

BLENNERHASSET
AND
TORPENHOW
PARISH PLAN



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INTRODUCTION

This plan has been prepared by Blennerhasset & Torpenhow Parish Council, based on information and opinions of parishioners gained from the results of a survey, undertaken by the Parish Council, of all households in the parish. Additional information from interested parties and organisations operating in the parish has also been taken into account.

The plan was initiated by the Parish Council to be inclusive of all sections of the parish, both young and old. It has produced a wide variety of issues affecting different people in different ways. Some of these issues are part of the action plan, others will be reviewed by the Parish Council over a period of time, with the objective of facilitating and helping various parishioner groups or individuals to resolve these issues.

The plan is designed to identify and prioritise initiatives and strategies that can be undertaken in the short term, medium term, or at a later date, with the Parish Council acting as the facilitator for parish organisations.

As there are economic and political circumstances outside the control of the Parish Council and potential changes to the way local government operates, the function of this plan is to establish a three to five year time scale for the plan. The objective of the plan is to try to ensure that remote rural living is not a disadvantage to the needs and aims of the parishioners. Following the adoption and publication of the plan, its aims and objectives will be implemented by future deliberations and decisions of the Parish Council. Progress will be reviewed in the newsletter and formally at the annual parish meeting.

The production and publishing of this plan will not in itself achieve the objectives. Without the active participation of local committees, individual parishioners and without the good will of the whole community, progress in addressing the needs identified will not be made.



BLENNERHASSET AND TORPENHOW PARISH

Blennerhasset and Torpenhow Parish consists of the village of Blennerhasset, the village of Torpenhow, the hamlet of Whitrigg and several other smaller communities.

In total there are 161 inhabited dwellings in the parish; 78 are in Blennerhasset, 55 in Torpenhow, 9 are in Whitrigg and the rest are sparsely spread from the Fitz through the edge of Mealsgate to the edge of Ireby. The population of voting age numbers 327 and there are about 80 children/teenagers under the age of 18 in the parish. Due to the size in area of the parish, the population is designated very sparse at about 0.4 per hectare.

The parish is divided approximately in half by the A595, with Blennerhasset to the north and Torpenhow to the south of the road. This road causes a physical and a social divide in the parish, where the communities in each of the halves tend to operate in isolation of the other. Hence there is little or no inter-village interaction or cooperation in either business or social life.

Both villages were traditional agricultural communities in the past, but whilst retaining several large working farms, they are becoming dormitory villages for people working in the surrounding area. Over the years Torpenhow has lost a post office, shop, pub, blacksmith, garage, school and other vital community services; it now has just an 11th century church and a new village hall. Blennerhasset has a village hall and has retained its school and shop, although recently the post office was withdrawn. Neither village has a pub, nor is there one in the parish; however, The Grey Goat is handy for the residents of Blennerhasset, being just 100yds outside the parish boundary in the adjoining village of Baggrow, in the parish of Allhallows. There are still deliveries of milk and newspapers, and visits from travelling shops, but these are not on a regular daily basis.

Shopping by the villagers tends to be over a wide area, with Torpenhow leaning towards Cockermouth and Keswick, while Blennerhasset prefers Wigton and Aspatria. Both villages use Workington and Carlisle.

Medical and dental services are spread over a wide area, from Whitehaven to Brampton and various places in between. Dental services are the biggest problem, with a number of residents being unable to obtain a service from the National Health.



Cattle overlooking Blennerhasset and the Solway plain.

TORPENHOW FROM PAST TO PRESENT

The village of Torpenhow and the nearby hamlets have an ancient history. There are several theories explaining the origin of the name Torpenhow. The Celtic peoples living in pre-roman Britain called a rising hill a PEN, i.e. a head; the Saxons who came next called it TOR-PEN, that is the pinnacle head. Their successors, maybe not understanding either of the former names, called it TOR-PEN-HOW, meaning the how or hill Torpen. Another explanation suggests it comes from the Saxon word Dorp or Thorp, a village, and the British word PEN, a head or hill top, and so to DORPEN-HOW or THORPEN-HOW. Yet another, the British word TORR (peak) being amalgamated with PEN and the English HOH and so on.

Probably the oldest visible vestiges of the past are just outside Whitrigg at Caermote where the remains of a Roman encampment lie. There is also the site of a beacon with views over Bowness & the Solway Firth to warn of any approaching danger.

Early local history is poorly recorded until the 12th century and the church of St. Michael in Torpenhow dates from this time. The architect responsible for restoration work in 1913/14 stated he found distinct traces of a Saxon building and some of the stones are Roman in origin, as can be seen in a window jamb and in the sanctuary. However the present building is thought to date from about 1120A.D. with later additions.

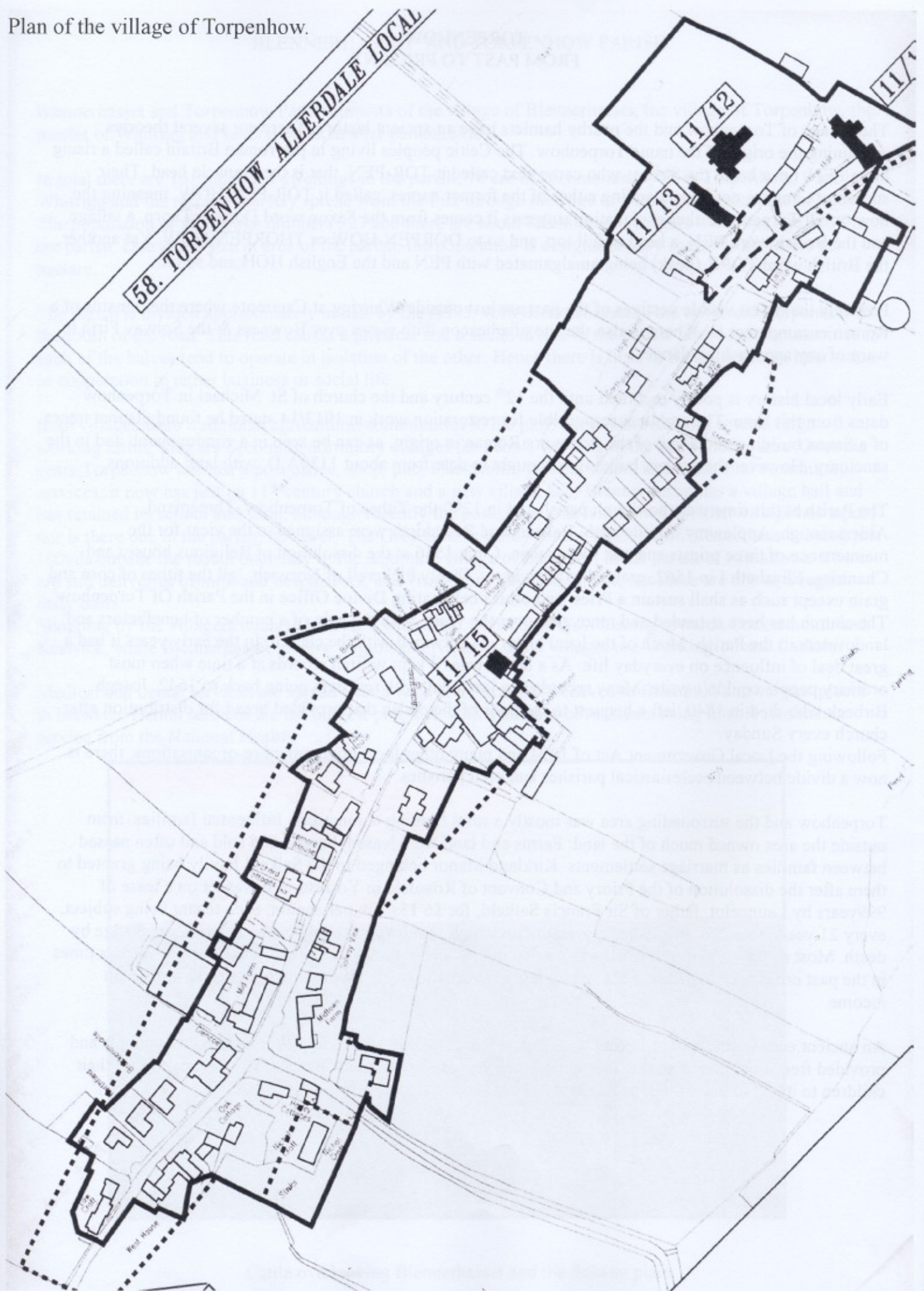
The Parish at this time was the church parish and in 1290 the Tithes of Torpenhow, Threapland, Aldersceough, Applewray, Snittlegarth, Bellasis and Bewaldeth were assigned to the vicar for the maintenance of three priests and one sub-deacon. Circa 1536 at the dissolution of Religious houses and Chantries, Elizabeth I in 1562, granted to the widow, Cicely Pickerell of Norwich, 'all the tithes of corn and grain except such as shall sustain a Priest and others celebrating Divine Office in the Parish Of Torpenhow'. The church has been extended and renovated over the years, with the help of a number of benefactors and landowners in the Parish. Much of the local history is entwined with the church. In the early years it had a great deal of influence on everyday life. As a land owner it kept written records at a time when most ordinary people couldn't write. Many records survive today with registers going back to 1642. Joseph Birbeck who died in 1840, left a bequest to the poor of the parish that provided bread for distribution after church every Sunday.

Following the Local Government Act of 1894 and many other local government re-organisations, there is now a divide between ecclesiastical parishes and civil parishes.

Torpenhow and the surrounding area was mostly a rural farming community. Influential families from outside the area owned much of the land. Farms and land were leased, bought and sold and often passed between families as marriage settlements. Kirkland Manor belonged to the Salkeld family being granted to them after the dissolution of the Priory and Convent of Rosedale in Yorkshire. It was let on a lease of 999 years by Launcelot, father of Sir Francis Salkeld, for £6 15s. 1d. per annum; each tenant being subject, every 21 years, to a 20d. fine called a gressom on which new leases are taken, and a heriot, on change by death. Most of the agricultural work was carried out by tenant farmers and their labourers. At various times in the past crops such as wheat, oats and barley were grown, no doubt providing the local mills with income.

An ancient endowed school at Bothel was made a free school in 1686. In 1847 it had about 80 pupils and provided free education to all the poor children of the parish, although farmers and others who sent their children to it had to pay 2s. 6d. per quarter.

Plan of the village of Torpenhow.



A Memorial Sunday School was erected in 1855 by Joseph Railton Esq. in Torpenhow, in 1895 it was handed over to the school managers by his grandson. The building was added to by a voluntary rate and became a national school. By 1901 it was a mixed school with 52 pupils. When the pupils moved to the school in Bothel it was sold and eventually became a dormitory for a field study centre for Bradford in 1970. The mission Hall in the centre of the village was built in 1855; it was used for services by members of the Dissenting body and later the Cumberland Scripture Readers Trust. When members dwindled it fell into disrepair and it too was sold becoming part of the centre in 1978. The centre eventually closed and both buildings are now private dwellings.

To celebrate Queen Victoria's Jubilee, the Jubilee Water Works was built by subscription in 1887, taps were provided in the village at a cost of £112. The trust was managed by the tenants of some of the farms.

During the early C19th the population remained relatively stable but in common with many rural areas, the population declined in the C20th.

Torpenhow & Whitrigg population in early 1800's

	1801	1811	1821	2004(estimated)
persons	210	262	256	154
houses			57	63
families			57	63

estimated value of land & buildings in 1826 £2080



Torpenhow from the Bothel road.

Parish Directory 1826c**TORPENHOW**

Calvert John, corn miller, Low Mill
 Carruthers John, vict. Kings Arms, Low Wood Nook
 Dickman Thos. corn miller
 Dixon Jacob, corn miller, Prior Hall
 Hodgson Robt. blacksmith
 Plaskett Rev. John, curate
 Railton Joseph, vict. and blacksmith, Letters
 Rigg Daniel, shoemaker and shopkeeper
 Watson Edward, shoemaker
 Watson John, cooper
 Wright Mary, shopkeeper

FARMERS - TORPENHOW

* Thus are Yeoman
 Ackerly Joseph
 Calvert George
 Charters William
 Coultherd Thomas
 *Dobson Joseph
 Irving Robert, Park house
 *Pearson William
 Pirt Thomas
 Wright Wilfred

FARMERS - WHITRIGG

Barber John
 Finlinson John, and cattle dealer
 Fisher Robert, Nook
 Gibson Mrs. Mary
 Halliday Isaac
 Halliday John
 Hodgson Joseph
 Hodgson Thomas
 Thompson John, Low moor

Through the C19th and early C20th the village, like most others at the time, would have been relatively self sufficient, with local trades people resident in the village providing goods and services. Residents will have travelled to Wigton and other local markets by horse drawn, and later motor vehicles, but not as far as Carlisle on a regular basis as they do today. People still living in Torpenhow can remember Charters' Grocery shop with a shoemaker downstairs and a reading room next door, two blacksmiths, two pubs, (The Black Bull and The Sun Inn), a second shop, post office, baker and pie shop and garage with petrol pumps. Now none of these remain and the village is served by a variety of travelling services, milkman, mobile shop, butcher, library and post office. Coal and newspapers are also delivered.

The first village hall was erected in 1951; eventually the cost of repairs became prohibitive and it was replaced in 2003, (more information on the hall can be found in a separate section of this document).

The village today still has several working farms but the large labouring workforce of yesteryear has been replaced by sophisticated modern machinery. Many of the resident population now work outside the village and commute to the surrounding towns and city every day. There are also several 'holiday homes' in the village. This has affected the community as life is no longer centered on the village with demands on people's limited leisure time and with houses remaining vacant for much of the year there is not as much time for neighbourly socialising as before. Most residents have their own transport and they are able to explore the activities available in the surrounding area rather than confining themselves to the village. For those without transport the opportunities are fewer, but with neighbours' help and the use of the limited bus service, taxis and the voluntary car scheme, travel to a wide range of destinations is still achievable.

Torpenhow is constantly changing, as generations come and go; buildings are lost, altered or new ones built. Several new houses are being constructed in the village at the present time. Hopefully the new residents will enrich the community as others have done in the past and help it to prosper.

BLANNERHASSET FROM PAST TO PRESENT

Blennerhasset has existed for a long time, since the tenth century at least. One theory about the origin of the village's name says that the 'blenner' is celtic and the 'hasset' Norse, although it seems more likely that the name is purely Norse, from about the tenth century: 'blenner' from the name of the founder and 'hasset' meaning 'hay shieling'. Not much is known about its history before the late eighteenth century apart from the names of the people who owned it. Not long ago Roman pottery shards were discovered on farmland to the south of the village, proving that a Roman fort had been established there, although there is no evidence of a settlement existing then. For centuries the village was an agricultural community; forty or so dwellings, perhaps fewer, surrounded by farmland. Most of the land was owned, and frequently bought and sold, by owners who did not in fact live in the village, the land being farmed by tenants and their labourers. Commentators writing at the beginning of the nineteenth century describe farming in Cumberland as extremely backward. Most of this land was in small lots but during the nineteenth century landowners slowly began to build up larger farms which more closely resembled the farms of today. The biggest of these was the famous Mechi Farm, formed by the purchase of most of the existing farmland by Sir Wilfrid Lawson, the Lord of the Manor at the time.

Sir Wilfrid handed most of this land on to his son William in 1862. William, unsatisfied with the traditional life of a country squire, had begun travelling early on in his life and during his travels had visited an experimental farm run by Alderman Mechi (hence the name) in Essex. His decision to set up a similar experiment in Blennerhasset resulted in a scheme which lasted for ten years. In the end, the scheme turned out to be unviable and was abandoned. However it produced a number of interesting developments, as well as the Mechi Farm buildings at the west end of the village, which are still there today and still bear the name of Mechi. William Lawson completely reshaped the fields, producing large geometrical fields out of the small irregular ones (many with picturesque names) which had been there before. With capital provided by his father he was able to buy a steam plough, employ a chemist to work in an experimental laboratory, try out different crops, build houses for his workers, which are still there, produce a gas supply for the use of the villagers and set up shops in the village and in nearby towns.

The experiment was not just agricultural. William imagined that he could create a farm cooperative and a system of democracy in the village. To begin with there was a good deal of opposition to this, but eventually he was able to set up a profit-sharing scheme for the workers and also a village parliament. This met regularly to discuss the running of the farm and improvement to village life. Soon the village had a new school, a well-used library, a reading room and annual festivals and as a result of this the Mechi Farm scheme was reported in the national press. It is difficult to know how long all this might have lasted had it not been for the economic situation. Money was being lost as this was a very bad time for agriculture in Britain, and the scheme came to an end. Nevertheless, it left its mark with the farm buildings, some extra houses and a shop, on which a plaque reminds us of the generosity of its founder.

No sooner had the farm experiment closed than a new change began to affect the village. The 1871 census reports for the first time the presence of miners. There were only four at that time, but their numbers rapidly increased until at the end of the century Blennerhasset effectively became a mining community instead of an agricultural one, with a population of over 400 (largely children) instead of the hundred or so it had once known. Somehow the newcomers managed to fit themselves into the existing accommodation; so Blennerhasset never developed the rows of miners' terraces so familiar in other parts of the county. Moreover, during this period of mining activity, no pits were sunk around Blennerhasset itself. The miners would have had to walk the two miles to the Brayton Domain pits near Aspatria, or else to other pits at Allhallows or in the early twentieth century, Baggrow.



The mining population declined during the early twentieth century, but with mobility on the increase the population now had a variety of occupations and did not revert to its earlier status as an exclusively agricultural community, even though farming remained an important part of its life.

People did move around more at this period, but in fact Blennerhasset, and no doubt the other communities of the area, have had mobile populations since at least the early nineteenth century. The censuses of that period show that few inhabitants had been born in the village and many of them moved on quite quickly. Very few people indeed spent all their lives in the village. A writer in the middle of the nineteenth century complained that farm workers rarely stayed in a job for more than a few years. Admittedly, the movements were usually confined to a radius of about ten miles, but a few came from Scotland and Ireland, and when the pits began to open some miners came from places all over the country. The situation is the almost the same today: there is rarely a time when houses are not being bought and sold, and at least a third of the houses in the village have changed hands over the last ten years. On the other hand there are some people who have spent most of their lives here.

Nowadays most working people, apart from a few farmers, commute to the nearby towns, usually Carlisle or Workington. In the early nineteenth century the picture was as one would expect; a community of farm workers together with a number of others serving its needs, a blacksmith, a waller, a joiner, a tailor, a shoemaker and one shopkeeper, a grocer. The situation is similar in the mid-century. In 1851 the village had a population of 178 living in 38 dwellings. The first development of any importance is recorded in the 1861 census, when two teachers, husband and wife, are recorded as working at the new 'British School'. By now the population was rising quite rapidly, first with the Mechi Farm scheme and then with the growth of the mines and the building of the new Carlisle-Maryport railway (long since closed). There were now (1881), as well as the miners and railway workers, two grocers, a butcher, a cordwainer, a carter, a house painter, a shoemaker, a laundress, a tailor and a number of dressmakers. In 1891 the village also had a post office and in 1901 a postman and a police constable. In the first half of the twentieth century there were also two groceries, a bakery, a fish and chip shop, a smithy and a joiner.

It should not be forgotten that there were also the poor; those prevented by infirmity or some other incapacity from earning their own living. Parishes were legally responsible for their own 'paupers', who received support from the Poor Rate, levied on land values. In some years ten or more people received sums of money. There were also separate charities funded by the income from land given by individuals.

By the end of the nineteenth century and well into the twentieth, the village seems to have been a lively place, with all kinds of clubs and societies flourishing. Sports were represented by football and cricket teams (including a women's cricket team) and the games were played on a field in Baggrow until the present playing field was purchased after the Second World War. Before the Village Hall was built, most meetings of the societies were held in the schoolroom. There were political meetings, make do and mend groups, a choral society, a discussion group, a Congregational committee and also one for the Primitive Methodists, the Women's Institute, and a Carnival committee. Many of these societies held annual dances lasting until the small hours of the morning. The Carnival was a regular event which seems to have involved almost the whole population of Blennerhasset and Baggrow.

There has been a school in the village since the mid-nineteenth century. The first was the 'British School', already mentioned. A Free School was established by William Lawson under the Mechi farm scheme, but this closed when elementary education was set up for all children up to the age of ten and the pupils transferred to the present school. At the beginning the numbers of pupils were high, as was the population of the village. In 1885 there were 150 on the register and numbers peaked in 1894 at 165. All these children were taught by the Master, who had free accommodation in the School House next door. He was assisted by one full-time teacher and one or two pupil teachers. Numbers remained well above a hundred until the 1920s, when they gradually began to go down following the decline in the population. Until some years after the Second World War the school had taught children until they were fourteen. Then numbers declined further when the secondary school was set up in Aspatria. The lowest figure was 14, in 1972. Since then the numbers have risen to their present level of 35. Despite occasional threats of closure in the past, the school is

now in a flourishing condition, with 35 children on the register. A nursery class is planned for next year.

One thing which Blennerhasset has never had is a parish church. This was, and still is, two miles away at Torpenhow, but from the beginning of the eighteenth century there was a dissenting church. Starting as a Presbyterian Preaching House it later became an independent, or Congregational, church. The church was rebuilt in 1828 and the building is still there at the eastern end of the village, as is the manse, but both are now private houses. The only place of worship surviving today is the Evangelical Mission at the western end, originally built as a Primitive Methodist chapel.

The village today is a quieter place but there are still quite a few activities going on. The playing field is in regular use for cricket and football. The Village Hall hosts Adult Education art classes, Bingo sessions, the Treasure Seekers' Club, with Bible Stories, games, Yoga classes, a Toddlers' Group and other activities. It is also used for School P.E., various committee meetings and by the Parish Council. One shop just about survives, and the village is visited by a mobile post office, a library van and some mobile shops.

Blennerhasset school



Torpenhow Village Hall

There has been a village hall in Torpenhow since 1951. The first building was a pre-cast concrete structure purchased from the M.O.D. and brought from Greystoke to Torpenhow by members of the Sports Committee. It was erected on the present site, which had once been an orchard. The site was leased to the village by a local farmer at a rent of one shilling a year.

Over time the name of the committee changed to the Torpenhow Village Hall Committee and in 1992 the committee gained charity status, which has helped when applying for grants etc. The Parish Council are the trustees for the committee.

The original hall was a much loved building and provided an essential meeting place for residents of the village and surrounding areas. Unfortunately by the turn of the millennium the building was no longer a viable proposition and so the Village Hall Committee carried out a survey of all members of the village. This survey asked whether the village needed a hall and if it did, what facilities should it have and what activities should be available. The Committee embarked on the major task of fund raising for a new hall when the survey showed that most people felt the village needed a community building.

A huge variety of fund raising events were held over several years and the sum of £ 16,000 was raised. This gave a good basis for an application to the National Lotteries Board, which was done with the help of a consultant. Our application was successful and a grant was given for the total cost of demolishing the old hall and the building of a new one. The work was carried out, over the spring and summer of 2003 by JJ Lattimer and in September 2003 the new hall was open for business being officially opened in November 2003 by Eric Robson, the well known broadcaster and writer.



Torpenhow village hall.

The new building is fully compliant with the DDA Act 2003 and consists of the hall, kitchen, lobby, toilets and an upstairs storage/meeting room.

The kitchen is fully fitted with a large oven and hob, fridge, industrial dishwasher and plumbed-in water boiler for teas etc. and is well equipped with crockery, glassware and cutlery.

The main hall is licensed for 120 people and has a versatile stage set up. There are also disco lights, a sound system with radio mike and a PC projector available.

The Chairman of the committee holds a full alcohol license on behalf of the committee so that they can operate a bar at many events.

Several clubs and organisations use the hall on a regular basis and the committee runs fund raising events every six weeks or so. The hall is available for private hire at reasonable rates.

The hall is used on a regular basis by the following groups;

Monday - Creative Needlecraft Class, Short Mat Bowls

Tuesday - Brownies, Line Dancing Class

Wednesday - Silver Work Class

Occasional users of the hall include an astronomy imaging workshop group, war games players and the Derwent Scottish Country Dancing society.

All regular user groups of the hall welcome new members. The committee is willing to help anyone who would like to set up new user groups.

The Village Hall Committee holds regular events in the hall, mainly at weekends, and these include such diverse things as Ceilidhs, Chocolate Evenings, Quiz Nights and Domino Drives.

TRANSPORT

Transport is a major concern in rural areas where the car is the only viable means of travel. Whether by private car, hire cars (e.g. taxis), or voluntary car services, no other form of transport can provide for the variations in time and destination demanded by the modern rural resident. The use of the little available public transport is generally restricted to the school bus at either end of the day; school children being one of the few groups of residents wanting to go to the same destination at the same time, although there is not a service to every school used by the parish.

It is therefore probable that the Parish Council will be able to do little to improve transport, apart from supporting for voluntary car schemes and one off special trips.



Blennerhasset past and present.





Blennerhasset village green past and present.



HOUSING

The dwellings in the parish are a mixture of type and age, some dating from the seventeenth century. The majority were built before 1919, a few between the wars, and the remainder mostly built after 1946. Most properties are owner occupied with a few rented, either privately or from a housing association.

The survey showed that there was only a small need for low cost housing and that the lack of new housing did not cause a general movement away from the parish.

Although Allerdale B.C. has published a housing plan showing that as from September 2004 no new dwellings or conversions will be allowed, a number of dwellings in Torpenhow were approved prior to the cut off date.

The Parish Council will continue to monitor the housing policy of the Borough Council and will support limited development when it is again possible.

ISSUES IN THE PARISH PLAN

These issues are based on the replies to the questionnaire which was sent to all households in the parish. One factor affecting solutions is that the parish consists of two villages two miles apart and separated from each other by the main A595 road between Cockermouth and Carlisle. Each village organises its own activities. Torpenhow has the advantage of a new and attractive village hall, whereas the one at Blennerhasset is adequate but needs modernisation. Blennerhasset's advantage is that more space is available for outdoor activities. Some activities in Blennerhasset are jointly arranged with Baggrow, which of course belongs to Allhallows parish. It should be stressed that both villages are quite pleasant places, a fact that perhaps makes people more aware of the improvements which need to be made in their appearance (see 1 b).

1. Problems under review:

Some problems have already been, or are being addressed by measures which can be taken without recourse to outside funding:

a) The general feeling that parishioners had little information from the Parish Council and had little influence on its decisions.

Action: a quarterly newsletter about the Council's activities and forthcoming events in the parish. A Public Voice Slot has been established at every Parish Council meeting immediately after the essential preliminaries have been concluded. Any member of the public can voice their concerns at this time. An information pack is shortly to be produced containing information for newcomers, including a map of the parish, information about village activities and useful local addresses.

b) Many answers instanced the general state of the villages. Dog fouling was seen as a particular problem but other answers mentioned mud on the roads (often blamed on farmers), litter, poor maintenance of roads, paths and pavements, verges, properties and gardens, in that order of importance.

Action: raising public awareness of the need for people to control their animals and generally to keep

the villages, and their own property, tidy. This will mainly be done through the newsletter and the annual parish meeting. Attendance at the meeting has not been very encouraging in the past and we hope the newsletter, together with evidence that the Council is actively engaged on improving conditions, will help to remedy this. As far as road maintenance is concerned, we have already arranged a tour of the parish with Allerdale Borough Council representatives, which has had some result, but more needs to be done.

2. Facilities asked for:

- a) There was widespread demand for a skip for garden waste. This has yet to be arranged for both villages. Some recycling facilities are available in Torpenhow but not yet in Blennerhasset. (A new 'three bin' system for householders, for the collection of paper, garden and general refuse, is at present being implemented by Allerdale B.C.)
- b) Better street lighting. There is a fair degree of agreement about where such lights should be sited. This is expensive and so far only one light has been agreed, with this parish sharing the cost with Allhallows for a light on the north side of the bridge over the Ellen.
- c) A play area for children. This is considered to be a fairly high priority. Blennerhasset has the space for it, but in Torpenhow there is no obvious place for one. This is one of those cases where the impetus will need to come from a group of interested parties, who will need to design and cost it and apply for funding with the Parish Council's support.
- d) A Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Meetings were held in both villages to discuss the scheme. Here again the initiative lies with members of the public.
- e) Better drainage on roads. Flooding regularly occurs at certain areas during heavy rainfall.
- f) Speed restrictions. There has been no success with applications. We are told that the problem has very low priority, despite the fact that, in Blennerhasset, a school lies alongside the main road through the village.
- g) Public transport. This is generally thought to be unsatisfactory, but replies to the questionnaire showed that no particular destination had a marked priority and that people would in any case only use the service occasionally, or perhaps once a week. The best means of transport at present is the Voluntary Car Service, available for the whole parish but not widely used.
- h) Leisure activities for young people. Another issue which would need to be pushed by the community itself, with help where possible from the Council.
- i) Leisure facilities for the elderly. A similar solution applies as for h), above.
- j) Child care. This is badly needed by some members of the parish.

ACTION PLAN				
ISSUE	ACTION	PRIORITY	TIMESCALE	RESPONSIBILITY
News letter	set up 4 per year	high	2006	Parish Council
Information pack	establish pack	medium	2007	Parish Council
Promote countryside access	publicity, maps showing rights of way in parish	medium	2007	Parish council, CCC, Solway Rural Initiative
Promote village image	publicity in newsletter	medium	2006/7	Parish Council
Children's play areas	establish play areas	high	2006/7	local committees
Public transport review	carry out review	medium	2006/7	Parish Council & CCC
Facilitate new activities in village halls	promote activity	medium	2006	village hall committees
Provide new clubs & groups	establish new clubs	medium	2006/7	local committees
IT & computer access	establish community IT	medium	2006/7	Parish Council
Over 60 drop in centres	provide drop in centre	low	2008	over 60 committees
Youth sport facilities	provide & establish facilities	low	2008	local sports committee
Dog fouling	promote clean up	high	2006/7	local parishioners & Allerdale BC
Street lighting	investigate requirement	medium	2006/7	Parish Council
Child care	investigate requirement	medium	2006/7	local groups
Public roads in Parish	Investigate muck & litter, traffic calming & speeding	medium	2006/7	Parish Council Highways Authority CCC & police

CONCLUSION

From the wide variety of issues and actions generated in the Plan, it will be obvious that not all these are in the remit of the Parish Council. Active participation by others will be required, in particular, local residents to take responsibility for certain issues, together with help from the various organisations that can be called upon to provide assistance.

This plan with its nominal 3 year life, will be under constant scrutiny and review by the Parish Council. Progress will be reported in the Newsletter and at the annual Parish Council report.

Finally the Parish Council wish to thank all the volunteers, helpers and those who provided information and materials and gave of their time. Without them this plan could not have been produced.



Torpenhow Church.

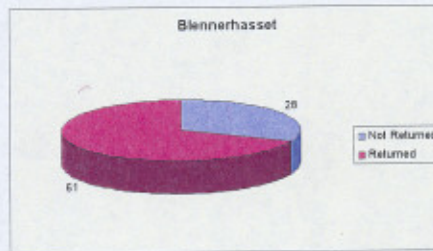
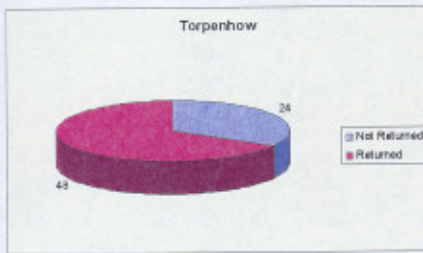




TORPENHOW 2608

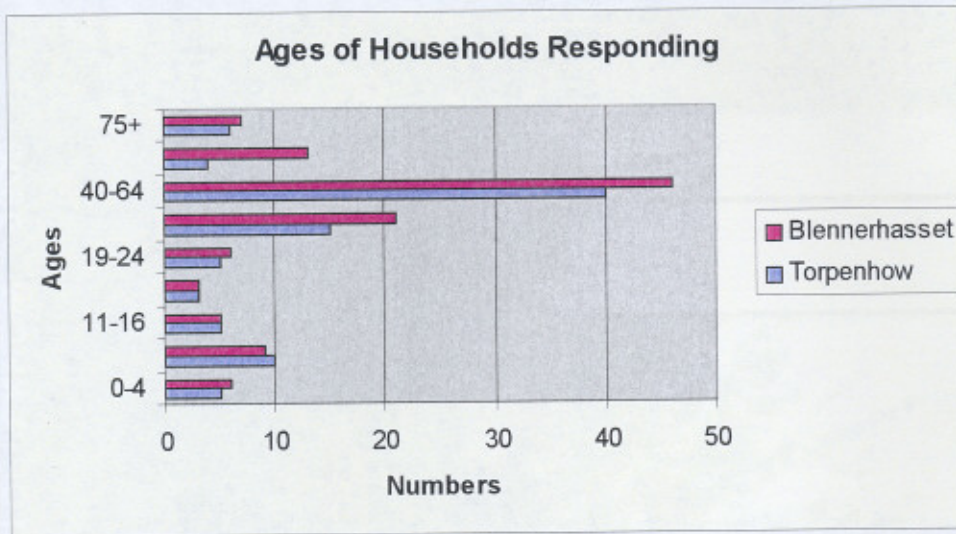
Parish Council Questionnaire

Number of Respondents

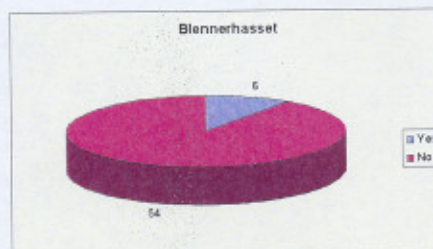
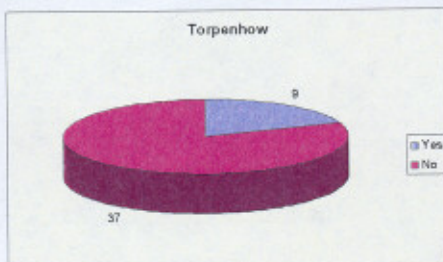


Total Numbers in Responding Households:

Torpenhow - 93 Blennerhasset - 116 Total - 209

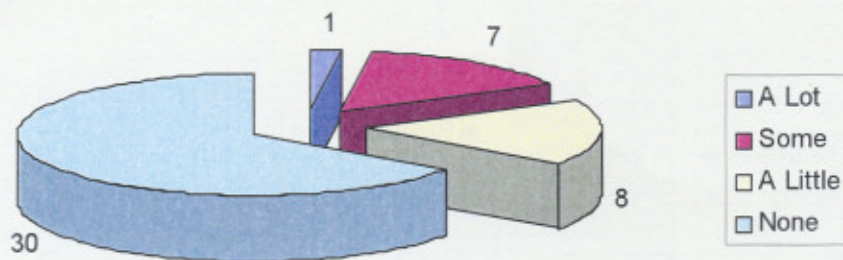


Do you think you are given enough information about decisions made by the Parish Council ?

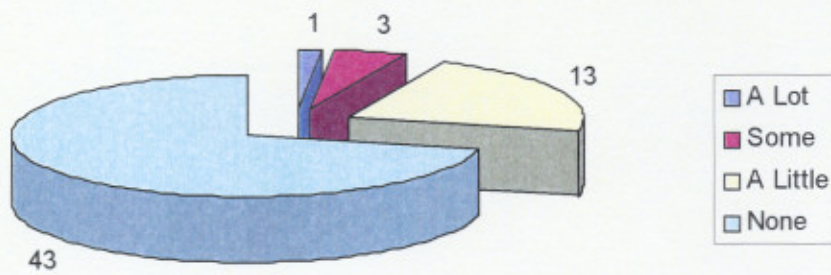


How much influence do you feel you have over decisions made by the Parish Council ?

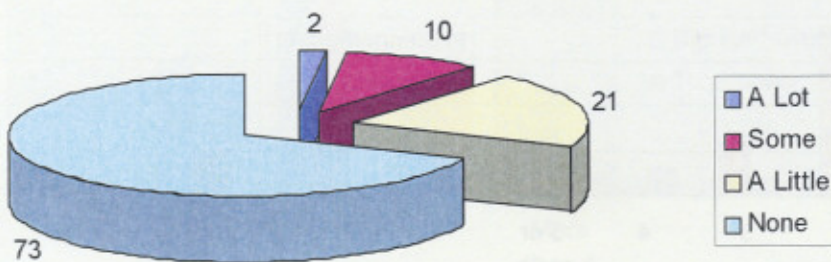
Torpenhow



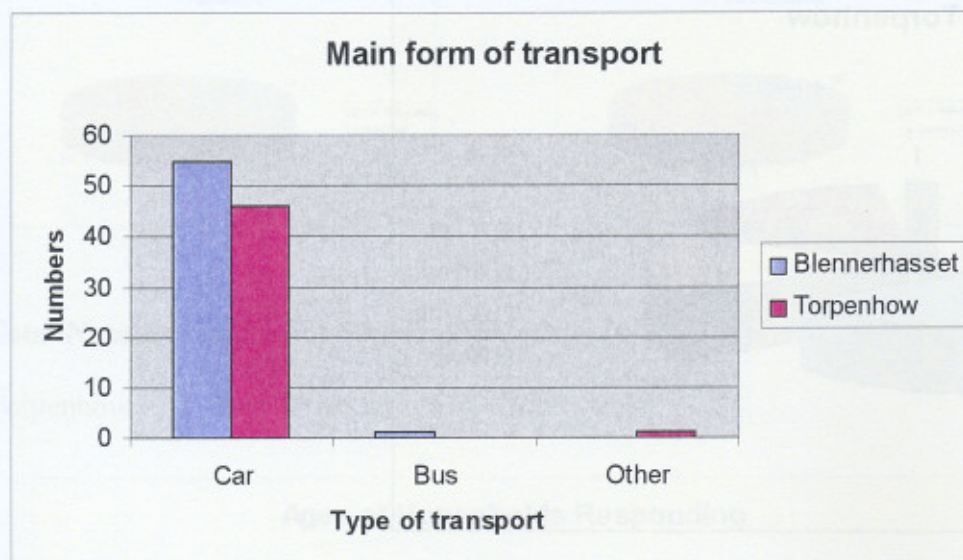
Blennerhasset



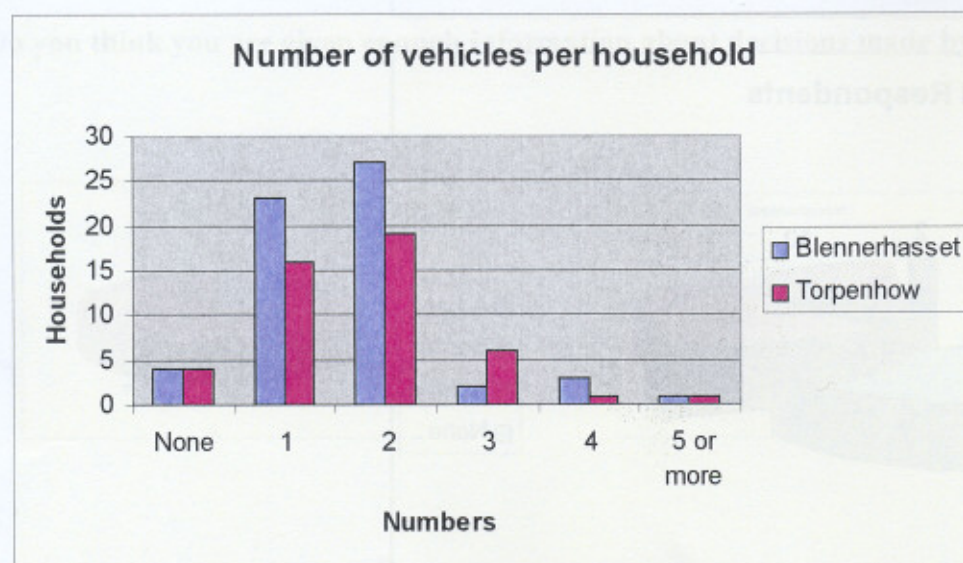
All Respondents



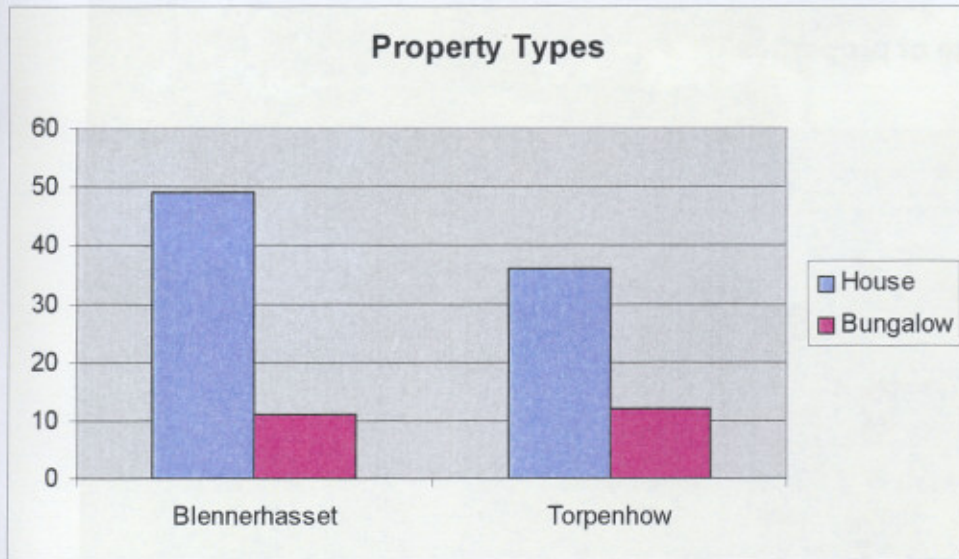
What is the main form of transport that your family uses?



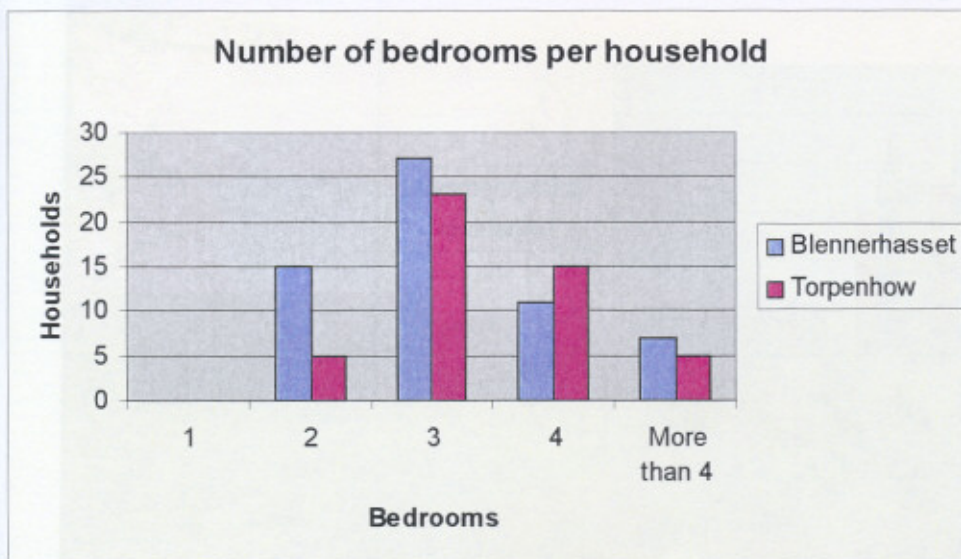
How many motor vehicles (cars, vans, motorcycles) are owned by people in your household?



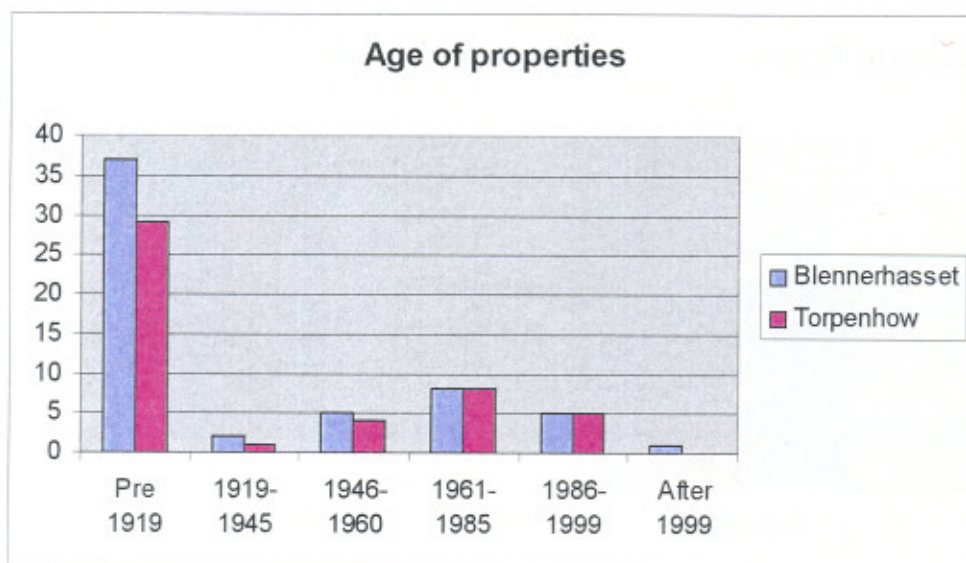
What is your property type?



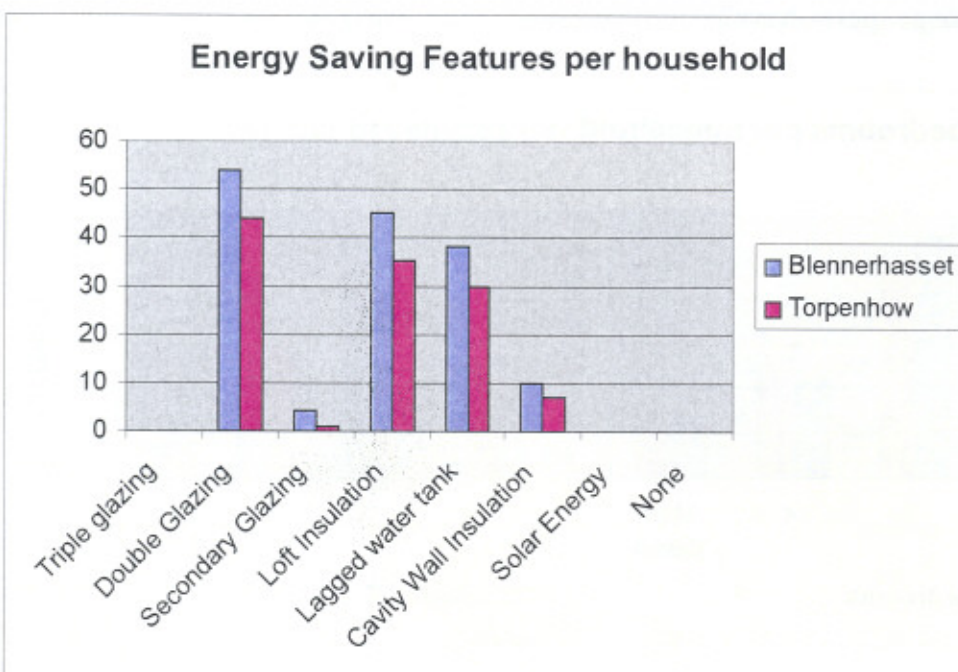
How many bedrooms does your property have?



When was your property built?



What energy saving features does it have?







Above; Whitrigg looking over Torpenhow, Blennerhasset and the Solway plain.

Over; The footpath to Kirkland Guards from the Blennerhasset road and the road junction at Whitrigg.

When you're next on the internet please visit,

www.blennerhasset.org.uk

and

www.torpenhow.org.uk