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Urban District of Woodhall Spa

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

1965

WOODHALL SPA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
1965

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health

S.A. O'HAGAN, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

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

The Highways, Sewerage and Public Health Committees deal with the majority of Public Health Matters although a separate Parks and Playing Fields Committee deal with swimming baths.

Eleven members of the Council sit on all Committees.

To The Chairman and Members of
The Urban District Council of Woodhall Spa.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Farmery and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report for 1965.

This report shows that the health of the people was good and that a few more families each year come to live in Woodhall Spa. In fact, the Registrar General credits the Spa with an inward migration if it were not for the declining public transport facilities and not particularly good road communications, the Spa might well share in the over-spill from Lincoln. With the rail link reduced to a token, and the car as a necessity for almost every commuter, the drive to Lincoln in all weathers is a deterrent as potent as the lack of effective rail communication. The trend in many places is to build bungalows in place of houses and this is particularly noticeable in Woodhall Spa and may suggest an eye to retirement in pleasant surroundings.

Statistics for small numbers may be very misleading and although I record the actual numbers of births, and crude and standardized rates for births and deaths for several years, this is more to show the wide fluctuations than reliable trends.

Over the years, Woodhall Spa has emerged somewhat from its pre-occupation with Spa treatment and there is now much more attraction to healthy visitors, so that the activities of the Council and its officers resemble in a certain measure those of a seaside resort or perhaps one of the inland resorts. Yet there is a difference, for gloomy news seems to come from the inland resorts whereas the efforts of the Council have not gone entirely unrewarded.

Co-operation between the Council and the Caravan and Camping Clubs produce intangible rewards because these people get about and tell people what they have seen and liked, and the converse.

This is true of visitors generally, but members of both clubs are vocal in their magazines correspondence column, and those who write to the press are those with forceful opinions. For this reason continued good relations with both clubs may be very effective Public Relations service for the Spa.

At a time when Local Government is being reviewed it is well to look at the junctions of its elements. At present we have an Urban District Council, whose members as well as its officers are readily approachable by the public, who may either wish to complain or to seek advice.

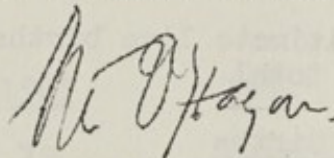
This is the unique service provided by the small authority and is an essential step in true democracy.

It would be a sad day if it were eliminated. Much breath has been expended on the future shape of local government and Lancshires boast has often proved right so that, in the long term, some form of divisional authority may be evolved. There are difficulties in such an organisation because of differing needs of various services and the full use of man-power may result in officers having to cover areas not related strictly to their district boundaries.

This situation already obtains with officers of the County Council where Welfare, Highways, and Education District Officers areas are little related. It may be difficult to obtain such an organisation that officers with related functions cover the same, or nearly the same districts. This is, however, an internal problem of re-organisation whereas the maintenance of easy direct contact with the public is quite fundamental.

In conclusion I must again thank you, Mr. Chairman, the Members and Officers for their unfailing support and friendship.

I remain,
Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS

Area of Urban District :	1874 acres
Registrar General's Mid-Year Estimate of Resident Population :	2310
Density of Population :	1.15 persons per acre
Number of Inhabited Dwellings :	688

VITAL STATISTICS

Comparability Factors	<u>Births</u>		<u>Deaths</u>	
	1.39		0.51	
<u>BIRTHS</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	
			M	F
Live Births	45	33	17	17
Rate per 1000 population	20.1	15.8	14.7	
Standardized birth rate	28.1	21.96	20.4	
(National birth rate 18.4)				
Illegitimate live births % total	4.4	0	11.8	
<u>Still Births</u>				
Rate per 100 total live and still births	0	0	0	
Total live and still births	43	33	34	
<u>Infant Deaths</u> (deaths under 1 year)	0	0	0	
<u>Infant Mortality Rates</u>				
Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births	0	0	0	
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births	0	0	0	
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births	0	0	0	

Neo-natal Mortality Rate

(deaths under four weeks per
1000 total live births)

1964

1965

0

0

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate

(deaths under one week per
1000 total live births)

0

0

Perinatal Mortality Rate

(stillbirths and deaths under
one week combined per 1000
total live and still births)

0

0

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of Deaths

0

0

Rate per 1000 total live and
still births

0

0

DEATHS

	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>
Male	19	21	19
Female	<u>35</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>20</u>
	54	34	39
	---	---	---
Deaths per 1000 population	24.1	15.0	16.5
Standardized Death Rate per 1000	14.2	7.8	8.4
National (England and Wales Death Rate) per 1000	12.2	11.3	11.5

Causes of Death as shewn in the Registrar General's
Short List

<u>No.</u>	<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Total all ages</u>	<u>Under 4 weeks to 34 years</u>	<u>35 -</u>	<u>45 -</u>	<u>55 -</u>	<u>65 -</u>	<u>75 & over</u>
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
		F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
		F	5	-	-	-	-	1	4
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
		F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	M	5	-	1	1	1	-	2
		F	2	-	-	-	-	1	1
20.	Other Heart Disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
		F	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		F	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
23.	Pneumonia	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
		F	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
24.	Bronchitis	M	4	-	-	-	1	1	2
		F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32.	Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	M	2	-	-	-	-	1	1
		F	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
	<u>TOTAL ALL CAUSES</u>	M	19	-	1	1	2	4	11
		F	20	-	-	-	-	2	18

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifications of infectious disease have been notably few.

Acute Primary Pneumonia	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0
Measles	4
All others	0

Table of Immunization and births in previous years

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Births in previous years	30	37	32	45	33
Protected against Whooping Cough	28	26	42	25	32
Tetanus	29	30	45	31	37
Diphtheria	29	26	43	28	37
Smallpox	34	73	6	14	15
Smallpox re-vaccinations	5	57	14	12	4
Diphtheria Boosters alone	15	20	21	0	0
Poliomyelitis	1	2	5	17	10

The National Health Service

Within the Spa, general practitioners services are good and extend some distance into the surrounding rural area. The nearest general hospitals in the accepted sense are twenty miles distant. None are located in districts for which I have responsibility, except the small cottage hospital at Horncastle which is of immense value to the local community, especially having regard to the large numbers of school children educated in that town. Accommodation and nursing staff to examine casualties is invaluable at the time of an accident and continuously in supporting the general practitioners in nursing care, minor and "cold" surgery.

The shortage of junior hospital doctors does not affect this type of hospital directly but the difficulty of recruiting and retaining technicians in the Lincoln hospitals restricts the number and variety of tests which a doctor feels justified in requesting. This may in turn lead to more demands for admission.

It is notable that very few births occur in Woodhall Spa and that whilst most mothers are transported to Louth Hospital by ambulance, there is no practical form of public transport for visitors.

Water Supply

There is an ample supply of piped water supplied by the East Lincolnshire Water Board and whilst one regrets the abandonment of small works, the cost of supervision and maintenance makes this inevitable.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The traditional method of dust-bins, small side-loading vehicle and controlled tipping continues to meet the need with economy, and is likely to do so for some years to come.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Infiltration of soil water is a serious problem now as it has always been and, in addition it is evident that large quantities of surface water and roof water gain access to the sewers whence it has to be pumped. If, however, it could be excluded from the sewers, it is doubtful whether without comparable expense it could be got to the river. Storm overflows in sewage systems are anathema to River Authority and Local Authority alike. In this instance the discharge occurs into a large dyke in which breakdown and aeration can occur before reaching the main river.

REPORT OF WORK DONE BY PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR DURING THE YEAR

HOUSING:

Total number of dwelling-houses and flats in district	688
Total number of houses erected during the year :-	
(1) By local authority	-
(2) By other local authorities	-
(3) By other bodies or persons	7
Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 - 1957 :-	
(1) Number of certificates of disrepair issued	-
Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :-	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	20
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	51
Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :-	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	10
(1) Proceedings under Public Health Acts	-
(2) Proceedings under Housing Acts	-
(3) Slum Clearance - proceedings under the Housing Acts :-	
(a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made (individual unfit houses only)	-
(b) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders (individual unfit houses only)	-
(c) Number of dwelling-houses, or parts, subject to Closing Orders	-
(d) Number of dwelling-houses, or parts, rendered fit by undertakings	-
(e) Number of dwelling-houses included in confirmed Clearance Orders	-
(f) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance thereof	-
(g) Total number of dwelling-houses on which Demolition Orders are operative and which are still occupied except under the provisions of Sections 34, 35 and 46 of the Housing Act, 1957	-
(h) Total number of dwelling-houses occupied under Sections 34, 35 and 46 of the Housing Acts, 1957	-

- (i) Houses demolished or closed voluntarily by owners which would otherwise have been the subject of statutory action to secure demolition or closure 1

Housing Act - Overcrowding

- (a) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year -
 (2) Number of cases concerned in such cases -
- (b) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 1
 (2) Number of families dwelling therein 1
 (3) Number of persons dwelling therein 7

Housing Acts, 1949 - 59

- Number of dwellings for which applications for grants have been received - Standard 1
 - Discretionary 0
- Number of dwellings subject to grant - Standard 1
 - Discretionary 0
- Number of houses owned by Local Authority which have been the subject of grant aid by the Ministry 0

Moveable Dwellings, Tents, Vans, etc. 0

Public Health Act, 1936

- Number of site licences 2
 Number of individual licences 1
 Total number of moveable dwellings permitted under the above licences 13
 Number of inspections during the year - sites 24
 - dwellings 3
 Number of contraventions remedied 1
 Number of sites exempt from licence -
 Number of moveable dwellings thereon -

FOOD PREMISES

Bakehouses

- Number in district 2
 Number of inspections 5
 Number of contraventions -
 Defects remedied -

Ice Cream

Number of manufacturers on register	2
Number of premises licensed for sale of ice cream	9
Number of inspections of premises made	12
Number of contraventions found	-
Contraventions remedied	-
Number of samples taken - Grade I	-
- Grade II	-

Meat Products

Number of premises registered for manufacture of meat products	1
Number of inspections made	3
Number of contraventions found	-
Contraventions remedied	-

Other Food Premises

Number of other food premises (i.e. excluding bakehouses, and premises registered for manufacture of ice cream and meat products)	27
Number of inspections made	38
Number of contraventions found	1
Contraventions remedied	1

Slaughterhouses

Number licensed - abattoir type	-
- private individual	-

UNSOUND FOOD

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or part	-
Other condemned foods	-
Method of disposal - incineration	-

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Closets

Number of houses with privy vaults in district	1
Number of houses with pail closets in district	2
Number of houses with water closets in district	681
Number of water closets substituted for pail closets or privy vaults	-
Do Council operate pail closet emptying service?	No.

Cesspools and Septic Tanks

Number of cesspools and septic tanks emptied, cleaned etc.	2
Number of cesspools and septic tanks abolished	-
Do Council operate cesspool/septic tanks emptying service?	No

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Details of areas or villages where provision has been made for new sewers or where existing sewage arrangements improved :-

Details of areas or villages where provision has been made of new sewage disposal facilities or existing arrangements improved :-

Any part of district urgently requiring public sewers and/or treatment works for public health reasons :-

WATER SUPPLIES

Domestic

Number of houses supplied from public mains	686
- in house	
- in standpipe/outside tap	1
Number of houses supplied from private sources	-
New sources of supply and location	-
Number of public supplies closed	-
Any part of district requiring public supply for public health reasons	No
Number of samples taken for chemical examination	0
Number of samples taken for bacteriological examination :-	
Satisfactory 6	Unsatisfactory 0

Swimming and Paddling Pools

	Swimming Pools	Paddling Pools
Number in operation	1	1
Number fitted with continuous mechanical filtration and chlorination	1	1
Number of samples of water taken for chemical examination	0	0
Number of samples for bacteriological examination	0	0

GENERAL

Offensive Trades

Number of premises in district 0

Knackers Yards

Number licensed 0

Shops Act, 1950

Number of shops inspected 10

Contraventions remedied 0

Disinfection and Disinfestation

Rooms or premises disinfected

(a) infectious diseases other than tuberculosis 0

(b) tuberculosis 0

Number of premises subject to disinfestation 0

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Number of premises from which refuse is collected 719

Frequency of collection 7 - 8 days

Method of disposal Controlled Tipping

Is this satisfactory? Yes

Number of tips 1

Number of vehicles 1

Is collection by Local Authority or contract? L.A.

Details of nuisance abated

	After Informal Intimation	Alter Statutory Notice
Refuse	6	-
Foul Ditches, ponds and stagnant water	14	-
Drainage	9	-
Poultry and Animals	0	-
Dangerous premises	0	-
Miscellaneous nuisances	8	-
	<u>37</u>	

Rats and Mice Destruction

Number of rodent operatives employed 1 part time

Number of premises treated

- dwellinghouses 34

- other premises 33

Are there any serious reservoirs of rats in the district? No

Service covers domestic, business and agricultural premises.

Atmospheric Pollution

Number of visits 0
Number of nuisances found 0
Number of nuisances abated 0

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part I of the Act - inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. factories in which secs. 1 - 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	3	0	0
2. factories not included in (1) in which sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	9	18	0	0
3. other premises in which sec.7 is enforced by the local authority	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	10	21	0	0

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Insp.	by H.M. Insp.	
Want of Cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	1	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	1	-	-	-

