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BOROUGH OF WISBECH

and

WISBECH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY



ANNUAL REPORT

*of*

The Medical Officer of Health

H. L. GROOM, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

*and*

The Chief Public Health Inspector

D. BROOK, M.A.P.H.I.

*for the*

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1962



PUBLIC

HEALTH

COMMITTEE

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR: Councillor M.H. Osborn J.P.

CHAIRMAN: Alderman E.H. Miller

VICE CHAIRMAN: Alderman E.N. Rigg

MEMBERS: Alderman L.H. Rands

Alderman J.E. Sandall

Councillor M.C. Burton (Mrs.)

Councillor G.G.J. Gibbs

Councillor B.M. Osborn (Mrs.)

Councillor T. Piggott

Councillor C. Shaw

Councillor H.P. Sims

Councillor D.A. Sistrom

Councillor C.A.E. Woolnough

O F F I C E R S

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

Dr. H.L. Groom, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.  
"Hillcroft", Hill Street, Wisbech.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

D. Brook, M.A.P.H.I.,  
Exchange Square, Wisbech.

Certificate of the Royal Society  
of Health and Public Health In-  
spectors Joint Examination Board.  
Cert. Inspector of Meat and Food,  
Royal Society of Health.  
Smoke Inspector's Diploma, Royal  
Society of Health.  
Testamur Institute of Public  
Cleansing.

DEPUTY CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR: J.L. Fear, M.A.P.H.I.,

Certificate of the Royal Society  
of Health and Public Health In-  
spectors Joint Examination Board.  
Cert. Inspector of Meat and Food,  
Royal Society of Health.  
Smoke Inspectors Certificate  
Royal Society of Health.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

R. Sissons, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.,

Certificate of Public Health  
Inspectors Education Board.  
Dip. Inspector of Meat and Food,  
Royal Society of Health.  
Smoke Inspectors Diploma, Royal  
Society of Health.

CLERK:

Mrs. B.F. Kerridge.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1962

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Wisbech.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting to you my report on the general health of the Borough for the past year, ending 31st December, 1962.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area, 4,666 acres  
Estimated resident population, mid-1962, 17,550  
Sum realised by a penny rate, £1,148  
Number of inhabited houses, 5,671  
Rateable value, £285,626

LIVE BIRTHS

	Total	M	F
Legitimate .....	270	146	124
Illegitimate .....	20	11	9
Birth rate per thousand of the estimated resident population, mid-1962 .....	17.66		

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate .....	4	1	3
Illegitimate .....	0	0	0
Rate per thousand total (live and still) births .....	13.60		

DEATHS

Deaths .....	257	133	124
Death rate per thousand of the estimated average population ..	14.64		

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Deaths from puerperal causes -		
Puerperal sepsis .....	0	0
Other puerperal causes .....	0	0

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age:-	
All infants per 1,000 live births .....	22.58
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .....	24.13
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .....	0
Deaths from cancer (all ages) .....	33
Deaths from measles (all ages) .....	0
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages) .....	0
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .....	0
Deaths from motor vehicle accidents .....	4
Deaths from lung cancer .....	8
Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births ..	12.90
Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births ...	9.67
Still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births .....	22.29

The comparable figures for England and Wales as at 30th June, 1962 are as follows:-

Birth rate per thousand .....	18.0
Death rate per thousand .....	11.9
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age .....	21.4

In the Borough there is a School Clinic, a Tubercular Clinic, two General Hospitals and a Hospital for chronic sick and aged female patients, and an Orthopaedic Clinic held twice weekly at the North Cambs. Hospital. Infectious Diseases are accommodated at Peterborough and East Dereham Isolation Hospitals.

Excellent motor ambulance facilities are available, whilst Diphtheria Antotoxin and Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are provided when necessary.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

The duties connected with this are carried out by the Medical Officer of Health who is a part time officer, the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, the Borough Chief and Deputy Chief and Additional Public Health Inspectors, all full time officers, together with those of the Council's employees who are specially needed for sanitary work.

INFANT AND CHILD WELFARE

The Infant and Child Welfare Clinic in Hill Street is held weekly on Friday afternoons and is well attended.

Welfare attendances for 1962:-

Number of children who attended during the year ...	469
Number of children who attended for the first time and who at their first attendance were under 1 year .....	173
Number of children attending born in 1961 .....	156
Number of children attending born in 1957 - 60 ....	140

Total number of attendances made by children during the year:-

Under 1 year of age .....	1,805
1 year of age but under 2 years .....	2,011
2 years of age but under 5 years .....	803
Total	<u>4,619</u>

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Number of children under the age of 1 year who have completed a full course of immunisation against Diphtheria during the year .....	76
Between the ages of 1 - 4 years .....	107
Between the ages of 5 - 14 years .....	25
Boosters .....	73

HOUSING

Future Requirements

a. Applicants on waiting list at end of year .....	393
b. Unfit houses requiring replacement .....	727
c. Houses to be demolished for redevelopment (not included in (b) above .....	83

Building

Houses completed in 1962:-

Wisbech Corporation .....	to let .. 48
	for sale. 10
Private Enterprise .....	23
Total post war houses completed .....	1,272

Work in hand at end of year:-

Wisbech Corporation .....	to let .. 32
	for sale. Nil
Private Enterprise .....	10



NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR

	Total Cases Notified	Deaths
Smallpox .....	0	0
Scarlet fever .....	6	0
Diphtheria .....	0	0
Pneumonia .....	8	12
Erysipelas .....	1	0
Puerperal pyrexia .....	0	0
Enteric fever .....	0	0
Measles .....	441	0
Whooping cough .....	0	0
Paratyphoid fever .....	0	0
Ophthalmia neonatorum .....	0	0
Acute poliomyelitis .....	0	0
Food poisoning .....	0	0
Dysentery .....	0	0

NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	0
45	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
65 & over	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

I remain Ladies and Gentlemen,

Very faithfully yours,

H. LESLIE GROOM, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR 1962.

To the Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
Borough of Wisbech.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my sixth Annual Report on matters of environmental health in the Borough. The text unfolds the problems and reflects the progress of the Borough Council and not those of any individual Committee or Department.

All preliminary stages of the next Sewerage Contract have been completed which indicates that an early start will be made to provide sewerage facilities in the remaining unsewered parts of the developed land South of the River. I hope that the succeeding work required to sewer the area North of the river will follow quickly.

The pattern of the future use of private dwelling-houses is now clear - Slum Clearance on a wider front accompanied by effective Improvement of property with a minimum life of 15 years. In finding rehabilitation for displaced families in slum clearance areas, no problems arise from young families. Alternatively single and elderly couples present an acute need which need urgent attention in future building programmes. During the year the Council gave consideration to the many financial aspects of Slum Clearance and decided with effect from 1st April, 1963 that an Annual Slum Clearance Contribution should be made from the General Rate Fund to the Housing Revenue Account equal to  $2\frac{1}{2}\%$  of the net estimated expenditure of the Borough Council (excluding any contributions made to the Housing Revenue Account) in General Rates in the preceding year. Effective house Improvements can only become reality with mandatory legislation.

The advent of 1962 brought new conditions to local slaughterhouses. Many townspeople were glad to see the end of five private slaughterhouses. I am certain that the new and modernised premises will prove of benefit to town and surrounding rural community for many years to come.

Firm legislation is still awaited in relation to Offices, Shops and Railway Premises. Proposed regulations governing Meat Inspection are still in the formative stage following representations by interested trade and local authority organisations.

Before closing my introduction I must make mention of a fact which the succeeding statistics fail to reveal. The public including owners, food traders and professional offices have made very ample use of consultation with your officers during the year and in so doing have given both sides rewarding satisfaction.

My thanks are due to the staff for their conscientious work, to my colleagues for their co-operation and finally to the Committee for their guidance and encouragement.

I am Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

D. Brook M.A.P.H.I.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF DISTRICT

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS:	Complaints -	
	Housing .....	11
	Other .....	183
	Drainage inspected and tested ....	207
	Cesspools and sewer connections ..	50
	Caravans .....	190
	Filthy and Verminous premises ....	39
	Infectious diseases .....	24
	Common Lodging Houses .....	3
HOUSING ACTS:	Inspected and recorded .....	301
	Housing Applications .....	105
	Improvement Grants .....	371
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT:	Slaughterhouses .....	1202
	Knackers Yard .....	3
	Food Hygiene Visits .....	198
	Food Preparation Premises .....	12
	Ice Cream Premises .....	11
	Dairy Premises .....	2
	Market Stalls .....	24
	Unsound Food visits .....	60
RENT ACT:	Inspections and revisits .....	16
SHOPS ACT:	Inspections .....	4
FACTORY ACT:	Inspections .....	32
PET ANIMALS ACT:	Inspections .....	1
CLEAN AIR ACT:	Inspections and Observations .....	62
RODENT CONTROL:	Inspections .....	163
LITTER ACT:	Inspections .....	3
PORT HEALTH AREA:	Inspections .....	121
NOISE ABATEMENT ACT:	Inspections .....	13

WATER SUPPLY

The Borough of Wisbech is a constituent authority of the Wisbech and District Water Board and a main water supply is available to almost every dwelling house in the Borough.

The supply is obtained from shallow bore holes and the River Nar at Marham, Norfolk and has always been satisfactory in quality after initial treatment as the source.

It is pleasing to note that during the year the Water Board approved schemes of improvement to the distribution system and are at present taking steps to obtain an increased supply of water.

The water is not liable to have any plumbo-solvent effect and no contamination has occurred which called for special action by the Department.

In the sewered areas of the Borough there are still 78 houses with no internal water supply. These houses are all included in areas which will be demolished within the next few years. In the rural parts of the Borough it is estimated that there are a further 150 houses where the supply is from an external standpipe. Thus it may be seen that approximately 228 houses (715 persons) have no internal water supply.

Examination of Water Supply.

The Manager of the Wisbech and District Water Board has made available regular monthly summaries of routine bacteriological samples taken in the Borough, in addition to which the Department has made use of the Public Health Laboratory Service.

	Samples submitted	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
<u>Water Board:</u>			
Chemical .....	55	55	Nil
Bacteriological .....	227	227	Nil
<u>Public Health Department:</u>			
Bacteriological .....	25	25	Nil

Typical Chemical Analysis.

Tapwater 12.12.62. 10.20 a.m.

Bacteriological Examination.

Number of Bacteria growing on Agar per ml. in 24 hours at 37°C .....	0
Number of Bacteria growing on Agar per ml. in 72 hours at 20° - 22°C .....	0
Coliform Count per 100 ml. ....	0
Bact. coli I Count per 100 ml. ....	0

Physical Characteristics.

Appearance ... Clear & Bright	pH .....	7.1
Turbidity .... Nil	Odour .....	Nil
Colour .....	Taste .....	Nil

Chemical Analysis expressed as parts per million

Free CO <sub>2</sub> .....	18.0	Aluminium (Al) ....	Nil
Oxygen dissolved ..	Not examined	Calcium (Ca) .....	100.0
Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs. at 27°C) .....	0.19	Iron (Fe) .....	0.033
Nitrogen Ammoniacal ...	Nil	Magnesium (Mg) ....	4.35
" Albuminoid ...	0.005	Manganese (Mn) ....	Nil
" Nitrate .....	6.5	Lead (Pb) .....	Nil
" Nitrite .....	Nil	Sodium (Na) .....	Not examined
Alkalinity .....	200	Zinc (Zn) .....	Nil
Hardness Carbonate ....	200	Silica (SiO <sub>2</sub> ) .....	8.5
" non-carbonate. ....	66	Sulphate (S O <sub>4</sub> ) ...	44.0
" Total .....	266	Carbonate (CO <sub>3</sub> ) ...	120.0
Free Chlorine .....	0.18	Chloride (Cl) .....	29.0
Total Solids (180°C) ..	354	Fluoride (F) .....	0.04

General Remarks.

The above results indicate a water pure and wholesome in character. It is suitable both chemically and bacteriologically as a public supply for drinking and domestic purposes.

J.S. Collins

Chemist and Bacteriologist  
Wisbech and Dist. Water Board.

Extensions to Mains.

Park Road (renewal)	10 yds.	4"	S.I.
Crooked Bank	554 "	3"	A.C.
Girls Queens School	147 "	2"	p.v.c.
Waterlees Road Housing Site	372 "	6"	S.I. )
	450 "	4"	S.I. )
	281 "	3"	p.v.c. )
	16 "	3"	S.I. )
Bannisters Row	80 "	3"	S.I.
Sefton Avenue	9 "	3"	S.I.
Lerowe Road and Stow Road	267 "	6"	A.C.
Total mains laid	2,186 yds.		

New connections made in the  
Borough during the year 1962. 69

W.C. CONVERSIONS

The Council paid three grants towards the cost of converting pail closets to W.C's during the year.

In no case was it necessary to serve notices requiring such work to be done.

## SEWAGE DISPOSAL

During the year some progress was made towards the extension of sewers in areas of existing development in that tenders were invited for the laying of sewers and a pumping station to serve Canal Road, Elm High and Low Roads, Halfpenny Lane, New Drove, Oldfield Lane, Ramnoth Road (part), Weasenham Lane and Westmead Avenue.

In addition one short sewer extension was made to serve Walsoken House, Walton Road.

In February a visit was made by an Engineering Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in order to carry out a survey of the sewerage and sewage disposal of the district. His report states that there is an urgent need to provide sewerage in the southern and western parts of the town where properties are at present served by cesspools and septic tanks.

The second cesspool emptying vehicle was replaced by a new vehicle during the year thus improving the service. The two emptiers are however still fully employed and there continues to be a time lag between receipt of an order and the actual emptying of the cesspool.

The Ministry Engineering Inspector mentioned above, also made comment about the discharge of partially treated sewage to the River Nene from the storm water treatment works at Second Marsh Road and the crude sewage which discharges at times direct from the pumping station.

Sampling of the effluent from Second Marsh Road indicates that the process merely concentrates the liquor to about twenty times the strength of crude sewage. The river here acts as a piston and discharge on the ebb tide is no assurance that the pollution is directly carried into the Wash. Trade effluent from a vegetable factory also discharges untreated into the river.

This pollution was emphasised in a letter which was sent to the Council by the Clerk of the Nene River Board. In it he stated that analyses of samples of the tidal river in the vicinity of Wisbech taken at regular intervals during the past three years show it to be most - and at times grossly - unsatisfactory. Much of the pollution is caused by trade and sewage effluents from the town and the present arrangements at the Borough sewage works are most inadequate.

These remarks underline my own opinion that improvements to the sewage disposal method must be considered as a matter of some urgency.



REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A regular weekly collection of household refuse has been maintained and no difficulty was experienced at Bank Holidays.

The Joint Refuse Disposal Scheme with the Marshland and Wisbech Rural District Councils is in full operation. During the year the tip at Plash Pits, Murrow was completed and tipping commenced in the disused Wisbech Canal at Emneth. Controlled tipping is being operated and adequate soil for cover is available.

During the year 62 houses were provided with proper dustbins as a result of action by the Department.

What measures are needed to put a stop to the indiscriminate dumping of household refuse in dykes? The local inhabitants are assured that all reasonable requests for the removal of rubbish will receive attention yet this practice of dumping grows and the cost of clearing accumulations increases.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

There are 7 public conveniences in the town.

Situation	Women	Men	
	W.C's	W.C's	Urinals
Barton Road	1	1	2
Horsefair	3	1	6
Market Place	4	3	7
Mount Pleasant	2	1	3
Norfolk Street	3	2	4
Old Market	3	2	6
The Park	4	2	4

Hand washing facilities with hot and cold water are only available at the Market Place and Old Market conveniences.

A sum was included in the Annual Estimates for the demolition of the existing urinal at Norwich Road and the building of a new convenience similar to that in Mount Pleasant Road. At the end of the year the old urinal had been demolished and work was about to commence on the new building.

The conveniences on the Horsefair and to a lesser extent that at Barton Road have caused some concern due to vandalism. The Horsefair convenience is of a temporary nature and is to be replaced when the new bus station is constructed but it is doubtful whether it can be maintained in a satisfactory state for much longer and its replacement should receive consideration in the next financial year.

#### PERSONAL CLEANSING

The cleansing station adjacent to the Public Health Department was completed during the year and it was possible to give baths to seven persons.

#### SWIMMING BATHS

The Borough Council own and operate at Crabmarsh an Open Air Swimming Pool, 132'6" long by 30' wide by 6'6" at deep end and 3'6" at shallow end, giving a capacity of 120,000 gallons.

The source of water used in the Bath is the main supply of the Wisbech and District Water Board. The treatment is by a Bell Bros. bath filtration plant using soda and alumina prior to filtration and chlorination. The water in the baths is changed every 6 hours.

Six samples of bath water were submitted for bacteriological examination and were found satisfactory.

The swimming bath at the Queens Boys' Secondary School continued to operate during the summer and 4 samples taken from the bath were satisfactory.

In addition a new open air bath was put into use at the Peckover Primary School and two samples taken were satisfactory. It was also possible with the assistance of the Water Board chemist to give some advice on the running of the purification plant.

MILK

Registration and Licensing

There are 21 names on the Register of Distributors of milk and 4 premises registered as Dairies.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

69 samples of milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Peterborough for examination.

Type of Milk	No. of samples	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test		Turbidity Test		Biological Test	
		Sat	Unsat	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat	Sat	Unsat.
Tuberculin Tested	6	4	-	-	-	-	-	3	1
Pasteurised	31	27	1	31	-	-	-	-	-
T.T. Past.	22	20	-	22	-	-	-	-	-
Sterilised	10	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>

There were 7 void samples.

The one sample which failed the Methylene Blue test was from a milk storage tank in a café. Following instruction in the correct method of cleansing the tank further samples proved to be satisfactory.

One sample of T.T. milk, taken in December, was suspected to contain staph. aureus. Follow up samples were taken during 1963 and the source found to be several cows in the herd who were excreting the organism.

MEAT INSPECTION

For the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1962 a grant of £105.0.0 was received in respect of the cost of meat inspection. This represents an amount equal to half of the notional cost required to inspect meat in excess of an estimated need of the Borough Population. This grant is not likely to be available to local authorities in succeeding years. The proposed Meat Inspection Regulations, which may well include an option to charge for meat inspection, are still receiving consideration by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

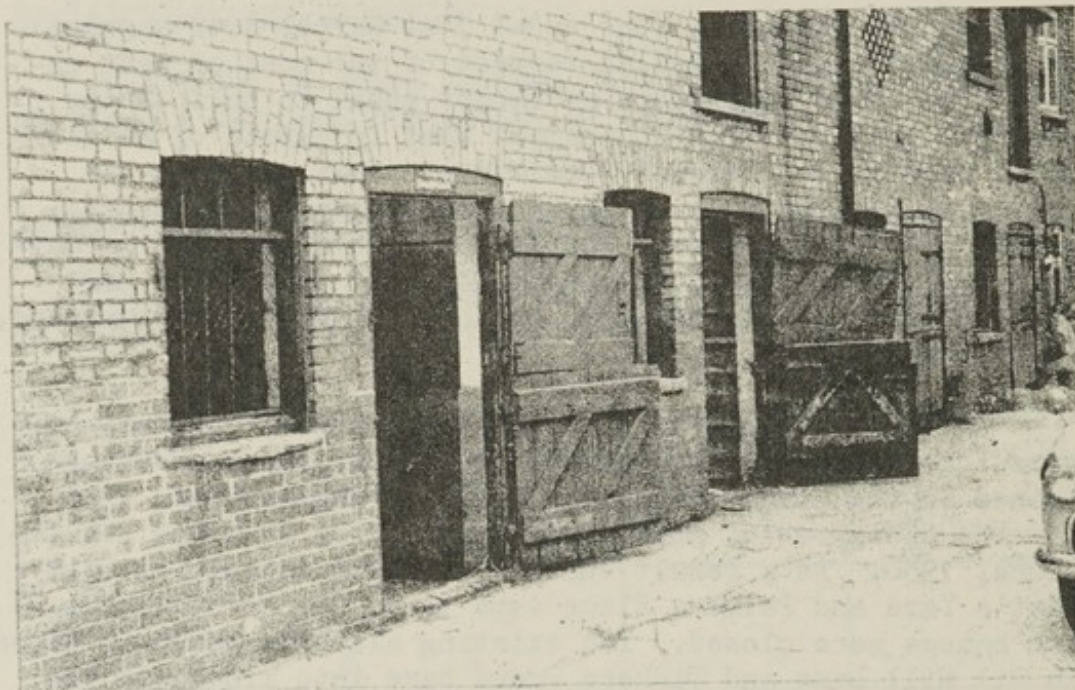
On the 1st January, 1962 new construction regulations came into force. These construction regulations are contained in the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958 and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958. As a result the slaughter of animals in Bartlett's Yard and Palmers Place came to an end and 5 slaughterhouses were closed. Two existing slaughterhouses located in Oil Mill Lane and Tinkers Drove came into line with the new regulations. In addition one new private abattoir was completed and brought into operation on 1st January, 1962. Of the three slaughterhouses now in use, two offer facilities to any butcher or dealer and generally the change over from old to new has taken place without undue inconvenience to traders.

The excellent improvements ensure that animals can be adequately rested and meat handling is more hygienic. The working conditions are appreciated by those employed therein.

There is one disappointment, and this relates in particular to the new abattoir. Slaughtering takes place each weekday, with Fridays set aside only to deal with odd casualties; the hours of slaughter each Monday and Tuesday continue until midnight on Thursday concludes about 8.0 p.m.

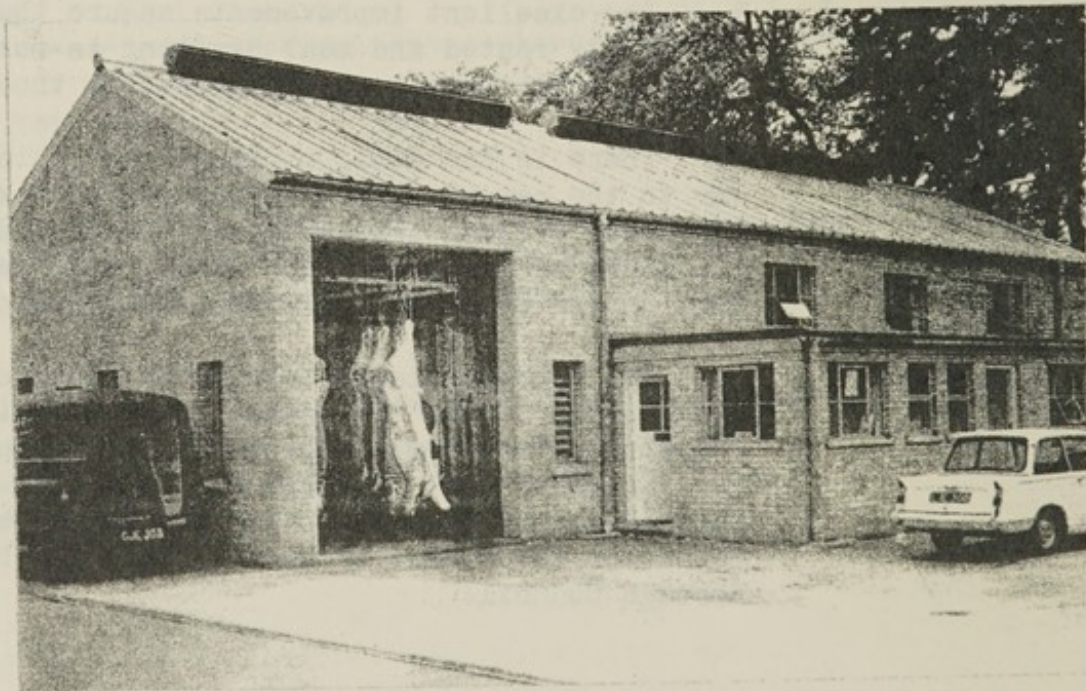
The private slaughterhouse in Tinkers Drove may soon disappear. It was the subject of a recent Public Enquiry relating to the Compulsory Purchase of land and buildings for housing purposes. Although the order was modified to exclude the slaughterhouse, the owner and lessee have signified their intention to dispose of all the land and buildings to the Borough Council.

- SLAUGHTERHOUSES -



◀ THE OLD ...

ONE OF FOUR SLAUGHTERHOUSES IN BARTLETTS YARD WHICH WERE CLOSED ON DECEMBER 31<sup>st</sup> 1961



... AND THE NEW ▶

NEW SLAUGHTERHOUSE AT THE CHASE BUILT BY A.E.FEARY LTD AND OPENED ON JANUARY 1<sup>st</sup> 1962

Number of animals slaughtered during the year ending 31st December, 1962.

	Cattle exclud- -ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Sows and Boars
Number killed	1,914	158	16	2,384	8,182	1,356
Number inspected	1,914	158	16	2,384	8,182	1,356
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis:						
Whole carcasses condemned	3	4	2	5	39	11
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	175	31	4	13	445	135
Percentage of the number inspected affected by disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis	9.3%	22.2%	37.5%	0.76%	5.9%	10.9%
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	4	-	-	89	25
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	2.5%	-	-	1.1%	1.8%
Cysticercosis:						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	14	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	14	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Total number of animals slaughtered - 14,010

Quantities Condemned

Tuberculosis .....	1,881 lbs.
Other Diseases .....	17,048 lbs.
	<u>18,929 lbs.</u>

The details of slaughtering carried out within the Borough during the past five years are as follows:-

Year	Cattle including cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs incl. sows and boars	Total number of animals expressed in Cattle Units
1958	2,123	10	3,194	9,596	7,563
1959	1,694	21	3,920	10,725	7,847
1960	1,772	22	2,640	10,548	7,581
1961	1,774	15	2,554	9,650	7,115
1962	2,072	16	2,384	9,538	7,323

KNACKERS YARD

There is one knackers yard in the Borough with a small throughput. No live animal is admitted to the premises.

Carcases admitted to the Knackers Yard during year ending 31st December, 1962.

Horses .....	10
Cattle (excluding cows) .....	36
Cows .....	14
Calves .....	20
Sheep .....	24

Licences to Slaughter and Stun Animals.

20 persons were licensed to slaughter and stun animals.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD

Four samples of food were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. These consisted of two cream cakes, corned beef and a corned beef sandwich. The two latter samples were sent as a result of a complaint of sickness following consumption of a similar sandwich. All the samples were satisfactory with the exception of the sandwich which was heavily contaminated with staphylococci. The circumstances were such that it was fairly certain that the contamination of the corned beef in the sandwich had taken place after purchase and the temperature at which it had been kept had allowed the organisms to multiply sufficiently to cause slight illness.

SALE OF UNFIT FOOD

As a result of a complaint made to my office legal proceedings were instituted in respect of the sale of two cream cakes of which the pineapple filling was mouldy. Fines of £30.0.0 and £5.0.0 respectively were imposed on the manufacturer and retailer of the cakes.

FOOD SHOPS

The following tabulated list gives the number of the various types of food premises in the Borough.

Bakehouses .....	14
Cafes and Canteens .....	11
Grocers and General mixed stores .....	76
Greengrocers .....	16
Fishmongers .....	5
Fried Fish Shops .....	14
Butchers .....	31
Sweet Manufacturers .....	1
Food Factories .....	14
Wholesale Fruit Merchants (processors) ..	13
Flour Millers and Granary .....	2
Licensed Premises and Clubs .....	66
Ice Cream Manufacturers .....	1
Market Stalls .....	35
Confectioners .....	19

List of improvements and unsatisfactory conditions remedied in Food Premises.

Sinks provided .....	2
Hot water provided .....	11
Wash-hand basins provided .....	9
Premises repaired .....	10
Floors repaired .....	3
W.C's provided .....	4
W.C's repaired .....	4
Drains repaired .....	2
Artificial lighting to W.C's .....	7



UNSOOUND FOOD

The following foodstuffs, apart from meat in slaughterhouses, were found unfit and surrendered.

Tins

Meat .....	144
Fruit .....	32
Milk and Cream .....	16
Fish .....	16
Vegetables .....	259
Soup .....	2
<hr/>	
Total .....	469
<hr/>	

Various

Meat Pies .....	21
Cooked Meats .....	105 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Sausages .....	11 lbs.
Bacon .....	32 lbs.
Fish .....	35 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Various Vegetables .....	170 lbs.
Tomato Paste .....	1,400 lbs.
Cake .....	7 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. + 3
Fresh Fruit .....	598 lbs.
Jam .....	38 jars

One animal food processing factory operates within the Borough which handles a considerable amount of unsound meat much of which arrives from abroad. Effective control is maintained in the handling of the products and frequent visits are made by the Inspectors. At all times the factory management has afforded full co-operation.

ICE CREAM

106 premises are registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955, 1 for manufacture, storage and sale and 105 for the storage and sale of ice cream. Most ice cream is sold prepacked but contacts to impress the need for clean handling were made during the summer months with the various vehicles which run around the town during the evenings.

31 samples of ice cream and 1 iced lolly were submitted for examination during the year with the following results:-

Grade I .....	29
Grade II .....	1
Iced Lolly .....	Satisfactory
1 ice cream sample was void.	

### FOOD POISONING

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

The lack of cases is probably due to absence of notification.

Notification was received from Cambridge City of three persons resident in Wisbech who were contacts of a case of Typhoid Fever which had occurred in that City. A series of specimens were obtained from the contacts, all of which were negative.

### NOISE ABATEMENT

The main problem continued to be that caused by the use of chimes by ice cream vendors to advertise their presence. As I said in my last report these vendors are privileged in that they alone are permitted to use this form of advertisement although only between the hours of 12 noon and 7.0 p.m. and provided that undue annoyance is not caused to persons in the locality.

It was necessary on a number of occasions to remind operators that chimes must not be played outside the specified hours and eventually legal proceedings were instituted against one of them resulting in a fine of £2.0.0 being imposed.

This problem may well become worse in the future as more and more ice cream vendors appear in the town. It seems that annoyance caused by a succession of chiming ice cream vehicles at short intervals is a problem which is difficult of solution with existing legislation.

### CLEAN AIR ACT

Continued observations of the chimneys of industrial and commercial premises have revealed no serious contraventions of the Dark Smoke Regulations.

The grit nuisance from the boiler plant of a dry cleaning factory continued despite efforts by the firm to reduce it and it was necessary to serve legal notice requiring abatement of the nuisance. Further alterations were made to the boiler plant following advice from the National Coal Board but at the time of writing it appears that the nuisance has recurred and further action has been authorised by the Council.

During the year approval was given to the installation of a new economic type boiler and chimney at the factory of Messrs. F.M.S. (Farm Products) Ltd..

It is encouraging to see that before many more months are past we shall have one part of the town that is smokeless. I refer to the blocks of flats which are to be erected in the George Street area, and which are to be heated by gas fired warm air plant.

Although the Council has heavy future commitments in the field of sewerage and sewage disposal, we should not lose sight of the pollution which exists in the air even in a country town like Wisbech. It may not be realised that probably more than 16,000 tons of coal are burnt on open fires in dwellinghouses alone in Wisbech each year. It is also worth thinking about that in the "black areas" there are already two authorities (London City and Holborn M.B.) which are completely smokeless and by the end of this decade the total number of local authorities which are completely smokeless will be fifty two.

#### HEALTH EDUCATION

The main emphasis in Health Education during 1962 was the publicity of the connection between smoking and lung cancer. Posters were distributed to factories and the County Council was asked to invite a mobile exhibition to visit the area, the Borough Council offering to pay an amount equivalent to the hiring of the exhibition for one day.

HOUSING

A. SLUM CLEARANCE

I am able to report a continuation of the progress in the eradication of unfit houses. During the year the Council declared a further 4 Clearance Areas (George Street/Elizabeth Terrace Nos. 1 and 1A, Elizabeth Terrace No. 1 and West Street) and formal action was instituted in the case of 4 individual houses.

During the year 53 families were rehoused from unfit houses, comprising the residue from the Horsefair and a number of families from council owned houses in the George Street and Agenoria Street areas.

Two points of particular concern were brought to light in connection with the slum clearance areas.

The first was the plight of certain small shopkeepers in such areas who are only weekly tenants of the premises they occupy and are not legally entitled to any compensation for the loss of their business - it being left to the discretion of the local authority to make a payment if they so wish.

The second point which became apparent was the number of elderly single persons or couples who are to be found in slum clearance houses. The rehousing of these people will create some difficulties as at the present time there are very few council owned dwellings of a size suitable to them.

By the end of the year dates had been fixed for Public Inquiries into all of the Compulsory Purchase and Clearance Orders.

The Total Problem.

- (i) Estimated number of houses remaining unfit for human habitation ..... 621
- (ii) Period of years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all houses in (i) ..... 14

Further Proposals for action in the next 5 years.

Number of houses to be demolished in clearance areas and elsewhere ..... 171

Houses in Clearance Areas and Unfit Houses elsewhere  
Return for the year ending 31st December, 1962.

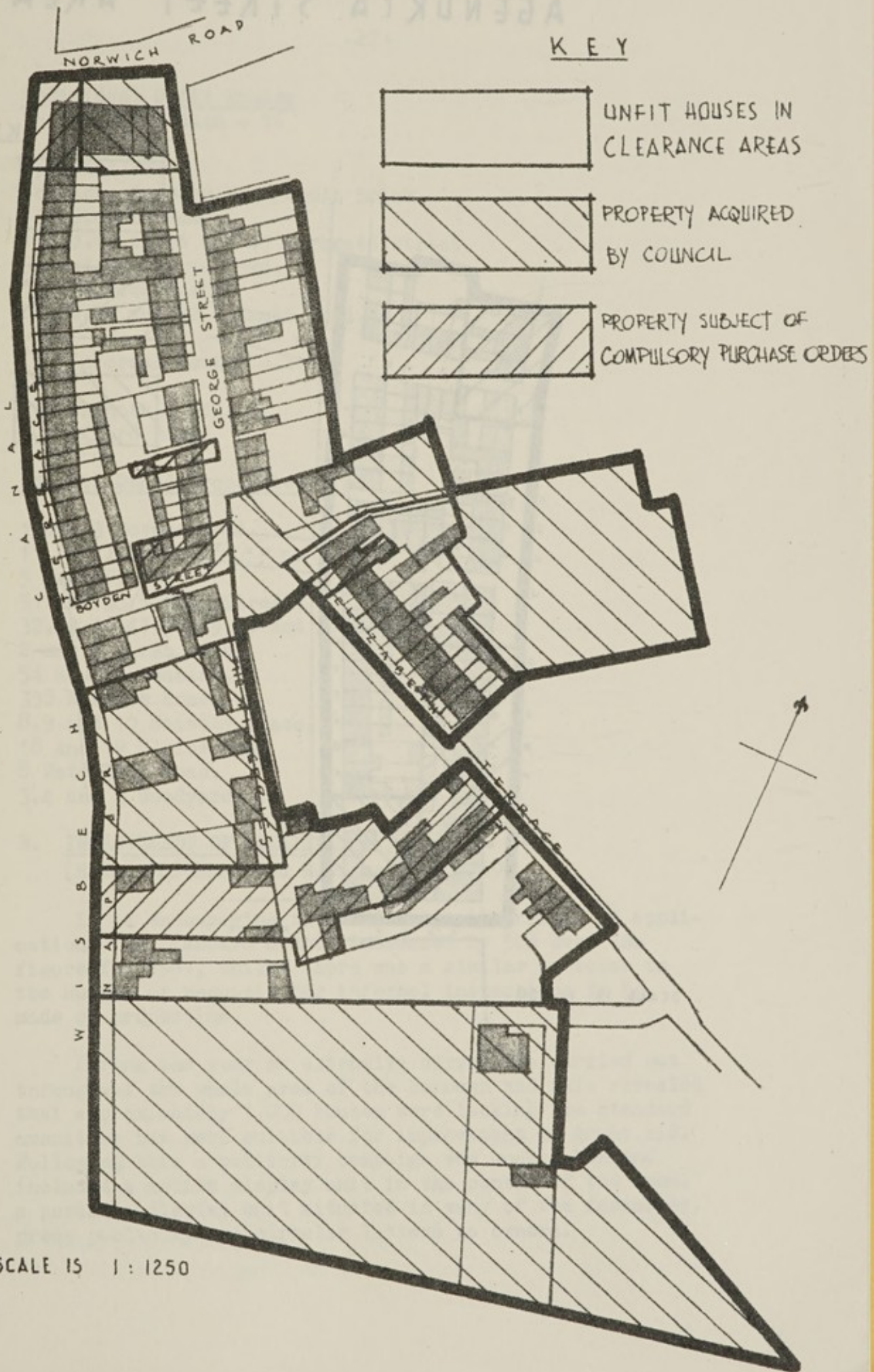
A. Houses demolished In Clearance Areas	Houses demolished	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
Houses unfit for human habitation	36	90	33
<u>Not in Clearance Areas</u>			
As a result of formal or informal procedure under Secs. 16 or 17(1) Hous- ing Act, 1957	19	31	15
Local authority owned houses certified un- fit by the Medical Officer of Health	27	11	5
B. Unfit houses closed	Number		
Under Secs. 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil
Parts of buildings closed under Sec. 18 Housing Act, 1957	-	-	-
C. Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied		By owner	By local authority
After informal action by local authority		29	-
After formal action under Public Health Acts		11	-
After formal notice under Secs. 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957		2	-

Demolition of Unfit Houses took place at:-

Clearance Areas - 37

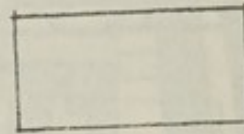
1,2,3,4,5 and 6 Agenoria Street.  
 1 and 2 Boyden Street.  
 1,2,3,4 and 5 Bulls Lane.  
 10 and rear of No. 10 Canal Row.  
 5 and 6 Kirkgate Street.  
 67,68 and 69 Elizabeth Terrace.  
 3,4,4a,25 and 26 George Street.  
 26,27 and 28 Napier Terrace.  
 8,10,10a,11,12,13,14,15 and 16 Trafalgar Row.

# GEORGE STREET AREA REDEVELOPMENT

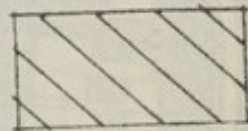


# AGENDRIA STREET AREA

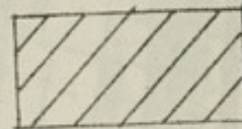
## KEY



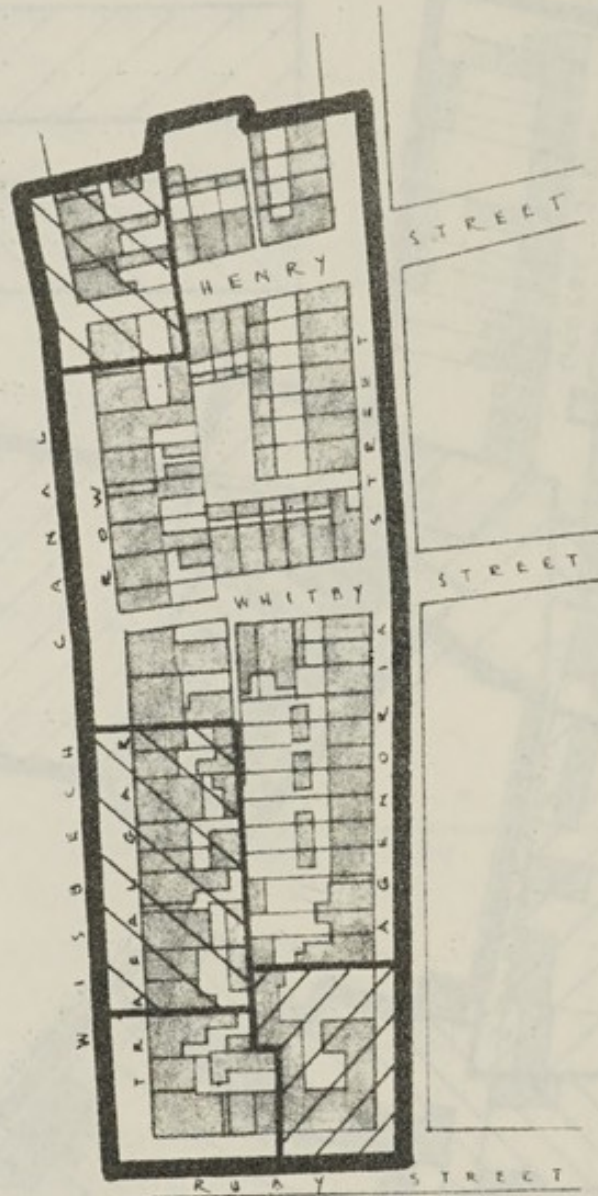
UNFIT HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS



PROPERTY ACQUIRED BY COUNCIL



PROPERTY SUBJECT TO COMPULSORY PURCHASE



SCALE IS 1:1250

Individual Unfit Houses

(a) Formal Action - 16

35 Canal Row.  
Cottage, Crooked Bank/South Brink.  
135 Elm Low Road.  
19,38,44,45,46 and 47 Kirkgate Street.  
51 and 53 Lerowe Road.  
158 Norwich Road.  
84,88,90 and 92 Ramnoth Road.

(b) Informal Action - 2

218 Ramnoth Road.  
2 Trafford Road.

Council Owned Properties - 27

1 and 3 Boyces Road.  
11 Canal Street.  
5 East Place.  
51 and 53/5 Hill Street.  
32,43,46,47,48,49,50 and 51 Horsefair.  
2 and 3 Marsh Walk.  
54 Mount Pleasant.  
338 Norwich Road.  
8,9 and 10 Raithby Place.  
18 and 19 Sluice Row.  
8 Waterlees Road.  
3,4 and 5 Woodyard.

B. IMPROVEMENT OF DWELLINGS

(House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959)

It is encouraging to record that the number of applications for Standard Grants increased by 50% over the figure for 1961, whilst there was a similar increase in the number of requests for informal inspections to be made of properties.

During the year an extensive survey was carried out throughout the whole area of the Borough and this revealed that approximately 1,000 houses were lacking the standard amenities but were suitable for improvement by grant aid. Following this a publicity campaign was undertaken and included a mobile display unit in the centre of the town, a portable display unit situated in many of the factories, press publicity and circular letters to owners.



The number of enquiries from owner/occupiers showed a marked increase but there was a noticeable reluctance by older people and by landlords to avail themselves of the grants.

From a practical point of view the Standard Grant scheme is admirably simple to administer, but the provisions relating to food stores and hot water supplies sometimes create minor difficulties.

#### Standard Grants

Applications received .....	33
Applications passed .....	32
Applications rejected - unfit .....	Nil
Applications withdrawn .....	Nil

Cases in which work was completed:-

29 applications for total of £3,369. 0s. 10d.

Amenities provided with the aid of grants:-

Bathrooms .....	28
Hot water systems .....	29
Larders .....	18
Wash-hand basins .....	28
Water closets .....	21

#### Discretionary Grants

Applications received .....	1
Applications passed .....	1
Applications withdrawn (changed to S.G.) .....	1

Cases in which work was completed:-

4 houses for total of £810. 0s. 0d.

#### C. COMMON LODGING HOUSES

The only Common Lodging House registered in this year was the Harp Inn, Canal Row, registered for 22 lodgers but with only 12 occupants. In actual fact the Harp Inn is not a common lodging house in its true sense, it is more a hostel for twelve elderly men. Following my report on the premises as detailed in last year's annual report the owners offered to sell the property to the Council and at the time of writing the sale has just been completed. It is the Council's intention to gradually run down the lodging house and eventually use the site of the building in connection with the new canal road.

The day of the Common Lodging House has gone. In their day they met a need which was well described in the Public Health Act, 1936 as "a house provided for the purpose of accommodating by night poor persons, not being members of the same family, who resort thereto and are allowed to occupy one common room for the purpose of sleeping or eating". They were largely occupied by wayfarers and casual labourers of a type seldom seen today. The need now is for hostels and old peoples dwellings with modern amenities - in particular hostel type accommodation for the type of persons now found at the Harp and in a good number of small dwellings in our slum clearance areas.

D. ALMSHOUSES

The almshouses in the town remain as before.

Address	Number	Date Built	Charity
King's Walk	12	1835	} Municipal Charities
Love Lane	5	1813	
Stermyn Street	6	1813	
Canal Row	5	1815	Mayors Charity
Lynn Road	5	1897	Mills Charity

Following the circulation of the report on the almshouses in my last year's annual report, two meetings of representatives of the various charity trustees were held at the second of which Mr. Hackett, the secretary of the National Association of Charity and Almshouses Trustees addressed the meeting.

It was generally agreed that most of the almshouses were unfit for habitation and should be replaced if possible. It was also pointed out that some of the sites on which the almshouses now stood were quite valuable and if the charities were to combine the sale of these sites would enable new almshouses to be built.

Following these meetings the trustees of the Municipal Charities have made plans for the running down of the King's Walk almshouses and their replacement by a new block of 8 dwellings, one of which, it is hoped, will be occupied by a warden.

The trustees of the Mills Charity have also considered the proposal that the Lynn Road almshouses could be improved but have eventually come to the decision that this would not be economically worthwhile.

The proposal that the almshouse charities should amalgamate has not met with unanimous approval due to the reluctance of some of the trustees to lose control of their particular almshouses and to see the names of their benefactors lost in some large impersonal body. However at the time of writing a further trustees meeting has been held at the request of the Charity Commissioners, the sole object of which was the discussion of the rationalisation of the charities in Wisbech and it is to be hoped that the desired result will eventually be achieved.

It would be opportune at this point to mention the block of old persons flatlets with warden accommodation which are to be erected by the Council at Elizabeth Terrace and which will comprise 28 dwellings. In addition there will probably be about 30 old persons dwellings constructed in the development of the Sefton Avenue estate.

E. RENT ACT, 1957  
(Return for the year 1962)

1.	Number of applications for certificates .....	1
2.	Number of decisions not to issue Certificates .....	Nil
3.	Number of decisions to issue certificates -	
	(a) in respect of some but not all defects .....	1
	(b) in respect of all defects .....	Nil
4.	Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the first schedule .....	Nil
5.	Number of undertakings refused by local authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the first schedule ..	Nil
6.	Number of certificates issued .....	Nil
7.	Applications by landlords to local authority for cancellation of certificates .....	8
8.	Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates.	4
9.	Decision by local authority to cancel in spite of tenant's objection .....	Nil
10.	Certificates cancelled by local authority .....	4

CARAVANSResidential.

The following table shows the sites in operation 31st December, 1962.

Address	Site Licence for	No. of vans on site	Remarks
Ingleborough Site, Osborne Road.	20	27	) Excess vans to be transferred to new site when completed.
Poplar Site, Osborne Road.	6	9	
Hennells Site, Magazine Lane.	16	16	Town Planning Permission to increase number to 16 granted.

During the year further work was done to bring the amenities of the sites up to the standard required. Further pressure on the site operators to complete the work required by the site licences resulted in one of them (Mr. Hennells) offering to sell his site to the Council - this matter being at present unresolved.

At the request of the Council the officers produced a report on the provision of a municipal caravan site at Osborne Road. This was agreed to in principle but in view of the fact that one of the existing site operators has received planning permission and a site licence for a site to take 30 caravans adjoining the Poplar Site it seems unlikely that any further action will be taken at the present time.

This new site will be completed during 1963 bringing the number of residential vans which can be accommodated up to 72 which is probably about saturation point for the town.

Roving type vans.

During the year it was again necessary to take informal steps to move a number of caravans which were parked on green droves and the filled in Canal. It is felt that as the majority of these are used as staging camps whilst the occupants find agricultural work and as most of this work is in the rural areas, the problem should be jointly tackled by the Borough, the two

adjoining Rural Districts and the Isle of Ely and Norfolk County Councils. A circular from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government concerning gypsies brought the matter to the fore and in consequence the Council notified the County Council that it considered that a problem existed within the Borough. A survey was carried out in July, 1962 which showed that within the Borough and two Rural Districts there were at that time 288 caravans (1,205 persons) not on authorised sites, most of them being on agricultural land. A further survey in January, 1963 showed that there were very few caravans then present indicating that most of the 288 moved into the district at the commencement of each fruit season. Meetings were held with the authorities mentioned above but no action was decided upon.

The problem of caravans on green droves etc. still exists in the Borough but suitable deterrent measures are proving to be quite effective.

FACTORIES

Regular visits have been made to premises and houses in which work is carried out.

Factories Act, 1937 - 59

1. Inspections for purposes of provision as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the local authority. ....	15	3	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by local authority .....	99	29	4	-
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	-	-	-
TOTAL	117	32	4	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		No. of Prosecutions Instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ...	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding .....	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature .....	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation.	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors .....	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences .					
(a) Insufficient .....	2	2	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable .....	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes .....	2	2	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) .....	3	3	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

3. Outwork.

Nature of work	No. of outworkers in August List	No. of Cases of default in sending list to Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Making of wearing apparel	2	None	None	None	None	None
Stringing labels	49	None	None	None	None	None

NON-INDUSTRIAL PREMISES

Shops, Offices etc.

The regulations detailing the actual standards to be applied to these premises are still awaited but I am pleased to note that our advice has been sought by several firms proposing to improve their office accommodation.

Agriculture.

It appears that the requirements of the Agricultural (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956 are reasonably well met in the agricultural holdings in the Borough.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Return for the year, 1961

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Non-Agricultural				Agric- cultur- al
	Local Auth- ority	Dwelling houses inc.Coun- cil houses	All other including business premises	Totals of cols 1,2 & 3	
1	2	3	4	5	
1. Number of properties in local authority's district	88	5,579	1,284	6,951	176
2. Total number of properties inspected as a result of notification	2	55	21	78	7
Number of such properties found to be infested by:-					
Common Rat: Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	2	48	15	65	7
Ship Rat: Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	-	-	-	-	-
House Mouse: Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	-	7	6	13	-

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Non-Agricultural				Agric- ultural
	Local Auth- ority	Dwelling houses inc. Coun- cil houses	All other including business premises	Totals of cols. 1,2 & 3	
1	2	3	4	5	
3. Total number of prop- -erties inspected in the course of survey under the Act	-	30	241	271	1
Number of such prop- -erties found to be infested by:-					
Common Rat: Major	-	-	40	40	1
Minor	-	30	193	223	-
Ship Rat: Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	-	-	-	-	-
House House: Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	-	-	-	-	-
4. Total number of prop- -erties otherwise in- -spected (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	13	-	186	199	-
5. Number of infested properties (in secs. 2,3 and 4) treated by local authority	2	85	262	349	8

WISBECH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Amount of shipping entering the district during the year.

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number inspected by the P.H.I.	Number inspected by the M.O.H.	Number of ships reported as hav- ing or having had, during voy- age, infectious disease on board
Foreign Ports	156	35,747 N.R. 71,791 Cargo	156	Nil	Nil
Coastwise	83	16,044 N.R. 38,767 Cargo	39	Nil	Nil
Total	239	51,791 N.R. 110,558 Cargo	195	Nil	Nil



Character of Shipping and Trade during the year.

Passenger Traffic.

Number of Passengers - Inwards: Nil

Number of Passengers - Outwards: Nil

Cargo Traffic.

Principal Imports: Petrol, oil, grain, sugar, timber and fertilizers.

Principal Exports: Grain and bricks.

Principal Ports from which ships arrive.

London, Stettin, Mantyluoto, Pateniemi, Immingham, Gdynia, Antwerp, Riga, Leningrad, Gdansk, Jersey and Hull.

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from Foreign Ports.

This is not applicable as the port is not an "approved port" or a "designated approved port".

During the year a number of requests were received from the masters of ships using the port for renewal of deratting certificates or deratting exemption certificates. In each case it was necessary for the ships agents to contact the Port Health Inspector at King's Lynn and arrange for him to visit Wisbech to carry out the inspection.

The Council further considered this matter during the year and it was agreed that the chief officers should make a report dealing in particular with the issue of deratting exemption certificates.

Sanitation and Food Hygiene in the Port Area.

The work of constructing sanitary accommodation and hand washing facilities on the West Bank was completed during the year.



