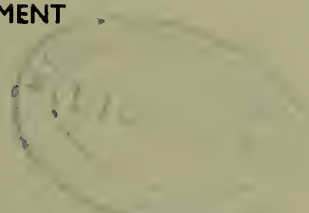


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FORMBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT



# ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

# 1955

FORMBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1955.

Chairman - Mr. Councillor J.R. Rimmer, M.B.E., J.P.

Vice Chairman - Mr. Councillor E. Duke.

Chairman of Health and Highways Committee - Mr. Councillor  
J. Dean.

Mr. Councillor W. Alderson.  
Councillor Mrs. P.H. Beeston, B.A., J.P.  
Mr. Councillor J.J.W. Hawkins.  
Mr. Councillor G. Kershaw.  
Councillor Mrs. M.A. Neep.  
Mr. Councillor R.G. Norris.  
Mr. Councillor C.J. O'Neill.  
Mr. Councillor E. Pearce.  
Mr. Councillor H.F. Phillips.

Medical Officer of Health, (Part time). -

M.G. Garry, L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.M.

Sanitary Inspector -

J. Hodge, D.C.M. (Retired August, 1955).

N. Benson, D.P.A. (L'pool).

FORMBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1st October, 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Health and Highways Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the Urban District of Formby during 1955.

The general health of the district has remained good. The number of notifications of infectious disease shows a decrease, being 93 cases compared with 276 during 1954. Cases of whooping cough notified, however, remain about the same. There were no cases of scarlet fever or diphtheria during the year. Six new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, this is less than half that of 1954.

The birth rate for the year was 15.5 per 1,000 population, compared with 16.5 in 1954. The death rate is particularly low at 9.6 per 1,000 population.

Housing conditions generally are good. A small number of old thatched cottages are still occupied; these are sub-standard and lack main drainage. It can be recorded that the number of occupied ex R.A.F. huts at Broad Lane is gradually being reduced, these are being demolished as vacated. With the commencement of the Council's building programme of 72 houses on the Royal Hotel Site, it is hoped that the Broad Lane huts and other sub-standard houses scheduled for demolition will be cleared. This should be well within the stated period of the proposals submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

The provision of main drainage to those parts of the district at present unsewered is necessary in the interests of Public Health. It is felt, however, that a step in this direction has been taken with the decision to reconstruct the sewage disposal works. The alterations will enable the tanks to treat an effluent from a population of 17,000. The new sewage works will include a pumping station to provide for the construction of a sewer at a gradient and level sufficient to drain the unsewered areas to the north and east of the district.

I have to acknowledge and thank members of the Health and Highways Committee for their continued interest in the health of the district. In thanking members of the staff for their willing assistance at all times, I would like to pay tribute to the work of Mr. J. Hodge, who retired on the 31st August, 1955, after thirty years' service as Sanitary Inspector.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

M. G. GARRY.

Area of District, L.W. Mark - 7,308 acres. H.W. Mark - 5,613 acres.

Population (Registrar General's estimate, mid 1955) - 11,170.

Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1955. - 2,918.

Rateable Value - £92,248.

Sum represented by a penny rate - £364.

Summary of Vital Statistics -

	1955.	1954.
Births -		
Live Births - 75 male, 67 female	142	135
Live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population - Crude	12.7	13.5
Adjusted	15.5	16.5
Comparability factor for births	1.22	1.22
Stillbirths	2	1
Rate per 1,000 total births	14	7
Deaths - 49 male, 65 female	114	114
Death rate per 1,000 of estimated population - Crude	10.2	11.4
Adjusted	9.6	10.7
Comparability factor for deaths	.94	.94
Infant Mortality -		
Deaths of infants under 1 year	2	4
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	14	30
Maternal mortality -		
Maternal deaths	Nil.	Nil.

Causes of Death in the Formby Urban District during 1955.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
1. Tuberculosis of the respiratory system.	1	1	2
2. Other forms of tuberculosis.	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease.	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria.	-	-	-
5. Whooping cough.	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections.	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis.	-	-	-
8. Measles.	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.	-	-	-

	Male.	Female.	Total.
10. Cancer of the stomach.	2	4	6
11. Cancer of the lungs.	2	-	2
12. Cancer of the breast.	-	4	4
13. Cancer of the uterus.	-	-	-
14. Cancer of other sites.	3	9	12
15. Leukaemia.	-	-	-
16. Diabetes.	-	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system.	6	15	21
18. Heart disease.	12	10	22
19. Hypertension with heart disease.	1	1	2
20. Other heart disease.	3	9	12
21. Other circulatory disease.	2	1	3
22. Influenza.	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia.	3	1	4
24. Bronchitis.	4	3	7
25. Other respiratory diseases.	1	-	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	-	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	1	-	1
28. Nephritis.	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.	1	-	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations.	1	1	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	5	3	8
33. Motor vehicle accidents.	-	-	-
34. All other accidents.	-	2	2
35. Suicide.	1	-	1
36. Homicide.	1	-	-
Total	49	65	114

### General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

#### Hospitals.

There are no hospitals within the Urban District. The Liverpool Regional Hospital Board is responsible for the hospital service within Health Division No. 7, of which Formby forms part. Patients are moved to any of the hospitals in the area, i.e., Liverpool, Southport or Ormskirk.

#### Infectious Disease.

Cases of infectious disease, when necessary, are admitted to the City Hospital, Fazackerley, or to New Hall Hospital, Scarisbrick.

### Tuberculosis.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the diagnosis and treatment of Tuberculosis is undertaken by the Regional Hospital Board. The Local Health Authorities have important duties in relation to prevention, supervision of contacts and after care.

### Ambulance Facilities.

The ambulance service, a 24 hour service, is provided by the Lancashire County Council. Stations within the division are at Formby, Crosby, Maghull and Ormskirk.

### Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The Child Welfare and Minor Ailments Clinic is provided by the County and held at "Roselands," Cross Green, every Tuesday. Immunisation is carried out every fourth Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

### Midwifery Service.

There are two midwives living in the district and employed by the Lancashire County Council.

### Home Nursing Service.

The services of a district nurse are available to attend to the sick in their own homes. This service is arranged by a note from the family doctor or hospital. There are two district nurses resident in the area.

### Nursing Equipment.

Persons being nursed at home and who are in need of nursing equipment, may obtain this on loan, by application to the Divisional Health Office, or the district nurse attending the case.

### Care of the Aged.

The County Council provides accommodation, either in their own Institutions, or in suitable voluntary homes.

### Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological specimens and samples of food or water for examination are sent to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Liverpool.

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

During the year 93 cases of infectious disease were notified, these are shown in the tables below, in age groups.

	Total Cases.	Age Periods - Years.								Deaths.	
		Under 1	1	3	5	10	15	25	45		65 & Over.
Measles	23	1	6	5	8	3					
Whooping Cough	53	4	13	18	14	2		1	1		
Pneumonia	6		1			1		2	2		
Erysipelas	2							1	1		
Food Poisoning	2							2			
Tuberculosis	6							4	1	1	1
Non-Respiratory T.B.	1					1					
	93	5	20	23	22	7	-	10	5	1	1

Disinfection.

When required, disinfection of bedding, clothing and books is carried out in a Sparkhall Disinfector of 80 cubic feet capacity at the Council's Depot. The method of disinfection used in this apparatus is the vapourisation of a fluid claimed by the makers to have a far greater Rideal-Walker co-efficiency value than formalin. The chamber is later cleared of the gas by air extractor fan.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Water Supply - Water is supplied to the district by the Southport and District Water Board, and is obtained from deep wells sunk in the new red sandstone formation. The mains supplying Formby vary in size from 3" to 14" internal diameter. The water supplied, although hard in character, is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity. Total consumption during the year was approximately 150 million gallons.



Analyst's Report on a sample of water taken in the district.

Chemical Results in Parts per Million.

Appearance - Clear and bright.

Colour - Nil.

Turbidity - Nil.

Odour - Nil.

Free Carbon Dioxide - 22

pH - 7.2

Total Solids - 415

Electric Conductivity - 615 Alkalinity as calcium carbonate - 245

Chlorine present as

Chloride - 28

Carbonate 245

Total hardness - 330

Non-carbonates - 85.

Nitrate nitrogen - 0.0

Nitrite Nitrogen - absent.

Ammoniacal Nitrogen - 0.0

Oxygen Absorbed - 0.40

Albuminoid Nitrogen - 0.0

Residual Chlorine - absent.

Metals - Absent.

Bacteriological Results.

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at
			20°C.
	0 per ml.	0 per ml.	0 per ml.
	Present in.	Absent from.	Probable number.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction	- ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact-coli (type 1)	- ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
cl. Welchii Reaction	- ml.	100 ml.	

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking.

Other Water Supplies.

There are eighteen houses still without water supply from the public mains. These are in the outlying parts of the district. Samples of well water are taken periodically, two of these were found to be unsatisfactory and the users were advised on the necessary precautions to be taken to prevent danger to health.

Ditches and Watercourses

The main watercourses receiving surface water from

road gullies are cleaned and bottomed by the Council. Other ditches and watercourses are cleansed by the owners or occupiers of adjoining lands. A considerable amount of pollution of the ditches is taking place in parts of the unsewered areas by discharges from cesspools or septic tanks.

#### Sewage Disposal.

Where main drainage is provided it is sewered on the separate system. Sewage is discharged by gravity into two settling tanks situated on the southern boundary of the district. The outfall from these tanks is finally discharged into the River Mersey. Plans for the reconstruction of the existing sewage disposal works have been approved at an estimated cost of £32,600. When this work has been commenced, progress can then be made on the extension of the sewers into the unsewered areas of the district.

#### Closet Accommodation.

Privy Middens	13
Number of closets attached to these middens	13
Number of pail closets	291
Number of dry ashpits	72
Number of moveable dustbins	2,965
Number of houses on water carriage system	2,614

#### Refuse Removal and Disposal.

The removal of house refuse is carried out under the direction of the Surveyor. A Shelvoke and Drewry fore and aft tipping vehicle of 16 yards capacity is operated by a team of 6 men, and a driver with an additional two men for two days. Dustbins, pail closets and ashpits are emptied weekly. Disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping on low lying land at North Moss Lane.

#### Shops Act, 1934-1950.

There are 78 shops on the register. These were visited at least twice during the year and food shops more frequently.

Duties under the Shops Act, 1950, relating to the employment of young persons, washing facilities, etc., were carried out on behalf of the Lancashire County Council.

#### Factories Acts, Sec.1-4 and 6-7.

Routine visits were made to the 27 Factories on the Register.

Defects found were remedied without the service of statutory notices.

### Camping Sites.

There are two main sites licenced during the summer period under the provisions of Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The average number of caravans or moveable dwellings on the sites during the season was 100. Main water is provided to the larger site and adequate arrangements are made for sanitary accommodation and refuse removal.

### Housing.

The standard of housing generally is very good. A small number of very old thatched cottages two or three hundred years old are still occupied, and although lacking many modern essentials are remarkably well preserved. Arrangements have been made with the owners that when the premises are vacated by the present occupiers the cottages will be demolished. A scheme to provide main drainage and other improvements to those cottages likely to remain occupied for a few years longer is being considered.

The huts at Broad Lane - a former R.A.F. site at Woodvale, are being pulled down as vacated. Most of the remaining occupiers will be rehoused by the Council and the site cleared by 1957.

Plans for the provision of 72 houses on the Royal Hotel Site were completed at the close of the year and building is now in progress.

Four houses were erected by the Council during 1955 and seventy-six by private builders.

### Inspection and Supervision of Food Supplies.

Milk.- There are ten dairy farms producing milk in this district. These are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, who are responsible for the inspection of premises and cattle.

Two other dairies are registered with the Local Authority. The Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas No.2) Order, 1955, came into operation on the 6th December. From this date all milk sold in the district must be either pasteurised, sterilised or tuberculin tested.

The following licences were issued for the sale of Designated Milks.

Number of Licences.

Tuberculin Tested	4
Pasteurised	4
Sterilised	4

Milk Samples taken and submitted for examination -

Number of Samples.	Grade of Milk.	Test.	Result.
4	Raw	T. B.	Satisfactory.
4	Raw	Methylene Blue	-do-
4	Pasteurised	Phosphatase	-do-
4	Pasteurised	Methylene Blue	-do-
2	T. T. -do-	-do-	-do-

Unsound Food.

The under-mentioned articles of food were, on inspection, found unfit for human consumption, voluntarily surrendered and destroyed.

<u>Tins.</u>	<u>Food.</u>	<u>Weight.</u>
29	Pork Luncheon Meat	160 lbs.
6	Corned Beef	36 lbs.
3	Tomato Paste	12 lbs.
-	Danish Ham	9½ lbs.
3	Evaporated Milk	3 lbs.
1	Frozen Egg	14 lbs.

Dried Egg Albumen.

Samples of dried egg albumen used in confectionery were submitted for bacteriological examination. One batch was found to contain organisms of the Salmonella group. The remaining 7 lbs. of albumen from this consignment was surrendered as unfit for human consumption.

Adulteration of Food.

The following samples of food were taken by the Lancashire County Council who are responsible in this district for Sections of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938/50, dealing with adulteration of Food.

<u>Food.</u>	<u>Number of Samples.</u>
Sauce	4
Gravy Browning	1
Epsom Salts	1
Pork Sausage	1
Beef Sausage	1
Potato Crisps	1
Sodium Bicarbonate	1
Cheese	4
Chocolate Drink	1
Milk	30

All the above samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine, with the exception of one Channel Islands' Milk, which was found to have a fat content of only 3.8%. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was informed of this fat deficiency.

#### Rodent Control.

Routine investigation and treatment for the destruction of rats and mice was carried out by the "full time" Rodent Operator. Private dwellings are treated free and the actual cost of treatment charged for business premises. For surface treatment the anti-coagulent Warfarin was used with success.

A test baiting of the sewers was carried out during the year; no takes were recorded. Owing to the frequent surcharging of the sewers infestation is almost non-existent. This is indicated by the results of recent test baits.

Most of the farmers and holders of agricultural lands have made contracts with the Lancashire Agricultural Executive Committee for the destruction of rats.

No major infestations were discovered during the year.