NFLA National Forums hold informative webinars

Throughout June, NFLA has provided informative webinars on its work to its members and supporters.

This began with an All Ireland Forum webinar that looked at the role of Irish Councils in tackling the climate emergency and the need for a post Covid-19 green stimulus.

The NFLA English and Welsh Forums held a joint webinar on the ‘Hinkley mud’ issue and the climate emergency.

The NFLA Scotland Forum held its business meeting with detailed discussion on all its main policy issues.

These meetings were attended by NFLA member councillors and council officers as well as interested NGO representatives.

The actions from these meetings are being taken up by the NFLA Secretariat and some of them are noted in other articles in this newsletter. The presentations can be found on the NFLA website.

NFLA Steering Committee sets summer work programme

The NFLA Steering Committee held a web-based business meeting on the 26th June to discuss progress in its workstreams and plans for the summer.

The NFLA Secretary provided an update on all aspects of NFLA activity. A presentation and a note of the meeting will go on the NFLA website shortly.

As part of this report the Steering Committee approved plans for reports and activity over the summer.

Reports to be drafted include reworked nuclear emergency planning and transport briefings, an analysis of the divestment debate, an overview of Sellafield and of concerns over aging AGR reactors, and an update on the need for green recovery.

Activity includes focusing on the supporting of local events for the 75th anniversary of Hiroshima & Nagasaki. Plans will also be prepared for World Peace Day and NFLA’s 40th anniversary.
Hinkley mud, silo incident & aging issues at B plant

NFLA is joining a coalition of groups coming together to challenge EDF’s new application to dump over 600,000 tonnes of materials from the Hinkley Point site to the Cardiff Deep Grounds.

In its initial response to a pre-consultation, the regulator Natural Resources Wales are largely in favour of the dredging taking place.

The new campaign will seek to put public pressure on the health, safety and environmental issues around this application; and the need for independent figures on an expert panel advising the Welsh Government.

NFLA is also following up concerns after an accident to a silo on the Hinkley Point C, which led to a release of dust across the site. There are also concerns over aging issues with Hinkley Point B, which will be closed until the end of 2020.

NFLA supports 100% Renewable UK report on grid payments

NFLA has joined with others to support the creation of a new group campaigning for 100% renewables.

The first report of ‘100% Renewable UK’ looks at how flexible wind power in Scotland often has to be turned off due to the inflexible ‘baseload’ issue of the existing nuclear power fleet.

It was found that in 2019 77% of windfarm output which was turned off (constrained) could have been generated had nuclear power plants not been operating. These results indicate a direct relationship between nuclear power and the payments made to windfarms to turn off.

In 2019 £130 million in compensation had to be given to windfarms for being turned off in this way.

NFLA welcome this report and new group in a media release found on its website.

NFLA representatives attend nuclear policy Forums

June has also been a busy month of online meetings with nuclear policy stakeholder engagement.

This includes the BEIS NGO Nuclear Forum, which included a Q & A session with the UK Energy Minister Nadhim Zahawi.

The NFLA Secretary also interacted with the NDA / RWM NGO Forum and the ONR NGO Forum.

A NuLEAF meeting was also held looking at NDA operations in the past few months. NFLA are keen to represent members at this time.
NFLA plans further work on supporting the green recovery

As the Covid-19 lockdown is slowly eased, there has been a plethora of reports calling for a green recovery.

Such reports argue that green recovery plans can tackle the pressing and long-term climate crisis. They can also facilitate a fair and equitable ‘just transition’ whilst generating millions of new low or zero carbon jobs.

A part of such a green recovery could include a huge local energy efficiency programme, as well as increased use of renewable heat and transport solutions.

In May, NFLA outlined its ideas. It plans a further report looking at this critical issue and planned responses from the UK, Irish, Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish governments to the Covid-19 economic crisis. Much work needs to be done.

Mayors for Peace progress and Chapter meetings

The UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter is meeting on the 3rd July to discuss plans for the 75th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic weapons attacks.

With Covid-19 social distancing rules making public events more difficult to take place, the Chapter meeting will provide some useful suggestions of how to commemorate this important anniversary,

Hiroshima and Nagasaki will be holding their annual peace ceremony but only at 10% of normal capacity.

A youth peace education webinar is being organised by Hiroshima, and a YouTube message is also being devised with leading Mayors for Peace figures, including the Lord Mayor of Manchester.

The meeting will outline progress with the Mayors for Peace European Chapter, a personal experience of Hiroshima and the work of the group ‘Peace Partners’.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

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<td>UK &amp; Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter webinar</td>
<td>3rd July</td>
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<td>Hiroshima &amp; Nagasaki 75th anniversary</td>
<td>6th &amp; 9th August</td>
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<td>NFLA Steering Committee webinar</td>
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<td>NFLA Scotland Forum webinar</td>
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