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WISBECH BOROUGH COUNCIL
AND
WISBECH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

ANNUAL
HEALTH REPORT
1972





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HEALTH
COMMITTEE

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR: Councillor Mrs. J.R. Bond

CHAIRMAN: Alderman E.N. Rigg

VICE CHAIRMAN: Alderman Mrs. B.M. Osborn

MEMBERS: Alderman G.G.J. Gibbs

Councillor Mrs. K.M. Brennan

Councillor P.M. Coulten

Councillor J.K. Ferris

Councillor A. Harrold

Councillor F.H. Harrold

Councillor Mrs. B.F. Petts

Councillor H.T. Pigott

Councillor G. Regester

Councillor R.A. Stagles

Councillor E.V. Usher

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.
Town Hall,
12 South Brink,
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
INSPECTOR:

D.M. Pickles, M.A.P.H.I.
Certificate of the Royal Society
of Health and Public Health
Inspectors Examination Joint
Board.

Cert. Inspector of Meat and Food
Royal Society of Health.
Diploma Air Pollution Control
Royal Society of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

J.F. Pinkstone, M.A.P.H.I.
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
INSPECTOR:

D.B. Reddin,
Diploma of Public
Health Inspectors Education Board.
(resigned 10.9.72)

J.C.P. Sanigar,
Student,
Aston University, Birmingham.
(Commenced 25.9.72)

CLERK:

Mrs. B.F. Kerridge

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1972

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, 1972.

I am pleased to report that in January of this year the Council approved the introduction of fluoridation of the public water supply. Unfortunately, for practical reasons, this cannot yet be carried out, but the Council are to be congratulated for supporting this worthwhile public health measure and should continue to press for its implementation.

During the year efforts were continued to find a suitable permanent site for traveller's caravans. By the end of the year such a site had been found, but it will still be some time before it is ready for use. Travellers have a role to play in this fruit growing area and if only they will endeavour to fulfil the standards expected of good neighbours in this community, they will find they are accepted.

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-1972 ..	16,960
" " " mid-1971 ..	16,950
Sum realised by a penny rate	£ 9,809
Rateable Value	£1,016,981
Number of inhabited houses	5,916

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births - 283

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	Area comparability factor - 1.05
Total	149	134	
Legitimate	135	120	
Illegitimate	14	14	

Rate per 1,000 population (adjusted) - 17.5
 Illegitimate live births (per cent of total live births) - 10

Still Births - 0

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

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births - 0

Total Live and Still Births - 283

Deaths (all causes) - 266

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	Area comparability factor - .78
Total	132	134	

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident mid-1972 population - 12.2

Infant Deaths (under one year) - 3

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

Rate per 1,000 total live births - 11

Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births - 12

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

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) - 7

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

Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) - 4

Maternity Mortality (including abortions) - 0

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births - 0

Vital Statistics cont'd

Causes of Deaths of Children under 1 year

Prematurity 3

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) - 52

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

	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
<u>Live Birth Rate</u>						
Wisbech Borough	15.97	14.11	16.5	15.9	18.3	17.5
Cambs. & Isle of Ely	15.7	14.9	14.5	14.5	14.7	14.3
England and Wales	17.2	16.9	16.3	16	16	14.8
<u>Still Birth Rate</u>						
Wisbech Borough	0	32	11	15	10	0
Cambs. & Isle of Ely	14	13	9	11	10.1	12
England and Wales	14.8	14	13	13	12	12
<u>Death Rate</u>						
Wisbech Borough	11.43	11.32	10.7	11.8	10.7	12.2
Cambs. & Isle of Ely	10.2	11	11	10.5	10.7	11.2
England and Wales	11.2	11.9	11.9	11.7	11.6	12.1
<u>Infant Mortality Rate</u>						
Wisbech Borough	11.11	8	11	33	13	11
Cambs. & Isle of Ely	14	14	16	16	11.4	13
England and Wales	18.3	18	18	18	18	17

GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES

Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely
Executive Council:

Vinery Road,
Cambridge.

Clerk:

F.G. Lloyd Esq.

East Anglian Regional Hospital Board:

Union Lane,
Chesterton,
Cambridge.

Senior Administrative Medical Officer:

Dr. G.D. Duncan.

(a) General:

- (1) North Cambridgeshire Hospital, Wisbech.
- (2) Clarkson Hospital, Wisbech.
- (3) Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.
- (4) Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge.
- (5) Doddington Hospital, Doddington.
- (6) West Norfolk and King's Lynn General Hospital, King's Lynn.

(b) Maternity:

- (1) Bowthorpe Hospital, Wisbech.

All primiparous mothers may be confined in the obstetric unit and other mothers may be admitted for obstetric abnormality. Since the General Practitioners Unit was opened the number of home confinements has fallen markedly as every mother may now be confined in hospital.

(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 General Hospital.

General Medical Services cont'd

(g) Medical Equipment Services:

Medical equipment for home use is provided, on loan by the St. John's Ambulance Division and the Red Cross Medical Loan Depot by arrangement with the County Council. Artificial limbs, invalid chairs and carriages are provided through the Ministry of Pensions at Addenbrookes Hospital. Much equipment is now available directly through the Social Services Department of the County Council.

COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES

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

The domiciliary nursing staff is employed by the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely County Council. There are 9 district nurses, 1 midwife and 4 health visitors who use a large part of their time in the Borough. The midwife is qualified to administer gas/air analgesia, pethedine and trilene and the necessary machines approved by the Central Midwives Board are available for her use.

There has been a gradual change in the policy of administering the County Nursing Services. The district nurses and health visitors are attached to general medical practices in order to facilitate the professional relationship of nurses and doctors for the benefit of the population.

(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, 2 ambulances and 1 wheelchair vehicle are stationed at Wisbech and there are 11 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 once weekly on Wednesday, two sessions, morning and afternoon.

The midwife holds an antenatal clinic for expectant mothers who are to be confined at home.

(d) School Dental Clinic:

County Clinic, The Horsefair, Wisbech.

(e) 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. Glenecross),
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 staff of the Health Department to various organisations and college students.

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

<u>Notifiable Infectious Diseases</u>	<u>Total notified during year</u>
Acute Poliomyelitis	0
Diphtheria	0
Dysentery	0
Erysipelas	0
Enteric Fever	0
Food Poisoning	0
Gastro Enteritis	0
Infective Hepatitis	5
Measles	70
Acute Meningitis	1
Mumps Encephalitis	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0
Paratyphoid Fever	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0
Pneumonia	0
Scarlet Fever	6
Smallpox	0
Whooping Cough	3

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	0	0	0	0
- 5	0	0	0	0
- 15	0	0	0	0
- 25	0	2	0	0
- 45	0	0	0	0
- 65 and over	0	0	0	0
Age unknown	0	0	0	0
	0	2	0	0

CAUSES OF DEATHS YEAR 1972

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity	-	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	3	-	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	3	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	3	2	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	12	2	14
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	4	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	6	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	3	-	3
Other Malignant Neoplasms	6	4	10
Diabetes Mellitus	2	1	3
Other Endocrine Diseases	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Blood	1	-	1
Mental Disorders	1	-	1
Multiple Sclerosis	1	-	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	1	2
Hypertensive Disease	1	2	3
Ischaemic Heart Disease	36	32	68
Other Forms of Heart Disease	5	8	13
Cerebrovascular Disease	18	26	44
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	4	5
Influenza	-	1	1
Pneumonia	11	19	30
Bronchitis and Emphysema	11	3	14
Asthma	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	1	1
Peptic Ulcer.....	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	2	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	1	3
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	-	1	1
Congenital Anomalies	1	-	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour	2	-	2
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	-	2	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	-	2
All Other Accidents	3	1	4
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	1	5	6
Total all causes	132	134	266

Deaths from selected causes during the years 1966 - 1972

	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Lung Cancer	11(6)	10(3)	13(4)	12(7)	13(6)	11(2)	14(3)
Motor vehicle accidents	2	4(3)	1	3(3)	5(5)	1(1)	2(1)
All other accidents	4(2)	4(3)	2(1)	9(1)	12(6)	9(1)	4(1)
Suicide	3(1)	1(1)	2(1)	0	1(1)	7(6)	6(4)
TOTALS	20(9)	19(10)	18(6)	24(11)	31(18)	28(10)	26(9)

(Numbers in brackets are under 65 years of age).

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.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1972

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to maintain the traditional duty to compile an annual report relating to the sanitary circumstances which prevail in the Borough and Port of Wisbech. With local government reorganisation about to take place in April 1974 one can be tempted to look back into similar documents prepared over the past century. Yet this would be a waste of valuable resources when there are current problems which can be identified and require to be kept in the forefront of current action.

Having resolved the planning aspect of the proposed new sewage disposal scheme, there is a mere possibility that work may commence in 1974 to extend the sewerage system to properties north of the river and thus ensure that there will be sewerage facilities to all the developed part of the town and also available to surrounding villages.

Despite a fairly static population there has been constant pressure on the provision of suitable housing accommodation. Gradually the outworn and structurally unsound properties are being removed. Every encouragement is given to secure housing improvements, yet the housing waiting list does not contract. Nor can the mobile population be satisfied. Staff time required to maintain peace between the conflicting views of residents and the needs of travelling families has been considerable. Although there appears to be a possible solution to this problem by provision of an isolated permanent site, any delay is bound to add to the cost of construction and layout.

Administration of food legislation becomes more complex as the European Economic communities bring influence on food production. These duties tend to require more specialist attention.

The greatest success story of the year can be written about the amelioration of dust nuisances in the port area. Whilst one must applaud the final decision of the operating company to instal modern dust arrestation equipment, so one must admire the tenacity of the public health inspectorate who at all times felt justified in seeking to set a high standard without wishing in any way to retard trade within the port activities.

Mr. D. Reddin, formerly student public health inspector, was successful in passing the statutory examination and subsequently accepted an appointment with the London Borough of Croydon. Mr. J.C.P. Sanigar replaced Mr. Reddin and is following a degree course at the University of Aston in Birmingham. Otherwise the staff has continued unchanged and given a high quality service to the community and I record my thanks to the continued co-operation of my colleagues in other departments. We shall continue to try to exercise control over all the factors in man's environment which have a deleterious effect on his physical development, health and survival.

My thanks to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for the special interest.

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	122
	Other	38
	Revisits	248
	Works in Progress	79
	Drains inspected and/or tested ..	263
	Sewer connections	9
	Refuse	51
	Caravans	315
	Infectious Diseases	22
	Vorminous premises	13
	Miscellaneous	385
<u>HOUSING ACTS:</u>	Inspected and recorded	73
	Revisits	348
	Works in progress	22
	Housing Applications	7
	Improvement Grants	445
<u>FOOD AND DRUGS ACT:</u>	Slaughterhouses	362
	Visits for collection of samples.	139
	Hawkers	0
	Food Hygiene Visits	300
	Food preparation premises	37
	Ice Cream Premises	12
	Dairy Premises	16
	Market Stalls	151
	Condemned food visits	82
	Imported Food Regulations	27
<u>QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATES:</u>	Inspections and revisits	122
<u>SHOPS ACT:</u>	Inspection and revisits	5
<u>OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT:</u>	Inspections and revisits	141
<u>FACTORIES ACT:</u>	Inspections and revisits	43
<u>CLEAN AIR ACT:</u>	Inspections and observations	67
<u>RODENT CONTROL:</u>	Inspections and revisits	282
<u>NOISE ABATEMENT:</u>	Inspections	12
<u>PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY:</u>	Inspections	270
<u>SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT:</u>	Inspections	0
<u>RAG FLOCK ACT:</u>	Inspections	0
<u>ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT:</u>	Inspections	10

WATER SUPPLY

A safe potable water supply is available throughout the Borough and distributed by the Wisbech and District Water Board. A very small number of isolated households prefer to rely upon individual water supplies from a well or cistern.

The Council again considered the need to follow government advice upon prevention of dental caries by the fluoridation of the water supply and after expert advice of the Medical Officer of Health and other representations it was decided to approve of such measure. Nevertheless, the County Health authority have yet to allocate funds for this preventative measure.

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	720	664	56

The Water Board carried out 124 chemical analyses of raw water at the source and these were satisfactory.

Treated Waters

	Samples Submitted	Results	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
<u>Water Board</u>			
Bacteriological	518	518	Nil
Chemical	87	87	Nil
<u>Health Department</u>			
Bacteriological	26	26	Nil

Extension to Mains

No extensions to mains were made during the year.

New connections made in the Borough during the year - 89

Water Supply cont'd
Typical Chemical Analysis
Tapwater 29th December, 1972

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° - 22°C	0
Coliform count per 100 ml.	0
E. coli count per 100 ml.	0

Physical Characteristics

Appearance	Clear and bright	pH	7.1
Turbidity	Nil	Odour	Nil
Colour	Nil	Taste	Nil

Chemical results expressed in parts per million

Free carbon dioxide	29.0
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C	0.10
Ammoniacal nitrogen	Nil
Albuminoid nitrogen	Trace
Nitrate nitrogen	9.9
Nitrite nitrogen	Nil
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	207.5
Hardness as CaCO ₃ : Total	274
Carbonate (temporary)	207.5
Non-carbonate (permanent)	66.5
Residual chlorine	0.40
Total solids, dried at 180°C	360
Copper (Cu)	Nil
Aluminium (Al)	Nil
Calcium (Ca)	100
Iron (Fe)	Faint trace
Magnesium (Mg)	5.55
Manganese (Mn)	Nil
Lead (Pb)	Nil
Sodium (Na)	Not examined
Zinc (Zn)	Nil
Silica (SiO ₂)	6.5
Sulphate (SO ₄)	33.7
Carbonate (CO ₃)	124.5
Chloride (Cl)	26.5
Fluoride (F)	Nil

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

On 6th October, 1972 a new Indoor Swimming Pool was opened in Harecroft Road incorporating a 25 metre pool and a learner's pool. Finishes in the pool hall and changing areas are designed to give maximum standards of hygiene. Floor areas are finished in non-slip tiles and walls are glazed to a height of 7'6".

Each pool has an independent filtration system by means of horizontal pressure sand filter. After filtration the water is reheated and chemically treated before being returned to the pools. The chemical treatment of the water gave rise to a number of complaints from bathers who were troubled with eye irritation after bathing. Efforts are being made with the aid of water treatment specialists to eliminate the cause but the problem is proving quite difficult to solve.

The old open air pool in Crabmarsh was closed at the end of the summer after giving many years service. The land on which the pool was sited will be used eventually for use incidental to port activities.

The trend to construct small swimming pools on school premises for the express purpose of encouraging swimming and to afford every child with the opportunity to learn to swim, has continued. In addition to the swimming pools in use at the Queen's Boys' School, Queen's Girls' School, Ramnoth Road School, Peckover School and St. Peters School another pool was brought into use at the Gordon Fendick School.

Samples are taken from these pools throughout the swimming season (which has been extended in recent years due to the installation of water heating units). Generally the samples proved satisfactory though problems have arisen due to poor maintenance of purification plant. Inspectors, when visiting the pools during the course of routine inspections take the opportunity to stress the importance of regular checks on chlorine content and supervision of the treatment plant.

Sample Results

	Samples Submitted	Results	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Crabmarsh	3	3	-
Gordon Fendick School	1	1	-
Hudson Pool	5	5	-
Peckover School	3	1	2
Queen's Boys' School	4	4	-
Queen's Girls' School	3	3	-
Ramnoth Road School	3	3	-
St. Peters School	3	3	-

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

It is pleasing to be able to state that a site has been approved on which to construct an up-to-date sewage disposal works of sufficient size to serve the Borough and surrounding villages. It is envisaged that work may commence in 1974 with completion in 1976 - but apparently consultant engineers have staff problems like other users of specialist staff. Concurrently it is hoped to renew some portions of the old sewerage system in Clarkson Avenue, St. Augustines Road, Stermyn Street and part of DeHavilland Road. Surface water and foul sewers will also be relaid in Bedford Street and Sandyland, where outworn houses have been cleared and the land zoned for industrial use.

Disposal of cesspool contents is carried out by direct discharge in the public sewer off Lynn Road and this access point is used also by vehicles servicing the rural district.

Minor extensions to sewers have been made to permit housing development.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A regular weekly collection is made from all properties within the Borough, with additional facilities available at cost for extra collection and disposal from trade establishments.

After a prolonged trial period on new council development it was concluded that a bin liner scheme should be introduced throughout the district. At the same time a measured day work incentive bonus scheme was negotiated for manual workers engaged in refuse collection. There has been a general acceptance of the advantages of plastic bin liners. It is hoped to be able to persuade builders and developers, and ironmongers to supply purpose made $3\frac{1}{2}$ cubic feet sack holders to gradually replace traditional dustbins, in order to gain maximum benefit from the sack system.

A campaign was launched to tidy up derelict sites. Britain has become a dumpers paradise and yet there is an adequate refuse collection service. Some towns have tried to counter this trend by siting refuse containers (of large capacity) at vantage points for reception of refuse which is not strictly household refuse. Special vehicles are required to handle containers - but the question remains, is such a scheme worth the expense.

Refuse disposal is carried out a few miles outside the Borough, there being a Joint Refuse Disposal Committee set up to serve the Borough and two surrounding rural district councils.

Refuse Collection and Disposal cont'd

There is adequate space remaining along the disused Wisbech Canal to receive the refuse of constituent authorities for five years. Apart from the actual scene of tipping, the scheme is contributing to conservation of the country area through which the disused canal had become an eyesore.

During the early part of the year there was a national public outcry concerning the indiscriminate dumping of toxic wastes in circumstances where it could give rise to an environmental hazard. The government was quick to act and "The Deposit of Poisonous Waste Act, 1972" and Regulations made thereunder came into operation on 3rd August, 1972.

The two main features of the Act are:-

- (1) to make it an offence, punishable by heavy penalties, to deposit toxic or polluting waste on land where it endangers persons or animals or pollute a water supply;
- (2) to introduce a notification procedure under which those concerned are required to give local authorities and river authorities information regarding the nature and quantities of wastes arising or being deposited in their areas.

Since the introduction of the Act the department has received notifications of wastes leaving the area either for disposal or treatment prior to disposal. A survey was made of all known industrialists in an attempt to ascertain quantities and types of wastes produced from the various trade processes and to find out where the wastes were being disposed of.

I am pleased to report that the managements of all the firms concerned co-operated fully in this voluntary exercise and expressed their concern and willingness to help in any way in order to obviate any risk to the public.

PERSONAL CLEANSING

There are no immediate facilities for personal cleansing. In cases of emergency use is made of the Cleansing Station at King's Lynn. Disinfection of bedding can be carried out by arrangement with a local hospital.

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

The scattered conveniences are maintained by routine daily visits, there being no permanent attendants employed at any one convenience. No progress has been achieved to secure provision of up-to-date toilet facilities in the Horsefair, but one day, as part of overall development, a new image will emerge.

FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION

Food Hygiene

The public health inspector plays a leading role to project the importance of good hygienic practices in the manufacture and handling of food and food products. The general public expect to notice good hygienic practices and realise "food care is good business".

The greatly increased practice of pre-packing food makes it difficult for the retailer and his customer to check the condition of the food. The Food Standards Committee are now formulating directives to implement date-coding of perishable food - either indicating the latest day on which they would normally be fit to eat or the date by which they should be sold.

There has been a renewed local effort to develop and attract tourism to the Capital of the Fens. More catering is carried out in local hotels and public houses and I am sure that the growing demands will be met. Yet one would prefer that the local licensing magistrates consulted with the local authority as well as the police when dealing with granting or renewal of licences.

There is a constant task in dealing with market and mobile food traders and only constant prompting and vigilance ensures reasonable practices.

Food and Drugs Administration cont'd

Food Complaints

The following schedule indicates the sort of complaints which arise from food purchasers.

<u>Article</u>	<u>Nature of Complaint</u>	<u>Action</u>
Tin Tomatoes.	Tasted bitter.	Stocks examined, old stock surrendered.
Wrapped sliced loaf.	Foreign body.	Warning to firm concerned.
Meat Pasty.	Dehydration.	Warning to firm concerned.
Carton Milk.	Dirty carton.	Warning to firm concerned.
Raspberry yoghurt.	Mouldy.	None - not affected by mould.
Tin Stewed Steak.	Foreign body.	Warning to firm concerned.
Sliced Chicken Roll.	Decomposed.	Warning to firm concerned.
Potatoes.	Mouldy.	Warning to firm concerned.
Cake.	Foreign body.	Warning to firm concerned.
Sugared Almond.	Foreign body.	Warning to firm concerned.
Cheese.	Contaminated by blood.	Warning to firm concerned.
Tin of Salmon.	Decomposition.	Warning to firm concerned.
Sliced loaf.	Infested with maggots.	No action. Probably infested after purchase.
Cream cake.	Dirty.	Firm contacted. Handling arrangements improved.

Food and Drugs Administration cont'd

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

Bakers and bakehouses	7
Cafes	11
Grocers and General Mixed Stores	44
Greengrocers	9
Fishmongers	5
Fried Fish Shops	10
Butchers	23
Food factories	6
Licensed Premises and Registered Clubs	67
Ice Cream Manufacturers	1
Market Stalls	19
Confectioners	11

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970

(i) Number of premises to which the regulations apply	185
(ii) Number of above fitted to comply with regulation 18 (wash-basins)	184
(iii) Number of premises to which regulation 21 (sinks) applies	174
(iv) Number of premises fitted to comply with regulation 21	174

UN SOUND FOOD

The following foodstuffs, apart from meat in slaughter-houses, were found unfit and surrendered.

Tins

Meat.....	29	Puddings	71
Fish	42	Fruit and	
Vegetables	1,878	Fruit Juices	4,204
Soup	10	Jam	5
Milk and Cream	8	Tomatoes	1,166
			7,413

Unsound Food cont'd

Frozen Food

Fish	2,620 pkts.
Vegetables	1,905 "
Meat and Meat Products .	1,487 "
Potato chips	247 "
Curry and Rice	12 "
Ice Cream	297
Pastry and Cakes	221
Mousse and Trifles	1,254
Pies	620
Complete Dinners	36
Chickens (whole or part)	233
Turkeys	8

Other Foods

Fish	190 lbs.
Meat and sausages ..	324½ lbs.
Flour	33 lbs.
Biscuits	4 lbs.
Yoghurt	56 ctns.
Cottage cheese	1 ctn.
Pies	31

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
1969	9,213	18	3,475	30,055	25,639
1970	11,242	7	3,075	32,786	28,252
1971	10,058	9	2,997	30,724	26,021
1972	8,761	10	4,207	31,199	25,203

Two licensed slaughterhouses operated during the year. Market factors reflecting higher prices restricted somewhat the throughput of animals. The local livestock market has also declined considerably over the past decade and one may anticipate closure of the market which many years ago provided colourful activity, north of the river each Monday. The closing of livestock markets makes a vast contribution to animal welfare and it is preferable for animals to be transported direct from farm to abattoir without the intervening stress and strain of hanging around in a market.

Plans have been agreed to improve dressing of cattle at The Abattoir, The Chase by adopting a modified line system to keep the carcasses at all times clear of the floor.

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection cont'd

Number of animals slaughtered and
meat condemned during the year

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Sows and Boars
Number killed	8,730	31	10	4,207	30,447	752
Number inspected	8,730	31	10	4,207	30,447	752
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis:						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	1	2	5	51	25
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,119	4	4	74	2,165	38
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis	12.84%	16.13%	60%	1.88%	7.28%	8.38%
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcasses condemned	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	0	0	0	0	35	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0.11%	0
Cysticercosis:						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	16	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	0	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-

Total number of animals slaughtered:

44,177

Quantities condemned: Tuberculosis
Other diseases

333 lbs.

32,944 lbs.

33,277 lbs.

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection cont'd

Meat (Staining and Sterilisation) Regulations

There has been no changes in the system of disposal of unfit and inedible meat and offal from the slaughterhouses. Such items are removed for conversion into fertiliser and animal feeding stuffs.

Constant vigilance is kept upon the traffic of meat and offal consigned to a pet animal food factory. Active co-operation is received from the management and so with cold stores scattered around East Anglia the flow of such raw materials is within the detailed knowledge of the inspectorate. Less red meat and offal are being used and the deficiency made up from poultry bye-products.

Imported Food Regulations

Regular consignments of varying commodities reach local food factories in unopened containers carrying produce from abroad. No unsatisfactory or unwholesome packages have been detected on routine inspections.

MILK AND ICE CREAM

All milk delivered in the area is pasteurised, the majority being bottled or in sealed containers to large establishments. A very limited amount of milk is sold in cartons. There is no processing plant within the Borough.

There is one small ice cream pasteurising plant which is easy to supervise. In the alternative there is a proliferation of mobile ice cream vehicles in which soft ice cream is manufactured. None of these are based within the Borough and are generally the subject of a franchise arrangement with control changing every summer. Supervision and education in these circumstances is most difficult.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

76 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.
Pasteurised	53	45	8	48	-	-	-	-	-
Sterilised	18	-	-	-	-	18	-	-	-
Untreated	5	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	76	46	12	48	-	18	-	-	-

Milk and Ice Cream cont'd

Brucella Abortus

Three samples of untreated milk submitted for biological examination for the presence of Brucella Abortus all proved negative.

Cream

Two samples of cream submitted for examination proved fairly satisfactory.

Ice Cream

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

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

Grade I	19	Grade III	2
Grade II	3	Grade IV	0

CLEAN AIR ACT: ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Two industrial establishments continued to receive constant representations to deal with effluvia which were detrimental to the amenities of the district. Both were resolved during 1972. In the Port Area dust arrestation equipment was installed successfully to eliminate dust arising from the handling of grain from vessels to silos. An odour nuisance caused by volatiles driven off from a lacquering plant was abated by the erection of a high chimney - dispersion being the best practicable means available. Under adverse weather conditions the odour may still be noticed, but it is the considered opinion of your officers that the nuisance has been abated.

All new council development is subject to smoke control in that heating arrangements are provided by smokeless fuels. A detailed report is to be compiled - by sample survey to indicate progress in the private housing sector.

Industrial:

Furnaces (Section 33)

(a) notifications received	2
(b) applications for prior approval	2
(c) number of cases in which alterations were required ..	-
(d) number of applications granted.....	2

Clean Air Act cont'd

Heights of chimneys

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

HOUSING ACT ADMINISTRATION

Clearance

Every effort has been maintained towards reaching the targets set out in the clearance programme 1968/1973. It would appear imperative that all areas of old outworn property should be represented in the life of the Borough Council. It is appreciated that rehousing has become more difficult owing to lack of continuity in municipal house building, but this is not the first instance of outside influences retarding progress in the housing field. Yet whatever the supply of fit dwellings there is no evidence to support the oft mentioned theory that any old house will suffice for a family in need - outworn and outmoded dwellings are unacceptable to modern society. An illustration of this point is provided by Hounpesson House, an unfit dwelling which, because of its alleged architectural features was excluded from a Compulsory Purchase Order made under the Housing Act, 1936, Part III. The building stands in semi-ruinous condition with apparently no one interested in either using the house as a single dwelling or adapting the building into small units of accommodation.

The cost of demolition work increased during the year from £8 to £25 per two storied building.

In order to assist further families displaced from unfit houses, the Council increased from £20 to £25 the contribution towards incidental removal expenses.

The following Orders were made during the year:-

Wisbech (St. Augustines Road) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1972	6 houses
Wisbech (St. Augustines Road) Clearance Order 1972	33 houses
Wisbech (Kirkgate Street) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1972	5 houses
Wisbech (Lynn Road) Clearance Order, 1972	2 houses
Wisbech (Victoria Road) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1972	4 houses

Housing Act Administration cont'd
Clearance cont'd

Estimated number of unfit houses remaining
excluding those in declared areas 49

Estimated number of years necessary to
deal with the above houses 3 years

Houses completed in 1972:

Wisbech Corporation 57
Private enterprise 35

Total post war houses completed2,516

Houses in Clearance Areas and Unfit Houses elsewhere
Return for the year ending 31st December, 1972

A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED	Houses demolished	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
<u>In or adjoining Clearance Areas</u>			
Houses unfit for human habitation	64	95	43
Included by reason of bad arrangement	0	0	0
On land acquired under Sec. 43(2) Housing Act, 1957	4	0	0
<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	3	2	1
Local authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	-	-	-
Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	-	-	-
TOTALS	71	97	44
B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED			
	Number		
Under Secs. 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957 and 26 Housing Act, 1961	1	1	1
Parts of buildings closed under Sec. 18, Housing Act, 1957	-	-	-

Housing Act Administration cont'd

Return for the year cont'd

C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED	By Owner	By Local Authority
After informal action by local authority	6	0
After formal action under public health acts	0	0
After formal notice under Secs. 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957	6	0

Demolition of unfit houses took place at -

Clearance Orders and Compulsory Purchase Orders - 68 (*50)

1A, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 Artillery Street
1, 2, 3 Bedford Street
13, 14, 15 Canal Row
4, 5, 6 Cannon Street
11, 12, 13, 14 Chapel Street
57, 59, 65, 67, 71, 73, 75, 77 Elizabeth Terrace
25, 27, 29, 71, 73, 75, 79, 81, 83 Elm Road
107, 109 Lynn Road
39, 40, 41, 43/44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 53, 57, 58, 59, 60, 67,
68, 78, 79, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, "Woolpack P.H.", Norfolk Street
10A Raithby Place
16, 17, 18, 20, 21 West Street

Individual Unfit Houses

(a) Formal Action - 3(*2)

43 Alexandra Road
16, 17 Nene Parade

(b) Informal Action - 0 (*2)

* Figures in brackets are for the year 1971.

Improvement of Dwellings

The department has been very active in dealing with matters associated with the improvement of existing houses and also the provision of flats within large buildings. Your Council has operated the grant schemes to the full in an expeditious manner.

Attempts failed during the year to acquire a property, suitable for improvement, which after renovation could be used as a demonstration house. Each offer made by the Council was countered by other higher bids - an example of gazumping.

Housing Act Administration cont'd

Standard Grants

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

Applications received	49
Applications passed	44
Applications rejected	-
Applications withdrawn	7

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

41 applications for a total of £7,329.00.

Amenities provided with the aid of grants:-

Bath in a bathroom	34
Wash-hand basin	37
Hot water systems	39
Internal w.c's	39
Sinks	15

Discretionary Grants

The number of applications for Improvement Grants doubled. 22 applications were received compared with 11 the previous year.

It is anticipated that this trend will continue as people realise the advantages of the generous grants available to them under the provisions of the 1969 Act. No doubt the rise in property prices has spurred some people, who would have otherwise moved into a better house to improve their own and stay put.

Qualification Certificates

Housing Act, 1969

A landlord of a private dwelling house which has all the standard amenities and which is in good repair (having regard to the age, character and locality of the house) may apply for a qualification certificate which enables him to obtain from the Rent Officer a certificate of fair rent. A similar procedure is followed if the landlord wishes to instal standard amenities.

During the year 33 applications were received and 24 qualification certificates issued.

Housing Act Administration cont'd

Houses in Multiple Occupation

Routine inspections were maintained of the several buildings used as houses in multiple occupation. Action was necessary in the magistrates court against the owner of one three storey premise so used, where there was no proper means of escape from fire - a fine of £50, with £10 advocates fee, was imposed.

CARAVANS

Residential

The continued shortage of houses to let continued to place pressure on existing residential caravan sites. Because mobile homes are likely to be with us for many more years than the time must be opportune to consider revision of the model standards which form a basis for provision of facilities on residential sites. Modern living vans have facilities provided within the structure and it would be no hardship to seek provision of individual facilities for each caravan, in contrast to the current standard of communal showers, toilets, laundry etc.. Common facilities have not been readily acceptable to families or individuals. In addition there should be a standard of fitness for all caravans used as permanent residences - poor quality living vans being a feature of one particular local site.

Itinerant Caravans

Tension prevailed throughout the year in attempts to contain the local problem caused by itinerant caravan dwellers. In travellers conversation an oft repeated phrase is used throughout England and Wales - "See you in Wisbech" and that usually means on the Horsefair - a self styled staging point. So as one batch of vans are persuaded to move on others arrive - some to bury the elderly, young mothers to use the maternity hospital, others to trade in a year old living van, so on and so on. Up to twenty families consider Wisbech as their home town and until some permanent site is provided, these will continue to occupy conspicuous sites in and around the town. From a health point of view they are better on conspicuous sites near town, usually near sanitary facilities, although aesthetically such congregations cause indignation to residents and passers by. I remain amazed by the absence of disease amongst families who congregate on green droves far from water supply and proper sanitation.

Caravans cont'd

The Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely County Council took positive steps to identify an area suitable for development as a permanent site for itinerant families. Situate on the perimeter of the Borough the site will create problems of added cost and isolation, but no serious objections have been received to the proposal. Contact has been maintained with the Gypsy Council but spasmodic meetings do not fully assist your officers in dealing with regular day to day problems.

In concluding this section of the report I will reiterate my plea for speedy action towards resolving the local problem by provision of a permanent site together, if necessary, with space for overnight stops. The number of travelling families is increasing at a faster rate than the national attempts to secure an adequate number of sites.

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	Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the local authority	4	5	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by local authority	93	38	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding out-workers premises) ..	4	-	-	-
TOTALS	101	43	-	-

Factories cont'd

(2) Outwork.

Nature of work	No. of out-workers in Aug. list	No. of cases of de-fault in sending list to Council	No. of Prosecutions for fail-ing to supply list	No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecu-tions
Labels	67	-	-	-	-	-

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963
SHOPS ACTS, 1950/1965

The following table shows the details of work carried out in non-industrial premises to secure standards of health and welfare for employees.

Contraventions of the Act remedied during the year.

Abstract of Act	2
Lack of cleanliness in premises	3
Evidence of rooms overcrowded	0
Absence of effective provision for securing and maintaining a reasonable temperature	2
Lack of ventilation	0
Insufficient natural or artificial lighting	2
Insufficient and lack of cleanliness in relation to sanitary conveniences	4
Absence of accessible washing facilities	10
Absence of conveniently accessible supply of drinking water	0
Lack of accommodation for clothing	2
Need of suitable facilities for sitting	2
Need to provide alternative types of seats	5
Lack of eating facilities in shop premises	1
Repair and maintenance required to floors, stairs and passages	12
Fencing required to exposed machinery	2
Need to provide first aid equipment	1

During the year 141 inspections were made of registered premises.

Investigations were carried out into 3 accidents but legal action was not necessary.

Shops Act cont'd

The Shops Acts dealing with trading measures, half day holidays and Sunday closing become more and more outdated and most difficult to administer. Sufficient parliamentary time should be found to introduce modern legislation the provisions of which would be enforced on a common basis throughout the country.

RODENT CONTROL

A reasonable service was provided to deal with all complaints arising from domestic properties and wherever possible to industry and commerce. There are several servicing companies offering similar services in the area. In summer time many calls are made requiring assistance with insects; advice is readily available but apart from wasps it is difficult to offer treatment to every complaint relating to ants - the population of which must multiply each year.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Return for the year 1972

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
(1) Number of properties in local authorities district:	7,374	102
(2) Total number of properties inspected as a result of notification:	160	3
Number infested by: Rats	104	3
Mice	56	-
(3) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification:	479	23
Number infested by: Rats	2	-
Mice	2	-

WISBECH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Regular contact has been kept with all shipping using the Port of Wisbech, the origin of which is predominantly from Europe.

Bulk cargoes of grain and fertiliser continued to give headaches. Successful measures were introduced to deal with dust arising from the import of grain, the expense and trouble of which made a major contribution to improving the environment in that part of the port area near to the town centre. Experiments to minimise the nuisance of handling bulk fertiliser in windy weather were not so successful.

22 Deratting Exemption Certificates were issued during the year.

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 H.O.H.</u>	<u>by the P.H.I.</u>	
Foreign Ports	283	65,876	Nil	119	Nil
Coastwise	71	24,565	Nil	12	Nil
Total	354	90,441	Nil	131	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: Petroleum, timber, grain, coal, fertiliser.

Principal Exports: Bricks, grain, pulses.

Principal ports from which ships arrive:

Amsterdam, Antwerp, Bremen, Gdansk, Hamina, Karlsham, Leningrad, Rotterdam, Wismar.

