



NFLA SC Chair - Councillor  
Lawrence O'Neill

NFLA/MFP Chapter Secretary -  
Richard Outram

NFLA SC Vice-Chair (England)/  
English Forum Chair - Vacant

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) - Vacant

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

English and Welsh Forum Vice  
Chairs – Vacant

## Contents:

Pg 1: NFLAs appeal for  
exclusion of beauty spots  
from South Copeland GDF  
development / Will Haverigg  
wind farm also be threatened  
by GDF development?

Pg 2: Backing the wrong  
horse? / Pure blackmail? /  
Pre-determination? / First  
Nations legal challenge /  
Latest media releases &  
briefings

Pg 3: Webinar: Nuclear  
Deterrence: Threat to or  
Guarantee of our Security? /  
Mayors for Peace Chapter  
calls for Peace Education /  
Congratulations to the  
Hibakusha

**NFLA Secretariat, City Policy,  
Level 6, Town Hall Extension,  
Library Walk, Manchester, M60 2LA.  
Richard.outtram@manchester.gov.uk  
Tel: +44 (0)7583097793**

## **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:**

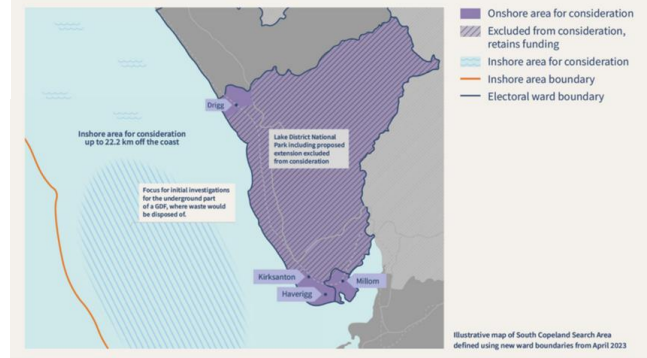
<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>  
<http://www.mayorsforpeace.eu>

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

**ICAN:** <https://www.icanw.org/>

**Right:**  
The  
South  
Copeland  
Search  
Area.

## **South Copeland Search Area** Millom Without and Millom electoral wards



## **NFLAs appeal to exclude beauty spots from South Copeland GDF development**

The NFLAs have appealed to the South Copeland GDF Community Partnership and Nuclear Waste Services to exclude tourist spots, heritage sites and the local prison from consideration as Areas of Focus in South Copeland.

In these Areas of Focus, NWS will conduct '*further investigative and technical studies*' to identify a site that may have the potential to host the surface facility, approximately 1 KM square, that will receive regular shipments of high-level radioactive waste.

Much of the South Copeland GDF Search Area is already excluded from any development because it lies within the Lake District National Park, but coastal areas around Drigg, Haverigg, and Millom, and inland to Kirksanton are still considered potential sites for a Geological Disposal Facility.

In November 2022, the Millom Town Deal Board secured an offer of £20.6 million from the government for local priority projects. This has been matched with a further £8.7 million in local funding. Much of this money will be used to improve leisure and tourism facilities in the area, particularly the historic Iron Line which will bring in an expected 100,000 more visitors each year to the area, with a considerable uplift in tourist revenue.

The NFLAs would like to see the Town Deal project sites, local beaches, bird and nature reserves, historic sites and the local prison, HMP Haverigg, which is a major local employer, exempted from consideration.

We have also requested that the Millom and District Local History Society be consulted to identify sites of historic importance that should be excluded from consideration. In early 2025, the work of the society will feature in a latest series of Digging for Britain, with coverage of the discovery of bronze axe heads in Millom in the second episode to be screened on BBC2 at 8pm on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January. (All of the episodes are available on I-Player from 7 January).

## **Will Haverigg wind farm also be threatened by GDF development?**

The NFLAs have also written to the operators of the Haverigg wind turbines to make them aware of the possibility that the wind farm may become an Area of Focus and may ultimately be considered a site for the GDF.

The Haverigg II and III sites each comprise four turbines operated respectively by Thrive Renewables and Windcluster. Together they generate around 16 GW of electricity every year, enough to power over 4,000 homes.

## Backing the wrong horse?

It is said that money talks, and the nuclear industry and national government making an offer of owdles of cash to any financially-challenged local authority which might be a partner in hosting a radioactive waste dump would be a guaranteed conversation starter.

The Executive of Lincolnshire County Council agreed recently to start that conversation by seeking a Hosting Agreement with Nuclear Waste Services and Whitehall. This would provide for 'Significant Additional Investment' if Theddlethorpe were to host the Geological Disposal Facility.

Lincolnshire Councillors were following the lead of colleagues in South Bruce, Ontario, who secured a promise of \$418 million from Canada's own NWS, the Nuclear Waste Management Organisation (NWMO), in return for agreeing to accommodate their own Deep Geological Repository.

Lincolnshire County Council want a guarantee of big money to meet their six key infrastructure asks in coastal defences, road and rail networks, public transport, education and skills training, energy, the environment and in the economy.

Councillors were told that the South Bruce example was 'of the most relevance', but the irony is that these bigwigs were meeting after the South Bruce cash cow had bolted; for NWMO had already announced with great fanfare that they had selected Ignace, Ontario instead.

The experience of South Bruce demonstrates that hitching your wagon to any competitive siting process in the hope of major infrastructure investment is a risky strategy as there is no guarantee your horse will arrive first at its desired destination.

Bill Noll of Canadian campaign group, Protect Our Waterways, commenting on the failed South Bruce experience said:

*"Why wait 12 years and miss opportunities because they have become so focus on winning the lottery. And it is a lottery. They are not in control, the industry is. That is what happened in South Bruce, and they did not consider other opportunities to grow the community."*

## Pure blackmail?

Elsewhere in Lincolnshire, East Lindsey District Councillors were engaged in a fractious debate over proposals to accept £3 million in money from the Environment Agency to plan coastal defence works. The controversy arose because the money originated from the coffers of Nuclear Waste Services.

It is of course in the interests of NWS to invest in coastal defences because they would not want to see any Geological Disposal Facility sited in Mablethorpe or Theddlethorpe inundated in the future by flooding.

The surface site would be operable for up to 175 years, receiving regular shipments of high-level radioactive waste shipments. Flood waters could render the facility inoperable far in advance of this end date.

Local members, Cllrs Travis Hesketh and Robert Watson called the proposal "pure blackmail". Councillor Watson issued a caution that accepting the money will mean the district council "surrenders its independence" to NWS.

In response to his critics, Council Leader Craig Leyland said "I don't care if its tainted money".

## Pre-determination?

The decisions of East Lindsey District and Lincolnshire County Councils to seek money from the nuclear industry and the national government could be inferred as indicating that they are pre-disposed to accept a Geological Disposal Facility in order to access the money.

Indeed, the report put before Lincolnshire County Council states under a section titled 'Reputation' that: *'There is [the] risk of perception of predetermination for [the] GDF facility due to the source of funding being NWS.'*

These decisions certainly 'tie the horses' of the two authorities to the 'cart' of Nuclear Waste Services.

East Lindsey District Council would have to find another source of finance to carry out the preparatory work on coastal defences were it to disengage from the GDF process.

Consequently senior councillors are in effect curtailed from exercising their Right to Withdraw and it will certainly not be inclined to call for an early Test of Public Support within 12 months, as agreed recently by full Council.

Lincolnshire County Council in seeking a Host Agreement may also be focussed on an event in three years time.

In the report to Council, it states that *'It is, however, important that LCC ensures that all opportunities that the facility could provide are identified. This will help inform the local community's response to the Test of Public Support (ToPS) which the council has sought to be held no later than 2027.'*

This could be interpreted as the Council adopting a policy of 'dangling' the investment carrot before the public hoping this will convince them to vote 'yes' to the development in the Test. This in effect makes the Host Agreement a promissory note to sway the vote.

## First Nations legal challenge

The Eagle Lake First Nation has applied to the Canadian Federal Court for a judicial review, challenging the selection of Ignace and the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation area by the NWMO as the site of the Deep Geological Repository, stating that it should have had a say in the matter as the site falls "squarely" in its territory.

## Latest NFLA media releases and briefing (on website)

- NFLA Policy Briefing 308: Developments and NFLA Progress Report, Mid Oct. – Nov. 2024 – 4 Dec.
- A promissory note to sway the vote? Lincolnshire opts to seek Hosting Agreement – 9 Dec.
- NFLAs make appeal over Areas of Focus in South Copeland – 10 Dec.
- NFLAs make second appeal over Areas of Focus in South Copeland – 13 Dec.
- "I don't care if its tainted money": Council leader's telling admission in NWS cash grab debate – 16 Dec.

### Webinar: Nuclear Deterrence: Threat to or Guarantee of our Security?

Last November 28th, the European Chapter of Mayors for Peace held a webinar on "*Nuclear Deterrence: Threat to or Guarantee of our Security.*"

This webinar attempted to answer three questions: Is it realistic to base the security of our countries on nuclear deterrence? Has the world been spared another world war since 1945 because of nuclear deterrence? Could deterrence fail? And if so, what would be the consequences?

The webinar was opened with the words of Mr. Kazumi Matsui, the Mayor of Hiroshima and President of Mayors for Peace, followed by interventions from Daniel Högsta of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and Marc Finaud from Initiatives for Nuclear Disarmament (IDN).

There were four panellists, experts on the matter who provided their arguments on these questions.

Dr Francesca Giovannini, the Executive Director of the Harvard Belfer Centre Initiative on Managing the Atom, argued that the guarantee of and the threat to our security go hand in hand; one use threats to guarantee the security. She also added that nuclear deterrence is a fact of the human nature interactions, intangible and untestable.

Dr Benoît Pelopidas, Professor of Security Studies at Sciences Po, Paris explained that the argument of control cannot avoid any error of unwanted nuclear explosions, we need to consider that we have been lucky so far.

Dr Laura Considine, an Associate Professor of International Politics at Leeds University specialising in Global Nuclear Politics, focused her argument on the use of language. She mentioned that the way we think or speak about nuclear weapons influences our thoughts.

Kjølv Egeland, a senior researcher at NORSAR, a Norwegian NGO which carries out seismic monitoring for nuclear test explosions, pointed out the importance of asking ourselves whether it is a good idea to keep nuclear weapons around and rely on them.

These presentations were followed by questions from the audience, including one from the current and former Secretary of the UK/Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter.

Alba Barnusell, president of the European Chapter, closed the webinar.

The webinar was recorded and can still be watched on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E9v1V-JZodk>

### Mayors for Peace Chapter calls for Peace Education

The Secretary of the UK/Ireland Chapter of Mayors for Peace has responded to a government consultation by calling for peace education to be included on England's school curriculum and give students the opportunity to achieve a qualification in this subject.

The Department for Education Curriculum and Assessment Panel conducted a consultation which closed in November.

The Chapter Secretary recently graduated from the University of Bradford Peace Studies department, so the subject is close to his heart.

The United Nations has recognised that '*quality education for peace and tolerance for every child holds the potential to transform societies*'.

The UN Human Rights Council passed a motion: '*on ensuring education for peace and tolerance for every child*'.

Mayors for Peace places a strong emphasis on peace education, and the present President of the initiative, Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima, is passionate about the promotion of a 'culture of peace', particularly amongst younger people.

At the recent Executive Cities Conference held in Manchester, an action plan was adopted which included '*Promoting peace education in each member city*'.

Our Mayors for Peace Chapter stands ready to participate in any future professional / expert panel established by the Panel to take forward the inclusion of peace education in the curriculum.

### Congratulations to the Hibakusha

The Nobel Peace Prize award ceremony took place in Oslo City Hall on 10 December – the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death. At the ceremony, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Mr. Terumi Tanaka representing recipients, the Hibakusha survivors' group, Hihon Hidankyo.

The ceremony, and Mr Tanaka's speech, can be accessed at: <https://www.nobelprize.org/ceremony/the-nobel-peace-prize-award-ceremony-2024/>

Happy  
New Year  
2025