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## Women's shelter OK'd

By **Kevin Mills - Abbotsford News**  
Published: **May 12, 2010 4:00 PM**  
Updated: **May 12, 2010 4:11 PM**

A new women's support shelter is one step closer to being created.

On Monday night, council approved second and third reading to a rezoning request by the Elizabeth Fry Society.

The group wants to create a centre at the old Motel Rio (31399 Livingstone Ave.) which will provide temporary shelter and services to women and their children needing support before moving into independent, permanent housing.

During a public hearing two weeks ago, residents of the Paradise Mobile Home Park – which sits adjacent to the motel – voiced opposition.

The Paradise is a seniors park (55 and older), and



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residents feared lack of privacy, trespassing and other concerns.

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Despite the comments, council was unanimous in its decision. Coun. John Smith said he understands why residents may be apprehensive, but after examining the society's concept he feels confident in the decision.

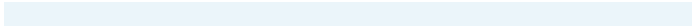
"I think they are legitimate fears, but looking at the proposal, I don't think it will become an actual problem," said Smith.

He said he has assurances from the society that the facility will only house women who need help, not former inmates.

"We are talking about victims of abuse or women with substance abuse problems – and their children."

Smith called it a needed facility and a significant move by council.

The 22-unit shelter will house a maximum of 31 people. The society is planning to construct a second building – complete with 20 more units – but those plans would not be considered for several years.




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