 .. ..	37	28	75.0	0	33	23	70.0	3	
1958 .. ..	21	16	76.0	0	53	42	79.0	1	
1959 .. ..	21	18	85.7	0	28	15	53.6	0	
1960 .. ..	21	16	76.0	0	30	22	73.3	0	
1961 .. ..	15	11	73.3	0	37	29	80.0	0	
1962 .. ..	13	9	69.2	0	20	16	80.0	0	
1963 .. ..	22	20	90.9	0	41	27	65.9	0	
1964 .. ..	4	3	75.0	0	41	40	97.7	0	
1965 .. ..	24	23	95.7	0	35	25	71.4	0	
1966 .. ..	9	3	33.0	0	37	25	67.5	0	

### Pasteurised Milks

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number Taken</i>	<i>Number Efficiently Heat Treated</i>	<i>%</i>
1956 .. ..	38	35	92
1957 .. ..	28	28	100
1958 .. ..	29	29	100
1959 .. ..	33	32	94
1960 .. ..	30	30	100
1961 .. ..	36	35	97
1962 .. ..	22	21	95
1963 .. ..	33	32	97
1964 .. ..	16	16	100
1965 .. ..	30	30	100
1966 .. ..	45	39	87

### Ice Cream

As in previous years two firms continue to manufacture ice cream, one at Lostock Hall and the second at Walton-le-Dale. Samples were taken at both these premises and both proved satisfactory.

Ice cream retailed from other shops in the district is manufactured mainly by the large producers. All samples from these proved satisfactory. One other sample taken from a shop at Bamber Bridge and manufactured by a small firm at Chorley also proved satisfactory.



### **Brucellosis**

It is estimated that the amount of raw milk sold in the district is between 20% and 25%. This is designated as untreated milk meaning that it has not been subjected to any form of heat treatment. With the possibility of transmitting infection of man through milk this proportion is rather high, although I think there is a gradual realisation amongst the public that some form of heat treatment of milk is necessary in order to ensure a food free from infection.

The number of producer/retailers in the district remains as last year 11, and the number of retailers in the area is on the decline, some of them having ceased to trade and have passed the business over to the larger combines. Although routine sampling is still carried on, the accent is of samples taken for Brucellosis, a disease of cattle which is transmissible to man in the form of Undulant Fever. We are beginning to gain some measure of control over this infection amongst cattle by regular sampling and elimination of the infected cattle from the herds of producer/retailers but the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food under the Animal Health Division are to commence a campaign for the eradication of this disease.

Apart from this disease no other infections were found in milk supply although a percentage reduction was noticed in the number of samples not fulfilling the methylene blue standard for keeping quality.

### **Food Hygiene**

The standard of food hygiene in retail shops, food preparation premises and wholesale manufacturers has maintained a fairly high level. It has not been possible to pay the same attention to these premises as in the past due to the increase of work within the department in other spheres. The high standard of food hygiene in the district can be reflected in the absence of any outbreak of food poisoning, although one cannot be too complacent over this because even in the best regulated premises or administration a break-down can occur.

### **Other Foods**

In addition to meat and poultry inspection a check is made on other food shops when visiting for the purpose of food hygiene regulations. By arrangement with shop keepers food which is found to be unsaleable or unfit is either returned to the manufacturer or brought into the Health Department where we authenticate its unfitness and issue a certificate. It was necessary during the year to reject a large consignment of frozen beef, pork and lamb from a wholesale food premise where refrigeration had become defective and the food had commenced to decompose.

A reduction in the number of other foods such as tinned foods was apparent during the year. This is primarily due to the closing down of a large wholesale food firm from whom we used to reject quantities of tinned food. However, items of food were rejected and certificates issued.

### **Vermineous Premises**

The number of premises requiring treatment for house pests was relatively few. The most common pests were cockroaches, fleas and flies and 14 premises have been treated for these during the year. Only one premise had to be treated for bed bugs.



### **Y. Padella (Ermine Moth) Caterpillar**

The Y. Padella caterpillar continued its infestation of hawthorn and allied plants but a substantial reduction was noted on the previous year. This is due to the intensive spraying of insecticide last year and it is hoped that this improvement will continue.

The pattern of infestation of this pest is undergoing a change. The infestation first noticed about 8 years ago on the south/eastern side of the district has gradually spread across all the area moving in a westerly direction. It is only in the last year or so that the Lostock Hall area has been affected. The most effective insecticide is Dipterex 80, this has been used by the Council and by private and industrial firms. Although not a serious public health menace it is a pest which should be controlled to prevent large scale infestations.

### **Noise Abatement**

Of the nine complaints of noise dealt with, representations to the "noise makers" resulted in abolition or a substantial reduction of the noise to the betterment of the district and the satisfaction of the complainants in particular.

The noises complained of are generally at their most persistent when the outside world is quiet, i.e., late at night and early morning, therefore, it was necessary to make visits in the area of the noise sometimes at midnight and afterwards in order to see whether there was a justification in the complaint and if possible to deal with the matter on the spot.

One complaint concerned a noise which was finally located to be associated with a generator charging vehicle batteries. This was in a garage where a fleet of electrical vehicles had their batteries charged during the night and the noise produced by the generator caused a nuisance to neighbours. The proprietors were able to effect a complete sound proofing thereby abating the nuisance.

### **Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act 1963**

Inspection of premises coming within the control of the local authority under the above act continued during the year. Although a separate annual report is provided for the Council and Ministry of Labour, I think a list of premises visited and the contraventions found is worthy of including in this report.

134 inspections have been carried out including 64 general inspections. It was necessary to serve 44 notices to rectify 121 contraventions. At the end of the year there were 96 premises on the register.

Section of Act	No. of premises with contraventions
4	3
6	24
8	10
9	5
10	2
16	19
17	19
24	11
50	28

Details of the various sections are given below:

Section 4 provides for the cleanliness of furniture, furnishings and fittings.

Section 6 provides for the effective maintenance of a reasonable working temperature and the provision of thermometers.

Section 8 provides for adequate lighting, where people work or pass.

Section 9 provides for suitable and sufficient toilets and for the cleanliness and maintenance of them.

Section 10 provides for suitable and sufficient working facilities.

Section 16 provides for the safe maintaining and construction of floors, stairs, etc.



Section 17 provides for fencing of exposed parts of machinery.

Section 24 provides for adequate first-aid to be readily accessible.

Section 50 provides that all employees have available for their personal perusal an abstract of the Act informing them of their entitlement under the Act.

Four accidents were reported in 1965; there were no accidents reported during the current year. Although no reports were received this does not necessarily mean there were no accidents in such premises, which should have been notified. I can only assume that the management have failed to notify the local authority of accidents which necessitates the employee being off work for three or more days.

### **Factories Act 1961**

Parts 1 to 7 of the Factories Act 1961 concern the heating, lighting, cleanliness, ventilation, etc., for factories without power. This part of the Act at these factories is enforceable by local authorities.. There are less than 20 of these premises within the district and at least 8 of these have been visited during the year.

Section 7 of the Act deals with sanitary accommodation for all factories and this is administered by all local authorities in factories both with and without mechanical power. Although no recent check has been made there are 110 factories in the district and most are complying with the relevant section concerning sanitary accommodation. 60 visits have been made, 8 notices have been served for 15 contraventions 5 of which were referred to us by H.M. Factory Inspector.

As far as we are able to ascertain there are no outworkers in the district, therefore the section under part 8 of the act shows a nil return.

## **PUBLIC CLEANSING**

### **House and Trade Refuse Collection and Disposal**

Last year's report stated that after an initial survey it was found that 9,500 bins were being emptied on average each week. During the current year 361 houses have been built which has added over 400 bins to the section. Strange as it may seem in a number of cases each household has two bins.

Refuse is becoming bulkier due to the increasing amount of packaging in the form of polythene, plastic and cardboard containers. The ash content of refuse forms a comparatively small part of this material and will reduce still further if smoke control areas are introduced within the district. We are again fortunate in having no serious labour problem in the collection and disposal of refuse, but some of the older workmen will be retiring within the next 18 months and it will be difficult to find men of the same calibre to replace them. The younger man of today does not want a lot of manual work, some of them are prepared to do the minimum amount of work for the maximum amount of wage and we have had our element of this type of person in the service.

Fortunately, most of the men are excellent servants otherwise I think it would be found nearly impossible to maintain a regular service unless some incentive was introduced in order to get the dustbins emptied.

The question of incentive bonus has been discussed at Council level but a general decision has not yet been made on the introduction of such a scheme. Such a scheme has its advantages of ensuring a regular collection, but disadvantages are such that I think they outweigh the advantages of such a scheme.

The salvage collected has been increased during the year, this is reflected in the table at the end of the report. There was no change in the five vehicle fleet, but it will be necessary to replace one of the Karrier fore and aft tippers with a larger type of similar vehicle in 1967. With the gradual change-over to diesel vehicles the cost of running them will be reduced and the storage tank at St. Mary's Road Garage will become the main source of fuel for the vehicles.



An increase in refuse collected means an increase in refuse disposed of. The controlled site at Hennel Lane is filling up rapidly and plans are afoot to purchase an extension to this tip. It is hoped to commence in 1967.

Mr. I. Watson has continued as foreman during the year and I thank him for his valuable service and conscientious attention to all the details of the work involved in running the Public Cleansing service.

### Refuse Collection, Disposal and Salvage

#### Service Costs:—

Gross Expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	£29,372
Gross Income	...	...	...	...	...	£4,283
Net Expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	£25,089
Dustbins emptied per week	...	...	...	...	...	9,900
Weekly Standard Wage: Driver	...	...	...	...	...	£12-19-0d.
Collector	...	...	...	...	...	£12-6-7d.

### Collections and Sales of Salvage and Tipping Charges

The following table shows the tonnage and materials sold and the amounts received for salvage:—

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	£	s.	d.
Paper .. .. .	350	1	—	—	3,141	15	6
Textiles .. .. .	14	4	—	3	253	17	7
Non-Ferrous Metals .. .. .	2	16	3	10	283	16	4
Cast Iron Scrap .. .. .	3	6	1	—	39	15	0
Use of Tip .. .. .					342	15	6
Miscellaneous .. .. .					221	0	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>£4,283</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<i>Year</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	£	s.	d.
1956 .. .. .	240	9	3	21	2,790	19	7
1957 .. .. .	292	14	1	5	2,999	1	4
1958 .. .. .	292	14	2	20	3,021	8	10
1959 .. .. .	291	15	3	23	3,218	0	0
1960 .. .. .	305	10	1	9	3,467	0	0
1961 .. .. .	309	4	3	20	3,543	0	0
1962 .. .. .	297	11	3	15	2,865	0	0
1963 .. .. .	315	19	—	20	3,109	0	0
1964 .. .. .	323	19	3	4	3,153	0	0
1965 .. .. .	342	12	1	15	3,829	0	0
1966 .. .. .	370	8	—	13	4,283	0	0



## ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT

This brief Report covers the period 1st January to 31st December 1966.

### 1. Highways

#### 1. Authorised expenditure on maintenance and minor improvements:—

##### *Authorised expenditure over the last 5 years*

Road Class	Length	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962
Class I .. ..	3.07 miles	£10,317 (£3,360/mile)	£8,420 (£2,745/mile)	£3,814 (£1,242/ml.)	£3,810 (£1,240/mile)	£10,635 (£3,470/mile)
Class II .. ..	2.22 miles	£7,703 (£3,470/mile)	£9,930 (£4,380/mile)	£7,583 (£3,420/ml.)	£11,740 † (£5300/mile)	£2,225 (£1,000/mile)
Class III .. ..	2.39 miles	£6,380 (£2,670/mile)	£5,700 (£2,385/mile)	£5,933 (£2,480/ml.)	£4,450 (£1,860/mile)	£2,169 (£907/mile)
Unclassified ..	26.34 miles‡	£25,385 (£965/mile)	£24,580 (£942/mile)	£26,441 (£1080/ml.)	£18,945 (£805/mile)	£15,962 (£743/mile)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>34.02 miles</b>	<b>£49,785</b>	<b>£48,630</b>	<b>£43,771</b>	<b>£38,945</b>	<b>£30,991</b>

† Widening of part of Church Brow, Walton-le-Dale (estimated cost £2,500) approved in addition to total shewn in table.

‡ Last year's mileage — 24.52 miles.

Public Footpaths (not included in the total) — 26.75 miles.

#### 1.2 Manchester—Preston Motorway

The Minister of Transport approved the original line for this road after dismissing the objections which had been lodged.

#### 1.3 Chorley Road A.6 (near Cinnamon Hill Drive South).

The pedestrian crossing, which was approved following the abandonment of a previously approved improvement scheme for the road, was constructed.

#### 1.4 Church Road A.6—Kellet Lane junction.

The junction improvement scheme, previously approved by the Ministry of Transport, was completed.

#### 1.5 Chorley Road A.6—improvement at the Unicorn Café

This badly-needed improvement, which will provide a footpath on the west side of Chorley Road, was finally approved after much delay.

Unfortunately no work was carried out as apparently the County Council was unable to find a contractor willing to tender for the building work necessary at the Unicorn Café.



### 1.6. Cuerdale Lane B.6230

The scheme for widening, including provision of a footpath on the south side, from The Drive to Maizefield, was completed.

### 1.7. Bank Head Lane

The scheme for widening, including the provision of footpaths, and regrading Bank Head Lane from Gregson Lane to Alma Row was substantially completed.

### 1.8. Road Signs

The replacement of road signs by the new "Worboys" sign was completed, except for waiting restriction signs, throughout the Urban District, where the signs were the responsibility of the U.D.C.

### 1.9. Principal Roads

Because of the impending changes in the Highway Grant system, consideration was given to the designation of classified roads as Principal Roads (excluding Trunk Roads).

The only road to be so designated was A.675, Higher Walton Road, Blackburn Road and Hoghton Lane.

### 1.10. Speed Limits

The Ministry of Transport de-restricted a short section of Church Road A.6, including the Motorway roundabout, despite considerable opposition.

As a consequence, a short length of Kellet Lane, from the junction with Church Road, was de-restricted.

## 2. Private Street Works

2.1. The greater part of the unmade streets existing in the Urban District at the end of the War, have now been dealt with under the Private Street Works Code of 1892. Of the few remaining unmade streets, most are in areas where the probable short life of the dwellings would not justify the expense of street making.

### 2.2. Schemes were prepared for making up 3 streets:—

Berry Street (part of), Lostock Hall,  
The Green, Lostock Hall,  
Church Street (part of), Higher Walton (objections received).

### 2.3 Works were completed in 4 streets:—

Bridge Street (part of), Bamber Bridge,  
Southern approach road to St. Mary's R.C. Secondary School,  
Nelson Street,  
Smithy Street.



2.4. Builders completed roadmaking under Agreements in 19 streets, and the streets were adopted as "highways maintainable at public expense":—

Aldersleigh Crescent (part of);	Asland Close;
Alder Drive (part of);	Savick Close;
Hayfield Avenue (part of);	Hareden Close;
Birch Crescent;	Hodder Crescent;
Ampleforth Drive (part of);	Fell Close;
Mounsey Road (part of);	Douglas Close;
Stockdale Crescent;	Dunsop Close
Whitendale Drive;	Brennand Close;
Langden Crescent;	Bleasdale Close.
Cam Close.	

### 3. Public Footpaths

Applications to the Magistrates Court for the stopping up or diversion of footpaths affected by development were granted for:—

- Withy Grove Road to Brindle Road (private building estate in progress).
- Bank Head Lane towards Gorton Brook (Alders estate in progress).
- Station Road to Coniston Drive (alongside timber storage).
- Mill Street and passage to School Street (houses demolished and car park being constructed)

### 4. Street Lighting

4.1. During the year 30 new street lamps were provided, making a total of 1,424 street lamps in the Urban District:—

Sodium 140 watt	320
Sodium 80 watt	1
Fluorescent 2/20 watt	37
Tungsten 500 watt	7
Tungsten 150 watt	482
Tungsten 100 watt	576
Tungsten 60 watt	1

4.2. Two additional 25 foot high 140 watt sodium lamps were provided in Victoria Road A.6 between the junctions of Higher Walton Road A.675 and Church Brow B.6230 in an attempt to reduce after-dark accidents at this position. (The road was already lighted to Group A standards).

### 5. Sewage Disposal

5.1. The new Treatment Works completed its second year "on full stream" and operating techniques were improved. Unfortunately the constant and continuing rapid changes of staff made the Manager's task in maintaining a good standard of effluent very difficult.

5.2. At the end of November a very large quantity of oil arrived at the Works. Fortunately this was seen in time to prevent serious contamination of the "filters," but the quality of the effluent suffered. The source of this illegal discharge of oil was not located sufficiently positively to enable legal action to be brought.



5.3. The River Authority Inspectors made many visits to the Works and continued pressure was applied by them in an attempt to maintain the extremely high standard of effluent which that Authority requires. It is interesting to note that the required standard is considerably higher than that required by the Severn Authority for a discharge to the River Avon—bearing in mind that Walton-le-Dale's discharge is to a tidal part of the River Ribble and downstream of the junction of the heavily polluted River Darwen.

5.4. During the year a contract was signed with a local farmer whereby he is paid to remove the sludge cake. During the year he reduced the stock by almost 1,000 tons, in addition to removing the daily production.

## **6. Trade Effluent**

6.1. Very little progress was made in bringing industries discharging effluent, under control by Agreements, but work continued to this end.

6.2. All industries were charged for effluent discharges on the basis of the formulae in the unsigned Agreements. These charges will no doubt be increased in 1967 when the actual operating costs over the first two years working at the Works have been ascertained.

## **7. Sewers**

7.1. The schemes prepared for Lydrick Avenue relief sewer and Alma Row relief sewer were carried out.

7.2. The scheme for sewerage Todd Lane South was carried out, and consequently 7 septic tanks were abandoned.

7.3. The new Owner of Bannister Hall Works submitted a scheme for laying a sewer through private land to his Works to enable his primitive treatment plant to be abandoned.

7.4. Investigations were begun in the Houghton Lane area, for the preparation of schemes for foul and surface water sewer improvements which will shortly be needed to accommodate this developing area. This work was seriously delayed by staff shortages (see 15 below).

## **8. Flooding**

8.1. The total annual rainfall was over 41 inches—above average—and 1.66 inches fell in a 24 hour period on June 26th.

8.2. The June rain caused minor flooding:—

Maple Drive (part of a Mill, one house and several gardens affected)—caused by blockage of a ditch and culvert belonging to the Mill Owners. Council workmen alleviated the trouble during the night and a scheme to avoid a repetition was suggested to the Mill Owners.

Hob Inn. Once again the "grid" protecting the entrance to the culvert passing beneath the Hob Inn became blocked and water ran through the premises. Once again the Brewery was advised on a simple and permanent cure.

Bradkirk Lane was impassable for a short time. A scheme was prepared for improvement to the existing surface water drainage system to be carried out when development upstream (Greystock Close) is under way.

Bannister Hall Lane Area. Defects were found in the surface water drains. A scheme is to be prepared for diversion of the hillside watercourses above Bannister Hall Lane.



## **9. Council Housing**

9.1. Cottage Lane Bungalows. The block of 4 bed-sitter bungalows at the entrance to Charnley Fold House (aged persons hostel) was completed.

9.2. Collins Road pre-War houses. All the dilapidated timber rear porches were replaced.

9.3. Access for private housing site. The Council agreed to an access being provided from Highfield Avenue to a private estate being constructed at the rear.

9.4. Access for school. The Council agreed to an access to Walton Green School being provided from Beechwood Avenue.

9.5. Lock-up Garages. 17 garages were built on the garage site at Meanygate and 11 at Aspsden Street.

## **10. Private Housing**

During the year 386 dwellings were completed by private builders, and at the end of December 224 were under construction.

## **11. Housing Improvement Grants**

Approval was given to 45 applications for Standard Improvement Grants.

One application was refused as the house is expected to be demolished for road improvements within 10 years.

## **12. Playing Fields**

### **12.1 Withy Grove.**

The appeal lodged against refusal of consent for housing development on the site designated in the Town Map as future public open space, was deferred to enable discussions to begin between the Council and the Owner, with a view to purchase by the Council.

### **12.2. King Georges Field**

The K.G. Foundation approved the Council's design for a Pavilion and Changing Rooms, but because of the Government's financial measures, no further progress was made towards constructing the building.

### **12.3. The Holme.**

Continuing vandalism forced the Council to close the toilets at this field.

### **12.4. Play Leadership.**

A small sub-committee visited Wellington R.D.C. (Shropshire) to see Play Leadership in progress. Financial considerations prevented play leadership schemes being started at Walton-le-Dale.

## **13. Plans and Planning**

13.1. During the year 633 applications relating to 880 permanent and 170 temporary buildings were dealt with under the Building Byelaws and Building Regulations (which came into force in February 1966).

13.2. Planning applications received numbered 209 — several relating to extensive building sites.



#### 14. Review Town Map

14.1. After a lapse of time of over 3½ years since the Public Inquiry the Minister of Housing and Local Government approved the Review Town Map with minor amendments.

14.2. The Council's proposals for the inclusion of land at Coupe Green were disregarded, but the same week as the Review Town Map was approved, approval was given by the Minister to a variation to it, approving part of the land which the Council asked to be included.

14.3. Development was in progress on several sites not included in the Review Town Map and the population had passed that Map's provision for 1971!

14.4. The Review Town Map can only be regarded as an expensive academic exercise, providing nothing for the future and recording the past incorrectly.

#### 15. Staff

15.1. Two vacancies for Engineering Assistants were caused by Mr. P. J. Chapman leaving in June, and Mr. J. Gregson leaving in October.

15.2. Neither of these vacancies had been filled by the end of December, but interviews had been held and two appointments made.

#### 16. Transport

The usage of the Department's vehicles was:—

<i>Vehicle</i>	<i>Registered</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Petrol (gallons)</i>	<i>M.P.G.</i>	
Bedford Sweeper .. ..	June 1957	6,417	1,105	5.8	
Karrier Gulley-emptyer ..	April 1958	5,544	1,413	3.9	
Bedford flat truck .. ..	Mar. 1959	9,630	400	24.1	(part estimated)
Morris Van .. ..	Apr. 1965	14,500	448	32.3	" "
Fordson 3-ton tipper (PTE)	Aug. 1965	9,291	951	9.8	
Fordson 3-ton tipper (RTC)	Sept. 1965	9,557	949	10.0	
Totals: .. ..	—	54,939	5,266	—	

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