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WITHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPORT OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1969

together with the

REPORT OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

BRAINTREE, DUNMOW AND WITHAM
UNITED DISTRICTS

With the Compliments
of
The Medical Officer of Health

Public Health Department
Town Hall
Braintree

Braintree
226

WITHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE 1969 - 1970

Chairman:

Councillor A. McKirdy

Members:

Councillor R.C. Bartlett
Councillor D.B. Bell (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor R.V.C. Brown (Vice-Chairman of the Council) (ex officio)
Councillor Miss H.B. English
Councillor L.J. King (Chairman of the Council) (ex officio)
Councillor Mrs. P.L. Roberts
Councillor P.R. St. Cyr

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

C.R.C. Rainsford, M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M. (to 22nd September 1969)
E.J. Vaughan, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (from 23rd September 1969)

Chief Public Health Inspector:

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

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

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

Additional Public Health Inspector:

J.Y. Anderson, C.R.S.H. (from March, 1969)

Technical Assistant:

A.G.G. Onibiyo

Clerical Assistants:

Mrs. E.J. Woolnough
Miss D.F.M. Jones

Refuse/Sewage Disposal Manager


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

Fitter/Relief Manager:

R. Coupe

Laboratory Assistant:

R. Robinson



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Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Braintree,
Essex.
CM7 6HB

October 1970

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 1969 on the health, vital statistics and sanitary circumstances of Witham Urban District.

Dr. C. Rainsford retired as Medical Officer of Health on September 22nd 1969. I wish to take this opportunity of recording the appreciation that is felt in Witham for his services towards the improved health of the community.

I should like to thank Dr. J.A. Slattery, Area Medical Officer, Mid-Essex, for providing statistics relating to work carried out at the various Essex County Council clinics in the area.

VITAL STATISTICS

The Registrar General's estimate of population is 13,080 which is an increase of 330 above last year's figure.

312 live births were recorded giving a corrected birth rate of 24.6 for Witham, which is considerably above the national average of 16.3. Throughout the world the rate of population growth is increasing and in the United Kingdom, one of the world's most densely populated areas, our population has multiplied by 7 in the past 200 years. The problems of a large population include extensive environmental contamination, both bacterial and chemical, and of having to import food when two thirds of the world's people are undernourished, and these indicate a need for wider use of birth control.

There were 3 infant deaths in 1969 and these were due to aspiration pneumonia and prematurity, to encephalocoele and to Hirschsprung's disease and enterocolitis. The still birth rate was 16 which was above the national figure of 13.

The general death rate (corrected) was 10.2 which compares favourably with the national average of 11.9. The commonest cause of death was coronary heart disease from which 16 men and 7 women died in 1969.

Cigarette smoking is the most important preventable threat to health and to life that exists today. Lung cancer kills thirteen times more smokers

than non-smokers and coronary heart disease twice as many smokers as non-smokers. Chronic bronchitis kills twelve times and emphysema fifteen times more smokers than non-smokers. Cancer of the throat and larynx causes the death of nine times and cancer of the mouth three times as many cigarette smokers as non-smokers.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND ITS PREVENTION

There were 49 cases of infectious disease notified in Witham in 1969 and the commonest cause of notification was measles. Two patients suffering from dysentery were admitted to hospital and there was one case of infective hepatitis in the area.

Forty-three persons were vaccinated against measles in 1969 and in view of the possible serious complications of this condition for children, which include ear and lung infections, it is to be hoped that measles vaccination will soon do much towards the eradication of the disease.

STAFF MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

Medical examinations of staff have continued to be carried out by your Medical Officer for reasons relating to the Superannuation Act, 1937, and other matters.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. Section 47

No action was taken during 1969.

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

This section includes food hygiene, refuse collection and disposal, water supplies, sewerage and sewage disposal, atmospheric pollution, housing, noise nuisance and rodent control. It has been expertly constructed by your Chief Public Health Inspector in his usual efficient way.

With regard to your public water supplies, the level of fluoride in the South Essex supply is only 0.3 parts per million and in Bradwell water 0.1 parts per million, which is well below the recommended level for dental health, which is 1 part per million. It is mainly during life before birth and, to some extent in infancy, that intake of enough fluoride is important in preventing dental decay in later years.

Concerning refuse disposal and plans for the future, I can only recommend in the interests of promoting health that a modern, hygienic system of mechanical refuse disposal is preferable to tipping, and I have learnt much from your Chief Public Health Inspector regarding the advantages of certain types of mechanical systems which are available.

During 1969, 758 properties were connected to the Council's sewers making a total of 5037 houses linked to the main sewer systems. The Witham Sewage Works extension scheme came into use during the year, while Silver

End Sewage Works is intended to cease functioning when the new sewer scheme is completed.

During 1969, 746 dwellings were erected in Witham.

Control of noise in our environment is important in preventing loss of hearing. During life it is normal for hearing to deteriorate slightly, but hearing loss is more marked in town dwellers than among country people who live in quieter surroundings. Excessive noise can damage cells in the ear responsible for hearing in much the same way that excessive light on the eye, caused by looking directly at the sun, can damage vision.

I am very grateful to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and support.

I wish to express my appreciation to the Chief Public Health Inspector and his staff for their efficiency and co-operation.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

ELIZABETH VAUGHAN

Medical Officer of Health

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

December 1970

To the Chairman and Members of
Witham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I beg to present the details of the work of your Public Health Department in conjunction with the report of the Medical Officer of Health, for the year 1969.

I regret that owing to staff changes and pressure of work, preparation of the report has been so unduly delayed. Because of this, much of what happened during 1969 is old history. Nevertheless, it was an eventful year in the history of the town because during these twelve months the Town Development Scheme - the largest single event ever in Witham - reached the peak of its programme, and the town in consequence increased by the largest number of new dwellings and new residents on record. The industrial build-up and that of the commercial and shop properties has followed roughly the same pattern, and there are already signs that the injection of these new streams of social life are having a marked effect upon the type of town it is. The care and guidance of the Council, the local voluntary organisations, the industrialists, the trades people and not least, the residents new and old, are needed to marry this vigour happily with the quiet and kindly character of the old Witham.

However, the development scheme is only half complete and the work of the Public Health Department during 1969, like that of other departments of the Council, was taken up largely in dealing with the various aspects of this new growth. The coming into operation of a new and complex sewage disposal plant, the absorption into the weekly collection routine of the hundreds of new dwellings becoming occupied, the inspection and control of the new shops, food premises and factories, has kept the Public Health staff at full stretch. The appointment of a third Inspector during the year enabled much additional routine work to be carried out and this will be further extended during 1970. Some difficulty was experienced in change of clerical staff and also in finding an adequate effective labour force for sewage disposal. The year was, however, on the whole a successful one, and no major public health problem arose.

Concluding, I would like to pay tribute to the two Medical Officers of Health - Dr. C.R.C. Rainsford, with whom I enjoyed working for a number of years, and Dr. E.J. Vaughan, who presents this report. I would also like to thank the Council, the Chairman of the Public Health and Housing Committee and the other Officers for their encouragement and assistance, and my own staff and workmen for their loyal support throughout the year.

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)	...	...	...	13,080
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	5,126
Rateable value	...	...	...	£822,363
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£3,500

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	299	162	137
Illegitimate	13	7	6
Total live births -	312		

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	23.9
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	...	...	4.0
Birth rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.03	...	...	24.6
Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population	...	...	16.3

STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	4	2	2
Illegitimate	1	-	1

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	16.0
Rate per 1,000 total births England and Wales	...	...	13.0
Total live and still births -	317		

INFANT DEATHS

Deaths of infants under 1 year -

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	3	2	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total infant deaths -	3		

INFANT MORTALITY

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births...	...	10.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	10.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births..	...	Nil.
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	...	6.0
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	...	6.0
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)..	...	22.0
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>	
	120	72	48	
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	9.2
Death rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.11			...	10.2
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, 1969

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.

			<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	...	...	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	3	1
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	...	...	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus...	...	...	2	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	-	4
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	...	...	2	-
Leukaemia	...	...	1	1
Other malignant neoplasms	...	...	2	2
Diabetes mellitus	...	...	1	-
Other diseases of nervous system, etc.	...	...	1	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	...	...	-	1
Hypertensive disease	...	...	2	-
Ischaemic heart disease	...	...	16	7
Other forms of heart disease	...	...	3	-
Cerebrovascular disease	...	...	9	6
Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	2	2
Influenza	...	...	-	1
Pneumonia	...	...	9	8
Bronchitis and emphysema	...	...	10	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	-	1
Other diseases of digestive system...	...	...	-	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	-	1
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	...	...	-	1
Congenital anomalies	...	...	1	1
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	...	...	1	1
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	1	-
All other accidents	...	...	2	2
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	...	...	1	-
All other external causes	...	...	-	1
Total All Causes			72	48

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:-

<u>WITHAM</u> Essex County Health Services Clinic, Guithavon Street.			<u>Attendances</u>
Child Welfare	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	10 a.m.)	2,070
	1st & 3rd Wednesdays	2 p.m.)	
School Clinic	1st & 3rd Thursdays	9 a.m.	326
Dental	Every Tuesday & Thursday	10 a.m.	1,188
		(By Appt.)	
Speech Therapy	Every Tuesday	(By Appt.)	

SILVER END Garden Village Hall.

Child Welfare	1st Friday	2 p.m.	421
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(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 DISEASE

DISEASES	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Bacillary Dysentery	3	2	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	1	-	-
Scabies	45	-	-
Streptococcal Infection	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Totals	49	2	-

DISEASES

Total
Notified

Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May June July Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec.

Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	45	-	-	-	29	15	-	1	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	49	-	-	-	31	15	-	1	-	-	2	-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE

DISEASES	At all ages	Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 19	20 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 64	65 and over	Age unknown
Diphtheria	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dysentery	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Meningitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Enteric Fever	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Food Poisoning	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Infective Hepatitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Measles	45	1	4	9	6	7	16	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Scarlet Fever	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Whooping Cough	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Totals	49	1	4	9	6	7	17	1	1	2	-	1	-	-

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

<u>Primary Courses</u>	<u>By General Practitioners</u>	<u>By County Staff</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus	100	34	134
Diphtheria and Tetanus	1	10	11
Diphtheria	-	5	5
Pertussis	-	-	-
Tetanus	2	7	9
Poliomyelitis	106	28	134
Smallpox	170	-	170
B.C.G.	-	91	91
Measles	34	9	43
<u>Reinforcing Doses</u>			
Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus	87	27	114
Diphtheria and Tetanus	63	174	237
Diphtheria	1	13	14
Pertussis	-	-	-
Tetanus	7	18	25
Poliomyelitis	129	181	310
Smallpox	4	-	4

HOUSING

The total of 746 new dwellings erected during the year was the highest ever recorded in Witham. Private enterprise built 117 in 1969 compared with 89 in 1968; the Local Authority built 627 dwellings and a housing association 12. Of those built by or for the Council, 117 were houses for sale, the remainder being town development houses for G.L.C. nominees.

This increase in the tempo of building was being maintained at the end of the year when 477 Local Authority houses and 134 private enterprise houses were under construction. The rate of house building for the Town Development Scheme has probably reached its peak.

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

By Local Authority : 1933
By Housing Association: 12
By Private Enterprise :1019

A further major housing venture was undertaken during the year by the Council, in the acquisition of 478 houses and flats at Silver End, previously owned by the Company of Crittall/Hope Limited and occupied in the main by that Company's employees. This massive housing unit comprises the larger part of the village of Silver End (which itself owes its existence in the first place to the original Crittall Manufacturing Co. Ltd.).

The number of applicants for council houses at the end of 1969 was 199 compared with 205 at the end of 1968. Lists were composed of the following categories at 31st December 1969:-

Ordinary List - 31
Old Persons' Bungalows - 34
Bungalow Exchange List - 31
Single Persons' Units - 12
Engaged Couples' List - 69
River View Hostel - 22

Proposals were in hand at the end of the year for a further small estate of Council houses and a second Warden-type Old Persons' Hostel Unit, the latter to be situated at Silver End. Other future housing projects include a combined block of Single Person and Old Age Persons' flats, and a second Warden-type Hostel Unit at Witham.

Pre-war Council Houses

No further work of improvement was carried out to pre-war council houses during the year, but the Council decided that a comprehensive survey of all such houses, including the newly-acquired Silver End ones, should be carried out in order that a planned programme of improvements can be undertaken.

Housing and Public Health Acts - Slum Clearance

Of the 63 dwellings scheduled in the 1965 programme as suitable for clearance or closure, some 57 have already been dealt with. The remaining 6 plus a further 5 are now included in a "border-line" list for early attention. At the end of 1969 there were 9 houses and parts of houses subject to closing orders and 1 subject to an undertaking not to re-let.

Housing Acts 1949-69

Improvement Grants

During the year a further 12 applications for grant aid were received and dealt with.

Details of applications for Discretionary Grant are as follows:-

	<u>1949-61</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	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Schemes Completed	30	-	-	5	3	2	-	4

There were 3 schemes outstanding at the end of 1969.

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

	<u>1959-61</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
Submitted	40	11	6	17	25	19	10	19
Granted	40	11	6	17	25	19	10	19
Withdrawn	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	5
Schemes Completed	24	21	9	7	18	13	19	9
Outstanding at 31st December	27	5	2	9	16	22	12	17

Compulsory Improvements:

Work on a small improvement area of four houses, commenced in 1968, was completed during 1969. In the case of one other house for which compulsory improvement procedure was adopted, but work was postponed due to the death of the owner, negotiation was proceeding for the scheme to be completed during 1970. In the case of a second improvement area, of six houses, which had been the subject of very prolonged negotiation, the Council agreed toward the latter part of the year to pursue a policy of acquisition and improvement.

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 following table summarises action taken in connection with the inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

(a) Total number inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	65
(b) Number found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	4
(c) Number (exclusive of those referred to under sub-heading (b)) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	42

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)	33
(b) Number of other defective conditions remedied after informal action by Local Authority (or its Officers)	27

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	5
(b) Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after service of formal notice	5

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, in abeyance for some time, was reviewed towards the end of 1968 and measures to implement it are to be adopted during 1970-71.

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, work on which was commenced towards the end of the year.

A summary of sample reports is given below:-

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
<u>Mains Water</u>		
Chemical	13	-
Bacteriological	52	1
<u>Other Supplies</u>		
Chemical	2	-
Bacteriological	13	4

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

Bradwell Springs Supply (3.12.69.)

"This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a very minute trace of iron. The water is very hard in character but contains no excess of mineral and saline constituents in solution. It is of a high standard of organic quality and bacterial purity. These results indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes".

Mixed Public Supply (3.12.69.)

"This sample is clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals. The water is very hard in character but contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. Organic impurity is very moderate corresponding to the slight colouration. The bacteriological results show a high standard. 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 in the South Essex supply and 0.1 p.p.m. in the Bradwell water.

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	111,000,000	gallons
2. South Essex Water Company	230,000,000	gallons
3. ex Braintree R.D.C. main (Bradwell)	Nil	
4. Any other supply	Nil	
	<u>340,000,000</u>	gallons

Average consumption per head per day:-

Domestic demand	...	...	...	36.73	gallons
Trade demand	...	...	...	27.01	gallons
Total consumption per head per day				63.74	gallons

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

A further 758 properties were connected to the Council's sewers during the year. Drainage facilities in use in the Urban District at 31st December 1969 were as follows:-

Houses connected to main sewer systems	...	...	5037
Houses drained to septic tanks, cesspools, etc.	...		98

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 major sewerage scheme approved by the Council in 1968 of linking Silver End & Rivenhall Oak with the Witham Sewage Works was approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the scheme is expected to start in 1970. Provision is to be made in the phasing of the Witham Sewage Works extensions to cope with the additional flow.

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 privately operated 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, and became fully operational during early 1969. 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 use of large effluent lagoons as a tertiary "polishing" process had proved so eminently successful during the long years of overload on the old works that the lagoons have been kept in being for future experimental use.

The mechanical sludge dewatering plant has undergone a number of teething troubles since its installation, but in general has operated very satisfactorily. Temporary marginal capacity in the plant is being taken up by acceptance for dewatering of tanker loads of fresh sludge from the sewage plants of a neighbouring Rural Authority, on mutually agreed terms.

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 a part of the development previously restricted. It is also proposed, with the assistance of the estate developer, to achieve a further temporary increase in the capacity of the plant by the installation of a small high-rate filtration unit using one of the recently publicised plastic media.

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 plans are in hand for converting the existing horizontal flow humus tanks into upward flow clarifiers.

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	14	6	20
Silver End Sewage Works	26	3	29
Rivenhall Sewage Works	-	4	4
	<u>40</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>53</u>

In addition, many sets of samples were submitted for analysis to check the performance of newly installed sections of the Sewage Works extensions. Frequent field tests are also carried out by the Works staff to detect and trace any major deviation from the normal character of the sewages reaching the three plants. The new Witham Works, when complete, will have full laboratory facilities.

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

18 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 19 years and during 1969 about 36,000 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 1969 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 amounted to about £5.2s.6d. 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 1969, by the end of which time 1500 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 larger 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.

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. 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.

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 was 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 could be combined in an innocuous form for unrestricted tipping and land reclamation.

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 figures indicate the various categories of salvage collected and sold during the past two financial years and shows a creditable increase over 1968-9 in tonnage and income

	1968-69				1969-70			
	Weight			Value	Weight			Value
	Tons.	Cwts.	rs.	£. s. d.	Tons.	Cwts.	rs.	£. s. d.
Waste Paper	230	7	3	2414.14 9.	271	1	2	2820.2. 11.
Rags	4	19	1½	64. 6. 3.	3	2	1½	37.8. 6.
Sacking		3	1½	2. 5. 9.	-	-	-	- - -
Scrap Iron	1	12	3	9.18. 0.	2	6	2	1319. 0.
Non-Ferrous Metal		6	0	44. 0. 8.	1	13	2½	757. 1.
TOTALS	237	9	1	2245. 5. 5.	288	4	0	2946.17. 6.

During the year 1969-70 a bonus amounting to £294.13s.9d. was paid to the salvage staff.

DERELICT VEHICLES

The collection and disposal service for abandoned vehicles, commenced in 1965, dealt with 29 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. Arrangements to extend this to a scheduled service, four to six times annually, were in hand at December 1969.

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. Nevertheless, the deposit of accumulated refuse in hedgerow and similar places around the district appears to be increasing.

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)	160	175
Rechargeable work	408	684
Trade Waste removal		1378

These figures show a further drop in trade waste removal since 1967. Rechargeable work remained at the same level but free service cesspool emptying increased. Pressure is still 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.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

A total of 3,316 visits and inspections were made during the year by the Department's Officers.

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

Number of Notices outstanding, 31st December 1968	...	...	...	11
Number of Intimation Notices served during the year	...	...	...	54
Number of Statutory Notices served during the year	...	...	...	5
Number of Notices complied with during the year				48
Number of Notices outstanding on books, 31st December 1969	...	...	...	17

FACTORIES ACTS 1937-1959

During the year a total of 109 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	3	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	76	88	2	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers)	15	18	6	Nil
	92	109	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	to H.M. Inspector	Referred by	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	-	1	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	3	3	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	1	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	8	8	-	3	-

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.

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 1969 to the figure of 148. Follow-up visits and surveys were conducted at 59 of these premises. 9 contraventions of various requirements of the Act were rectified without necessity for formal action.

During the year 4 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 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 1969 was 19, two more than in 1968. 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	148 (171)	13 (17)
Treatment visits	295 (257)	23 (87)
Infestations found: Mice	24 (19)	1 (-)
Rats (Major)	2 (6)	2 (-)
Rats (Minor)	62 (109)	3 (17)

Other Pests

The following cases of infestation were dealt with:-

Wasps	...	...	...	...	...41 (4)
Bees	...	...	...	...	... - ( 7)
Squirrels	...	...	...	...	... - ( 1)
Rabbits	...	...	...	...	... 2 (2)
Pigeons	...	...	...	...	... 3 (4)
Moles	...	...	...	...	.. 11 (13)

In each case the figures in brackets are those for the previous year, 1968

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

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.

Of the two permanent packing stations in the area, the larger was only opened in the latter part of the year to replace an earlier plant which the business had outgrown. The new factory incorporates the most up-to-date methods of processing and packing, and will also include a by-products treatment plant.

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 1969:-

	<u>Tuberculin Tested</u>	<u>Pasteurised</u>	<u>Sterilised</u>
Dairies (3)	3	3	2
Dealers (10)	10	11	5

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 1969 was:-

Manufacturers	Nil
Vendors only	53
Registered premises	53

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

Food Hygiene

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

Residential Hotels	5
Restaurants	6
Factory & School Canteens	21
Manufacturing Butchers	6
Fried Fish Shops	3
Retail Wet Fish Shops	3
Retail Butchers' Shops	9
Supermarkets	5
Other Retail Food Shops	45
Licensed Premises and Clubs	22
Fruit Juice Concentrates	1
Maltings	1
Poultry Packing Station	1
Poultry and Egg Producers	1

In addition, a number of mobile food vans tour the area and all are subject to inspection. 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.

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

Five offences were reported: one in respect of mould on sausages; one of maggot infested ox kidney; one of maggots found between slices of bacon; one of maggots found in a bacon joint, and one of mould growth on chicken croquettes.

Fines and costs amounting to £130. 0s. 0d. were imposed. Warning letters were sent to other firms concerned.

Condemnation of Food

Considerable quantities of food are voluntarily surrendered by local traders for condemnation. In 1969, 19cwt. 1 stone, 3 lbs. were inspected for this purpose and disposed of at the Council's Refuse Tip.

Food Sampling (Witham Urban District Council Public Health Department)

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

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Cooked Pigs Meat	1	-
Dried Meat	1	-
Sausages (all types)	6	-
Chickens	14	6
Fruit Salad	1	-
Sliced Meat	11	-
Sausage Meat	1	1
Synthetic Cream Bun	10	-
Meat Pie	2	-
Scotch Egg	1	-
Cole Slaw Salad	1	-
Minced Meat	4	-
Danish Pastry	1	-
Lamb Tongues	1	-
Prawns	2	-
Prawn Salad	2	-
Yoghurt	1	-
Ice Cream	4	-

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

The Chief Sampling Officer of the Food and Drugs Authority (the Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department of the Essex County Council) has kindly supplied the following table showing results of formal sampling during 1969:-

Total sampling within County Council area : 1625 samples. Of these, 22 were the subject of adverse reports, and proceedings were taken in six instances.

Commodity	Taken in Witham Urban District
Butter	2
Cheese	2
Dripping, Home made	1
Garlic Sausage	1
Lard, Refined	1
Margarine	2
Sausages	2
Shredded Beef Suet	1
Vegetable Oil	1
TOTAL	13

Milk Samples taken in Witham Urban District during 1969

Number of samples taken: 16 (includes 3 from Schools)

All samples taken in the Witham Urban District area were found to be genuine.

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 is 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. These provisions 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. Three 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.

The operation of a newly-installed barley-roasting process at a local Maltings became the subject of numerous complaints from residents concerning the "roast coffee" smells which pervade the nearby residential areas at certain times and in differing concentrations according to atmospheric and other conditions. Smells, offensive or otherwise, are not "caught" by the provisions of the Public Health Acts or Clean Air Act 1956. It is suggested that as the public is no longer tolerant of the odours and emissions which for so long have been accepted as normal characteristics of industrial development, the time may have arrived for such matters to be brought under closer control.

NOISE

Negotiations in hand at the end of 1968 for the better control of noise emitted by two industrial premises were successful in reducing noise levels considerably. Problems still remain in dealing with external loading and unloading of certain materials.

Warnings were issued in a number of cases to firms operating mechanical breakers and compressors, for failure to fit their appliances with mufflers. No legal action was necessary, however.

STAFF

Details of the Department's staff at 31st December 1969 were:-

Office:	Chief Public Health Inspector, Meat and Foods Inspector
	Deputy Public Health Inspector, Meat and Foods Inspector
	Additional Public Health Inspector
	Technical Assistant
	Clerical Assistant
	Clerk/Shorthand Typist

External:

Works Manager, Sewage and Refuse Disposal
Fitter/Relief Manager, Sewage and Refuse Disposal

- 1 Sewage Foreman
- 1 Chargehand Plant Operator
- 4 Plant Operators
- 1 Sewage Works Attendant

Chargehand Tanker Driver
Second Tanker Driver

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

- Tractor Driver (Post vacant at 31st December 1969)
- 2 Labourers/Relief Refuse Loaders
- 1 Part-time Labourer

The average age of the permanent outside staff
was 46½ years.

