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**NFLA Secretariat,**  
c/o City Policy, Level 3,  
Town Hall Extension,  
Library Walk,  
Manchester, M60 2LA.  
[s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk)  
Tel: 00 44 (0)161 234 3244

NFLA SC Chair & NFLA English  
Forum Chair  
Councillor David Blackburn

NFLA UK & Ireland Secretary  
Sean Morris

NFLA All-Ireland Forum Chairs  
Councillor John Trainor  
(Northern Ireland)  
Councillor Mark Dearey (RoI)

NFLA All-Ireland Secretary  
Sinead Trainor

NFLA Scotland Convener  
Councillor Feargal Dalton

NFLA Scotland Vice-Convener  
Councillor Audrey Doig

NFLA SC Vice-Chair (Scotland)  
Councillor Bill Butler

NFLA Scotland Secretary  
Cathy Birrell

NFLA Welsh Forum Co-Chairs  
Councillor Ernie Galsworthy  
Councillor Sue Lent

NFLA Policy Advisor  
Pete Roche

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### **Websites / partner links:**

#### **NFLA:**

<http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>  
(Also links to Facebook and Twitter)

CNFE: <http://www.cnfe.eu>

MFP: <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>

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

ICAN: <http://www.icanw.org>

ICAN UK: <http://www.ican-uk.org>



The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Leeds with senior councillors, Prof Paul Rogers and the NFLA Secretary

## Many Councils reject deep-waste store

A request by the UK and Welsh Governments to Councils to 'express an interest' over hosting a deep underground radioactive waste repository has led to some heated discussions, particularly in Northern Ireland and Wales.

Letters have been sent to Councils in England, Wales and Northern Ire-

land as part of the policy to find a host 'volunteer' community for such a repository – often called a 'Geological Disposal Facility'.

NFLA Irish members in Newry, Mourne & Down and Fermanagh & Omagh Councils passed resolutions opposing such waste coming to their localities or Northern

Ireland in general.

In Wales, Council leaders for the likes of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot made clear their opposition to such a facility.

The NFLA remains sceptical with 'deep disposal' over technical and scientific issues. Its views are in a new Policy Briefing on the NFLA website.

## Mayors for Peace Chapter and joint statement on INF Treaty

A joint Mayors for Peace, NFLA & ICAN UK meeting was held in Manchester and heard about a strong statement calling on the US and Russia not to formally abrogate the INF nuclear weapons treaty.

European and North American Vice Presidents of Mayors for Peace called on a return

to negotiation rather than such unilateral action. This month, both the US and Russia suspended the Treaty amidst allegations over tests to new nuclear weapons.

The Mayors for Peace Chapter meeting was chaired by the Lord Mayor of Manchester and included a pres-

entation on progress with the ICAN Cities Appeal and a number of other Mayors for Peace projects. There were also updates from the Foundation for Peace and Peace Jam.

A detailed report on the Chapter meeting and other relevant issues can be found on the NFLA & MFP websites.

**NFLA media releases – February 2019:**  
***(On NFLA website.)***

- NFLA welcomes the Bike for Peace global tour
- NFLA pays tribute to the late Paul Flynn MP
- Mayors for Peace INF Treaty statement
- NFLA welcomes Newry, Mourne and Down statement opposing a deep waste repository in N Ireland
- NFLA gives its views on SEPA Nuclear Sector Plan
- NFLA welcomes Basel Appeal on divestment and



Members of the Bike for Peace group with Fabian Hamilton MP and the NFLA / Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary Sean Morris outside the Palace of Westminster launching their 2019 Global tour from London to New York.

## First NFLA Steering Committee held with videoconferencing

The February UK and Ireland NFLA Steering Committee meeting was the first to be held taking advantage of new video conference facilities.

This allowed members in the Shetland Island Council to take part in a full meeting on core NFLA activity.

The meeting welcomed the decision to halt the Wylfa B new nuclear project. It felt that the weak economics of nuclear power over cheaper renewable energy alternatives could be now decisive.

A major discussion arose over the large number of UK Councils

that had passed either 'climate emergency' or 'zero carbon' motions. This urgency is to be welcomed in promoting a low carbon future.

A report that will look at how Councils will develop such work is in production. A summary report of the meeting is on the NFLA website.

## NFLA Scotland looks at Hunterston B, divestment & climate

The NFLA Scotland Forum held a business meeting and its AGM in Glasgow City Chambers.

The business meeting had a long discussion about the Forum's recent Scottish Parliament briefing on concern with the safety of the Hunterston B reactor. Since this

meeting, discussions have also taken place with the Deputy Chief Nuclear Inspector and the Scottish Energy Minister.

The meeting thought it may be helpful to have some meetings with the trade unions over 'just transition' issues.

There was also the opportunity to hear a short presentation from the 'Don't Bank on the Bomb' Scotland group over nuclear weapon investments in Council pension funds.

The meeting noted the sensitive issues in divestment but agreed to discuss it further.

## NFLA All Ireland Forum planned for Kilkenny City Hall

The last NFLA meeting taking place in Ireland before 'all out' elections across Ireland (which are in May) will be held in Kilkenny City Hall.

The meeting will profile

how Councils can support local energy with speakers from Paul Kenny of the Tipperary Energy Agency and Cormac Walsh of Energy Cooperatives Ireland Ltd.

The NFLA Secretary will look at nuclear risks of concern to Ireland, and Tim Deere-Jones on nuclear transport concerns in the Irish Sea. A flyer for the event is on the NFLA website.

### **Paul Rogers gives the 2019 Leeds Peace Lecture:**

Professor Paul Rogers of Bradford University Peace Studies gave the first of a new series of Leeds International Peace Lectures.

He spoke on the prospects for peace in a troubled world.

The lecture is co-sponsored by Leeds City Council, Leeds Beckett University & Mayors for Peace. It was opened by the Lord Mayor of Leeds and chaired by the Deputy Leader of Leeds City Council.

### **NFLA pays tribute to the late Paul Flynn**

The NFLA gave a fulsome tribute to the late Paul Flynn MP, who sadly died after a long illness.

Paul Flynn was a long-term opponent of both nuclear power and nuclear weapons.

A founder of the Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance, he was also instrumental, while a Gwent councillor, in the famous 1982 Wales 'nuclear free' declaration, at which all Councils at the time supported NFLA.

Paul spoke at a number of NFLA meetings and will be sadly missed.

## **Bike for Peace launches latest world tour from Westminster**

The latest Bike for Peace global tour began in Parliament with an event chaired by the NFLA / Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary.

Bike for Peace began in 1978 and it has visited 119 countries. It brings communities together,

as well as supports peace issues, and is led by Tore Naerland. It works closely with both the Mayors for Peace and the NFLA.

The latest global tour takes in the UK, France, India, China, Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii and the USA. It will

conclude with a special meeting at the UN in New York.

The Westminster launch event was attended by Shadow Peace & Disarmament Minister Fabian Hamilton, CND Secretary General Kate Hudson and its Vice President Bruce Kent. NFLA wishes the tour well.

## **NFLA plans joint Welsh public meeting in Gwynedd**

NFLA is planning to hold a joint public meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> April with other Welsh community and anti-nuclear groups in Bangor, Gwynedd.

The meeting comes after Hitachi's decision to 'halt' development of a new nuclear power plant at Wylfa in Anglesey.

It also comes with renewed support for 'small' modular reactors at sites such as Trawsfynydd in Gwynedd.

The Welsh Government is also hosting two RWM workshops in Swansea and Llandudno that look at the process should a Welsh community / Council decide

to 'express an interest' in hosting a deep waste repository.

With increased calls for much more renewable energy in Wales, the joint meeting will consider this potential turning point in Welsh energy policy. A flyer will be sent out once the meeting location is finalised.

## **Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members**

**NFLA All Ireland Forum, City Hall, Kilkenny, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**NFLA Welsh Forum joint meeting, Bangor Gwynedd, April 13<sup>th</sup> (date and venue tbc)**

**NFLA Scotland Forum, Dundee City Chambers, April 18<sup>th</sup> (date & venue tbc)**

**NFLA English Forum, Leeds Civic Hall, May 24<sup>th</sup>**

**NFLA Steering Committee, Central Library, Manchester, May 31<sup>st</sup>**