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WITHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1968

together with the

REPORT OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

WITHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1968-1969

Chairman:

Councillor R.V.C. Brown (Vice-Chairman of the Council)

Members:

Councillor Mrs. P.L. Roberts (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor R.C. Bartlett
Councillor L.J. King, J.P. Chairman of the Council (ex-officio)
Councillor Mrs. J.M. Lyon
Councillor A. McKirdy
Councillor A.E. Moss, J.P.
Councillor E.A. Pryor
Councillor Miss K.M. Richards
Councillor P.M. Ryland
Councillor S.E. Smith
Councillor P.R. St. Cyr

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

C.R.C. Rainsford, M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

E.H.C. Wadhams, F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I., M.I.P.H.E.

**Deputy Public Health Inspector and
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods:**

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

Technical Assistant:

A.G.G. Onibiyo

Clerical Assistants:

Mrs. S.A. Slater, Secretary-Shorthand/Typist
Miss N.F. Shelley, Shorthand/Typist

Part-time General Assistant:

A.W. Jay

Refuse/Sewage Disposal Manager:

H.A. Diaper, M.R.S.H.

Fitter/Relief Manager:

R. Coupe

THE HISTORY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE UNITED STATES

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Public Health Offices,
Town Hall,
Braintree, Essex.

August 1969

To the Chairman and Members of
Witham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting for your information the annual report for 1968 on the health, vital statistics and sanitary circumstances of the Witham Urban District.

The report as usual is compiled in accordance with the instructions from the Minister of Health and Social Security and it contains statistics of the work done at the various clinics run by the Essex County Council. I am grateful to Dr. Miller Wood for supplying these figures.

I presented my first report in 1955 and this will be my last. Quite a lot has happened during these 14 years. I heard about tentative plans for taking London overspill soon after I arrived and of course it is now fully under way as shown by the increase in the population. The Registrar General's estimated population for 1955 was 8,790, by 1967 it had increased to 11,780 and to 12,750 in 1968.

The corrected birth rate for 1968 is 19.5 per 1,000 estimated population which is rather above the national average of 16.9.

There were only two infant deaths giving a low infantile mortality rate of 8 per 1,000 live births. The deaths were due to prematurity and virus pneumonia.

The general death rate (corrected) was 11.8 which co-relates closely to the national figure of 11.9.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Fifty-two cases were notified during the year, forty of these were measles. We can hope that with the introduction of the measles vaccine the figure will come down in subsequent years. You will see under the appropriate heading that 146 children were immunised against measles during the year.

There were no cases of diphtheria or poliomyelitis, indeed our last cases (4) of poliomyelitis occurred in 1958.

One of the greatest achievements of preventive medicine in the past 14 years has been the control of poliomyelitis. This has been done by the

vaccine but here I would sound a note of warning, the disease could come back if the level of vaccination amongst the population is allowed to drop.

There are now efficient vaccines against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping-cough, poliomyelitis and measles, not forgetting the oldest of them all smallpox. Vaccination and immunisation are carried out by the family doctors and at the E.C.C. Clinic, so I hope that parents will see that their children are adequately protected.

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

This section which covers water supplies, housing, sewerage and sewage disposal and refuse collection has been compiled by your Chief Public Health Inspector in his usual efficient way.

I have read through the 1955 and 1956 reports and a few comparisons with today's report may be of interest.

In 1956 I reported that the water supply was of excellent quality, as it is today, but the water consumption has gone up from 48.27 gallons per head of population to 65.85.

In 1956 extensions and improvements to the sewage works were completed giving the works a capacity of 250,000 gallons per day. In 1968 extensions were nearly completed (finished 1969) increasing the capacity to 1 million gallons per day.

In 1956 the lack of space at the refuse disposal tip was causing some concern, today the same problem is causing a great deal of concern.

In 1956 the number of houses built by the Council since 1945 was 601 but today's figure is 1,336. Paradoxically the number of applicants on the housing waiting list has increased from 141 in 1956 to 205 but the Council's scheme, already under way, to build 177 houses for sale should make a considerable inroad to this list.

It gives me great pleasure to record my thanks to all members of the Committee past and present and to my colleagues for their courtesy, help and support during the past 14 years.

My task has been made easy by the wise and efficient way in which Mr. Wadhams and his staff have carried out their duties and to them I am very grateful.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

C.R.C. RAINSFORD.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Collingwood Road,
Witham, Essex.

August 1969

To the Chairman and Members of
Witham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting in conjunction with the report of the Medical Officer of Health, details of my Department's work during the year 1968.

The year was occupied mainly with the many aspects of the town development scheme, and while the pressure of work remained high, there were fortunately no major crises to be overcome. House completions during the year were rather fewer than expected, but progress on the second town development estate and the commencement of the third, indicated that this will probably be made good during 1969. The year also saw the virtual completion of the post-war slum clearance programme; making way for an intensification of effort in improvement work under the proposed Housing Act 1969.

Progress on the Witham sewage works continued and parts of the new plant were in operation by the end of the year, though completion will not take place before mid-1969. Arrangements were in hand to implement the Council's decision to bring Silver End sewage to Witham for treatment at the new plant, which will allow further residential development in the Silver End area. Factory development on the Council's industrial estate continued throughout the year, and the Council was bringing pressure to bear on the authorities concerned to release more land to meet the industrial demand. Negotiations with the County Council as to further development of highways, education and health services proceeded satisfactorily. The future road pattern was still under consideration but two new schools and additions to two existing schools have already been completed, while the County Council has in hand the provision of a comprehensive health centre. Demand from the increasing development began to have noticeable effect on the town's water supply and a scheme for the provision of a new high level reservoir and feed main is to start during 1969.

The refuse collection service was maintained with only minor amendments to schedules to absorb the new development, but the amount of land remaining available for refuse tipping is very limited and a decision as to future disposal plants must be made shortly if the position is not to become critical. A plant to deal with refuse separation, pulverisation, and possibly composting, has been considered at different times during the past

fifteen years, to reduce demand on tipping space and enable readier disposal in places where tipping of crude refuse could not be considered. Undoubtedly had the Council been in a position to build a plant when first considered the present benefit would have been enormous.

As will be seen from the body of the report the routine public health work of the Department has been maintained and all aspects of it have received attention, though not in every case to the extent one would desire. Provisional approval has been given to the appointment of a further Health Inspector during the coming year and this will undoubtedly allow more detailed attention to a number of aspects of the work, not the least being the "follow-up work" after initial surveys which is essential for permanent improvement of standards.

Once again I must express my thanks to the other officers of the Council for their co-operation and ready assistance at all times, and my own staff for their good work and loyal support. I must also add my appreciation of the help and interest accorded to the Department by the Members of the Council and particularly of the Public Health Committee.

In conclusion, I would like to pay my tribute to Dr. Rainsford, your Medical Officer of Health, with whom I have worked for the past fourteen years. That this association has been both pleasant and productive is due in large measure to his keen appraisal of public health in its wider aspects and to his generous support at all times.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E.H.C. WADHAMS.

Chief Public Health Inspector

STATISTICS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| Area (in acres) | ... | ... | ... | 7,329 |
| Population (Registrar General's estimate) | ... | ... | ... | 12,750 |
| Number of inhabited houses | ... | ... | ... | 4,379 |
| Rateable value | ... | ... | ... | £671,830 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate | ... | ... | ... | £3,120 |

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | |
|--|--------------|-------------|---------------|------|
| Legitimate | 232 | 132 | 100 | |
| Illegitimate | 9 | 2 | 7 | |
| Total live births - | 241 | | | |
| Birth rate per 1,000 estimate population | ... | ... | ... | 18.9 |
| Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births | | | | 3.7 |
| Birth rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.03 | | | | 19.5 |
| Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population | | | | 16.9 |

STILL BIRTHS

| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | |
|---|--------------|-------------|---------------|------|
| Legitimate | 4 | 2 | 2 | |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - | |
| Rate per 1,000 total live and still births | ... | ... | ... | 16.0 |
| Rate per 1,000 total births England and Wales | ... | ... | ... | 14.0 |
| Total live and still births - | 245 | | | |

INFANT DEATHS

Deaths of infants under 1 year -

| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Legitimate | 2 | 2 | - |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - |
| Total infant deaths - | 2 | | |

INFANT MORTALITY

| | |
|--|------|
| Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births ... | 8.0 |
| Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births ... | 8.6 |
| Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births... | Nil |
| Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) | 4.1 |
| Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) | 4.1 |
| Perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) | 20.0 |
| Infantile mortality for England and Wales per 1,000 live births | 18.0 |

MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of deaths ... | Nil |
| Rate per 1,000 total live and still births ... | Nil |

DEATHS

| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | |
|--|--------------|-------------|---------------|------|
| | 137 | 77 | 60 | |
| Death rate per 1,000 estimated population ... | | | | 10.7 |
| Death rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.10 | | | | 11.8 |
| Death rate per 1,000 population England and Wales | | | | 11.9 |

All the above rates are calculated on the estimated population given by the Registrar General

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES 1968

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar General and the classification is given under the sixty-five headings based on the International Abbreviated List 1968. Only those cause headings with deaths allocated to them are shown, headings with no deaths allocated to them are omitted.

In previous years the 1948 classification with 36 headings was used and all headings were shown whether deaths were allocated to them or not.

| | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|---|-------------|---------------|
| Malignant neoplasm, stomach | 3 | 1 |
| Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus | 5 | 1 |
| Malignant neoplasm, breast | - | 1 |
| Leukaemia | - | 2 |
| Other malignant neoplasms, etc. | 4 | 5 |
| Diabetes mellitus | - | 1 |
| Other diseases of nervous system, etc. | 3 | - |
| Chronic rheumatic heart disease | 1 | - |
| Ischaemic heart disease | 21 | 16 |
| Other forms of heart disease | 4 | - |
| Cerebrovascular disease | 8 | 14 |
| Other diseases of circulatory system | 4 | 1 |
| Influenza | 3 | 2 |
| Pneumonia | 6 | 3 |
| Bronchitis and emphysema | 7 | 2 |
| Asthma | - | 1 |
| Other diseases of respiratory system | 1 | 1 |
| Peptic ulcer | - | 1 |
| Appendicitis | - | 1 |
| Other diseases of digestive system | 1 | - |
| Nephritis and nephrosis | 1 | - |
| Other diseases, genito-urinary system | 1 | 1 |
| Diseases of musculo-skeletal system | - | 3 |
| Other causes of perinatal mortality | 1 | - |
| All other accidents | 2 | - |
| Suicide and self-inflicted injuries | 1 | 3 |
| All Causes | 77 | 60 |

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

(a) Under the control of the Essex County Council:-

(i) Clinics were held at the following Centres during the year:-

WITHAM Essex County Health Services Clinic, Guithavon Street.

| | | | <u>Attendances</u> |
|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Child Welfare | 1st & 3rd Tuesdays | 10 a.m.) | 1,627 |
| | 1st & 3rd Wednesdays | 2 p.m.) | |
| School Clinic | 1st & 3rd Thursday | 9 a.m. | 103 |
| Dental | Every Tuesday & Thursday | 10 a.m. (By Appt.) | 1,128 |
| Speech Therapy | Every Tuesday | (By Appt.) | 287 |

SILVER END Garden Village Hall.

| | | | |
|---------------|------------|--------|-----|
| Child Welfare | 1st Friday | 2 p.m. | 466 |
|---------------|------------|--------|-----|

RIVENHALL Church Hall.

| | | | |
|---------------|------------|--------|----|
| Child Welfare | 3rd Monday | 2 p.m. | 89 |
|---------------|------------|--------|----|

(ii) Home Help Service

This useful service is administered from the Area Health Office, 75 Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

(iii) Ambulance Service

The Essex County Council Ambulance Station is situated at Guithavon Street, Witham. There is one ambulance and one car for sitting cases. A full 24-hour cover is provided.

(iv) Laboratory Services

The Essex County Council provide a laboratory service which includes the bacteriological and chemical analysis of water samples, the chemical analysis of sewage effluents and the bacteriological examination of ice cream, and the examination of other foods for pathogenic organisms. These examinations are carried out by either the Counties Public Health Laboratories, Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C.1. or the Public Health Laboratory, Chelmsford and Essex Hospital, New London Road, Chelmsford.

(b) Under the control of the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board:-

(i) Chest Clinics Held twice weekly at St. Michael's Hospital, Braintree.

(ii) Orthopaedic Clinics Orthopaedic patients who need special advice are referred to Notley Hospital where a clinic is held every 4th Tuesday morning.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

| DISEASES | Total Notified | Admitted to Hospital | Total Deaths |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Diphtheria | - | - | - |
| Dysentery | 1 | - | - |
| Encephalitis | - | - | - |
| Enteric Fever | - | - | - |
| Erysipelas | - | - | - |
| Food Poisoning | - | - | - |
| Infective Hepatitis | - | - | - |
| Measles | 40 | - | - |
| Meningococcal Infection | - | - | - |
| Pneumonia | - | - | - |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | - | - | - |
| Paralytic Poliomyelitis | - | - | - |
| Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis | - | - | - |
| Scarlet Fever | 7 | - | - |
| Tuberculosis, Pulmonary | 2 | 1 | - |
| Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary | - | - | - |
| Whooping Cough | 2 | - | - |
| Totals | 52 | 1 | - |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED MONTH BY MONTH

| DISEASES | Total Notified | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|
| Diphtheria | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Dysentery | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Encephalitis | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Enteric Fever | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Erysipelas | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Food Poisoning | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Infective Hepatitis | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Measles | 40 | - | - | - | 2 | 8 | 16 | 13 | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Meningococcal Infection | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Pneumonia | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Paralytic Poliomyelitis | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Scarlet Fever | 7 | 5 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Tuberculosis, Pulmonary | 2 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Whooping Cough | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Totals | 52 | 5 | - | 1 | 2 | 10 | 16 | 14 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

TUBERCULOSIS

The following Table gives particulars of the two cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year.

| Age Periods | New Cases | | | | Deaths | | | |
|---------------|-----------|---|---------------|---|-----------|---|---------------|---|
| | Pulmonary | | Non-pulmonary | | Pulmonary | | Non-pulmonary | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| Under 1 year | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1 year | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2 years | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 3 years | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 4 years | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5 - 9 years | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 10 - 14 years | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15 - 19 years | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 20 - 34 years | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 35 - 44 years | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 45 - 64 years | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 65 and over | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Totals | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |

Of these, one was a case re-notified on taking up residence in the District during 1968.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

| <u>Primary Courses</u> | <u>By General Practitioners</u> | <u>By County Staff</u> | <u>Totals</u> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus | 206 | 9 | 215 |
| Diphtheria and Tetanus | - | 16 | 16 |
| Diphtheria | - | 5 | 5 |
| Pertussis | - | - | - |
| Tetanus | 4 | 75 | 79 |
| Poliomyelitis | 254 | 65 | 319 |
| Smallpox | 188 | - | 188 |
| B.C.G. | - | - | - |
| Measles | 48 | 98 | 146 |
| <u>Reinforcing Doses</u> | | | |
| Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus | 34 | 39 | 73 |
| Diphtheria and Tetanus | 38 | 222 | 260 |
| Diphtheria | 1 | 74 | 75 |
| Pertussis | - | - | - |
| Tetanus | 1 | 120 | 121 |
| Poliomyelitis | 49 | 205 | 254 |
| Smallpox | 5 | - | 5 |

HOUSING

The total of 254 new dwellings erected during the year was somewhat less than that for 1967 when 296 houses were completed. As private enterprise built 89 in 1968 compared with 46 in 1967, the decrease is wholly in local authority building. Of those built by or for the Council, 22 were O.A.P. bungalows, 60 were Houses for Sale, and the remainder town development houses for G.L.C. nominees.

The pause in the town development programme occurred between the period of completion of the first "overspill" estate at Templars, and the first occupations of the second town development estate (Phase IIa), and was prolonged by the Council's concern to achieve the best possible results in terms of house design and estate appearance and amenity. By the end of the year however, the building rate on this second estate was satisfactory and work had already commenced on the very large Phase III estate on the west of the town. It was therefore to be expected that 1969 would see a considerably increased tempo in the town development programme.

The increase in private enterprise house building denoted some revival in this sphere from the relatively low level of completions during the previous two years. At December 1968 proposals for considerable additional private enterprise house building were under consideration and it would appear that 1969 could be an active year in this direction also.

The number of dwellings erected in the Urban District since 1945 is as follows:-

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| By Local Authority: | 1336 |
| By Private Enterprise: | 902 |

The number of applicants for Council houses at the end of 1968 was 205 compared with 208 at the end of 1967. The lists were composed of the following categories at 31st December 1968:-

| | | |
|------------------------|---|----|
| Ordinary list | - | 53 |
| Exchange list | - | - |
| Old Persons Bungalows | - | 43 |
| Bungalow exchange list | - | 30 |
| Single Persons Units | - | 14 |
| Engaged Couples list | - | 53 |
| River View Hostel | - | 12 |

There is only one main waiting list, the qualification for admission to which is two years' residence or work in the Urban District. The Council has renewed its agreement with the Essex County Council, to assist in the rehousing of homeless families so far as is consistent with the Urban District's own needs.

Reference to previous Annual Reports will indicate that the general level

of applicants for Council housing accommodation has remained roughly unchanged for the last nine years. At present with the emphasis on town development housing local needs have to be met mainly from the normal turnover of tenancies in the existing Council estates. In view of this the Council has embarked on a large scheme of 177 houses, intended for sale to Council tenants wishing to purchase their own properties and to other residents on the waiting lists or who would normally look to the Council for housing accommodation. The first of these houses were already in occupation at the end of 1968 and it is hoped that the completion of the estate in 1969 will see a considerable reduction in the number of applicants still awaiting housing accommodation.

Pre-War Council Houses

In pursuance of the Council's modernisation programme for their older Council estates the contract for the electrical wiring of 263 of the older houses was nearing completion at the end of the year.

Housing and Public Health Acts

With regard to sub-standard private houses the following data shows the work undertaken during the year:-

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-----|
| (a) Clearance Orders: | Orders submitted | Nil |
| | Houses demolished | 5 |
| (b) Demolition Orders: | Orders made | 3 |
| | Houses vacated | 3 |
| | Houses demolished | 5 |
| | Orders rescinded | 1 |
| (c) Closing Orders: | Orders made | 2 |
| (d) Voluntary Undertakings: | Houses demolished | 2 |
| | Houses not re-occupied | 2 |
| (e) Rehousing by Local Authority: | Families rehoused | 3 |

The following was the state of condemned and closed properties at the end of the year:-

| | | |
|---|----------|-----|
| Houses in Clearance Areas awaiting demolition: | Occupied | Nil |
| | Vacant | Nil |
| Houses subject to Demolition Orders: | Vacant | Nil |
| Houses subject to Closing Orders: | Vacant | 2 |
| Parts of Houses subject to Closing Orders: | Vacant | 7 |
| Houses and flats subject to undertakings not to re-let: | | 1 |

Of the 63 dwellings scheduled in the 1965-68 programme as suitable for clearance or closure, 57 have already been dealt with. The remaining few are

border-line cases and are to be re-examined in the light of possible reconditioning by grant aid.

While the Council's slum clearance programme as such may be considered to have been completed, there remains in the district a considerable number of Victorian cottage houses, mainly in small terraces which, while far from being slums, nevertheless fall short of what is now regarded in these days as satisfactory house design. In the main they are structurally sound and there is no doubt that under the terms of the promised Housing Act it would be possible to improve them by grant-aided amenities, and in this way they could be ensured a satisfactory and useful extended life. Nevertheless, many of them have already expended what might be considered as reasonable life for nineteenth century industrial type cottages and it is to be hoped that at some not too far off future date these somewhat inelegant batches of old utility-type housing may be replaced by units more in keeping with modern demands in design, amenity and appearance.

Housing Acts 1949-1964
Improvement Grants

During the year a further 20 applications for grant aid were received and dealt with.

Details of applications for Discretionary Grant are as follows:-

| | <u>1949-60</u> | <u>1961</u> | <u>1962</u> | <u>1963</u> | <u>1964</u> | <u>1965</u> | <u>1966</u> | <u>1967</u> | <u>1968</u> |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Submitted | 35 | - | 1 | 2 | 9 | - | - | 4 | 1 |
| Granted | 35 | - | - | 2 | 9 | - | - | 4 | 1 |
| Refused | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Withdrawn | 1 | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| Schemes Completed | 25 | 5 | - | - | 5 | 3 | 2 | - | 4 |

There were no schemes outstanding at the end of 1968.

Details of applications received for Standard Grants since their inception in 1959 are as follows:-

| | <u>1959-60</u> | <u>1961</u> | <u>1962</u> | <u>1963</u> | <u>1964</u> | <u>1965</u> | <u>1966</u> | <u>1967</u> | <u>1968</u> |
|------------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Submitted | 18 | 22 | 11 | 6 | 17 | 25 | 19 | 10 | 19 |
| Granted | 18 | 22 | 11 | 6 | 17 | 25 | 19 | 10 | 19 |
| Withdrawn | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 5 |
| Schemes completed | 11 | 13 | 21 | 9 | 7 | 18 | 13 | 19 | 9 |
| Outstanding at 31 Dec. | 12 | 15 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 16 | 22 | 12 | 17 |

Compulsory Improvements: Housing Act 1964

Improvement of one small area of four houses, declared an improvement area in 1967, was delayed for a number of reasons but was proceeding at the end of 1968. With the case of one other house for which compulsory improvement procedur

was adopted, the death of the owner prevented early commencement of the work and negotiations were in hand with the executors of the estate at the end of the year. In response to combined demands by a number of tenants of several houses in one ownership, the owner has voluntarily agreed to carry out improvements within a specified period but has been granted a deferment in order that the expected better terms of the proposed Housing Act 1968-69 may be available for this considerable scheme. For the purpose of the new Act, a survey to establish the number of dwellings capable of being improved under it has been put in hand.

Rent Act 1957: Certificates of Disrepair

Advice was given to a number of tenants and landlords, but no applications for certificates were received.

Housing Act 1961: Houses in Multiple Occupation

No action in this respect was required during the year. The district is almost devoid of houses in multiple occupation.

The following table summarises action taken in connection with the inspection of dwellinghouses during the year:-

Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year:-

| | | |
|-----|--|----|
| (a) | Total number inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 59 |
| (b) | Number found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 6 |
| (c) | Number (exclusive of those referred to under sub-heading (b)) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. | 38 |

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice:-

| | | |
|-----|---|----|
| (a) | Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority (or its Officers) | 29 |
| (b) | Number of other defective conditions remedied after informal action by Local Authority (or its Officers) | 39 |

Action under Statutory Powers - Housing Acts 1936-64

Public Health Acts 1936-61:

| | | |
|-----|---|---|
| (a) | Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | 4 |
| (b) | Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notice | 4 |

WATER SUPPLY

The supply position remains as in previous years, the Council supplementing its own Bradwell Spring source by water purchased from the South Essex Water Company, whose trunk main from Abberton skirts the Urban District. Following the Spens Report, it was proposed that the Council's undertaking should be included in a scheme of integration of Central and South Essex water supplies and transferred for this purpose to the South Essex Waterworks Company. This proposal, which has been in abeyance for some time, was reviewed towards the end of 1968 and it is likely that measures to implement it will be adopted during 1969.

The quality of both supplies is consistently satisfactory, as shown by frequent analysis. Increasing demand and town development requirements have led to slight difficulty with lack of pressure in parts of the area and are to be met by the provision of a new large capacity high level reservoir.

A summary of sample reports is given below:-

| | <u>Satisfactory</u> | <u>Unsatisfactory</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| <u>Mains Water</u> | | | |
| Chemical | 17 | - | 17 |
| Bacteriological | 32 | 1 | 33 |
| <u>Other Supplies</u> | | | |
| Chemical | 1 | - | 1 |
| Bacteriological | 13 | 4 | 17 |

The unsatisfactory mains water supply sample was taken from a micro-strainer at a local factory. The other unsatisfactory reports were in respect of private supplies at out-lying properties, drawn from shallow sources. None of them are polluted supplies but by their nature subject to minor contamination risk. Added protection is given by use of domestic chlorination and/or filtration apparatus.

Typical reports of the chemical water analyses of the mains supplies are given below:-

Bradwell Springs Supply (1.10.68)

"This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals. The water is very hard in character but it contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality and is also of satisfactory bacterial purity. These results indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes."

Mixed Public Supply (1.10.68)

"This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction

on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from a minute trace of copper. The water is very hard in character but contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. It is of satisfactory organic quality and bacterial purity. These results indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic uses."

The fluoride content of the mains supplies falls far below the recommended level of 1.0 p.p.m., the maximum concentrations having been found to be 0.3 p.p.m. in the South Essex supply and 0.1 p.p.m. in the Bradwell water.

House Connections, etc.

| | |
|---|-------|
| Number of separate dwellings in the Urban District | 4379 |
| Number of separate dwellings having internal piped mains supply .. | 4359 |
| Estimated population so served | 12686 |
| Number of separate dwellings connected to main during the year ... | 256 |
| Number of separate dwellings having internal piped supply other than mains | 20 |
| Estimated population so served | 64 |

The following extensions to the Council's mains were made during the year:-

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| 3" | 3429 yards |
| 4" | 65 yards |
| 6" | 227 yards |
| 9" | 1766 yards |

All new mains are super-chlorinated by the Council's staff before being brought into use.

Water Consumption and future requirements

The Council's Engineer and Surveyor has given the following figures of the total water supplied from the Council's mains during the year:-

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. Bradwell Springs:- | |
| (a) To Silver End | 38,673,000 gallons |
| (b) To remainder of Urban District | 78,699,000 gallons |
| 2. South Essex Water Company | 182,895,000 gallons |
| 3. ex Braintree R.D.C. main (Bradwell) | Nil |
| 4. Any other supply | Nil |
| | <hr/> |
| | 300,267,000 gallons |
| | <hr/> <hr/> |

Average consumption per head per day:-

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Domestic demand | 36.95 gallons |
| Trade demand | 28.90 gallons |
| Total consumption per head per day | 65.85 gallons |

The rise of 0.7% in total consumption per head per day represented by these figures is dissimilar from previous trends in that it results from a decrease of 1.58 gallons per head in domestic demand offset by an increase of 2.05 gallons per head for trade demand. It is of course to be expected that the steady increase in domestic demand noted since the war will flatten out as the area becomes predominately modern in residential development but it is unlikely that a uniformly static demand will ever be reached while resources are available.

One factor which can temporarily affect demand is variation in mains pressure, and in the higher parts of the district it has been experienced on occasions during periods of peak demand on the available storage. The Council has therefore decided to supplement its 200,000 gallon water tower by the installation of a high level 2,000,000 gallon reservoir, fed from the South Essex Abberton trunk main, linked by a new high pressure gravity main into the town. It is hoped that this project will be put in hand during 1969.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

A further 258 properties were connected to the Council's sewers during the year. Drainage facilities in use in the Urban District at 31st December 1968 were as follows:-

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Houses connected to main sewer systems | 4281 |
| Houses drained to septic tanks, cesspools, etc. | 95 |
| Houses drained to ditches | 3 |
| Houses without drainage | - |
| | <u>4379</u> |

Sewer Systems

There are four trunk sewer systems in the Urban District, the town being served by one high and two low level systems and the fourth serving the industrial estate and north-eastern development area. The second low level system is new, completed in 1967 to serve the major part of the town development housing on the west and north-west of the town and also to relieve the overloaded existing low level outfall sewer. This came into operation during the latter part of 1968 in conjunction with the extension of the sewage disposal works. All four sewer systems gravitate to their respective outfalls at these works, but the majority of the sewage then has to be lifted to the head works of the treatment plant. Excessive infiltration and storm flow difficulties in the old low level system have been lessened by the new scheme but still tend to

cause temporary overload in very wet weather. The operation of the new treatment plant will enable proper assessment of the amount by which such abnormal flows exceed design capacity.

One further major sewerage scheme was approved by the Council during the year, that of linking the community of Silver End and the intervening development at Rivenhall Oak with the Witham sewage works for the two-fold purpose of serving further development in these areas and enabling the elimination of the overloaded Silver End sewage works. Provision is to be made in the phasing of the Witham sewage works extensions to cope with this additional flow and it is expected that work on the sewer will commence during 1969.

The following extensions to the Council's sewers were made during the year:-

Foul Sewers:

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| 6" | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3969 yds. |
| 9" | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 563 yds. |
| 12" | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 157 yds. |

Surface Water Sewers:

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| 6" | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2188 yds. |
| 7" | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 121 yds. |
| 9" | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1421 yds. |
| 12" | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 717 yds. |
| 15" | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 408 yds. |
| 18" | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 574 yds. |
| 21" | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 76 yds. |
| 24" | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 104 yds. |
| 30" | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 300 yds. |

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

There are four sewage disposal plants in the Urban District, three of which are owned and operated by the Council. That at Silver End, as described above, is due to go out of existence on completion of the new sewer scheme. The fourth plant, originally serving an aerodrome and H.M. Forces camp, is now owned and operated privately for part of the year only to deal with the waste effluent from a large pea vining plant.

WITHAM SEWAGE WORKS

A scheme, costing some £380,000. for the extension of this plant to cope with the existing and rapidly increasing sewage output of the developing town, was commenced in 1966. Due for completion by October 1968, weather and the difficulty of co-ordinating the large number of contracts involved caused

considerable delays and it is not expected that the extensions will be fully operative before mid-1969. However the first part of the scheme came into effect during the fourth quarter of 1968 and by the end of the year some experience had been gained in operating the new and largely mechanised plant. The scheme provides for a dry weather flow of 1.0 m.g.d. and combines the first two stages of a phased extension plan designed to serve the intended town population of about 25,000 with a dry weather flow of 2.3 m.g.d. It includes mechanical removal of detritus, comminuting of sewage solids, scraped radial flow settling tanks, standard type aerating filter beds, and radial flow humus tanks. Flow control of both sewage sludge and recirculated effluent is mainly power operated from the control building. Sludge, after consolidation and treatment with lime and ferrous sulphate is mechanically dewatered by vacuum filtration.

The maintenance of satisfactory sewage treatment in the existing overloaded plant during the course of this contract has not been an easy matter but with the aid of the effluent polishing lagoons previously described, a generally satisfactory standard has been achieved. The use of part of the new plant towards the end of the year eased the problem and tests on the effluent from the new filter beds indicated that normal biological activity was being generated.

The continuing problem during this year was sludge disposal. As previously reported the existing plant's sludge drying capacity had had to be supplemented by large areas of earth lagoons for some years past with resulting offence to the neighbouring residential and industrial areas. This system had to be maintained and extended during the year, and though from early in 1969 onward sludge disposal will be by means of the new dewatering plant it may be well into the summer before the accumulated sludge in these lagoons is sufficiently dry for them to be done away with. A small battery of properly constructed under drained drying beds is being retained (temporarily it is hoped) for use in case of emergency breakdown of the dewatering apparatus. If as is hoped their use proves unnecessary they will be eliminated during the next phase of works extension.

SILVER END SEWAGE WORKS

This plant, also previously described and considerably overloaded, began to produce less than satisfactory effluents. At the same time considerable residential development in the Silver End area was being held up for lack of sewage disposal capacity. As the Council had decided to transfer the treatment of Silver End sewage to the Witham works by the trunk sewer scheme described above, it was necessary during the year to improve the operation of the existing works until such time as the new sewer became effective. For this purpose a series of effluent polishing lagoons, each of one day's theoretical retention has been put in, with excellent results. In addition to regaining a satisfactory standard of effluent quality it was found possible by these means to release some part of the development previously restricted.

RIVENHALL SEWAGE WORKS

This is a small plant serving the village area of Rivenhall Oak and Rivenhall End. The plant is operating at more than the designed capacity of 18,000 gallons per day. It occasionally shows signs that insufficient margin of capacity now remains for consistently high standards to be achieved, and requires a certain amount of improvement in the near future to restore it to full efficiency.

RIVENHALL CAMP SEWAGE WORKS

As stated above, this plant is now used for treatment of pea vining waste, and as the season for this is very short, it is out of use for the major part of the year. Prior to the commencement of the pea vining the plant is 'seeded' with sewage and sludge from the U.D.C. sewage works, to produce the biological conditions necessary to break down the very strong waste which is produced in the vining process.

SAMPLING OF SEWAGE EFFLUENT

| | <u>Satisfactory</u> | <u>Unsatisfactory</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Witham Sewage Works | 33 | 10 | 43 |
| Silver End Sewage Works | 25 | 7 | 32 |
| Rivenhall Sewage Works | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| | <u>61</u> | <u>20</u> | <u>81</u> |

DRAINAGE OF TRADE PREMISES

Close control of the large quantities of industrial effluent discharged to sewer has been maintained continuously since 1949. In the majority of cases, following estimation of rates and strength of flow and agreement as to means of pre-treatment the discharges are measured by recording instruments installed by the Council. These indicate the extent to which such discharges comply with the quantitative terms of the Council's agreements with the various companies, whilst periodic sampling for chemical analysis checks the observance of the qualitative conditions. A number of such agreements, in the terms allowed by the Public Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act 1937, as extended by the Public Health Act 1961, have been made with the companies concerned. The majority are due for review during 1969 with re-assessment of charges and constituent strength in the light of the up-to-date costs and disposal capacity of the sewage works.

The types of trade effluents being discharged to the Council's sewers are as follows:-

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Metal Processing: Various: | 3 main discharges |
| Dairy wastes: | 2 discharges |
| Poultry Packing: | 1 discharge |
| Fruit Pulping and concentrate: | 1 discharge |
| Maltings: | 1 discharge |
| Etching and Engraving: | 1 discharge |
| Electronics Engineering: | 2 discharges |
| Farm wastes: | 2 discharges |

23 samples of trade waste were submitted for laboratory analysis for routine trade waste examination or as spot samples for special examination.

An ancillary service provided by the Council to assist those industries which in pre-treatment of trade effluents produce large quantities of sludge, is a tanker disposal service for this material. This has operated for some 18 years and during 1968 about 40,000 gallons of various industrial sludges were removed each week from local factories and disposed of at the Council's refuse tip. The cost is, of course, borne by the industries concerned.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Street sweeping, road gritting and other highway cleansing services are maintained respectively by the Essex County Council Highways Department and Council's Works Department on the county and district roads.

The remaining services, refuse collection and disposal, salvage recovery, cesspool and gulley emptying and sewer flushing are administered by the Council's Public Health Department.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Collection

The weekly collection of house refuse from all parts of the Urban District was maintained during the year. The incentive bonus scheme, started in March 1965 to overcome difficulty in obtaining labour for this service, continued successfully in its double object of attracting and keeping an adequate labour force, and coping with the additional collection work. A considerable increase in the number of premises to be served has been absorbed without appreciable increase in collection staff. The average weekly bonus per man has amounted to about £5.0s.0d. Adjustment is made as and when collection work becomes too great for the present staff and an additional man has to be allocated to some part of the collection round, but this is a gradual process, and the bonus figure is not unduly diminished by it.

The paper sack system was further extended during 1968, by the end of which time 700 new houses were being serviced with this system. No conversions from bin collection have yet taken place, nor are they envisaged until the sack system has been applied to a large proportion of the new development now under

construction. The experience to date indicates that the system fulfils the claims made for it in the matters of hygiene and ease of removal. A small trial with the use of both plastic and paper sacks as bin liners was in operation at the end of the year, indications being that paper sacks were preferable for this system and that it requires a standard type of tapered bin to be successful.

Some householders have found one paper sack, even of the larger $3\frac{1}{4}$ cubic feet capacity, inadequate to hold a week's refuse. The increasing bulk of house refuse has also been noted in those areas served with dustbins. This is particularly true of new estates on which facilities for burning refuse are not available. There seems no doubt that future households are going to produce a greater bulk of refuse than the standard dustbin can contain, and this is a further argument in favour of the paper sack system.

The collection fleet now comprises two rear loading machines, one with bulk container lift attachment, a small side loading vehicle, with a fore-and-aft rear loader in reserve. The use of $1\frac{1}{2}$ cubic yard bulk containers at supermarkets and factories made possible by the use of the container lift vehicle has considerably eased the problem of refuse removal from these premises and has proved popular with the firms concerned. It is hoped to extend the service to all large premises in the district, including schools.

Disposal

Controlled tipping was maintained on the Council's marshland site adjoining the sewage works and within the confluence of the rivers Blackwater and Brain. In this area since 1949 some 25 acres of marshland owned by the Council have been used for refuse tipping purposes but very little of this space now remains available. Town development to the ultimate population proposed, however, will require additional disposal facilities. Consideration is being given to the possibility of a refuse separation and pulverising plant linked to the new sewage works, in which sewage sludge and pulverised refuse can be combined in an innocuous form for unrestricted tipping and land reclamation. At the same time it would be possible to compost part of the plant's output, should a sufficient demand prove to exist.

At present the levelling and covering of the tipped refuse is effected by means of a 1 cubic yard mechanical shovel, which is also used for excavation and covering work elsewhere.

SALVAGE

The following table shows slight increases over 1967-68 in both tonnage and income.

Salvage is collected mainly on the normal refuse collection rounds, except for one special round serving the town shops. There is no doubt that additional material could be obtained by extended collection methods and it is hoped to be able to achieve some increase during 1969. From the point of view of refuse disposal, considerable saving of valuable tip space would result from a lower proportion of paper and fibreboard in the tipped refuse.

The following figures indicate the various categories of salvage collected and sold during the past two financial years:-

| | 1967-68 | | | | 1968-69 | | | |
|-------------------|------------|-----------|----------|--------------------|------------|----------|----------|--------------------|
| | Weight | | | Value | Weight | | | Value |
| | Tons | Cwts | Qrs | £. s. d. | Tons | Cwts | Qrs | £. s. d. |
| Waste Paper | 226 | 8 | 1 | 1996.18. 3. | 230 | 7 | 3 | 2124.14. 9. |
| Rags | 4 | 18 | 3½ | 74. 2. 9. | 4 | 19 | 1½ | 64. 6. 3. |
| Sacking | | 5 | 3 | 4. 6. 4. | | 3 | 1½ | 2. 5. 9. |
| Scrap Iron | 2 | 10 | 1 | 17. 4. 9. | 1 | 12 | 3 | 9.18. 0. |
| Non-Ferrous Metal | | 16 | 1½ | 91. 6.10. | | 6 | 0 | 44. 0. 8. |
| TOTALS | 234 | 19 | 2 | 2183.18.11. | 237 | 9 | 1 | 2245. 5. 5. |

During the year 1968-69 a bonus amounting to £224.10s.7d. was paid to the salvage staff.

DERELICT VEHICLES

The collection and disposal service for abandoned vehicles, commenced in 1965, dealt with 13 derelicts during the year. The vehicles are dismantled at the refuse tip before being removed as scrap by a local dealer. Charges are made to owners, when known, for removal and disposal, but residents of the Urban District are offered free disposal facilities for vehicles brought to the Council's tip. The local taxation authority is notified of the registration numbers of all vehicles disposed of in this way.

CIVIC AMENITIES ACT 1967

In furtherance of the new duties imposed by the Act, and following the recommendations of the Ministry of Housing Working Party Report on Refuse Collection, some progress was made during the year towards setting up a free collection service for bulky house refuse. Because of the pressure imposed on staff and available transport by town development, it was not possible to organise this on a regular routine basis, but the service was available to any domestic occupier on request. It is hoped to extend it to a scheduled service,

four to six times annually, commencing in 1969. The question of providing tipping places for local residents was not resolved, though it was becoming apparent that facilities were needed in some parts of the area particularly on new estates, in one or two of which residents have formed dumps for garden and other refuse. These are cleared periodically by the Council's staff but this is obviously an unsatisfactory solution to the problem and further consideration by the Council is intended.

Meanwhile tipping facilities are available during normal working hours at both the Council's refuse depot in Maldon Road and the Crittall Company's disposal pit in Temple Lane. The deposit of accumulated refuse in hedge-rows and similar places around the district occurred in a few instances during the year but fortunately this practice was not widespread.

CESSPOOL, GULLEY EMPTYING AND SEWER FLUSHING

The following work was performed by the Council's cesspool emptying vehicles during the year:-

| | <u>Cesspools</u> | <u>Loads</u> |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Domestic emptyings (free service) | 128 | 141 |
| Rechargeable work | 374 | 719 |
| Trade Waste removal | | 1580 |

These figures show a marked drop in trade waste removal since 1967. Rechargeable work remained at the same level but free service cesspool emptying also decreased. To some extent these differences were due during the last quarter of the year to the fact that only one tanker vehicle instead of two was available for this work and it therefore had to be kept to a minimum. At the same time pressure was being maintained on all firms concerned to improve their processes with a view to reducing the amount of industrial sludge requiring disposal, because of the increasing difficulty in providing adequate disposal facilities.

In addition to the above removal work the tanker vehicles carry out the cleansing of all district road gullies three times annually and also perform periodic sewer flushing. Several times during the year assistance has been rendered to a neighbouring rural authority when in difficulty with sludge removal from small sewage plants, and this service will be extended during 1969 when the sludge dewatering plant at the Witham sewage works is available. In the same way sludge from the Council's own small sewage works at Silver End and Rivenhall will be brought to Witham for dewatering and disposal.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

A total of 2,905 visits and inspections were made during the year by the Department's Officers, as follows:-

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Housing and Public Health Acts: (Dwelling houses) | Demolition or Closure | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 40 |
| | Reconditioning and Repair | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 159 |
| | Improvement Grants | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 117 |
| | Overcrowding, Council house applications | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21 |
| | Nuisance conditions | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 88 |
| | Caravans, Moveable dwellings | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27 |
| | Multiple occupation | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| Other Public Health Act Matters: | Drainage and Sewerage | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 134 |
| | Noxious fumes, effluvia | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 45 |
| | Offensive accumulations | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| | Keeping of animals | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Food and Drugs Acts: | Food preparation premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 66 |
| | Restaurants and Cafes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 28 |
| | Licensed Premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21 |
| | Other food shops | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 63 |
| | Milk and Dairies | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| | Ice Cream Vendors | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 33 |
| | Food Stalls and Vehicles | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18 |
| | Poultry Packing premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 276 |
| | Food Samples examined: Ice Cream | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17 |
| | Other Foods | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 56 |
| Water Supply: | Inspection and investigation | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27 |
| | Samples examined: Chemical | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18 |
| | Bacteriological | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 50 |
| | Surface water, rivers and streams | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13 |
| Sewage Disposal: | Sewage disposal plants | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 147 |
| | Cesspools, septic tanks, pail closets | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22 |
| | Drainage of Trade Premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 301 |
| | Samples examined: Sewage/effluent/trade waste | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 104 |
| Refuse Collection and Disposal: | Complaints, visits, surveys, etc. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 145 |
| | Vehicle repair and maintenance | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16 |
| | Salvage | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 35 |
| | Refuse tips and pits | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19 |
| | Derelict vehicles, Scrap Metal Dealers | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 48 |
| Clean Air Act: | Visits and inspections | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 44 |
| | Plans submitted, chimney heights assessed | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 |
| Offices, Shops and Railway Premises: | Visits | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22 |
| | Surveys | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 63 |
| Miscellaneous: | Factories and Workshops | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 98 |
| | Control of Damage by Pests | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 54 |
| | Pet Animals | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| | Noise Abatement | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24 |
| | Schools | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17 |
| | Infectious Disease Prevention | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 31 |
| | Miscellaneous | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 69 |
| | Interviews | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 278 |

Nuisances, etc. on Books, with Number of Notices Served
Public Health Acts only

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Number of Notices outstanding, 31st December 1967 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| Number of Intimation Notices served during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | 69 |
| Number of Statutory Notices served during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Number of Notices complied with during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | 72 |
| Number of Notices outstanding on books, 31st December 1968 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |

The following lists classifies the nuisances and defects dealt with:-

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Dampness, rising and penetrative | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24 |
| Defective brickwork, rendering and pointing, etc. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17 |
| Defective roofs, parapets, gutters, R.W.Ps. etc. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 31 |
| Defective ceilings and walls | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Defective doors, windows and floors | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 29 |
| Defective cooking ranges, firegrates and flues | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Defective W.C. structures | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Drainage defects | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 84 |
| Inadequate means for disposal of surface water | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Defective yard surface | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Defective water service pipes, inadequate or polluted supplies | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17 |
| Absence/defective conditions of dustbins | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 28 |
| Offensive accumulations and conditions | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Offensive smells/noise/fumes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Nuisance from keeping of animals, poultry or pigeons | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Infestations: Rats and Mice | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 151 |
| Vermin and insects | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 31 |

FACTORIES ACTS 1937-1959

During the year a total of 87 visits were paid to factories, exclusive of visits to food preparation premises also classified as factories. The rapid expansion of the new industrial estates includes a great variety of light industry. Plans for new factories are examined on submission to the Council and recommendations made as to observations of statutory requirements, sanitary accommodation, working amenity, canteen and welfare facilities, and waste disposal. Conditions in these new establishments are generally very satisfactory.

A number of minor contraventions were noted and rectified during the year. A considerable amount of time was spent checking noise levels both in and around the larger factories. Public concern regarding the effect of noise nuisance on human health and comfort is increasing and this work will be continued.

A few outworkers are employed within the district.

Details of the inspections made during the year of premises in the Urban District under the Factories Acts are given in the Table below:-

FACTORIES ACTS 1937-1959

1. INSPECTION for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

| | Number on Register | Inspections | Written Notices | Occupiers Prosecuted |
|---|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities | 1 | 4 | Nil | Nil |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority | 74 | 81 | 5 | Nil |
| (iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers) | 14 | 13 | 3 | Nil |
| | 89 | 98 | 8 | Nil |

2. CASES in which DEFECTS were found:

| | Number of cases in which defects were found | | | | Number of cases in which prosecutions instituted |
|--|---|----------|----------------------------|----|--|
| | Found | Remedied | Referred to H.M. Inspector | by | |
| Want of Cleanliness (S.1) | 2 | 2 | - | 1 | - |
| Overcrowding (S.2) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Unreasonable Temperature (S.3) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4) | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| Sanitary conveniences (S.7) | | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient | 3 | 3 | - | 1 | - |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers) | - | - | - | - | - |
| TOTALS | 8 | 8 | - | 2 | - |

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

For many years the Council has maintained a small caravan site with space for 12 trailer caravans, equipped with the basic amenities of hard standing, water supply, W.C. accommodation, drying ground and waste disposal facilities. Electricity supply is available to each occupier. Consideration has been given to the replacement of this site by a larger modern one, and the Council has therefore decided that the present site should be run-down with a view towards elimination within one to two years. In view of the increasing use of caravans for living accommodation and the continued pressure on available housing accommodation an obvious need remains for this social amenity. As caravan sites have become a permanent feature in almost every district it is probably preferable for the local authority to own and operate at least one such site on established standards of layout, amenity and rental levels.

Two small private sites within the district are occupied by members of the Showman's Guild during the permitted winter months and standards here are satisfactory. A number of individual trailer caravans have been sited in the district for varying periods by personnel attached to building and civil engineering contractors carrying out development schemes. In addition, a number of caravan dwellers station their vans on local farms for varying periods during the cropping season, carrying out casual work for the farmers. Gypsy travellers also pass through the district during the summer months.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

All the premises previously registered under the Act have been inspected. Additional new registrations have brought the total at December 1968 to the figure of 131. Follow-up visits and surveys were conducted at 63 of these premises. 7 contraventions of various requirements of the Act were rectified without necessity for formal action.

During the year six accidents were reported. None of these were of a major kind and preventive measures were recommended to the managements in each case. It is still doubtful whether the Council is notified of all accidents which occur, as the law requires, but there is an improvement in this respect.

SHOPS ACTS

With the repeal of the sanitary and welfare provisions of the Shops Act 1950 on their replacement by the wider provisions of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, no duties remain to the District Council under this legislation. The Essex County Council continue to operate the unrepealed provisions of the Act as the Shops Act authority for this area. They are, of course, also responsible for enforcement of the Hours of Closing Orders and the requirements for the employment of young persons.

RODENT AND OTHER PEST CONTROL

The Witham Council is a full member of the Braintree, Halstead and Witham Joint Rodent Control Committee. The Committee's operatives undertake all disinfestation work in the district, including disinfestation of agricultural holdings under annual contract.

The number of such contracts for 1968 was 17, four more than in 1967. The free domestic treatment service remains unaltered, and has been extended to include wasps and other insect pests.

Details of the year's work are as follows:-

| | <u>Non-Agricultural</u> | <u>Agricultural</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Inspections made | 171 (200) | 17 (13) |
| Treatment visits | 257 (392) | 87 (91) |
| Infestations found: Mice | 19 (66) | - (-) |
| Rats (Major) | 6 (6) | - (-) |
| Rats (Minor) | 109 (320) | 17 (13) |

Routine test-baiting of the sewer systems was maintained.

Other Pests

The following cases of infestation were dealt with:-

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|------|
| Wasps | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | (74) |
| Bees | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 | (2) |
| Squirrels | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | (-) |
| Rabbits | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | (1) |
| Pigeons | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | (-) |
| Moles | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13 | (-) |

In each case, the figures in brackets are those for the previous year, 1967.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MEAT INSPECTION

There are no slaughterhouses within the Urban District. Checks are carried out periodically to ensure that all meat entering the area is inspected at its place of origin.

Poultry Packing

A packing station where poultry are slaughtered and prepared for food is not a slaughterhouse in the legal sense, but is controlled by the Food Hygiene

Regulations governing food preparation generally. Daily inspections are maintained by the Department at the two Witham packing stations, special scrutiny being given to birds rejected by the plant staff for abnormality. Unfit birds are wholly or partly condemned, according to the conditions found. The services of the Ministry of Health Laboratory at Chelmsford are utilised for pathological identification and differentiation of obscure conditions.

Due to the expansion of the larger business, the Company is to build a new packing station on the Council's industrial estate incorporating the most up-to-date methods of processing and packing and it is expected that this will come into operation during the latter half of 1969.

MILK AND DAIRIES

All registration and licensing of dairies and other milk premises, producers, dairymen and distributors is now the responsibility of the Essex County Council.

The following registrations were in force at the 31st December 1968:-

| | <u>Tuberculin Tested</u> | <u>Pasteurised</u> | <u>Sterilised</u> |
|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Dairies (3) | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Dealers (10) | 10 | 10 | 4 |

Seven samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination; all proved to be of satisfactory standard.

One wholesale Creamery operates within the district. Conditions are generally very satisfactory, though occasion was found during the year to refer to the Management complaints concerning dirty or chipped milk bottles. Regarding the former the dairy companies are largely at the mercy of the public, some of whom use milk bottles for all kinds of undesirable purposes before returning them, and it is only with the utmost vigilance and elaborate cleansing equipment that consistently clean bottles can be assured.

ICE CREAM

The registration of manufacturers and vendors and their premises is carried out in the Urban District under the Essex County Council Act 1933, and supervision is exercised to ensure compliance with the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947-1959. The number of registrations at 31st December 1968 was:-

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Manufacturers | Nil |
| Vendors only | 51 |
| Registered premises | 51 |

In addition, vendors registered in other areas operate within the Urban District.

Ice-Cream Sampling

Ice-Cream is sampled periodically to ascertain its standard of bacterial purity. Seventeen such samples were taken during the year, and the results were as follows:-

| Bacteriologist's Description | Ministry of Health's Provisional Grading | | | | Total |
|------------------------------|--|----|-----|----|-------|
| | I | II | III | IV | |
| Satisfactory | 14 | - | - | - | 14 |
| Passable | - | 2 | 1 | - | 3 |
| Unsatisfactory | - | - | - | - | - |
| Totals | 14 | 2 | 1 | - | 17 |

FOOD HYGIENE

The number of premises where food is manufactured, prepared, stored or retailed, is as follows:-

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Residential Hotels | 4 |
| Restaurants | 6 |
| Factory and School Canteens | 13 |
| Manufacturing Butchers | 5 |
| Fried Fish Shops | 2 |
| Retail Wet Fish Shops | 4 |
| Retail Butchers' Shops | 8 |
| Supermarkets | 4 |
| Other Retail Food Shops | 57 |
| Licensed Premises and Clubs | 21 |
| Fruit Juice Concentrates | 1 |
| Maltings | 1 |
| Poultry Packing Station | 1 |
| Poultry and Egg Producers | 1 |

A number of mobile food vans tour the area. There is no food market in Witham.

All are subject to inspection, 609 visits having been made during the year. The standard of hygiene is generally satisfactory, but in a number of cases attention was called to defects in premises and operation requiring to be rectified.

Prosecutions

A number of infringements of the various Food Hygiene Regulations were discovered during the year. In most cases these were of a minor character and were readily rectified on representation to the firms and persons responsible.

Offences under Sections 2 and 8, Food and Drugs Act 1955

Six offences were reported: three in respect of foreign bodies in food, two of mould in bread, and one of mould in sausages. In three cases circumstances were such as to warrant prosecution. Fines and costs amounting to £58.3s.0d. were imposed. Warning letters were sent to the other firms concerned.

Condemnation of Food

Considerable quantities of food are voluntarily surrendered by local traders for condemnation. The quantity thus dealt with in 1968, 17 tons 13 cwts. 1qr. 17 lbs. was much more than in 1967, as very large quantities of meat and broiler poultry had to be condemned. The Department takes possession of all such food and ensures its proper disposal at the Council's refuse tip.

Formal Sampling: Food and Drugs Act 1955 (Essex County Council)

The Chief Sampling Officer of the Food and Drugs Authority (Essex County Council) has kindly supplied the following table showing results of formal sampling in the Witham district during 1968.

| Commodity | Taken in Witham Urban District |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Apple Flakes | 1 |
| Conserve | 1 |
| Currants | 1 |
| Honey | 1 |
| Jelly | 4 |
| Nuts, Assorted | 1 |
| Sugar | 5 |
| Sultannas | 2 |
| Spread, Hazlenut | 1 |
| Sausages | 1 |
| TOTAL | 18 |

All samples were found to be satisfactory. No samples were taken from outside the Urban District from premises of Wholesalers who supply shops within Witham Urban District.

Milk Samples taken in Witham Urban District during 1968

Number of samples taken: 18 (including 9 from Schools)

Only one sample proved to be not of a satisfactory standard.

Other Food Samples (Witham Urban District Council)

The Department submitted the following samples for bacteriological examination during the year:-

| | <u>Satisfactory</u> | <u>Unsatisfactory</u> |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Sausages (all types) | 3 | - |
| Minced Meat | 12 | - |
| Sliced Meats | 18 | - |
| Flour confectionery | 2 | - |
| Milk | 7 | - |
| Prawns/Shrimps etc. | 6 | - |
| Chickens | - | 8 |

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Daily smoke and sulphur dioxide recordings are maintained and the records forwarded to the Fuel Research Station of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research for inclusion in the National Survey. No significant degree of pollution has been noted, except during short periods of foggy conditions, when the build-up of contaminating materials in the air, though not critical, indicates clearly the need to prevent any increase in their general concentration.

Industrial furnaces and boiler installations are inspected under the Clean Air Act provisions, and chimney heights for new premises assessed in accordance with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Memorandum. As from 1969 it will be the legal responsibility of anyone installing a commercial furnace to obtain the prior approval of the local authority and to observe such conditions as the authority may impose for the prevention of air pollution. It is to be hoped that these provisions will apply equally to furnaces installed in public authority and Crown properties, which have hitherto been exempt from the requirements of the Act.

Minor contraventions of the Act's requirements in respect of dark smoke were recorded and immediate action by managements followed the Department's representations. Four applications for prior approval of furnace installation were received and granted following investigation of the specification in each case. No instances of grit and dust emission from furnace installations occurred. Four proposals for new chimneys were submitted, and a height based on the Ministry's Memorandum imposed by the Council.

Since the passing of the Clean Air Act in 1956 the Council's Public Health Committee has considered on a number of occasions the question of the formation of smoke control areas within the Urban District, but has hitherto made no recommendation to the Council to this effect.

NOISE

Complaints concerning the levels of noise in the vicinity of two industrial premises were received. In each case investigations confirmed that noise levels were at times greater than was consistent with the reasonable comfort of nearby residents and negotiations were undertaken with the managements for remedial measures. These were put in hand and observations were continuing at the end of the year.

Owing to pressure of other work investigation of noise levels within factories has received little attention but it is hoped to resume investigation of this during 1969. It is also hoped to bring about a reduction in the noise created in public by contractors' machinery such as road breakers, compressors and the like.

STAFF

Details of the Department's staff at 31st December 1968 were:-

Office:

Chief Public Health Inspector, Meat and Foods Inspector
Deputy Public Health Inspector, Meat and Foods Inspector
Technical Assistant
Secretary
Shorthand-Typist
Part-time General Assistant

External:

Works Manager, Sewage and Refuse Disposal
Fitter/Relief Manager, Sewage and Refuse Disposal
Laboratory Assistant, Sewage Disposal
1 Sewage Foreman
1 Chargehand Plant Operator
3 Plant Operators
1 Sewage Works Attendant
2 Sewage Works Labourers

Chargehand Tanker Driver
Second Tanker Driver

1 Refuse Foreman
1 Refuse Depot Chargehand
3 Refuse Driver/Loaders
4 Refuse Loaders
1 Salvage Baler
1 Digger/Loader Driver (also relief Plant Operator)

1 Tractor Driver
2 Labourers/Relief Refuse Loaders
1 Part-time Labourer

The average age of the permanent outside staff is 43 years.

Industrial concerns were received. In each case industrialists were notified of the nature of the problem and the steps being taken to solve it. The fact that the industrialists were notified in advance of the problem was a great help in the solution of the problem. The fact that the industrialists were notified in advance of the problem was a great help in the solution of the problem.

INDUSTRIAL CONCERNS

The fact that the industrialists were notified in advance of the problem was a great help in the solution of the problem. The fact that the industrialists were notified in advance of the problem was a great help in the solution of the problem.

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The average age of the permanent residents is 43 years.

