



News from the Nuclear Free Local Authorities

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Councillor Brian Goodall

NFLA UK & Ireland Secretary:
Sean Morris

NFLA All-Ireland Forum Chairs:
Councillor Michael Carr (North)
Councillor Mark Dearey (RoI)

NFLA All-Ireland Forum
Secretary: Sinead Trainor

NFLA England Forum Chair:
Being appointed shortly.

NFLA Scotland Convenor:
Councillor Fariha Thomas

NFLA Scotland Secretary:
Cathy Birrell

NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor:
Pete Roche

NFLA Wales Co-Chairs:
Councillor Ray Davies
Councillor Ed Bridges

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KEY WEBSITE LINKS:

NFLA: <http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>

Mayors for Peace: <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>

2020 Vision: <http://www.2020visioncampaign.org>

KIMO: <http://www.kimointernational.org>



Delegates discuss Mayors for Peace development at special organizational meeting in Drobak, Norway.

NFLA SC builds for the future

The NFLA Steering Committee held its first meeting following the major local elections in England, Scotland and Wales in Manchester Town Hall.

Despite severe weather preventing some new NFLA member delegates attending, a good number of councils were still represented.

The meeting confirmed that Councillor Brian Goodall would remain the UK and Ireland Chair up to its AGM, and it was also confirmed that Glasgow City Councillor Fariha Thomas would become the Chair of the NFLA Scottish Forum.

The meeting agreed a number of consultation responses and policy

briefings. It was also agreed that the NFLA Chair & NFLA Secretary should attend a new European cities initiative on nuclear safety being led by Vienna.

Forum meetings in Glasgow, Cardiff, Down and Rotherham were agreed. A full report of the meeting is on the NFLA website.

Fukushima nuclear leak largely a 'man-made' disaster

The NFLA Secretariat has issued a media release noting the main findings of an independent Japanese panel on the disaster at Fukushima.

The Japanese panel was damning in its criticism of the plant's owner Tepco, the Japanese Government and nuclear regulators and argued that much

of the disaster was down to human failure and organisational weakness.

The panel concluded that inadequate preventative measures that could have reduced the effects of the disaster had not been put in place prior to the earthquake and tsunami.

In its media release the NFLA commented that

the Japanese report had to be carefully considered by the UK Government & nuclear regulators to avoid a similar disaster taking place at a UK nuclear facility.

It also highlighted the benefits of moving away from nuclear to renewables. The NFLA media release is on its website.

NFLA media releases

July 2012:

(On NFLA website.)

- NFLA submits views to DECC on plutonium reuse
- DECC survey shows strong support for renewable energy and limited support for nuclear power
- NFLA reproduces World Nuclear Industry Status report which shows steady decline of nuclear power
- Fukushima largely a 'man-made disaster' – official Japanese report
- NFLA alarmed to hear of 263 fires on UK nuclear submarines

NFLA briefing developed on plutonium management

The NFLA Secretariat has developed a policy briefing and model response for members to respond to the DECC consultation on what should be done with the UK's large stockpile of potentially weapons-usable plutonium.

The UK has the largest stockpile of plutonium

in the world, much of it at Sellafield. The UK's preferred view is that it should be reprocessed in a new MOX facility.

The NFLA briefing argues that plutonium should rather be immobilised, as has been suggested by the Chair of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The NFLA response strongly objects to the GE Hitachi 'Prism' reactor being built to reprocess plutonium. It believes costs and health matters should be investigated in much more detail.

The Policy Briefing is on the NFLA website. The deadline for submissions is 20th August.

263 fire incidents on UK nuclear submarines in past 25 years

The NFLA has issued a media release raising concern over information that there have been 263 fire incidents on UK nuclear powered (& some armed) submarines since 1987.

The information was provided in a Parliamentary answer from the Defence Minister Peter

Luff to Angus Robertson MP.

Though the majority of the fires were classed as 'minor', 20 cases were 'medium scale' requiring the use of significant resources. 3 fires took place at submarine bases and required ship & external emergency resources.

The NFLA noted its alarm at such figures amidst its wider concerns over the general safety of defence nuclear sites.

The NFLA media release can be found on the NFLA website. A number of media outlets have covered this story.



A 'Close Sellafield' advertisement found by the NFLA Secretary on an advertising hoarding in Oslo city centre.



Mayors for Peace delegates meeting with an official of the Norwegian Foreign Ministry to discuss its 2013 Oslo Conference on the humanitarian effects of nuclear weapons.

DECC survey shows strong support for renewable energy

The NFLA has also issued a media release which highlights strong public support for renewable energy and more limited support for nuclear energy.

The study of 2,121

people found that 80% 'strongly supported' renewable energy with only 5% 'strongly against'.

This compares to just 29% who believe the

benefits of nuclear outweigh the risks.

As DECC had done little to publicise this survey, the NFLA media release tries to rectify that. It is on the NFLA website.

NFLA letters to the media, July 2012

(all emailed directly to NFLA members)

- Why no warning signs for radiation contamination on Sellafield beaches?
- UK energy policy – can DECC really deliver it?

REMEMBERING HIROSHIMA & NAGASAKI / UN PEACE DAY

August 6 & 9 2012 are the 67th anniversaries of the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Events are being held across Britain & Ireland.

A major event is also being planned for the UN World Peace Day on September 21st. Further details will be in the August newsletter.



The Nobel Peace Centre in Oslo, Norway



The Eternal Peace Flame in Oslo, Norway

Hiroshima-Nagasaki exhibition held during London Olympics

The NFLA's Hiroshima – Nagasaki Mayors for Peace exhibition on the atomic bombings and the way forward will be travelling across Ireland and England in July and August.

It is being held in Dublin Central Library from July 16 – 31 to allow Ireland's capital

city to understand the damage and effects of the bombings.

It will then be in London during the Olympics where it will be hosted at Tower Hamlets Town Hall from August 3rd – 12th. It transfers on then to Newcastle Central Library from August 20th – 28th.

Meanwhile, the NFLA Secretary took part in a very useful officers meeting on the future development of Mayors for Peace in Drobak, Norway, which agreed to recommend a number of useful organisational changes. A report on this will be considered by the NFLA Steering Committee.

Nuclear campaigners agree to develop joint statement

A very useful meeting including groups from the wider environmental movement was held in Manchester to discuss strategy and greater co-operation.

Representations from national groups, local anti-nuclear new build opposition groups and overseas groups held a

number of workshops and a generic strategic discussion.

Apart from the very useful opportunity for networking, the meeting agreed that a short 5 point statement of concern would be drafted and widely publicised across the media.

Support for a national event at Hinkley Point in October was also agreed, as well as plans for a mass lobby of Parliament and special events for the 2013 Fukushima & Chernobyl anniversaries. A full follow-up action plan is being devised and acted upon.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

NFLA Scotland meeting, Glasgow City Chambers, late Aug / early Sept (date tbc).

NFLA National SC, Manchester Town Hall, 21st Sept.

NFLA Welsh Forum meeting, Cardiff City Hall, 24th October (date tbc).

NFLA English Forum meeting, Rotherham Town Hall, late October (date tbc).

NFLA All Ireland Forum, County Down, late October (date & venue tbc).

NFLA SC AGM & Annual Seminar, Manchester Town Hall, 7th December.