

## **The Ericht Trust is Poised to move the Hill Project Forward**

Since August 2014, the Ericht Trust Board has been working hard to make a viable and sustainable business case for the re-worked plans for the Hill Primary School.

We now know that we can achieve this and have drawn together the documents to make a presentation to Perth and Kinross Council. These documents were delivered to the Council on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015. The Portfolio and Executive Summary are available on the website ([www.theerichttrust.co.uk](http://www.theerichttrust.co.uk)) and, in town, in the Library and One Voice Community Office.

The Ericht Trust will be applying for a three year licence for the school buildings in order to apply to the funding bodies, principally The Heritage Lottery and The Big Lottery, for the money to complete the project. The licence agreement will contain an option to buy the premises at any time during the three years once a promise of funding is secured.

To help us do this we have appointed Ron Inglis (Cinema & Arts Consultant) as a Project Director. Ron has extensive experience of cinema and arts projects including the Birks Cinema in Aberfeldy and more recently he has been Project Manager with Campbeltown Community Business, where £3m has been raised for the restoration of the historic Picture House.

In the first instance, we will be applying for a Start-up grant from the Heritage Lottery to appoint a Heritage Consultant for the areas of the project related to our Heritage – principally “ The Berries” and “ The Print Museum”, and the building itself. Other topics will be brought in as space and funds allow.

At the same time, Ron will begin the Stage 1 application of Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF) and will make presentations to other funders and agencies in due course.

The revised cost for the project is now £4.8m. The Trustees would like to thank the professional team who have contributed so much over the last two years. In total we have raised over £50,000 towards all the professional fees and have received more than 160 hours of free professional help from local experts.

26<sup>th</sup> January 2015.