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WISBECH BOROUGH COUNCIL

AND

WISBECH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

ANNUAL
HEALTH REPORT
1968



HEALTH
COMMITTEE

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR: Councillor L.C. Slaymaker

CHAIRMAN: Alderman E.N. Rigg

VICE CHAIRMAN: Alderman E.H. Miller

MEMBERS: Alderman Mrs. B.M. Osborn

Councillor F. Alberts

Councillor A.E. Feary

Councillor G.G.J. Gibbs

Councillor A. Harrold

Councillor Mrs. L.M. Moore

Councillor H.T. Pigott

Councillor W.P. Pomeroy

Councillor A.S. Roseberry

Councillor Mrs. H.M. Walker

OFFICERS

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

M.D.C. Martin, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H.,
7 North Brink,
Wisbech. (Part Time)

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

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

Certificate of the Royal Society of
Health and Public Health Inspectors
Examination Joint 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 INSPECTORS:

J.L. Fear, M.A.P.H.I. (Until 30.1.68)

Certificate of the Royal Society of
Health and Public Health Inspectors
Examination Joint Board.

Cert. Inspector of Meat and Food Royal
Society of Health.

Smoke Inspectors Certificate Royal
Society of Health.

D.M. Pickles, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.,
(From 1.2.68)

Certificate of the Royal Society of
Health and Public Health Inspectors
Examination Joint Board.

Cert. Inspector of Meat and Food Royal
Society of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

J.F. Pinkstone, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.,
(From 18.3.68)

Diploma of Public Health Inspectors
Education Board.

MEAT INSPECTOR:

J. Keenan

Cert. Inspector of Meat and Food Royal
Sanitary Association of Scotland.
Scottish National Meat Diploma.

TRAINEE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS:

V.J. George (Until 5.9.68)

Inter. Examination of the Public Health
Inspectors Education Board.

D.B. Reddin (From 4.11.68)

CLERK:

Mrs. B.F. Kerridge

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1968

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present for your consideration the Annual Report on the Public Health of the Borough for the year ending 31st December, 1968.

During the year statistics for notifiable infectious disease indicate a high incidence of measles. In the late spring of this year immunisation against measles began and it will be interesting to see if the number of cases falls in the next 3 year period.

This year the Health Committee have shown much concern over the problem of itinerant caravan dwellers in the Borough area. The body of the report (page 29) gives a summary of the problems involved for the Health Department, the van dwellers themselves and the long term residents of the town. At present, a suitable place is being sought for development of a permanent site. This ought to be proceeded with and it may be necessary to provide two sites as it is recognised that there are advantages in not permitting the number of vans in one area to exceed twelve.

I would like to record my gratitude to Mr. Brook and the whole staff of the Health Department for their help and co-operation at all times. The Chairman and Members of the Health Committee have always shown deep interest in the work of the department and this I very much appreciate.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

M. DOREEN C. MARTIN, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Borough	4,666 acres
Estimated resident population mid-1968	17,550
" " " mid-1967	17,410
Sum realised by a penny rate	£ 3,535
Rateable value	£867,083
Number of inhabited houses	5,696

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births - 240

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	Area comparability factor - 1.03
Total	132	108	
Legitimate	117	95	
Illegitimate	15	13	
Rate per 1,000 population (adjusted)	- 14.11		
Illegitimate live births (per cent of total live births)	- 11.7		

Still Births - 8

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Total	3	5
Legitimate	3	5
Illegitimate	0	0

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births - 32

Total Live and Still Births - 248

Deaths (all causes) - 269

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	Area comparability factor - 0.74
Total	120	149	

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident mid-1968 population - 11.32

Infant Deaths (under one year) - 2

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Total	2	0
Legitimate	2	0
Illegitimate	0	0

Rate per 1,000 total live births - 8.33

Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births - 9.43

Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births - 0

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) - 8.33

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) - 4.17

Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths) - 36.4

Maternal Mortality (including abortion) - number of deaths - 1

Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths - 4

Vital Statistics cont'd

Causes of Deaths of Children under 1 year

Maternal Ante-Partum haemorrhage 1
 Congenital Heart Disease 1

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) - 54

Live Birth, Still Birth, Death and Infant
 Mortality Rates during past six years

	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
<u>Live Birth Rate</u>						
Wisbech Borough	16.81	19.28	16.59	17.27	15.97	14.11
Cambs. & Isle of Ely	16.58	18.06	16.3	15.7	15.7	14.9
England and Wales	18.2	18.5	18.1	17.7	17.2	16.9
<u>Still Birth Rate</u>						
Wisbech Borough	6.94	15.01	13.98	10.17	0	32
Cambs. & Isle of Ely	19	15.54	10.7	15.3	14	13
England and Wales	17.2	16.4	15.8	15.4	14.8	14
<u>Death Rate</u>						
Wisbech Borough	10	10.12	9.55	11.15	11.43	11.32
Cambs. & Isle of Ely	11.68	10.99	9.8	10.4	10.2	11
England and Wales	12.2	11.3	11.5	11.7	11.2	11.9
<u>Infant Mortality Rate</u>						
Wisbech Borough	35	21.34	24.82	37.67	11.11	8
Cambs. & Isle of Ely	22.8	18.31	15.6	14.9	14	14
England and Wales	21.1	19.9	19	18.9	18.3	18

GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES

Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely
Executive Council:

16 Station Road,
Cambridge.

Clerk:

F.G. Lloyd Esq.

East Anglian Regional Hospital Board:

Union Lane,
Chesterton,
Cambridge.

Senior Administrative Medical Officer:

Dr. J.B. Ewen

- (a) General:
- (1) North Cambridgeshire Hospital, Wisbech.
 - (2) Clarkson Hospital, Wisbech.
 - (3) Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.
 - (4) Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge.
 - (5) Doddington Hospital, Doddington.
 - (6) Barton Road Hospital, Wisbech
(Aged Sick) (Closed 15.3.68)

- (b) Maternity:
- (1) Bowthorpe Maternity Home, Wisbech

All primiparous mothers may be confined in hospital and other mothers may be admitted for obstetric abnormality. In December 1967 the General Practitioner Unit was opened and now any woman, who wishes, may be confined in hospital. The number of home confinements has since fallen markedly.

- (c) Infectious Diseases:
- (1) Isolation Hospital, Peterborough.
 - (2) Hardwick Isolation Hospital, King's Lynn.

- (d) Tuberculosis:

The area chest physician holds a weekly clinic at North Cambridgeshire Hospital, Wisbech.

In-patient accommodation is provided through the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board.

- (e) Mental Illness:

Accommodation is provided, through the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board, usually in Fulbourne Hospital. This is arranged directly by the Local General Practitioners. The area psychiatrist holds a weekly clinic at North Cambridgeshire Hospital.

- (f) Venereal Disease:
- (1) Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge.
 - (2) Peterborough Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.
 - (3) West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital.

- (g) Medical Equipment Services:

Medical Equipment is provided, on loan, by the St. John's Ambulance Division and the Red Cross Medical Loan Depot by arrangement with the County Council

COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES

(a) Midwifery, General Sick and Public Health Nursing:

The nursing staff is employed by the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely County Council either directly or by arrangement with the County Nursing Association under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Full-time midwives and relief midwives are qualified to administer gas/air analgesia, pethedine and trilene and the necessary machines approved by the Central Midwives Board are available for their use.

(b) Ambulance and Hospital Car Service:

The radio-controlled ambulance system is now working well. There is one ambulance control centre at March which directs ambulances and hospital cars with speed and economy to the points where they are required. As part of the overall scheme, 3 ambulances are stationed at Wisbech and there are 7 other ambulances throughout the Northern Area of the County.

(c) Infant and Child Welfare:

The Infant and Child Welfare Clinic in the Horsefair is held twice weekly on Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

The midwives hold an antenatal clinic for expectant mothers who are to be confined at home.

(d) School Minor Ailments Clinic:

County Clinic, The Horsefair, Wisbech.

(e) School Dental Clinic:

County Clinic, The Horsefair, Wisbech.

(f) Home Help Service:

Available for confinements, cases of illness and for social reasons in the aged.

LABORATORY SERVICES

Public Health Laboratory Service, (Director: Dr. J. Glencross)
Peterborough and District Memorial Hospital,
Midland Road,
Peterborough.

Public Analyst, (S. Greenburgh P.H.D., B.Sc., F.R.I.C.)
The Laboratory,
Tenison Road,
Cambridge.

OTHER SERVICES

Health Education

All primiparous women are given the opportunity of attending relaxation and mother and baby care classes during their pregnancy. Recognised Women's Meetings e.g. Church Groups and Women's Rural Institute Meetings occasionally ask for a speaker on Health Education and such requests are readily complied with by the Health Department.

Lectures on food hygiene and the work of the department have been given by Mr. Brook and his staff to students at the Isle of Ely College.

Meals on Wheels

For some years now, the Womens Voluntary Service has provided "Meals on Wheels" service for the aged on two days each week. This plays an important part in helping to prevent deterioration of health in the very old who live by themselves. The food is cooked at The Metal Box Company Canteen and a very small charge is made to the recipients.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifiable Infectious Diseases

Total notified during year

Acute Poliomyelitis	0
Chickenpox	28
Diphtheria	0
Dysentery	0
Erysipelas	0
Enteric Fever	0
Food Poisoning	0
Gastro Enteritis	0
Infective Hepatitis	5
Measles	372
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0
Paratyphoid Fever	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0
Pneumonia	3
Scarlet Fever	8
Smallpox	0
Whooping Cough	1

Notifications of Tuberculosis

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>New Cases</u>			
	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
- 1				
- 1	0	0	0	0
- 5	0	0	0	0
- 15	0	0	0	0
- 25	1	0	0	0
- 45	1	0	0	0
- 65 and over	0	0	0	0
Age unknown	0	0	0	0
	2	0	0	0

CAUSES OF DEATHS YEAR 1968

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	0	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	3	3	6
Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	7	6	13
Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	-	4	4
Malignant Neoplasm - Uterus	-	2	2
Leukaemia	0	2	2
Other Malignant Neoplasms etc.	11	16	27
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	0	1	1
Diabetes Mellitus	1	3	4
Other Endocrine etc. diseases	0	1	1
Anaemias	1	0	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System etc.	1	2	3
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	0	1	1
Hypertensive Disease	1	5	6
Ischaemic Heart Disease	24	21	45
Other Forms of Heart Disease	19	14	33
Cerebrovascular Disease	14	25	39
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	7	2	9
Influenza	0	3	3
Pneumonia	9	17	26
Bronchitis and Emphysema	11	3	14
Peptic Ulcer	0	2	2
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	0	1	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	0	2	2
Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	1	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	2	3
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	-	2
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	1	0	1
Other Complications of Pregnancy etc.	-	1	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	0	1	1
Congenital Anomalies	1	0	1
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	0	1
Symptoms and Ill-defined Conditions	0	4	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents ,.....	0	1	1
All Other Accidents	2	0	2
Suicide and Self-inflicted Injuries	0	2	2
All other External Causes	2	0	2
Totals all causes	120	149	269

Deaths from Selected Causes during the years 1962 - 1968

	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Lung Cancer	8	8	11	9	11	10	13(4)*
Motor Vehicle Accidents	4	2	4	0	2	4	1
All other accidents	9	5	4	8	4	4	2(1)*
Suicide	4	2	2	3	3	1	2(1)*
TOTALS	25	17	21	20	20	19	18(6)*

I draw your attention to these causes of death as being essentially preventable. The number of deaths from lung cancer, of course, gives no indication of the number of cases diagnosed and successfully treated.

(*Number in brackets are under 65 years of age).

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1968

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my twelfth Annual Report.

During 1968 it was possible to take advantage of the extensive delegated powers vested in the Health Committee. These powers have not been exceeded yet they have ensured a smoother flow of decisions, made after due consideration but subsequent action was not delayed by awaiting ratification by the Council. Less detail of routine work has been presented to the Committee at the monthly meetings. Essential data has been consolidated into quarterly reports.

On matters of Housing, there was a marked impact of the Government White Paper "Old Houses into New Homes". It was possible to implement the first part of the accelerated five year clearance programme. It was sheer co-incidence that 153 properties in the Bedford Street Area were represented on the 23rd April, 1968. 'Appropriate action' on or before that date attracted only the outdated standard of compensation, whereas it would appear that future legislation will ensure more realistic payments equivalent to market value.

Staff changes took place early in the year and it is significant that the two new members, Mr. D.M. Pickles and Mr. J. Pinkstone, soon became familiar with the local problems. There was a big clearance programme to assimilate besides the many other routines.

May I thank the Chairman and Committee members for their support and guidance during the year.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

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

Chief Public Health Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS OF DISTRICT

<u>PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS:</u>	Complaints - Housing	33
	Other	152
	Revisits	294
	Works in progress	27
	Drains inspected and/or tested ...	217
	Sewer Connections	41
	Refuse tips inspected	36
	Caravans	265
	Infectious diseases	17
	Vermineous premises	61
	Miscellaneous	243
<u>HOUSING ACTS:</u>	Inspected and recorded	277
	Revisits	402
	Works in progress	33
	Housing applications	2
	Improvement Grants	339
<u>FOOD AND DRUGS ACT:</u>	Slaughterhouses	159
	Visits for collection of samples .	87
	Hawkers	7
	Food Hygiene Visits	272
	Ice Cream Premises	7
	Dairy Premises	6
	Market Stalls	41
	Condemned food visits	48
	Poultry inspections	3
<u>RENT ACT:</u>	Inspections and revisits	6
<u>SHOPS ACT:</u>	Inspections and revisits	4
<u>OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY</u>	Inspections and revisits	294
<u>PREMISES ACT:</u>	General	71
<u>FACTORIES ACT:</u>	Inspections and revisits	21
<u>CLEAN AIR ACT:</u>	Inspections and Observations	20
<u>RODENT CONTROL:</u>	Inspections and revisits	124
<u>NOISE ABATEMENT:</u>	Inspections	8
<u>PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY:</u>	Inspections	170
<u>SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT:</u>	Inspections	2
<u>RAG FLOCK ACT:</u>	Inspections	13

WATER SUPPLY

The Borough of Wisbech is a constituent authority of the Wisbech and District Water Board. A mains supply is generally available throughout the Borough.

The supply is obtained from shallow bore holes situate at Marham and Beechamwell in the County of Norfolk. The latter supply has only recently been commissioned and is now readily available to supplement the Marham source. An additional source of supply is available from the River Nar at Marham, although this is only likely to be in use at exceptional periods of peak demand in the height of the canning season.

The schedule of extensions to mains shows an addition of 2,092 yards (all in P.V.C.), 209 new connections were made, generally to new dwellings.

The number of houses in the Borough without an internal supply is -

Town	3	Rural Areas	5
------	---	-------------	---

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 submitted water samples to the Public Health Laboratory, Peterborough for examination.

The samples taken by the public health inspectors included mains water from houses, offices, caravan sites, shops and public taps.

Raw Waters (at source)

	No. of samples	Coliforms	
		Negative	Positive
<u>Water Board</u>			
Bacteriological	262	248	14

The Water Board carried out 37 chemical analyses of raw water at the source and these were satisfactory.

Examination of Water Supply cont'd

Treated Waters

	Samples Submitted	Results	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
<u>Water Board</u>			
Bacteriological	877	877	Nil
Chemical	71	71	Nil
<u>Health Department</u>			
Bacteriological	35	35	Nil

Extensions to Mains

Housing Site off Kirkgate Street	274 yards 3" p.v.c.
	133 yards 4" p.v.c.
Housing Site off Mansell Road	60 yards 3" p.v.c.
	47 yards 4" p.v.c.
	60 yards 6" p.v.c.
Churchill Road	44 yards 4" p.v.c.
6" Renewal at Railway Road	93 yards 3" p.v.c.
	47 yards 4" p.v.c.
	200 yards 6" p.v.c.
3" Main West Parade	187 yards 3" p.v.c.
Housing Site, Fenland Road	100 yards 3" p.v.c.
	174 yards 4" p.v.c.
Eighth Avenue, Mount Drive	153 yards 4" p.v.c.
6" Extension, Oldfield Lane	10 yards 2" p.v.c.
	53 yards 6" p.v.c.
Housing Site, Tinkers Drove	146 yards 4" p.v.c.
	220 yards 6" p.v.c.
Almshouses off West Street	67 yards 3" p.v.c.
Almshouses off King's Walk	4 yards 3" p.v.c.
	20 yards 4" p.v.c.
TOTAL MAIN LAID	2,092 yards

New connections made in the
Borough during the year 1968 - 209

Typical Chemical Analysis
Tapwater 31st December, 1968, 12 noon

Bacteriological Results

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°C	0
Coliform count per 100 ml.	0
Bact. coli I count per 100 ml.	0

Physical Characteristics

Appearance Clear and Bright	pH	7.2
Turbidity Nil	Odour	Nil
Colour Nil	Taste	Nil

Chemical Results expressed in parts per million

Free carbon dioxide	25.3
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C	0.14
Ammoniacal nitrogen	Nil
Albuminoid nitrogen	0.02
Nitrate nitrogen	9.0
Nitrite nitrogen	Nil
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	212.5
Hardness as CaCO ₃ : Total	288
Carbonate (temporary)	212.5
Non-carbonate (permanent) ...	75.5
Residual chlorine	0.60
Total solids, dried at 180°C	Not examined
Aluminium (Al)	Nil
Calcium (Ca)	112
Iron (Fe)	Faint Trace
Magnesium (Mg)	Not examined
Manganese (Mn)	Nil
Lead (Pb)	Nil
Sodium (Na)	Not examined
Zinc (Zn)	Nil
Silica (SiO ₂)	7.0
Sulphate (SO ₄)	Not examined
Carbonate (CO ₃)	127.5
Chloride (Cl)	30.5
Fluoride (F)	0.02

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 District Water Board

SWIMMING BATHS

The Borough Council own and operate, at Crabmarsh, an unheated open air swimming pool with a capacity of 120,000 gallons. The source of the water used in the bath is the mains supply of the Wisbech and District Water Board and the treatment is by a Bell Bros. sand filter using soda and alumina prior to filtration and chlorination. The water in the bath is circulated once every 8 hours.

Five school swimming pools operated during the summer months as follows:-

St. Peters School	10,000 gals.	Sand Filters
Peckover School	18,000 gals.	Cloth filters
Queen's Boys' School	56,000 gals.	Sand filter
Queen's Girls' School	39,000 gals.	Diatomite filter
Rammoth Road School	10,000 gals.	Sand Filters

All of the school pools use hypochlorite solutions for sterilising water.

As in previous years, close liaison was maintained with pool operators and assistance given where problems arose. Regular visits were made to each pool during summer term.

Sample Results

Pool	Samples Submitted	Results	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Crabmarsh	6	6	0
Peckover School	4	4	0
Queen's Boys' School	4	4	0
Queen's Girls' School	4	4	0
Rammoth Road School	4	4	0
St. Peters School	4	4	0

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Two thirds of the built up parts of the town are provided with public sewers. Disposal of the sewage is by lagoons on silt land except that the area is grossly inadequate resulting in constant use of storm water installations. The outlet from the latter pours concentrated sewage into the River Nene.

In 1967, I reported details of agreements reached between the Borough Council and two neighbouring Rural District Councils as follows:-

- (a) To provide an up-to-date sewage disposal plant, in addition to the existing sewage farm, to treat sewage from all the built up parts of the Borough together with neighbouring parishes from the rural districts;
- (b) To provide sewers in the remaining third portion of the built up area of the town.

Consulting engineers have been appointed to proceed with the scheme.

Only limited progress can be reported owing to difficulties in connection with the suggested location of the sewage treatment works. The land affected is owned by Norfolk County Council (Smallholdings Committee) - the same Council being the Planning Authority. Delay in a decision to code the 21 acres of land resulted in the Borough Council making a Compulsory Purchase Order in July, 1968. Norfolk County Council subsequently offered an alternative site, which was clearly much less convenient and likely to add high additional capital cost to the project. At the close of 1968, Norfolk County Council offered another alternative site of suitable size which the Consulting Engineers were able to recommend. The location having been settled but still requires to be the subject of Planning process.

In anticipation of the inauguration of the regional sewerage scheme, twin sewer pipes have been laid across the River Nene. Work being carried out by specialist contractors currently working in the area.

Further sites have been acquired for additional sewage pumping stations.

In the meantime the sewage farm and storm water overflow works are managed to their capacity without many folks being inconvenienced because these installations are well away from any people. More unfortunate are those citizens in the North Brink area of the Borough who daily tolerate the smell arising from constant emptying of cesspool contents into a length of sewer which is old and slow flowing.

Cesspools are emptied as ordered by occupiers of premises at a charge of 4/0d., that is where no public sewer is available. It is a matter of conjecture as to whether there is any justification in continuing to make this charge. Elsewhere an economical charge of £2 is made.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A regular weekly collection of house refuse is maintained throughout the district. Additional collections are made from catering establishments. Trade refuse is collected from commercial premises for which a charge is made.

During recent years the volume of trade refuse has been growing and the existing method of charging for the service was found to be unsatisfactory. In an attempt to ensure that traders were fairly charged for the amount of refuse collected and also to eliminate time wasted in handling bulky boxes and piles of loose cardboard a system was devised whereby trade refuse was to be collected only in approved paper sack containers purchased from the Council. The system was introduced during the spring and although some 'teething' troubles were experienced, it is now functioning fairly satisfactorily.

All refuse is disposed of by means of controlled tipping along lengths of the disused Wisbech Canal under the Joint Disposal Committee made up of representatives of the three local Councils.

As I have mentioned in previous reports, the space available for tipping is limited and already consideration has been given to future refuse disposal arrangements. During the year discussions were held with officers of neighbouring local authorities having similar problems associated with the disposal of refuse. The general feeling was that, in the future, the local authorities should work together to utilize existing disposal space or to operate new disposal plant to the best advantage.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Situation	Women	Men	
	w.c's	w.c's	urinals
Barton Road	1	1	2
Cattle Market	2	1	2
Horsefair	3	1	6
Market Place	4	3	7
Mount Pleasant	2	1	3
Norfolk Street	3	2	4
Norwich Road	2	1	3
Old Market	3	2	6
The Park	4	2	4

Hand washing facilities are generally available in all conveniences except at Barton Road. No permanent attendants are employed at any one convenience.

PERSONAL CLEANSING

13 persons were treated at the Cleansing Station.

Disinfection and disinfestation of bedding and clothing is carried out, when necessary, by arrangement with the engineer of the Clarkson Hospital.

Terminal disinfection of rooms after infectious disease is available when requested.

MILK

The large majority of milk consumers are supplied with heat treated milk from tuberculin free herds. A very small quantity of farm bottled milk from a tuberculin free herd is consumed in the Borough.

Regular visits are made to the Co-operative Pasteurising Plant and 4 batches of washed milk bottles were submitted for checks on the efficiency of the bottle washing plant. In each case the reports were satisfactory.

Registration and Licensing

There are 16 names on the Register of Distributors of milk and 2 premises registered as Dairies.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

75 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.
Untreated	10	7	0	0	0	0	0	7	0
Pasteurised	57	46	2	57	0	0	0	0	0
Sterilised	8	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0
TOTALS	75	53	2	57	0	8	0	7	0

Milk cont'd

Untreated Milk

Of the 10 samples submitted, 3 Methylene Blue Tests were declared void.

The Biological Tests showed no evidence of Tuberculosis or Brucella in any of the 7 samples.

Pasteurised Milk

There were 9 occasions when the Methylene Blue Test was declared void and, in 2 cases, the samples failed to satisfy the test, both samples were from milk dispensers.

Vending Machines

Regular surveillance was kept of milk vending machines at various canteens.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION

Number of Animals Slaughtered since
"Appointed Day" - 1st January, 1961

Year	Cattle including cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs including Sows and Boars	Total number of animals expressed in Cattle Units
1961	1,774	15	2,554	9,650	7,115
1962	2,072	26	2,384	9,538	7,323
1963	2,392	5	2,739	9,689	7,785
1964	6,864	11	7,220	9,781	13,202
1965	8,529	23	4,597	10,893	14,899
1966	9,693	47	4,599	10,674	15,959
1967	9,617	6	4,101	12,289	16,583
1968	10,272	30	4,294	21,078	21,676

There are two licensed slaughterhouses operating in the district.

The outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in the winter of 1967 had the effect of reducing the number of animals killed during that year. Restrictions on the movement of animals were lifted in January, 1968 but, due to the shortage of livestock, it was not until March that conditions reverted to normal. Even so, during the year there was an overall increase in the number of

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection cont'd

animals killed. The number of pigs slaughtered was almost doubled and there was also a marked increase in the throughput of cattle and sheep.

During the year modifications were made to the Chase Slaughterhouse. A large new refrigerator was added and improvements made to the pig slaughtering line. A new office block was also built. The alterations were completed and came into use in May.

Minor improvements were made to the Oil Mill Lane slaughterhouse during the year; an electric hoist was fitted and new carcase weighing machine installed.

In November 1968, the Regulations which prohibited the use of wiping cloths in slaughterhouses became operative. As from that time clean water sprays were used to wash down carcasses in the final dressing operation. As was expected, the change brought criticisms from the slaughtermen but they are now converted; agreeing that the sprays are more hygienic than wiping cloths and what is probably more important from their standpoint, more efficient and time saving.

Unfit meat and offal is stained and removed from the slaughterhouses for sterilization.

Meat inspection charges are made according to the maximum set out in the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963. An annual contract figure is negotiated to cover the cost of meat inspection at the Chase Slaughterhouse.

Number of Animals Slaughtered during the
year ended 31st December, 1968

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Sows and Boars
Number killed	10,224	48	30	4,294	20,325	753
Number inspected	10,224	48	30	4,294	20,325	753

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection cont'd
Meat Condemned during the year

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Sows and Boars
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis:						
Whole carcasses condemned	6	1	0	1	16	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2,736	10	21	45	1,685	21
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis	26.93%	22.92%	70%	.107%	8.37%	3.59%
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcasses condemned	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	0	0	0	20	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	.002%	0	0	0	.1%	
Cysticercosis:						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	16	0	0	0	0	0
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	0	0	0	0	0
Generalised and totally condemned	0	0	0	0	0	0

Total number of animals slaughtered:

35,674

Quantities condemned: Tuberculosis
Other Diseases

247 lbs.

46,872 lbs.

47,119 lbs.

Knackers Yard

There is no Knackers Yard within the Borough, although two such premises are available within 10 miles of Wisbech.

POULTRY INSPECTION

The slaughter of poultry at the only premises which had been in regular use for this purpose, was discontinued at the beginning of the year.

COMPLAINTS OF UNSATISFACTORY FOOD

During 1968, the department dealt with 10 formal complaints relating to either inferior quality or unfitness of food.

The following cases were investigated and reported to the Council who instructed the Town Clerk to warn the firms concerned that a repetition of the offence would result in legal proceedings being taken:-

Mouldy sausage rolls;
Foreign substance in bread;
Pin in a fruit cake;
Sour milk.

The following matters were investigated by the public health inspectors who were satisfied that, either no offence was committed or the firms concerned had taken all possible steps to prevent a recurrence of the offence and that legal proceedings were not warranted in these instances.

Tin of grapefruit containing mould (naringin);
Fish fingers unsound;
Bread alleged to be undercooked;
Mouldy sponge pudding;
Smoked salmon damaged by animals;
Piece of bone in sausage.

FOOD SHOPS

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

Bakers and Bakehouses	11
Cafes	11
Grocers and General Mixed Stores	61
Greengrocers	9
Fishmongers	5
Fried Fish Shops	13
Butchers	25
Food Factories	6
Licensed Premises and Registered Clubs	64
Ice Cream Manufacturers	2
Market Stalls	31
Confectioners	14

Food Shops cont'd

List of improvements and unsatisfactory conditions remedied in food premises.

Sinks provided	1
Hot water provided	2
Wash-hand basins provided	2
Premises repaired	5
W.C's provided	0
W.C's repaired	0
Artificial lighting	4
Cleansed and redecorated	6
Ventilation	0
First Aid materials	1

Food Hygiene

It was possible during 1968 to devote more time to the routine work of inspecting food premises. Generally speaking the standard of cleanliness was found to be good but in a few instances conditions were encountered which necessitated action by the department. In these cases an attempt was made to "educate" the food handlers or the owner of the business. Often, the reason for particular Regulations is not always apparent to the layman and the time taken by inspectors in explaining the reasons why he requires certain work to be carried out, or to handle food in a particular manner, is never wasted. Revisits made to premises where contraventions had been noted invariably showed an improvement. It was not found necessary to institute formal proceedings during the year.

Attention continued to be given to the market stalls on the Saturday market. Approximately thirty of the stalls were dealing in food in some form or other - the majority selling fruit and vegetables. The traders handling open food are required by law to provide washing facilities and a supply of hot water. This they do, but I doubt whether they are used as often as necessary. One hopes that the 'health educational' talks will eventually have their effects in this sphere.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

(i)	Number of premises to which the regulations apply	221
(ii)	Number of above fitted to comply with regulation 16 (wash-basins)	220
(iii)	Number of premises to which regulation 19 (sinks) applies	194
(iv)	Number of premises fitted to comply with regulation 19 .	194

UN SOUND FOOD

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

<u>Tins</u>		<u>Frozen Foods</u>	
Meat and Meat Products	195	Vegetables	212 pkts.
Fish	6	Potato chips	68 "
Fruit	140	Fish	454 "
Vegetables	823	Fruit	1 "
Complete dinners	6	Meat and meat products ..	220 "
Spaghetti	3	Complete dinners	9 "
Creamed Rice	4	Cheeseburgers	2 "
Soup	42	Pastry	22 "
Puddings	33	Mousse	54 No.
Milk	6	Trifles	9 "
Lemon Curd	1	Cakes and sponges	18 "
Baby Foods	22	Orange drink	2 tins
Canned Drinks	2		
	<u>1,283</u>		

Various

Jellies	173	
Instant potato	5½	lbs.
Tomato ketchup	1	bottle
Fish	47½	lbs.
Beef kidneys	40	lbs.
Beef	1424	lbs.
Pork	253	lbs.
Lamb	128	lbs.

ANIMAL FOOD FACTORY

Constant surveillance is maintained over the receipt and processing of meat, offal and trimmings at a modern pet animal food factory.

ICE CREAM

96 premises are registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955. 2 for the manufacture, storage and sale and 94 for the storage, and sale of ice cream.

23 samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year with the following results:-

Grade I	13	Grade III	2
Grade II	8	Grade IV	0

CLEAN AIR ACT

During the year there were no serious contraventions of the Clean Air Act. Visits were made to premises when contraventions were noted and the problems discussed with the management and boiler operatives.

Industrial:

Furnaces (section 3)

(a)	notifications received	0
(b)	applications for prior approval	4
(c)	number of cases in which alterations were required	0
(d)	number of applications granted	4

Height of Chimneys

(a)	number of plans submitted showing new chimneys	4
(b)	number of cases in which alterations were required	2
(c)	number approved	4

HOUSING

Clearance

During the year a start was made in implementing the accelerated clearance programme which was approved by the Council in 1967.

Inspections of properties were carried out through the year and the Council made three new orders viz. The Bedford Street Compulsory Purchase Order, Duke Street/Prince Street Compulsory Purchase Order and the Ramnoth Road Clearance Order. None of these Orders had received confirmation at the year end, though the date for the public inquiry into the largest of the three Orders (Bedford Street) was fixed for January, 1969.

Demolition of unfit houses has, therefore, been restricted to those included in previously confirmed Orders and at the end of December most of the families residing in these houses had been found alternative accommodation. In fact the availability of new houses, being built primarily to rehouse persons living in clearance areas threatens to exceed the immediate need. This situation has arisen because the 1968 quota of houses to be cleared were included in one Order.

Housing cont'd

However, it is anticipated that early determination of the Bedford Street Order will resolve this temporary difficulty.

The following Orders were made during the year:-

Wisbech (Bedford Street) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1968	153 houses
Wisbech (Duke Street/Prince Street) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1968	23 houses
Wisbech (Rammoth Road) Clearance Order, 1968	5 houses

Also within Clearance Areas associated with the above Orders were 6 unfit houses owned by the Borough Council.

Estimated number of unfit houses remaining excluding those in declared areas	425
Number of years necessary to deal with the above houses	4
Applicants on waiting list at end of year	282
Houses completed in 1968: Wisbech Corporation ..	37
Private enterprise ..	97
Total post war houses completed	1,863

Houses in Clearance Areas and Unfit Houses elsewhere
Return for the year ending 31st December, 1968

A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED	Houses demolished	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
<u>In or adjoining Clearance Areas</u>			
Houses unfit for human habitation	24	52	29
Included by reason of bad arrangement	3	-	-
On land acquired under Sec. 43(2) Housing Act, 1957	3	-	-
<u>Not in or adjoining Clearance Areas</u>			
As a result of formal or informal procedure under Secs. 16 or 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	14	25	11
Local authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	1	-	-
Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts.	-	-	-
TOTALS	45	77	40

Housing cont'd

Return for the year cont'd

B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED	Number	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
Under Secs. 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957 and 26, Housing Act, 1961	7	8	2
Parts of buildings closed under Sec. 18, Housing Act, 1957	1	0	0
C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED		By Owner	By Local Authority
After informal action by local auth.		0	0
After formal action under Public Health Acts		0	0
After formal notice under Secs. 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957		0	0

Demolition of Unfit Houses took place at -

Clearance Areas - (75*) 30

11,12 King Street
 5 The Low
 4,5,6,7,8,13,14,15,16 Marsh Walk
 15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23 Park Street
 3A,17,18 Prospect Place
 1,2,3,4,5,6 Victoria Place

Individual Unfit Houses

(a) Formal Action - (4*) 4

31,32,33 Bedford Street
 40 Kirkgate Street

(b) Informal Action - (13*) 11

"The Harp Inn"
 29,31 Lerowe Road
 21 North End
 13,15,17,19,21,23,27 Osborne Road

* Figures in brackets are for the year 1967.

Improvement of Dwellings

The number of applications made for grants towards the cost of providing modern amenities in older dwellings fell during the year. Not one application was received for a discretionary grant.

It is perhaps significant to note that during April a government White Paper was published which indicated changes in existing legislation which, when operative, would increase the maximum amount of grant payable. The biggest increase would be in the case of discretionary grants where the maximum would rise from £400 to £1,000. Several enquiries were made of the department regarding the conversion of large buildings into several self-contained flats with the aid of a grant but, in all cases, the schemes were shelved pending the introduction of the larger grants as outlined in the white paper. Perhaps another factor which has contributed to the decline in the number of applications is that no new Improvement Areas were declared during 1968.

It is heartening, however, to note that during the year 120 Council houses which lacked bathrooms were improved to the required standard by the addition of a prefabricated bathroom unit.

Standard Grants

The following is a summary of the action taken on grants during the year:-

Applications received	35
Applications passed	35
Applications rejected - unfit	0
Applications withdrawn	0

Cases in which work was completed and the grant paid:-

35 applications for a total of £5,350:3s:7d.

Amenities provided with the aid of grants:-

Bathrooms	24
Wash-hand basins	30
Hot water systems	31
Internal w.c's	30
Larders	26

Discretionary Grants

Cases in which work was completed:-

1 dwelling improved by the provision of a bathroom.
Grant paid £303:1s:9d.

Common Lodging Houses

The Harp, the only remaining common lodging house within the district was closed and demolished during the year.

Almshouses

The sixteen dwellings comprising the Canal Side, Stermyn Street and Lynn Road almshouses continued to be occupied during 1968.

Work on the Smedley Trust aged persons flats was well advanced at the year end and work was commenced on the aged persons flats in King's Walk.

Rent Act, 1957

(Return for the year 1968)

1. Number of applications for certificates	0
2. Number of decisions not to issue certificates ..	0
3. Number of decisions to issue certificates -	
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	0
(b) in respect of all defects	0
4. Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the first schedule	0
5. Number of undertakings refused by local authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the 1st schedule	0
6. Number of certificates issued	0
7. Applications by landlords to local authority for cancellation of certificates	1
8. Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	1
9. Decisions by local authority to cancel in spite of tenants objection	0
10. Certificates cancelled by local authority	0

CARAVANS

Residential

There are five licenced sites within the borough.

Ingleborough Site, Osborne Road.	- 20 vans
Poplar Site, Osborne Road.	- 6 vans
Broadway Site, Osborne Road.	- 41 vans
The Grove Site, Magazine Lane.	- 43 vans
Lickings Drove Site.	- 4 vans

The planning permission for the use of the Ingleborough Site, Osborne Road, as a site for residential caravans is due to expire in March, 1969. In anticipation of this, the owner applied for planning permission to continue the use of the land as a caravan site after this date. This was refused by the Planning authority and the owner appealed to the Minister of Housing and Local Government against the decision. A local inquiry was held on 24th October, the outcome of which was not to hand at the end of the year.

The new licence in respect of the Lickings Drove site was issued as a result of the owner obtaining planning permission to retain the vans on a site where they had been sited unofficially for several years. Site works were not complete at the end of the year.

Itinerant Caravans

Eleven series of Council Minutes were published during 1968, ten of which contained reference to itinerant caravans. A sufficient indication that this is a problem and a talking point.

On three occasions, authority was given to serve statutory notices and, if necessary, institute proceedings against several itinerant families who come to rest regularly within the Borough. Some few ratopayers have justifiable complaints regarding the mess created by itinerants on the fringe of the town.

A survey carried out in January, 1968 revealed 23 vans within the Borough, 11 within Wisbech Rural district and 4 within Marshland Rural district. From these statistics the County Council became satisfied that there is a proved need in the Wisbech area for a purpose-made itinerant caravan site. A meeting took place at the end of May between representatives of the County Welfare Committee and Health Committee of the Borough Council. Both councils accepted a recommendation that the County Planning Officer be instructed to undertake, in collaboration with the appropriate officers of both authorities, a feasibility study regarding the location and provision of a permanent caravan site in the Wisbech district to accommodate not more than 20 families. The study continues.

Itinerant Caravans cont'd

The Caravan Act, 1968, with its inherent delayed action impact was received with mixed feeling. The Minister of Housing and Local Government will eventually indicate when the time is opportune to implement that part of the Act setting out a charter for dealing with itinerant van dwellers.

FACTORIES

Several visits were made to premises and houses in which work is carried out.

Factories Act, 1937 - 1959

(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 and 6 are to be enforced by the local authority	8	3	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by local authority	102	15	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers premises)	5	3	-	-
TOTALS	115	21	-	-

Factories cont'd

(2) Outwork

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in Aug. list	No. of cases of default in sending list to Council	No. of Prosecutions for failing to supply list	No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Making of wearing apparel	2	-	-	-	-	-
Stringing Labels	62	-	-	-	-	-

NON-INDUSTRIAL PREMISES

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

An analysis of contraventions of the Act remedied during the year is set out below:-

Abstract of Act	50
Lack of cleanliness in premises	8
Evidence of rooms overcrowded	1
Absence of effective provision for securing and maintaining a reasonable temperature	33
Lack of ventilation	5
Insufficient natural or artificial lighting	28
Insufficiency and lack of cleanliness in relation to sanitary conveniences	8
Absence of accessible washing facilities	30
Absence of conveniently accessible supply of drinking water	0
Lack of accommodation for clothing	5
Need of suitable facilities for sitting	0
Need to provide alternative type of seats	12
Lack of eating facilities in shop premises	2
Repairs and maintenance required to floors, stairs and passages	23
Fencing required to exposed machinery	3
Need to provide first aid equipment	39
Inadequate sanitary accommodation	1

Investigations were carried out into six accidents but legal action was not considered necessary.

RODENT CONTROL

Routine complaints are dealt with by two workmen who, in theory, divide their time between works of sewer maintenance and drain cleansing and the investigation and treatment of rodent infestations.

Quite naturally sewer maintenance and the cleansing of blocked drains receives priority, often to the detriment of rodent control work which is left to be carried out as and when possible.

The resulting delays in answering complaints and the sometimes inadequate treatment given, together with the steady increase in the rat population in the Fens lead me to conclude that in order to provide more efficient service the department must have the services of a full time rodent operator.

The public health inspectors assist the operators when necessary and advise on treatment of difficult infestations.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949
Return for the year 1968

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
(1) Number of properties in local authorities district:	7,096	96
(2) Total number of properties inspected as a result of notification:	261	9
Number infested by: Rats	212	9
Mice	49	-
(3) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification:	250	16
Number infested by: Rats	0	2
Mice	10	-

WISBECH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Routine inspections of cargo vessels arriving at the port were made during the year to determine whether they held a valid Deratting Certificate as demanded by the International Sanitary Regulations and, in many cases, an inspection of the crews quarters was also undertaken. In cases where the certificate had, or was about to expire, new certificates were issued following a thorough examination of the vessel. Nineteen Deratting Exemption Certificates were issued.

Many vessels, especially the tankers, visited the port several times during the year and, in these cases, only occasional inspections were made.

Amount of shipping entering the district during the year.

<u>Ships from</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>	<u>Number inspected</u>		<u>Number of ships reported as having, or having had, during voyage, infectious disease on board</u>
			<u>by the P.H.I.</u>	<u>by the M.O.H.</u>	
Foreign Ports	301	60,500 N.R. 140,000 Cargo	92	Nil	Nil
Coastwise	60	16,887 N.R. 49,721 Cargo	15	Nil	Nil
Total	361	77,387 N.R. 190,131 Cargo	107	Nil	Nil

Character of shipping and trade during the year.

Passenger Traffic: Number of passengers - Inwards ... Nil
- Outwards .. Nil

Cargo Traffic: Principal imports: Petroleum, timber, potash, maize and fertilisers.

Principal Exports: Barley, peas, beans, bricks and oats.

Principal ports from which ships arrive:

Immingham, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Antwerp, Thames, Wismar, Gdansk, Karlshamn, Kristinenstad, Boston, Leningrad, Hamburg and Hull.

