

2026 Election Timeline

What's happening, when it happens, and what every current and prospective Community Councillor needs to do — from the Notice of Election to the new 2026–2030 term.

783

ELECTORATE

8

MAX MEMBERS

4

QUORUM

4 yrs

TERM LENGTH

ELECTION TIMELINE

27 JULY

Notice of Election published — nominations open

South Lanarkshire Council formally opens the nomination period for Black Mount Community Council.

28 JULY - 10 SEPTEMBER

ACTION NEEDED

Nomination window — submit your nomination form

Under the Scheme, self-nomination is not permitted. Every candidate needs a proposer and a seconder, both on the electoral register with their main residence in the Black Mount area, plus the candidate's own signed consent.

• Current members must re-nominate — sitting on the outgoing Council does not carry over automatically.

• Candidates must be 16+ and on the electoral register for Black Mount.

• Line up your proposer and seconder early — don't leave it to the last week.

10 SEPTEMBER

Nominations close

Forms received after this date cannot be accepted. Candidates may withdraw only up to this point.

11 SEPTEMBER

Council confirms the election type

The Council reviews nominations against the maximum membership (8) and confirms whether the election is **uncontested** (candidates declared elected, no ballot) or **contested** (a poll is arranged).

21 OCTOBER

Current Community Council stands down

The outgoing Council's term ends ahead of election day.

22 OCTOBER

Election Day

IF CONTESTED

Polling runs 2.00pm–8.00pm if a ballot is required; postal votes are available on request. If uncontested, candidates are simply declared elected on this date instead.

23 OCTOBER

Results published (if contested)

2 NOVEMBER

INAUGURAL MEETING

Inaugural meeting — NOT the normal AGM

Convened by an Independent Interim Chairperson within 21 days of the election. This meeting formally establishes the new Council for the term ahead.

• Form the new Community Council

• Elect **Chairperson** — serves the full 4-year term

• Elect **Secretary** — 1-year appointment, re-electable

• Elect **Treasurer** — 1-year appointment, re-electable

• Elect other office bearers

• Adopt the Constitution, Standing Orders and Code of Conduct

• Agree the calendar of meeting dates for the year ahead

AFTER 2 NOVEMBER

2026–2030 term begins

The new Community Council takes up its four-year term. At least 1 AGM and 4 ordinary meetings must be held each year; quorum is 4 members (1/4 of the maximum 8, or 4 — whichever is greater).

BEFORE 10 SEPTEMBER

☐ Decide if you're standing again.

Re-nomination is required even for current Councillors — nothing carries over.

☐ Find a proposer and a seconder.

Both must be on the Black Mount electoral register.

☐ Complete and sign the nomination form.

Include your written consent to stand.

☐ Confirm you'll accept the Code of Conduct.

Required as part of your nomination consent.

☐ Submit to the Council before the close of nominations.

Late forms cannot be accepted — build in a buffer.

WHAT DETERMINES A BALLOT?

Nominations ≤ 8 (and ≥ 4)

All candidates declared elected automatically — no vote needed.

Nominations > 8

A contested poll is held; residents vote for up to 8 candidates, most votes win.

Nominations < 4

Council not constituted at this round; a second call for nominations follows within 3 months.

INDEPENDENT CHAIRPERSON

An **Independent Interim Chairperson** — someone who is not a current member and isn't standing — acts as Returning Officer for the election and calls the inaugural meeting.

This keeps the process fair and separate from any candidate's own interests.

GOOD TO KNOW

Chair vs. Secretary/Treasurer: the Chair's term runs the full 4 years; Secretary and Treasurer are re-elected annually — even in a non-election year.

Casual vacancies after 2 November can be filled by co-option (up to 1/4 of elected membership) or, if membership falls below 4, a by-election within 3 months.