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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>

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A packed attendance for the NFLA English Forum meeting in Saxmundham

Covid-19 and public health lockdown

The global outbreak of coronavirus has hit Europe in an unpriced-way in March, leading to 'lockdowns' in both the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

With millions of people now having to work from home and 'social distance', this has had a major impact on all operations, as well as

for the NFLA.

Planned meetings of the UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter on the 27th March, the NFLA Welsh Forum on the 3rd April, the NFLA Scotland meeting on the 23rd April and the NFLA All Ireland meeting on the 1st May have all had to be postponed. Some of the reports around them will

be published on the NFLA website shortly.

A NFLA Steering Committee telephone conference was held on the 27th March and agreed a series of reports and actions over the next couple of months. These will be placed on the NFLA website and social media – please keep an eye out for them.

NFLA English Forum holds packed Sizewell C meeting

Just prior to the Covid-19 lockdown, the NFLA English Forum was able to hold a public meeting in Saxmundham to discuss local concerns about the proposed Sizewell C reactor, just a few miles away.

The public meeting was held in cooperation with local groups TASC, TEAGS, BANNG and

Friends of the Earth Suffolk Coastal.

The meeting had a major focus on environmental concerns with prominent local environmentalist Simon Barnes the keynote speaker. Ben McFarland from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Rachel Fulcher from FOE and Linda Pentz Gunter outlined

various rare birds, flowers and animal species that would be threatened by the large Sizewell C footprint.

Paul Collins from TEAGS, Pete Wilkinson from TASC and Andy Blowers from BANNG looked at the size of the site, technical and climate change concerns. All presentations and films are on the NFLA website.

NFLA media releases,

March 2020:

- NFLA welcomes new Irish solar scheme
- NFLA calls for full suspension of Hinkley C work due to Covid-19
- NFLA cancels meetings due to Covid-19
- NFLA publishes presentations on Sizewell C meeting
- NFLA commemorates 9th anniversary of Fukushima
- NFLA concerned with Hunterston B safety and transport risks
- NFLA unsurprised to hear of NIA letter on new nuclear finance
- NFLA submit views on discharges from HMNB Clyde



Linda Pentz Gunter of Beyond Nuclear speaks at the impact of radiation on women seminar in Manchester



Setsuko Thirlow with the Mayors of Barcelona and Granollers to celebrate Barcelona's resolution to support the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty (Photo - City of Granollers)

NFLA raises concerns over Hinkley Point C and Covid-19

The NFLA has called for all construction work at the Hinkley Point C site to stop as a public safety measure to protect the local population and the workers on it.

Whilst most organisations have told staff to work from home, over 4,500 contract staff on the Hinkley Point site

were continuing to develop the concrete base and other facilities for the proposed new reactor.

EDF has now reduced this to 2,000 staff and brought in enhanced safety measures, but the NFLA and other groups are very concerned this puts

people at risk due to the need for 'social distancing'.

The NFLA has raised its concerns with the Office for Nuclear Regulation and remains convinced that core work must be curtailed.

The media release is on the NFLA website.

NFLA submit views to NRW 'Hinkley' mud consultation

The NFLA Welsh Forum has submitted a joint and highly detailed response to Natural Resources Wales over a new application from EDF Energy to dump sediment from the Hinkley Point site into the Cardiff Deep Grounds.

The report has been developed by Tim Deere-

Jones on behalf of NFLA, Stop Hinkley and CND Cymru.

The report goes into much detail over the previous and planned sampling of both the coastlines of south Wales and Somerset.

The submission calls for much more sampling to

be undertaken to ascertain the impact such dredging may have on low level radiation deposits that exist within the Bristol Channel. It calls for research to be done on plutonium and tritium entering the marine environment. A summary report will be on the website on 1/4/20.

NFLA publish report on impacts of radiation on women

The NFLA has published a report on its website following a meeting on the impacts of radiation on women.

This included presentations made to a meeting

in Manchester by Linda Pentz Gunter of Beyond Nuclear and Linda Walker of the Chernobyl Children's Project UK.

The report looks into what the impacts of the

nuclear fuel & weapons programmes have had on women. It considers the role women have played in highlighting the impact of the Chernobyl disaster. It is on the NFLA website.

NFLA letters to the media
March 2020:
(Sent to NFLA members)

- In a coronavirus public lockdown, it is wrong for construction at Hinkley Point to continue

NFLA STEERING COMMITTEE AGREES REPORTS FOR APRIL AND MAY

The NFLA Steering Committee held a telephone conference on March 27th to discuss key reports and actions.

The useful meeting agreed that the NFLA Secretariat will continue to respond to the nuclear and energy policy debate in the UK & Ireland.

The meeting also agreed for the following reports to be developed in April and May:

- The response to the Hinkley dredging application to the Cardiff deep grounds.
- An update on nuclear emergency planning.
- The impact of Covid-19 on the nuclear sector and what happens next.
- An update on the climate emergency and Council actions.

Further NFLA news in brief

NFLA supports Irish solar scheme: The NFLA has issued a media release welcoming the Irish Government scheme to support a major push forward with solar energy. The new scheme will see a wide number of solar farms to be developed.

NFLA commemorates the 9th anniversary of Fukushima: The NFLA issued a media release remembering those that have been affected by the Fukushima disaster. The media release outlined the many practical issues that need to be resolved, including what to do with the large

amounts of contaminated water.

NFLA comments on NIA letter to UK Government: The NFLA have commented they are 'un-surprised' to hear of a letter from the Nuclear Industry Association over concern that new nuclear may not be funded. See the NFLA website for further details.

Mayors for Peace deals with the challenge of Covid-19

Like all groups, the Mayors for Peace are dealing with the issues around the Covid-19 outbreak and a global lockdown.

It was announced in late March that the planned Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) would be postponed, perhaps

until 2021. Mayors for Peace had planned to send a delegation to this conference.

A decision on whether the August Mayors for Peace Executive and General Conference can go ahead will be made by the MFP Secretariat in early May.

A planned April visit to meet Pope Francis with

European Mayors for Peace delegates has also been postponed.

The March 27th UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter has similarly been postponed.

NFLA has supported ICAN messages on comparing the costs of nuclear weapons with health equipment.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

Due to the Covid-19 outbreak there will be no NFLA public meetings until further notice.

A NFLA Steering Committee telephone conference will be tabled in mid-May.

The NFLA Secretariat is investigating video & phone conference facilities as a medium term alternative.