

**LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)****MEMBER'S QUESTION AND
RESPONSE****12 SEPTEMBER 2008****Mr Roger Steel (Farnham Moor Park):**

I should like to request that a weight limit be placed on Camp Hill, Farnham.

Camp Hill is a country lane, 250 yards in length, connecting Crooksbury Road and Waverley Lane at the Abbey in Farnham. It is just wide enough for two cars to pass but has neither pavements nor lighting and is classified as a 'C' road. The sides of the road comprise steep banks which are heavily wooded and the trees overhang so as to form an arch. It is within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There are just four dwellings – two at the corner of Crooksbury Road and two at the Abbey end – the latter two are listed buildings and were built in the mid 18th century. Swift wrote Gulliver's Travels in one of them.

Cars use the road as a 'rat run from the Hogs Back and whilst a considerable nuisance cause no material harm. However, large lorries from the gravel and sand pits use Camp Hill as a short cut. Heavily laden they cause the two listed cottages to vibrate on their foundations and are causing long-term damage. Repeated requests on this matter from the Compton Residents Association have met with no response. I believe the matter is such that it requires urgent action.

May I ask this Committee to place a weight limit on Camp Hill with all urgency before further damage is done and before there is a serious accident due to the size of the heavy vehicles ?

Response

Camp Hill is typical of a sunken lane in rural Waverley, as can be gathered from the description provided in the question.

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While it is undoubtedly the case that the seemingly increasing use of such roads by larger vehicles in recent years can result in damaged road edges, verges and banks, and nuisance for residents, the introduction of a traffic order to restrict use is only usually considered in specific circumstances (in the absence of weak bridges or sub-standard headroom).

If large vehicles are consistently getting stuck, usually because they cannot negotiate very tight bends, dips or crests, or where very steep gradients may lead to loss of control, an order will be considered to prevent the road being repeatedly blocked, or to avoid the potential for accidents. The alternative to such an order and signed restriction is to provide blue background 'Unsuitable for HGVs' signs.

The Local Highway Manager will investigate this request, and bring it forward to the autumn meeting of the Farnham Traffic Task Group, for further consideration.