

All Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities Forum meeting

24th March 2006 at the City Hall, London

Meeting notes

Present:

Cllr Michael O'Dowd (Chair)	Louth County Council
Cllr Michael Carr	Newry and Mourne District Council
Cllr Collette Connelly	Galway County Council
Cllr John Connell	Roscommon County Council
Cllr Leonard Hatrick	Ardee Town Council
Cllr Bill Risby (Observer)	Manchester City Council
Mr Stewart Kemp	Nuclear Free Local Authorities Secretariat
Mr Jamie Woolley	Nuclear Free Local Authorities Legal Advisor
Mr Peter Burt	Nuclear Free Local Authorities Development Advisor

Apologies for absence:

Cllr Margaret Ritchie	Down District Council
Cllr Tony McDermott	Dublin Regional Authority and South Dublin County Council
Cllr Caroline Burrell	Bray Town Council
Cllr JJ Power	Kildare County Council
Cllr Anne Cater	Dublin Regional Authority
Cllr Eugene Cassidy	Meath County Council

1. Minutes and matters arising from the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting (23rd September 2005) were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

The Chair noted that a large amount had been achieved in the first six months of the Forum's work, and that the Forum had already moved to the front in setting the agenda for the debate on nuclear issues in Ireland. He thanked all concerned for their work.

2. Membership

It was confirmed that no additional fee was required for membership of the All Ireland NFLA Forum, as the fee paid to the Manchester secretariat for membership of NFLA also included membership of the All Ireland Forum.

Stewart Kemp gave an update on membership issues. He had attended meetings of the Border Regional Authority and Bray Town Council to talk about the work of NFLA, and both authorities would be discussing membership at their next meetings. It was agreed that Stewart Kemp would write to the Chair of the Borders Regional Authority to provide a short update on the 'Chernobyl 20 Years On' conference to act as a reminder to all member councils to consider affiliating.

Monaghan County Council had now formally affiliated to NFLA and were welcomed as new members. Donegal County Council had considered the matter at the council's Environment Strategic Policy Committee and would shortly be discussing affiliation at full council, and representatives from Sligo, Dublin, Galway, and Meath County Councils who had attended the Chernobyl conference had all agreed to raise the matter of affiliation in their own councils.

Michael Carr agreed to provide contact details for the East Border Region Authority and would advise Stewart Kemp on how to raise the issue of affiliation with the Authority. Stewart Kemp offered to give a presentation on NFLA's work to the Authority if this would be helpful.

Derry City Council had passed an anti-nuclear motion and Peter Burt was asked to contact the Council to ask whether they would consider affiliation to NFLA.

Eugene Cassidy had agreed to propose the anti-nuclear motion that the All Ireland NFLA Forum is advocating at Meath County Council. Michael O'Dowd agreed to pass on the wording of the motion to Eugene with a further point about Wylfa nuclear power station. John Connelly agreed to raise the motion at Roscommon and Collette Connelly agreed to do the same at Galway.

All those present were asked to encourage colleagues in non-member authorities to take steps to enable their authorities to become members.

The issue of possible new nuclear build in the United Kingdom was considered to be an important issue which should be raised in the Forum's campaign material. It was agreed that the Forum would make a submission to the Energy Review team at the UK Department of Trade and Industry emphasising the following points:

- Ireland would face risks from new nuclear power stations but would not receive any benefits.
- Irish local authorities would not wish to purchase nuclear generated electricity supplied via interconnector cables.
- Nuclear power stations should not be built in Northern Ireland.
- Opportunities for generating renewable energy and establishing decentralised energy networks as an alternative to nuclear power were a preferred option.
- Risks arising from sea level changes pose a threat to new nuclear build.
- The All Ireland Forum supports the general position of the NFLA National Steering Committee.

A press release should also be prepared to accompany the submission.

3. Campaigns

Wylfa: Plans to extend the life of the Wylfa nuclear power station at Ynys Mon / Anglesey and possibly build a new nuclear power station at the site had been discussed at the 'Chernobyl 20 Years On' conference. It was agreed that issues surrounding subsidy for the Anglesea Aluminium smelter through discounted electricity from the Wylfa power station should be explored further.

Plans to build a second nuclear power station at Wylfa in 1988 had received considerable opposition from Irish local authorities, and this had been an important factor in the decision not to proceed with the project. Jamie Woolley will attempt to locate Carol Fox or another contact who was involved in the earlier campaign.

The options for organising a future joint meeting between the Irish and Welsh NFLA forums to discuss Wylfa, possibly together with NGO campaigners, would be investigated by Stewart Kemp.

4. All Ireland Forum seminar

It was agreed to organise a seminar on behalf of the All Ireland Forum to consider UK new nuclear build and associated issues. Dylan Morgan from the campaign against Wylfa and Martin Forwood from Cumbrians Opposed to a Radioactive Environment would be invited as speakers.

It was agreed that the seminar would take place on a Saturday in September or October 2006 between 10.30 am – 3.30 pm. Michael O'Dowd agreed to host the meeting in Drogheda. Stewart Kemp and Michael O'Dowd will agree a date for the event.

5. Promotional leaflet

Work has begun on preparing a promotional leaflet for the All Ireland NFLA Forum. It was agreed that this agenda item would be carried forward to a future meeting as further work on the leaflet was necessary and the leaflet was not required in the immediate future.

5. Association of County and City Councils

The possibility of asking for a place in the programme to discuss the All Ireland NFLA Forum at the Association of County and City Councils autumn conference was discussed. It was decided that work through Regional Authorities probably represented a better route for raising awareness of the Forum. It was agreed to consider the matter further in future as opportunities arise.

Date of next meeting: To be confirmed: September / October 2006 in Drogheda.

Summary of actions:

	Action
Write to the Chair of the Borders Regional Authority with a short update on the 'Chernobyl 20 Years On' conference.	SK
Provide SK With contact details for the East Border Region Authority and advise on how to raise the issue of affiliation with the Authority.	MC
Contact Derry City Council regarding affiliation to NFLA.	PB
Provide wording of NFLA anti-nuclear motion to Eugene Cassidy at Meath County Council.	MO'D
Draft submission to the DTI Energy Review on behalf of the All Ireland NFLA Forum, with accompanying press release.	SK/PB
Investigate subsidy issues relating to Anglesey Aluminium	SK/JW
Consider options for joint Irish / Welsh Forum meeting on Wylfa.	SK
Locate Irish local authority contact who was involved in 1988 campaign against Wylfa.	JW
Agree date for All Ireland Forum seminar; invite speakers; and book venue.	SK/MO'D
Encourage colleagues in non-member authorities to take steps to enable their authorities to become members.	All