

Location Location Location

Barrie Henderson

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1. What was your motivating factor in setting up your own business?

I spent 10 years working for BP and in that time I'd always had a burning ambition to work for myself. I really enjoy being in the driving seat and thrive on the excitement and challenge that comes with wanting to make my business a great success.

2. Why did you decide to locate in the Falkirk area?

I am originally from Falkirk, so that played a part in the decision. I found a fantastic site in Lochlands Business Park, Larbert which is close to the Falkirk Wheel; from a location and market point of view I felt that there was lots of potential from being based in this area of Falkirk. The business benefits from the Wheel's visitors and I identified that there was an opportunity for a new leisure activity in the area. Falkirk is also centrally located with easy access from Stirling, Edinburgh, Glasgow and the hillfoots.

3. Describe your typical Falkirk customer – and why you love them?

We attract a wide range of people looking to enjoy the thrill of karting, ranging from locals having a night out with friends, to children taking part in our Sunday cadet training club, visitors from the Wheel and companies hosting corporate events. Many companies with offices in both Glasgow and Edinburgh find us the perfect location to hold their fiercely competitive days out!

4. What is the best piece of advice to someone setting up in business in the Falkirk area?

It took two years from the concept and planning stages through to finding premises and opening up so drive and determination are essential. It is hard work but the sense of accomplishment and thrill of running your own business is well worth it!

There is so much help out there – use it. The Falkirk Enterprise Action Trust, Business Gateway and various Council groups were really helpful in taking us through all of the processes and gave us sound advice.

5. How would you describe Falkirk's business community in three words?

Vibrant, growing and diverse.

6. What would you like to happen in the next five years?

I'd like Xtreme Karting to become a key supplier of leisure activities in central Scotland and to continue to grow. Come along and try karting for yourself or for more information contact us at tel: 01324 579797 www.falkirkgokarting.com