

# 'Get on with your life' Judge McNulty tells woman who collided with cyclist

A MUM-of-two who knocked down a cyclist outside Kinsale hasn't driven since the collision, a court was told.

Carol O'Leary (28) of Acres, Kinsale, pleaded guilty to careless driving at Bandon District Court, while a charge of not remaining at the scene of an accident was withdrawn by the prosecution.

State solicitor Malachy Boohig told the court that on September 18th at 10:35am, Gda Fergal Dowling

received a report of an accident at Barrells Cross outside Kinsale.

'Declan Doyle had been cycling from Kinsale to Ballinspittle when he noticed a grey Mazda to his left and it drove out from a side road and onto the main road knocking him off his bike,' said Mr Boohig.

He had a front tooth chipped and there was blood on his face as a result of being knocked down, the court heard.

Gda Dowling later called to the defendant's home and the court heard she was in a distressed state and admitted she was involved in the collision, and there was evidence of fresh scratches on the bumper of her car.

Defence solicitor Diarmuid O'Shea said his client had been taking one of her daughters to camogie training and said she just did not see the cyclist.

'She was in the wrong and she

stopped and got out to see was he okay. He got cross and started shouting at her and her kids then got upset so she went home and rang gardaí in Kinsale to report the collision,' said Mr O'Shea.

The court heard that she was fully insured at the time and that a third party claim has been settled. She has no previous convictions. Mr O'Shea said his client has been very worried about the case and hasn't driven

since. Judge James McNulty said that the defendant 'made an error of judgement' on the day and said he would not disqualify her from driving.

He convicted and fined her €250 and gave her 30 days to pay the fine and said that penalty points would be attached to her driving licence.

'Today is the day you leave it all behind, and get on with the rest of your life,' said Judge McNulty.