

Board of Health

Various sources all claim that the Littlehampton Board of Health was established in 1853, including Kelly's Directory of 1911, under the Public Health Act 1848 (Lambert, 2021; Littlehampton Stories, 2022). D279 is a handwritten book of accounts titled "Local Board of Health Disbursements Labour Etc" and dates from 1853 to 1855, giving further precedence to the 1853 formation. The 1852 report to the General Board of Health (DT4497) was about Littlehampton but not to a Littlehampton board; The General Board of Health was a central government Board of Health, established in 1848 under the Public Health Act 1848 (The Health Foundation). From there, the General Board of Health was responsible for advising on matters of public health and helped to set up and manage local boards of health. The recommendations of the 1852 report, conducted and written by Thomas Webster Rammel, Esq, was that Littlehampton should set up a Local Board of Health consisting of no less than 9 members. The Littlehampton election took place 5 April 1853, run by John Atkins / John Atkyns, who was the reverend of the parish church; those elected were John Ede Butt, Thomas Isemonger, John Henry Candy, Richard Lawson, William Read, William Pepper, Stephen Diddlesfold Olliver, John Peckham Henly and George Bowden Puttock. Others ran (see PHT5011) but did not receive enough votes to be elected. The Local Board of Health became the sanitary authority in 1873, under the Public Health Act 1872, moving to purpose-built offices in Beach Road in 1893 (Harris, 2009). A year later, in 1894, the Board was succeeded by the Littlehampton Urban District Council, which moved to the Manor House in 1933. The Urban District was replaced by the Arun District in 1974, under the Local Government Act 1972.

Tim Lambert, 2021: <https://localhistories.org/a-history-of-littlehampton/>

Littlehampton Stories, 2022: <https://littlehamptonstories.co.uk/buildings-of-significance/>

Roland B Harris, 2009:

https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/1734/littlehampton_eus_report_and_maps.pdf

Kelly's Directories, 1911:

<https://leicester.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16445coll4/id/360014>

The Health Foundation: <https://navigator.health.org.uk/theme/public-health-act-1848-and-general-board-health>