



NFLA SC Chair Councillor Lawrence O'Neill

NFLA/MFP Chapter Secretary Richard Outram

NFLA SC Vice-Chair (England) and English Forum Chair Councillor David Blackburn

NFLA SC Vice-Chair (Scotland) Councillor Bill Butler

NFLA SC Vice-Chair (Wales) and Welsh Forum Chair Councillor Sue Lent

NFLA SC Vice-Chairs (Ireland) and All-Ireland Forum Co-Chairs (NI) - vacant (RoI) Councillor David Healy

NFLA Scotland Convener Councillor Paul Leinster

NFLA Scotland Vice-Convener Councillor Audrey Doig

NFLA Scotland Secretary Cathy Birrell

NFLA All-Ireland Secretary Eamonn Keaveney

NFLA Policy Advisor Pete Roche

NFLA English and Welsh Forum Vice Chairs – currently vacant

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Websites / partner links:

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

CNFE: <http://www.cnfe.eu>
Mayors for Peace globally and in Europe:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.eu>

KIMO:

<http://www.kimointernational.org>

'Far wiser to back renewables', NFLA English Forum Chair tells prospective investors in Sizewell C

In support of the Stop Sizewell C campaign, which is seeking to dissuade the money market from backing the construction of a new nuclear power station at Sizewell C in Suffolk, the NFLAs have written to five possible investors asking them to say NON to an investment in Sizewell C.

NFLA English Forum Chair Councillor David Blackburn wrote to directors at *Amber Investment Group, Equifax, Schroders Greencoat Capital, the Universities Superannuation Scheme*, as well as the *ENEC*, the Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation which operates the Barakah nuclear plant.

In the letter, Councillor Blackburn outlines the reasons why an investment in Sizewell C would be unsound and suggests to managers that:

'It would be far wiser for your organisation to invest every available penny into the proven renewable technologies that we already have now – these would generate power and heat far more quickly and more cheaply, and generate for you a more immediate financial return, than making any investment in this monstrous nuclear boondoggle.'

Replies are eagerly awaited. The NFLAs have previously written to Centrica, also believed to be in the running to back the project.



NFLAs proud to support Rock Solid 2

In a first, NFLA Secretary Richard Outram has been asked to join radiation expert Dr Ian Fairlie to open the new Rock Solid 2 art exhibition at a preview event being hosted by the Kendal Museum on Friday 10 May (6-8pm).

The exhibition in the Peoples Gallery (9 May-29 June, Thurs-Sat 9.30am-4.30pm only) will contain many exciting art works that will explore the geology of the Lake District and Cumbrian coast 'through the prism of the Geological Disposal Facility'. Two search areas in Cumbria – called Mid and South-Copeland – remain under consideration as potential sites for the nuclear waste dump.

Ian and Richard will also be speaking at a meeting at the Kendal Museum, on Saturday 11 May about the GDF (7-9pm). All welcome.

To book your place at the 10 May preview event and/or the 11 May meeting please rsvp info@kendalmuseum.org.uk or ring 01539 815597.

FREE Talk with Q & A
Dr Ian Fairlie
Expert on Radiation in the Environment
&
Richard Outram
Nuclear Free Local Authorities

May 11th 2024
7pm - 9pm
The Venue
via Kendal Museum
Station Road, Kendal, LA9 6BT

Entry to the Talk is Free but places are limited please RSVP
info@kendalmuseum.org.uk or 01539 815597



Latest NFLA media releases (on website)

NFLA Secretary delighted to support Rock Solid 2 launch – 30 April

Fears raised over Wales accident risk involving aircraft carrying nuclear materials – 30 April

Five possible investors urged to say NON to Sizewell C – 29 April

85% in 2022, 85% in 2024: 'Theddlethorpe' is still not a willing community – 17 April

Nuclear Free Local Authorities join Lakenheath Alliance for Peace – 3 April

Canadian colleagues face vote crunch time

For almost a year, the NFLAs have been in contact with Canadian activists opposed to plans to impose a nuclear waste dump on the communities of Ignace or South Bruce, both in Ontario.

As you receive this newsletter, a four day online poll of voters in Ignace will have just concluded. The municipal Council is seeking voters' approval for the agreement they have provisionally signed off with nuclear waste dumpers, the Nuclear Waste Management Organisation.

At South Bruce, the local Council has just passed a by-law naming October 28 as the date on which a future referendum shall be held.

We shall be awaiting the result of the Ignace ballot and looking to identify any lessons relevant to the UK.



Theddlethorpe still 'not a willing community'

A recent survey initiated by a Councillor representing the beleaguered ward of Theddlethorpe has again demonstrated that two years on most local people remain vehemently opposed to the imposition of a high-level radioactive waste dump on their quiet community.

Since being elected in May 2023, East Lindsey District Councillor Travis Hesketh has been working hard to stop a Geological Disposal Facility coming to his ward. The GDF would receive Britain's legacy and future radioactive waste. This would be buried in a massive structure of deep tunnels extending out under the North Sea.

Helped by a team of residents, Councillor Hesketh recently organised the survey of local opinion.

1,008 local people were asked how they felt about the prospect of a GDF being built in the area, using a similar question to that employed in local polling by Nuclear Waste Services in late 2023. 85% said they were against the GDF; the same result as a poll of electors conducted by the Theddlethorpe Parish Council two years ago.

Councillor Hesketh is right in his assessment that Theddlethorpe is "not a willing community, and never will be", and, as we agree, the NFLAs have again written to Nuclear Minister Andrew Bowie on the back of this result urging him to pull Theddlethorpe from further consideration.

A campaign group, Guardians of the East Coast, continues to fight the unpopular plan to locate the dump on the beautiful Lincolnshire tourist coast.

The NFLA Secretary met recently with activists at GOTEK and with Cllr Hesketh at the end of April as this newsletter is being published.

NFLAs to join Australian colleagues in opposing sub waste 'Terra Nullius'

The NFLAs have contacted anti-nuclear activists in Australia to offer support in opposing legislation 'down under' that may lead to British radioactive waste from submarines being stored there.

The AUKUS pact signed by Australia, UK and USA commits the partners to collaborative military activity in the Pacific region, and to supply Australia with nuclear-powered subs.

The new law allows for facilities to be built for 'managing, storing or disposing of radioactive waste from an Aukus submarine', (including a UK/US submarine) including a 'submarine that is not complete (e.g. because it is being constructed or disposed of)'.

Dave Sweeney, the Australian Conservation Foundation's nuclear free campaigner, fears Australia could become 'a little bit of a radioactive terra nullius'.

Channelling his inner Homer Simpson

The NFLA Secretary recently received a bizarre invitation to join a 5-day course in Malaysia to receive 'comprehensive training on SMR technology and hands-on simulated experience in reactor operations'. The course combines 'lectures, practical simulation training, and programming exercises'.

Though our NFLA Secretary will not, of course, be taking up a place, Richard Outram thought this might be 'a chance to channel my inner Homer Simpson', a nuclear operative more fixated on donuts than plant safety.

Our friend Professor Stephen Thomas at Greenwich University was equally bemused by the invitation: "The course will be held in a country with no reactors or plans to build any and details on who will give the training are sketchy (non-existent). The only endorsements are from Ghana which has no reactors and is not likely to get any soon and Mexico which has no solid plans to build anymore."



Fears raised about Wales accident risk involving nuclear materials.

An air crash involving an RAF aircraft carrying US nuclear materials over South Wales may be the stuff of nightmares, but the Chair of the Welsh Nuclear Free Local Authorities has just written to the First Minister of Wales asking him to contemplate just that possibility.



The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and Nukewatch have just published a disturbing briefing titled *'Special nuclear flights between the UK and US: the dangers involved'* on the transport of radioactive materials used in Britain's nuclear weapons. Around ten such round-trips are made every year.

The RAF use C-17 Globemasters (above) to carry these materials, using various routes, including making overflights over South Wales. Welsh Forum Chair Cardiff City Councillor Sue Lent wants Welsh emergency planning authorities to properly consider the likely impact of any accident involving nuclear materials. Bridgend, Caerphilly, Cardiff, and Torfaen are all NFLAs in South Wales.

The First Minister is as Chair of the Wales Resilience Forum which *'supports good communication and improves emergency planning across agencies and services'* acting as a coordinating body for local resilience forums across Wales. These local forums *'bring together all responder organisations that have a duty to co-operate under the Civil Contingencies Act. Together, they ensure they prepare for emergencies by working in a coordinated and effective way.'*

The Minister of Defence hosts annual Astral Bend exercises *'to practice and test the emergency response to an accident involving an RAF aircraft transporting special nuclear materials'*. Journalist Rob Edwards revealed that failures at an exercise held in February 2011 at the Caerwent military base in South Wales would have led to *"avoidable deaths" in a real-life situation'*. The MoD now refuses to release details of later exercises.

Councillor Lent asks First Minister Gething to *'seek a reassurance from the MoD / RAF that such flights will be diverted out to sea, well away from our South Wales municipalities, and revisit emergency planning arrangements should an accident involving these special nuclear materials occur'* and suggests that a follow-up exercise to test the preparedness of Welsh emergency service agencies is *'long overdue.'*

NFLAs join Lakenheath Alliance for Peace.

The NFLAs are delighted to have joined the Lakenheath Alliance for Peace, a coalition of peace groups and activists opposed to the return of US nuclear weapons to the UK.

'RAF' Lakenheath in Suffolk is the largest United States Air Force base in the UK. 4,000 military personnel are based there, operating four squadrons of F15-E and 'nuclear capable' F35-A fighter-bomber aircraft.

From 1954 until 2008, nuclear bombs were stockpiled at the base. The Federation of American Scientists recently revealed plans to build a new dormitory to accommodate 144 service personnel to carry out a 'potential surety mission', Pentagon code for stockpiling nuclear weapons.

Last year, we wrote to county emergency planners and to Ministry of Defence officials with our concerns about the lack of preparedness for a potential accident involving a nuclear-armed aircraft or a transport aircraft bringing these weapons to the UK.

We also wrote to the Foreign and Defence Secretaries urging them to refuse the United States permission to relocate US nuclear weapons on British soil. The plea was ignored.

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament will be holding a Day of Action over US nuclear weapons at Lakenheath on 11 May. Other events will be held in Bridgewater, London, Manchester, and Swansea. Links to events and resources can be found at: <https://cnduk.org/events/dont-put-britain-on-the-nuclear-front-line-day-of-action/>

The Alliance is organising a protest walk and cycle ride starting from Norwich Town Hall on Saturday 13th July and ending at the base on Monday 15th July. Participants are invited then to spend time at the site in the Summer Camp until 25th July. More information can be found at: <https://lakenheathallianceforpeace.org.uk/event/lakenheath-walk-and-camp/>

